



Bipin Nambiar
(SBI PO 2018)



Shiraz Khan
(SBI Clerk 2018)



Kuldeep Yadav
(SBI PO 2018)



Rajat Saxena
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



Anupam Tyagi
(IBPS PO 2018)

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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 Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

701. National & States Affairs | moderate

NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) Ltd has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell based electric cars in Leh and Delhi. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC – to provide 20 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (10 for electric buses + 10 for electric cars)
- In – Leh & New Delhi
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

702. Amount & Agreements | moderate

With a view to easing liquidity pressures on MFs (Mutual Funds), the RBI has decided to open a Special Liquidity Facility for mutual funds of ₹ 50,000 crore. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds – ₹ 50,000 crore
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor - Shaktikanta Das(25th)

703. Science & Technology | moderate

IIT-Delhi has developed a web-based dashboard for predicting the spread of covid-19. The dashboard, called “PRACRITI” gives reproduction number (R0) values of state-wise and district-wise predictions of covid-19 cases in India. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-Delhi – developed a web-based dashboard called “PRACRITI”
- PRACRITI – Prediction and Assessment of Corona Infections and Transmission in India

704. International Affairs | moderate

G20 has welcomed the launch of “Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator”, a landmark, global and timely collaboration for the accelerated development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 tools. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- G-20 – launched “Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator”
- G-20 Presidency – Saudi Arabia (Riyadh - Saudi Riyal)

705. Science & Technology | Difficult

A team of researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bangalore, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have come up with a recipe for making face masks, termed as TriboE Mask, that can hold electric charges to restrict the entry of infections. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- CeNS – developed – a recipe for making “TriboE Mask”
- CeNS – comes under – Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- HQs of CeNS – Bangalore, Karnataka

706. Persons in News | moderate

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan, who was due to superannuate on April 30, was given a three-month extension as part of a major top-level bureaucratic reshuffle affected by the central government today amid the coronavirus crisis. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Preeti Sudan – Secretary of Health Ministry – given a three-month extension
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Science
- Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

707. Appointments & Resignations | moderate

Former Andhra Bank chief Suresh N Patel will take over as the vigilance commissioner in the anti-corruption watchdog CVC (Central Vigilance Commission). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Suresh N Patel – appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner
- Central Vigilance Commissioner – Sanjay Kothari
- S N Patel – Former Chief of - Andhra Pradesh

708. National & States Affairs | moderate

The King George Medical University in Uttar Pradesh has become the first government hospital in the country to successfully launch the plasma therapy treatment for the COVID-19 patients. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- King George Medical University (UP) – 1st government hospital to launch the “Plasma Therapy Treatment”

709. Defence Affairs | moderate

The Pakistan Navy successfully test-fired a series of anti-ship missiles in the North Arabian Sea. The missiles were fired from surface ships, fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan Navy – test-fired – anti-ship missiles in the “North Arabian Sea”

710. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships | moderate

Scientists from International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India in collaboration with Nanomechanics Inc., Oak Ridge, USA have jointly developed an advanced tool for mapping nano-mechanical properties. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IARCPMNM + Nanomechanics Inc = developed an advanced tool for mapping nano-mechanical properties
- HQs of IARCPMNM – Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of Nanomechanics Inc. – Oak Ridge, USA

711. National & States Affairs | moderate

The Meghalaya government has decided to defer the payment of half of the part of the salaries of cabinet ministers, bureaucrats, and its 80,000 employees as the hill state battles the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – decided to defer half of the salaries of Cabinet Ministers, Bureaucrats & Employees
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Tathagata Roy

712. National & States Affairs | Difficult

The Centre has officially brought the Cauvery Water Management Authority under the Jal Shakti Ministry. It was constituted in 2018 to address the dispute over sharing of river water. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Cauvery Water Management Authority – came under – Jal Shakti Ministry
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

713. Appointments & Resignations | moderate

Shiv Das Meena, additional secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has been appointed as chairman and managing director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for a period of six months with immediate effect. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Shiv Das Meena – appointed as – CMD of HUDCO
- She is also – add. secretary of – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri)
- HQs of HUDCO – New Delhi

714. International Affairs | moderate

A Part of Ladakh (Aksai-Chin) in the China section of the WHO website has been shown as part of Chinese territory with a dotted line and colour code. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Aksai-Chin (Ladakh) – in the China section of the WHO website as part of Chinese territory
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President - Xi Jinping
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | Director-General – Tedros Adhanom

