

# Testzone presents Weekly Current Affairs MockDrill100



PDF by Smartkeeda



Test Launch Date: 5th May 2020

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# An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of April 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

# स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

- Smartkeeda

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशलता से होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF अप्रैल माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Testमें बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

#### 201. SPORTS AND GAMES

Wisden has named Ben Stokes as its leading cricketer in the world and urged the government to ensure that at the next global event in the UK all England matches are broadcast on free-to-air television – not only the final. And Perry is also named the leading female cricketer in the world – like Stokes this is for performances across the entire calendar year. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- "Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2020"
- Wisden's Leading female cricketer Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- Wisden's Leading male cricketer Ben Stokes (England)

## 202. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified three major schemes to promote electronics industry in India. The three schemes, namely, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) 2.0 and Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) are aimed at boosting the electronics manufacturing in India by further expanding it and increasing domestic value addition. <u>Click here for more details</u>

## **Key Points:**

• The schemes EMC 2.0, SPECS & PLI – by The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

- EMC 2.0 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters
- SPECS Scheme for Promotion of manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors
- PLI Production Linked Incentive Scheme

#### 203. **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

India has partially eased restrictions on the export of anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine and paracetamol, cited by some as key to the fight against Covid-19, to fulfil existing orders and to meet the needs of neighbouring countries. Click here for more details

#### Key Points:

Restrictions have been eased on – Hydroxychloroquine & Paracetamol - by India

#### 204. **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

PokerStars India has signed former captain of the Indian cricket team, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni), as its new brand ambassador. The announcement of the endorsement deal was delayed due to COVID-19's impact on the world and postponement of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and other sports events. Click here for more details Smartkeeda

**Key Points:** 

- on Bank • MS Dhoni – The Brand Ambassador of PokerStars
- PokerStars HQs Isle of Man

#### 205. **AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Development Fund (SDF) has allocated \$5 million for Covid-19 related projects in its member states to protect the people of the SAARC Member States by mitigating the financial losses and severe socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. Click here for more details

- The SAARC Development Fund 5 million to member countries
- SAARC HQs Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary Generals Amjad Hussain B Sial

Uttar Pradesh government has started a new UP Supply Mitra Portal, Annapurna Portal for citizens at supplymitra-up.com. At this portal, people can get information of nearby kirana and ration items distribution centres for home delivery at Supply Mitra portal. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- "The Annapurna & Supply Mitra Portals" by Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital Lucknow
- CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel

#### 207. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), via a circular dated April 3, 2020, has liberalised norms related to changing of date of birth in its records, thus making it easier for individuals to link their Universal Account Number (UAN) with Aadhaar. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

• Aadhar Card – to be accepted by The EPFO as a birth proof

UAN: Universal Account Number

• EPFO HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Shri Sunil Barthwal

#### 208. OBITUARIES

Shirley Douglas, who is best known for her work as an actress as much as she is known for her activism and advocacy, died after complications with pneumonia. She was 86. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

• Shirley Douglas (Canada) - passed away - an Actress

#### 209. **IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES**

The International Romani Day (April 8) is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. The Romani Diaspora began 1000 years ago from what is now Northern India. There are at least 12 million Roma scattered throughout the world. Click here for more details

#### **Key Points:**

8 April – International Romani Day

#### 210. **AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS**

The Smart World & Communication Business of L&T Construction has secured a large order from the Indian Army to establish a first-of-its-kind, state-of-the-art Unified Network Management System to manage, support and operate the countrywide Armed Forces Network under the Network for Spectrum (NFS). Click here for more details Smartkeeda

- L & T an order from Indian Army to install IT based state-of-the-art systems
- Under 'Network of Spectrum (NFS)'
- Larsen & Toubro HQs Mumbai | CMD SN Subrahmanyan
- HQs of Indian Army New Delhi
- Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief Satinder Kumar Saini



## 211. CURRENT GK

The spectre of COVID-19 has made its appearance in one of India's most storied tiger reserves. The death of a 10-year-old ailing male tiger, in the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) — the country's most munificent reserve —that succumbed to a 'respiratory illness' would have been a routine affair. <u>Click here for more details</u>

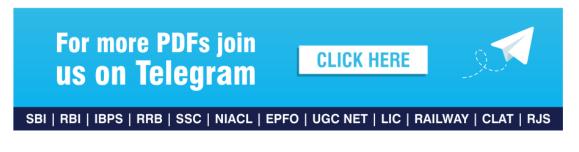
## **Key Points:**

- Pench Tiger Reserve Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal
- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Lalji Tandon

# 212. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has introduced a system to monitor the physical changes caused by seismic and volcanic activity on Earth from space. The instrument that will detect these activities is known as CubeSat Imaging Radar for Earth Sciences (CIRES). According to NASA, CIRES is "designed to detect each time the volcano took a breath, as its caldera swelled and deflated." <u>Click here for more details</u>

- The satellite 'CIRES' by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
- CIRES "CubeSat Imaging Radar for Earth Sciences"
- NASA HQs Washington, D.C., United States
- Administrator Jim Bridenstine



