

Testzone presents
Weekly Current Affairs

MockDrill100 Test No 6

PDF by Smartkeeda



Test Launch Date: 17th 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!

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 Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीडा

501. SPORTS AND GAMES

The India women's cricket team has qualified for the Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 to be held in New Zealand. India along with hosts New Zealand, Australia, England and South Africa are 5 teams who have sealed a direct berth for the quadrennial 50-over World Cup. The Women's World Cup is scheduled to be played from February 6 to March 7 in 2021. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Women's Cricket World Cup-2021 New Zealand
- New Zealand Wellington Dollar (NZD)

502. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Aviation giant "Emirates" has become the 1st to launch a 10-minute coronavirus blood test for passengers departing from its Dubai home base. The blood tests were conducted by the Dubai Health Authority in the check-in area, with results coming out within 10 minutes. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Emirates became the 1st to launch a 10-minute coronavirus blood test
- UAE Abu Dhabi Dirham | President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

503. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries and Facebook are exploring the possibility of creating a multipurpose app, similar to Chinese super-app WeChat, by leveraging the WhatsApp platform and user base. The idea is to create an app that is not just a communication platform but one where users would also be able to buy groceries through Reliance Retail stores, or shop at ajio.com, or make payments using JioMoney. Click here for more details

- Reliance + Facebook will develop "a Super app"
- HQs of Reliance Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Mukesh Ambani
- Facebook: HQs California, United States | CEO Mark Zuckerberg

The government has set the foodgrain production target at 298.3 million tonnes for the 2020-21 crop year, up 2% from the record output achieved in the current year, banking on forecast of a normal monsoon. India's foodgrains production is estimated at a record 291.95 million tonnes in the 2019-20 crop year (July-June), beating the target of 291 million tonnes. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• 298.3 million tonnes – Foodgrain production target set by Gol

505. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

"Covid-19: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward", organised by the Indian High Commission in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in London to address concerns around the economic impact of the coronavirus lockdown in the UK.Around 40 Indian business representatives logged on to a first-of-its-kind virtual roundtable. Click here for more details

- Indian High Commission + FICCI organized "Covid-19: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward"
- Venue: London, UK
- HQs of FICCI New Delhi | Chairman Sangita Reddy
- UK Capital London | Currency Pound Sterling
- PM of UK Boris Johnson

506. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

US Oil Price Falls to Below \$0 for First Time in History as Coronavirus Pandemic Causes Global Demand to Dip. The US oil prices ended New York trading in the negative as a supply glut forced traders to pay others to take the commodity. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- US Oil Price Falls to Below \$0 for First Time in History
- USA: Capital Washington, D.C. | President Donald Trump

507. CURRENT GK

The RBI asked banks and NBFCs to carry out money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) risk assessment exercise periodically. The Reserve Bank added a new section in the Master Directions on KYC. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- The RBI asked Banks + NBFCs to carry out money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) risk assessment exercise
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 came into effect in 2005
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th)

508. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Researchers from Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), Navi Mumbai, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have developed a global model to predict the ionospheric electron density with larger data coverage - a crucial need for communication and navigation. Click here for more details

- Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) developed a global model to predict the ionospheric electron density
- Comes under Department of Science & Technology
- HQs Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

509. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The ASEAN Special Summit and the ASEAN+3 Special Summit on COVID-19 Response held online on April 14 with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc chairing over the events as ASEAN Chair 2020. Vietnam, as ASEAN 2020 Chair, has been proactively promoting joint efforts of the 10-member group in the fight against COVID-19 with the spirit of being "cohesive and responsive". Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Chairmanship of ASEAN Summits 2020 Vietnam
- Vietnam Hanoi Vietnamese dong | PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- HQs of ASEAN Jakarta, Indonesia | Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi

510. OBITUARIES

Veteran tribal leader and former Odisha Minister Saharai Oram died at Barbil in Keonjhar district following a prolonged illness. He was 78. Known for his contribution towards the uplift of the tribals and downtrodden, Oram was first elected to the Odisha Assembly from Champua constituency in 1971 as an Utkal Congress candidate. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Saharai Oram (Odisha) – passed away – Former Minister & Veteran tribal leader



511. PERSONS IN NEWS

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the revamped strategic bridge over River Subansiri at Daporijo in Upper Subansiri district albeit through video conferencing. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- 'Hangpan Dada Bridge' / 'Daporijo bridge' over 'River Subansiri'
- Inaugurated by CM of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital Itanagar | Governor B D Mishra

