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NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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BE A
LEGEND
THEN
DEATH
WILL
MAKE YOU
IMMORTAL.

Irrfan Khan



Rishi Kapoor



CORONA
STAY HOME
STAY SAFE

RSF

WORLD
PRESS
FREEDOM
INDEX 2020

#RSFINDEX 2020

Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 30th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st April to 30th April) will benefit our beloved readers.

Current affairs data will be useless if it couldn't originate any competitive exam questions. E-Dristi has been very successful in that direction. Almost all the questions from UPPCS and other examinations have been asked from our materials. You can verify that by matching the question papers and e-Dristi contents from yourselves.

National

World Press Freedom Index 2020

Question: Consider the following statement regarding World Press Freedom Index 2020:

(1) India is at 142th rank featuring dropdown of two places.

(2) Total 180 countries are included in this report.

(3) The index has been topped by Norway.

Choose the correct statement/s from the above

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (1) and (2) (c) Only (1) and (3) (d) All the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The rank of India has decreased by two places to 142nd from 140th position with a score of 45.33 in the “The World Press Freedom Index 2020” which has analysed 180 countries.
- This decline in rank is showing an improvement in the security of Indian media as in 2019 there was no murders of journalists were recorded as against six in 2018.
- However, constant press freedom violations still remain, including police violence against journalists, ambushes by political activists, and reprisals instigated by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.



Important facts:

- India drops two places on global press freedom index 2020
- The World Press Freedom Index is compiled by Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or Reporters Without Borders.
- The index has been topped by Norway with a score of 7.84 while North Korea stood at last rank of 180 with a score of 85.82.
- Since 2002 it is published annually by RSF to rank 180 countries according to the level of freedom available to journalists.

Links:

https://rsf.org/en/ranking_table

Rishi Kapoor

Question: Famous Bollywood actor, director and producer Rishi Kapoor passed away on 30 April 2020. For which movie he was conferred Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1974?

(a) Bobby (b) Mera Naam Joker (c) Prem Rog (d) Damini

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Famous Bollywood actor, director and producer Rishi Kapoor died in Mumbai on 30 April 2020. He was 67. He was born on 4 September 1952 in Chembur, Bombay (now Mumbai).
- He was suffering from leukemia.
- His major films include Mera Naam Joker, Bobby, Laila Majnu, Amar Akbar Anthony, Saagar, Heena, Bol Radha Bol, Sargam, Karz, Prem Rog, Nagina, Chandni, Damini, 102 Not Out.
- Apart from this, he worked as a supporting actor in some major films like Deewana, Yeh Hai Jalwa, Hum Tum, Fanaa, Agneepath, Housefull 2, Do Dooni Chaar, Mulk, Kapoor and Sons.



- He directed the film Aa Ab Laut Chalen in 1999.
- He was conferred the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1974 for his film Bobby.
- Also, he was conferred the National Film Award for Best Child Artist for the film Mera Naam Joker. In this film he played for his father's role, Raj Kapoor as a child.
- He was honoured with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in the year 2008.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/rishi-kapoor-passes-away-at-67-big-b-confirms-the-news-on-twitter/arti>

Irrfan Khan

Question: On 29 April 2020 famous Bollywood actor Irrfan Khan passed away. In which year he was awarded the Padma Shri?

(a) 2011 (b) 2012 (c) 2013 (d) 2004

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Famous Bollywood actor Irrfan Khan died in Mumbai on 29 April 2020. He was 53 years old.
- He was suffering from neuroendocrine tumor.
- He was born on 7 January 1967 in Jaipur Rajasthan.
- In his film career of nearly 30 years, he has worked in more than 150 films.
- Apart from Hindi cinema, he has also worked in British and Hollywood films.
- His major films include Haasil, Maqbool, Life in a Metro, Paan Singh Tomar, Hindi Medium, Life of Pi, Karwaan, Madaari, Piku, Haider, The Lunchbox.
- His final film appearance was Angrezi Medium (2020), sequel of Hindi Medium.
- Some of his most famous work in Hollywood includes Slumdog Millionaire (2008), Life of Pi (2012), Jurassic World (2015), and Inferno (2016).
- He was awarded the National Award for Best Actor in 2013 for his film Paan Singh Tomar.
- In view of his outstanding contribution in the field of art, Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri in 2011.



Links:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/04/29/asia/irrfan-khan-death-intl-hnk/index.html>

‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ Scheme

Question: Which state government has launched ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ scheme?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) West Bengal (d) Kerala

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y S. Jaganmohan Reddy launched the ‘Jagananna Vidya Deevena’ Scheme on April 28, 2020 at Tedepalli, in Guntur District of the state.
- Under the scheme, funds worth Rs. 4000 crores have been released along with Rs. 1880 crore towards pending amount left by the earlier government.
- The fee reimbursement will be credited directly to the mothers’ accounts instead of college accounts in the coming academic year 2020-21.



- Through the scheme, the state government will provide fee reimbursement for ITI, B.Tech, B. Pharmacy, MBA, MCA, and B.Ed Courses. The eligible candidates will receive an amount worth Rs 15000- Rs 20,000 through the scheme.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Andhra-Pradesh-CM-launches-%26%2339%3BJagananna-Vidya-Deevena%26%2339%3B-Scheme&id=386945>

Department of Posts to deliver essential items

Question: The Department of Post has recently decided to do the delivery of essential items through National Rail Transport over the area of?

(a)100 km (b)500 km (c)1000 km (d)2000 km

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Due to the prevailing situation arising out of lock-down due to COVID-19, the Department of Post has decided to deliver essential items by National Road Transport Network with 22 long routes of over 500 km interspersed with 34 interstate/intra-state schedules touching over 75 cities across the country.
- This initiative will now ensure that there is a movement of essential items within the country as Department of Posts will be able to deliver parcels carrying essential items anywhere in the country.
- The Department of Posts has already taken a number of initiatives to ensure supplies of essential items including medicines , Covid- 19 testing kits, masks , sanitizers, etc.
- The Department has also been delivering cash at doorsteps specially of old , divyangjan, pensioners through Adhar enabled payment system.
- This National Road Transport Network is yet another initiative of the Department to reach out to people across the country.



Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1617915>

Top exporting sector of India

Question: Which industry has become the the top exporting sector of India for the first time during in the last fiscal?

(a)Medicine (b)Steel (c)Textile (d)Petrochemicals

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The chemical exports of India rose by 7 % to Rs 2.68 lakh crore during April-January period of the last fiscal, and became the top exporting sector in the country for the first time.
- During April 2019-January 2020, the export of chemicals grew by 7.43 %. The total export of chemicals during this period reached 2.68 lakh crore rupees. This constitutes 14.35 % of the total exports.



- The Minister assured full support to the industry towards making India a leading global hub for manufacturing of chemicals and petrochemicals.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Chemicals%2c-Petrochemicals-industry-becomes-top-exporting-sector-for-1st-time&id=386679>

The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

Question: Consider the following statement
The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020:

1. In the case of grievous injuries to the healthcare workers, the accused can face imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 7 years.
2. The offence has also been made a non-bailable offence.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- The Central government has today promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to make attacks on doctors and healthcare workers a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- The Ordinance is called 'The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020'
- The Union Cabinet had approved the ordinance on April 22.
- The ordinance seeks to end violence against health workers amid several reports of attacks on medics. It seeks to make such acts of violence as non-bailable offences, increase maximum penalty to 7 years of jail term and provide compensation for the damage caused to property.
- The ordinance defines violence as harassment and physical injury to the medical personnel and damage to property.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued directions to all the states to ensure adequate security to the medical staff, healthcare professionals and other frontline workers to end violence against them.
- The IMA had proposed to hold 'White alert' and 'Black day' protests on April 22 and 23.
- The protests have now been called off.



New Amendments to Epidemic Act 1897

- The new amendments include heavy fines for any kind of violence against health workers and imprisonment up to 7 years. The offence has also been made a non-bailable offence.
- In the case of grievous injuries to the healthcare workers, the accused can face imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 7 years. They can also be penalised with a fine ranging from Rs 1-5 Lakhs.
- Such crimes have also been made cognizable and non-bailable. The investigation in such cases will be done within 30 days.
- Those found guilty will be sentenced to a jail term ranging from 3 months to 5 years and will face fine worth Rs 50000 to Rs 2 lakh.
- Besides this, the amendments include provisions to provide compensation for the injury caused to the healthcare service personnel or for causing any kind of damage or loss to

the property. For the damage caused to the vehicles or clinics of the medics, the accused will be required to pay a compensation amount, which will be twice the market value of the damaged property.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid-19-update-president-ram-nath-kovind-s-nod-to-promulgate-ordinance-to-punish-those-attacking-healthcare-staff/story-f0HaDlpTxRD0mqOYJVIEaM.html>

Yoddha Kalyan Yojana

Question: Yoddha Kalyan Yojana is launched by which state government?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Madhya Pradesh, Anganwadi workers, Assistants to get benefit of Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana
- In Madhya Pradesh, around one lakh Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state will get the benefit of Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana.
- Under this initiative, they will also get a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.
- The benefit of this scheme will be given to the warriors under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which was launched by the central Government to cover only the field staff of health, police and other departments working day and night to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=MP-Anganwadi-workers%2C-Assistants-to-get-benefit-of-Chief-Minister-COVID-19-Yoddha-Kalyan-Yojana.&id=386218>

PMO reviews efforts of eleven Empowered Groups towards tackling COVID-19

Question: PMO reviews efforts of how many Empowered Groups towards tackling COVID-19?

(a) 11 (b) 12 (c) 13 (d) 14

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

Context:

- On April 10, 2020, A meeting of the Empowered Groups of Officers under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister reviewed the efforts of eleven empowered groups formed to tackle the challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19.

Issues:

- The issues related to supply chain and logistics management for availability of necessary items was discussed at large in this meeting.
- PMO also ensured that efforts undertaken for the benefit of stakeholders are duly delivered.

- The officials directed that all necessary steps to assist farmers harvest their produce while maintaining social distancing should be ensured by the states.
- Emphasis was also laid on confidence building measures and percolation of guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the ground level.
- The gathering reviewed and expressed satisfaction at the detailed testing protocol and procedure, under which around one lakh fifty thousand samples have been tested till date.
- It was also informed that Centre is in constant touch with States and District level monitoring is being undertaken to arrange for shelter for the vulnerable groups like migrants and homeless.
- The officials also took note of the ramped up production of PPEs and capacity building for healthcare personnel.
- Principal Secretary suggested that coordination with NGOs at district level to be done to avoid overlaps and proper utilization of resources.
- The officials also took stock of the progress of the welfare measures through the economic relief package under PM GaribKalyanYojana.
- Steps taken to ensure timely information dissemination throughout the country were discussed and ensuring last mile outreach through communication in regional languages was emphasized.
- The officials also emphatically called for enhanced user engagement with AarogyaSetu app. The meeting was attended by senior officials of Prime Minister's Office and other Ministries under the Government of India.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Meeting-of-empowered-groups-of-Officers-review-efforts-to-tackle-COVID-19-challenges&id=385226>

Central Government constitutes 6 Inter-Ministerial Teams making assessment and augment State efforts on COVID-19

Question: The central government has constituted 6 Inter Ministerial teams for making assessment of situation and augmenting State efforts in fight against COVID-19. Which of the following state is not a part for for the assessment?

(a)Uttar Pradesh (b)Madhya Pradesh (c)Maharashtra (d)Bihar

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Centre has constituted 6 Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs), two each for West Bengal and Maharashtra and one each for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on April 20, 2020.
- The teams are made to make on-spot assessment of situation and issue necessary directions to State Authorities and submit their report to Central Government.
- Situation is specially serious in Indore (MP), Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Kolkata, Howrah, Medinipur East, 24 Parganas North, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.
- IMCTs to focus on complaints of implementation of lockdown measures as per guidelines, supply of essential commodities, social distancing, preparedness of health infrastructure, etc..
- The Committees have been constituted by the Central Government in exercise of the powers, conferred, inter alia, under Section 35(1), 35(2)(a), 35(2)(e) and 35(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act 2005.
- IMCTs will commence their visits at the earliest.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1616325>

Measures taken by Department of Agriculture during lockdown

Question: How much amount is released for farmers under PM KISAN Scheme from 24 March 2020 to 20 April 2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer Welfare for facilitating farmers?

(a)Rs 17, 793 crore (b)Rs 5000 crore (c)Rs 18, 793 crore (d)Rs 22, 793 crore

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has taken several measures to facilitate the farmers during the lockdown period.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme during the lockdown period from 24.3.2020 to April 20, 2020, Rs. 17,793 crore has been released benefiting 8.89 crore farmer families.
- Government has also decided to distribute pulses to the eligible households under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PM-GKY) for food security. About 107,077.85 MT pulses have so far been issued to the States/UTs.
- The distribution of pulses under PMGKY is to benefit around 19.50 crore household spread across 36 States and Union territories.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1616501>

KisanRath”Mobile App

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. KisanRath”Mobile App launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

2. Primary transportation would include movement from Farm to Mandis while Secondary Transportation would include movement from Mandis to Intra-state & Inter-state mandis.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- On April 17, 2020, The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches “KisanRath”Mobile App.

Objective:

- To facilitate farmers & traders in searching transport vehicles for Primary and Secondary transportation for movement of Agriculture & Horticulture produce.
- Primary transportation would include movement from Farm to Mandis, FPO Collection Centre and Warehouses etc.
- Secondary Transportation would include movement from Mandis to Intra-state & Inter-state mandis, Processing units, Railway station, Warehouses and Wholesalers etc.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1615352>

All India Agri Transport Call Centre launched

Question: Who launched the All India Agri Transport Call Centre to facilitate inter-state movement of perishables during lockdown on April 15, 2020?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Vilas Paswan (c) Narendra Singh Tomar (d) Arjun Munda

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar launched the All India Agri Transport Call Centre at a function in Krishi Bhavan on April 15, 2020.
- The Call Centre numbers are 18001804200 and 14488.
- This 24×7 service is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Government of India for coordination between States for inter-state movement of perishables – Vegetables & Fruits, Agri Inputs like seeds, pesticides and fertilizer etc.
- Truck drivers, traders, retailers, farmers, etc. facing problems in inter-state movement of agricultural, horticultural or any other perishable commodities besides seeds and fertilizers may seek help by calling at the Call Centre.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1614635>

Lockdown extended in India

Question: The Prime Minister of India has extended the date of national lockdown amid COVID-19. There extended date for the end of lockdown is?

(a) 30 April (b) 2 May (c) 3 May (d) 5 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Government of India has decided to extend the nation-wide lockdown to fight COVID-19 till 3 May 2020.
- This decision was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his nation address on April 14, 2020. It was extended after the suggestions was given by various states.
- The pace of rising cases has made the situation to extend the lockdown to protect lives of the people of the country by following social distancing.
- The hotspots identified for the virus will be under strict checks and screening till April 20, 2020. There will be some freedom of movement, that too under strict conditions after some success in virus control is noted.
- The government has also announced for making all efforts to help farmers with the ongoing Rabi harvest and procurement.
- All passenger train services on Indian Railways including Premium trains, Mail/Express trains, Passenger trains, etc shall continue to remain cancelled till 3rd May 2020.
- Further booking of tickets has also been closed down.
- The cargo and parcel trains carrying essential supplies will continue to function.
- All the national and international flight also stand cancelled tum May 3, 2020 amid the lock down.

Links:

https://www.google.com/amp/s/m.economictimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/all-domestic-and-international-flights-suspended-till-may-3/amp_articleshow/75136221.cms

Web-portal YUKTI launched in New Delhi

Question: Who launched the web-portal YUKTI to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD which have been taken in the wake of COVID-19 on April 12, 2020?

(a)Ravi Shankar Prasad (b)Venkaiah Naidu (c)Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (d)Amit Khare

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) in New Delhi on April 12, 2020.
- The portal:
- The portal and dashboard will monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD and to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way.
- It will also cover the various initiatives and efforts of the institutions in academics, research especially related to CoVID and the measures taken for the betterment of the students.
- It will cover both qualitative and quantitative parameters for effective delivery of services to the academic community at large.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1613569>

Manufacturing of 1.10 lakh ISO Class 3 coveralls

Question: Which of the following organisation have been recently ordered for manufacturing of 1.10 lakh Class 3 coveralls?

(a)DRDO (b)OFB (c)ISRO (d)ICMR

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has started supply of ISO Class 3 exposure standards coveralls on April 15, 2020.
- Manufacturing of initial order of 1.10 lakh from HLL Lifecare Limited (HLL) will be completed in 40 days.
- Factories Board has also developed a special two-metre tents which can be used for medical emergency, screening, hospital triage and quarantine purposes. These are made up of waterproof fabric, mild steel and aluminium alloy.
- Manufacture of hand sanitiser is also extensive and more than 70,000 litres have already been supplied to different agencies.
- Two test facilities for blood penetration test has been established, one at Chennai and another at Kanpur.
- Around 280 beds in 10 hospitals have been set aside for isolation.
- The OFB is also trying to produce face masks as per pilot order quantity placed by HLL. More than 90,000 non-medical masks have been manufactured and distributed.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1614292>

Ministry of Tourism launches its webinar series

Question: What is the name of the webinar series launched by the Ministry of Tourism on April 14, 2020 to explore culture and heritage of India?