#### 213. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private firm Wipro 3D have together developed a full face shield for doctors and medical staff treating COVID-19 patients. The shield will protect healthcare personnel from direct infection. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

- DRDO Wipro 3D A full face shield for doctors
- HQs of Wipro 3D Bengaluru, Karnataka
- DRDO: HQs New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy

#### 214. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Low-cost airline SpiceJet operated its first cargo flight to Singapore to bring back critical medical equipment and other supplies to deal with COVID-19 pandemic in India. The airlines operated its second cargo flight on April 10 - carrying medical supplies from Singapore to Bengaluru. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

The Question Bank

- SpiceJet India's 1st cargo-on-seat flight carrying vital supplies
- SpiceJet HQs Gurugram, Haryana | CEO Ajay Singh

#### 215. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

A total of 40.59 per cent of the crimes related to environment in the country were committed in Rajasthan during 2014-16, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). The crimes were mostly related to violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Rajasthan 40.59% Crimes related to environment
- Rajasthan: Capital Jaipur
- CM Ashok Gehlot | Governor Kalraj Mishra

#### 216. **OBITUARIES**

Jock Edwards, a big-hitting wicketkeeper-batsman who played six Tests and eight one-day internationals for New Zealand and who would have been a natural at T20 cricket, has died. He was 64. Click here for more details

#### **Key Points:**

Jock Edwards (New Zealand) – passed away – Cricket

#### 217. **BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

To help borrowers in the agriculture sector tide over the distress created by the Covid-19 pandemic, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced schemes where it will offer additional loans of up to ₹1 lakh to existing self-help group (SHG) borrowers and up to ₹50,000 to existing crop loan borrowers, among others. The minimum and maximum loan amount is ₹30,000 and ₹1 lakh per SHG, repayable in 24 months. Click here for more details nartkeeda

#### **Key Points:**

- Bank of Baroda initiated 4 agro schemes (SHGs, FPO/FPC & farming community)
- BOB HQs Vododara, Gujarat | CEO Sanjiv Chadha

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SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | RAILWAY | CLAT | RJS

#### 218. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the commerce ministry, has relaxed export curbs on 24 pharma ingredients and medicines, including vitamin B1 and B12, according to an official notification. But export restrictions on paracetamol and formulations made of paracetamol would remain. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- DGFT removed restrictions of export on 24 Pharma ingredients
- DGFT comes under "Ministry of Commerce & Industry"
- DGFT HQs New Delhi | Director General Amit Yadav
- Nirmala Sitharaman Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Constituency Karnataka

#### 219. OBITUARIES

Blackman, an actress, who became a household name in the 1960s as Cathy Gale in The Avengers and had a career spanning eight decades, died of natural causes unrelated to coronavirus. She was 94. <u>Click here for more details</u>

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- Honor Blackman UK An Actress passed away
- UK Capital London | Currency Pound Sterling
- PM Boris Johnson



In a bid to maintain the supply of the essential items during the lockdown period in the wake of the spread of coronavirus, Indian Railways has started special 'Doodh Duronto Special Train' for dispatch of milk to the needy states. <u>Click here</u> <u>for more details</u>

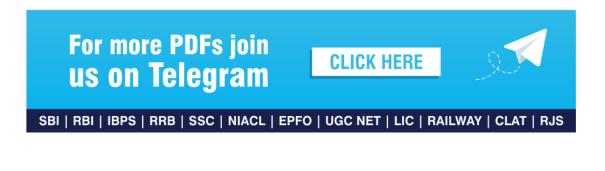
#### **Key Points:**

- Doodh Duronto Special Trains by South-Central Railway
- HQs of South Central Railway zone Secunderabad
- General Manager Shri Gajanan Mallya

## 221. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

AU Small Finance Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Raj Vikash Verma as Part-time Chairman of the bank for a period of one year. The RBI also endorsed the reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as its managing director and CEO. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Sanjay Agarwal re-appointment as MD & CEO of A U Small Finance Bank
- Raj Vikash Verma appointment as Part-time Chairman of A U Small Finance Bank | Former CMD of National Housing Bank
- HQs of A U Small Finance Bank Jaipur, Rajasthan



### 222. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) said it will provide emergency working capital of up to Rs 1 crore to small and medium enterprises against their confirmed government orders. The new loan product, SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against coronavirus (SAFE) plus will be offered collateral free and disbursed within 48 hours. The loans will be offered at an interest rate of 5 per cent. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• SIDBI – 1 Cr – to SMEs in India

• HQs of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

• Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa

#### 223. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Anurag Srivastava took charge as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs replacing Raveesh Kumar who held the position for around three years. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Anurag Srivastava – The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (appointment)

- He replaced 'Raveesh Kumar'
- Ministry of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- Constituency RS MP from Gujarat.



#### 224. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

The city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat has been ranked as the top Smart City in India for its execution of smart projects in handling COVID-19 pandemic. The Command and Control Centre of Ahmedabad's Smart City Development Ltd (SCDL) has played a key role in this achievement with proper enforcement and monitoring of lockdown. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Topped the list of Smart Cities in India once again
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhi Nagar
- CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Dev Vrat

## 225. OBITUARIES

Former Serbia and Atletico Madrid Football coach Radomir Antic has died aged 71. Spanish newspaper AS said Antic had died due to complications from pancreatitis.

