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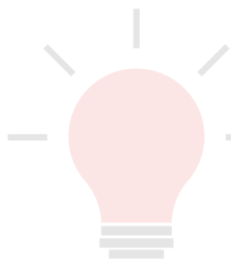


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March
MockDrill100
Test No 7



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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 March 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 कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मार्च 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

601. Sports & Games

In the men's event, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen won his first 112th of All England Championship title 2020, beating Taiwanese top seed Chou Tien-chen. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) – won his first All England Championship title defeated Chou Tien-chen (Taiwan)
- All England Open title held in Birmingham, England
- BWF: Hq – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen
- Taiwan – Taipei – Dollar | Denmark – Copenhagen – krone

602. Schemes & Initiatives

The govt has put masks and hand sanitisers under Essential Commodities Act (ECA) upto June 30, 2020 to ensure proper availability these items in market at correct price in view of the outbreak of Corona Virus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The govt has put masks and hand sanitisers under Essential Commodities Act (ECA) upto June 30, 2020

603. Current GK

Survey work for a proposed 47km road through the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh's Pakke-Kesang District has been temporarily suspended, after environmentalists across India raised biodiversity concerns over its construction. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Pakke Tiger Reserve – Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh : CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

604. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Prachi Salve of IndiaSpend and Pradeep Dwivedi of Dainik Jagran have been jointly awarded the top prize for their contribution towards reporting on road safety by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Prachi Salve & Pradeep Dwivedi – jointly awarded the Top Prize – for reporting on road safety – by the Centre for Media Studies

605. Acquisitions & Mergers

Fair trade regulator CCI has approved the acquisition of about 35% equity stake in Teesta Urja Ltd by Greenko Mauritius, according to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Greenko Mauritius acquire 35% equity stake in Teesta Urja Ltd
- Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs – Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)
- CCI: Hq – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ashok Kumar Gupta

606. Defence Affairs

The share of Indian companies in contracts awarded by the Union Defence Ministry for procurement of defence equipments increased from 39.06 % in 2015-16 to 75.03 % in 2019-20. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India's share in contracts awarded by the Defence Ministry for procurement of defence equipments increased from 39.06 % to 75.03%
- Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh | Constituency - Lucknow

607. National & States Affairs

The govt extended the existing Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, including fiscal incentives for goods' exports for one year till March 2021, amid the coronavirus outbreak [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The govt extended the existing Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) – for one year till March 2021

608. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, upheld a 2015 verdict of the Delhi High Court and ruled that there cannot be gender discrimination while granting permanent commission to women officers in the Indian Navy. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- D.Y. Chandrachud – has directed the Centre to grant permanent commission to serving women officers in Navy

609. National & States Affairs

Union Minister of State for Shipping, and Chemical and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated Ropax Service, a water transport service project, from Bhaucha Dhakka in Mumbai to Mandwa in Maharashtra. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ropax Service launched between Mumbai and Mandwa in Maharashtra by Ministry for Shipping
- Maharashtra: CM - Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

610. Banking & Economic Affairs

HDFC Trustee Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC, has bought 3.4 crore shares or 5.45% stake in low fare airline SpiceJet, said a person close to the development. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Trustee – bought 3.4 crore shares or 5.45% stake in low fare airline SpiceJet
- HDFC: Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Aditya Puri

611. International Affairs

Countries, including India, should see to it that concerns of daily wagers and migrant workers are taken care of while imposing blanket lockdowns, the World Health Organization (WHO) [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- According to WHO – India should see concerns of daily wagers and migrant workers while imposing lockdown
- WHO: Hq – Geneva, Switzerland | Director General – Tedros Adhanom

612. National & States Affairs

Karnataka has developed mobile app 'Corona Watch' for monitoring people under quarantine and inform their contacts about the same to check the spread of coronavirus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – developed mobile app 'Corona Watch' for monitoring people under quarantine
- Karnataka: CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

613. National & States Affairs

Himachal Pradesh govt has decided to launch Active Case Finding Campaign for COVID 19 patients. Under this campaign, health workers would provide information regarding symptoms of Covid-19 to the people at their doorsteps. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – decided to launch Active Case Finding Campaign for COVID 19 patients
- Himachal Pradesh : CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

