

Current Affairs April 2020

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Awards and Honours

Recipients	Award Name	Extra Information
Indian NGO ARMMAN	Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship	The Skoll Awards are presented annually to select organizations with the ability to drive sustained change on the world's most pressing problems and carries a monetary investment of USD 1.5 million, along with other support.
Naveen Patnaik	PETA award	Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has conferred with an award by animal rights body PETA India for allocating funds to feed community animals in Odisha during the lockdown over the novel coronavirus pandemic.
Ben Stokes	Wisden Almanack 2020 honours	India captain Virat Kohli's three-year run as the Wisden Almanack's leading cricketer of the year has ended as England all-rounder
Tata Power	Edison Award for social innovation	The Edison Awards, named after Thomas Alva Edison, recognises and honours the world's best innovations and innovators.
Abdelouahab Aissaoui	2020 International Prize for Arabic Fiction	Aissaoui is the first Algerian to win the prize. He wins USD \$50,000 (£39,950).
Marion Hollins	2021 class of Golf Hall of Fame	Marion Hollins financed and developed a golf course for women in New York and was the brains behind two fabled golf courses in California.
Adam Higginbotham	William E. Colby Award	The award is named for the late CIA director William E. Colby. In 1999, the Colby Award was established.
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	World's top 20 inspirational leaders in Biopharma	She has recognised for her contribution to the world of medicine as an entrepreneur and innovative business leader, the Bengaluru-headquartered biopharmaceuticals company said in a statement.

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Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Krishnan S	ED at Canara Bank post-merger	State-owned Canara Bank Krishnan S has become its executive director post its merger with Syndicate Bank. Krishnan held the same portfolio in Syndicate Bank.
Rajnish Oswal	Permanent Judge of High Court of J&K, Ladakh	He was administered oath of office by Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal in a simple but impressive ceremony in Jammu.
Pravin Rao	Chairman of Nasscom	Rekha M Menon is the Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India. Menon will be the Vice-Chairperson for Nasscom.
Anurag Srivastava	Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs	Srivastava, a 1999-batch IFS officer, was serving as India's Ambassador to Ethiopia.
Maha Prasad Adhikari	Governor of Nepal central bank	India-educated Adhikari along with Keshav Prasad Bhattarai and Chintamani Siwakoti were chosen as candidates for the position of the Nepal Rastra Bank governor by the recommendation committee coordinated by Finance Minister Yubaraj Khatriwada.
Parag Raja	MD & CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance	The insurance company is a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and multinational insurance firm AXA.
Anamika Roy Rashtrawar	MD & CEO of IFFCO Tokio	Anamika Roy Rashtrawar has taken charge as MD and CEO of General Insurance with effect from March 27, said a company release.
Raghuram Rajan	International Monetary Fund (IMF) - Key Advisory Panel	Mr Rajan, 57, who was the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor for three years until September 2016, is currently working as a professor at the prestigious University of Chicago.
RV Verma	Non-executive chairman - AU Small Finance Bank	Verma, an MA in Economics has been associated with the

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		Jaipur-based lender since 2018 as independent director.
V Kanagaraj	State Election Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh	Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan issuing a notification appointing Justice Kanagaraj as the new State Election Commissioner.
Sarosh Amaria	Tata Capital – Managing Director	He will succeed in Kusal Roy, who has decided to pursue opportunities outside the Tata Group. Kusal Roy will continue to serve as Managing Director of TCFSL till May 4, 2020.
Shiva Kirti Singh	Chairman - Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)	The top slot in the telecom tribunal had been vacant for nearly a year since previous chairman, Justice Aftab Alam retired last June.
Mahabaleshwara MS	Karnataka Bank – MD and CEO	The appointments were approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Birupaksha Mishra	ED of Union Bank of India	Shri Birupaksha Mishra took charge as the Executive Director (ED) of Union Bank of India (UBI).
Monaz Noble	Godrej Industries as independent director	The strength of the board of directors will increase to 12 directors of which six will be independent directors.
S Vaidyanathan	Lakshmi Vilas Bank - Chief Risk Officer	Lakshmi Vilas Bank announced the appointment of S Vaidyanathan, Assistant Vice President, Risk Department has been appointed as the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the Bank for a period of two years with effect from 15 April 2020.
Ajay Mahajan	MD & CEO of Care Ratings	The Board of Directors of the credit rating agency, at its meeting, made the appointment, based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board.
Viswanathan Anand	Ambassador of WWF India	Chess Master Viswanathan Anand has been appointed as the new Ambassador for World Wide Fund (WWF) India's Environment Education program. The Environment