Key Points:

he Question Bank

- Radomir Antic Serbia Football Coach passed away
- Serbia: Capital Belgrade | Currency Serbian Dinar
- President Aleksandar Vučić | PM Ana Brnabić







SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | RAILWAY | CLAT | RJS

#### 226. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

China became the world leader in international patent filings, unseating the United States which had held the top spot for more than four decades. A total record 265,800 international patent applications were filed last year. In the main category – the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) – China topped the ranking for the first time, with 58,990 applications. It overtook the United States, which filed 57,840 applications, and which has topped the PCT ranking since the system took effect in 1978. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- China topped the list of WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) "with 58,990 Applications"
- 2nd USA 57840 Applications | 3rd Japan 52660 Applications
- India 14th with 2053 Applications
- WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Geneva, Switzerland

#### 227. OBITUARIES

Veteran Indian-American journalist Brahm Kanchibhotla, who was a former contributor to news agency United News of India, died at a New York hospital. He was 66. <u>Click here for more details</u>

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#### **Key Points:**

• BrahmKanchibotla – passed away – Journalist



Indian Railways develops mobile doctor booth! With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting a large number of people, the doctors who are continuously fighting with this situation, require a "zero contact check-up facility". Thus, in order to mitigate this challenge, Indian Railways' Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, Bhopal, has designed a "mobile doctor booth" named "CHARAK". <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

- "CHARAK" a mobile doctor booth designed by The West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS)
- CRWS HQs Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- CM of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Lalji Tandon

## 229. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

As the number of coronavirus cases in Maharashtra had crossed 1,000, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) made wearing face masks mandatory in public places. Mumbai is the first city in India to make masks compulsory. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Mumbai the 1st city in India to make face masks compulsory
- Maharashtra: CM Uddhav Thackeray | Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari



#### 230. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

The US government, through its aid agency USAID, has announced a grant of \$2.9 million to India to help it fight the coronavirus pandemic. US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster said the assistance will further support India's response to COVID-19. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- 2.9 million Granted by USAID
- USAID HQs Washington D.C., US
- Administrator Mark Green

## 231. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the launch of a revised version of the existing Swachhata-MoHUA App, at a video conference (VC) held with all States, Union Territories (UTs) and cities, under the Chairmanship of Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary – MoHUA, on the COVID 19 crisis. <u>Click here for more details</u>

The Question Bank

#### **Key Points:**

• Swachhata-MoHUA App – revised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

• Hardeep Singh Puri – MoS of MoHUA, Civil Aviation, Commerce & Industry

## 232. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for The Washington Post, Mary Jordan has written an unauthorized biography of first lady Melania Trump. Her "The Art of Her Deal," which draws upon more than 100 interviews. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• 'The Art of Her Deal: The Untold Story of Melania Trump' Book - by Mary Jordan (America)

A unique disinfectant named 3V Safe Tunnel was installed at the Telangana Director General of Police's office by S3V Vascular Technologies Private Limited. It has been designed to provide maximum protection to people passing through the tunnel in around 20 seconds. <u>Click here for more details</u>

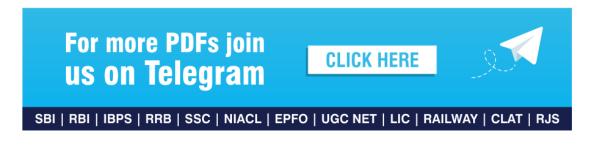
#### **Key Points:**

- 3V Safe Tunnel at Telangana DGP's office
- Telangana: Capital Hyderabad
- CM K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan

## 234. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Uttarakhand state is going to become the first state of the country to measure Gross Environment Product (GEP) for quantifying ecological growth measurement. A five-member committee in this regard has already been formed which is headed by the principal secretary of forests, Uttarakhand. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Uttarakhand is to measure GEP for the 1st time
- 5 Member Committee headed by Jai Raj
- Uttarakhand: Capital Dehradun & Gairsain
- CM Trivndra Singh Rawat | Governor Baby Rani Maurya



Odisha became the first state to extend the ongoing 21-day lockdown by another fortnight till April 30, with CM Naveen Patnaik saying that his cabinet took the hard decision without waiting for the Centre to make a move because saving lives should take precedence over everything else. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- Odisha the 1st state to extend the 21-day lockdown till April 30
- Odisha: Capital Bhubaneswar | CM Naveen Patnaik | Governor Ganeshi Lal

## 236. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tech giant Google has issued a ban on the use of the Zoom videoconferencing app for all its employees citing security concerns. Zoom witnessed a surge in popularity as it gave people a platform to socialize and carry out their professional work seamlessly during the COVID-19 pandemic. <u>Click here for more details</u>

**Key Points:** 

- Google issued a ban on the Zoom videoconferencing app
- Google HQs California, United States
- CEO Sundar Pichai
- HQs of Zoom Video Conf. App California, U.S