715. Persons in News | moderate

D Vasini Bai, a women innovator from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, has developed ten varieties of Anthurium, a flower with high market value, by cross-pollination. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- D Vasini Bai (kerala) – developed – 10 varieties of “Anthurium” flower

716. Amount & Agreements | moderate

The Asian Development Bank unveiled a \$1.5 billion Covid-19 package for India and is in discussions with the government on further aid for specific sectors. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – \$1.5 billion – Covid-19 package for India
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa

717. Science & Technology | moderate

HCARD is a Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device, developed by Durgapur-based CSIR lab, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute. It can help frontline healthcare workers in maintaining physical distance from those infected by coronavirus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- HCARD – Robotic Device – developed by CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (Durgapur)

718. Schemes & Initiatives | moderate

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Jeevan Amrit Yojana', under which 50 gram packets of kadha powder are being distributed. The plan is to distribute 1 crore packets of a kadha (herbal decoction), which it claimed boosts immunity and helps the body keep Covid-19 away. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – launched “Jeevan Amrit Yojana”
- Packets of kadha powder (herbal decoction) to be distributed under this scheme
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal
- CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

719. Ordinance, Bills and Acts | moderate

Blocking the 'dignified' burial or cremation of people, who had died of a notified disease in Tamil Nadu will now attract a three year prison term, according to an ordinance promulgated by the state government. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – made it punishable – Blocking the 'dignified' burial or cremation of people
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai
- CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

720. Books & Authors | moderate

Uma Balasubramaniam's latest historical epic biography titled, 'Sayajirao Gaekwad III: The Maharaja of Baroda' captures the life of a great ruler, whose legacy does not lie just in great institutions but in the scale, nature and foresight of his endeavors. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'Sayajirao Gaekwad III: The Maharaja of Baroda' a book – authored by "Uma Balasubramaniam"

721. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

Domestic rating agency CRISIL nearly halved its GDP forecast for India to 1.8 per cent for 2020-21 while projecting total losses of Rs 10 lakh crore or Rs 7,000 per person due to "disastrous" lockdowns to control COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- CRISIL – projected India's total losses of Rs 10 lakh crore or Rs 7,000 per person
- HQs of CRISIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra

722. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships | moderate

Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is collaborating with an integrated pharmaceutical company LAXAI Life Sciences to jointly develop and manufacture Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and key Drug intermediates. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-IICT + LAXAI Life Sciences – for APIs & Key Drug intermediates
- APIs – Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- HQs of IICT – Hyderabad, Telangana
- CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) HQs – New Delhi
- CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

723. International Affairs | moderate

India extended a USD 150 million foreign currency swap support to the Maldives to help the strategically important Indian Ocean island nation mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India – USD 150 million – to Maldives
- Maldives: Capital – Male | Currency – Maldivian rufiyaa
- President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

724. Amount & Agreements | moderate

The Ministry of Shipping declared Rs 50 lakh compensation for people employed with Ports in the country, in case of loss of life due to COVID-19 infection. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Shipping – Rs 50 lakh compensation for people employed with Ports
- MoS I/C – Mansukh L. Mandaviya

725. Appointments & Resignations | moderate

PNB Housing Finance has appointed Neeraj Vyas as its interim Managing Director and CEO. The term of incumbent Sanjaya Gupta came to an end on May 4. Vyas will be in the new role for a period of eight months, effective from April 28. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- PNBHFL – appointed MD & CEO – Neeraj Vyas
- HQs of PNBHFL – New Delhi



726. Important Days & Dates | moderate

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated across the country every year on the 30th of April. The day is significant to help provide and promote affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of the country. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – Ayushman Bharat Diwas

727. Appointments & Resignations | moderate

Seasoned diplomat TS Tirumurti, currently serving as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Ministry, was appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- TS Tirumurti (Secretary in Mini. of External Affairs) – appointed as India's Permanent Representative to UN
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS of External Ministry – V. Muraleedharan

728. Appointments & Resignations | moderate

Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar was appointed Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) for a period of three years. Kumar, 60 and a 1984 batch Jharkhand cadre IAS official, was in July 2019 designated as the Finance Secretary and retired in February this year. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Kumar (Former FS)– appointed – Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)