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		Education Program was formed in 1976.
Rohit Sharma	Dubai-based coaching academy's brand ambassador	India's limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma has become brand ambassador of 'CricKingdom'
Vineet Arora	MD, CEO of Paytm General Insurance	Digital payments major Paytm said it has named Vineet Arora as the managing director and chief executive officer of Paytm General Insurance Ltd.
Moon Jae	South Korea – president	The ruling democratic party of President Moon Jae won the election taking 180 seats. The opposition United Future Party took 103 seats. There are 300 seats in the South Korea National Assembly.
N Kamakodi	MD and CEO of City Union Bank	Kamakodi's reappointment is for a further period of three years with effect. The reappointment will be effective from 1 May 2020.
Sudarsanam Babu	National Science Board in USA	US President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Sudarsanam Babu to the National Science Board in the United States. The White House made the announcement on April 20, 2020.
Uri Levine	Infosys – Independent Director	The appointment is for a period of three years and is subject to the approval of shareholders.
PV Sindhu	Ambassador for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign	The campaign will provide a platform for players to express their love and respect for the game by promoting clean and honest play.
Malini Shankar	National Shipping Board – Head	The Union Government has reconstituted the National Shipping Board (NSB), which is the highest advisory body on matters related to Indian shipping.
David Li	Huawei Telecommunications – CEO	Huawei Telecommunications India said it has appointed David Li as its chief executive officer.

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Biswanath Somadder	Chief justice of Meghalaya High Court	The Supreme Court collegium, led by Chief Justice Sharad A Bobde, has recommended the name of Justice Somadder as the new chief justice of Meghalaya High Court.
Shiv Das Meena	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)	The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' (MoHUA) Additional Secretary Shiv Das Meena (IAS) has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)
Rajni Saraf	Jammu & Kashmir bank - Chief financial officer	Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K) appointed Rajni Saraf as its chief financial officer as part of its succession planning.
Sanjay Kothari	Chief Vigilance Commissioner	The oath office was administered by President Ram Nath Kovind on 25 April 2020 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
Rakesh Sharma	International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) – Vice President	Sharma will represent the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) during Annual General Assembly held on May 8 in Indonesia.
Ravi Mittal	Sports Secretary	Union Government appointed new Secretaries, Special Secretaries and Additional Secretaries in different Ministries and Departments
Amit Khare	Information and Broadcasting Secretary	
Anita Karwal	Secretary School Education and Literacy	
Tarun Kapoor	Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	
Tarun Bajaj	Secretary Department of Economic Affairs in Ministry of Finance	
T S Tirumurti	India's next ambassador to UN	
Madhavan Menon	Chairman of CSB Bank	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.

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Rajiv Kumar	Chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board	The appointment of Rajiv Kumar is approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He will serve as the PESB chairperson for a period of three years.
Suresh N. Patel	Vigilance Commissioner	The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Shri Sharad Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner, Secretary, and other senior officers of the Commission.
Joe Biden	Ohio – President	Joe Biden has won Ohio's presidential primary, which was conducted by mail, CBS News projects. Biden had picked up 74 of Ohio's 136 pledged delegates

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Banking & Finance

Over 2.5 lakh SBI employees commit ₹100 crore to PM-CARES fund

The employees of State Bank of India (SBI) have decided to contribute two days' salary to PM Narendra Modi's PM-CARES Fund to combat coronavirus pandemic, Chairman Rajnish Kumar said. The bank has over 2.5 lakh employees and the total contribution will be around ₹100 crore. Earlier, SBI committed 0.25% of its annual profit for 2019-20 to help fight the outbreak.

