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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!

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 पढ़ना, 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

401. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

India's oldest National Park Jim Corbett, situated in Uttarakhand's Paurhi Garhwal region, has built isolation wards for animals. At least 10 quarantine centres are being prepared within the premises to contain animals. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Jim Corbett National Park (Uttarakhand) – built isolation wards for animals
- Uttarakhand: Capital - Dehradun & Gairsain
- CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

402. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

As the number of Covid-19 positive patients in Uttar Pradesh increased rapidly, the state government decided to start pool testing of the coronavirus samples. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) gave permission for pool testing to the state in order to help maximise the testing of samples on a daily basis. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Pool testing for Covid-19 – started by Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow
- CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- ICMR HQs – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava

403. AWARDS, REWARDS, RECOGNITION AND PRIZES

“The Spartan Court” by Algerian Novelist, Abdelouahab Aissaoui has won the 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction. Aissaoui is the first Algerian to win the prize. He wins USD \$50,000 (£39,950), as well as funding for the English translation of the novel. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Abdelouahab Aissaoui (Algeria) – 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction
- For his novel - “The Spartan Court”
- Algeria – Algiers – Algerian dinar

404. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

India's exports dipped by 34.57 percent to \$21.41 billion in March, while it declined by 4.78 percent to \$314.31 billion for 2019-20. Trade deficit narrowed to \$9.76 billion in march this year from \$11 billion in the same month last year. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India’s exports declined by – 4.78% (amount - \$314.31 billion) for FY 2019-20

405. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Gulf Petrochem Global, an energy-to-agriculture conglomerate, has acquired Nigeria-based Grand Petroleum's lubricants assets, to strengthen its presence in Nigeria and West Africa, for an undisclosed sum. Grand Petroleum is a part of Nigeria's Nosak Group. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Lubricants Assets” – acquired by Gulf Petrochem Global
- HQs of Lubricants Assets – Nigeria
- HQs of Gulf Petrochem – Sharjah, UAE | Director – Ayush Goel

406. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

BSNL chairman and managing director P K Purwar has taken over additional charge of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. This is the third time Purwar has been given charge of MTNL CMD in the last six years. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- P K Purwar – additional charge as a CMD of – MTNL (3rd time)
- Main charge as a CMD of – BSNL
- Both are located at – New Delhi

407. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

According to the SBI Ecowrap report, India's GDP growth may slide to 1.1 per cent in the current fiscal year, on account of the impact of Covid-19 outbreak on the economy. According to the same report, the extension of the lockdown would result in economic loss of Rs 21.1 trillion or 6% of the nominal Gross Value. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- GDP as per SBI Ecowrap report – 1.1%
- Ecowrap – a research organisation of SBI bank
- SBI HQs - Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- Chairman - Rajnish Kumar

408. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

International Association of Art (IAA), a partner of UNESCO, decided to celebrate the day on April 15 every year to honour and mark the birthday of the greatest artists of all time, Leonardo da Vinci. The famous Mona Lisa's painter is also known as a symbol of world peace, freedom of expression, tolerance and brotherhood. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 15 – World Art Day – to mark the birth anniversary of “Leonardo da Vinci” (Italy)

409. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

With all of India dedicating itself to fighting the coronavirus crisis, a group of researchers from National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) have managed to convert an old refrigerator into a complete "disinfection chamber" named the device "Zero COV" and that it is effective in killing 99.9 percent of any microorganisms that may be present on the surface of an object. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A ‘disinfection chamber’ named “Zero-Cov”– Developed by NIT Karnataka
- NIT-K Chairperson – Dr. K. Balaveera Reddy

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410. AWARDS, REWARDS, RECOGNITION AND PRIZES

Utility giant Tata Power has won the most designated global Edison Award for its “Club Enerji #Switchoff2SwitchOn” campaign under Social innovation category and Social Energy Solutions subcategory. The Edison Awards, named after Thomas Alva Edison, recognizes and honours the world’s best innovations and innovators. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power won – Global Edison Award
- For its “Club Enerji #Switchoff2SwitchOn” campaign
- Under Social innovation category and Social Energy Solutions subcategory
- HQ of Tata Power – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran

411. CURRENT GK

Survey of India, The National Survey and Mapping Organisation of the country under the Department of Science & Technology, is the OLDEST SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVT. OF INDIA. It was set up in 1767 and has evolved rich traditions over the years. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

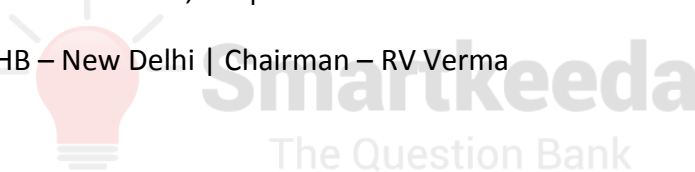
- “Survey of India” – Department of Science & Technology

412. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

The Reserve Bank of India has turned its attention to meeting the funding requirements of NBFCs, MFIs and housing finance by providing special refinance facilities of Rs 50,000 crore to All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) such as the NABARD and the SIDBI. As per RBI decision, Rs 25,000 crore would be provided to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Rs 15,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Rs 10,000 crore to National Housing Bank(NHB). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 50,000 Cr – provided by RBI – to NABARD, SIDBI and NHB
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa
- HQs of NHB – New Delhi | Chairman – RV Verma



413. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Ajay Mahajan has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CARE Ratings Company for five years from April 15. The board of directors of the credit rating agency made the appointment, based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Mahajan – appointed as MD & CEO of CARE Ratings
- HQs of Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE) – Mumbai, Maharashtra

414. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

China along with India are emerging as the fastest-growing emerging economies of the world with a positive growth rate in 2020, as per the latest reports of International Monetary Fund (IMF). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- China & India – Positive Growth Rate as per IMF
- HQs of IMF (International Monetary Fund) - Washington, D.C., United States
- President - Kristalina Georgieva | Total member countries – 189

415. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad has added another product to the portfolio of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to combat Coronavirus (COVID-19) by developing COVID Sample Collection Kiosk (COVSACK) for healthcare workers to safely collect Covid-19 samples. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID Sample Collection Kiosk” – name: “COVSACK” – Developed by DRDO
- DRDO: HQs - New Delhi | Chairman - G. Satheesh Reddy

416. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Tamas Ajan has resigned as president of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) while an investigation into alleged corruption is ongoing. Ajan, from Hungary, had been at the IWF since 1976, serving 24 years as general secretary and 20 as president. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tamas Ajan (Hungary) – resigned from the post of President – of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
- HQs of IWF – Budapest, Hungary | President – Ursula Papandrea

417. OBITUARIES

Willie Davis, a Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive lineman who helped the Green Bay Packers win each of the first two Super Bowls, has died. He was 85. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Willie Davis (America) – passed away – Football

418. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) in collaboration with UNICEF, Hyderabad Field Office, is training over 28.33 lakh Community Leaders through online programmes to practice social behaviours required to control the transmission of Covid-19 cases in villages. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- NIRDPR + UNICEF = training Community Leaders through online programmes
- HQs of NIRDPR – Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore

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419. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev has asked all district magistrates to use the new 'Assess Koro Na' app for door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones to speed up decision-making by analysing real-time data and remove the major obstacle in containing the virus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'Assess Koro Na' app – by New Delhi
- Delhi: CM - Arvind Kejriwal | Governor - Anil Baijal
- Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

420. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

April 17 is observed as World Haemophilia Day Every year worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia, von Willebrand disease and other inherited bleeding disorders. April 17, 2020 is the 30th anniversary of World Haemophilia Day. The theme of World Haemophilia Day 2020 is "Get+involved". [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 17 – World Haemophilia Day
- Edition – 30th
- Theme – "Get + Involved"

421. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

The Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was speaking at the Special Asean Plus Three (APT) Summit, which included leaders of the 10 Asean countries as well as China, Japan and South Korea. Also present at the virtual meeting was World Health Organisation director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- China, Japan and South Korea – attended Special Asean Plus Three (APT) Summit
- ASEAN total members – 10 - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam
- HQs of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Secretary-General – Lim Jock Hoi

422. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

The Aditya Birla group's flagship company "Hindalco" completed the buyout of "Aleris Corp" by its wholly owned subsidiary "Novelis Inc" at an enterprise value of \$2.8 billion (Rs 21,295 crores). The deal marks Novelis' potential entry into the high-end aerospace segment. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Novelis Inc subsidiary of Hindalco of Aditya Birla Group – acquired → "Aleris Corp" (USA)
- Value of \$2.8 billion (Rs 21,295 crores)
- HQs of Novelis Inc. – Atlanta, Georgia, United States | CEO – Steve Fisher
- HQs of Hindalco – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Satish Pai
- Novelis Inc. is a parent company of Hindalco

423. CURRENT GK

Minister of State (MoS) for AYUSH, Shripad Y Naik said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established a task force for scientific validation of Ayurveda and traditional medicine formulas through research institutions like ICMR, to be used in the treatment of COVID-19. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Shripad Yesso Naik – Minister of State (Independent charge) of Ministry of AYUSH

424. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

Incomes of almost 85% of households in the national capital region (NCR) have been impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak and the lockdown, according to a survey released by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The data showed that casual labourers were disproportionately affected with nearly 75% stating their wages were severely affected. This figure was less than half, at 46.7% for salaried employees. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – Incomes of almost 85% of households have been impacted by the Lockdown
- Delhi: CM - Arvind Kejriwal | Governor - Anil Baijal

425. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand has joined WWF (World Wide Fund) India as its ambassador for environment education programme. WWF India is celebrating its 50 years of conservation in India and it is delighted to see Anand lend his support to conservation and protection of the environment. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Viswanathan Anand – ambassador of – WWF (World Wide Fund)
- WWF – “50 Years” of conservation in India
- HQs of WWF India – New Delhi, India | President – Jamshyd N. Godrej
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | CEO – Carter Roberts

426. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

With an intent to offer similar support during COVID-19 pandemic to its policyholders and Agents, Tata AIA has launched this initiative. All policyholders of Tata AIA will get an additional benefit equal to the base sum assured or Rs 500,000 whichever is lower for valid death claims due to COVID-19. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tata AIA life insurance – will provide additional benefit for valid death claims due to COVID-19
- HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rishi Srivastava

427. CURRENT GK

Private sector Equitas Small Finance Bank expanded its digital banking services by launching Selfe Fixed Deposits and Selfe savings accounts. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- HQs of Equitas Small Finance Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

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428. ORDINANCE, BILLS AND ACTS

Under the consolidated revised guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the wake of the extension of lockdown, spitting in public has been made punishable with a fine under Section 51 (b) of the Disaster Management Act. The Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation has imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 if anyone is caught spitting in public. Similar measures are also in place in municipal corporations of Delhi, and several other states. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Spitting in public has been made punishable with a fine under – Section 51 (b) – by MoHA
- Ministry of Home Affairs - Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

429. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

In a farmer-friendly initiative to facilitate easy movement and transportation of agri-products to mandis, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the 'Krishi Rath' mobile app for farmers. The app was developed by the NIC to facilitate farmers and traders searching for transport vehicles for Primary and Secondary transportation for movement of agriculture & horticulture produce. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "Krishi Rath" – a farmer-friendly app to facilitate easy movement and transportation of agri-products
- Launched by – Narendra Singh Tomar
- Narendra Singh Tomar – Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh

430. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Government's mobile app Aarogya Setu, developed for tracking coronavirus patients, has become the world's fastest app to reach 5 crore downloads in just 13 days. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “AarogyaSetu” app – fastest app to reach 5 Cr (50 million) downloads – in 13 Days

431. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

The Saudi G20 Presidency organized the inception meeting of the Private Sector Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women’s Economic Representation (EMPOWER). Addressing persistent social and economic inequalities between men and women is one main element of the Saudi Presidency’s aim of empowering people under the theme “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All.” [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- G-20 presidency – Saudi Arab
- Theme - “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All”

432. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A team of researchers led by Dr. Pralay K. Santra at Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences have developed a compact solid-state sensor to detect the heavy metal ions, e.g., lead ions (Pb²⁺) down to 0.4 parts per billion (ppb) for efficient onsite detection. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “A compact solid-state sensor to detect the heavy metal ions”
- Developed by – Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences
- Team led by – Dr. Pralay K. Santra

433. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Andhra Pradesh Industries COVID-19 portal for registration of units which are manufacturing essential medical supplies and 'YSR - NIRMAN' portal for hassle-free supply of cement for government projects. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'YSR - NIRMAN' portal – by Andhra Pradesh – for hassle-free supply of cement for government projects
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

434. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

HDFC Bank has launched a campaign to encourage and reinforce social distancing while waiting at shops. Using the outer grid of HDFC Bank logo, it has created physical markers on the ground to help people maintain the World Health Organisation (WHO) prescribed social distance while waiting in queue at a shop or an establishment. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – “a Safety Grid Campaign” to encourage social distancing
- HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO & Chairman of HDFC Bank – Aditya Puri
- Chairman of HDFC Ltd. – Deepak Parekh

435. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

To commemorate the 108th anniversary of the RMS Titanic's tragic sinking on April 15, 1912, TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition, which has permanent installations in Las Vegas and Orlando, is now available to experience virtually for the first time ever through TITANIC: The Virtual Experience. The ship sank into North Atlantic Ocean. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 15 – 108th anniversary of the sinking of Titanic Ship
- It sank on April 15, 1912 into - "North Atlantic Ocean"

436. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"PUSA Decontamination and Sanitizing Tunnel", developed by Division of Agricultural Engineering, ICAR - Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "PUSA Decontamination and Sanitizing Tunnel" – developed by ICAR (New Delhi)
- ICAR Director General – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare:
- MoS – Shri Kailash Choudhary | Minister – Narendra Singh Tomar

