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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 May 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 मई माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इसPDF 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 स्मार्टकीड़ा

501. Amount & Agreements

The RBI decided to extend a line of credit of Rs 15,000 Cr to the EXIM Bank for a period of 90 days from the date of availment with rollover up to a maximum period of one year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – LoC of Rs 15,000 Cr – to EXIM Bank
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman & MD – TC Venkat Subramanian
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

502. Amount & Agreements

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance to launch a new Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFCs and HFCs to improve liquidity position with an outlay of Rs 30,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An outlay of Rs 30,000 Cr – for NBFCs and HFCs – Under a new Special Liquidity Scheme
- SPV – Special Purpose Vehicle (the term remained in main news)

503. National & States Affairs

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved Union Bank of India's proposal to continue with its 30% holding in IndiaFirst Life Insurance with the caveat that the lender will exercise no control in the management of the insurer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – approved the proposal of – “UBI” – related to 30% holding in “IndiaFirst Life Insurance”
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajkiran Rai G.
- HQs of IFLI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – RM Vishakha
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash C. Khuntia

504. Persons in News

The Cabinet secretary had constituted a committee tasked with reforming the “Drug Regulatory System” under the chairmanship of Rajesh Bhushan, who will take over as health secretary from the present health secretary Preeti Sudan after three months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- a committee tasked with reforming the “Drug Regulatory System”
- Headed by – Rajesh Bhushan
- “Rajesh Bhushan” will take over as Health Secretary from “Preeti Sudan” (after 3 months)



505. Acquisitions & Mergers

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition for a value Rs 5,500 Cr of Emami Cement by Nuvoco Vistas Corporation, which is a Nirma promoter group company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nuvoco Vistas Corporation – acquired – Emami Cement – for value Rs 5500
- HQs of NVCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Hiren Patel
- HQs of ECL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Vivek Chawla

506. Obituaries

Three-time Olympic champion, Padma Shri awardee and one of the greatest ever hockey players, Balbir Singh Dosanjh passed away after prolonged illness. He was 95. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Balbir Singh Dosanjh – passed away – Hockey (3-time Olympic champion & Padma Shri awardee)

507. National & States Affairs

After the well known herb Ashwgandha, now, Kangra tea has been marked as a potential coronavirus blocker. The chemicals in Kangra tea could also be effective in boosting immunity as they can block coronavirus activity better than anti-HIV drugs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kangra tea – marked as a potential coronavirus blocker
- Grown in Kangra Valley (Himachal Pradesh)

508. Current GK

The Chinese government often says the border dispute with India is a legacy of history. The Galwan Valley region, which China claims is part of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, is part of the 3,488 km long border dispute. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Galwan Valley region (Ladakh) – 3,488 km long border dispute with China
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President - Xi Jinping

509. Science & Technology

Scientists at Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune - an autonomous institution under science ministry, have mapped two alternative dwarfing genes - Rht14 and Rht18 in wheat that can eliminate rice crop residue burning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARI (Pune) – mapped – two alternative dwarfing genes – Rht14 and Rht18 in “Wheat”

510. Acquisitions & Mergers

Reliance Jio announced the sale of a 2.32% stake in its digital unit to US private equity giant KKR for Rs 11,367 crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KKR – acquired 2.32% stake – in Reliance Jio – for value of Rs 11,367 Cr
- HQs of KKR – New York, USA | CEO – George Roberts
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

511. Important Days & Dates

International Missing Children’s Day is an awareness event that is observed every year on 25th May since 2001. The aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children and also honour those who have never been found and celebrate those who have. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 25 – International Missing Children’s Day (Since – 2001)

512. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

The Odisha government has promulgated an ordinance allowing investors and farmers to enter into agreement for Contract Farming in view of the continuing uncertainties due to the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – promulgated an ordinance – for ‘Contract Farming’
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

513. Sports & Games

Athletic Bilbao striker Aritz Aduriz announced his retirement from football, a day after finding out he needs a hip replacement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aritz Aduriz (Spain) – retirement – Football
- Spain – Madrid – Euro