MakeMyTrip launches 'Stays for Saviours' initiative to support healthcare practitioners fighting COVID-19

MakeMyTrip said it is launching Stays for Saviours, in a bid to support temporary accommodation needs of the medical frontline force fighting COVID-19.

The company said this initiative has been rolled out in partnership with hotel chains and independent hotels that are pitching in to support our healthcare heroes across 26 states and 4 Union Territories.

HDFC acquires 6.43% stake in Reliance Capital by invoking pledged shares

Mortgage lender HDFC has said that it has acquired 6.43% stake in Reliance Capital by invoking pledged shares. The shares were pledged by security trustee against a loan given by the lender in its normal course of business, HDFC said. The company acquired 25.27 crore shares of ₹10 each, taking the total value of shares to ₹252 crore.

Franklin Templeton marks down its Fund-of-Fund exposure by 50%

Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund has marked down its Fund-of-Fund (FoF) exposure to the debt funds being wound up by 50%. A Franklin Templeton AMC spokesman said that investments by the FoF Schemes in the 6 affected underlying schemes were illiquid effective April 24, 2020.

Remittances to India likely to fall by 23%: World Bank

The World Bank has stated that remittances to India are likely to drop down by 23% due to COVID-19 which has led to the global recession. The drop will be from USD 83 billion last year to USD 64 billion this year.

Globally remittances will see a sharp decline by about 20 percent in 2020 due to the economic crisis started by the pandemic and shutdowns, as per the World Bank's report on the impact of COVID-19 on migration and remittances which was released on April 22.

RBI announced Rs.50,000 crore liquidity for Mutual Funds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Rs.50,000 crore liquidity support for Mutual Funds (MFs) on 27 April 2020. It approved the funds under the special liquidity facility scheme

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effective from 27 April. RBI's move comes after Franklin Templeton's decision to close 6 debt funds and put redemptions on hold indefinitely.

Axis Bank to acquire 29% stake in Max Life Insurance

Private sector lender Axis Bank on April 28 said it will acquire 29 percent stake in Max Life Insurance. With this acquisition, the total stake of Axis Bank in Max Life will be at 30 percent.

Max Financial Services currently holds a 72.5 percent stake in Max Life and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance (MSI) owns 25.5 percent stake.

ICICI Bank launches voice banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant

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

This novel facility offers customers yet another way to connect with their Bank from home at a time when they are advised to stay indoors in the wake of the nationwide lockdown.

SBI now holds 48.21% in Yes Bank; HDFC, ICICI Bank 7.97% each

After emerging as the white knight for beleaguered private lender Yes Bank, State Bank of India (SBI) now holds 48.21 percent stake in the private lender, followed by HDFC and ICICI Bank, which have 7.97 percent each, shows the latest shareholding pattern.

Axis Bank holds 4.78 percent stake, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank (3.61 percent) and Bandhan Bank (2.39 percent). Federal Bank and IDFC First hold 1.92 percent and 1.67 percent each. Life Insurance Corporation of India holds 1.64 percent in the bank, the exchange data showed.

Federal Bank to buy additional 4% stake in life insurance JV from IDBI Bank

Private lender Federal Bank will buy additional 4 per cent stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Co Ltd (IFLIC) from the IDBI Bank, increasing the total shareholding in the life insurance joint venture to 30 per cent.

In a filing to exchanges, the Kochi-headquartered bank said its board has approved a proposal to purchase additional stake of up to 4 per cent in the equity capital of IDBI Federal Life Insurance from IDBI Bank.

Bajaj Allianz launches 'BAGIC GOQii Co-pay Option' under regulatory sandbox

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, along with smart-tech enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii has launched a new add-on health cover called 'BAGIC GOQii Co-pay Option' under regulatory sandbox approval received from the IRDAI, that would reward customers with a healthy lifestyle.

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India seeks \$6 billion of loans from ADB, AIIB to fight coronavirus pandemic

India is seeking as much as \$6 billion of loans from multilateral institutions such as the Asian Development Bank to bolster its efforts to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

World Bank

The World Bank already committed \$1 billion. At the same time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is in talks with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and ADB, the people said, asking not to be identified because the details haven't been finalized.