729. Science & Technology | moderate

Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have modified the structure of Berberine, a natural and cheap product similar to curcumin, available commercially, into Ber-D to use as a Alzheimer's inhibitor. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists of JNCASR – modified the structure of Berberine into Ber-D
- The JNCASR comes under – Dept. of Science & Tech.
- JNCASR HQs – Bangalore, Karnataka

730. Important Days & Dates | moderate

World Day for Safety and Health at Work is celebrated on April 28. It will focus on addressing issues arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim is to stimulate national tripartite dialogue on safety and health at work. The theme of this year is "Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives." [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 28 – World Day for Safety and Health at Work
- Theme – "Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives"

731. Science & Technology | Difficult

As per the study of preprint server ArXiv, the 1st ever merger of black hole of different masses was observed by Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory (LIGO)-LVC and indicated by GW190412 signal. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 1st ever merger of black hole of different masses – observed by LIGO-LVC
- The study was published in – ArXiv preprint server

732. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) released a new list with the names of 169 tropical cyclones that are likely to emerge over the north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. The list contains the names of 13 cyclones for the 13 member countries. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- List of 169 tropical cyclones – released by The India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- HQs – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

733. Obituaries | Difficult

Freedom fighter R V Bhuskute, who had participated in the Quit India Movement, died of prolonged illness in Maharashtra's Raigadh district. He was 94. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- R V Bhuskute (Maharashtra) – passed away – Freedom Fighter
- Maharashtra: CM - Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

734. Schemes & Initiatives | moderate

In Gujarat, Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) has taken a unique initiative called “Umbare Aanganwadi”, i.e doorstep Aanganwadi to reach out to children during the lockdown. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – launched “Umbare Aanganwadi”
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

735. Persons in News | moderate

UK's finance minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a 100 per cent state-backed 'Bounce Back Loan Scheme' for the country's small businesses to help them tide through the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Rishi Sunak (FM of UK) – unveiled – “Bounce Back Loan Scheme”
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK - Boris Johnson

736. Schemes & Initiatives | moderate

The NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) will distribute around 5.88 lakh metric tonnes pulses to about 20 crore National Food Security Act households through ration shops for three months under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- NAFED – to distribute - 5.88 lakh metric tonnes pulses to about 20 crore households
- For 3 months & under “Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana”
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi

737. International Affairs | moderate

Australia released Covidsafe, an app that collects, via bluetooth, records of other people with the app who have been in close proximity within the past 21 days. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – released “Covidsafe” app
- Australia – Canberra – Australian dollar

738. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

India has become the third largest military spender in the world, after the US and China, according to a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report. This is the first time that India and China are among the top three military spenders. India's military spending grew by 6.8 % to \$71.1 billion in 2019. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India – ranked 3rd – largest military spender in the world (\$71.1 billion)
- Report by – Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- Top Three – USA, China, India

739. Important Days & Dates | moderate

Every year, the globe celebrates “World Penguin Day” on 25th April as a way of honoring the unique bird on the planet. The day also raises awareness of this flightless bird whose existence is becoming a threat every day. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “World Penguin Day”

740. Important Days & Dates | Difficult

On April 26, Basava Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of Lord Basavanna, the 12th-century poet-philosopher, and the founding saint of the Lingayat faith. The festival is observed by people of the Lingayat community mostly in Karnataka and parts of Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 26 – Basava Jayanti – birth anniversary of Lord Basavanna who founded Lingayat faith

741. National & States Affairs | moderate

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for donations to the newly instituted "PM-CARES Fund" which has been formed on popular demand to help fight the novel coronavirus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “PM-CARES” Fund – formed by PM Modi to help fight coronavirus

742. Current GK | moderate

The World Organisation for Animal Health, formerly the Office International des Epizooties is an intergovernmental organization coordinating, supporting and promoting animal disease control.

Key Points:

- The World Organisation for Animal Health – Paris, France
- Founded in – 1924 | Founder – Emmanuel Leclainche | President – Mark Schipp

743. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships | moderate

Short video app VMate has joined hands with Indian government's citizen engagement platform MyGov to aid the Centre's efforts in combating the menace of the coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- VMate + Indian Government = Platform MyGov to fight against Covid-19
- HQs of VMate – Gurugaon, Haryana

744. Sports & Games | moderate

India lost the hosting rights of the 2021 men's world boxing championship to Serbia after the national federation failed to pay the host fee, prompting the International Boxing Association (AIBA) to terminate the agreement signed in 2017. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships
- Old Venue – India | New Venue – Serbia
- Serbia: Capital – Belgrade | Currency – Serbian Dinar
- President – Aleksandar Vučić | PM – Ana Brnabić