514. Acquisitions & Mergers

RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service) has signed an agreement for acquiring 24% stake in Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) for Rs 48 crore with Rail Land Development Authority and IRCON International being the other equity partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RITES – acquired 24% stake (Rs 48 Cr) – in IRSDC
- Other equity partner – IRCON International (New Delhi)

515. Science & Technology

Researchers at IIT Guwahati have found a new way to reduce short-term memory losses associated with Alzheimer's disease. One of the key reasons for memory loss in Alzheimer's disease is the accumulation of "amyloid beta peptides" in the brain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati – found – a new way to reduce memory loss due to Alzheimer's disease

516. Science & Technology

Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, has developed an electrochemical sensing platform for detecting carcinogenic or mutagenic compound N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) and N-nitrosodiethanolamine (NDEA) sometimes found in food items like cured meat, bacon, some cheese, and low-fat milk. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IASST – developed – an electrochemical sensing platform for detecting carcinogenic or mutagenic compound
- HQs of IASST – Guwahati, Assam

517. Important Days & Dates

India observed the World Thyroid Day on May 25. It was established in 2008 by European Thyroid Association (ETA). According to a study by Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism, nearly 42 Million people in India suffer from thyroid related problems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 25 – World Thyroid Day (Since – 2008)
- 42 Million Indians – suffering from Thyroid – according to "Endocrinology and Metabolism" Journal

518. Current GK

The Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bangalore, has developed a cup-shaped design (patent filed) of the mask that helps to create enough space in front of the mouth while speaking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CeNS (Bangalore)– developed a cup-shaped design of the mask

519. Obituaries

Football coach Gigi Simoni, who led a Ronaldo-inspired team to UEFA Cup glory in 1998, has died at the age of 81. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gigi Simoni (Italy) – passed away – Football Coach

520. International Affairs

The team of researchers from Australia's Swinburne, Monash, and RMIT universities recorded data speeds of 44.2 terabits per second (Tbps), which is a million times faster than the speed offered by a good Australian government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – recorded – data speeds of 44.2 Tbps
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

521. Schemes & Initiatives

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued an interim order staying the proposed Rayalaseema pumping scheme and Pothireddypadu head regulator canals enhancement works in Andhra Pradesh. The proposed project would result in Krishna basin becoming dry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rayalaseema pumping scheme – Andhra Pradesh
- A threat over – Krishna River Basin
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

522. Acquisitions & Mergers

Bharti Airtel has acquired 10% stake in Gurgaon-based start-up Voicezen, which focusses on conversational artificial intelligence technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel – acquired 10% stake in – Voicezen (Gurgaon)
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal

523. Obituaries

Actor Mohit Baghel, best known for playing Amar Chaudhary in superstar Salman Khan's "Ready", has died of cancer. He was 26. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohit Baghel – passed away – Actor

524. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 22, 2020 announced an extension of the previously announced three-month term loan EMI moratorium by another 3 months to August 31, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – extended – term loan EMI moratorium – by another 3 months (upto August, 2020)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

525. National & States Affairs

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan interacted with labourers and Sarpanchs of different districts via video conference after inaugurating 'Shram Siddhi Abhiyan' under which jobs will be provided to labourers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Shram Siddhi Abhiyan' – launched by Madhya Pradesh
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor - Lalji Tandon

526. Defence Affairs

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will operationalise its No. 18 Squadron at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu equipping it with the fourth generation LCA Tejas aircraft. The No. 18 Squadron, formed in 1965 with the motto "Teevra aur Nirbhaya" meaning "Swift and Fearless," was earlier flying MiG 27 aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – to operationalise – No. 18 Squadron – at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- Equipping with – LCA Tejas aircraft
- No. 18 Squadron – Formed in 1965 – Motto "Teevra aur Nirbhaya"

527. Persons in News

Former Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri has inaugurated the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC), which provides a paperless dispute resolution environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A K Sikri – inaugurated – Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC)
- Inaugurated in – New Delhi

528. Schemes & Initiatives

'Hunar Haat', the flagship initiative by the Minority Affairs Ministry to generate employment for master craftspeople, will make a comeback in September with a 'Local to Global' theme after an over five-month gap due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Hunar Haat' – the flagship initiative by the “Minority Affairs Ministry”
- Theme – “Local to Global”