Covid lockdown: HDFC Bank deploys Mobile ATMs across India

HDFC Bank on deployed Mobile ATMs to assist customers during the lockdown and eliminate the need to move out of their locality to withdraw cash. The mobile van carrying the ATM piloted in Mumbai & Noida, with plans to extend the service to the rest of the country shortly.

The locations for deployment are being identified in consultation with local municipal authorities in respective cities, the bank said.

What is Helicopter Money being suggested by World Experts?

With the increasing economic crisis, Helicopter Money is a solution being suggested by economic specialists all over the world.

HELICOPTER MONEY –

Helicopter Money was the term framed by an American Economist Milton Friedman. Helicopter Money is the monetary policy tool used for Quantitative Easing. It aims to dump money into a struggling economy.

Helicopter Money in simple terms is extension of non-repayable money towards state and central governments from central bank. The policy intends to make more money available for the people to nudge them to spend more.

Yes Bank Extends Bancassurance Tie-Up With Max Life Insurance For 5 Years

Private sector life insurer Max Life Insurance said Yes Bank Ltd. has extended the bancassurance partnership for next 5 years. Under the partnership, the products of the life insurer would be sold through the branches of Yes Bank.

Building on the 15-year partnership, the two firms will continue to offer their customers need-based products and services, deploying technology across the customer value chain to enhance efficiencies, the insurer said in a statement. To commemorate the extension of the partnership for another 5 years, the companies will dedicate the current financial year as the 'Year of the Customer', Max Life CEO Prashant Tripathy said.

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RBI cuts Reverse Repo rate to 3.75%, Rs 50,000 crores for LTRO 2.0

The Reserve Bank of India announced a slew of measures after GoI extended the lock down till May 3, 2020. The Apex bank cut the reverse repo rate to 3.75%. It cut the repo rate to 4.4% from 5.15%. Also, the central bank has announced Rs 50,000 crore for Long Term Repo Operation (LTRO).

AIIB to lend USD 500 mn to India to help fight COVID-19 pandemic

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has announced that it is to finance \$500 million projects in India to help the country improve its health care systems. With this, AIIB has doubled its funds under the COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility.

The aim of the move is to help reduce health care pressures in pandemic preparedness and health infrastructure in India. It will also provide liquidity, fiscal and budgetary support.

Tata AIA becomes first life insurance company to give additional benefits related to Covid-19

Following in the large footsteps of the recently announced contribution by Tata Trusts and Tata group towards the management of COVID-19 pandemic in India, Tata AIA Life Insurance announced additional benefits for its Policyholders and Agents.

As part of Tata AIA Life's initiative, its individual policyholders will get COVID-19 related additional benefit up to Rs 500,000 at no additional cost. Further, to extend the Circle of Protection to its own Agents, all 'active' Agents of Tata AIA Life Insurance along with their spouse and children will be reimbursed up to Rs 25,000 in case of hospitalisation due to COVID-19. This is a first of its kind initiative in India.

NPPA develops IT platform to monitor sale of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin

To support the government's policy decision and monitor the availability of anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) after allegations of supply crunch in several places, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has directed all state licensing authorities (SLAs) to ensure registration of all drug distribution stakeholders in prescribed format of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'s on-line platform circulated from the DCGI office to collect information on HCQ and azithromycin tablets to monitor their sales and availability.

International Monetary Fund predicts India's Growth Rate at 1.9%

Following the World that set India's Growth rate between 1.5% and 2.8%, the International Monetary Fund has set growth rate of India at 1.9%. On April 14, 2020, the IMF released its report predicting growth rate of the country at 5.8%.

IMF proposes to deploy full USD 1 trillion lending capacity to support countries battling COVID-19

Describing the COVID-19 pandemic as "a crisis like no other," IMF head Kristalina Georgieva has said the international lender plans to use all its USD 1 trillion lending capacity to support countries across the world battling the deadly outbreak.