614. Obituaries

Veteran Japanese comic Ken Shimura, who tested positive for the novel coronavirus, has died at the age of 70. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ken Shimura (Japan) – passed away – Veteran comedian

615. Acquisitions & Mergers

Apple acquired Dark Sky, a popular weather app that launched eight years ago, for an undisclosed amount. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Apple acquired Dark Sky, a popular weather app
- Apple: Hq – California, United States | CEO – Tim Cook

616. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic BharatPe has partnered with ICICI Lombard to roll out 'COVID-19 Protection Insurance Cover' for shopkeepers. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- BharatPe + ICICI Lombard – roll out 'COVID-19 Protection Insurance Cover' for shopkeepers
- ICICI Lombard: Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Bhargav Das gupta

617. Banking & Economic Affairs

HIL (India) Limited, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, in association with Union Bank of India has launched “Customer Payment Portal” to collect the payment from its customers through various online modes for faster and smoother collection of dues. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- HIL Ltd. + Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals + UBI – launched Customer Payment Portal
- UBI: Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank with”

618. Schemes & Initiatives

Oil marketing companies IOCL, BPCL and HPCL announced an ex gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakh each , as a one-time special measure in case of coronavirus-related death of any LPG delivery boy or other personnel involved in the supply chain. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Oil companies – an ex gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakh each – for coronavirus-related death of any LPG personnel

619. Obituaries

Pakistani squash legend Azam Khan has died of coronavirus in London. Azam, who won the British Open title successively between 1959 and 1961. He was 95. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Azam Khan (Pakistan) – passed away – legend squash player

620. Arts & Cultural Affairs

Tamil Nadu State govt hosted the first-ever regional event "Divya Kala Shakti: Witnessing the abilities in disabilities a unique cultural" event at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 12 March 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – hosted the first-ever regional event "Divya Kala Shakti"
- Tamil Nadu: CM – Edappadi Palaniswami | Governor- Banwarilal Purohit

621. Arts & Cultural Affairs

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) said it has postponed the 49th edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) – Delhi Fair Spring-2020 in view of present status of COVID-19 in India and abroad. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 49th edition of IHGF – Delhi Fair Spring-2020 postponed by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

622. Appointments & Resignations

The Madhya Pradesh govt appointed M Gopal Reddy as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Madhya Pradesh chief secretary's office. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- M Gopal Reddy appointed as Officer on Special Duty to the Madhya Pradesh chief secretary's office
- Madhya Pradesh : CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

623. International Affairs

“India Abroad”, a newspaper that used to cater to the Indian diaspora in the US for last 50 years, ceased its print edition, following a decrease in revenue due to coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ‘India Abroad’ newspaper ceased its print edition in the US
- India Abroad: Hq – New York City, USA | Founded – 1970

624. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

India and China would formally kick off their much- planned celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, amid the prevailing grim situation in both countries due coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India and China – postponed – to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

625. Current GK

Women have all the more reason now to board Tejas express on March 8 which is also International Women's Day, for those travelling would receive a gift. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tejas Express – India’s first private train run by private player – Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

626. National & States Affairs

'Modi Kitchen' with a capacity to serve 500 meals every day has started functioning in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'Modi Kitchen' with a capacity to serve 500 meals started in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: CM – Edappadi Palaniswami | Governor- Banwarilal Purohit

627. National & States Affairs

The West Bengal Government has decided to extend insurance coverage of Care givers to COVID-19 patients from 5 lakh rupees to 10 lakh rupees. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – extend insurance coverage of Care givers to COVID-19 patients from 5 lakh to 10 lakh
- West Bengal: CM - Mamata Banerjee | Governor- Jagdeep Dhankhar

628. Schemes & Initiatives

The Ministry of Health and MyGov has launched a corona Helpdesk chatbot on Facebook Messenger for providing updates and information about COVID-19. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'Ministry of Health' and 'MyGov' – launched a corona Helpdesk chatbot on Facebook Messenger
- Facebook: Hq – Menlo Park, California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

629. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Acronis, a global leader in cyber protection, marked its inaugural World Cyber Protection Week by revealing that 42% of companies experienced a data loss event that resulted in downtime last year [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- World Cyber Protection Week by revealing that 42% of companies experienced a data loss event