(a)JanoIndia (b)DekhoIndia (c)JanoBharat (d)DekhoApnaDesh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Tourism has launched its “DekhoApnaDesh” webinar series from April 14, 2020 to provide information on the many destinations and expanse of the culture and heritage of India.
- The first webinar was part of a series discussing the long history of Delhi as it has unfolded as 8 cities and was titled “City of Cities- Delhi’s Personal Diary”.
- The Ministry would work towards showcasing the diverse and remarkable history and culture of India including its monuments, cuisine, arts, dance forms, etc.
- The webinar will be available in public domain soon. It will be available on the Ministry’s social media handles- Incredible India on Instagram and Facebook.
- The next webinar is on the 16th of April from 11 am to 12 noon and will take visitors to the City of Kolkata.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1614342>

DST funded startup develops kits for testing asymptomatic COVID-19 infections

Question: Which startup has developed kits for testing asymptomatic COVID-19 infections & gears up for vaccine production?

(a) Seagull BioSolutions (b) Genrich Membranes (c) Zydus (d) Ranbaxy

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- DST funded startup has developed kits for testing asymptomatic COVID-19 infections & gears up for vaccine production.
- It was developed by Seagull BioSolutions.

Purpose to develop:

- Developing vaccines has the longest timeline and so it is essential to fast track that activity earlier.

Uses:

- Active Virosome Technology (AVT) developed by Seagull Bio is useful for the production of vaccines & immunotherapeutic agents.
- The AVT platform is useful for producing novel, non-hazardous & economical Active Virosome agents expressing desired antigens from the target pathogen.
- These will be used to develop a novel vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 infection and also immunodiagnostic ELISA kits for COVID-19.

Seagull BioSolutions:

- Seagull BioSolutions is a startup working on new biological technologies, is being funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1613213>

DST funded company develops membrane oxygenator equipment to treat COVID-19 patients

Question: Membrane oxygenator equipment used to treat breathlessness is developed by which of the following company?

(a) Genrich Membranes (b) Seagull BioSolutions (c) Zydus (d) Ranbaxy

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- A Pune based company Genrich Membranes funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST) has developed a membrane oxygenator equipment to treat COVID-19 patients.
- The device is slated to be used to treat breathlessness, one of the critical symptoms of COVID-19.

Advantage of Instrument:

- This equipment can also be used to treat patients who have been discharged from Intensive Care Units (ICU).
- The device enriches oxygen in the air up to 35 per cent and does not require trained manpower for its operation.
- The innovation promises to be of excellent value as maximum number of patients facing critical breathing illness from diseases including COVID-19 needs such kind of support.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=DST-funded-company-develops-%26%2339%3Bmembrane-oxygenator-equipment%26%2339%3B-to-treat-COVID-19-patients&id=385123>

Cabinet approves Non-operation of MPLADS funds

Question: The Cabinet of the Central government has recently taken a decision to suspend the MPLADS to fight the COVID-19 for how many fiscal years?

(a) three (b) two (c) one (d) four

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has decided not to operate Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for two years (2020-21 and 2021-22) on April 6, 2020.
- The total amount of MPLAD Funds for 2 years is Rs 7,900 crores which will go to Consolidated Fund of India.
- These funds will be used to strengthen Government's efforts in managing the challenges of COVID-19 in the country.
- Along with this, Cabinet has also approved an ordinance reducing the salaries, allowances and pensions of Members of Parliament (MPs), Prime Minister, by 30 % for an year.
- The President, Vice-President, and the Governors have decided voluntarily 30% cut of their salary for an year.

- The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a programme launched in 1993 to provide funds for developmental works recommended by individual MPs in their constituency.
- The MPs of parliament are entitled to recommend works to the tune of Rs 5 crore annually in their constituency for works of developmental nature like construction of railway halt stations, financial assistance to recognised educational bodies, and could even be merged with other schemes such as MGNREGA and Khelo India.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1611674>

Integrated Government Online training” (iGOT) portal

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Integrated Government Online training” (iGOT) portal has been launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development’s (MHRD).

(2) It is a platform for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the COVID-19 pandemic efficiently.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- The Government of India has launched a training module for the management of COVID-19 named “Integrated Government Online training” (iGOT) portal on Ministry of Human Resource Development’s (MHRD) DIKSHA platform for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the COVID-19 pandemic efficiently.

Courses:

- Courses on iGOT have been launched for doctors, nurses, paramedics, hygiene workers, technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), State Government officers, civil defence officers, various police organisations, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme, Indian Red Cross Society, Bharat Scouts and Guides and other volunteers.

Need for the Portal:

- The need for iGOT has come up as India is currently battling COVID-19 and country’s first line of workers is already doing commendable work.
- However, a larger force will be needed to replace the first line and to tackle the exponential or geometric increase in positive COVID-19 cases in the subsequent stages of the pandemic.

DIKSHA portal:

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) has launched the DIKSHA portal – <https://diksha.gov.in> – National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers. This portal will equip teachers across the nation using advanced digital technology.

Links:

<https://diksha.gov.in/>

National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013

Question: Consider the following statements: National Food Security Act was enacted in July 2013.

The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Government of India on April 6, 2020 said enough stock has been sent to states for free distribution of grains to over 81 crore ration card holders under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) during the lockdown period.
- Under PMGKAY, 5 kg foodgrains per ration card holder and one kg pulses per household will be given for next three months.
- This is over and above the monthly quota of subsidized foodgrain of 5 kg per person under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013:

- The enactment of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 on July 5, 2013 marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to rights based approach.
- The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
- About two thirds of the population therefore is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidized foodgrains.
- The National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 is being implemented in all the States/UTs, on an all India basis.
- Out of maximum coverage of 81.35 crore, around 80 crore persons have been covered under NFSA at present for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains.
- The identification of beneficiaries by States/UTs is a continuous process, which involves exclusion of ineligible/fake/duplicate ration cards and also exclusion on account of death, migration etc. and inclusion on account of birth as also that of genuine left-out households.

Links:

<https://dfpd.gov.in/nfsa-act.htm>

CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune ties up with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for production of medical devices

Question: CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune ties up with which company for production of medical devices?

(a) BEL (b) ONGC (c) BHEL (d) GAIL

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune ties up with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for production of medical devices.
- Mass manufacturing ready hardware and software design will be available to manufacturers across India for free.

Explanation:

- CSIR's constituent Lab, CSIR-NCL Pune, has been leading the way in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through its Venture Centre for the past decade and new innovations from there are helping in fight against the Corona outbreak.
- **Two of the recent innovations that can help in the mitigation of the Corona outbreak are featured:**
 - 1) Digital IR Thermometer: CSIR-NCL's Venture Centre's incubatee BMEK headed by Mr. Pratik Kulkarni has developed hand held digital IR thermometer which is an important component of measures to mitigate Coronavirus outbreak.
 - 2) Oxygen enrichment unit (OEU): One of the critical needs of COVID-19 patients is the need to meet the oxygen requirements due to their lungs being compromised. Oxygen enrichment unit (OEUs) to increase the oxygen concentration from the ambient air of 21-22% to 38-40% have been developed by CSIR-NCL and Genrich Membranes, a start-up innovation venture.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1612414>

MP Govt announces insurance cover for employees engaged in fight against Corona virus

Question: What amount of insurance cover has been announced by Madhya Pradesh Govt for police, govt employees engaged in fight against Corona virus?

(a) Rs 50 lakh (b) Rs 40 lakh (c) Rs 1 crore (d) Rs 70 lakh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Madhya Pradesh Government has announced an insurance cover of 50 lakh rupees for police personnel and other government employees engaged in the fight against Corona virus.
- Many health workers and police personnel and their family members have been tested positive for Corona virus in Bhopal.
- Apart from this, Central government has also announced insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh for health workers fighting COVID-19.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=MP-Govt-announces-Rs-50-lakh-insurance-cover-for-police%2c-govt-employees-engaged-in-fight-against-Corona-virus&id=385010>

Govt to set up three levels of health care facility for management of COVID-19 cases

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Govt will set up three levels of health care facility for management of COVID-19 cases.

(2) As of Indian Council of Medical Research, one COVID-19 patient can infect 406 people in 30 days.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) & (2) (d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- In order to manage the accelerating Covid 19 cases, Indian Government has introduced the action plan to classify the health care facilities into three categories.
- These are covid care centres, dedicated covid health centres and dedicated covid hospitals.

- All three types of COVID-19 dedicated facilities will have separate ear marked areas for suspect and confirmed cases.
- The different tiers of healthcare centres will be established to not mix up the suspect and confirmed cases.
- As of Indian Council of Medical Research, one COVID-19 patient can infect 406 people in 30 days if he doesn't follow the lockdown measures and social distancing.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Govt-to-set-up-three-levels-of-health-care-facility-for-management-of-COVID-19-cases&id=385035>

Utkal Divas : Odisha Day

Question: When is the Utkal Divas or Odisha Day celebrated?

(a) April 1st (b) March 1st (c) May 1st (d) June 1st

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Utkal Divas or Odisha Day is celebrated on 1 April every year.
- The day is celebrated in all over Odisha to commemorate the formation of the state as a separate unit on 1 April 1936.
- After losing its complete political identity in 1568 after the defeat and death of king Mukunda Dev the last Hindu king, led to the formation of a separate state under British rule on the basis of the language on 1 April 1936.
- This day was celebrated all over Odisha.

Links:

<https://www.hellotravel.com/events/utkal-divas>

International Painting Competition on Covid-19

Question: Consider the following statements regarding to International Painting Competition on Covid-19:

(1) Indian council for cultural relations launched international painting competition on Covid -19.

(2) Theme of the competition is United against CORONA –Express through Art.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched global painting competition on Covid -19.
- The theme of this competition is – “Art in the Time of CORONA: United against Corona-Express through Art”.
- The ICCR aims to build cultural links between countries in the world.
- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) with its focus on building cultural links with countries around the world and connecting people to people through Cultural and Educational exchanges, calls on Indians and citizens of the world to express these emotions.
- The event encourages artistic expression of ideas, feelings, and thoughts on social distancing, fight against the virus and quarantine.
- Best of the expressions will be exhibited in leading galleries in India and abroad.
- An online exhibition will also be on display. Grand finale of the physical exhibition will be held in New Delhi with a cultural function and prize giving ceremony.

- Dates will be fixed depending on resolution of the COVID crisis.

Indian council for cultural relations (ICCR):

- Founded: 9 April 1950.
- Headquarter: New Delhi.
- President: Vinay Sahasrabuddhe

Link:

<https://www.iccr.gov.in/flashnews/art-competition-%E2%80%9CUnited-against-corona-express-through-art%E2%80%9D-guidelines-participants>

First Covid – 19 Hospital in India

Question: Which of the following companies has set up first Covid 19 hospital in India?

(a) Tata Trusts (b) Reliance (c) Tech Mahindra (d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On March 23, 2020, Reliance had set up the first hospital of India that will operate exclusively to treat Corona Virus patients.
- Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital in collaboration with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), has set up a dedicated 100 bedded centre at Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai, for patients who test positive for COVID-19.
- The company is enhancing its production capacities to produce 1,00,000 face-masks per day and a large number of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as suits and garments, for the nation's health-workers to equip them further to fight the coronavirus challenge.
- Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital has also offered to set up special medical facilities to quarantine travellers from notified countries and suspected cases identified through contact tracing.
- Reliance Life Sciences is importing additional test kits and consumables for effective testing.
- RIL has also built a fully-equipped isolation facility in Lodhivali, Maharashtra and handed it over to the district authorities.
- This first-of-its-kind-in-India centre is fully funded by Reliance Foundation and includes a negative pressure room that helps in preventing cross contamination and helps control infection.
- The Negative Pressure Room is a technique in medical centres that prevent cross-contamination. This allows air to flow into the room and prevents air from escaping out of the room.
- In this technique, air is allowed to flow inside the room through a small gap under the door. The air in some cases is filtered using UV radiation or chemical means before being sent out.
- Smoke test is used to determine negative pressure. A tube with smoke is held at the bottom of the negative pressure room door. The direction of travel of the smoke helps to determine the working of the system. If the smoke travels outwards, the room is not in negative pressure.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/reliance-sets-up-indias-first-dedicated-covid-19-hospital/article31145158.ece>

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established entirely with public contributions.

(2) All contributions towards PMNRF are exempt from Income Tax.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- On March 27, 2020 The Vice President of India and the Chairman Rajya Sabha, M Venkaiah Naidu contributed a sum equivalent to a month's salary to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to strengthen the government's efforts in combating COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF):

- Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established entirely with public contributions and does not get any budgetary support.
- PMNRF accepts voluntary contributions from Individuals, Organizations, Trusts, Companies and Institutions etc.
- All contributions towards PMNRF are exempt from Income Tax under section 80(G).
- The resources of the PMNRF are utilized to render immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes, etc.
- Assists partially to defray the expenses for medical treatment like heart surgery, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment of needy people and acid attack etc.
- Donations are accepted through BHIM/UPI (VPA: pmnrf@ centralbank), Credit Cards / Debit Cards / Netbanking Accounts of Indian Banks only.

Links:

<https://pmnrf.gov.in/en/>

Lifeline UDAN flights

Question: The Lifeline UDAN Flights is functioning to supply which of the following item in country?

(a)food grains (b)ventilators (c)essential medical equipments (d)none of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Lifeline Udan flights are being operated by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for transporting essential medical cargo to remote parts of the country amid COVID-19.
- Bulk of the cargo comprises light-weight and voluminous products like masks, gloves and other consumables, that require more space on the aircraft per ton.
- Under Lifeline UDAN, 116 flights have been operated by Air India, Alliance Air, IAF and private carriers.
- Cargo transport till April 5, 2020 is around 161 tons.
- The aerial distance covered by Lifeline Udan flights till date is over 112,178 kms.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Air India have worked closely with China at the international front to establish a cargo air-bridge. The first cargo flight between India and China was operated by Air India on 4 April 2020, carrying 21 tons of critical medical supplies from China.

- Special focus is on North East Region (NER), island territories and the hill states for last mile deliveries to Ladakh, Dimapur, Imphal, Guwahati, Port Blair and other areas.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=201020>

Epicenter of Coronavirus in India:Tablighi Jamaat

Question: Consider the following statement:

(1) The Tablighi Jamaat is an apolitical organization.

(2) It was established in 1927 by Muhammad Ilyas al-Kandhlawi.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Recently, a congregation of Tablighi Jamat in Nizamuddin Markaz,Delhi has led a massive acceleration in Covid 19 cases in India.
- The congregation was attended by 10 countries nationals from the Covid 19 hit countries such as Indonesia, Jordan, Yemen, Saudi Arab, China, Ukraine, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.
- Over 3000 persons have attended the gathering held on 13-15 March 2020.
- The congregation caused an easy transmission of coronavirus from affected to normal person.
- Later,the new carriers of Covid 19 came in contact with more peoples which led to the huge rise in positive cases countrywide.
- As of Health Ministry,around 30-35 percent of the Covid 19 cases countrywide belongs to the Tablighi Jamat.

Tablighi Jamat:What and Why?

- In the phrase Tablighi Jamat,the word Tablighi means preachers and Jamat means group.So, collectively the word Tablighi Jamat means the group of preachers.
- It is an Islamic missionary movement that focuses on urging Muslims to return to practising their religion as it was practised during the lifetime of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, and particularly in matters of ritual, dress and personal behaviour.
- It was established in 1927 by Muhammad Ilyas al-Kandhlawi in Mewat region of India.
- The organisation is estimated to have between 150 million to 250 million adherents (the majority living in South Asia), and a presence in somewhere between 180 and 200 countries.
- The Jamat, an apolitical organisation, believes in the message of 'DeenkiMehnat' which means strengthening the Islamic way of life.
- The organisation's activities are coordinated through centres and headquarters called Markaz.
- TablighiJamaat is maintained from its international headquarters, called NizamuddinMarkaz, in the Nizamuddin West district of South Delhi, India, from where it originally started .
- It also has country headquarters in over 200 countries to co-ordinate its activities.
- These headquarters organise volunteer, self-funding people in groups , averaging ten to twelve people, for reminding Muslims to remain steadfast on path of Allah.
- These jamaats and preaching missions are self funded by their respective members.

Chronology of Nizamuddinmarkaz Event:

- March 12: Delhi Govt prohibits gatherings of more than 200 people amid the Coronavirus outbreak.

- March 13: 3400 people gather at the Nizamuddinmarkaz as part of a religious gathering.
- March 16: Delhi CM ArvindKejriwal announces that no religious, social, political gatherings of more than 50 people are allowed in Delhi till March 31. People at the NizamuddinMarkaz still continue to stay.
- March 20: 10 Indonesians who attended the gathering in Delhi test positive in Telangana.
- March 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Janta Curfew is observed across nation. No public gatherings were allowed for a day.
- March 23: 1500 people vacates the Markaz.
- March 24: PM Modi announces nationwide lockdown for 21 days. No public gatherings, any kind of non-essential movement outside residences allowed. Only essential services allowed to remain functional.
- March 24: Nizamuddin Police asks remaining people at the Markaz to vacate the area.
- March 25: Around 1000 people are still residing in the area defying lockdown orders. A medical team visits the Markaz and suspected cases are isolated in a hall within the building. Jamaat officials go to the SDM's office. File an application for permission to vacate. Vehicles list was also given to seek passes.
- March 26: An Indian preacher who attended the gathering in Delhi is tested positive and dies in Srinagar.
- March 26: SDM visits the Markaz and calls the Jamaat officials for a meeting with the District Magistrate.
- March 27: Six coronavirus suspects are taken away from the Markaz for medical checkup and are later put in a quarantine facility in Jhajjar, Haryana.
- March 28: A World Health Organisation (WHO) team along with the SDM visit the Markaz. 33 people who were taken for medical checkup are isolated at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Hospital in Delhi.
- March 28: ACP, Lajpat Nagar, sends a notice to the Markaz to vacate immediately.
- March 29: Markaz officials respond to the ACP's letter saying no new people were allowed to gather post the nationwide lockdown announcement. The current gathering had started much before the lockdown and that the PM in his lockdown speech said jojahaanhai, vahinrahe (stay put wherever you are).
- 29 March night: Police and health authorities start taking out people from the Markaz and send them to hospitals and quarantine facilities.