512. SPORTS AND GAMES

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) named Indian shuttler PV Sindhu as one of the ambassadors for its 'I am badminton' awareness campaign. The campaign provides a platform for which players are able to express their love and respect for badminton by advocating and committing to clean and honest play. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- P V Sindhu named as one of the ambassadors of 'I am badminton' awareness campaign of The Badminton World Federation (BWF)
- HQs of BWF Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

513. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

In the wake of the novel coronavirus spreading across India, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to use geo-tagging to abate the food crisis that has come along the pandemic. Geotagging its 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters across 75 districts which produce 12 lakh food packets a day, UP has used technology to contain the spiral of hunger in the state. Click here for more details

- Uttar Pradesh the first state in the country to get geotag for community kitchens
- UP: Capital Lucknow
- CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel

514. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Thailand has discovered the largest number of nests of lure rare leatherback sea turtles in two decades on beaches bereft of tourists because of the coronavirus pandemic. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- The largest number of nests of lure rare leatherback sea turtles in Thailand
- Thailand Bangkok Thai baht | PM Prayut Chan-o-cha

515. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on 18 April, partnered with several Direct to Home TV service providers where students can watch recorded and live education programs. This is done to overcome the loss of academic time of the students. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Launches Live TV Education Classes for Students
- HQs New Delhi

516. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The government announced setting up of a new task force to work on the development of vaccines and potential drugs as India continues to see rising number of covid-19 cases. The high-level task force will be headed by member NITI Aayog professor Vinod Paul and Principal Scientific Advisor to the government, K Vijayraghavan. Click here for more details

- The government set up a high-level task force for the vaccines & drugs development
- It is headed by Vinod Paul & K Vijayraghavan

A TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been working with the Tribal artisans, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Van Dhan Beneficiaries and NGOs etc. for providing marketing support of their handloom, handicraft and natural products. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- TRIFED offers Supply of Masks made by its Artisans/SHGs, Van Dhan Beneficiaries & NGOs
- HQs of TRIFED New Delhi | Managing Director Pravir Krishna
- TRIFED works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda)

518. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its flagship New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) program, has been supporting Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad since 2007 for developing a drug to save lives of critically ill patients suffering from Gram-negative sepsis. The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved a trial of a drug, Sepsivac for reducing mortality rate in critically ill COVID-19 patients. Click here for more details

- A drug "Sepsivac" developed by Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Ahmedabad
- Supervised by CSIR (The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) New Delhi
- Approved by The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) V G Somani

519. CURRENT GK

NBFCs and MFIs that apply for access to funds must have an external rating of at least 'BBB-' and their capital adequacy ratio (CAR) must not have fallen below regulatory requirements at any point in the last 24 months. Also, their capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) should be a minimum of 9% and their net non performing asset (NPA) ratio should be no more than 10%. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- NBFCs Non-Banking Financial Companies
- CAR Capital Adequacy Ratio
- CRAR Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio

520. CURRENT GK

Scientists at the Institute of Nano SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute under the Department of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Govt. of India, have recently come up with an efficient, low-cost electro-catalyst from fish gills that can help develop environmentally friendly energy conversion devices. Click here for more details

- INST (Mohali, Punjab) developed an efficient, low-cost electro-catalyst
- from "Fish gills"



521. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ahmedabad based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science and Research became the first authorized study centre in the country to carry out plasma research under trial in view of Covid 19. The MoU was signed between ICMR and the institute in this regard. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- SVPIMSR 1st authorized study centre for plasma research
- SVP Institute located at Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Devvrat

522. AMOUNT & AGREEMENTS

In the context of COVID-19 situation, it has been decided to extend payment of compensation of Rs 10 lakh to all postal employees, including Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), succumbing to the disease while brought on duty. The guidelines will come into effect immediately and continue for the entire period till the crisis of COVID-19 is over. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Rs 10 lakh – to all postal employees

523. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The government approved that surplus rice available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) can be converted into ethanol in order to manufacture alcohol-based hand sanitisers and also for blending with petrol. The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC). Click here for more details

- Surplus "Rice" available with Food Corporation of India (FCI) can be converted into "Ethanol"
- HQs of FCI New Delhi | Chairman D V Prasad

524. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

Amid the lockdown for the coronavirus outbreak, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani gave the green signal for the third edition of his government"s "Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan", a conservation plan to deepen water bodies in the state before monsoon. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- "Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan" Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Devvrat

525. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Rajasthan government has exclusively partnered with MedCord's Aayu and Sehat Saathi Apps to help over 68 million population (Rajasthan) to consult doctors online and place orders for their medicine requirement in the wake of a lockdown due to Covid-19. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Rajasthan + MedCord to help over 68 million population to consult doctors online
- Apps used for this "Aayu and Sehat Saathi Apps" belong to "MedCord"

526. CURRENT GK

India has co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution that called for a fair, transparent and equitable access to essential medical supplies and any future vaccines developed to fight Covid-19. <u>Click here for more details</u>

Key Points:

HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – António Guterres

527. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Reliance Jio, the telecom unit of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has sold a 9.99 per cent stake to US tech giant Facebook for \$5.7 billion, or Rs 43,574 crore, in a deal that puts the pre-money enterpise value of Jio Platforms at Rs 4.62 lakh crore. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Reliance Jio sold 9.99% stake to Facebook amount Rs 43,574 Cr
- HQs of Reliance Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Mukesh Ambani
- Facebook: HQs California, United States | CEO Mark Zuckerberg

528. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has partnered with Mastercard for the issuance of virtual and physical debit cards. To start with, PPBL will issue Mastercard virtual debit cards to its new customers, enabling them to perform secure online transactions that make everyday purchases faster, easier and safer. Click here for more details

- Paytm Payments Bank + Mastercard partnered for the issuance of virtual and physical debit cards
- HQs of PPBL Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO & MD Satish Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Mastercard New York, USA | CEO Ajay Banga

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has created a dashboard link on its website for providing list and details of Dhabas and Truck repair shops available across the country by various organisations like NHAI, States, Oil Marketing companies. The list can be accessed at www.morth.nic.in. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways created a dashboard link for providing list and details of Dhabas and Truck repair shops
- Nitin Gadkari Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises
- Constituency Nagpur, Maharashtra

530. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ICICI Bank has has integrated its AI powered multi-channel chatbot, 'iPal', with the world's two most popular voice assistant apps — Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant— to enable its retail banking customers to undertake an array of banking services with just a simple voice command. Click here for more details

- "iPal" Chatbot of ICICI Bank with Amazon Alexa & Google Assistant
- ICICI bank HQs Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO Sandeep Bakhshi



The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has coined a unique idea to spread awareness over COVID-19 amongst kids. The Ministry has come up with a graphic novel for children, named "Kids, Vaayu and Corona who wins the fight?" Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Vaayu – a character of Superhero in novel for children

532. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

The government appointed senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official Kapil Dev Tripathi as Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind. A 1980-batch Assam cadre IAS official, he is presently Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Kapil Dev Tripathi appointed as the Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind
- Presently chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

533. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

In Madhya Pradesh, the state government has decided that the health workers who are directly engaged in the treatment of Corona patients will be given a service amount of Rs 10 thousand every month as honorarium. Click here for more details

- Madhya Pradesh Rs 10 thousand every month as honorarium to each health worker
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal
- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Lalji Tandon

534. OBITUARIES

Former sports scribe and ex-vice president of Calcutta Sports Journalists Club Samir Goswami died following massive cardiac arrest, according to CSJC. He was 65. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Samir Goswami (Kolkata) – passed away – Journalist (Sports Journalist)

535. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Goa on April 19, became the first zero COVID-19 State in the country with the last seven positive cases also turning negative. This makes Goa the first green state in the country with no case of coronavirus being reported. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Goa the first zero COVID-19 State in the country
- Capital Panaji | CM Pramod Sawant | Governor Satya Pal Malik

536. BANKING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RBI reduced the general category foreign portfolio investors' (FPI) investment limit in central government securities to Rs 2.34 lakh crore for the entire fiscal year 2021 as compared to the existing limit of Rs 2.46 lakh crore. As a result, the limits have been brought down by almost \$1.5 billion to just above \$31 billion. Click here for more details

- G-secs FPI limit reduced to Rs 2.34 lakh crore
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th)