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437. OBITUARIES

In a shocking turn of events, film, television and theatre actor Ranjit Chowdhry passed away at the age of 65 on April 15. He was the son of actress Pearl Padamsee. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ranjit Chowdary – passed away – an Actor

438. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Telecom operator BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has launched its own digital payments platform called Bharat InstaPay. Launched in partnership with State Bank of India, the platform is made for BSNL channel partners across the country to enable them to make digital payments from almost anywhere. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- BSNL + SBI – launched a digital payments platform called “Bharat InstaPay”
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar
- SBI HQs - Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- Chairman - Rajnish Kumar



439. DEFENCE AFFAIRS

North Korea launched multiple short-range anti-ship cruise missiles into the sea and Sukhoi jets fired air-to-surface missiles as part of military exercises. The missile tests were done on the eve of a national holiday in North Korea to celebrate the birthday of Kim Il Sung, the founder of the country and grandfather of the current leader, Kim Jong Un. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- North Korea – launched – multiple short-range anti-ship cruise missiles into the sea
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won
- President – Kim Jong-un

440. SPORTS AND GAMES

Sports Ministry Begins First-Ever Online Training Of Coaches During COVID-19 Lockdown. The Archery Association of India (AAI) began first-ever online training of its coaches by experts from various fields such as psychology, nutrition and mind coaching, "for effective utilisation of coaches time" during the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- First-Ever Online Training of Coaches During COVID-19 Lockdown – by Sports Ministry
- MoS (Independent charge) of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiran Rijju

441. OBITUARIES

Doug Sanders, who missed one of the most heartbreaking potential winning putts in British Open history, has died of natural causes. He was 86. Known as the "Peacock of the Fairways," Sanders was one of the most colourful personalities on the PGA Tour, capturing 20 titles including the 1956 Canadian Open. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Doug Sanders (America) – passed away – Golf Player

442. PERSONS IN NEWS

A government-appointed committee of experts has proposed an institutional framework for valuers by way of setting up the National Institute of Valuers. The panel, headed by IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India) Chairperson M S Sahoo, has also submitted the "Draft Valuers Bill, 2020". [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "A committee of experts for setting up National Institute of Valuers" headed by – "M S Sahoo"
- M S Sahoo – the chairperson of IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India – New Delhi)

443. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A team of researchers has discovered a new species of venomous snake in Arunachal Pradesh and named it Trimeresurus Salazar. It was discovered in the thick evergreen forests of the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh during a field expedition by researchers. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – a new species of venomous snake/Green viper Pit found
- Named – Trimeresurus Salazar (after Salazar Slytherin)
- It was discovered in – Pakke Tiger Reserve
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

444. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A book titled “Shuttling to the Top: The Story of P V Sindhu” authored by Krishnaswamy V was published by HarperCollins in Amazon digital platform along with other two books, amid the lockdown due to Coronavirus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A book titled “Shuttling to the Top: The Story of P V Sindhu” – authored by Krishnaswamy V

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445. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, vide order dated April 16, 2020 cancelled the licence of The Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd. to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on April 16, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the licence of – Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor - Shaktikanta Das (25th)

446. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

Ace paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal surpassed compatriot Gnanasekaran Sathiyam to become the highest-ranked Indian men table tennis player after he grabbed 31st position in the latest senior men's rankings released by International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). The list has been topped by Fan Zhendong of China. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Achanta Sharath Kamal (from TN) – 31st – in the latest senior men's rankings of Table Tennis
- Rankings released by – International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)
- HQs of ITTF – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Weikert

447. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Pharma majors Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline have joined hands to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. The companies in a joint statement said they have signed a letter of intent to develop an adjuvant vaccine for COVID-19, using innovative technology from both firms, to help address the ongoing pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Sanofi + GlaxoSmithKline – joined hands to develop a vaccine for Covid19
- HQs of Sanofi – Paris, France | Chief Executive – Paul Hudson
- HQs of GlaxoSmithKline – Brentford, United Kingdom | CEO – Emma Walmsley

448. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Jharkhand has launched the Mukhya Mantri Didi Kitchen (MMDK) for providing free food to the most needy, differently abled, children and identified poorest of the poor households in the villages. At present about 4185 community kitchens are being run in as much number of Panchayats in the state. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Mukhya Mantri Didi Kitchen (MMDK) – by Jharkhand
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi
- CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

449. SPORTS AND GAMES

A cycling event - “Tour de France” has been officially postponed to 29 August owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, and will finish on 20 September. No mass gatherings are allowed in France until mid-July. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Tour de France” – a Cycling Event
- Postponed to – 29th August
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron

450. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As the world grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, researchers have found the presence of a different kind of coronavirus - bat coronavirus (BtCoV) - in two bat species from Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, according to a first of its study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ICMR found coronavirus in – ‘Pteropus’ and ‘Rousettus’ (species of Bat)
- ICMR HQs – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava

451. OBITUARIES

Former Pakistan first-class cricketer Zafar Sarfaraz has passed away after testing positive for COVID-19. The 50-year-old had been on a ventilator in the intensive care unit of a private hospital in Peshawar. Sarfraz has become the first professional cricketer to succumb to COVID-19 in Pakistan. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Zafar Sarfaraz (Pakistan) – passed away – 1st class Cricketer

452. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) will waive service charges for all ATM transactions made on SBI ATMs. This will also be applicable to other bank ATMs on account of exceeding free number of transactions up to 30th June. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – waived off service charges for all ATM transactions up to – 30th June
- SBI HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- Chairman – Rajnish Kumar

453. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

The 'Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey' found that India is the most digitally dexterous (skilled) country in the world -- followed by the UK and the US, due to having the largest Gen Z workforce along with the desire to learn new skills using digital technologies in the workplace. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India – the most digitally skilled country in the world
- As per 'Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey'

454. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the plenary meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) through video conferencing. The discussions at the meeting were based on IMF Managing Director's Global Policy Agenda titled, 'Exceptional Times - Exceptional Action'. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the plenary meeting of the IMFC
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka
- HQs of IMF (International Monetary Fund) – Washington, D.C., United States
- President - Kristalina Georgieva | Total member countries – 189

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455. SPORTS AND GAMES

The mascot for the 4th Asian Para Games scheduled to be held here from October 9 in 2022 was unveiled. The design of 'Fei Fei' is inspired by the motif of the 'Divine Bird' in the Liangzhu Culture. The event is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from 9 – 15 October 2022. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Asian Para Games – Venue: Hongzhou, China
- Mascot – “Fei Fei” (the motif of the ‘Divine Bird’ in the Liangzhu Culture)
- HQs of Asian Paralympic Committee – Abu Dhabi, UAE
- President – Majid Rashed

456. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ICMR launches affordable test kits for diabetes. As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), “SuChek” has been developed with financial assistance from ICMR, which is 100% indigenous glucometer suitable for diverse climatic conditions, affordable and validated as per International standards. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “SuCheck” – a Glucometer – developed under the assistance of ICMR
- ICMR HQs – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava

457. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Robots will serve food and give medicine to COVID-19 patients in two hospitals in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district in a step to protect doctors and health workers from getting infected with the coronavirus. Developed by District Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Aditya Ranjan, the remote-controlled COBOT-Robotics will provide food and medicine to patients without human intervention. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – Robots will serve food and give medicine to COVID-19 patients
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi
- CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

458. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

For the first time in 60 years, Asia as a region will not register any economic growth this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to forecasts by the International Monetary Fund. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 1st time ZERO Economic Growth registered in – 60 years – as per the reports of IMF
- HQs of IMF (International Monetary Fund) - Washington, D.C., United States
- President - Kristalina Georgieva | Total member countries – 189

459. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank will conduct a second targeted long-term repo operation (TLTRO) for an initial aggregate amount of Rs 50,000 crore. The funds availed by banks under TLTRO 2.0 should be invested in investment grade bonds, commercial paper, and non-convertible debentures of NBFCs. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations 2.0 (TLTRO) amount announced – Rs 50,000 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

460. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Giving a ray hope to millions across the globe, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, (SCTI) Trivandrum has developed a diagnostic test kit which can confirm COVID-19 cases in just 2 hours at a cost as low as Rs 1,000. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute – developed a diagnostic test kit
- Within “2 hours” & at a cost of “Rs 1000”
- HQs of Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology – Kerala
- CTIMST Director– Asha Kishore

461. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

India's limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma has become brand ambassador of 'CricKingdom', a cricket academy based in Dubai which will also facilitate coaching through its online platform after the global COVID-19 pandemic subsides. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Rohit Sharma – appointed as brand ambassador of – a cricket academy 'CricKingdom' (Dubai based)
- CEO of academy – Chetan Suryawanshi | MD – Prashant Naik

462. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

The finance ministry has increased coverage of a lender's loss in case of loan default under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) scheme to 75% from 50% earlier. The CGFMU scheme, announced in April 2016, covers micro loans up to Rs 10 lakh extended under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- FM Increased coverage of a lender's loss – to 75% from 50%
- CGFMU scheme – covers loan amount of “Rs 10 lakh” – under “Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana”
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

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463. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