Links: <https://web.archive.org/web/20160210121200/https://books.google.com/books?id=yOkYAzCI2bEC&q=tablighi#v=snippet&q=tablighi&f=false>

Validity of expired Driving Licences and Vehicle Registration Extended Till June 30

Question: Which of the following Act establishes the issuance of Driving Licences and Vehicle Registration?

- (a) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (b) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1982
(c) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1986 (d) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1984

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has extended the validity of documents like driving licenses, permits and registration that expired since February 1.
- In an advisory to all states and Union Territories, the Ministry has asked them to treat such documents as valid till June 30.
- The decision was taken to facilitate people facing difficulties in renewing the validity of various motor vehicle documents due to nationwide lockdown in the country and closure of government transport offices.
- The documents include fitness, permits (all types), driving licence, registration or any other concerned document under the Motor Vehicle Rules.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200829>

Extradition treaty between India & Belgium

Question: Recently, with which country India has approved the signing and ratifying of an Extradition treaty?

(a) Spain (b) Portugal (c) Germany (d) Belgium

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratifying of the Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Belgium.
- This will replace the pre-Independence Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and Belgium of 1901 that was made applicable to India through the exchange of Letters in 1958.
- The Treaty provides a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders, and other criminals from and to Belgium.
- An offence punishable under the laws of both the countries with imprisonment for one year and more is called an extraditable offence.
- Offences relating to taxation, or revenue or is one of a fiscal character also fall within the scope of this Treaty.
- Extradition is the formal process of one state surrendering an individual to another state for prosecution or punishment for crimes committed in the requesting country's jurisdiction.
- This is generally enabled through a bilateral or multilateral treaty.
- The legal basis for extradition with countries with whom India does not have an Extradition treaty is provided by Section 3 (4) of the Indian Extradition Act, 1962.

Salient Features of the Treaty:

- **Obligation to Extradite:** Each Party agrees to extradite to the other any person found in its territory, who is accused or convicted of an extraditable offence in the territory of the other Party.
- However, extradition of nationals is discretionary. The nationality will be determined at the time the offence was committed.
- **Mandatory Grounds for Refusal Under the Treaty:** The offence involved is a political offence.
- The offence is a military offence.
- The request for prosecution has been made on account of his race, sex, religion, nationality or political opinion.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200566>

Stranded in India portal

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The Ministry of Tourism has launched a portal 'Stranded in India'.

(2) The aim of the portal is to extend support to the foreign tourists who are stranded in India.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has launched a portal 'Stranded in India'.

- The portal aims to extend support to the foreign tourists who are stranded in India amid Covid 19 outbreak.
- The portal will disseminate information regarding the services that can be availed by foreign tourists.
- It will act as a support network for foreign tourists stuck in various parts of the country.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1609489>

Rajasthan state celebrated the statehood day on 30th March 2020

Question: Which state has celebrated statehood day on March 30, 2020?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Rajasthan celebrated the statehood day on 30th March 2020.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of Rajasthan on its State Day.
- The state was formed on 30 March 1949.
- It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population.

Links:

<https://www.narendramodi.in/be/prime-minister-narendra-modi-greets-people-of-rajasthan-on-its-state-day-549068>

National Gallery of Modern Art celebrates 66 years

Question: National Gallery of Modern Art celebrates which year of its establishment by launching virtual tour of its permanent collection amid lockdown?

(a) 50th (b) 60th (c) 66th (d) 61th

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Museums and Libraries under Ministry of Culture are closed for public access till further orders due to which people are not able to visit National Gallery of Modern Art to see its permanent collection.
- In the present scenario, on the eve of 66th Foundation Day (29.03.2020), NGMA launched Virtual Tour of its permanent collection for the visitors to enjoy without having to physically visit the Museum during these days.
- It is for the first time that NGMA has provided the facility of virtual tour of its permanent collection to art lovers.

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA):

- NGMA was established on 29 March 1954.
- It is located in New Delhi.
- The premier art gallery is one of the world's largest modern art museums.
- It functions under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. NGMA has subsequent branches at Mumbai and Bangalore.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1609230>

Jharkhand Govt launches PRAGYAAM app

Question: Which state government has launched PRAGYAAM app to issue e-passes to everyone associated with delivery of essential services?

(a) Bihar (b) Jharkhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On March 30, 2020, Jharkhand Government has launched a mobile app PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes to everyone associated with delivery of essential services during the national lockdown to combat COVID-19.
- District Transport Officers have been given authority to issue e-passes to vehicles through online mode after verification of the documents uploaded through the app.
- These passes will be issued to those involved in the regular supply services, medical, banking and other necessary services.
- Officials can verify the status of the e-passes on the app and other details, including mobile number and identity card of the person engaged in such duties to curb the chances of fake e-passes.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Jharkhand-govt-launches-PRAGYAAM-app-to-issue-e-passes-to-everyone-associated-with-delivery-of-essential-services-amid-lockdown&id=384218>

Trifed Van Dhan India GIS based Website

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) TRIFED came into existence in 1987.

(2) TrifedVanDhan GIS based website aims to support people working from home amid the lockdown due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- A group of 500 officials from the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has unveiled TrifedVanDhan GIS-based website, the power of Webinars to keep in touch with each other and keep moving and working.
- Braving all odds, "The Tech for Tribals", a project to train tribal entrepreneurs at 16 premier IITs & IIMs of the country, was launched on line on 19 March 2020.
- This scheme will link almost 3.5 lakh tribal entrepreneurs living in villages to the premier institutions of the world.

The TrifedVanDhan:

- The TrifedVanDhan GIS based website, the future medium of communication for 50 lakh tribal gatherers was launched on line for testing with 27 State teams participating, on 27 March 2020.
- TRIFED is arranging at least 2 team meetings every day and the Team is reaching out to partners to keep moving forward.

TRIFED:

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987.

- It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.
- TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi and has a network of 13 Regional Offices located at various places in the country.

Links:

[http://trifed.in/trifed/\(S\(ti51bahv5lswzwyvxjuddcl5\)\)/about_trifed.aspx](http://trifed.in/trifed/(S(ti51bahv5lswzwyvxjuddcl5))/about_trifed.aspx)

Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is launched by Ministry of Textiles.
- (2) Its objective is to provide enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death and in cases of total or partial disability.

Choose the correct:

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer : (c)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Textiles is implementing converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing social security benefits like life, accidental & disability insurance coverage to handloom weavers/workers in the age group of 51-59 years across the country, who have already enrolled under the scheme on 31.5.2017.
- The Bunkar Bima Yojana was introduced by the Government of India in December, 2003. Since 2005-06 this scheme has been revised and implemented with the title "Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Yojana".
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.
- The basic objective of the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is to provide enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death and in cases of total or partial disability.
- The claim benefits are provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) directly into the bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- The annual premium is Rs. 470 out of which Rs. 290 is paid by the central government.
- The Government of India organizes **Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs** in handloom clusters across the country in association with State Governments and LIC for creating awareness about the scheme among the weavers.
- The Ministry of Textiles also regularly organizes awareness programmes and camps through its Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) to facilitate enrolment under the insurance schemes.
- WSCs provide the weavers with different facilities including banking, passport, etc.

Links:

<http://handlooms.nic.in/writereaddata/1236.pdf>

Confederation of Indian Industry announces setting up of a CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR)

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) A CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR) has been setup to assist small enterprises or MSME in rehabilitation.
- (2) Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, founded in 1895.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has announced setting up of a **CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR)** to assist small enterprises or MSME in rehabilitation.
- This decision was taken by a CII Forum on Covid-19 **which is leading industry response measures to the Coronavirus pandemic.**
- The Confederation will request all its members (mainly corporates) to contribute an amount from their CSR allocation for the fund, CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR).
- The MSME sector is one of the most severely affected as steps to curtail the outbreak such as travel bans, closure of malls, theatres and educational institutions have led to widespread disruptions in economic activity. This, in turn, has hampered MSMEs' businesses.
- Multiple actions need to be taken on extension of bank loans, a special fund, steps regarding filing of GST and improving welfare of workers.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.
- CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process.
- Founded in 1895, it is India's premier business association has more than 9100 members.

Links:

<https://www.cii.in/PressreleasesDetail.aspx?enc=vyACb78onutb4ih0ys5LLuOY00tSiabdNEEaT7hlfzc=>

#StayHomeIndiaWithBooks

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks initiative is launched by National Book Trust of MHRD.
(2) Its objective to encourage people to read books while at home.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- National Book Trust of MHRD has launched #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks initiative.
- Its objective to encourage people to read books while at home, is providing its select and best-selling titles for FREE Download as part of its initiative of #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks!
- 100+ books can be downloaded from NBT's website in PDF format.

National Book Trust (NBT) :

- National Book Trust (NBT) is an Indian publishing house, founded in 1957 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education of the Government of India.
- NBT now functions under aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

Links:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 aims at further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment.
(2) The policy is aligned with the vision of the government to empower the private industry through the Make in India initiative.

Choose the correct:

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Related facts:

- On March 20, 2020, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020.
- It aims at **further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment.**
- The policy is aligned with the vision of the government to empower the private industry through the **Make in India initiative with the ultimate of turning India into a global manufacturing hub.**
- The government has introduced leasing as another category to get defense equipment at affordable rates.
- The greater participation of the Indian industry and developing **a robust defence industrial base, the use of indigenous raw materials, unique alloys, and software has been incentivized under the DPP-2020.**

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1607400>

PM Modi Allocates Rs 15,000 Cr for Healthcare Infra To Combat Covid-19 Outbreak

Question:What amount of fund has been allocated by Government of India to strengthen the Healthcare Infrastructure combating Covid-19 outbreak?

- (a) Rs. 15000 Crore (b) Rs. 16000 Crore (c) Rs. 17000 Crore (d) Rs. 20000 Crore

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- In a bid to combat the spread of coronavirus in India, the central government has allocated Rs 15,000 crore to strengthen the health infrastructure in India.
- In his address to the nation, PM Modi said that the fund will **be used for developing health infrastructure in the country, increasing the number of beds, testing kits, and even training of professionals to combat the disease.**
- In an unprecedented move, the PM announced complete lockdown in the entire country for 21 days from 12 am tonight, adding that this will be akin to a curfew and will be implemented with full compliance.

Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/rs-15000-crore-alloted-for-healthcare-to-fight-coronavirus-says-pm-modi/story/399119.html>

Difference between Janata Curfew, Lockdown and Section 144

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1)Section 144 prohibits gathering of four or more people in the concerned area.

(2)Janata curfew is a curfew imposed on people by the people while lockdown is imposed by the government.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Section 144 and Curfew:

- Section 144 prohibits **gathering of four or more people in the concerned area, while during the curfew people are instructed to stay indoors for a particular period of time.**
- The government puts a complete restriction on traffic as well. Markets, schools, colleges and offices remains closed under the curfew **and only essential services are** allowed to run on prior notice.

Difference between Janata Curfew and Lockdown:

- **Janta curfew** is a curfew imposed **on people by the people** while **lockdown** is imposed **by the government** and it means that **nobody will be allowed to enter or exit the state/city** which is being lockdown.
- For example the lockdown imposed in Wuhan city of China prohibits entrance or exit of outsiders in the city. But people inside the city were allowed to move outside their houses.

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- For example the lockdown imposed in Wuhan city of China prohibits entrance or exit of outsiders in the city. But people inside the city were allowed to move outside their houses.

Links:

<https://www.businessinsider.in/india/news/here-is-the-difference-between-lockdown-and-curfew/articleshow/74759924.cms>

International **‘Bounce Back Loan Scheme’**

Question: ‘Bounce Back Loan Scheme’ is launched by which of the following country?

(a) United Kingdom (b) Russia (c) Italy (d) Spain

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- United Kingdom’s Finance Minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a 100 per cent state-backed ‘Bounce Back Loan Scheme’ for the small businesses to help them tide through the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.
- The Indian-origin UK Chancellor told the House of Commons that the new fast-track finance scheme, would help bolster the existing package of support available to crisis-hit UK businesses.
- Under the scheme, qualifying small businesses can apply online to borrow between 2,000 pounds and 50,000 pounds as interest-free loans for the first 12 months.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UK%3A-FM-unveils-100%25-state-backed-%26%2339%3BBounce-Back-Loan-Scheme%26%2339%3B-for-small-businesses&id=386908>

Facebook has announced the investment of Rs. 43,474 crores in Reliance Jio

Question: Recently which International company has announced the investment of Rs. 43,474 crores in Reliance Jio?

(a) Facebook (b) Google (c) Walmart (d) Amazon

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Facebook has announced the investment of Rs. 43,474 crores in Reliance Jio for 9.99 percent stake on April 22. It is the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India’s tech sector.
- The announcement of signing a binding agreement for an investment of Rs. 43,474 crore was made by Jio Platform Ltd, Reliance Industries Ltd., and Facebook.
- As per a statement by Reliance Industries Ltd., the investment by Facebook translates into 9.99% of the equity stake in Jio on a fully diluted basis. The declared investment now values Jio Platforms at Rs. 4.62 lakh crore pre-money enterprise value.

Key facts:

- Reliance retail ltd., Jio platform and WhatsApp are also coming together in a commercial partnership. It will accelerate Reliance's new commerce business on the Jio mart platform and support small businesses on WhatsApp.
- Facebook's investment in Jio has placed the company among the top 5 listed companies in India within just three and a half years of its launch.
- As Facebook's most established communities WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook are already in India, the announced deal with Jio will allow it to place itself deeper in the Indian market.

Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/corporate/fb-jio-deal-facebook-investment-values-jio-platforms-at-record-rs-46-lakh-crore-5th-largest-in-m-cap/story/401659.html>

World Health Organization (WHO)

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **WHO established on 7 April 1948.**
2. **Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

On April 21, 2020, The WHO said there's no evidence serological tests can show whether a person has immunity or is no longer at risk of becoming reinfected.

Facts:

- WHO began when our Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.
- We are now more than 7000 people working in 150 country offices, in six regional offices and at our headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Goal

To improve equity in health, reduce health risks, promote healthy lifestyles and settings, and respond to the underlying determinants of health.

Objectives

To develop and implement multisectoral public policies for health, integrated gender- and age-sensitive approaches that facilitate community empowerment together with action for health promotion, self-care and health protection throughout the life course in cooperation with the relevant national and international partners.

Role:

- Our primary role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations system.

Function:

Our main areas of work are health systems; health through the life-course; noncommunicable and communicable diseases; preparedness, surveillance and response; and corporate services.

WHO and India

- India became a party to the WHO on 12 January 1948.
- Regional office for South East Asia is located in New Delhi.

Link:

<https://www.who.int/about>

COP-26 Conference cancelled

Question: On April 1, 2020, the United Nations decided to postpone to the proposed COP-26 in November 2020. It was scheduled to be organized in?

(a) Glasgow (b) Madrid (c) Paris (d) Doha

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The COP-26 conference of UN climate change scheduled in Glasgow in November 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19.
- This decision was taken by the COP Bureau of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), with the UK and its Italian partners.
- The rescheduled dates of conference in 2021 will be announced in few days.
- COP-25 was organised in Madrid, Spain in the year 2019.

Author: Himanshu Shukla

Links:

<https://unfccc.int/news/cop26-postponed>

US – IRAN standoff: 4 nuclear restrictions renewed by US

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) US renewed 4 nuclear restrictions imposed on Iran.

(2) The restrictions were imposed to prevent Iran from building its nuclear weapon.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- US renewed the four nuclear restrictions imposed on Iran; the restrictions are aimed at preventing Iran from building a nuclear weapon.
- The nuclear restriction on Iran imposed by the US has been renewed for another 60 days.
- President Donald Trump had stated earlier that Iran will never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.
- While restricting Iran's nuclear activities, the United States has renewed certain sanction waivers, allowing Russian, Chinese and European companies to continue their non-proliferation work at Iran's Arak heavy-water research reactor, Tehran Research Reactor, Bushehr nuclear power plant and other nuclear initiatives.
- US and Iran signed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that aimed at curbing nuclear programme of Iran in 2015.
- Under the deal, most of Iran's Uranium was shipped out of the country. Several operational nuclear operations of Iran were brought under international inspection.

Links: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.newindianexpress.com/world/2020/mar/31/trump-administration-renews-four-restrictions-on-irans-nuclear-program-amid-covid-19-crisis-2123849.amp>

Earthquake in Kuril Island

Question: Recently an earthquake struck in the northern Pacific and a tsunami warning was issued for the closest shores on Russia's far eastern Kuril islands. The magnitude of earthquake was?