630. Schemes & Initiatives

To extend support to foreign tourists, who are stranded in India, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has launched a 'Stranded in India' portal to disseminate information regarding the services for the benefit of foreign tourists in India. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tourism Ministry launches 'Stranded in India' to help foreign tourists in India
- Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture - Prahlad Singh Patel | Constituency - Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

631. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved Rs 5,751.27 crore as additional central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the eight states for floods, landslides, cyclone ('Bulbul'), drought during 2019; and Karnataka for drought (rabi) of 2018-19. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Committee headed by Amit Shah – approved Rs 5,751.27 crore – additional central assistance to the eight states
- The eight states: Kerala, Maharashtra, Bihar, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Karnataka.

632. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI also increased the overall Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target for UCBs to 75% of adjusted net bank credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure (CEOBSE), whichever is higher from 40% earlier. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI also increased the overall PSL target for UCBs to 75% from 40%
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

633. Appointments & Resignations

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has cleared the appointment of Ravinder Singh Dhillon as Chairman and MD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with effect from June 1, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ravinder Singh Dhillon appointed as Chairman and MD of Power Finance Corporation, wef June 1, 2020
- Power Finance Corporation: Hq – New Delhi | CEO – Rajeev Sharma

634. International Affairs

The Trump administration decided to renew four restrictions on Iran's nuclear program for the next 60 days making it harder for Tehran to develop further nuclear weapons. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "US is renewing four nuclear restrictions on Iran for an additional 60 days."
- USA – Washington, D.C. – Dollar | President – Donald Trump

635. Obituaries

Philip Anderson, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who expanded the world's understanding of magnetism and superconductivity, has died at 96. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Philip Anderson (America) – passed away – a Nobel Prize-winning physicist

636. Obituaries

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of Air Vice Marshal (retd) Chandan Singh Rathore describing him as a valorous air warrior. He died at 95. He was awarded India's second highest military honour, the Maha Vir Chakra. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Chandan Singh Rathore (Air Vice Marshal (retd)) – passed away – recipient of 'Maha Vir Chakra'

637. Banking & Economic Affairs

The world economy will go into recession due to the coronavirus pandemic, with the exception of India and China, according to a latest United Nations trade report. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- The world economy will go into recession except India and China due Coronavirus pandemic
- UNCTAD: Hq – Geneva, Switzerland | Founded – 30 December 1964 | Head – Mukhisa Kituyi

638. National & States Affairs

The government has set an ambitious target to achieve sales of around 70 lakh hybrid and electric vehicles by the end of this year. Under the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) and informed by Heavy Industries Minister, Prakash Javadekar. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Govt set target to achieve sales of around 70 lakh hybrid and electric vehicles by the end of this year
- Minister of Environment & Heavy Industries – Prakash Javadekar | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh

639. Appointments & Resignations

The Election Commission of India appointed Hirdesh Kumar as the new Chief Electoral Officer of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He will replace Shailendra Kumar with effect from the date he assumes charge. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Hirdesh Kumar appointed as the new Chief Electoral Officer of J&K
- Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir – G C Murmu

640. Schemes & Initiatives

To dispel the myths and provide a basic scientific understanding of the public health measures behind the pandemic COVID-19, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) has come out with a package of engaging and illuminating communication materials. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) has come out with a package of engaging and illuminating communication materials related to COVID-19.

641. Acquisitions & Mergers

World bronze-medallist Manish Kaushik (63kg) became the ninth Indian boxer to book an Olympic berth after winning a brutal box-off at the Asian Qualifiers as the country recorded its best ever qualifying numbers for the quadrennial showpiece. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 9 Indian Boxers qualified to Tokyo Olympics 2020

642. National & States Affairs

In June this year, the Jharkhand govt will start its “Star Rating Program”, which will be mandatory for several industries, to reduce pollution through increased transparency. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- In June this year, the Jharkhand govt will start its “Star Rating Program”
- Jharkhand: CM - Hemant Soren | Governor- Draupadi Murmu

643. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India revised exposure limits for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to a single borrower and a group of borrowers to 15% and 25%, respectively, of tier-1 capital. The RBI had earlier permitted UCBs to have exposures up to 15% and 40% of their capital funds to a single borrower and a group of borrowers, respectively. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI revised exposure limits for UCBs to a single borrower to 15% of tier-1 capital . This limit was earlier 15% of tier I and tier II capital.
- RBI revised exposure limits for UCBs to a group of borrowers to 25% of tier-1 capital . This limit was earlier 40% of tier I and tier II capital.
- The new exposure limits by 31 March 2023

644. Science & Technology

The DRDO has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with Covid-19. The bag is water and air-proof and treated to deal with biological agents. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with Covid-19
- DRDO: Hq – New Delhi | Chairman – Dr G Satheesh Reddy

645. Books & Authors

Nobel laureate J M Coetzee has completed his Jesus trilogy with the final book "The Death of Jesus", exploring the meaning of a world empty of memory but brimming with questions. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- "The Death of Jesus" – written by J M Coetzee (Nobel laureate)

646. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank allowed Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to carry out simple financial activities without seeking a prior approval from it. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – allowed Small Finance Banks to carry out simple financial activities
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

647. National & States Affairs

The New Delhi Railway Station will be converted into a world-class railway station, as part of Modi government's long-term plan to upgrade the conditions of the stations as they stand now. The New Delhi railway station redevelopment project has been entrusted to the Rail Land Development Authority. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi Railway Station will be converted into a world-class railway station
- Minister of Railway & Commerce – Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra

648. National & States Affairs

Karnataka became the first state in the country to notify regulations to prevent the outbreak and spread of the novel coronavirus. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – first state in the country to notify regulations to prevent the outbreak of COVID-19
- Karnataka: CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

649. Science & Technology

To cater to the requirement of oxygen supply for multiple patients during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, personnel from Naval Dockyard in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam have designed an innovative 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)' using a six-way radial header fitted to a single cylinder. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Naval Dockyard's personnel – designed an innovative 'Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)' in Visakhapatnam.
- MOM – Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold
- Andhra Pradesh : CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

650. Acquisitions & Mergers

The Chennai Port Trust acquired about 67 % stake held by the Central government in the country's first corporate port Kamarajar Port Ltd (KPL) for Rs 2,383 crore. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Chennai Port acquired 67 % stake in Kamarajar Port Ltd (Chennai) for Rs 2,383 crore
- Tamil Nadu : CM - Edappadi K Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

651. Acquisitions & Mergers

Tata Power Company's joint venture with Norway's Clean Energy Invest (CEI), and International Financial Corporation (IFC) has started commercial operation of a 178 megawatt Shuakhevi Hydro Power Project in Georgia. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power + Norway's Clean Energy Invest started commercial operation of a 178 MW Shuakhevi Hydro Power Project in Georgia
- Shuakhevi Hydro Power Plant – Georgia
- International Financial Corporation: HQs – Washington, D.C., United States
- Georgia – Tbilisi – Iari | President – Salome Zourabichvili | PM – Giorgi Gakharia

652. Sports & Games

The Wimbledon tennis tournament has cancelled this year, with the centrepiece of Britain's sporting summer becoming the latest big event to fall victim to the coronavirus pandemic. The tournament will now be held from 28 June to 11 July in 2021. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Wimbledon tennis tournament cancelled this year
- Held next year from 28 June to 11 July in 2021
- Wimbledon: Hq – London, United Kingdom | Founded – 1877

653. National & States Affairs

The Jharkhand Government has launched a mobile app PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes to everyone associated with delivery of essential services during the national lockdown to combat COVID-19. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched – a mobile app PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes
- Jharkhand: CM - Hemant Soren | Governor- Draupadi Murmu

654. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

A staggering 47.4 GW coal fired power projects at different stages were cancelled in India in 2019 reducing total under development coal capacity to 66 GW. The data was compiled in a report 'Boom & Bust 2020' [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- a report 'Boom & Bust 2020' – India's total under development coal capacity to 66 GW

655. National & States Affairs

The Maharashtra govt has approved the implementation of "happy hour" for autorickshaws, slashing the fare prices by 15% between 12 pm and 4 pm as recommended by Khatua panel. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra approved the implementation of "happy hour" for autorickshaws slashing the fare prices by 15%
- Maharashtra: CM - Uddhav Thackeray | Governor- Bhagat Singh Koshyari