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An unprecedented 102 of the International Monetary Fund's 189 member nations are seeking assistance from the organization to combat the coronavirus, the lending agency's Managing Director Georgieva said.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Launches 'ATM on Wheels' in Mumbai

Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) announced the launch of its first "ATM on Wheels" facility in Mumbai. The mobile ATM will bring cash withdrawal services to local neighbourhoods during this critical period when the city is in a lockdown mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mobile ATM facility is available to both Kotak customers and non-customers and will cover Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai on all days, including weekends.

Google Pay launches 'Nearby Spot' to help users find local stores selling essentials

Google has launched 'Nearby Spot' under Google Pay using which users in Bengaluru can see local stores selling essentials like groceries that are open, amid the lockdown. The Nearby Spot will be launched in Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi soon, Google India said in a blogpost.

"With the lockdown and social distancing norms in place, digital payments have become more important than ever and Google Pay is an additional surface to provide key information regarding COVID-19," it added.

India signs \$1.5 billion loan with ADB to support India's COVID-19 immediate response

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$1.5 billion loan that will support the government's response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, focusing on immediate priorities such as disease containment and prevention, as well as social protection for the poor and economically vulnerable sections of the society, especially women and disadvantaged groups.

RBI released 49th round of OBICUS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 49th round of quarterly OBICUS (Order books, inventories, and capacity utilization survey) of the manufacturing sector. The survey includes the reference period January-March 2020.

OBICUS:

- The OBICUS survey will provide valuable input for monetary policy formulation.
- The Central Bank has conducted the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.
- The data collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter, backlog of orders, pending orders, total inventories with a breakup between work-in-progress (WiP) and finished goods (FG) inventories and item-wise production.

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Affordable housing firm Aavas gets \$60m ADB loan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to lend up to \$60 million to Aavas Financiers Ltd, a housing finance company in India, to improve access to housing finance for lower-income borrowers, particularly women.

Aavas is one of the largest housing finance companies in India's affordable housing segment and it has more than ₹70 billion in assets under management and 245 branches across 10 states.

Merger of 10 PSU Banks into 4 comes into effect

The merger of 10 state-run banks into 4 larger banks has been implemented, April 1, 2020. The announcement regarding the amalgamation has been done by GOI earlier in March 2020.

The government made this announcement in early March with the purpose of creating stronger banks in the public sector. Though the central government announced the plan but RBI has been given the charge for the successful implementation of the plan.

COVID-19: World Bank offers 1 billion USD for India' Emergency Response Project

The World Bank announced that it is to offer 1 billion USD to Government of India to implement Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems preparedness project.

The project is being launched by India in order to mitigate the threats created by the virus. It will strengthen the national system and keep up public health preparedness in the country.

RBI increases WMA limit of states, UTs by 30%, relaxes export rules

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for state governments and Union Territories by 30 per cent till September 30, and allowed exporters six months extra to realise their export proceeds, in a bid to deal with the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

SEBI whole-time member Madhabi Puri Buch gets six-month extension

Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member (WTM) at SEBI, has been given a six months extension by the government, sources told Business Line. Buch was appointed in April 2017 and her three-year tenure ends in March.

Earlier in February, the government had given a six months extension to SEBI chairman Ajay Tyagi. The Prime Ministers Office and the committee on appointments have not been able to meet to deliberate on SEBI related appointing matters. The sources said that the government is likely to take a further call on both the appointments once Corona related panic settles down.

IndusInd Bank taps CPPIB, GIC to raise \$500 million

IndusInd Bank and its promoter the Hinduja Group have initiated talks with sovereign wealth funds and pension funds, including Canada's CPPIB and Singapore's GIC Pte Ltd, to raise as much as \$500 million. This is aimed at bolstering investor confidence amid deterioration of the private lender's balance sheet and flight of deposits after the Yes Bank Ltd fiasco.

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SIDBI to provide emergency working capital of up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs

The Small Industries Development Bank of India – SIDBI has said that it will provide emergency working capital of up to one crore rupees to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) against their confirmed government orders. The SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against Corona virus – SAFE PLUS will be offered collateral free and disbursed within 48 hours.