529. Obituaries

Renowned vocalist Shyamala G Bhave died on May 22 at her residence after suffering a stroke. She was 79. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyamala G Bhave – passed away – Vocalist

530. Appointments & Resignations

Walt Disney's top streaming executive, Kevin Mayer, will leave the entertainment and theme parks giant to become the chief executive officer of TikTok, the popular video app owned by China's ByteDance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kevin Mayer – became the CEO of – TikTok app
- TikTok owned by – ByteDance (China)

531. National & States Affairs

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) added its offerings to the wide variety of services offered by the UMANG app, which earlier included state and central services and bill payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMD – launched – UMANG app – Total “7 services”
- UMANG – Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance
- HQs – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra



532. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Fintech startup, Zagggle, has announced a partnership with Visa to launch innovative payment solutions for SMEs and startups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zagggle + Visa = to launch innovative payment solutions for SMEs
- HQs of Zagggle – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Avinash Godkhindi
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly

533. Important Days & Dates

The International Day for Biodiversity is observed the United Nations on May 22 to raise awareness on various issues related to threats that stare biodiversity in the face. This year's theme is "Our solutions are in nature". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 22 – International Day for Biological Diversity
- Theme – "Our solutions are in nature"
- Celebrated by – UN (HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres)

534. Persons in News

The indemnity being provided to the policyholders under trade credit insurance should be increased from present 85% to 90%, according to an expert panel headed by Atul Sahai and formed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indemnity provided to Policyholders – increased to 90% (from 85%)
- The panel headed by – Atul Sahai
- The panel formed by – IRDAI
- IRDAI HQs – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman - Subhash Chandra Khuntia

535. Appointments & Resignations

Jahnabi Phookan has been appointed as National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), the oldest women-led and -focused business chamber of Southeast Asia and the women's wing of the apex FICCI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jahnabi Phookan – appointed as National President of – FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)
- HQs of FLO – New Delhi | Executive Director – Rashmi Sarita



536. National & States Affairs

The “Dekho Apna Desh Webinar of Tourism” held on May 19, showcased the Tradition, Culture and Tourism of Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh – ‘The Heart of Incredible India’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dekho Apna Desh Webinar of Tourism” – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh – ‘The Heart of Incredible India’

537. National & States Affairs

The Students enrolled in Universities and affiliated colleges may undertake SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) courses and avail credits by completing these courses as per University Grants Commission (UGC)’s present regulations on credit framework for online learning courses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Courses “SWAYAM” – Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds

538. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC and country's biggest electricity generator NTPC have signed an agreement to set up a joint venture company for renewable energy projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ONGC + NTPC = MoU – to set up a JV for renewable energy projects
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Sashi Shanker
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

539. Appointments & Resignations

The World Bank appointed Harvard University professor Carmen Reinhart as its chief economist, tapping an expert in the history of debt and financial crises as the global economy suffers its deepest downturn. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carmen Reinhart – appointed as the Chief Economist of – World Bank
- Professor in – Harvard University
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



540. Current GK

At first glance, *Pinanga andamanensis*, which at one point was written off as extinct, resembles the areca palm to which it is closely related. But its entire population of some 600 specimens naturally occurs only in a tiny, evergreen forest pocket in South Andaman's "Mount Harriet" National Park. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Mount Harriet" National Park – Andaman & Nicobar
- Andaman & Nicobar: Capital – Port Blair | Governor – Devendra Kumar Joshi

541. National & States Affairs

The Textiles Committee, Mumbai has been approved and has been named as the 9th approved lab to test and certify personal protection equipment (PPE) body coveralls used by the healthcare workers and other Covid-19 warriors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Textiles Committee, Mumbai – 9th approved lab to certify PPE coveralls
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles
- Constituency – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

542. Sports & Games

Naomi Osaka has become the highest-paid female athlete in the world. The 22-year-old tennis star raked in \$37.4 million in the past year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naomi Osaka (Japan) – highest-paid female athlete – \$37.4 million

543. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Samsung India has joined hands with social media giant Facebook to train offline retailers to go digital on platforms like Instagram and WhatsApp. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samsung + Facebook = to train offline retailers to go digital
- HQs of Samsung India – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Sunil Datt
- HQs of Samsung – Seoul, South Korea