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#### 237. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India received 1.70 lakh personal protection equipment (PPE) coveralls donated by China, the Union Health Ministry said. Along with the domestic supplies of 20,000 coveralls, a total of 1.90 lakh coveralls will now be distributed to hospitals and will add to the 3,87,473 PPEs already available in the country as of now. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- China donated 1.70 lakh personal protection equipments (PPEs) to India
- China: Capital Beijing | Currency Renminbi
- President Xi Jinping

#### 238. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

DigiLocker has been designated as the sole National Academic Depository (NAD) by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD), essentially allowing educational institutions under the ministry to store digital copies of academic awards, mark sheets and certificates on the cloud-based service. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- DigiLocker by Ministry of HRD
- NAD National Academic Depository
- Ministry of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
- Constituency Haridwar, Uttarakhand



#### 239. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the global chemical weapons watchdog, has explicitly blamed the Syrian government's air force for launching toxic attacks in the country's western Hama region in March 2017. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Syria – is blamed for Toxic Attacks – by OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons)

- HQs of OPCW The Hague, Netherlands | Director General Fernando Arias
- Syria: Capital Damascus | President Bashar al-Assad | PM Imad Khamis

#### 240. CURRENT GK

The NHAI has achieved record 3,979 km of highways construction in the just concluded fiscal year. The feat was achieved on the back of ambitious highways development programmes like Bharatmala Pariyojna. <u>Click here for more details</u>

**Key Points:** 

The Question Bank

- NHAI sets a record 3, 979 Km highways construction
- NHAI HQs New Delhi | Chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

#### 241. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Hyderabad-based Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) has joined hands with Griffith University of Australia to conduct exploratory research to develop a lead vaccine candidate for coronavirus. The IIL-Griffith combine is the fourth Indian biotech company. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

• Indian Immunologicals Limited (Hyderabad) – Griffith University (Australia)

• Joins hands to conduct exploratory research to develop a lead vaccine candidate for coronavirus

#### 242. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

The Indian Institute of Management- Bangalore (IIM-B) appointed Rishikesha T. Krishnan as its new director. Krishnan, currently working as a professor of strategy at IIM-B, will assume the position on 31 July after the current director, G. Raghuram, retires. A former director of IIM-Indore, Krishnan studied at IIT-Kanpur, Stanford University and IIM-Ahmedabad. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- Rishikesha T. Krishnan appointed as A new Director of IIM Bangalore
- He will replace G. Raghuram

## 243. CURRENT GK

NGOs and Charitable Organizations are playing important role in providing cooked food to thousands of poor and needy people during this time of nationwide lockdown. To ensure uninterrupted supply of food grain to these organization Government has directed FCI to provide Wheat and Rice to such organizations at the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) rates without going through the e-auction process. <u>Click here for more details</u>

## Key Points:

• Wheat & Rice distribution at the OMSS – directed by FCI (Food Corporation of India)

- OMSS Open Market Sale Scheme
- HQs of FCI New Delhi | Chairman D V Prasad



#### 244. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

The World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on April 10. The theme of 2020 is "Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health". Homeopathy is one of the most popular medical systems in India. It is one of the Medicine systems in the AYUSH– 'Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy' ministry. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- 10th April "World Homeopathy Day 2020"
- Theme "Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health"

#### 245. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

As part of its initiative to prevent decline in the area under paddy cultivation, the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), Shivamogga, has developed 'Sahyadri Megha', a new red variety of paddy that is resistant to blast disease and rich in nutrients. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• 'Sahyadri Megha' – a new Red Paddy variety – by University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences

- HQs of UAHS Shivamogga, Karnataka
- Karnataka Capital Bangalore
- CM B S Yediyurappa | Governor Vajubhai Vala



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a 5T plan to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The 5T plan includes testing, tracing, treatment, teamwork and tracking. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- "5T plan to control Covid-19" by New Delhi
- 5Ts Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Team-work and Tracking
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

# 247. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The 50th anniversary of the launch of the Apollo 13 mission that never made it to the moon, the one where Commander Jim Lovell uttered the phrase "Houston, we've had a problem." NASA calls the mission a "successful failure". <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• 50th anniversary – of "a successful failure" – a mission made by NASA on 17th April, 1970

- NASA HQs Washington, D.C., United States
- Administrator Jim Bridenstine



The Karnataka government made an appeal to teachers, startups and others to contribute content for a proposed YouTube channel to keep engaged students who have been forced to remain indoors due to the nationwide lockdown. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Karnataka – decided to launch a YouTube channel to engage students during lockdown

- Karnataka Capital Bangalore
- CM Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa | Governor Vajubhai Vala

# 249. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

In a unique Covid-19 pandemic public health initiative, the Public Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Telangana, invested swiftly to deploy India's first automated Covid-19 Monitoring System App, developed by Hyderabad-based Vera Smart Healthcare to identify, undertake live surveillance, track, monitor, and provide real-time analytics to Chief Minister and the Health Department. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- India's 1st automated "COVID- 19 Monitoring System Application" Telangana
- Telangana: Capital Hyderabad
- CM K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan



#### 250. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science And Technology (DST), under the ministry of science and technology has cleared a funding proposal for the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering (DBB), IIT Bombay, which is working to develop a gel that would capture and help in inactivation of novel coronavirus, the causative agent of COVID-19. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