745. Obituaries | moderate

Troy Sneed, the Grammy-nominated gospel singer, has died due to complications from the novel coronavirus. He was 52 and an American musician. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Troy Sneed (USA) – passed away – Singer + Musician

746. Science & Technology | moderate

An IIT-Roorkee professor claimed to have developed a software which can detect COVID-19 within five seconds using X-ray scan of the suspected patient. The professor took over 40 days to develop the software and has filed a patent for the same. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Roorkee – developed a software to detect Covid-19 within – 5 seconds – by using X-ray scan

747. Obituaries | moderate

Veteran politician Devanand Konwar, who has served as Governor of several states including Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura, passed away. He was 77 years old. He joined Indian National Congress in 1955. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Devanand Konwar (Assam) – passed away – Politician
- Served as Governor of Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura



748. Appointments & Resignations | moderate

CSB Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has extended the term of appointment of Madhavan Menon as the part-time Chairman of the Bank till July 21, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Madhavan Menon – extended as the part-time Chairman of – Catholic Syrian Bank
- HQs – Thrissur, Kerala | CEO & MD – Rajendran Chinna Veerappan
- Tagline – Support All the Way

749. Important Days & Dates | moderate

In 1982 the Dance Committee of ITI founded International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on the 29th April, the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), creator of modern ballet. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 29 – International Dance Day
- The birth anniversary of – “Jean-Georges Noverre” (the creator of modern ballet)

750. Important Days & Dates | moderate

World Veterinary Day 2020 was celebrated globally on 25 April. The theme of this year is "Environmental Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health". It is observed globally to recognise the contributions of veterinarians in the field of healthcare and medical science. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – World Veterinary Day
- Theme – “Environmental Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health”

751. Sports and Games | Difficult

Denmark's ace doubles exponent Mathias Boe, a silver medallist at the 2012 London Olympics and 2013 World Championships, announces retirement from international badminton. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Mathias Boe (Denmark) – retirement – Badminton

752. Obituaries | moderate

Noted playwright and lyricist of Odisha Bijay Mishra passed away. He was 83. He was a pioneer of modern theatre movement in Odisha. He won the Kendriya Sahitya Akademi award for his play 'Vanaprastha'. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Bijay Mishra (Odisha) – passed away – Noted playwright and lyricist
- Odisha: Capital - Bhubaneswar | CM - Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

753. Meetings, Conferences and Summits | Difficult

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended a video conference of the foreign ministers of BRICS, a bloc of five leading nations, with a focus on deepening mutual cooperation in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- S Jaishankar – attended BRICS video conference
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- Present Chairman of BRICS – Russia
- HQs of BRICS – Shanghai, China

754. Appointments & Resignations | Difficult

Former Karnataka batsman J Arun Kumar was appointed coach of the USA men's cricket team and listed earning a Test status, by his own admission a "far-fetched" thought at the moment, among his long-term goals. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- J Arun Kumar (Karnataka) – appointed – Coach of the USA men's cricket team

755. Science & Technology | moderate

Researchers at Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, have developed scientifically proven two herbal products, namely CIM-Paushak and Herbal Cough Syrup. They can boost the immunity of the persons as well as help in alleviating the dry cough symptom. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- CIMAP – developed – "CIM-Paushak + Herbal Cough Syrup"
- HQs of CIMAP – Lucknow, UP

756. Science & Technology | moderate

A press note released by the Press Information Bureau cited research about the neuro-invasive nature of the Covid-19 virus SARS-CoV by the scientists of IIT Jodhpur. Covid-19 may affect the central nervous system causing loss of smell and taste. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Jodhpur – research – "Covid-19 may affect the central nervous system"

757. National & States Affairs | moderate

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened the critical Rohtang Pass which is the gateway for people of Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – opened “Rohtang Pass”
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala
- CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – [Bandaru](#) Dattatreya

758. Important Days & Dates | moderate

International Jazz Day is celebrated on April 30 to mark the culmination of the Jazz Appreciation Month and also to highlight Jazz’s diplomatic role of uniting people across the world. April 30 was formally designated as the International Jazz Day by UNESCO in the year 2011. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – International Jazz Day
- Formally embarked by – UNESCO – in 2011

759. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes | moderate

A doctor from Manipur has been conferred the 'Order of Rising Sun' by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Order of Rising Sun” by Japan – to a doctor of Manipur
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Shinzo Abe

760. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

According to a CRISIL Research report, Gujarat and Rajasthan managed to add more capacities than others, while Karnataka retained its Number One position in terms of total installed renewable capacity in FY20. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka topped – in terms of total installed renewable capacity in FY20
- Karnataka Capital - Bangalore
- CM – B S Yediyurappa | Governor - Vajubhai Vala

761. Persons in News | moderate

Biocon Ltd, an innovation-led global biopharmaceuticals company, announced that The Medicine Maker Power List 2020 has ranked its Executive Chairperson, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, as one of the world's top 20 inspirational leaders in the field of biopharmaceuticals. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw – top 20 inspirational leaders – “The Medicine Maker Power List 2020”
- She is the chairperson of – Biocon Ltd (Bengaluru)

762. National & States Affairs | moderate

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurated the telemedicine facility at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – inaugurated the telemedicine facility at NEIGRIHMS
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – R N Ravi

763. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

Chhattisgarh has topped the list of states in providing employment to over 18.51 lakh unskilled labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Rajasthan is at the second spot with 10.79 lakh workers and Uttar Pradesh is at third position with around 9.06 lakh workers engaged by it. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “The list of states in providing employment to unskilled labourers under MGNREGS”
- 1st Chhattisgarh – 18.51 lakh | 2nd Rajasthan – 10.79 lakh | 3rd UP – 9.06 lakh

764. Sports & Games | moderate

Former World No 1 men’s doubles badminton player Mathias Boe of Denmark announced his retirement after a two-decade-long career that saw him win a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics with Carsten Mogensen. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Mathias Boe (Denmark) – retirement – Badminton

765. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

India’s chemical exports rose by 7% to 2.68 lakh crore rupees during April-January period of the last fiscal, and “Chemical & petrochemical industry” became the top exporting sector in the country for the first time. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Chemical & petrochemical industry – became Top exporting Sector of India for the 1st time
- The Exports rose by 7% to Rs 2.68 lakh Cr
- D. V. Sadananda Gowda – Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers | Constituency – Bangalore, Karnataka

766. National & States Affairs | moderate

The Jammu and Kashmir administration renamed the Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Flood Control department as Jal Shakti department. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – renamed – Public Health Engineering, Irrigation & Flood Control department – as “Jal Shakti department”
- J & K: Capital - Srinagar | 1st Lt Governor - GC Murmu

767. National & States Affairs | moderate

The Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) has launched a unique “COVID-19 information portal” at CUPB City Campus, on which most of the authentic information and sources are available for the references & research. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) – launched a unique “COVID-19 information portal”
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh
- CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

768. Persons in News | moderate

India’s infrastructure investment goal for the next five years just got bigger with the final report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) projecting investments to the tune of ₹111 lakh-crore during financial year 2020-25. The task force is chaired by economic affairs secretary Atanu Chakraborty. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Task Force on NIP – projected investment of ₹111 lakh-crore in next 5 years
- The task force is headed by – Atanu Chakraborty (Economic Affairs Secretary)

769. Obituaries | moderate

Freedom fighter and Gandhian, Hema Bharali, known for her efforts to uplift the condition of women and empower the marginalised sections of society, passed away recently. She was 101 and a spinster. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Hema Bharali (Assam) – passed away – Freedom fighter
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

770. Sports & Games | moderate

Middle-distance runner Jhuma Khatun has been banned for four years by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) of World Athletics for testing positive for dehydrochloromethyl testosterone. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Jhuma Khatun – banned – Running (banned by the AIU of World Athletics)
- World Athletics HQs - Monaco
- President - Sebastian Coe

771. International Affairs | moderate

Animals at two mink farms in the Netherlands have tested positive for Covid-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Netherlands – animals at two mink farms – positive for Covid-19
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro

772. Obituaries | easy

Irrfan Khan passed away at a hospital in Mumbai, where he was admitted for colon infection. The 53-year-old actor had been battling cancer since 2018. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Irrfan Khan – passed away – Actor
- Won national award for – “Paan Singh Tomar” movie

773. National & States Affairs | moderate

Andhra Pradesh Government is extending a financial assistance of Rs. 2,000 to each of the discharged COVID 19 patient for buying nutritious food to enhance immunity power. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – Rs. 2,000 – to each of the discharged COVID 19 patient
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital - Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM - YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor - Biswabhusan Harichandan