544. Obituaries

Former Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Minister and former BJP MP Dr. Nepal Singh passed away due to heart attack. He was the Member of Lok Sabha from Rampur seat of Uttar Pradesh as BJP Candidate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Nepal Singh – passed away – Politician (Lok Sabha Member – UP)

545. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

The name of Sword fencer Bhavani Devi has now been nominated for the Arjuna Award. Also, gun shooter Elavenil Valarivan's name has been nominated for this award from Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhavani Devi (Sword fencer) + Elavenil Valarivan (Shooter) - nominated for the Arjuna Award

546. Amount & Agreements

FM Nirmala Sitharaman provided the break-up of PM Modi's Rs 20 lakh crore Covid stimulus for India. Rs 500 crore have been allocated for beekeeping under "Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan". This will help 2 lakh beekeepers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rs 500 Cr – for beekeeping – under "Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan"
- Total Package – Rs 20 lakh crore
- Announced by Nirmala Sitharaman (FM Minister – Karnataka)

547. Science & Technology

IIT Madras, has developed a solar 'parabolic trough collector' (PTC) system for concentrating solar energy for industrial applications like desalination, space heating and space cooling. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras – developed – a solar 'Parabolic Trough Collector' (PTC) system

548. Amount & Agreements

The World Bank has announced emergency operations worth \$160 billion in 100 developing countries to fight the deadly Covid-19 pandemic as it is expected to put over 60 million people into extreme poverty globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- \$160 billion grant – by World Bank – to 100 developing countries
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

549. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched NBA-UNDP India's Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme for students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme – launched by MoEFCC
- In partnership with – NBA + UNDP
- HQs of NBA – Chennai, TN | Dr. V. B. Mathur
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner

550. Amount & Agreements

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to a new centrally Sponsored Scheme - "Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)" for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)" – Rs. 10,000 crore

551. National & States Affairs

Swami Ramdev's Patanjali through its app 'OrderMe' has started with average 10,000 daily transactions. This app is to provide Patanjali's own ayurvedic products and connect the consumer to neighbourhood stores selling Indian products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'OrderMe' app – launched by Patanjali
- HQs of Patanjali – Haridwar, Uttarakhand | CEO – Acharya Balkrishna

552. National & States Affairs

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced a mega boost for MSMEs with a Rs 1,110 crore Restart package as a lockdown exit plan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched – Restart Package for MSMEs – Rs 1,110 Cr
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

553. Obituaries

Former Tamil Nadu footballer and Coach R. Shanmugam passed away. He was 77. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu) – passed away – Football
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai
- CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

554. National & States Affairs

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has accorded environmental clearance for extension drilling & testing of Hydrocarbons at seven locations under Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Area, North West of Baghjan PML in District Tinsukia in the state of Assam to Oil India Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oil India Ltd – received clearance – for drilling & testing Hydrocarbons
- Location – Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Area (Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

555. International Affairs

India and Bangladesh added five more ports of call that would augment bilateral trade and provide stimulus to the economic development of the new locations and their hinterland. Now, total ports of call are 11 and there are two extended ports of call in both countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Bangladesh – added five more ports = Total 11 ports now
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

556. National & States Affairs

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced a cap on domestic airfare, aviation regulator DGCA issued seven bands of ticket pricing with lower and upper fare limits. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGCA – issued 7 bands of ticket pricing
- Parent agency of DGCA – Ministry of Civil Aviation (Hardeep Singh Puri)

557. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

After China, India has become the world's second-largest manufacturer of personal protective equipment (PPE) body coveralls within a short time span of two months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE (China – 1st)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President - Xi Jinping

558. Science & Technology

In the wake of coronavirus pandemic, the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO, has developed an AI-based Attendance Application (AINA) which allows non-contact based personnel verification, using facial features of the person. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Research Centre Imarat (RCI-DRDO) – developed – AINA
- HQs of RCI – Hyderabad, Telangana
- DRDO: HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

559. Persons in News

A committee to review fiscal consolidation, led by Finance Commission chairman NK Singh, will hold its first meeting to work out the fiscal consolidation roadmap for the government from 2021-22 to 2025-26. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st meeting of the 15th Finance Commission – to work out the fiscal consolidation roadmap
- The committee headed by – NK Singh (Finance Commission chairman)