656. Schemes & Initiatives

The 'BhoomiRashi' Portal launched in March 2018 has significantly expedited the process of land acquisition for National Highways, said Ministry of the Road Transport and Highways. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- 'BhoomiRashi' Portal launched in March 2018 by Ministry of the Road Transport and Highways
- Minister of MSME & Road and Transport – Nitin Gadkari | Constituency - Nagpur

657. Acquisitions & Mergers

Mylab's research and development chief Minal Dakhve Bhosale (Virologist) managed to provide India's first Patho Detect testing kit for coronavirus [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Minal Dakhve Bhosale – provide India's first Patho Detect testing kit for coronavirus

658. Science & Technology

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has sanctioned Rs 7.25 crore to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi to establish a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at the institute. This is under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- DST sanctioned Rs 7.25 crore to the IIT-Mandi to establish a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH)
- Minister of Science and Technology – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk

659. Banking & Economic Affairs

ICICI Bank has launched a WhatsApp banking feature in order ensure smooth banking services amid the coronavirus lockdown. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched a WhatsApp banking feature in order ensure smooth banking services
- ICICI Bank: Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

660. National & States Affairs

Andhra Pradesh State govt has set up Mobile Hand-wash facilities for the benefit of Slum Dwellers amidst lockdown in the state. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – set up Mobile Hand-wash facilities for the benefit of Slum Dwellers
- Andhra Pradesh : CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

661. National & States Affairs

Northern Railway has converted 16 passenger coaches into isolation wards as part of its efforts to fight against COVID-19. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Northern Railway – converted 16 passenger coaches into isolation wards
- Minister of Railway & Commerce – Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra

662. Sports & Games

Indian shot putter Navin Chikara was suspended for four years by global athletics body's (IAAF) Athletics Integrity Unit for failing an out-of-competition dope test in 2018. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Navin Chikara (Shot put player) suspended for four years by IAAF (World Athletics)
- World Athletics: Hq – Monaco | President – Sebastian Coe

663. Amount & Agreements

To help contain Covid-19, the Government has permitted one-time use of funds from MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) for purchase of medical equipment to be used in government hospitals. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- To help contain Covid-19, the Government has permitted one-time use of funds from MPLADS
- MPLADS – comes under – Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation – D. V. Sadananda Gowda | Constituency – Bangalore North

664. Schemes & Initiatives

The Chinese government has recommended using Tan Re Qing, an injection containing bear bile, to treat severe and critical COVID-19 cases. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Chinese govt – recommended using Tan Re Qing, an injection containing bear bile
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

665. Science & Technology

The new mission, called the Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE), is an array of six CubeSats operating as one very large radio telescope. NASA has awarded \$62.6 million to design, build and launch SunRISE by no earlier than July 1, 2023. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Mission 'SunRISE' started by NASA
- SunRISE – Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment
- NASA: Hq – Washington, D.C., US | Founded – 1 October 1958 | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

666. Appointments & Resignations

Within 24 hours of taking to the office as Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister the newly-sworn in Shivraj Singh Chouhan government announced the appointment of Iqbal Singh Bains as the new Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Iqbal Singh Bains appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh : CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

667. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked the limit for foreign portfolio investors' (FPI) investment in corporate bonds to 15% of outstanding stock for FY2020-21. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – hiked the limit for FPI investment in corporate bonds to 15%
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

668. Current GK

ICRA Limited (ICRA) is an Indian independent and professional investment information and credit rating agency. It was established in 1991, and was originally named Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited (IICRA India).

Key Points:

- ICRA: Hq – Gurgaon ,India | CEO – Naresh Takkar

669. Banking & Economic Affairs

Gold imports, which have a bearing on India's Current Account Deficit (CAD), fell 8.86% to \$27 billion (about Rs 1.90 lakh crore) during April-February period of 2019-20, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Gold imports fell by 8.86% during April-February period of 2019-20
- Minister of Commerce & Industry – Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra

670. Books & Authors

National Book Trust and India of MHRD has decided to launch 'Corona Studies Series' books to provide relevant reading materials for all age-groups for the post-Corona readership needs. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- National Book Trust + MHRD – launched 'Corona Studies Series' books
- Minister of HRD – Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank | Constituency - Haridwar (Uttarakhand)