(a) 7.4 (b) 7.1 (c) 7.5 (d) 7.0

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Recently, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck in the northern Pacific and a tsunami warning was issued for the closest shores on Russia's far eastern Kuril Islands.
- The earthquakes of this strength in the region have caused tsunamis in the past far from the epicenter of the earthquake.
- The earthquake, 218 km south-southeast of the town of Severo, struck at a depth of 56.7 km (35 miles) as per the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).
- The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) said that hazardous tsunami waves were possible within 1,000 km of the earthquake's epicentre.
- However, later it said, "only very small tsunami waves were generated by this earthquake and there is no further threat".
- The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre has warned hazardous Tsunami waves on the coasts of the Kuril Islands. However, the waves are to be less than 30 centimetres in high.
- The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said a tsunami watch was issued for the state of Hawaii.
- There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.
- Kuril Islands are stretched from the Japanese island of Hokkaido to the southern tip of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula separating Okhotsk Sea from the North Pacific Ocean.
- It consists of 56 islands and minor rocks.
- The chain is part of the belt of geologic instability circling the Pacific and contains at least 100 volcanoes, of which 35 are still active, and many hot springs.
- Earthquakes and tidal waves are common phenomena over these islands.
- The Kuril Islands are a volcanic Archipelago that separates Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean. The islands are currently under Russian Administration. However, claims of Japan over 4 southern most islands of the Archipelago have led to the ongoing Kuril Islands Dispute.
- The Islands are located at the tectonically instable region called the "Ring of Fire".
- The Ring of Fire is the areas of Pacific Ocean where several volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur. There are more than 452 volcanos in the region. This accounts to 75% of world's volcanos. Also, 91% of world earthquakes occur in the region.

Links:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindu.com/news/international/tsunami-warnings-after-magnitude-78-quake-strikes-near-russias-kuril-islands/article31159658.ece/amp/>

World Water Development Report (WWDR 2020)

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) World Water Development Report is produced annually by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme(WWAP) .

(2) World Water Development Report (WWDR 2020) is entitled 'Water and Climate Change'.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- The 2020 edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR 2020) has been published entitled 'Water and Climate Change'.
- According to the report, Global food production patterns would be fundamentally altered by climate change, causing food insecurity because of small shifts in seasonality and water availability.
- In India, 100 per cent of the land dedicated to rice cultivation, 91 per cent of land for maize and 80 per cent for soybean would face wetter conditions within the next 40 years.
- An increase in demand for calories from low and middle-income countries would cause an increase in production.
- The 2020 United Nations World Water Development Report focuses on the challenges, opportunities and potential responses to climate change, in terms of adaptation, mitigation and improved resilience that can be addressed through improving water management.
- The report emphasizes that combining climate change adaptation and mitigation, through water, is a win-win proposal, improving the provision of water supply and sanitation services and combating both the causes and impacts of climate change, including disaster risk reduction.

World Water Development Report:

- The report is produced annually by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme(WWAP) and released by UN-Water.
- Its aim is at helping the water community to tackle the challenges of climate change and informing the climate change community about the opportunities that improved water management offers in terms of adaptation and mitigation.

Links:

<https://en.unesco.org/node/317634>

Economics

India signs \$1.5 billion loan to support COVID-19 response

Question: The Government of India has signed a \$1.5 billion loan with which bank to support the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic?

(a)World Bank (b)Asian Development Bank (c)BRICS Bank (d) International Monetary Fund

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$1.5 billion loan to support the government's response to the novel coronavirus pandemic on April 28, 2020.
- The amount will be used in focusing on immediate priorities such as disease containment and prevention, as well as social protection for the poor and economically vulnerable sections.
- Earlier, the ADB's Board of Directors approved the loan to provide budget support to the government to counter and mitigate the adverse health and socio-economic impact of the pandemic.
- Building on the CARES Programme, ADB is also in dialogue with the government for further possible support for stimulating the economy, support strong growth recovery, and to build resilience to future shocks which includes the support for the affected industries and entrepreneurs particularly micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Links:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

World Bank report on the impact of the COVID-19 on migration and remittances

Question: As per the recent report of World Bank on the impact of covid-19 on migration and remittances, India will find the drop of remittance by what percentage?

(a)20 (b)23 (c)40 (d)18

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- According to a World Bank report on the impact of the COVID-19 on migration and remittances, remittances to India may drop by 23 % i.e. from 83 billion US Dollars last year to 64 billion US Dollars this year due to the Corona virus pandemic.
- Globally, the remittances are projected to decline by about 20 per cent this year due to the global recession by the pandemic and shutdowns due to out break of Novel Corona virus.
- The projected fall could be the sharpest decline in recent history.
- Remittance are expected to fall across all regions, most notably in Europe and Central Asia (27.5 %), followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (23.1 %), South Asia (22.1 %), the Middle East and North Africa (19.6 %), Latin America and the Caribbean (19.3 %), and East Asia and the Pacific (13 %).
- It is largely due to a fall in the wages and employment of migrant workers, who work in countries abroad and send money to their homeland.
- Remittances are a vital source of income for developing countries and they help families afford food, health care and basic needs.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Remittances-to-India-likely-to-drop-by-23-pct-this-year%3a-World-Bank&id=386460>

The world economy is now bound to suffer a “severe recession” in 2020 :IMF Chief

Question: How many number of countries as a member of International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

(a) 188 (b) 189 (c) 190 (d) 192

Answer:(b)

Related facts:

- IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva told that The world economy, already “sluggish” before the coronavirus outbreak, is now bound to suffer a “severe recession” in 2020.
- Addressing the Development Committee Meeting during the annual Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the IMF Managing Director said a massive global contraction in the first half of this year was inevitable.
- She said the coronavirus pandemic hit the world economy when it was already in a fragile state as it was weighed down by trade disputes, policy uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions.
- The global coronavirus outbreak is a crisis that is like no other and poses daunting challenges for policymakers in many emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), especially where the pandemic encounters weak public health systems, capacity constraints.

- Countries that were affected early-such as China, South Korea, and Italy-have suffered massive contractions in manufacturing activity and services, exceeding the losses recorded at the onset of the global financial crisis.

International Monetary Fund(IMF):

- The IMF was conceived in July 1944 at the United Nations Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, United States
- The International Monetary Fund, or IMF, promotes international financial stability and monetary cooperation.
- It also facilitates international trade, promotes employment and sustainable economic growth, and helps to reduce global poverty.
- The IMF is governed by and accountable to its 189 member countries.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=World-economy-bound-to-suffer-%26%2339%3Bsevere-recession%26%2339%3B-in-2020%2C-says-IMF-Chief&id=385932>

‘Helicopter money’

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **‘Helicopter money’is an unconventional monetary policy tool aimed at bringing a flagging economy back on track.**
2. **American economist Milton Friedman coined this term.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- With no quick escape in sight for Covid-ravaged economies, authorities the world over are going back to the drawing board to find strategies to deal with this nightmare.One such strategy doing the rounds is ‘helicopter money’.
- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has also suggested RBI to adopt the concept of Helicopter Money to help state governments tide over the current crisis and kickstart economic activity in India.

‘Helicopter money’:

- This is an unconventional monetary policy tool aimed at bringing a flagging economy back on track.
- It involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public.
- American economist Milton Friedman coined this term.
- It basically denotes a helicopter dropping money from the sky.
- Friedman used the term to signify “unexpectedly dumping money onto a struggling economy with the intention to shock it out of a deep slump.
- ” Under such a policy, a central bank “directly increase the money supply and, via the government, distribute the new cash to the population with the aim of boosting demand and inflation.”

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/et-explains/what-is-helicopter-money-and-why-is-it-in-news/articleshow/75106564.cms>

‘MSP for MFP scheme’

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. ‘MSP for MFP scheme’ launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. The Minor Forest Produce (MFP), also known as Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has asked the State Nodal Departments and Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the available funds under MSP for MFP Scheme.
- Such measures are necessary for mitigating the impact of lockdown on tribal communities.
- This will provide much required livelihood support to the tribal gatherers and obviate the movement of middlemen from urban areas to tribal habitations, thus checking any eventuality of spread of corona virus among tribal communities.

About the Scheme:

- The Union Cabinet, in 2013, approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for marketing of non-nationalized / non monopolized Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and development of a value chain for MFP through Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- This was a measure towards social safety for MFP gatherers, who are primarily members of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) most of them in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas.
- Ensure that the tribal population gets a remunerative price for the produce they collect from the forest and provide alternative employment avenues to them.
- Establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns for forest dweller's efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc, while ensuring sustainability of the resource base.
- Get them a share of revenue from the sales proceeds with costs deducted.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP):

- The Minor Forest Produce (MFP), also known as Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), is a major source of livelihood and provides essential food, nutrition, medicinal needs and cash income to a large number of STs who live in and around forests. An estimated 100 million forest dwellers depend on the Minor Forest Produce for food, shelter, medicines, cash income, etc.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=202170>

2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

Question: The virtual meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors took place on April 15, 2020 under the presidency of?

(a) India (b) China (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Thailand

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting took place on April 15, 2020 under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the virtual session of meeting to discuss the global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 pandemic.
- Main highlights of the meeting:
- Finance Minister focused upon the role of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in safeguarding the lives and livelihood of people while maintaining macroeconomic stability in a sustainable manner.
- The measures taken by the Government of India to provide the vulnerable sections with swift, timely and targeted assistance during the pandemic was shared with G20 counterparts
- The monetary policy measures undertaken by the government have helped de-freeze the market and catalyse credit flows like liquidity shoulder support of USD 50 billion, regulatory and supervisory measures for credit easing etc.
- An Action Plan is prepared by G20 members on the directions of G20 Leaders to protect lives, safeguard people's jobs and incomes, restore confidence, preserve financial stability, coordinate on public health and financial measures and minimise disruption to global supply chain.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1614845>

Government Grants exemption from Basic Custom duty & Health Cess in imports

Question: The Central Government has granted exemption from Basic Customs Duty and Health cess, on the import of which of the the following goods on April 9, 2020?

(a)Ventilator (b)Face mask (c)Covid-19 test kit (d)All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Due to emergency medical equipment need in the county amid Covid-19 situation, the Central Government has granted exemption from Basic Customs Duty and Health cess, on the import of the some medical equipments.
- These item includes Ventilators, Face masks, surgical Masks, Personal protection equipment (PPE), Covid-19 test kits and inputs for manufacture of the above items.
- This basic customs duty exemption will be available upto the 30th September, 2020.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1612748>

Food grains to be provided to non-NFSA beneficiaries

Question: The Government of India has directed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide food grains to non-NFSA beneficiary for a period of?

(a)1 month (b)3 month (c)5 month (d)1 year

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Government of India on April 9, 2020 has directed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide food grains to non-NFSA beneficiary for 3 months.
- FCI has been directed to provide @5 Kg per person per month for 3 months at the rates of Rs. 21/Kg for wheat and Rs. 22/Kg for rice uniformly across the country to non-NFSA to whom ration cards have been issued by state governments under their schemes.
- States have been given the option to lift these stocks in one go or on monthly basis over 3 months upto June 2020.
- Under the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY), a total of 12.1 MMT of food grains are being supplied to 81 crore people in 3 months @5 Kg per person.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1612712>

NHAI achieves highest ever Construction of National Highways in FY 2019-20

Question: The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved the highest ever construction of National Highway in the FY 2019-20 since it's inception. When was NHAI formed?

(a)1990 (b)1995 (c)1985 (d)2000

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- NHAI has accomplished the highest ever construction of 3,979 km of national highways in the FY 2019-20.
- NHAI has achieved an all-time high construction since its inception in 1995.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has envisaged an ambitious highway development programme Bharatmala Pariyojana which includes development of about 65,000 km national highways.
- Under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana, the Ministry has approved implementation of 34,800 km of national highways in 5 years with an outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore.
- NHAI has been mandated development of about 27,500 km of national highways under Bharatmala Phase I.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1611718>

Finance Bill passed in Lok Sabha

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the Finance Bill 2020 :

- (a) Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill 2020 with amendments on March 23 without any discussion.
- (b) Equalisation levy of 2% is carried on non- resident e- commerce unless they have a PE in India.
- (c) Non – resident Indians will be taxed on India – controlled income above 15 lakh
- (d) All of these

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On March 23, 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman introduced the Finance Bill, 2020. The bill was introduced and passed in Lok Sabha without any discussion.

- The bill was hurriedly passed in the Lok Sabha without the customary discussion or reply by the Union finance minister and duly returned by the Rajya Sabha as the country headed for a lockdown to fight the coronavirus crisis.
- The amendments moved by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman covered the taxation of petrol and diesel, definition of tax residence and clarifications related to dividend distribution tax (DDT).

Key changes:

- The government raises special additional excise duty, by up to Rs 18 a litre on petrol, up from Rs 10 now and up to Rs 12 a litre on diesel, up from Rs 4 now.
- The intention to raise the taxes on auto fuel comes at a time when the government is looking for resources to announce a financial package to fight the impact of the coronavirus crisis.
- In direct taxes, a key amendment that Finance minister introduced is to relax the provision relating to tax residence.
- The original Finance Bill had proposed to reduce the time Indian citizens or persons of Indian origin needed to spend in India to qualify as Indian tax resident, from 182 days to 120 days in the previous year. "The amended Bill now provides that the lower 120 day rule will not apply if the Indian-sourced income of such persons is less than Rs 15 lakh in the relevant financial year,".
- The tax deducted at source (TDS) rate on payment of dividend to non-resident and foreign company has been set at 20%.
- The proposal for taxing dividends in the hands of shareholders by abolishing the dividend distribution tax (DDT) was also passed. While the new rule kicks into effect from April 1, 2020, the government has clarified that shareholders will have no tax liability if the company issuing the dividend has paid the DDT before April 1.
- Equalisation levy of 2% on non- resident e- commerce unless they have a PE in India.
- Tax exemption to Sovereign wealth fund extended to pension funds for infra investment.
- No 2% on withdrawal of over Rs 1 crore cash from banks, co- operative banks, PO.
- Tax on cash withdrawal of over Rs 20 lakh at the rate of 2%, if tax return not filed for 3 years with effect from July 1 2020.
- Tax on cash withdrawal of over Rs 1 crore at 5 percent ,if tax return not filed for 3 years with effect from July 1 2020.

Understanding the Concept:

- A Finance Bill, as the name suggests, concerns the country's finances — it could be about taxes, government expenditures, government borrowings, revenues, etc. Since the Union Budget deals with these things, it is passed as a Finance Bill.
- The Constitution defines financial legislation into two categories: Money Bills and Financial Bills.
- Money Bills –Article 110
- Financial Bills (I)– Article 117 (1)
- Financial Bills (II)– Article 117 (3)
- All Money bills are Financial bills but all Financial bills are not Money bills.
- Only those financial bills are Money bills which contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution.
- Money bills are certified by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Financial Bills (I):

- A financial bill (I) contains not only any or all the matters mentioned in the Money Bill, but also other matters of general legislation. It is dealt under Article 117 (1) of the Constitution.
- It is similar to a money bill in two respects–
- Both of them can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.

- Both of them can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President.
- In all other respects, a financial bill (I) is treated as an ordinary bill. ie.
- it can be either rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha.
- In case of a disagreement between the two Houses over such a bill, the President can summon a joint sitting of the two Houses to resolve the deadlock.
- When the bill is presented to the President, he can either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill or return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses.

Financial Bills (II):

- A financial bill (II) contains provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, but does not include any of the matters mentioned in Article 110. It is dealt under Article 117 (3) of the Constitution.
- It is governed by the same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill.
- Such Bills can be introduced in either House of Parliament. However, recommendation of the President is essential for consideration of these Bills by either House and unless such recommendation is received, neither House can pass the Bill.
- In other words, the recommendation of the President is not required at the introduction stage but is required at the consideration stage.

Links:

https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/economy-policy/from-finance-bill-to-termination-of-pregnancy-bills-passed-by-parliament-120032400268_1.html

FCI sets all time record in single day transportation of food grains

Question: The Food Corporation of India had recently set all time record in single day transportation of food grains. What is the quantity of food grain transported?

(a)1.50 LMT (b)1.60 LMT (c)1.93 LMT (d)2.10 LMT

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI), has set a new record in single day movement by moving 70 rakes carrying 1.93 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) continuously for two days on 3 and 4 April, 2020.
- FCI has done average movement of 1.41 Lakh MT food grain per day as against the pre-lockdown daily average of about 0.8 Lakh MT since March 24, 2020.
- A total of 605 rakes carrying about 16.94 Lakh MT food grains have been transported across the country during this period.
- Punjab accounted for about 46% of total food grain followed by Haryana (3.02 LMT), Telangana (2.04 LMT) and Chhattisgarh (1.15 LMT).
- North Eastern states has been given a quantity of 1.4 LMT food grains. Other states like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh etc. moved the rest.
- FCI has ensured for the requirements of food grains of every state to be met without any shortages. FCI is having 55.47 Million Metric Tonnes food grains (31.23 MMT Rice and 24.24 MMT Wheat) in central pool as on April 4, 2020.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1611425>

Joint Venture between Adani Green Energy Limited and Total S.A. approved

Question: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently approved the formation of Joint Venture between Adani Green Energy Limited and Total S.A. for business in which of the following sector?