560. Persons in News

Tsai Ing-wen took the oath for her second four-year term as the President of Taiwan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tsai Ing-wen – became the president of – Taiwan
- Taiwan – Taipei – New Taiwan Dollar | President – Tsai Ing-wen

561. Obituaries

Ashley Cooper, who won four Grand Slam singles titles including the Australian, Wimbledon and U.S. championships in 1958, has died. He was 83. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashley Cooper (Australia) – passed away – Tennis

562. Current GK

Dampa Tiger Reserve Sanctuary is a tiger reserve of western Mizoram, India. It covers an area of about 500 km² in the Lushai Hills, Mizoram.

Key Points:

- Dampa Tiger Reserve – Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

563. National & States Affairs

Uttarakhand has become the first state to release a unique report highlighting its conservation efforts to save over 1,100 rare plants from extinction. Herbs like Ashwagandha, Giloy, Kalmegh and Chitrak, which are presently part of scientists' research to find a possible cure to coronavirus, are included in this conservation programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – a unique report highlighting its conservation efforts to save 1100 rare plants
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain
- CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

564. Schemes & Initiatives

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Everybody will get employment' scheme through video conferencing. Under this scheme, MNREGA job cards will be distributed to the labourers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Everybody will get employment' scheme – by Madhya Pradesh
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor - Lalji Tandon

565. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

In the production sectors, industrial production shrank by close to 17% in March 2020, with manufacturing activity down by 21%, as per the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Industrial Production – shrank by 17% in March
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

566. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

“The SIDM MSME Conclave 2020” was jointly organized by the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the department of defence production. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The SIDM MSME Conclave 2020”
- SIDM + CII + Department Of Defence Production
- CII HQs – New Delhi | President – Vikram Kirloskar | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

567. Banking & Economic Affairs

ICICI Bank has introduced a special fixed deposit (FD) scheme for senior citizens. Named 'ICICI Bank Golden Years FD', the scheme offers senior citizens an interest rate of 6.55% per annum for deposits up to Rs 2 crore with a tenure of more than five years to 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – 'ICICI Bank Golden Years FD' scheme – for Senior Citizens
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO - [Sandeep Bakhshi](#)
- Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

568. Current GK

To overcome the hurdles in power generation in the state due to coal shortage, the Madhya Pradesh government has decided to import 8 lakh metric tonnes of fossil fuel for its thermal power stations 5 lakh metric tonnes will be used in the Satpura Thermal Power Station, while the remaining stock will be used in Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Station. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Satpura” & “Sanjay Gandhi” Thermal Power Stations – Madhya Pradesh
- MP: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor - Lalji Tandon



569. Defence Affairs

A US Navy warship has successfully tested a new high-energy laser weapon that can destroy aircraft mid-flight. The US Navy has been developing directed-energy weapons (DEWs), to include lasers, since the 1960s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US Navy warship – tested – a new high-energy laser weapon
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

570. Science & Technology

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has announced the commercial launch of “Agappe Chitra Magna”, a magnetic nanoparticle-based RNA extraction kit for use during testing for detection of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SCTIMST – launched – “Agappe Chitra Magna” – a magnetic nanoparticle-based RNA extraction kit
- HQs of SCTIMST – Kerala | Director – Asha Kishore

571. Current GK

Infosys is partnering with Rhode Island of USA, in launching a privacy-first contact tracing solution to help people and state officials slow the spread of coronavirus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Infosys + Rhode Island (USA) = a privacy-first contact tracing solution
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Salil Parekh

572. Current GK

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund has temporarily suspended fresh inflows into two of its credit risk and medium term funds "Aditya Birla Sun Life Medium Term Plan" (ABMTP) and "Aditya Birla Sun Life Credit Risk Fund" (ACRF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund – suspended – fresh inflows into two Funds
- HQs of ABSLMF – Mumbai | Chairman – Kumar Mangalam Birla

573. National & States Affairs

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the flagship health assurance scheme of the Government of India has marked the milestone of 1 crore treatments and also launched 'Ask Ayushman', a whatsapp Chabot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AB-PMJAY – achieved the milestone of 1 Cr treatments
- Also launched – 'Ask Ayushman' - a whatsapp Chabot
- AB-PMJAY comes under – National Health Authority