- IIT Bombay to develop Nasal passage Gel
- Approved by The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)
- SERB A statutory body of the Department of Science And Technology (DST)

## 251. SPORTS AND GAMES

The 2022 ICC Women's T20 World Cup is scheduled to be the 8th edition of ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament. It is scheduled to be held in South Africa. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Women's T20 World Cup-2022 South Africa
- South Africa: Capital Cape Town, Pretoria & Bloemfontein
- President Cyril Ramaphosa



#### 252. **AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS**

PNB Housing Finance has signed an agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to raise 75 million dollars (about Rs 568 crore) with cofinancing of 25 million dollars (about Rs 190 crore) by Citibank to finance mortgage loans in the affordable housing segment. Click here for more details

#### **Key Points:**

 Punjab National Bank Housing Finance – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- Amount USD 75 million
- PNBHF HQs New Delhi | MD & CEO Sanjaya Gupta
- JICA HQs Tokyo, Japan | President KITAOKA Shinichi
- Citi Bank HQs New York, USA | CEO Peter Babej
- Japan Capital Tokyo; Currency Yen artkeeda
- PM Shinzo Abe

#### 253. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Vehicle Research Development Establishment (VRDE), Ahmednagar, a DRDO Laboratory has designed full body disinfection chamber called as PSE. This walk through enclosure is designed for personnel decontamination, one person at a time. This is a portable system equipped with sanitiser and soap dispenser. The decontamination is started using a foot pedal at the entry. Click here for more **details** 

- A full body disinfection chamber called as PSE by VRDE (a lab of DRDO)
- VRDE HQs Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- DRDO: HQs New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy

The commerce ministry has designed an online platform for issuance of a key document required for exports to those countries with which India has trade agreements, with a view to facilitate shipments during the COVID-19 crisis. An exporter has to submit a 'certificate of origin' at the landing port of the importing country. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry created an online platform to issue key documents required for exports
- Nirmala Sitharaman Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Constituency Karnataka

# 255. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

Twitter Inc Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey pledged \$1 billion of his stake in Square Inc, the payments processor that he co-founded and heads, to help fund relief efforts related to the coronavirus pandemic. In a series of tweets, Dorsey said the amount, representing about 28% of his wealth, will be donated to his charity fund, Start Small LLC. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Jack Dorsey the CEO of Twitter pledged 28% of his wealth(\$1 billion) to charities working towards fighting Covid19
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhi Nagar
- CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Dev Vrat



#### 256. CURRENT GK

The Consolidated Fund of India includes revenues, which are received by the government through taxes and expenses incurred in the form of borrowings and loans. The Consolidated Fund of India was created under Article 266 of the Constitution. It is also considered as the most important part of the financial statement.

#### **Key Points:**

• Consolidated fund was constituted under – Article 266(1)

#### 257. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Artificial intelligence (AI) Chatbot Company Haptik Infotech Pvt Ltd, which is 87 per cent owned by Reliance Jio, developed the government's dedicated WhatsApp chatbot "MyGov Corona Helpdesk chatbot." <u>Click here for more details</u>

**Key Points:** 

- "MyGov Corona Helpdesk chatbot" developed by Haptik Infotech Pvt Ltd
- Haptik Infotech HQs Mumbai, Maharashtra

#### 258. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

The General Assembly adopted a decision today designating 7 April as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, recalling also that Hutu and others who opposed it were killed. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• April 7 - "The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda"

Life Insurance Council, the face of the Indian Life Insurance industry, has confirmed that the clause of 'Force Majeure' will not apply in case of COVID-19 death claims. The Life Insurance Council has assured that all life insurance companies will process COVID-19 death claims. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- 'Force Majeure' won't be applicable in case of COVID-19 death claims
- Confirmed by "LIC"
- LIC HQs Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman M R Kumar

## 260. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer simple and focused health insurance plans to provide financial protection against Covid-19. Under the partnership, the general insurer has rolled out two different health insurance plans — Bharti AXA Group Health Assure, which offers lumpsum benefit of ₹25,000, and Group Hospital Cash providing daily benefit starting ₹500 per day — to cover protection against the coronavirus. <u>Click here for more details</u>

## **Key Points:**

• Airtel Payments Bank – Bharati General Insurance – 2 Insurance Plans

• "Bharti AXA Group Health Assure Policy" (₹ 25000) & "Group Hospital Cash" (₹ 500/day)

- Airtel Payments Bank HQs New Delhi
- APB CEO Anubrata Biswas
- Bharati Gen. Insurance HQs Mumbai, Maharashtra
- BGI CEO Sanjeev Srinivasan

#### 261. SPORTS AND GAMES

The ISSF Shooting World Cup in New Delhi, scheduled from March 15-26, is likely to be postponed following concerns over the coronavirus outbreak. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has recommended the postponement to the International Sports Shooting Federation (ISSF). <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup New Delhi (postponed)
- ISSF HQs Munich, Germany | President Vladimir Lisin

## 262. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Comedian & actor Jim Carrey and writer Dana Vachon authored a novel "Memoirs and Misinformation" a fearless and semi-autobiographical novel.