(a) Mining (b) Cargo export (c) Solar energy (d) Natural gas

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the formation of Joint Venture between Adani Green Energy Limited and Total S.A. in the business of power generation through solar energy in India on April 1, 2020.
- The proposed combination envisages Adani Green Energy Limited transferring certain of its subsidiaries to a newly incorporated company (JV). Subsequently, Total S.A. would directly or indirectly acquire 50% of the equity share capital of the JV.
- Total S.A. is the ultimate parent entity of the Total Group. Total Group is an international integrated energy producer with operations in every sector of the oil and gas industry and is also involved in renewable energy and power generation sectors in India.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1610028>

Finance Minister announces Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

Question: Consider the following statement regarding COVID-19:

(1) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

(2) Increase in MNREGA wage has been announced to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 26th March 2020, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus.
- As per announcements, insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh per health worker fighting COVID-19 will be provided under a Special Insurance Scheme.
- 80 crore poor people will get 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses free of cost every month for the next three months.
- 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders will get Rs 500 per month for next three months.
- Central govt has proclaimed an increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families.
- An ex-gratia of Rs 1,000 will be provided to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled.
- Government will front-load Rs 2,000 paid to farmers in first week of April under existing PM Kisan Yojana to benefit 8.7 crore farmers.
- Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers.
- Government of India will provide gas cylinders free of cost to over 8 crore Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for the next three months, April-June 2020.

- Considering the crisis in organised sector, government has proposed to pay 24 percent of employees' monthly wages into their PF accounts for next three months. This would prevent disruption in their employment.
- Wage-earners below Rs 15,000 per month in businesses having less than 100 workers are at risk of losing their employment.
- Women organized through 63 lakhs Self Help Groups (SHGs) support 6.85 crore households.
- Limit of collateral free lending is proposed to be increased from Rs 10 to Rs 20 lakhs.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1608345><https://www.govtempdiary.com/2020/03/finance-minister-announces-rs-1-70-lakh-crore-relief-package-under-pradhan-mantri-garib-kalyan-yojana-pib/61527>

Scientific

NTPC launches Hydrogen Fuel bus and car project

Question: NTPC has launched Hydrogen Fuel bus and car project recently in which of the following city on April 26, 2020?

(a) Bengaluru (b) Mumbai (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Leh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- NTPC Ltd, India's largest power producer has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell based electric cars in cities Leh and Delhi.
- The EoI has been issued by NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) Limited.
- NTPC has launched the Hydrogen Fuel bus and car projects in Leh and New Delhi.
- This is first of its kind project in the country, wherein a complete solution from green energy to the fuel cell vehicle would be developed.
- It has been undertaken with support of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, will also harness renewable energy for generation of hydrogen and develop its storage and dispensation facilities as part of pilot projects at Leh and Delhi.
- The PSU has been taking various technology initiatives to provide complete e-Mobility solution for public transport including creation of public charging infrastructure and providing electric buses to State/City Transport Undertakings.
- 90 public charging stations in various cities and battery charging and swapping station at Faridabad for e-3-wheelers have already been commissioned.
- Similarly, e-Bus solution for Andaman & Nicobar Administration is under implementation.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1618378>

Low cost Probe-free Covid 19 detection assay developed

Question: Which institute recently developed a low cost Probe-free real time PCR diagnostic kit for Covid 19 detection?

(a)ICMR (b)IIT-Delhi (c)AIIMS Delhi (d)DRDO

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' felicitated the team of scientists from IIT Delhi involved in the development of COVID 19 probe – free Real-time PCR Diagnostic Kit on April 24, 2020.
- IIT Delhi in developd the testing kit at a very low cost. The kit will not only empower healthcare services but also support the government in the time of crisis.
- The detection assay for COVID-19 has been approved by ICMR with a sensitivity and specificity of 100%.
- This makes IITD the first academic institute to have obtained ICMR approval for a real-time PCR-based diagnostic assay.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1617895>

New model to predict ionospheric electron density

Question: Researchers of which institute have recently developed a global model to predict the ionospheric electron density with larger data coverage?

(a)CSIR-NAL (b)ICMR (c)National Institute of Virology (d)Indian Institute of Geomagnetism

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), Navi Mumbai, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India researchers have developed a global model to predict the ionospheric electron density with larger data coverage—a crucial need for communication and navigation on April 20, 2020.
- A new Artificial Neural Networks based global Ionospheric Model (ANNIM) have been developed using long-term ionospheric observations to predict the ionospheric electron density and the peak parameters.
- ANNs replicate the processes in the human brain (or biological neurons) to solve problems such as pattern recognition, classification etc. and very few attempts have been made to model the global ionosphere variability using ANNs.
- Tracking the variability of the Ionosphere is important for communication and navigation. Scientists have tried to model the ionosphere using theoretical and empirical techniques.
- The Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) are showing potential to handle more complex and non-linear problems.
- The researchers developed a neural network-based global ionospheric model by using an extensive database consisting of nearly two decades of global Digisonde, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) radio occultation and topside sounders observations.
- These datasets were processed with various quality control measures to eliminate spurious data points (outliers) and prepared for the training.
- The model developed by IIG researchers may be utilized as a reference model in the ionospheric predictions and has potential applications in calculating the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) positioning errors.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1616292>

Personal Protective Coverall Suit discovered to combat COVID-19

Question: Which institute has recently developed a Personal Protective Coverall Suit discovered to combat COVID-19?

(a)DRDO (b)CSIR-NAL (c)ICMR (d)Indian Railways

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), a CSIR constituent Lab in Bengaluru along with MAF Clothing Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru has developed and certified the overall protective coverall suit on April 18, 2020.
- It is a polypropylene spun laminated multi-layered non-woven fabric based coverall.
- It can be used to ensure the safety of Doctors, Nurses, Paramedical staff and Health Care workers working round the clock on COVID-19 mitigation.
- CSIR-NAL and MAF have plans to do the production of the coverall to about 30,000 units per day within four weeks' time.
- The major advantages of these Coveralls are that they are highly competitive in price as compared to other manufacturers and the import content is negligible.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1615625>

Bug sniffer for efficient detection of pathogens discovered

Question: Which of the the following research institute has recently developed a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria?

- (a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc) (b) Agharkar Research Institute (ARI)
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) (d) National Institute of Virology

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Researchers at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have developed a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria.
- The portable device can detect as low as ten bacterial cells from a sample size of one milliliter in just 30 minutes.
- It is called as 'bug sniffer,' which is a biosensor that uses synthetic peptides, magnetic nanoparticles, and quantum dots to detect the presence of bacteria, providing a cost- and time-effective way of screening water and foodborne pathogens.
- The researchers also developed a chip comprising of microchannels made from copper wires and poly (dimethylsiloxane).
- The bug sniffer is affordable, and the raw materials required for making it are readily available.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1616000>

Scientists discover hundreds of Li-rich giant stars

Question: Scientist of which of the following organisation have recently succeeded in discovering hundreds of Li-rich giant stars?

- (a) ISRO (b) IIT Kanpur (c) Indian Institute of Astrophysics (d) IISc Bengaluru

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Scientists of Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have recently discovered hundreds of

Li-rich giant stars indicating that Li is being produced in the stars and accounts for its abundance in the interstellar medium.

- They have also associated such Li enhancement with central He-burning stars, also known as red clump giants, thereby opening up new vistas in the evolution of the red giant stars.
- The discovered super Li-rich giants which have Li quantity which is equal to or in some cases, more than 10 times the present value, $A(\text{Li}) = 3.2$ dex (measured in logarithmic scale relative to hydrogen).
- Lithium (Li), is one of the three primordial elements, apart from Hydrogen and Helium (He), produced in the big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN) whose models predict primordial Li abundance ($A(\text{Li}) \sim 2.7$ dex).
- The team embarked on cracking this long-standing problem in stellar astrophysics.
- They showed for the first time that the Li enhancement in giants is associated only with central He-burning stars, which are also known as red clump giants.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1616003>

Study to identify biomarkers predicting progression from non-severe to severe COVID 19 cases

Question: Which of the following statutory body will support the exploration of metabolomics alteration in COVID-19 infected patients conducted by IIT Bombay?
(a) Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) (b) King George Medical College
(c) National Institute of Virology (d) Indian Institute of Science

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), will support the exploration of metabolomics alteration in COVID-19 infected patients.
- This will be conducted by IIT Bombay in collaboration with some hospitals in Mumbai.
- The study:
- The study will identify potential biomarker candidates to predict progression from non-severe to severe COVID-19 conditions.
- Search for potential diagnostic candidates will involve metabolite profiling of different patient groups with various complications.
- Metabolites are small biomolecules, capable of regulating various pathways in all the living-organisms.
- A team of over 20 researchers having expertise in handling a large number of different types of human biospecimens will work on it.
- Investigation of different patient groups having mild to severe symptoms will provide early cues to identify an asymptomatic group of patients and the difference between severe cases of COVID-19 from non-severe ones.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1614815>

Integrated geospatial platform for COVID-19 outbreak

Question: Which department of the Government of India has recently developed an Integrated geospatial platform for helping area specific strategies & decisions in COVID 19 outbreak?

(a) IIT-Mumbai (b) ICMR (c) Department of Science & Technology

(d)Defence Research and Development Organisation

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has created an Integrated Geospatial Platform on April 15, 2020 with the available geospatial datasets, standards-based services, and analytic tools to help decision making during the current COVID-19 outbreak and aid devising area-specific strategies .
- The platform will strengthen the public health delivery system of the State and Central Governments providing the geospatial information support to citizens and agencies dealing with issues of health, socio-economic distress, and livelihood challenges.
- It will complement the “AAROGYA-SETU” mobile application launched by the Government of India for Contact tracing, Public awareness.
- This integrated geospatial platform will strengthen the Nation’s health emergency management due to the COVID-19 outbreak and support the socio-economic recovery process providing spatial data, information, and linkage between human, medical, technological, infrastructural and natural resources.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1614808>

Pusa Decontamination & Sanitizing Tunnel

Question: Who inaugurated the Pusa Decontamination and sanitization tunnel installed in New Delhi on April 16, 2020?

(a)Ram Vilas Paswan (b)Kailash Chaudhary (c)Manish Sisodiya (d)Raghav Chaddha

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Kailash Choudhary inaugurated Pusa Decontamination and Sanitizing Tunnel, developed by Division of Agricultural Engineering, ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi on April 16 2020.
- The sanitization protocol includes hand washing with foot-operated soap and water dispenser and fogging in a sanitizing tunnel for 20 seconds.
- Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QAC) are used at concentration of 0.045% in the tunnel as per the recommended of Health Department.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1615005>

Chitra Gene LAMP-N

Question: SreeChitraTirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology is located in which of the following city?

(a) Thiruvananthapuram (b) Chennai (c) Mumbai (d) New Delhi

Answer:(a)

- Apr 17, 2020,A research institute in Kerala has developed a new, faster and cheaper diagnostic test for COVID-19 which could be a major breakthrough.
- The COVID-19 test kit has been developed by SreeChitraTirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The test kit will detect the N-Gene of the coronavirus using reverse transe loop-mediated amplification of viral nucleic acid or RT-LAMP technique.

- The new COVID-19 test kit is one of the first few confirmatory diagnostic tests for N-gene of COVID-19 virus using the RT-LAMP technique in the world.

Chitra Gene LAMP-N:

- The Chitra Gene LAMP-N test is highly specific.
- It can detect two regions of the gene, which will ensure test success even if one region of the gene undergoes mutation during its current spread.
- As per the research institute, the detection time using the kit is only 10 minutes and the sample to result time will be less than two hours.
- Further at least 30 samples can be tested in a single batch in a single machine.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Faster%2C-cheaper-diagnostic-test-for-COVID-19%3A-A-research-institute-in-Kerala-develops-in-a-major-breakthrough&id=385842>

Reliance Power's Ultra Mega Power Project's (UMPP) in Sasan area of Singrauli fly ash dyke collapsed

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **Fly ash is a coal combustion product.**
2. **Silicon dioxide (SiO₂), aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO) are the main mineral compounds of coal-bearing rock strata.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- Reliance Power's Ultra Mega Power Project's (UMPP) in Sasan area of Singrauli fly ash dyke collapsed .
- The flood of the toxic ash slurry from the collapsed dyke located in adjoining Harhawa village washed away six persons, including three kids, a woman and two men living in the adjoining villages.

Fly Ash:

- Popularly known as Flue ash or pulverised fuel ash, it is a coal combustion product.

Composition:

- Composed of the particulates that are driven out of coal-fired boilers together with the flue gases.
- Depending upon the source and composition of the coal being burned, the components of fly ash vary considerably, but all fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO₂), aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO), the main mineral compounds in coal-bearing rock strata.
- Minor constituents include: arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium, along with very small concentrations of dioxins and PAH compounds. It also has unburnt carbon.

Links:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/apr/11/third-fly-ash-dyke-collapse-in-madhya-pradesh-within-8-months-kills-two-four-more-feared-dead-2128706.html>

NIF brings herbal dewormer for livestock owners

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. Dewormer is an indigenous herbal medication .
2. It is in form of commercial product for livestock owners as an alternate to chemical method of treatment of worm.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- National Innovation Foundation India (NIF) has brought out an indigenous herbal medication (dewormer) in form of commercial product for livestock owners as an alternate to chemical method of treatment of worm.
- In order to make the indigenous herbal dewormer titles 'wormivet' available for livestock owners, NIF worked on a medication in treatment of endoparasite (worm) infestation among livestock.
- The anthelmintic activity of this medication in naturally infested helminthiasis was assessed.
- The results demonstrated successful impact of this medication.

National Innovation Foundation (NIF):

- It is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- It was set up in February 2000 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat to provide institutional support for scouting, spawning, sustaining and scaling up the grassroots innovations across the country.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1613211>

PPE Coveralls for medical and health-care personnel

Question: Which Public Sector Company has planned to manufacture over 30,000 PPE coverall in April 2020?

(a)Khadi India Limited (b) Indian Railways (c)DRDO (d)IIT Kanpur

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian Railways Production Units, Workshops and field units has started manufacturing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Coveralls for medical and health-care personnel.
- Indian Railways will produce over 30,000 such coveralls in April 2020 and plan to manufacture 1,00,000 of the same in May 2020. The prototype coveralls have already cleared the prescribed tests with the highest grades at the authorised DRDO laboratory at Gwalior.
- This will will fulfill the demands of PPE in country.
- Indian Railways has already converted more than 5000 of its passenger coaches into mobile quarantine/isolation facilities.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1614665>

Kiosk for COVID-19 sample collection developed

Question: Which indian organisation has recently developed kiosk for COVID-19 sample collection?

(a)ICMR (b)AIIMS (c)OFB (d)DRDO

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed COVID Sample Collection Kiosk (COVSACK) on April 14, 2020.
- The unit has been developed by DRDL in consultation with the doctors of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Hyderabad.
- COVSACK:
- It is a kiosk to be used by healthcare workers for taking COVID-19 samples from suspected infected patients.
- Patient under test walks into the Kiosk and a nasal or oral swab is taken by health care professional from outside through the built in gloves.
- The Kiosk is automatically disinfected without the need for human involvement, making the process free of infection spread.
- The COVSACK costs nearly Rs 1 lakh and the identified industry based at Belgaum, Karnataka can support 10 units per day.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1614372>

IIT(BHU)'s innovation center makes full body Sanitization Device

Question: Which institute has) has developed a device that can be used to sanitize the entire body?

(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Madras (d) IIT BHU

Answer:(d)

Related facts:

- Jeetu Shukla, an incubate of Malaviya Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (MCIIE) at IIT(BHU) has developed a device that can be used to sanitize the entire body.

Working procedure of the device:

- The device can be mounted anywhere and it works in an automated manner.
- The device is sensor based which can be installed outside any premises.
- The sensor based installed machine will automatically detect a person coming in front of the device and will spray 10-15 ml of sanitizer for 15 seconds and this will sanitize the person's entire body, clothes, shoes, etc.
- This device can be installed at any place where there is movement of people, so that the person can enter the premises only after getting sanitized.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1613077>

Exploring novel blood plasma therapy for COVID-19

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Convalescent-plasma therapy, the treatment aims at using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person.

(2) This therapy is akin to passive immunization.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- SreeChitraTirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) an Institution of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology has obtained a go-ahead for taking a bold step to provide innovative treatment to patients suffering from COVID-19 disease.
- Technically called “convalescent-plasma therapy”, the treatment aims at using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person.
- Indian council for medical research (ICMR) the top authorising body in India has given approval to the SCTIMST for carrying out the novel treatment.

Convalescent-plasma therapy:

- When a pathogen like novel coronavirus infects, our immune systems produce antibodies.
- Like the police dogs, the antibodies span out to identify and mark the invading virus.
- White blood cells attach the identified intruders, and the body gets rid of the infection.
- The therapy, like blood transfusion, harvests the antibody from a recovered patient and ingest into a sick person.
- Helped by the antibody, the immune system mounts robust combat on the virus.

Antibodies:

- Antibodies are one of the front-line immune response to an infection by a microbe. They are a particular type of proteins secreted by immune cells called B lymphocytes when they encounter an invader, such as a novel coronavirus.
- The immune system designs antibodies that are highly specific to each invading pathogen. A particular antibody and its partner virus are made for each other.