574. Important Days & Dates

The World Health Organization observes the Obstetric Fistula day on May 23, every year, so as to raise awareness about the constantly rising cases of Obstetric Fistula and to gain support globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 23 – The Obstetric Fistula Day
- Observed by – WHO (Member Countries in WHO – 194)
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | Director-General – Tedros Adhanom

575. Current GK

National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) announced the commencement of trading in the country's first agri futures index - AGRIDEX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCDEX – launched – "AGRIDEX" (Country's first agri futures index)
- HQs of NCDEX – Mumbai | CEO – Vijay Kumar Venkataraman

576. Science & Technology

A team of scientists of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have reported the discovery of three new plant species from the evergreen forest patches of the southern end of the Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The three new species are Eugenia sphaerocarpa, Goniiothalamus sericeus & Memecylon nervosum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 New species of "Plant" discovered by – Botanical Survey of India (BSI)
- Names: 1. Eugenia sphaerocarpa 2. Goniiothalamus sericeus 3. Memecylon nervosum
- HQs of BSI – Kolkata, West Bengal



577. Current GK

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and New Delhi based Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has launched a Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species: 'Not all Animals Migrate by Choice'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNEP + WCCB = launched – a Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species
- Titled – “Not all Animals Migrate by Choice”
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen
- HQs of WCCB – New Delhi

578. Appointments & Resignations

Abhas Jha, an Indian economist, has been appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhas Jha – appointed to a key Position in CCDM – by World Bank
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

579. Current GK

The Zurich Airport International AG got the security clearance from the Union ministry of home affairs to develop the Noida International Greenfield Airport at Jewar in Greater Noida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Zurich Int. Airport” (Switzerland) – got the security clearance – for “Jewar Int. Airport” (Uttar Pradesh)
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

580. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21, in which it has reduced repo rate by 40 basis points to 4% in an effort to further boost liquidity in the economy and revised Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) to 18%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – reduced repo rate – 4% & SLR – 18% (Flexible news)
- MPC – Monetary Policy Committee | SLR – Statutory Liquidity Ratio
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)



581. National & States Affairs

Odisha State Government has imposed a 'Special Covid fee' on all types of liquor. The fee is 50% of the MRP. One person can order a maximum of five litre beer and 2.5 litre IMFL per order. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – imposed a 'Special Covid fee'
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

582. National & States Affairs

In a boost to MSMEs, the government has notified amendments to General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017 to ensure that goods and services valued less than Rs 200 Cr are procured from domestic firms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amendments to – "General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017"
- The goods and services valued less than "Rs 200 Cr" should be procured from domestic firms

583. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers' meeting through video conference. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ogtay Shiraliyev, Minister of Health, Republic of Azerbaijan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – participated – Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers' meeting
- Chaired by – Mr. Ogtay Shiraliyev (Azerbaijan) | Chairperson of NAM – Ilham Aliyev
- Present member countries in NAM – 120
- Azerbaijan – Baku – Azerbaijani manat | President – Ilham Aliyev

584. National & States Affairs

The Department of Posts, Government of India and Department of Horticulture, Government of Bihar have joined hands to supply "Shahi Lichi" & "Zardalu Mango" to the people at doorstep. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Post + Dept. of Horticulture + Bihar = to supply "Shahi Lichi" & "Zardalu Mango"
- "Shahi Lichi" & "Zardalu Mango" – got GI Tags – Bihar
- HQs of India Post – New Delhi
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

585. Schemes & Initiatives

The United Nations has listed Manipur's Khudol (gift) initiative among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Khudol initiative (Manipur) – top 10 global initiatives – by United Nations
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

586. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd (CIFCL) and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd have entered into a vehicle retail financing partnership. Under the tie-up, a new scheme called 'Buy Now Pay Later' will offer flexibility to Maruti car buyers to pay EMIs after two months of availing the loan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CIFCL + Maruti Suzuki = launched – a new scheme - 'Buy Now Pay Later'
- HQs of CIFCL – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD – Arun Alagappan
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Kenichi Ayukawa