#### **Key Points:**

- The book "Memoirs and misinformation" tkeeda
- Authored by Dana Vachon & Jim Carrey Stion Bank

#### 263. PERSONS IN NEWS

The internet controlled robot can be operated from anywhere.Yogesh Kumar Sahu who is a student of Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University has made this robot with the help of his two friends. He has made a robot using PVC pipes, metal sheets and motors that can be used to attend to COVID-19 patients on behalf of doctors. Click here for more details

#### **Key Points:**

• Yogesh Kumar Sahu – Chhattisgarh – made a robot to help doctors treating COVID-19 patients

- Chhattisgarh Capital: Bilaspur, Raipur
- CM Bhupesh Baghel | Governor Anusuiya Uikey

#### 264. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government has created a tool that tracks and compares government policy responses to the coronavirus crisis worldwide. The aim of the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) is to help researchers, decision-makers and citizens explore how governments are responding to the crisis. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- COVID-19 Government Response Tracker launched by Oxford University
- Oxford University England, United Kingdom
- UK Capital London | Currency Pound Sterling
- PM Boris Johnson

#### 265. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CSIR's constituent Lab, CSIR-NCL Pune, in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) 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: Digital IR Thermometer & The second innovation is the oxygen enrichment unit. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• CSIR-NCL – 2 new medical components – in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

- CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) HQs New Delhi
- CSIR President Narendra Modi | Director General Shekhar C. Mande
- NCL (National Chemical Laboratory) HQs Pune, Maharashtra
- HQs of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- CMD of BEL Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

BEL founded in: 1954

#### 266. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Hyderabad-based Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) has joined hands with Griffith University of Australia to conduct exploratory research to develop a lead vaccine candidate for coronavirus. The IIL-Griffith combine is the fourth Indian biotech company. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Indian Immunologicals Limited (Hyderabad) – Griffith University (Australia)

• Joins hands to conduct exploratory research to develop a lead vaccine candidate for coronavirus

## 267. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Two public sector enterprises - HLL Lifecare Limited, a Central Government Enterprise under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Thiruvananthapuram based Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), a National Institute under Ministry of Science & Technology - have separately developed Rapid Diagnostic Antibody kits for coronavirus detection. <u>Click here for</u> <u>more details</u>

- "Rapid Diagnostic Antibody kits for coronavirus detection"
- Separately developed by HLL Lifecare Limited & Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology
- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology comes under "Ministry of Science & Technology"
- HLL Lifecare Limited comes under "Ministry of Health and Family Welfare"
- Both are located at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

The Department of Personnel and Training has announced the launch of a learning platform iGOT to combat COVID 19 for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic. Appropriate training will also prepare them for the subsequent stages of the pandemic. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

• iGOT – by the Department of Personnel and Training (online learning platform)

• Department of Personnel and Training – Minister: Narendra Modi | MoS: Jitendra Singh

## 269. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition by JSW Energy Limited ("Acquirer") of GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited ("Target"), under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002, in its meeting held through video conferencing. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- 100% acquisition of GMR Kamalanga Energy Ltd. by JSW Energy Ltd.
- Approved by CCI Competition Commission of India
- Under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002
- CCI HQs New Delhi | Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta
- JSW(Jindal South West) Energy Limited HQs Mumbai, Maharashtra
- JSW CEO & MD Prashant Jain
- GMR Group HQs New Delhi | Chairman– Srinivas Bommidala

#### 270. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Science & Technology, Government of India in a rapid response to combat COVID-19 global pandemic approved setting up of a Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) at a total cost of Rs 56 Cr to scout, evaluate and support the innovations and start-ups that address COVID-19 challenges. The Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), a technology business incubator at IIT Bombay supported by DST has been identified as the Implementing Agency of the CAWACH. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- SINE is a technology business incubator at IIT Bombay
- CAWACH by Dept. of Science & Tech.

#### 271. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company said it has appointed Anamika Roy Rashtrawar as its managing director and chief executive officer. Rashtrawar, who takes over from Warendra Sinha after his retirement, is the first woman MD and CEO of a large private sector general insurance company in India. <u>Click here for</u> <u>more details</u>

- Anamika Roy Rashtrawar MD & CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance
- HQs of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Gurugram, Haryana
- Chairman Mr. K. Srinivasa Gowda



## 272. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) major Hindustan Unilever has collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a mass communication campaign to inform and empower the general public against the COVID-19 pandemic. <u>Click here for more details</u>

### **Key Points:**

- A mass communication campaign titled '#BreakTheChain'
- Launched by HUL & UNICEF
- HQs of HUL Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Sanjiv Mehta
- UNICEF HQs New York, United States
- UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore

# 273. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES martkeeda

9 April marks the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Play True Day, which is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of clean sport among athletes, the broader public and sports stakeholders. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- 9th April "Play True Day 2020" by World Anti Doping Agency (WADA)
- Theme/Hashtags #PlayTrue, #PlaySafe and #PlayTrueDay
- HQs of WADA Montreal, Canada | President Sir Craig Reedie



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the portal named 'Padhai Tunhar Dwar' (education at your doorstep). School students in Chhattisgarh will be able to learn from home during the lockdown in place for the novel coronavirus outbreak through the online portal. <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