Treatment procedure:

- Blood is drawn from a person who has recovered from COVID-19 sickness.
- The serum is separated and screened for virus-neutralizing antibodies.
- Convalescent serum, that is the blood serum obtained from one who has recovered from an infectious disease and especially rich in antibodies for that pathogen, is then administered to a COVID-19 patient.
- The sick acquires passive immunisation.
- Potential donor would be examined before the blood serum is extracted and given to a sick person.
- First, the swab test must be negative and the potential donor has to be declared as cured.
- Then the recovered person has to wait for two weeks.
- Or else the potential donor should be asymptomatic for at least 28 days.
- Either of the two is mandatory.
- Initially the treatment will be tried in a small number of patients. At present it is permitted as an experimental therapy for restricted use for severely affected patients only.

How is it different from vaccination?

- This therapy is akin to passive immunization.
- When a vaccine is administered, the immune system produces the antibodies.
- Thus, in a later date, when the vaccinated person is infected by that pathogen, the immune system releases the antibodies and neutralise the infection.
- Vaccination provides lifelong immunity.
- In the case of passive antibody therapy, the effect lasts only up to the time the antibodies injected remain in the bloodstream.
- The protection given is temporary.
- The mother transfers antibodies through breast milk to an infant before the child could build her own immunity.

History:

- Way back in 1890, Emil von Behring, a German physiologist, discovered that the serum obtained from a rabbit infected with diphtheria was effective in preventing the diphtheria infection. Behring was awarded the first-ever Nobel prize for medicine in 1901.
- Antibodies were not known at that time. Convalescent serum therapy was less effective and had substantial side effects.
- It took many years before the antibody fraction could be separated. Still, the unintended antibodies and impurities caused side effects. How long the antibodies will remain in the recipient?:
- After the antibody serum is given, it will stay in the recipient for at least three to four days

Challenges:

- This therapy is not simple to harness, primarily due to the difficulty of obtaining significant amounts of plasma from survivors. In diseases like COVID-19, where most of the victims are aged, suffering from other medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and so on, not all recovered patients can volunteer to donate blood.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1613216>

Indian researchers start working on novel coronavirus genome sequencing

Question: The Center of Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad has recently started working in collaboration with which organisation on whole genome sequencing of the novel Coronavirus?

(a) IIT, Kanpur (b) AIIMS, New Delhi (c) IGIB, New Delhi (d) IISc, Bengaluru

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Two institutes of Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi have started working together on the whole genome sequencing of novel coronavirus on April 8, 2020.
- This study will help understanding the evolution of the virus, its dynamic nature and mutation.
- Whole-genome sequencing is the method used to determine the complete DNA sequence of a specific organism's genome.

- The approach for sequencing the latest coronavirus involves getting samples from patients that have been found to be positive and sending these samples to a sequencing centre.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1612155>

Prana-Vayu, the closed-loop ventilator

Question: Prana-Vayu, the closed-loop ventilator is developed by which of the following institutes?

(a) IIT Roorkee (b) IIT Madras (c) AIIMS Delhi (d) IIT Kanpur

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee(IIT-R) has recently hit headlines after a team of researchers at the institute developed a low cost portable ventilator that might prove useful for the survival of COVID-19 patients.
- The closed-loop ventilator does not require compressed air and is useful when wards are converted to ICUs.

Prana-Vayu:

- Prana-Vayu, the closed-loop ventilator is developed in collaboration with AIIMS, Rishikesh, and is equipped with state-of-the-art features.
- The ventilator is based on the controlled operation of the prime mover to deliver the required amount of air to the patient.
- The manufacturing cost per ventilator is estimated to be Rs 25,000.

Features:

- Features of the ventilator are remote monitoring by health professionals, touch screen control of all operating parameters, moisture, and temperature control for inhaled air.
- The automated process controls the pressure and flow rates in the inhalation and exhalation lines.
- Besides, the ventilator has feedback that can control tidal volume and breathe per minute.
- The ventilator will be useful for a wide degree of congestions in the respiratory tract and is applicable for all age group patients, especially the elderly.
- The prototype has been tested successfully for normal and patient-specific breathing conditions.
- Prana-Vayu has been designed especially for COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is low-cost, safe, reliable, and can be quickly manufactured.

Links:

<https://www.edexlive.com/campus/2020/apr/03/iit-roorkees-prana-vayu-a-closed-loop-ventilator-can-be-useful-for-covid-19-patients-heres-why-11092.html>

Cytokine Storm

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The term Cytokine storm is used in COVID 19 disease.

(2) A cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Diseases such as covid-19 and influenza can be fatal due to an overreaction of the body's immune system called a cytokine storm.

Cytokine storm:

- A cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds (cytokines), which, in a flu infection, is often associated with a surge of activated immune cells into the lungs.
- The resulting lung inflammation and fluid buildup can lead to respiratory distress and can be contaminated by a secondary bacterial pneumonia — often enhancing the mortality in patients.
- Cytokine storms are associated with a wide variety of infectious and noninfectious diseases.
- The term was popularized largely in the context of avian H5N1 influenza virus infection, bringing the term into popular media.

Role of cytokines in the immune system:

- Cytokines are signalling proteins that are released by cells at local high concentrations — a cytokine storm or CSS is characterised by the overproduction of immune cells and the cytokines themselves because of a dysregulation in the process.
- A severe immune reaction, leading to the secretion of too many cytokines in the bloodstream, can be harmful since an excess of immune cells can attack healthy tissue as well.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-cytokine-storms-or-when-the-bodys-own-immune-system-leads-to-covid-19-deaths-6346145/>

Madhuban Gajar:Biofortified carrot variety

Question: Which biofortified carrot variety with high β -carotene and iron content has been developed by farm scientist Vallabhhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya?

(a) Pusa Kesar (b) Madhuban Gajar (c) Pusa Meghali (d) Imperator

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Madhuban Gajar, a biofortified carrot variety with high β -carotene and iron content is benefitting more than 150 local farmers in the area.
- The carrot variety has been developed by Vallabhhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, a farmer scientist from Junagadh district, Gujarat.
- This variety of carrot is used for various value-added products like carrot chips, juices, and pickles.
- The average yield of Madhuban Gajar is 40 – 50 tonne/hectare.
- The variety is being cultivated in more than 1000 hectares of land in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1612159>

Pandemics of 21st Century

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) SARS spreads from civet cats/ pangolin.

(2) Ebola spreads from monkeys and pigs.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Since the beginning of the 21st century, we have seen the emergence and outbreaks of multiple zoonotic diseases – infectious diseases caused by bacteria and viruses that jump from animals to humans.
- Some of them are new to humans, and hence we do not have immunity against them and some are re-emergence of old diseases.
- Studies indicate that the frequency of these outbreaks has increased significantly in the last 20 years.
- We have had three pandemics since 2000 – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, H1N1 (Swine flu) in 2009 and now Covid-19.

Disease and there host:

- SARS and Covid-19 spread from civet cats/ pangolin and bats in China and swine flu from an intensive pig farm in Mexico.
- In between, we have had regional outbreaks of bird flu from poultry,
- The Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) from camels,
- Ebola from monkeys and pigs,
- Rift Valley fever from livestock,
- West Nile fever from birds,
- Zika from monkey and
- Nipah from bats.

Cause:

- The root cause of all the above diseases can be broadly put under three baskets:
 1. Environmental destruction-
 - Due to deforestation and habitat loss, wild animals and humans are now nearby, leading to the spillover of animal diseases into humans. e.g.Ebola, West Nile virus, Nipah and Zika.
 2. Cultural practices-
 - The practice of eating exotic wildlife, sometimes raw, is spreading novel pathogens to humans.
 - Both SARS and Covid-19 have origin in the wildlife markets in China.
 - But the practice of eating wild animals is not restricted to China; it exists in one form or another across the world.
 3. Intensive animal farms-
 - The industrial farming of animals, by keeping animals very close to each other and pumping them with growth promoters like antibiotics, is another cause. e.g.Bird flu and swine flu .

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-edit-page/zoonotic-diseases-are-rife-this-century-globalised-world-requires-global-code-of-conduct-to-overcome-this-threat/>

NASA announces SUNRISE Mission

Question: Consider the following statements regarding NASA Sunrise Mission:

(1) The SUNRISE mission is to study about how sun creates Giant solar particle storms.

(2) The project will launch no earlier than July 1, 2023 at a cost of \$62.6 million.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The US space agency, NASA selected the proposed Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SUNRISE) mission to study how the Sun creates and releases Giant Solar Particle Storms.
- The SUNRISE mission will aid scientists to understand the working of the Solar System.
- The mission is believed to help protect future astronauts from Solar Storms while going to the Moon or Mars.
- The mission is led by Justin Kasper at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
- In March 2020, the Mission was awarded \$62.6 million to design, build, and launch the mission.
- The net launch date of the SUNRISE mission is 1 July 2023.
- The mission will use a constellation of six solar powered satellites the size of toaster ovens, called CubeSats, to collect data on low-frequency emissions from the sun.
- Together, these will observe radio images of low- frequency emission from solar activity and create 3D maps to locate the origin place of a solar particle storm on the sun.
- The mission has come true because of the success of DARPA high – frequency research and Mars cube one (MARCO).
- The mission is to study sun's spectrum. This is important as sun's spectrum cannot be studied from the earth due to the ionosphere.

National Aeronautics and space Administration (NASA):

- Formed on: 29 July 1958
- Headquarters: Washington D.C., United States
- Administrator: Jim Bridenstine
- Deputy Administrator: James Morhard

Links:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8173197/amp/NASA-announces-new-mission-study-solar-particle-storms-satellites-size-toaster-ovens.html>

Made in India Test kit for COVID-19

Question: Which Indian pharmaceutical company has developed testing kit for COVID - 19?

(a) Mylab India (b) ABBOTT (c) Getein Biotech (d) BioMednomics

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Mylab is the first Indian company getting commercial COVID-19 PCR kit approved by CDSCO.

- Mylab COVID-19 test kits cost nearly one-fourth of the currently procured kits
- Mylab uses advanced protocols which can reduce testing time by 65%
- Mylab is Indian pharmaceutical company based in Pune.
- Mylab PathoDetect COVID-19 Qualitative PCR kit screens and detects the infection within 2.5 hours.
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Links:

<https://mylabdiscoverysolutions.com/press-release/>

Bear bile

Question: Recently the term 'bear bile' in news is related which of the following?

(a) Bear Brand (b) Animal type (c) Treatment for COVID -19 (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- For treating severe and critical cases of COVID-19, Chinese government has recommended an injection of Tan Re Qing, which contains bear bile.
- The use of bear bile in Chinese medicine dates back at least 1,300 years. Bile is secreted by the liver and stored in the gall bladder.
- Bile from bears tends to be high in ursodeoxycholic acid, also known as ursodiol, which is helpful in dissolving gallstones and treating liver disease.

Links:

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/1891745/activists-slam-chinas-use-of-bear-bile-in-virus-treatment>

5-min test kit for COVID-19

Question: Which pharmaceutical company has developed 5 min testing kit for COVID - 19?

(a) Mylab India (b) ABBOTT (c) Getein Biotech (d) BioMedomics

Answer:(b)

Related facts:

- Abbott laboratories successfully developed 5 min test kit for COVID- 19.
- This test kit received an emergency-use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- This test based on the molecular point-of-care test is similar like flu test.
- The test kit is very small and portable that it can be used in almost any health-care.

Abbott Laboratories:

- Established in-1888
- Headquarters- Lake Bluff, Illinois, U.S.
- Abbott Laboratories is an American medical devices and health care company.
- Abbott India Ltd. is an Indian subsidiary of the Abbott Laboratories.

Links:

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/rapid-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-provide-results-minutes/story?id=69875037>

Schedule H1 drug

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Ministry of Health through a special amendment has categorized hydroxychloroquine (HCQS) drug as a schedule H1 drug.

(2) The supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply giving.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- On March 26, 2020, the Ministry of Health through a special amendment has categorized hydroxychloroquine (HCQS) drug as a schedule H1 drug-
- It means that it cannot be sold over the counter.
- The move comes as reports emerged of hoarding and shortage of this drug due to the national lockdown, this drug is prescribed as a chronic therapy for patients suffering from Lupus and Rheumatoid Arthritis, an auto immune disease.

Schedule H1 Drug:

- The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, are the set of rules under The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, which has provisions for classification of drugs into different schedules and also guidelines for storage, sale, display.
- Schedule H1 has been introduced through Gazette notification GSR 588 (E) dated 30-08-2013 to check the indiscriminate use of antibiotics, anti-TB and some other drugs in the country.
- The schedule contains certain 3rd and 4th generation antibiotics, certain habit forming drugs and anti-TB drugs.
- As per government notification, these drugs are required to be sold in the country with the following conditions:
- The supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply giving the name and address of the prescriber, the name of the patient, the name of the drug and the quantity supplied and such records shall be maintained for three years and be open for inspection.
- The drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be labelled with the symbol Rx which shall be in red and conspicuously displayed on the left top corner of the label.

Links: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/hydroxychloroquine-becomes-a-schedule-h1-drug-as-hoarding-leads-to-shortage/articleshow/74842650.cms?from=mdr>

Equipment for effective sanitisation of public spaces developed by Indian R&D organisation

Question: Which of the following R&D organisation has recently developed equipment for effective sanitisation of public spaces ?

(a) IISc Bengaluru (b) IIT Mumbai (c) DRDO (d) ICSSR

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed technologies for sanitising areas of different sizes as indigenous solutions to fight the COVID-19 on April 3, 2020.

- The two configurations of sanitising equipment has been developed by Centre for Fire Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi named as Portable Backpack Area Sanitisation Equipment and Trolley Mounted Large Area Sanitisation Equipment.
- Portable Backpack Area Sanitisation Equipment is a portable sanitisation equipment for spraying decontamination solution with 1% Hypochlorite (HYPO) solution for sanitisation of suspected area.
- It can be mounted as a backpack and incorporates low pressure twin fluid (air & disinfectant liquid) technology to generate very fine mist.
- Its disinfecting capacity is area upto 300 square metre. The application areas can include hospital reception, doctor chambers, metro and railway etc.
- Trolley Mounted Large Area Sanitisation Equipment has a higher capacity & carried on a trolley. It is capable of disinfecting upto 3,000 square metre area.
- It has a tank capacity of 50 litres and has a lancing (throw) distance of 12-15 metres. This is useful for disinfecting hospitals, malls, airports, high risk residential areas etc.
- It has been given to Delhi Police for immediate use amid rising cases.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1610736>

Naval Dockyard Mumbai designs low cost Temperature Gun for screening personnel

Question: The Naval Dockyard Mumbai has developed a low cost temperature gun in its fight against COVID-19. The instrument is manufactured at a cost less than?

(a) Rs. 2000 (b) Rs. 1500 (c) Rs. 1000 (d) Rs. 500

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Naval Dockyard, Mumbai has designed and developed its own Infra Red based temperature sensor for screening large number of personnel entering the Dockyard.
- The temperature gun has been manufactured at a cost less than Rs. 1000 through in-house resources.
- It is a non-contact thermometer and has an Infrared sensor and an LED display integrated with a microcontroller which runs on a 9V battery.
- The handheld sensor gun to screen personnel at the entry gates of the yard will reduce the load on security guards at the gate of dockyard screening personnel.
- The 285-year-old Naval Dockyard of the Western Naval Command (WNC) has an average influx of around 20,000 personnel every day.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1610213>

MACS 4028,a semi-dwarf variety of Wheat

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, have developed a biofortified durum wheat variety MACS 4028.

(2) It is a semi-dwarf variety, which matures in 102 days.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Scientists from **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI)**, Pune, have developed a biofortified durum wheat variety MACS 4028.
- The wheat variety developed by the ARI scientists group on Wheat improvement.
- ARI is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

MACS 4028:

- Development of MACS 4028 was published in the **Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding**.
- The wheat variety has shown high protein content of about 14.7%, better nutritional quality having zinc 40.3 ppm, and iron content of 40.3ppm and 46.1ppm respectively, good milling quality and overall acceptability.
- It is a semi-dwarf variety, which matures in 102 days and has shown the superior and stable yielding ability of 19.3 quintals per hectare.
- It is resistant to stem rust, leaf rust, foliar aphids, root aphids, and brown wheat mite.

Links:

<https://indiacsr.in/scientists-of-ari-pune-develop-biofortified-high-protein-wheat-variety/>

Hantavirus

Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) A man from China's Yunnan province died from Hantavirus.
- (2) According Centre for Disease Control Hantavirus spreads mainly from rodents.

Choose the correct:

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- A man from China's Yunnan province died from Hantavirus while on a bus to the Shandong province.
- All the fellow passengers on the bus have been tested for the virus.

Hantavirus:

- As per Centre for Disease Control, Hantavirus spreads mainly from rodents. However, it does not spread from person to person.
- Hantaviruses in the Americas are known as "New World" hantaviruses and may cause hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS).
- Other hantaviruses, known as "Old World" hantaviruses, are found mostly in Europe and Asia and may cause hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS).
- Infection with any of the hantavirus can cause hantavirus disease in people.
- Early symptoms of HPS include fever, muscle aches, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, chills, and abdominal problems.
- Late symptoms, usually after four to 10 days, include coughing and shortness of breath. It can be fatal too in some cases.
- Till date, there is no licensed vaccine of Hantavirus to be used widely.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/now-hantavirus-surfaces-in-china-amid-coronavirus->

Sports

Tennis

Wimbledon has been cancelled

Question: Recently on April 1, 2020, which tennis tournament has been cancelled first time after World War II?