671. Amount & Agreements

Facebook has announced to donate USD 100 million to support news organisations globally hurting from the coronavirus pandemic, citing the need for reliable information about the crisis. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook – donating USD 100 million to support news organizations during coronavirus pandemic
- Facebook: Hq – Menlo Park, California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

672. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

The Union Home Ministry has constituted two special committees to specifically deal with issues and approvals related to the CAPFs that render a variety of internal security duties in the country, including border guarding. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Home Ministry – constituted two special committees to deal with issues and approvals related to the CAPFs
- Present Union Home Minister – Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat)

673. Banking & Economic Affairs

India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) shrinks sharply in October-December quarter 2019-20. The CAD declined to 0.2% of GDP in the three months, the third quarter of the 2019-20 fiscal year, from 2.7% in the same period a year before. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India's CAD declined to 0.2% of GDP in 3rd quarter 2019-20 from 2.7% in the same period last year.
- CAD – The current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of the goods and services it imports exceeds the value of the products it exports.

674. National & States Affairs

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given its approval to a proposal of the Haryana Govt to rename Amin village in Kurukshetra district to Abhimanyupur. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana Govt to rename Amin village in Kurukshetra district to Abhimanyupur
- Haryana: CM - Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor- Satyadev Narayan Arya

675. Obituaries

Veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha member Patil Puttappa passed away due to age-related ailments at a hospital in Karnataka's Hubballi. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Patil Puttappa (Karnataka) – passed away – Veteran journalist

676. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

India is one of the better-performing countries in the global Animal Protection Index 2020, created by international animal welfare charity, World Animal Protection. India has attained a C ranking in the index, along with countries like New Zealand, Mexico, France, and Spain. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- India one of the better-performing countries in the global Animal Protection Index 2020
- India has attained a C ranking in the index

677. Current GK

The Nepal govt closed its borders with India and China for a week, in a bid to prevent a possible outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the Himalayan nation. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal govt closed its borders with India and China for a week
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupe | Prime minister – KP Sharma Oli

678. Acquisitions & Mergers

Bharti Airtel has acquired 10% stake in fitness start-up Spectacom Global. "Acquisition of the equity shares of investee company is done at mutually agreed valuation. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel – acquired 10% stake in fitness start-up Spectacom Global
- Bharti Airtel: Hq – New Delhi | CEO – Gopal Vittal | Founded – 7 July 1995 | Founder – Sunil Bharti Mittal

679. Amount & Agreements

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest \$100 million into the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India Fund of Funds. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ADB invest \$100 million into NIIF
- ADB: Hq – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa
- NIIF: Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Sujoy Bose

680. Acquisitions & Mergers

Australia's IAG(Insurance Australia General) has sold its entire 26% stake in the lender's general insurance joint venture SBI General Insurance Co Ltd for USD 310 million. The stake has been sold to Premji Invest and Warburg Pincus group. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IAG sold its entire 26% stake in the SBI General Insurance Co Ltd to 'Premji Invest and Warburg Pincus group'

681. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

The Reserve Bank came out with regulatory guidelines for implementation of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) while preparing their financial results. NBFCs covered by Rule 4 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- RBI came out with implementation of (Ind-AS) by NBFCs and ARCs
- NBFCs covered by Rule 4 of the Companies Rules, 2015
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

682. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

The committee chaired by Sh. Bibek Debroy has inter-alia recommended Concessioning of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Committee on concessioning of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties – headed by Bibek Debroy

683. Schemes & Initiatives

Expenditure under MNREGA almost doubled to Rs 1.83 lakh crore during 2017-18 to 2019-20 as compared to 2011-12 to 2013-14 period. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Expenditure under MNREGA almost doubled to Rs 1.83 lakh crore
- MNREGA – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

684. Important Days & Dates

International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring on March 31 since 2009 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- International Transgender Day of Visibility – every year on March 31

685. Schemes & Initiatives

National Teleconsultation Centre has been launched by the Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. The Centre is a telemedicine hub, through which, expert doctors from various clinical domains will be available 24x7 to answer questions related to COVID-19 all. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- National Teleconsultation Centre launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk

686. National & States Affairs

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has extended the validity of several documents such as driving license, permits etc got expired on or after February 1, 2020. Such documents will now be valid till June 30, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highway has extended the validity several expired documents till June 30, 2020
- Minister of MSME & Road and Transport – Nitin Gadkari | Constituency - Nagpur

687. Science & Technology

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kanpur has developed portable ventilators which will be significantly cheaper than the ones available in the market. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-Kanpur has developed low cost portable ventilators

688. Science & Technology

According to the researchers, including those from the University of Geneva in Switzerland, the giant exoplanet WASP-76b is at a distance that would take even light 640 years to reach the Earth, and has a day side where temperatures climb above 2400 degrees Celsius - high enough to vaporise metals. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists of University of Geneva have detected liquid iron rain on the highly heated exoplanet WASP-76b

689. National & States Affairs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 'Copra' for 2020 season. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approval for Minimum Support Prices for 'Copra' for 2020 season

690. Banking & Economic Affairs

Ahead of its merger with the United Bank of India (UBI) and the Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) from April 1, Punjab National Bank (PNB) unveiled a new logo which bears the signages of all the three PSU banks. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Before merger with UBI & OBC – PNB unveiled a new logo
- PNB: Hq – New Delhi | CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – Bade desh ka bada Bank

691. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Japanese govt funding agency JICA has signed agreements totalling Rs 15,295 crore with the Indian govt for three mega rail infrastructure projects. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- (Japan + India) – signed – totalling Rs 15,295 crore for three mega rail infrastructure projects
- Japan – Tokyo – Japanese yen | Prime minister – Shinzō Abe

692. Acquisitions & Mergers

India's largest power generation utility—NTPC Ltd— announced the Rs11,500 crore acquisition of hydropower firms 74.496% in THDC India Ltd for Rs7,500 crore and a 100% acquisition of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (Neepco) for Rs4,000 crore, as part of one of the government's largest asset-sale exercises. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Govt sold its entire stake in THDC India Ltd and in NEEPCO to NTPC Ltd through DIPAM.
- DIPAM – Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- NTPC: Hq – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Gurdeep Singh



693. Appointments & Resignations

Chinese smartphone brand iQOO announced the appointment of Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador. iQOO is a sub-brand of Vivo in China which has entered India as a separate entity. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – as new brand ambassador of iQOO

694. Science & Technology

Scientists from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have developed a cost-effective solar receiver tube technology for industrial process heat applications. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- ARCI – developed a cost-effective solar receiver tube technology for industrial process heat applications

695. Science & Technology

The DRDO is trying to develop 'multi-patient ventilators', wherein several patients can be supported by a single ventilator to meet the huge demand if the Covid-19 outbreak goes out of control. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO is trying to develop 'multi-patient ventilators'
- DRDO: Hq – New Delhi | Chairman – Dr G Satheesh Reddy

696. Obituaries

Professor Arjun Dev, the legendary educationist and historian, a kind, gentle and generous but extremely brave man, passed away. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Dev – passed away – legendary educationist and historian

697. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) constituted 10 different high-level committees to suggest measures as possible post 21-day lockdown imposed to contain the coronavirus pandemic. The committees looking after various aspects will work under the overall guidance of P K Mishra. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- PMO constituted 10 different high-level committees to suggest measures as possible post 21-day lockdown – under the overall guidance of P K Mishra.

698. Obituaries

Renowned folk singer and actress Paravai Muniyamma passed away due to age-related ailments. She died at the age of 83. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- Paravai Muniyamma (Tamil Nadu) – passed away – Renowned folk singer and actress

699. Science & Technology

A team at IIT Bombay along with some professional and experienced alumni claimed to have built a mobile app named 'CORONTINE' that will help in tracking the potential or suspected asymptomatic carriers (AC) of coronavirus if they leave their quarantine zone. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Bombay developed mobile app 'CORONTINE' for tracking COVID-19 quarantine patients

700. Banking & Economic Affairs

Contrary to expectations of a rate cut, the Reserve Bank of India announced a six-month dollar/rupee sell/buy swap. The central bank also announced long-term repo operations (LTRO) of Rs 1 lakh crore in multiple tranches at the policy rate. [Click here for more details](#)

Key Points:

RBI – announced six-month dollar swap window – inject Rs 1 lakh crore additional LTRO of at the policy rate

RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

Hence, Option B is correct.



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