BoB launches four schemes for agri sector

To help borrowers in the agriculture sector tide over the distress created by the Covid-19 pandemic, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has announced schemes where it will offer additional loans of up to ₹1 lakh to existing self-help group (SHG) borrowers and up to ₹50,000 to existing crop loan borrowers, among others.

India's third-largest public sector bank, in a statement, said it will provide existing SHGs facilities in the form of cash credit/over draft/term loan/demand loan. The minimum and maximum loan amount is ₹30,000 and ₹1 lakh per SHG, repayable in 24 months.

World Bank forecasts FY21 India growth at 1.5-2.8 percent

The World Bank in its "South Asia Economic Focus report" said that India's economy is expected to grow 1.5% to 2.8% in the 2020-21 fiscal year which started on 1 April 2020. It stated that India might record its worst growth performance since the 1991 liberalization in the current fiscal year 2020-21 due to the coronavirus outbreak which severely disrupted the economy.

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Indian Affairs

Panel led by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant starts working on response strategy

A panel led by NITI Aayog chief executive officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant has begun working on a response strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Empowered Committee held its first meeting on March 30, which saw attendance from several representatives of the private sector and industry.

Coal India pledges Rs 220 cr donation to PM fund

State-owned Coal India (CIL) has pledged Rs 220 crore to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) to fight against coronavirus pandemic, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi has said.

"Glad to see coal PSUs coming forward & pledging donations to #PM CARES in fight against #COVID19 @CoalIndiaHQ has committed Rs. 220 crores @NLCIndiaLimited has committed Rs 25 crores," Joshi has said in tweet.

Centre to deposit Rs.1,000 in women PMJDY accounts in two installments

Ministry of Finance announced Rs.500 has been deposited in each Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account held by women for the month of April and Rs.500 more will be given over the month of May in equal installments.

A total of 38.08 crore accounts are benefitting under the PMJDY. Out of it, 20.60 crore accounts are held by women across India. As of 1 April 2020, the deposits in the PMJDY accounts stood at over Rs 1.19 lakh crore. The aim is to provide help and support to the people amid the lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

MHRD launched Samadhan, a challenge to find quick solution to COVID-19 pandemic

The Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Forge and InnovatioCuris launched "SAMADHAN", a mega online challenge, to test the ability of students to innovate.

National Conference on Kharif Crops, 2020 held through video conference

The Union Agricultural Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar chaired the National Conference on Kharif crops. The conference discussed measures to achieve doubling of farmers' income and to achieve Kharif target. Secretaries of DAC&FW and ICAR and also officers from state governments participated in the conference.

IISD: India's Renewable Subsidies decline by 35%

The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CCEW) and International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) recently released a report called "Mapping India's Energy Subsidies, 2020".

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The report says that India's energy subsidies have declined by 35% in 2019 as compared to 2017. On the other hand, the oil and gas subsidies have increase by 65%.

Power Ministry floats draft Electricity Act Bill 2020

The supply of quality power at affordable prices is essential for sustained growth of the economy of the country. Ministry of Power issued a draft proposal for amendment of Electricity Act, 2003 in the form of the draft Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 for comments/suggestions from Stakeholders on 17th April 2020.

National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India launched

The Union Minister of culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The list is to include 13 elements that are already included in UNESCO Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The initiative is a part of Vision 2024 of Ministry of Culture. It aims to increase the awareness about intangible cultural heritages.

NIPER-G designs innovative 3D products to fight coronavirus spread

Researchers at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research -Guwahati (NIPER-G) developed two products, namely 3D-printed hands-free object and 3D-printed antimicrobial face-shield in an effort to control the spread of novel coronavirus, to fight COVID-19 outbreak.

ICMR gives approval to plasma therapy for COVID-19 treatment to Trivandrum based Medical Institute

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Kerala, has obtained a go-ahead for taking a bold step to provide innovative treatment to patients suffering from COVID-19 disease. The Trivandrum based SCTIMST is an Institution of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Technically called "convalescent-plasma therapy", the treatment aims at using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person. ICMR has given approval to the SCTIMST for carrying out the novel treatment.