(a) Wimbledon (b) Miami Open (c) French Open (d) U.S. Open

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Wimbledon has been cancelled for the first time since World War Two because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The tournament was due to be played between 29 June and 12 July.
- The entire grass-court season has been abandoned, and there will be no professional tennis anywhere in the world until at least 13 July.
- Wimbledon is the latest major summer sporting event to be called off, with Euro 2020 and the Tokyo Olympics postponed for 12 months.
- It follows the postponement of the French Open, which was due to begin in May but has been rescheduled to 20 September-4 October.

Background of Wimbledon:

- Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was first held in 1877. Since then it has been contested every year. However, it was cancelled during two stretches.
- Once during the first world war between 1915 and 1918 and it was cancelled another time during the second world war between 1940 and 1945.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/tennis/52104196>

Athletics

Tokyo Olympic Games postponed

Question: Where will the Summer Olympics 2020 be held?

(a) Beijing (China) (b) Sydney (Australia) (c) Tokyo (Japan) (d) Seoul (South Korea)

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee have decided to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games to the summer 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- The Games, scheduled for July 24 – Aug. 9, will be held between 23 Jul, 2021 –8 Aug, 2021.
- The nations withdrew in the backdrop of limited international travel, difficulty in training and exposed risk of contracting or spreading the disease.
- Tokyo was spending \$12.6 billion to host the Games and a postponement could cost it \$6 billion as the short-term period loss.
- It will also be a bitter blow to sponsors and major broadcasters who rely on this four-yearly event for critical advertising revenue.

History:

- Olympic Games originated in ancient Greece and were an intrinsic part of a religious festival. They were held in honour of Zeus (the greek god of the sky) at Olympia in Greece.
- The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 at Athens (Greece).
- The architect of the modern Olympics Games was Pierre, baron de Coubertin.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) was created on 23 June 1894 and is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement.
- It is a not-for-profit independent international organization.
- The Olympics have been held every four years since 1948.
- The Olympics have never before been delayed, though they were cancelled altogether in 1916, 1940 and 1944 during the two world wars, and major Cold War boycotts disrupted the Moscow and Los Angeles Games in 1980 and 1984 respectively.
- It is also considered as the first postponement of an Olympics in peacetime.
- In 1940, Japan was to be the first Asian country to host the Olympics.

Links:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindu.com/sport/2020-olympic-games-will-be-postponed-says-ioc-member-dick-pound/article31148711.ece/amp/>

Short Notes

Personalities

Shiv Das Meena appointed as chairman of HUDCO

Question: who has been appointed as chairman of HUDCO?

(a) Shiv Das Meena (b) Shiv Shankar (c) M Nagaraj (d) D Guhan

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Shiv Das Meena, additional secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has been appointed as chairman and managing director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation for a period of six months with immediate effect.
- Shiv Das Meena – 1989 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu Cadre with over 30 years of Experience in the public service is a Bachelor of Civil Engineer and completed his Master in International Studies from Japan.
- From 1989, HUDCO started financing the development of infrastructure for the projects in the sector of drainage, electricity, water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, roads in urban areas and social infrastructure like primary schools, playgrounds, hostels for working women, healthcare centers, police stations, jails and courts received the benefits of funding for lower cost.

HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation):

- HUDCO is a unique institution with its motto of “Profitability with Social Justice”.
- A Public Sector Company, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), HUDCO has been a key partner with the Government in building assets for the Nation.
- In its operations, HUDCO lays a considerable emphasis on the housing need of the “deprived” that is Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low-Income Groups (LIG).

Links:

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/shiv-das-meena-takes-charge-as-hudcos-cmd/75317676>

Rishi Sunak has been appointed as the new Finance Minister of the United Kingdom

Question: Who has been appointed as new finance minister for United Kingdom?

(a) Rishi Sunak (b) John Chishull (c) Richard of Middleton (d) SajidJavid

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Indian-origin Rishi Sunak was named as the new Finance Minister of the United Kingdom by PM Boris Johnson on February 13, 2020.
- Rishi Sunak is the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy.
- Rishi Sunak has been appointed as the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Boris Johnson’s cabinet.
- He has replaced SajidJavid, who resigned from the post in a surprising move.

About Rishi Sunak:

- Rishi Sunak is an Indian-origin British politician, who was born in Southampton to an Indian Punjabi family.
- He studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Lincoln College, Oxford and did an MBA from Stanford University.
- He initially worked with investment bank Goldman Sachs after graduating and later worked as a partner at a hedge fund management firm -the Children’s Investment Fund Management.
- He was elected as the Member of Parliament from Richmond in the 2015 general election.
- He also served as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury from July 2019-February 2020.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/lunch-with-bs-rishi-sunak-115080601060_1.html

Director-General of World Health Organization(WHO)

Question: Who is the Director-General of World Health Organization(WHO)?

- (a) Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (b) Dr Margaret Chan (c) Dr Anders Nordström
(d) Dr LEE Jong-wook

Answer:(a)

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected as WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017.
- He is the first WHO Director-General to have been elected from multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and is the first person from the WHO African Region to serve as WHO's chief technical and administrative officer.
- Immediately after taking office on 1 July 2017 Dr Tedros outlined five key priorities for the Organization: universal health coverage; health emergencies; women's, children's and adolescents' health; health impacts of climate and environmental change; and a transformed WHO.

Earlier achievements:

- Dr Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012–2016.
- In this role he led efforts to negotiate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which 193 countries committed to the financing necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Dr Tedros served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health from 2005–2012, where he led a comprehensive reform of the country's health system.
- He received the Decoration of the Order of Serbian Flag in 2016, and was awarded the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award in recognition of his contributions to the field of public health in 2011.

Links:

<https://www.who.int/dg/who-headquarters-leadership-team/former-directors-general>

New Ambassador for World Wide Fund (WWF) India's Environment Education programme

Question: Who has become the new Ambassador for World Wide Fund (WWF) India's Environment Education programme?

- (a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) P V Sindhu (c) Virat Kohli (d) Viswanathan Anand

Answer:(d)**Related facts:**

- Five-time World chess champion Viswanathan Anand is the new Ambassador for World Wide Fund (WWF) India's Environment Education programme.

WWF's Environment Education Programme:

- Environment Education is the oldest programme of WWF-India. It was established in 1976.
- It aims to reach out to children, youth and citizens of the country and generate critical thinking, problem-solving and enable the growth of environmentally-conscious individuals.
- The programme impacts over 5 million children across 2000 schools in the nation.

Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/chess/viswanathan-anand-named-ambassador-for-wwf-india/article31357050.ece>

New chairman of Nasscom

Question: Who has been appointed the new chairman of Nasscom ?

(a) Pravin Rao (b) Keshavmurugesh (c) Rekha M. Menon (d) Debjani Ghosh

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- IT services industry body Nasscom has appointed UB Pravin Rao as the chairman for the current financial year.
- He is currently chief operating officer in Infosys.
- Rao, who was previously vice- chairman of Nasscom, would succeed Keshav Murugesh, Group CEO, WNS Global Services.
- The industry body has also announced the appointment of Rekha M. Menon, chairman and senior managing director, India at Accenture, as the vice-chairperson for 2020-21.

About Nasscom:

- The National Association of Software and Service Companies is a trade association of Indian Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing industry.
- It was Established in 1988.
- NASSCOM is a non-profit organization.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/ites/nasscom-appoints-infosys-pravin-rao-as-chairman/articleshow/75008184.cms>

Newly appointed Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs

Question: Who took charge as the new Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on 6 April 2020?

(a) Rajiv Kumar (b) Ravish Kumar (c) Anurag Srivastava (d) Vikas Swarup

Answer : (c)

Related facts:

- On 6 April 2020, senior Indian Foreign Service officer Anurag Srivastava took charge as the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Prior to this he served as the India's Ambassador to Ethiopia.
- He succeeded Ravish Kumar to this post.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/anurag-srivastava-takes-charge-as-mea-spokesperson-1663892-2020-04-06>
<https://mea.gov.in/personnel.htm>

Former CM of J&K Omer Abdullah Released

Question:Former CM of J&K Omer Abdullah was released on 24th March 2020 after almost eight months in detention. Omer Abdullah is related to which political party?

(a) Bharatiya Janata Party (b) Peoples Democratic Party
(c) Jammu Kashmir National Conference (d) Indian National Congress

Answer: (c).

Related facts:

- Former chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir Omar Abdullah has been released from detention after nearly eight months.
- Omar Abdullah was in detention since 5 August last year in view of the abrogation of Article 370.
- He was among thousands of local leaders put under house arrest a day before the disputed region J&K was stripped of its semi-autonomous status on 5 August.
- Omar Abdullah house arrest was further extended in February under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA), which allows detention without charge for up to two years.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978 is a preventive detention law, under which a person is taken into custody to prevent him or her from acting in any manner that is prejudicial to "the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order".
- The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir ceases to make way for the two newly minted Union territories (UTs) of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- The government appoints Girish Chandra Murmu (Expenditure secretary) the new Lieutenant Governor of J&K and Radha Krishna Mathur (Former defence secretary) as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Links:

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/former-jk-cm-omar-abdullah-to-be-released-from-detention-after-seven-months/articleshow/74786857.cms>

B. P. Kanungo

Question: Recently Central Government has re-appointed which one of the following as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India?

(a) B. P. Kanungo (b) Urjit Patel (c) Shaktikant Das (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Central Government has re-appointed B. P. Kanungo as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India for a further period of one year with effect from April 3, 2020.
- His existing term was ending on April 2, 2020.

B. P. Kanungo:

- He served as an executive director of the RBI.
- In April 2017, he was elevated to the post of deputy governor.
- He is in charge of departments like currency management, payments, and settlement, foreign exchange, internal debt management, among others.
- He joined the RBI in September 1982.
- He has worked in several functional areas of the banks such as foreign exchange management, banking & non-banking Supervision, currency management, government and bank accounts, and public debt.

Links:

https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49608

Nirmal Singh Khalsa

Question- On 2 April 2020 Nirmal Singh Khalsa, the famous Gurbani singer passed away. In which year he was awarded the Padma Shri?

(a) 2014 (b) 2009 (c) 2012 (d) 2016

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- Nirmal Singh Khalsa, the famous Gurbani singer passed away in Amritsar on April 2, 2020.
- He was the former Hazoori Raagi at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- He was 62 years old and died of corona infection.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in the year 2009 for his work in the field of gurbani music.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Gurbani-maestro-Nirmal-Singh-Khalsa-dies-of-novel-coronavirus-in-Amritsar&id=384478>

Adam Schlesinger

Question- On 1 April 2020, famous singer Adam Schlesinger passed away. He belonged to which country?

(a) Russia (b) USA (c) Mexico (d) Germany

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- Famous award winning American singer- songwriter Adam Schlesinger passed away on 1 April 2020.
- He was 52 years old. He died due to corona virus infection.
- He was born on 31 October 1967 in New York.
- He was famous for his collaboration with famous rock band Fountains of Wayne as a bass player and songwriter.
- He was awarded three Emmy and two Grammy Awards.

Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/apr/01/adam-schlesinger-fountains-of-wayne-dead-coronavirus>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Schlesinger

Tamil Director Viswanathan passed away

Question: Veteran film Director Viswanathan passed away, is related to which of the following industry?

(a) Tamil (b) Hindi (c) Bengali (d) Odia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Veteran Kollywood Director **Viswanathan** passed away due to cardiac arrest at a private hospital in Chennai. He was 74.
- He had acted in over 60 films and has directed 25 films, which are still regarded as cult classics.
- Some of his directorial ventures include Samsaram Adhu Minsaram, Thirumathi Oru Vegumathi, Neenga Nallalrukanum, Meendum Savithri among others.
- He has also worked as a screenwriter for remarkable films like Thillu Mullu, Netrikann among other films.

Links:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/movies/regional-cinema/story/popular-kollywood-director-actor-visu-dies-at-74-in-chennai-1658501-2020-03-22>

Geeta Ramji

Question- On 31 March 2020 Geeta Ramji, a famous Viral scientist of Indian origin died in which country?

(a) Brazil (b) South Africa (c) London (d) America

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- On 31 March 2020, Geeta Ramji, a famous Virologist of Indian origin, died in South Africa.
- She was 50 years old and was also a renowned HIV prevention research leader.
- She is the first person of Indian origin to die due to coronavirus infection in South Africa.
- She was the Clinical Trials Unit Principal Investigator and Unit Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC).
- She was awarded in the year 2018 with outstanding female scientist award in Lisbon by the European Development Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP) for her lifetime commitment to finding new HIV prevention.

Links:

<https://news.abplive.com/news/world/covid-19-prominent-indian-origin-virologist-in-south-africa-dies-from-coronavirus-1186385>

Andrew Jack

Question- Andrew Jack passed away on 31 March 2020. He was a renowned-

(a) Scientist (b) Musician (c) Actor (d) Painter

Answer – (c)

Related facts:

- Famous British actor Andrew Jack passed away on 31 March 2020.
- He was 76 years old and died of a corona infection.
- He worked in several Hollywood films and was very popular for his role in Star Wars series movie.
- He was also a dialect coach.

Links:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/movies/star-wars-actor-andrew-jack-dies-coronavirus-76-britain-n1173966>

Professor Arjun Dev

Question- Professor Arjun Dev passed away on 29 March 2020. He was a renowned?

(a) Historian (b) Environmentalist (c) Architect (d) Agricultural Scientist

Answer – (a)

Related facts:

- Renowned historian and educationist Professor Arjun Dev passed away on 29 March 2020 in Noida.
- He was born on 12 November 1938 in Leiah, West Punjab (now Pakistan).
- Prof. Arjun spent a larger part of his academic life as a historian at the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) authoring books.

- He has served as Member Secretary of the National Steering Committee on Textbook Evaluation.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/arjun-dev-a-legendary-historian-passes-away/article31201575.ece>

Operations & Campaign

Hack the Crisis – India

Question: Who launched Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID 19 pandemic?

- (a) Piyush Goyal
- (b) Prakash Javadekar
- (c) Sanjay Dhorté
- (d) Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Minister of State Electronics & Information Technology and HRD Sanjay Dhorté launched Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID 19 pandemic on April 3, 2020.
- It is part of a global initiative organised by 'Hack A Cause – India' and 'Ficci Ladies Organization Pune' and supported by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (MEITY).
- This event is aimed to strengthen the fight against COVID19.
- The winning ideas are expected to help India and global citizens as implementable solutions on corona crisis selected from top participating team.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1610780>

NCC offers its volunteer cadets to fight COVID-19

Question: National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered help to civilian authorities in the fight against COVID-19. What is the name given to this exercise?

- (a) Exercise NCC Shram daan
- (b) Exercise NCC Fight India
- (c) Exercise NCC Yoddha
- (d) Exercise NCC Yogdan

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered help to civilian authorities in the country's fight against COVID-19 by extending the services of cadets under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan' on April 2, 2020.
- It has issued guidelines for temporary employment of its cadets in relief efforts and functioning of various agencies involved in fighting against the pandemic.
- Tasks like manning of helpline/call centres; distribution of relief materials/medicines/ food/essential commodities; community assistance etc. will be done by the cadets.
- The Senior Division volunteer cadets above 18 years of age will only be employed in the exercise.
- The NCC, functioning under Ministry of Defence, is the largest uniformed youth organisation of the country.

- It has offered volunteer help during natural calamities like floods, cyclone, etc and has been engaged in conducting various social services.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1610145>

Commission & Committee

Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) to make assessment of situation and augment State efforts in fighting COVID 19

Question: How many Inter Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) has been formed recently by the Central government for making assessment of situation and augment State efforts in fighting COVID 19?

- (a) Five
- (b) Seven
- (c) Two
- (d) Three

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On April 24, 2020, Union government constituted 5 Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs), two for Gujarat and one each for Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra to make on-spot assessment of situation and issue necessary directions to State Authorities for its redressal and submit their report to Central Government.
- The IMCTs would be focusing on a range of issues including implementation of lockdown measures as per guidelines of Disaster Management Act 2005; supply of essential commodities; social distancing; preparedness of health infrastructure, hospital facilities and sample statistics etc.
- Governments of States/UTs have also been advised that while they can impose stricter measures than contemplated in the MHA Guidelines.
- The situation is serious in major hotspot districts or emerging hotspots like Ahmedabad and Surat (Gujarat); Thane (Maharashtra); Hyderabad (Telangana); and Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1617834>

Planning & Project

Using mobile kiosk for COVID-19 sample collection

Question: Which of the following indian city is has started using mobile kiosk for COVID-19 sample collection recently?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Agartala
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Kolkata

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Agartala Smart City has designed a Mobile COVID-19 sample collection kiosk for COVID 19 on April 28, 2020.
- The kiosk ensures protection to the sample collecting doctor & prevents wastage of personal protection equipment (PPE).