774. Acquisitions & Mergers | moderate

Private sector lender Axis Bank would acquire an additional 29 % stake in Max Life Insurance for an estimated price of Rs 1592 Cr (estimated amount), raising its total holding in the life insurer to 30 % after the completion of the deal. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – acquire an additional 29 % stake (Rs 1592 Cr) – In Max Life Insurance
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy

775. Sports & Games | Difficult

Temperamental Pakistan batsman “Umar Akmal” was banned for three years by the PCB for failing to report corrupt approaches ahead of the country's premier T20 league this year. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Umar Akmal (Pakistan) – Cricket – banned by PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board)

776. Meetings, Conferences and Summits | moderate

The 11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue witnessed India along with 30 other countries deliberating over ways and means to tackle Covid-19. The session was participated by Prakash Javadekar and it has been hosted by Germany since 2010. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue – hosted by Germany (Berlin – Euro)
- Participated by – Prakash Javadekar
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

777. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships | moderate

Airtel signs \$1 billion deal with Nokia to improve 4G network experience. The deal was signed to deploy the Finnish company's network solutions across nine circles in India. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel + Nokia – \$1 billion deal – to improve 4G network experience
- HQs of Nokia – Espoo, Finland | President & CEO – Rajeev Suri
- Designated CEO from September, 2020 – Pekka Lundmark

778. Schemes & Initiatives | easy

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' scheme, in order to provide 100 per cent fee reimbursement to all students across the state. Under the scheme, the reimbursed amount will directly be credited into the accounts of the mothers of the students in four installments every year. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' scheme – Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital - Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM - YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor - Biswabhusan Harichandan

779. Schemes & Initiatives | moderate

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank(KVGB) has launched 'Vikas Abhaya' a loan scheme to provide some relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise(MSME) borrowers whose business activities are disrupted on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank – launched 'Vikas Abhaya' a loan scheme for MSME borrowers
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka
- Sponsor Bank – Canara Bank

780. Banking & Economic Affairs | moderate

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced a special borrowing programme for Self Help Groups (SHGs) to help them tide over the challenges inflicted by COVID-19. The maximum loan amount is Rs 5,000 per member of a self help group (SHG) with a cap of Rs 1 lakh for the group. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Overseas Bank – introduced a special borrowing programme for SHGs
- Maximum amount for member – Rs 5,000
- Maximum amount for Group – Rs 1 lakh
- HQs – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Shri Karnam Sekar

781. Amount & Agreements | moderate

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 346 million (around Rs 2,616 crore) loan to Indian government to provide reliable power connection in rural areas of Maharashtra. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – a USD 346 million (around Rs 2,616 crore) loan – to Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM - Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

782. Schemes & Initiatives | moderate

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh launched Jeevan-Shakti Yojana at Mantralaya. Under the scheme, women will prepare masks at homes in the urban areas and earn profit. The Government will give Rs 11 per mask to them immediately. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – “Jeevan-Shakti Yojana” – to encourage women earn money by preparing masks at homes
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal
- CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor - Lalji Tandon

783. Science & Technology | moderate

A team of engineering students from IIT Bombay, NIT Srinagar, and Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Pulwama, Jammu, and Kashmir has come up together and developed a low-cost ventilator named 'Ruhdaar'. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Bombay, NIT Srinagar, and Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST)
- developed a low-cost ventilator - 'Ruhdaar'



784. Obituaries | easy

Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor died after a two-year-long battle with cancer. He was 67-year-old. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Rishi Kapoor – passed away – An Actor

785. National & States Affairs | Difficult

The finance ministry has established the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) through a notification. The body will be headquartered in Gandhinagar in Gujarat. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) – established by MoF
- HQs – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Minstry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

786. Obituaries | moderate

Former NASA administrator James M. Beggs, who led the agency during the early years of the space shuttle program and resigned after the Challenger disaster killed seven astronauts in 1986, passed away. He was 94. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- James M. Beggs (USA) – passed away – Businessman (Former administrator of NASA)
- NASA HQs – Washington, D.C., United States | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

787. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | Difficult

Developing countries' repayments on their public external debt will rise between \$2.6 trillion and \$3.4 trillion in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as per the report of UNCTAD titled "From the Great Lockdown to the Great Meltdown: Developing Country Debt in the Time of Covid-19". [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- A report - "From the Great Lockdown to the Great Meltdown: Developing Country Debt in the Time of Covid-19"
- Released by – UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
- Public External Debt will rise between – \$2.6 trillion to \$3.4 trillion
- UNCTAD HQs - Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General - Mukhisa Kituyi

788. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

Japan was the largest holder with securities worth over USD 1.268 trillion at February end, followed by China with holdings to tune of USD 1.092 trillion, as per US Treasury Department. India stood at the 13th spot. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Latest data from the US Treasury Department for security holding
- Top countries: 1st - Japan (USD 1.268 trillion) | 2nd - China (USD 1.092 trillion)
- India stood at the 13th Spot (USD 177.5 billion)

789. National & States Affairs | moderate

The Assam government announced life insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs each for all journalists in the state who are reporting during the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – announced Rs 50 Lakh life insurance cover for – All Journalists
- Assam: Capital – Dispur
- CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

790. Defence Affairs | moderate

Australia has informed India that their premier multilateral air combat training exercise "Pitch Black 2020" scheduled from July 27 to August 14 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "Pitch Black 2020" multilateral air combat training exercise – Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

791. Obituaries | moderate

New York-based Indian artist Zarina Hashmi, best known for creating simple, minimalist, yet powerful works, passed away in London, following a long illness. She was 83. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Zarina Hashmi (Indian-American) – passed away – An Artist

792. National & States Affairs | moderate

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has received the Indian drug controller's approval to conduct clinical trial on Favipiravir, the antiviral drug that is being used in the treatment of Covid-19 in few countries. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Glenmark Pharmaceuticals – to conduct trial on "Favipiravir"
- Approved by – The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani
- HQs of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals – Mumbai | CMD – Gleen Saldanha

793. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

India has been placed at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and accountability, according to the Open Budget Survey released. The survey was conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP). New Zealand topped the chart. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Open Budget Survey” – conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP)
- India – 53rd | Topped by – New Zealand

794. Amount & Agreements | Difficult

The US government, through its aid agency USAID, has announced an additional grant of USD 3 million to help India combat the coronavirus pandemic. On April 6, the USAID had announced a grant of USD 2.9 million to India to mitigate the spread of the deadly virus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “USD 3 million” additional grant – by US Government (USAID)
- Earlier it had granted “USD 2.9 million” in the same month

795. Ranks, Reports & Surveys | moderate

India installed 7.3 GW of solar capacity in 2019 as per Mercom India Research’s ‘India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020’ report. And it secured its spot as the world's third-largest solar market in the world. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Mercom India Research’s ‘India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020’
- India – 3rd largest Solar Market (installed 7.3 GW of solar capacity in 2019)

796. Science & Technology | Difficult

An asteroid more than a mile wide will pass by Earth while travelling at a speed of about 19,000 miles (30,578km) an hour. The space rock is known as (52768) 1998 OR2. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 1998 OR2 (an asteroid) – will pass by earth at 3.9 miles (6.3 km) away
- Size – 2 km (1.5 miles) wide | Speed – 19,000 miles (30,578km)/hour

797. Acquisitions & Mergers | moderate

Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries, has increased its stake in US-based transport company SkyTran Inc to 26.31 per cent. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited – increased its stake to 26.31% - in “SkyTran Inc” (USA)
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

798. International Affairs | moderate

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo supported Australia's demand for an international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus outbreak as he pushed China to provide the world access to its virology labs in Wuhan, China. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- USA – supported – Australia's demand for an international investigation into origins of Covid-19
- Mike Pompeo – US Secretary of State
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

799. National & States Affairs | moderate

Due to nationwide lockdown because of Covid-19 crisis, Janaushadhi Sugam Mobile App has been developed by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) to locate the nearest Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) and availability of affordable generic medicine with its price. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- “Janaushadhi Sugam” App – developed by BPPI
- HQs of BPPI – New Delhi | CEO – Sachin Kumar Singh
- BPPI comes under – Department of Pharmaceuticals

800. Acquisitions & Mergers | moderate

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Mahindra Finance) said global financial services group Manulife has acquired 49 % stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary Mahindra Asset Management Company. Manulife has invested \$35 million or Rs 265 crore to pick up 49 per cent stake in Mahindra AMC. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Manulife – acquired 49 % stake (\$35 million or Rs 265 crore) – in Mahindra Asset Management Company
- HQs of Manulife – Toronto, Canada | CEO – Roy Gori
- HQs of Mahindra AMC – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ashutosh Bishnoi



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