Working on three out of the five verticals formulated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with King George's Medical University (KGMU) to sequence the virus strains obtained from covid-19 patients in Uttar Pradesh. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- CSIR-CDRI signed an MoU with KGMU
- CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) HQs New Delhi
- CSIR President Narendra Modi | Director General Shekhar C. Mande
- HQs of CDRI Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | Director- Tapas Kumar Kund
- HQs of KGMU Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | Vice-Chancellor- MadanLal Brahma Bhatt

- Smartkeeda

538. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Switzerland has expressed solidarity with India in its fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic. They did so by projecting the tricolour on the famous Matterhorn mountain in the Swiss Alps to give 'hope and strength' to all Indians. Click here for more details

- Matterhorn mountain (Switzerland) expressed solidarity projecting the tricolor
- Switzerland Bern Swiss Franc | President Simonetta Sommaruga

539. ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Prahlad Singh Patel, the Union Minister for Culture, Independent Charge, launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India on April 18, 2020 in Delhi. This initiative, as a part of the Vision 2024 of the Ministry of Culture, aims to raise awareness about the various intangible cultural heritage elements from different states of India at national and international level and ensure their protection. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Prahlad Singh Patel – launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

540. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have discovered hundreds of Li-rich giant stars indicating that Li is being produced in the stars and accounts for its abundance in the interstellar medium. Click here for more details

- Indian Institute of Astrophysics discovered hundreds of Li-rich giant stars
- HQs of IIA Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam



541. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Amid the coronavirus lockdown, Sudha Murty's book - "How the Onion Got Its Layers" will be out in an audio format for the first time with the popular storyteller hoping that her latest offering for children will help them "use this time to do something new or even learn something". <u>Click here for more details</u>

Key Points:

• "How the Onion Got Its Layers" book – authored by Sudha Murty

542. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Data storage concerns will soon be history with researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, developing magnetic Random Access Memory (RAM) which is faster, more energy-efficient and capable of storing more information in a smaller volume than existing data storage technologies. <u>Click here for more details</u>

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Key Points:

• IIT Mandi – developing magnetic RAM

543. SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched Twitter Seva to help people with their health-related queries. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, announced the dedicated account — @CovidIndiaSeva. Click here for more details

- 'COVID India seva' twitter handle launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

544. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CSIR constituent Lab in Bengaluru, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), along with MAF Clothing Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru has developed and certified the overall protective coverall suit. The polyproplylene spun laminated multilayered non-woven fabric based coverall can be used to ensure the safety of Doctors, Nurses, Paramedical staff and Health Care workers. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- CSIR-NAL (Bengaluru) developed "Overall Protective Coverall Suit"
- In collaboration with MAF Clothing Pvt. Ltd. (Bengaluru)

545. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New York City is forming a new response team to address the growing incidents of harassment and discrimination against Asian-Americans in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- New York, USA to form new response unit to address anti-Asian harassment
- USA: Capital Washington, D.C. | President Donald Trump

546. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Scientists of University of Geneva (UNIGE), Switzerland have discovered a sixplanet system - a "super-Earth" and five "mini-Neptunes" which display an exceptionally regular spacing, hinting at how the system may have formed. The planets revolving the star HD 158259 in the Draco constellation were found using the SOPHIE spectrograph. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• The Scientists of University of Geneva (Switzerland) – discovered a new 'Super Earth' in six-planet system

The Chhattisgarh government has launched an online education facility for college students. It will be helpful for students during lockdown. 1241 videos for 280 course material and 18 audio lectures of graduation subjects have been uploaded on this on-line portal. <u>Click here for more details</u>

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh an online education facility for college students 1241 videos for 280
- Chhattisgarh Capital: Bilaspur, Raipur
- CM Bhupesh Baghel | Governor Anusuiya Uikey

548. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Featuring India's most revered cricketers such as Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar, the BCCI has created a new video to promote wearing masks in public places and help the country battle the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'Team Mask Force' has been created to spread awareness about wearing masks in public places. Click here for more details

- BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) created a new video to promote wearing masks in public places
- HQs of BCCI Mumbai, MH | Chairman Sourav Ganguly

549. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated on April 21 in order to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in each aspect of human development. The main objective of celebrating the day is to encourage people to use new ideas, make new decisions and do creative thinking. <u>Click here</u> for more details

Key Points:

- April 21 "World Creativity and Innovation Day" celebrated by UN
- HQs New York, United States | Director António Guterres

550. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Centre has constituted 6 Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs), two each for West Bengal and Maharashtra and one each for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to make on-spot assessment of situation and issue necessary directions to State Authorities for its redressal and submit their report to Central Government in larger interest of general public. The Committees have been constituted by the Central Government in exercise of the powers, conferred, inter alia, under Section 35(1), 35(2)(a), 35(2)(e) and 35(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act 2005. Click here for more details

- The Centre constituted 6 Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs)
- Under the Disaster Management Act 2005.