- This initiative is a major step by Agartala in the fight against Covid-19.
- Mounting of the kiosk on three wheeler vehicle enables it to navigate through narrow lanes & helps collection of samples from community itself.
- There is no need for patients to come to hospital for giving sample. The kiosk also facilitates mass testing of larger number of people in a shorter timeframe.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1618971>

BRO constructs bridge in record time

Question: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a road over Subhashini river in a record time. This bridge is constructed in the state of? (a)Andhra Pradesh (b)Daman & Diu (c)Arunachal Pradesh (d)Nagaland

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed Daporijo bridge over Subansiri river to connect the strategic Line of Communication in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This bridge is a strategic link towards the LAC between India and China.
- All supplies, rations, constructional material and medicines pass over this bridge.
- The difficult and dangerous launch was completed in record time adhering to all COVID-19 precautions.
- Work had started for construction of the bridge on March 17, 2020 and after 27 days on April 14, 2020 the bridge construction was completed successfully and safely.
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Shri Pema Khandu inaugurated it over video conferencing and open for traffic movement from April 20, 2020.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1616451>

Treaty & Agreements

Acquisition of majority shareholding in B.M.M Ispat Limited

Question: Which steel manufacturing company has been approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire the majority shareholding of B.M.M Ispat Limited?

(a) Tata Steel (b) Essar (c) ArcelorMittal (d) JSW

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination relating to the acquisition of majority shareholding in B.M.M Ispat Limited (BMM) by JSW Projects Limited (JPL) on April 24, 2020.
- JPL, a part of the JSW group, is engaged in the business of manufacture of direct reduce iron/ sponge iron, coke dry quenching and captive power generation which are ultimately used in the manufacture of steel and steel products on a job work basis for JSW Steel Limited.
- BMM, incorporated India, is engaged in the manufacture and sale of steel products including iron ore pellets, sponge iron, TMT bars and semis.

Link:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

Year, Day & Week

World Book and Copyright Day

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **This day is observed on April 23, 2020.**
2. **The World Book Capital 2020 is Kuala Lumpur.**

Choose the correct one:

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day.
- The World Book Capital 2020 is Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia.
- The day is celebrated by UNESCO and other related organisations across the world to honour authors, books worldwide, to promote the art of reading etc.

Background:

- Each year, UNESCO and the international organizations representing the three major sectors of the book industry – publishers, booksellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for a one-year period, effective 23 April each year.

Reason behind Kuala Lumpur:

- The city of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia was selected because of the strong focus on inclusive education, the development of a knowledge-based society and accessible reading for all parts of the city's population.

Links:

<https://www.livehindustan.com/career/story-world-book-day-2020-today-is-world-book-day-good-support-of-books-in-corona-virus-lockdown-3169469.html>

Earth Day, 2020

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Earth Day, 2020:

- (1) **It was celebrated on 22nd April, 2020**
- (2) **World Earth Day 2020 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the day since it started being observed in 1970.**
- (3) **The theme of Earth Day is Climate Action.**

Choose the correct statement/s from the above

- (a) Only 1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) All the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Every year is observed 22nd April as World Earth Day.
- This year, the day is celebrated across the globe amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While the people across the globe celebrate World Earth Day 2020, organizers have asked people to mark Earth Day 2020 as a ray of hope, optimism, and action and while celebrating it safely due to the on-going public health emergency.

- World Earth Day 2020 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the day since it started being observed in 1970. To mark the day, Google dedicated its doodle to one of the smallest and most critical organisms of the Earth- the bees.
- The day is usually celebrated by going out and spreading awareness, which won't be possible amid the lockdown.
- However, the official site Earth.org has organized online programs for the people who wish to contribute to the cause.
- World Earth Day 2020 will be celebrated all over the world to spread awareness for Earth's wellbeing and to encourage people to support environmental protection. This year would have marked the 50th Anniversary of Earth day.
- World Earth Day promotes people to take more steps for the protection of nature and to thank mother earth for a healthy environment. This day also helps in analyzing the condition of the planet and to formulate the response to save the climate. It is a reminder that clean air, flourishing forests, and water are crucial for a healthy life on Earth.
- The theme of World Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action.

Links:

<https://www.almanac.com/content/earth-day-date-activities-history>

World Heritage Day

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **World Heritage Day is observed annually on April 18 also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.**
2. **The theme of World Heritage Day 2020 is “Shared Culture”, ‘Shared heritage’ and ‘Shared responsibility’.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- World Heritage Day is observed annually on April 18.
- It is also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- The theme of World Heritage Day 2020 is “Shared Culture”, ‘Shared heritage’ and ‘Shared responsibility’.

Background:

- The first World Heritage Day was organized by the ICOMOS in 1982 but it only got approved by the UN General Assembly in the following year.
- India has 38 heritage sites listed under UNESCO's World Heritage Site list.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/world-heritage-day-people-share-photos-cultures-amid-covid-19-lockdown-2214104>

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance

Question: When is the International Day of Mining Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action observed every year?

(a) 28 March (b) 30 March (c) 3 April (d) 4 April

Answer – (d)

Related facts:

- 4 April 2020 was observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- The theme for this year was “Together for Mine Action”.
- The UN General Assembly declared its observation every year on 8 December 2005.
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is working since 20 years to fulfill the needs of affected people and tailored to the threat of explosive hazards.

Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/mine-awareness-day>

World Homeopathy Day

Question: When is the World Homeopathy Day celebrated?

(a) 8 April (b) 10 April (c) 12 April (d) 9 April

Answer : (b)

Related facts:

- World Homeopathy Day was observed globally on April 10, 2020.
- The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann of Germany, the founder of Homeopathy.
- 2020 Theme for the day is ‘Linking research with education and clinical practice: Advancing scientific collaborations’.
- Homeopathy is one of the most popular medical systems practiced in India, in fact, a close second among the AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) services.

Links:

<https://entri.app/blog/the-world-homeopathy-day/>

Shaurya Diwas (Valour Day)

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Every year April 9 is celebrated as Valour day.

(2) On this day, Indian soldiers fought off an attack by Pakistani force on April 9, 1965.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On April 9, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah celebrated the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in tweets that honoured a small contingent of soldiers stationed at a border outpost in Gujarat.
- The CRPF marks this heroic moment every year as Shaurya Diwas (Valour Day).

Reason behind It:

- On April 9th, 1965 a small contingent of 2nd Bn CRPF, successfully fought and repulsed an attack by a Pakistani Brigade on Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, eliminating 34 Pakistani soldiers and capturing 4 alive.
- Never in the history of military battles have a handful of policemen fought back a full – fledged infantry Brigade in such a manner.
- In this conflict, six valiant CRPF men also attained martyrdom.
- As a tribute to the saga of the brave men of the Force, 9th April is befittingly celebrated as “Valour Day” in the Force.

Links:

<https://crpf.gov.in/Valour-Day1-western-sector.htm.htm>

National Maritime Day

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5.

(2) The theme of this Day for 2020 is “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet.”

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 every year.
- The day creates awareness to support intercontinental commerce and the global economy as the most well-organized, safe and sound, environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one place to another of the world.

Theme:

- The theme for the 57th National Maritime Day is “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet.”
- The theme also showcases the work that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Member States are taking various measures to achieve the targets.

Background:

- National Maritime Day is being observed since 1964.
- On 5 April 1919, navigation history was created in India, when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd travelled to the United Kingdom from Mumbai.
- The move was very important to Indian shipping history when sea routes were controlled by the British. The transaction marked a red-letter day in the maritime history of India. This day is celebrated to spread awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/national-maritime-day-2020-here-are-some-interesting-quotes-1663511-2020-04-05>

Mahavir Jayanti

Question: Consider the following statement:

(1) MahavirJayanti was celebrated on 6th April 2020.

(2) Mahavira belonged to the Ikshvaku dynasty.

Choose the correct:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- MahavirJayanti is one of the most auspicious festivals in the Jain community.
- This year it is being celebrated on 6th April 2020.
- MahavirJayanti is also known as MahaveerJanmaKalyanak, or the Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavira – the founder of Jainism.

- This festival marks the birth of VardhamanaMahavira, who was the 24th and the last, Tirthankara, spiritual teacher in Jainism.
- According to the Hindu Calendar, MahavirJayanti is celebrated on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the month of Chaitra.

History & Significance of Mahavir Jayanti:

- According to several historians Lord Mahavira was born in a place called Ahalyabhumi.
- The land has not been ploughed for hundreds of years by the family that owns it.
- Lord Mahavir was born in the palace of Vaishali to King Siddhartha and Queen Trisala and was named Vardhamana, which means "one who grows".
- Mahavira belonged to the Ikshvaku dynasty.
- He took over his father's kingdom at an early age and ruled it for over 30 years.
- Later he gave up all worldly possessions and decided to seek enlightenment in life.
- All his life he preached ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), asteya (non-stealing), brahmacharya (chastity) and aparigraha (non-attachment) to his disciples and his teachings were called Jain Agamas.
- According to Jain texts, Lord Mahavira attained moksha (liberation from the cycle of birth and death) at the age of 72.

Links:

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-mahavir-jayanti-2020-date-history-significance-here-s-all-you-need-to-know-2819844>

International Day of Conscience

Question: When was the first International Day of Conscience observed by United Nations?

(a) 1 April 2020 (b) 5 April 2020 (c) 7 April 2020 (d) 3 April 2020

Answer : (b)

Related facts:

- The first International Day of Conscience was observed by the United Nations on 5 April 2020.
- Theme of the observance was Promoting a culture of peace with love and conscience.
- The day reminds the people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things. This will foster sustainable development at the global level.
- Earlier on February 5, 2019, Federation of World Peace and Love (FOWPAL) launched a global endorsement campaign for the Declaration of International Day of Conscience at the United Nations in New York.

Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/conscience-day>

World Autism Awareness Day

Question: When is the World Autism Awareness Day observed?

(a) 2nd March (b) 2nd April (c) 22nd March (d) 22nd April

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 2 April every year since its formal inception in 2008.

- Autism can be defined as a complex neurobehavioral condition which causes problems with language and communication skills.
- It also causes a person to have repetitive and rigid behavior.
- It is a complex brain development disability which makes itself visible during the first 3 years of a person's life.
- It is not mental retardation as people with autism may show excellent skills in spheres like art, music, writing etc.
- It is characterized by a range of symptoms and is thus also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/autism-day>

Earth Hour 2020

Question: Earth Hour, a global light-off initiative is observed between-

- (a) 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm (b) 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm (c) 9:30 pm to 10:30 pm
(d) 10:30 pm to 11:30 pm

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 28th March 2020, Earth Hour was observed globally between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time.
- It is held every year on the last Saturday of March.
- World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Earth Hour is an annual global celebration in which people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about the future of our planet.
- The idea is to refrain from the use of non-essential lighting to save energy in a symbolic call for environmental protection.
- Earth Hour has become a catalyst for positive environmental impact, driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the people and collective action.
- It began in Sydney, Australia in 2007; the number of countries taking part in Earth Hour has grown to over 180 countries and territories.

Links:

<https://www.earthhour.org/>

National Doctors' Day 2020

Question: When will be the National Doctor's Day 2020 celebrated?

- (a) July 1 (b) June 1 (c) March 1 (d) April 1

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- National Doctor's Day 2020 will be celebrated on July 1st to thank physicians and doctors for their dedicated services to patients.
- In the US, this day is celebrated on 30th March to express their gratitude towards Doctors.
- Doctor's Day 2020 is being celebrated for acknowledging the services of doctors and their huge contribution to the medical advancement in India.
- National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- He was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years. Dr Roy was honoured with the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna on February 4, 1961.

Links:

<https://www.doctorsday.org/>

World Autism Awareness Day

Question- When is 'World Autism Awareness Day' celebrated?

(a) 1 April (b) 2 April (c) 28 March (d) 31 March

Answer – (b)

Related facts:

- World Autism Awareness Day was observed all over the world on 2 April 2020.
- The theme of this year celebration was "The Transition to Adulthood".
- It draws attention towards the importance of participation in youth culture, decision making and getting youth a better resource given access to post-secondary education and employment.
- Autism:
- It is a serious developmental disorder that impedes the ability to communicate and interact.
- It is also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- It affects the nervous system and affects a person's overall cognitive, emotional, social, and physical health.

Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/autism-day>

International Transgender Day of Visibility

Question- When is International Transgender Day of Visibility observed?

(a) 1 April (b) 2 April (c) 28 March (d) 31 March

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 31 March 2020, International Transgender Day of Visibility was observed all over the world.
- It is noteworthy that this day is celebrated to raise awareness about the discrimination faced by transgender people across the world and to appreciate their contribution to society.
- The day was celebrated for the first time in 2009 by transgender activist Russell Crandall in Michigan, USA.

Links:

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/international-transgender-day-of-visibility>

Miscellaneous

First-ever live fitness sessions for school students

Question: CBSE is going to organize the first ever live fitness sessions for school students from April 15, 2020 in collaboration with?

(a)Ministry of Ayush (b)Fit India (c)Ministry of Health (d)none of the above

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in partnership with Fit India will organise first ever live fitness session for school students across the country.
- The guidelines of Ministry of AYUSH to stay healthy will be shared with students during the programme.
- The live session will commence from 15th April 2020 at 9:30 am.

- These sessions could be accessed on the Facebook and Instagram handles of Fit India Movement and CBSE. All the sessions will also be available on YouTube too.
- The live sessions will cover all aspects of children's fitness from daily workouts to yoga, nutrition to emotional well-being.
- Live streaming would also be available on the social media handles of CBSE, GOQii and Shilpa Shetty App.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1614338>

Double Layered Khadi Masks developed

Question: Which of the following organisation has developed a double layered khadi masks and procured order for its supply?

(a)Khadi India (b)Fab India (c)Khadi gram (d)Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On April 12, 2020, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has successfully developed a double layered Khadi mask and has procured orders for supplying it in large quantities.
- KVIC has recently bagged an order to supply 7.5 lakh pieces of Khadi Masks to Jammu & Kashmir Government.
- These cotton reusable mask will be of 7 inches (length) by 9 inches (breadth) with three pleats, four strips at corner for tying. It helps retain 70% of the moisture content inside, while providing an easy passage for the air.
- These masks are made of hand spun hand woven khadi fabric which is breathable, can easily be reused, washable and biodegradable.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1613631>

CBSE announces promotion all students to the next class

Question: CBSE has directed all the affiliated schools to promote the students to the next class/grade. This decision is applicable from class I to?

(a)IV (b)VI (c)IX (d)VIII

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed all the affiliated schools to promote all the students from class I to VIII to the next class/grade on April 1, 2020.
- All schools are advised to promote students of grades 9 and 11 to the next grades on the basis of all the school-based assessments including project work etc. conducted so far. For any child who is unable to clear this internal process, the school may provide remedial interventions, and school may give organise an in school-based test/s, online or offline.
- For class X and XII, the Board will conduct examinations for only main subjects that will be required for promotion and maybe crucial for admissions in higher educational institutions which were postponed due to the pandemic.
- Board is also not able to continue its evaluation work. The Board will come out with further instructions for evaluating in the changed circumstances.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1610062>

Extension of validity date of driving license and vehicle registration

Question- On 31 March 2020, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways extended the validity of driving licenses, permits and vehicle registrations to the period of?

(a) 31 May 2020 (b) 15 May 2020 (c) 30 April 2020 (d) 30 June 2020

Answer – (d)

Related facts:

- On 31 March 2020, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways extended the validity of documents such as driving licenses, permits and registrations.
- The validity of documents whose validity period expired on 1 February 2020 has been extended till 30 June 2020.
- This decision was taken to help people facing renewal problem due to nation wide lockdown amid COVID-19.
- The documents include fitness, permits (all types), driving licence, registration or any other concerned document under the Motor Vehicle Rules.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1609455>

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a toll-free helpline on coronavirus

Question: Who has launched a toll-free helpline on coronavirus safeguards for students?

(a) UGC (b) CBSE (c) MHRD (d) NITI Aayog

Answer:(b)

Related facts:

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has **launched a toll-free helpline on coronavirus safeguards for students.**
- The facility is available on helpline number 1800 11 8004 from 8 am to 8 pm.
- The dedicated coronavirus safeguard tele-counselling service will be provided by trained counsellors who will deal with students and parents for preventive interventions, reducing transmission and counsel on first-aid to stop corona spread.
- They will also assist students to engage in useful and productive activities while at home.
- The board has postponed **all exams till March 31 and evaluation work has also been suspended.**
- Earlier, the CBSE had allowed students to carry sanitisers and masks to examination centres for Classes 10 and 12, and instructed the centres to change seating arrangements to ensure adequate distance between examinees.

Links:

<https://www.businessinsider.in/india/news/cbse-launches-toll-free-helpline-for-students-parents-on-coronavirus-safeguards/articleshow/74744499.cms>

International painting competition on Covid-19

Question: On 31 March 2020, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched the global painting competition on the corona virus (COVID-19). Who established the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in the year 1950?

(a) V.P. Menon (b) Jawaharlal Nehru (c) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 31 March 2020, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched a global painting competition on the corona virus (Covid-19).
- This painting competition is organised with the focus on building cultural links with countries around the world and connecting people to people through Cultural and Educational exchanges.
- The title of painting competition is Art in the Time of CORONA: United against Corona-Express through Art.
- Results of the event will be declared on June 6, 2020.
- This competition is an effort to unite in the fight against Covid-19 and bring all cultures together.
- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was established in the year 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Links:

https://www.iccr.gov.in/sites/default/files/uploadfiles/Competition_Guidelines.pdf