"Bharat Padhe Online Campaign" launched by Ministry of HRD

The Ministry of Human Resources Development has launched a week long campaign called "Bharat Padhe Online Campaign". The campaign aims to improve online education in India. The main aim of the campaign is to invite experts in the country to share their knowledge and solutions in order to overcome the constraints in promoting digital education.

COVID-19: What are Red, Orange and Green Zones?

PM Modi interacted with the Chief Ministers of the states through video conferencing. During the meet, most of them favored extending the lock down. It has now been concluded that India

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will enter into “smart Lockdown”. Under the smart lock down, India is to be demarcated into red, orange and green zones.

The red zones are regions that were declared as hotspots. Here no economic activity is to be allowed. The orange zones are regions where limited public transport is to be allowed. In these regions harvesting of farm products will also be allowed.

In the green zones, along with farm activities, MSME industries will also begin to function. These industries will provide in-house lodging facilities for employees along with social distancing facilities.

Wormivet: Herbal Medication developed by NIF to treat worms

The National Innovation foundation India has developed an indigenous herbal medicine called Wormivet. It is an alternative to chemical methods that are currently being used to treat worms.

The Wormivet is used to treat endoparasite worms in livestock. A patent has been filed on the invention. The patent has been given in the name of Grassroots knowledge.

Corona Kavach: Application launched by GoI to locate a COVID-19 positive patient

The Government of India launched Corona Kavach application to map the location of a COVID-19 positive patient through GPS. The application has been launched by India after learning about its success in the countries such as South Korea and Singapore. The “Corona Kavach” application tracks the data of the user every hour. It then alerts him if he has crossed a Corona Positive patient.

Government Slashes Interest Rates on Small Saving Schemes

The interest rates on small saving schemes have been slashed by the central government for the April-June quarter of the financial year 2020-2021. The decision has come after the Reserve Bank of India’s recent 75 bps cut in the interest rates at the time of economic fallout due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Key Highlights

- The interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) for the April-June quarter is now 7.1 percent. It has been brought down by 80 bps (basic points).
- The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra has been slashed down to 6.9 percent.
- For Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, the interest rate for the quarter is now 7.6 percent.
- For National Saving Certificate Scheme, the interest rate by the government has been brought down to 6.8 percent.
- For five-year recurring deposits, the interest rate has been lower down to 5.8 percent.
- For a five-year time deposit, the quarterly interest rate has been brought down to 6.7 percent.

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Jobless rate amid Covid-19 lockdown period hits 23.4%: CMIE

Unemployment rate during March 30-April 5 rose to 23.4 per cent and the labour participation rate fell to 36 per cent, reflecting the impact of lockdown to tackle COVID-19 outbreak, data released by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy showed. For full month of March, unemployment rose to a 43-month high of 8.7 per cent, while the labour participation rate dropped to 41.9 per cent.

Ministry of Tourism launches “DekhoApnaDesh” webinar series

The ministry of tourism said it was launching the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.

The ministry said the webinar series will provide information on the many destinations and the ‘depth’ and ‘expanse’ of the culture and heritage of India. The first webinar touched upon the history of Delhi and was titled “City of Cities- Delhi’s Personal Diary”.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2020 is celebrated on 30 April

Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated on 30 April. The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database. It will also promote health and wellness and provide insurance benefits to the poor.

COVID-19 tracking app ‘Aarogya Setu’ launched by the government

Aarogya Setu, India’s first comprehensive COVID-19 tracking app, was launched by the central government on April 2, 2020. The app will help people get connected with health services to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

CBSE introduces ‘applied mathematics’ as academic elective for Class 11 students

The Central Board of Secondary Education introduced applied mathematics as an academic elective at the senior secondary level. The new academic elective will be available for students of class 11 from this academic year (2020-21 session).

NTPC to procure fuel cell buses, cars for Delhi, Leh

State-run power giant NTPC said it had invited expression of interest for procuring ten hydrogen fuel cell-based electric buses and an equal number of such cars.

These environment-friendly vehicles would be used in Delhi and Leh.

“NTPC Ltd, has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based electric buses and an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based electric cars in Leh and Delhi,” a company statement said.