The health and family welfare ministry, which has come out with a new set of guidelines for the second phase of lockdown till May 3, has identified 170 hotspot districts, 207 non-hotspot districts reporting cases and 359 green zone districts not reporting any cases across the country. Overall, it has decided to divide all Indian districts into hotspots (red zones); non-hotspots (orange zones) and green zones. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- A new set of guidelines color including codes Red, Orange, Green zones by MoHFW
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

552. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

The Administrative Professionals Day 2020, like every year, is celebrated on a Wednesday of the last full week of April. In India, due to different time zones, it is observed on a Tuesday. Hence, the Administrative Professionals Day, also known as Secretaries Day, is celebrated on April 21, this year. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• April 21 – "The Administrative Professionals Day" or "Secretaries Day"

553. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

HSBC's recently-appointed Chief Executive Officer Noel Quinn has tasked his top bankers with creating a global restructuring team for corporate clients struggling over the coronavirus pandemic. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Noel Quinn CEO of HSBC Bank
- HQs London, United Kingdom | Chairman Mark Edward Tucker

554. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Private sector City Union Bank said Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of N Kamakodi as MD and CEO, for a period of three years with effect from May 1. Kamakodi joined the bank as Deputy General Manager in 2003 and was later elevated as General Manager in 2005. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- 'N Kamakodi' appointed as the CEO & MD of City Union Bank (Tamil Nadu)
- HQs Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
- Tagline "Trust and Excellene since 1904"

555. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Two empowered committees will look into the implementation of exits from lockdown by states to ensure that only areas designated as hotspots continue with the stringent restrictions. One is headed by secretary of department of drinking water and sanitation P lyer and the other is the committee on public grievances & suggestions headed by Amit Khare, secretary, ministry of human resource development. Click here for more details

- Two empowered committees for the implementation of exits from lockdown
- 1st committee head P lyer Secretary of department of drinking water and sanitation (to look into supply chain and logistics management & availability of necessary items)
- 2nd committee head Amit Khare Secretary of ministry of human resource development (for the purpose of public grievances & suggestions to look into any problems concerning lockdown)

556. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan attended a virtual meeting of G20 Health Ministers via video conferencing. He emphasized on the proactive and preemptive strategy of India to contain the spread of COVID-19 that includes building exclusive infrastructure for management of coronavirus patients to avoid their intermingling. The meeting was organized by Saudi Arabia. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan attended a virtual meeting of G20 Health Ministers
- The meeting organized by Saudi Arabia
- Saudi Arab Riyadh Saudi Riyal
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

The Ouestion Bank

557. OBITUARIES

Covid-19 has moved closer to the heart of government in Nigeria, where the president's chief of staff Abba Kyari has died. Abba Kyari was the top official aide to Muhammadu Buhari and one of the most powerful men in Nigeria. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Abba Kyari (Nigeria) – passed away – Chief of Staff to the president of Nigeria

558. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Agricultural Bank of China, one of the country's big four state-owned banks, has tested the DC/EP (digital currency/electronic payment) in four cities in an app launched. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- The Agricultural Bank of China tested the DC/EP (digital currency/electronic payment)
- China Beijing Renminbi | President Xi Jinping

559. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

To track home quarantine people on a real-time basis, Pune Municipal Corporation has developed a mobile application named 'Saiyam'. The mobile application has GPS tracking so that whenever quarantined citizens leave their homes, city administration gets alerted and the local ward or the local police station gets informed. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Pune Municipal Corporation – developed "Saiyam" application to track quarantined people



560. CURRENT GK

Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank through video-conference in New Delhi today. The NDB was established by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in 2014. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank
- NDB HQs Shanghai, China | President K V Kamath
- NDB established by BRICS Countries In 2014
- BRICS Countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

561. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the clinical trial proposal for convalescent plasma therapy submitted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on April 17. The trial will enrol 226 Covid-19 patients in the intervention group, who will receive plasma transfusion, and 226 Covid-19 patients in the control group, who will not receive the treatment. Click here for more details