A quarterly business confidence index put out by economic think tank National Council for Applied Economic Research -- N-BCI -- dropped by over 30% in the last quarter of the previous fiscal year. The N-BCI fell to 77.3 from 111.2 in the third quarter, and the lowest since 1998 when business sentiment was low due to the Asian financial crisis. This was its 112th survey round conducted in March. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Business Confidence Index (Q4) declined to – 77.3%
- As per 112th Business Expectations Survey (BES) of NCAER

464. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Scientists say they have discovered the brightest, most energetic, and likely most massive supernova -- a powerful and luminous stellar explosion ever identified. SN2016aps may have formed as the result of the merging of two massive stars prior to the explosion. The research paper published in the journal Nature Astronomy. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “SN2016aps” – a massive supernova
- as per the research published in “Nature Astronomy” Journal

465. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

The Ministry of Tourism in India recently launched its “Dekho Apna Desh” webinar to offer tourism virtually. It is intended to provide an in-depth knowledge on several destinations in India along with information about the heritage of India. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A Webinar series “DekhoApnaDesh” – by Ministry of Tourism
- Prahlad Singh Patel - Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture

466. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Manipur education minister Dr Thokchom Radheshyam launched the electronic format of comic textbooks for Class III, IV and V respectively. The electronic format comic textbook for each class comprises three subjects – Mathematics, Environmental Studies and English Language in a single electronic comic textbook format. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched the electronic format of comic textbooks for Class III, IV and V
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal
- CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

467. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

GMR Infrastructure said one of its subsidiary has received "Letter of Award" (LoA) for the development and operations of Bhogapuram International Airport in Andhra Pradesh. In February 2019, GMR Airports had emerged as the highest bidder for project on a public-private partnership basis. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Bhogapuram International Airport – Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

468. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Rajasthan has started rapid antibody tests, among the first states to do so, as the state capital Jaipur and Jodhpur have emerged as hotspots, reporting more than half the confirmed Covid-19 cases and accounting for 70% of deaths in the state. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – the first state in the country to carry out Rapid Testing for Covid 19
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur
- CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

469. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

World Heritage Day also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites is observed annually on April 18. The significance of the day is to promote cultural heritage through activities undertaken by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). As the coronavirus pandemic is sweeping the globe, ICOMOS has decided that the theme for this year's World Heritage Day would be "Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility." [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 18 – “World Heritage Day”
- also known as “the International Day for Monuments and Sites”
- Theme – "Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility"

470. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

To bring the scientific and factual aspects of this pandemic outbreak on to public domain, a multi-institutional, multi-lingual science communication initiative, called 'CovidGyan' has been created by the government of India. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "CovidGyan" – a multi-lingual science communication initiative – launched by GoI

471. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

World Voice Day (WVD) is observed every year on 16 April to show the value of voice in the people's daily lives. World Voice Day is a worldwide annual event that is devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice. The theme of this year was "Focus on your Voice". [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 16 – World Voice Day – Theme: "Focus on your Voice"

472. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

China's Ministry of Education announced that the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, initially scheduled from 29th of June to 9th of July, in Fuzhou of eastern China's Fujian Province, has been postponed to a later date due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO – Fuzhou, China
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President - Xi Jinping

473. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has tripled the size of its Covid-19 response package for its member nations to USD 20 billion. The multilateral funding agency said it has also approved measures to streamline its operations for quicker and more flexible delivery of assistance. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – tripled the size of its Covid-19 response package for its member nations – to \$20 billion
- ADB: HQs - [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President - [Masatsugu Asakawa](#)

474. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar chairing the National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 through video conference, in New Delhi on April 16, 2020. The Ministers of State for Agriculture & Family Welfare, Shri Parshottam Rupala and Shri Kailash Choudhary, the Secretary (AC&FW), Shri Sanjay Agarwal and senior officers are also seen. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A National Conference on – Kharif Crops – chaired by Narendra Singh Tomar
- Narendra Singh Tomar - Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh

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475. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Cash-strapped Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) has sold its 100 per cent stake in IL&FS Wind Power Services Ltd (IWPSL) to ORIX Corporation, Japan, for Rs 6.05 crore. The sale was approved by Justice (Retd) D K Jain and subsequently by National Company Law Tribunal. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 100% acquisition of “IL& FS Wind Power Services Ltd” – by “ORIX Corporation”
- Approved by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) | Chairman – Bansi Lal Bhat
- HQs of IL & FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Uday Kotak
- HQs of ORIX Corp. – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Mokoto Inoue

476. CURRENT GK

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) asked the Centre to take effective measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on migrant workers and guarantee the right to minimum adequate standard of living. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- International Court of Justice (ICJ) – Hague, Netherlands
- President – Abdulqawi Yusuf