587. National & States Affairs

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is gearing up to supply khadi face masks to several European and Middle East countries as the Ministry of commerce has lifted ban on export of non-medical masks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – to export Khadi Masks
- The ban on exports lifted by – Ministry of commerce
- KVIC works under – Ministry of MSME (Nitin Gadkari – Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

588. Important Days & Dates

The 20th anniversary of World Turtle Day was observed on May 23. The day was celebrated to make people aware of turtle and tortoise and their habitats. Every year since 2000, American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a nonprofit organization established in 1990, sponsors the celebrations for World Turtle Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 23 – World Turtle Day (20th)
- Celebrated by – American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) – since 2000

589. National & States Affairs

Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has announced the launch of an app-based Motor OD floater policy called Edelweiss Switch. This Driver Based Insurance will mean lower premiums for policyholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EGI – launched – “Edelweiss Switch” – Motor OD floater policy
- HQs of EGI – Mumbai | Executive Director & CEO – Shanai Ghosh

590. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Ircon International has signed an MoU with RZD International LLC, a subsidiary of state-owned Russian Railways Company to explore opportunities for joint development of railways and other infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ircon International + RZD International LLC = MoU for joint development of railways infrastructure
- HQs of Ircon Int. – New Delhi | CMD – S K Chaudhary
- HQs of RZD Int. LLC – Moscow, Russia | Director-General – Sergey Stolyarov

591. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India, in association with its partners UNDP, UNEP, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and National Biodiversity Authority, hosted the first ever digital Model Conference of Parties (MCOP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WWF + UNDP + UNEP + MoEFCC + NBA = hosted 1st MCOP
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | President & CEO – Carter Roberts
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen
- HQs of NBA – Chennai, TN | Dr. V. B. Mathur
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

592. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The WHO and the IOC have teamed up to fight the battle against Covid-19. The virus particularly affects people with Diabetes, heart and lung disease so the idea is to create awareness about how sport and physical activity can be a major factor in promoting good health. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO + IOC = to fight Covid-19
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | Director-General – Tedros Adhanom
- Member Countries in WHO – 194
- IOC HQ - Lausanne, Switzerland

593. National & States Affairs

In a two-pronged strategy to secure migrant workers, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a Migration Commission for employment of Migrant labourers in the state to identify the skills of returning migrant workers and provide employment to them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to set up a Migration Commission for employment
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

594. Current GK

The 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series titled 'Uttarakhand Simply Heaven' highlighted the potential of tourism in Uttarakhand's two regions namely Kedar Khand (Garhwal Region) and Manu Khand and touched upon some popular destinations including UNESCO World Heritage Site of Valley of Flowers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar Series – titled 'Uttarakhand Simply Heaven'
- “Valley of Flowers” National Park – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain
- CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

595. National & States Affairs

To give a boost to the sports sector in the state, the Mizoram Cabinet has granted industry status to sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram – granted 'Industry' status to 'Sports'
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



596. International Affairs

The United States announced its intention to withdraw from the 35-nation Open Skies treaty allowing unarmed surveillance flights over member countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – withdrew – from Open Skies treaty (35 member countries)
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

597. Current GK

India's crude steel output declined over 65% to 3.13 million tonnes (MT) during April, according to the World Steel Association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's crude steel output – declined over 65% - 3.13 MT
- HQs of WSA – Brussels, Belgium | Director General – Dr Edwin Basson

598. Persons in News

Food ordering platform Zomato has elevated Mohit Gupta, the CEO of its food delivery business by making him a co-founder. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohit Gupta – elevated as the Co-founder of – Zomato
- HQs of Zomato – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder – Pankaj Chaddah

599. Defence Affairs

The Indian Navy's indigenously-made PPE kit, "NavRakshak", made for enhancing comforts of the health workers under Indian conditions, is helping fight the war against Covid-19 in a better and effective manner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "NavRakshak" – indigenously-made PPE kit – by Indian Navy
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

600. International Affairs

Indian Association in Uganda, with help of the Indian Military training team, set up a military war game centre in Jinja district, Uganda. The war game centre is named 'INDIA' and is a type of strategy game that simulates warfare realistically. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – set up Military War Game "INDIA" – in Uganda
- Uganda – Kampala – Ugandan shilling
- President – Yoweri Museveni | PM – Ruhakana Rugunda



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