- "Clinical trial Plasma Therapy" submitted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- Approved by Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) VG Somani

562. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Adam Higginbotham's "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster" has won a \$5,000 prize called William E. Colby Award. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster" Adam Higginbotham
- Won a \$5,000 prize called William E. Colby Award

563. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of the Department of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST), has approved financial support to Pune-based MyLab Discovery Solutions for ramping up production of Covid-19 diagnostic kits they have developed. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- The Technology Development Board financial support to MyLab Discovery Solutions (Pune)
- TDB comes under Department of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST)

564. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of new Chief Justices for Bombay, Orissa and Meghalaya High Courts. The top court panel decided to recommend the elevation of Calcutta High Court judge Dipankar Datta as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Allahabad High Court judge Biswanath Somadder as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court & the transfer of Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq to Orissa High Court. Click here for more details

- The SC recommended new CJ of Bombay, Orissa and Meghalaya High Courts
- Bombay High Court Dipankar Datta
- Orissa High Court Mohammad Rafiq
- Meghalaya High Court Biswanath Somadder
- Supreme Court Chief of Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde (47th)

565. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

The Union Health Ministry said the mortality rate for COVID-19 cases in India is around 3.3%. Addressing a daily media briefing about the novel coronavirus situation in the country, Joint Secretary in the Health Ministry Lav Agarwal said data indicates that of the people who died due the infection 14.4 per cent were between 0-45 years, 10.3 per cent between 45-60 years, 33.1 per cent between 60-75 years and 42.2 per cent were aged 75 and above. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- 3.3% mortality rate for Covid-19 in India MoHFW
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

566. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

World Liver day is observed on the 19 April every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ in the body. Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• 19 April – World Liver Day

567. OBITUARIES

BMW Group President and CEO Rudratej Singh passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest. The German auto major had appointed Singh as head of India operations with effect from August 1, 2019. Rudy, as he was popularly called, was the first Indian to head the BMW India operations. Click here for more details

- Rudratej Singh passed away Businessman CEO of BMW Group
- HQs of BMW Munich, Germany

568. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

The Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA), which represents the manufacturing industry of powered two-wheelers at the global level, has elected Rakesh Sharma, Executive Director, Bajaj Auto as its President for a two-year mandate. <u>Click here for more details</u>

Key Points:

• Rakesh Sharma – appointed as the president of International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (Geneva)

569. CURRENT GK

Researchers at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have developed a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria. Click here for more details

Key Points:

 Agharkar Research Institute(Pune) – developed a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria

570. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar in Punjab's Rupnagar district has come up with a design of an autonomous 'WardBot' which can deliver medicines and food to COVID-19 patients in isolation wards without human intervention. Click here for more details

- IIT Ropar came up with a design of an autonomous 'WardBot'
- IIT Ropar located at Rupnagar, Punjab



571. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA will launch American astronauts into orbit aboard a SpaceX shuttle on May 27. It will be the first astronaut launch from the US in nearly 10 years and the first to take place on a private spacecraft. Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken will take off from Kennedy Space Center launch pad in Florida. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Doug Hurley & Bob Behnken will be sent to SpaceX Shuttle by NASA
- NASA HQs Washington D.C., United States
- Administrator Jim Bridenstine

572. OBITUARIES

Former Fiji prime minister Laisenia Qarase, who was installed as leader following one coup attempt and overthrown by another, passed away recently. He was 79. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Laisenia Qarase passed away PM of Fiji
- Fiji Suva Fijian Dollar
- President Jioji Konousi Konrote | PM Josaia Vorege Bainimarama

573. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

In a significant move, an online database of healthcare professionals and volunteers was launched on Sunday to combat and contain the spread of covid-19 pandemic in India. Titled 'Covid Warriors', the dashboard contains a large pool of human resources for various activities to fight the covid-19. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• An online data pool named 'Covid Warriors' – for Healthcare professional + Volunteers

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has initiated an action in big way towards setting up new hubs for manufacturing renewable energy equipments in the country to meet both domestic and also cater to global demand. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy set up new hubs for manufacturing renewable energy equipments
- Raj Kumar Singh Minister of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

575. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

Manikaran Power becomes the first member of India's gas trading platform of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) also known as Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). MPL is an inter-state trading licensee and a trading member on IEX and trading cum clearing member on Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL). It was founded in 2008 by Navjeet Singh Kalsi and Jaspreet Singh Kalsi. Click here for more details

Key Points:

Manikaran Power Ltd (Kolkata) – 1st member of Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)

576. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has appointed the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) as the implementing agency to handle the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II on its behalf in fresh amendments. Click here for more details

- IREDA to handle CPSU Scheme on behalf of MNRE
- Raj Kumar Singh Minister of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

577. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

Every year, on April 21, the public services rendered by these civil servants are celebrated in the form of Civil Services Day. It was on this day in 1947 that the country's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• April 21 – "National Civil Services Day"

578. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Facebook in partnership with "Boom Fact Check" announced the launch of its third party fact checking system in Bangladesh to discourage the spread of fake news in the country. Boom is an Indian fact checking website. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Facebook + Boom will launch its third party fact checking system in "Bangladesh"
- Facebook: HQs California, United States | CEO Mark Zuckerberg
- Bangladesh Dhaka Taka
- PM Seikh Hasina | President Abdul Hamid

579. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 142nd out of 180 countries in the annual Reporters Without Borders analysis. Norway is ranked first in the Index for the fourth year running. China at 177th position is just three places above North Korea, which is at 180th. Click here for more details

- "Global Press Freedom Index" compiled by Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres or Reporters Without Borders
- India 142nd | Topped by Norway

An international team led by an Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) student has developed a vital digital tool to fight misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the press release, the website 'COVID FYI' (covidfyi.in) is a one-stop digital directory for all COVID-19 related services and helplines released by official sources. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• The website 'COVID FYI' (covidfyi.in) – developed by IIM Kozhikode

581. **SCHEMES & INITIATIVES**

In Madhya Pradesh, around one lakh Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state will get the benefit of Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana. Under this initiative, they will also get a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs. Click here for more details nartkeeda

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh "CM COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana"
- Health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal
- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Lalji Tandon

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582. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

The United Nations ensures celebration of language days to promote cultural diversity and the equal use of all of its six official languages throughout the organisation. Chinese is one of those six languages Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish and every year on April 20, the UN and its offices around the world observe Chinese Language Day. Click here for more details

Key Points:

20 April – UN's Chinese Language Day

583. CURRENT GK

The Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CRTRI) has supplied high-protein biscuits to the Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi. CFTRI supplied 500 kg of high-protein biscuits and 500 kg of high-protein rusks. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CRTRI) – Mysuru, Karnataka

584. SPORTS AND GAMES

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc claimed a second victory in the Formula One Esports Virtual Grand Prix championship, marking his Shanghai win by cooking pasta. Charles Leclerc started on pole and finished ahead of Red Bull's Alex Albon and Guanyu Zhou, who races in Formula 2. <u>Click here for more details</u>

- Charles Leclerc (Monacan) won Chinese Virtual Grand Prix
- It represents Ferrari

585. SPORTS AND GAMES

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia is among 50 past and present football stars who featured in #WeWillWin campaign of FIFA, a special video to pay tribute to the efforts made by healthcare workers and other professionals who ensure the society continues to function in the face of the novel coronavirus. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Bhaichung Bhutia featured in #WeWillWin campaign of FIFA
- FIFA HQs Zürich, Switzerland | President Gianni Infantino

586. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Google is helping businesses create short, promotional videos for YouTube with the launch of a free beta tool. YouTube Video Builder is available to any business that may not be capable of creating videos from scratch. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Google launched "Video Builder" tool
- Google HQs California, United States | CEO Sundar Pichai

587. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA astronauts Jessica Meir and Andrew Morgan returned to Earth, along with Soyuz Commander Oleg Skripochka of the Russian space agency Roscosmos. They completed the mission namely Expedition 62. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• "Expedition 62" — complete by NASA's 3 astronauts - Jessica Meir, Andrew Morgan & Oleg Skripochka

The Government of India has reviewed the extant Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) policy for curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and amended para 3.1.1 of extant FDI policy as contained in Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017. Click here for more details

Key Points:

• Government of India reviewed – Foreign Direct Investment policy (FDI)

589. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM) has urged the government to expand the list of essential items to include products like laptops and routers to facilitate work from home amid the lockdown. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- NASSCOM urged the government to expand the list of essential items
- NASSCOM HOs New Delhi
- Chairman UB Pravin Rao | Vice-Chairman Rekha M Menon
- President Debjani Ghosh (1st women president of NASSCOM)

590. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

The Telangana government has launched a helpline to address mental health and psychological problems that may arise during the coronavirus lockdown period. The call centre would have two experienced psychiatrists to provide necessary support to the counsellors and also address serious psychological behavioural cases. Click here for more details

- Telangana launched a helpline to address mental health and psychological problems
- Telangana: Capital Hyderabad
- CM K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan

591. CURRENT GK

A standard operating procedure is a set of step-by-step instructions compiled by an organization to help workers carry out complex routine operations. SOPs aim to achieve efficiency, quality output and uniformity of performance.

Key Points:

• SOPs - Standard Operating Procedure

592. NATIONAL AND STATES AFFAIRS

In order to provide health services in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, the Himachal Pradesh Health Department has come up with a unique idea of providing free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence through e-sanjeevani-opd. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh is to provide free online medical consultation through "e-sanjeevani Opd"
- Himchal Pradesh: Capital Shimla & Dharamshala
- CM Jai Ram Thakur | Governor Bandaru Dattatreya

593. OBITUARIES

Gene Deitch, an American Oscar-winning illustrator, animator, film director and producer has died. He was 95. Working from behind the Iron Curtain, he directed 13 episodes of 'Tom and Jerry' and also some of the 'Popeye the Sailor' series. Click here for more details

Key Points:

Gene Deitch (America) – passed away - animator, film director and producer –
 "Tom & Jerry" Cartoon series



594. MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar participated in an virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture Ministers to address the issue of Covid-19 impacts on food security, safety and nutrition. The G-20 Agriculture Ministers virtual meeting was organized through video conferencing by the Saudi Presidency. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- "A virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture Ministers"
- Under the presidency of Saudi Arab
- Permanent guest invitee of G20 Nations Spain
- Participated by Narendra Singh Tomar
- Narendra Singh Tomar Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- Constituency Morena, Madhya Pradesh

595. SPORTS AND GAMES

Magnus Carlsen's aura of invincibility was dented for the second time this month when the world champion was defeated 8.5-7.5 in the final of the \$14,000 Banter Blitz Cup by the tactical skills of 16-year-old Alireza Firouzja. Click here for more details

Key Points:

Alireza Firouzja (Iran) – defeated – Magnus Carlsen (Norway) – in Banter Blitz
 Cup

596. ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Swedish truck maker Volvo signed a deal with German rival Daimler Truck AG to set up a joint venture to develop and produce fuel cell systems for heavy-duty vehicles. Daimler will consolidate all its current fuel cell activities in the joint venture. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Volvo + Daimler to set up a joint venture to develop and produce fuel cell systems
- HQs of Volvo Gothenburg, Sweden | CEO Martin Lundstedt
- HQs Daimler Truck AG Stuttgart, Germany | Chairman Martin Daum

597. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Iran successfully launched the nation's first military satellite "Noor", another move in the heightened tit-for-tat fight between Washington and Tehran over the regime's missile programs. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- 'Noor' Satellite launched by Iran
- Iran Tehran Rial

598. RANKS, REPORTS & SURVEYS

Covid-19 could nearly double the number of people around the world facing acute hunger as per the report titled "Global Report on Food Crises-Joint Analysis for better decisions-2020" by United Nation's (UN) World Food Programme (WFP). Click here for more details

- "2020 Global Report on Food Crises-Joint Analysis for better decisions"
- Report released by World Food Programme (Rome, Italy)

The Rajasthan government stopped using the China-made rapid testing kits for coronavirus after they delivered inaccurate results. The state's health minister Raghu Sharma said the kits gave only 5.4 percent accurate results against the expectation of 90 percent accuracy and therefore the kits were of no benefit. Click here for more details

Key Points:

- Rajasthan stopped using the China-made rapid testing kits for coronavirus
- Rajasthan: Capital Jaipur
- CM Ashok Gehlot | Governor Kalraj Mishra

600. IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

International Mother Earth Day or Earth Day is observed every year on April 22. This is an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the annual celebrations. This year's theme for Earth Day is 'climate action'. Click here for more details

- April 22 "International Mother Earth Day" or "Earth Day"
- Theme "Climate Action"





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