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477. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has rolled out an Integrated Geospatial Platform known as "SAHYOG". This integrated geospatial platform aims to help in decision making during the present COVID-19 outbreak and support with area-specific strategies in order to handle the socio-economic impact in the recovery phase. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "SAHYOG" - an Integrated Geospatial Platform – created by Department of Science & Technology

478. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

US President Donald Trump said he has instructed his administration to halt funding to the World Health Organization over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic while his administration reviews its response to the global crisis. The hold on funding was expected. Trump has been increasingly critical of the organization as the global health crisis has continued, and he has reacted angrily to criticism of his administration's response. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- USA – halts funding to the World Health Organization (WHO)
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | Director-General – Tedros Adhanom
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

479. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The party of South Korean President Moon Jae-in has won a decisive victory in parliamentary elections, with voters backing the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic. With nearly all votes counted, Mr Moon's Democratic Party won 163 seats in the 300-seat National Assembly. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Moon Jae-in – elected as a new President of South Korea – Democratic Party
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won

480. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The External Affairs Ministry has announced a training programme on COVID-19 from April 17 for healthcare professionals from SAARC countries. The training programme will be carried out by the Central government's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A training programme on COVID-19 – by Ministry of External Affairs
- For SAARC Countries

Member states of SAARC: 8

- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- Constituency – RS MP from Gujarat.
- SAARC HQs – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary Generals - Amjad Hussain B Sial

481. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

India's renewable energy subsidies fell 35% from 2017-18 to 2018-19, while its oil and gas subsidies increased by 65%, a study by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- As per a study by ISSD & CEEW
- India's oil and gas subsidies increased by – 65%
- India's renewable energy subsidies fell by – 35%

482. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A team of researchers of IIT Guwahati has developed affordable antimicrobial (antiviral/antibacterial) spray-based coating for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and 3D printed Ear Guard for comfortable use of face masks by healthcare workers. The Institute has been working to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The concepts have been developed by Dr. Biman B. Mandal, a professor in IIT Guwahati. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati – developed affordable antimicrobial spray-based coating for PPEs

483. PERSONS IN NEWS

Helicopter money is the term used for a large sum of new money that is printed and distributed among the public, to stimulate the economy during a recession or when interest rates fall to zero. This term Helicopter Money has been coined by American economist Milton Friedman in his famous paper "The Optimum Quantity of Money" of 1969. Recently the CM of Telangana Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao has used this term during a video-conference with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The term "Helicopter Money" – firstly coined by Milton Friedman (an American Economist)
- Recently this terms used by – K. Chandrashekar Rao (CM of Telangana)
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | Governor - Tamilisai Soundararajan

484. OBITUARIES

Chile's celebrated author Luis Sepulveda, who died Thursday aged 70 from COVID-19, was a committed writer exiled by the Pinochet dictatorship for his political activities. He was best-known for his 1992 novel, "The Old Man Who Read Love Stories". [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Luis Sepúlveda Calfucura (Chile) – passed away – Author/Writer

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485. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In its continued efforts to help countries fight the coronavirus pandemic, India sent 23 tonnes of essential medicines to Nepal. India's ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra handed over the consignment to Minister for Health and Population Bhanubhakta Dhakal, as part of the ongoing bilateral cooperation to fight the pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India sent 23 tonnes of essential medicines to – Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

486. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

“Door to door screening” for detection of persons with symptoms of COVID-19 began in the four affected districts in Bihar, according to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The campaign began from April 16, covering Siwan, Begusarai, Nalanda and Nawada districts, and with this Bihar will become the first state in the country to adopt such measures. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Door to door screening” for detection of Covid-19 – Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

487. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

Fit India in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is organized a first-of-a-kind live fitness session under its Fit India Active Day programme for school children across the country from 15th April 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Fit India + CBSE – organized a first-of-a-kind live Fitness Session
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Anita Karwal

488. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Digital payments major Paytm has appointed Vineet Arora as the managing director and chief executive officer of Paytm General Insurance Ltd. Previously, Arora served as the managing director and chief executive officer of Aegon Life Insurance Company and was part of the India Leadership team. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Vineet Arora – appointed as – Paytm General Insurance Limited (HQ – New Delhi)

Former CEO: Aegon Life Insurance Company

- Pravin Jadhav's resignation from - Paytm Money
- Paytm CEO - Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- Paytm Payment Bank CEO - Satish Kumar Gupta
- Paytm General Insurance Ltd. CEO - Vineet Arora
- Paytm HQs - Noida, Uttar Pradesh

489. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has warned the Zoom app users that the video-conferencing application is not safe for usage. The video meeting app has become quite popular across the globe as more and more workers are now working from home during the lockdown period. Several other countries have also expressed concern about the security of the application. Germany, Singapore and Taiwan have already banned the application. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) warned – “Zoom App Users” for privacy concern
- Ministry of Home Affairs - Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

490. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Andhra Bank Managing Director J Packirisamy and Syndicate Bank Chief Executive Officer Mrutyunjay Mahapatra have been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Bank of India and the Canara Bank respectively. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Bank MD – J Packirisamy → appointed as OSD in “Union Bank of India”
- Syndicate Bank CEO – Mrutyunjay Mahapatra → appointed as OSD in “Canara Bank”
- HQs of Andhra Bank – Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO - Rajkiran Rai G.
- Tagline of UBI – “Good People to Bank With”
- HQs of Syndicate bank – Manipal, Karnataka
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO - Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

491. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

Facebook India called for applications for its CSR initiative, Facebook Pragati, powered by N/Core (The/Nudge Centre for Social Innovation). The initiative will incubate and accelerate early-stage women-led non-profits that are working to drive women entrepreneurship and to spread awareness and adoption of technology among women in India. Facebook Pragati will award four grants of up to ₹50 lakh for each non-profit to scale their work. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Pragati” Initiative – by “ ” to drive women entrepreneurship
- Facebook: HQs - California, United States | CEO - Mark Zuckerberg

492. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Navy has indigenously designed and made an Air Evacuation Pod (AEP) for safe evacuation of Covid-19 patients from remote locations. Designed by the Naval Aircraft Yard (Kochi) under the Southern Naval Command (SNC), the AEP will facilitate the evacuation of patients in a fully sealed patient transfer capsule, ensuring there is no risk for cross infection to pilots and evacuation team. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- an “Air Evacuation Pod” – developed by Southern Command of Indian Navy
- Commander-in-Chief – President Ram Nath Kovind
- Chief of the Naval Staff – Admiral Karmabir Singh

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493. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

In a first of its kind deal, Indian movie producer and distributor “Eros International” announced an all-share merger with Hollywood's “STX Entertainment” to create an equally-held global entertainment company. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Eros International + STX Entertainment – Merger
- HQs of Eros Int. – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of STX Entertainment – Burbank, California

494. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

The Centre has transferred cash in the accounts of poor across the country under various welfare schemes during the lockdown utilising 14 % of the rural development ministry's total budget. Government has cleared all pending payments of Rs 7,300 Cr to beneficiaries under MGNREGA. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 7,300 Cr – released to all States/UTs under MGNREGA Scheme

495. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

TVS Motor Company Ltd has acquired the iconic British bike manufacturer Norton Motorcycles (UK) Ltd in an all-cash transaction of GBP 16 million. Norton had ran out of cash in January and failed to pay taxes. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- TVS Motor Company Ltd (Chennai) – acquired – Norton Motorcycles (UK)
- CMD of TVS Motor Co. – Venu Srinivasan

496. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA has discovered an Earth-size exoplanet, called Kepler-1649, orbiting in its star's habitable zone. The exoplanet was spotted by a team of transatlantic scientists using reanalysed data from the agency's Kepler space telescope. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "Kepler-1649" – an Earth-size exoplanet discovered by NASA
- NASA HQs - Washington D.C., United States
- Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

497. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Researchers at the state government-run Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) have succeeded in decoding the entire genome sequence of the novel coronavirus, and identified its three new mutations. Gandhinagar-based GBRC has become the second institute in India after the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune to decode the entire genome sequence of the virus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre – 2nd to decode entire genome sequence of Covid-19
- Located at – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Director – Chaitanya G. Joshi

498. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Reserve Bank of India launched latest round of quarterly order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS) of manufacturing sector. In the 48th round of the OBICUS for the quarter October-December 2019 as many as 704 manufacturing companies were covered. As per the last survey, capacity utilisation (CU) had declined to 68.6 % in the third quarter of 2019-20 from 69.1% in the previous quarter. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Decline in Capital Utilisation in 3rd quarter of 2019-20 as per 48th round of OBICUS – 68.6%
- OBICUS – Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das

499. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the online delivery website 'Cghaat' to provide home delivery of fruits and vegetables during the extended lockdown phase. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'Cghaat' – launched by Chhattisgarh
- Chhattisgarh Capital: Bilaspur, Raipur
- CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

500. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Boosting India's capabilities in combating the coronavirus pandemic, the DRDO has developed two more products including an automatic mist-based sanitiser dispensing unit & UV Sanitisation Box and Hand-held UV device. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO (Defense Research and Development Organisation) developed:
- An Automatic mist-based sanitiser dispensing unit & UV Sanitisation Box and
- Hand-held UV device
- DRDO: HQs - New Delhi | Chairman - G. Satheesh Reddy



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