- 'Padhai Tunhar Dwar' (education at your doorstep) by Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh Capital: Bilaspur, Raipur
- CM Bhupesh Baghel | Governor Anusuiya Uikey

# 275. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Taiwan barred all official use of Zoom, becoming one of the first governments to impose an outright ban on the popular video-conferencing app over mounting security concerns. Agencies should avoid using services such as Zoom as they may have security flaws. <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

The Question Bank

- Taiwan put a ban on Zoom video-conferencing app
- Taiwan: Capital Taipei, Currency Dollar | President Tsai Ing-wen
- HQs of Zoom Video Conf. App California, U.S

# 276. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden for president in the 2020 US Presidential Elections. <u>Click here</u> <u>for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Joe Biden – endorsed as the President for the upcoming 2020 US Presidential Elections

• USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) announced that it had granted approvals to 29 insurance firms to market the standard health insurance policy named Arogya Sanjeevani. The Regulator in a statement also added that the health insurance policy covered treatment for hospitalisation of COVID-19. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• 29 Insurance Companies - got clearance to market Arogya Sanjeevani

# 278. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

An antimicrobial coating, developed by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore, an autonomous institute under Department of Science & Technology (DST), has shown excellent results in tackling the spread of deadly influenza virus, the root cause of severe respiratory infections, by inactivating large loads of influenza virus. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

The Question Bank

• An antimicrobial coating – developed by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)

- For tackling the spread of Influenza virus and COVID-19
- The JNCASR comes under Dept. of Science & Tech.
- JNCASR HQs Bangalore, Karnataka



#### 279. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

The 55th Anniversary of CRPF Valour Day(ShauryaDiwas) was observed all over India. It was on April 9, 1965 at Sardar Post in Gujarat that only two companies of CRPF heroes proved tough enough for a full brigade of Pakistani army, making them bite the dust. <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

- 9th April 55th CRPF Valour Day(ShauryaDiwas)
- CRPF Director Anand Prakash Maheshwari
- HQs New Delhi

# 280. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

In COVID-19 times, Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos has maintained his top slot as world's richest man with a net worth of \$113 billion, followed by Bill Gates at \$98 billion, according to the latest Forbes 34th annual world's billionaires list. Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani ranked 17th with a net worth of \$44.3 billion. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- "Forbes published the 34th annual list of Global Billionaires 2020"
- 1st Jeff Bezos \$113 b (3rd time)
- 2nd Bill Gates \$98 b
- 17th Mukesh Ambani \$44.3 b
- HQs of FORBES Jersey City, New Jersey



The Kolkata Port Trust has decided to waive demurrage or rent charges and not to levy fines on port users for delay in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak as it invoked "force majeure" from March 22. "Force majeure" is a clause that absolves firms from meeting their contractual commitments for reasons beyond their control. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Kolkata Port Trust – invoked "force majeure"

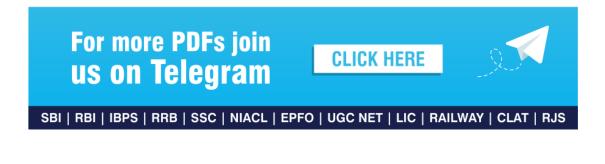
# 282. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed acquisition of 80.1% stake by Hitachi in the power grid business of ABB Limited, in its meeting held through video conferencing. Hitachi Company is active in a variety of business segments including IT Solution, Energy Solution, Industry Solution, Mobility Solution, and Smart Life Solution. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

The Question Bank

- 80.1% acquisition of ABB Management Holding AG by Hitachi Ltd.
- Approved by CCI Competition Commission of India
- CCI HQs New Delhi | Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Hitachi HQs Japan
- HQs of ABB Management Holding AG Zürich, Switzerland



# 283. OBITUARIES

Former Mizoram Assembly speaker and veteran politician Hiphei died at hospital due to prolonged illness. He was 82. Hiphei, who is also called "father of the Mara tribe" started his political career with Mara Freedom Party (MFP) in September 1963. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Hiphei – passed away – A Politician & Former Speaker – of Mizoram legislative assembly

- Also known as "father of the Mara tribe"
- Mara Freedom Party (MFP)

# 284. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resources Development and All India Council for Technical Education in collaboration with Forge and InnovatioCuris launched a mega online challenge -- Samadhan -- to test the ability of students to innovate. <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

• SAMADHAN portal – by Ministry of HRD with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for students

- In collaboration with Forge and InnovatioCuris
- Ministry of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
- Constituency Haridwar, Uttarakhand



Just like the patients, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has split the healthcare facilities for Covid-19 positive persons into three categories – Covid Care Centres (CCC), Dedicated Covid Health Centre (DCHC), and Dedicated Covid Hospitals (DCH) – depending on the severity of the infection, in accordance with the directives and standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Union ministry of health and family welfare. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

- Health Centers of 3 Categories proposed by MOHFW
- 3 Categories COVID Care Centre, Dedicated COVID Health Centre, Dedicated COVID Hospital
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science

Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

# 286. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension of term of existing part-time chairman and members of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) for a period of two years beyond April 11 or until further orders whichever is earlier, the Department of Financial Services said. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Tenure of BBB members extended by 2 Years
- HQs of Banks Board Bureau(BBB) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman of BBB "Bhanu Pratap Sharma"

#### 287. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

In order to provide greater flexibility to the State governments to tide over their cash flow mismatches due to the lockdown, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the number of days for which a State or a union territory can be in overdraft continuously to 21 working days from the current stipulation of 14 working days. <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

- RBI increased days limit to overdraft from 14 days to "21 days" now
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das(25th)

# 288. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has a new Managing Director and CEO in Parag Raja. Prior to this appointment, Raja was the Chief Distribution Officer at Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI). <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

- Parag Raja CEO of Bharati AXA Life Insurance Co. (Mumbai, Maharashtra)
- Earlier CDO of "Aditya Birla Sun Life Ins." (Gujarat)

# 289. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

As part of the effort to combat coronavirus, the Central and Tamil Nadu governments have launched the Aarogya Setu Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) service which is aimed at guiding people, speed up preventing virus spread, detection, tracking and treatment measures. The service, a joint initiative of the State Information Technology and Health and the Centre's Telecommunications departments and the IIT Madras. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- "Aarogya Setu Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) service"
- Launched by Tamil Nadu & IIT Madras
- Tamil Nadu: Capital Chennai
- CM Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor Banwarilal Purohit

# 290. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Infrastructure investment trust IndiGrid said its investment manager's board has approved proposal to acquire Gurgaon Palwal Transmission, valued at Rs 1,080 crore, from Sterlite Power. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- Gurgaon-Palwal Transmission Limited acquired by IndiGrid
- HQs of GTPL New Delhi | MD Pratik Agarwal
- HQs of IndiGrid News Delhi | CEO Harsh Shah

# 291. OBITUARIES

The Italian former middle-distance runner Donato Sabia has died from Covid-19 at the age of 56. He was twice Olympics 800 meters finalist too. <u>Click here for more details</u>

**Key Points:** 

• Donato Sabia – passed away – A Runner – from Italy

# 292. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Madhuban Gajar, a biofortified carrot variety with high  $\beta$ -carotene and iron content developed by Shri Vallabhhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, a farmer scientist from Junagadh district, Gujarat is benefitting more than 150 local farmers in the area. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Madhuban Gajar A biofortified carrot variety by the farmer scientist of Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhi Nagar
- CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Dev Vrat

#### 293. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

The COVID-19 crisis has the potential to push around 40 crore informal sector workers in India deeper into poverty, with the lockdown and other containment measures affecting jobs and earnings, as per International Labour Organisation (ILO). As per ILO, India is among the countries less equipped to handle the situation. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### Key Points:

• As per ILO – 40 Cr (400 million) informal sector workers in India might be pushed deeper into poverty

• HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland

#### 294. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

The book 'The Wizenard Series: Season One' is created by American Basket baller Kobe Bryant & authored by Wesley King tops the New York Times' middle-grade hardcover list. Click here for more details

#### **Key Points:**

- The book 'The Wizenard Series: Season One'
- Authored by Wesley King
- Created by Kobe Bryant

#### 295. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the ongoing efforts against COVID-19 pandemic, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been using scientific endeavours to develop products in an accelerated manner. The DRDO laboratories are working with industry partners for volume production. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- DRDO Personnel Sanitisation Enclosure (PSE) & Full Face Mask (FFM)
- DRDO: HQs New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy

#### 296. PERSONS IN NEWS

Reserve Bank of India urged bank customers to adopt digital modes of payment that are convenient and safe. The face of the campaign is Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan. The RBI, through the campaign, reiterated the multiple digital payment options such as NEFT, IMPS, UPI and BBPS that are available 24\*7. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- A Twitter Campaign lanched by RBI Face "Amitabh Bachchan"
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das(25th)

# 297. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Shafali Verma, who has starred in India's run to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 final, has been named brand ambassador of Pepsi ahead of International Women's Day. The firm also signed Bollywood star Salman Khan as its face for 2 years. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

- Brand Ambassador for PepsiCo Shafali Verma (Cricketer) for 1 year (& Salman khan for 2 years)
- PepsiCo HQs Harrison, New York, United States
- CEO Ramon Laguarta

# 298. OBITUARIES

John Prine (October 10, 1946 – April 7, 2020) was an American country folk singersongwriter. He was active as a composer, recording artist, and live performer from the early 1970s until his death and was known for an often humorous style of original music that has elements of protest and social commentary. <u>Click here for</u> <u>more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

• John Prine – passed away – A folk Singer – from USA

#### 299. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The India-U.S. Military Cooperation Group (MCG) dialogue, scheduled for later this month, has been cancelled in view of coronavirus outbreak, and the proposed trip of U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper is also in question. <u>Click here for more details</u>

# **Key Points:**

- Military Cooperation Group (MCG) dialogue between India & USA
- USA: Capital Washington, D.C. | President Donald Trump

# **300.** RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

India football team retained its 108th spot in the latest FIFA rankings. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole raft of international fixtures including qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup and other major tournaments has been postponed. <u>Click here for more details</u>

#### **Key Points:**

• Indian football team – 108th – in FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking 2020

• FIFA HQs – Zürich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

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