DARPG: National Monitoring Dashboard launched

The main objective of the dashboard is quick and timeMinister of State for Personnel and Public Grievances Dr Jitendra Singh launched the National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-

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19. The dashboard is to be developed and implemented by DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances).

CSIR-CMERI develops Disinfection Walkways and Road Sanitizer Unit to counter coronavirus

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed technologies and products namely Disinfection Walkways and Road Sanitizer Unit. The technologies can help to counter the menacing coronavirus.

Indian Railways CLW creates world record! Name registered in Limca Book of Records for highest loco production

New world record by Indian Railways! The locomotive manufacturing factory – Chittaranjan Locomotives Works (CLW) – located in Asansol, West Bengal, has recently registered its name in the Limca Book of Records by creating the highest production record.

In the Financial Year 2018-19, the Chittaranjan Locomotives Works produced as many as 402 electrical locomotives, the highest production record in the world. The locomotive manufacturing factory has surpassed its own record of 350 locomotives manufactured in the year 2017-18. According to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, the hard work and dedication of Indian Railways' family have made this feat possible.

GoI launches “Krishi Rath” application for hassle free agri transportation

The Government of India launched the “Krishi Rath” application to help farmers to transport their agriculture produce to the mandis. The farmer has to post the quantity of agricultural produce he wishes to transport.

After posting, he will get the availability of truck and price quote for the load. The prices quoted are from the transport aggregators. Once the farmer confirms, he will get details of the transporter. He can then directly connect with him and negotiate for prices.

India's Aarogya Setu becomes world's highest downloaded app in just 13 days

With the country entering the second phase of lockdown to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus spread in India, the government's recently launched Aarogya Setu application that tracks Covid-19 cases around and helps in fighting the virus on an individual level, reached 50 million downloads just 13 days, making it the world's fastest downloaded app, said NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant.

“AarogyaSetu, India's app to fight COVID-19 has reached 50 mn users in just 13 days-fastest ever globally for an App,” Kant tweeted.

IMD releases new list of 169 tropical cyclones names

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released a new list consisting of 169 names of future tropical cyclones that would emerge in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. The list was released by IMD on April 28.

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The newly released list has 13 names each from the 13 member countries, including India, of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

IMD is one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMC) in the world. It is mandatory for the department to issue advisories and name tropical cyclones in the north Indian Ocean region.

Arogya Sanjeevani Policy Cigna launched with IRDAI guidelines

Manipal Cigna Health Insurance company has announced the launch of its Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, ManipalCigna. This standard health cover policy in line with IRDAI from one of the 29 insurers who have received the go-ahead to launch such policies in the industry. Every general insurance company has to launch a standard health plan and has to have an official name Arogya Sanjeevani Policy (name of insurer) for easy comparison by the buyers.

MoS HRD and IT, Sanjay Dhotre launches 'Hack the Crisis-India' hackathon

Minister of State Human Resource Development and IT Sanjay Dhotre launched Hack the Crisis – India, an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID-19 pandemic. This hackathon is part of a global initiative and is being organised by 'Hack A Cause – India' and 'FICCI Ladies Organization Pune' and supported by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The aim of this hackathon is to strengthen fight against COVID-19.

JEEVAN: Railway makes low cost prototype of Ventilator; ICMR to test the prototype

JEEVAN, is a low-cost energy efficient ventilator made by the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. The cost of the machine is fraction of what the original designs cost. The prototype is to be tested by ICMR before mass production. The cost of the machine is around Rs 10,000 without a compressor.

Hockey India donates additional 75 lakh rupees towards PM-CARES Fund

Hockey India donated an additional Rs 75 lakhs towards the PM-CARES Fund to take its total contribution to Rs 1 crore to tackle worsening COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Hockey India earlier donated Rs 25 lakhs towards the cause in April. Hockey India secretary general Rajinder Singh agreed with Mushtaq's views.

Bio Fortified Carrots developed by farmer scientist

A farmer scientist of Junagadh district, Gujarat Shri Vallabhai Vastambhai Marvaniya developed biofortified carrots. The carrots are locally called "Madhuban Gajar". It is rich in β -carotene and iron.

The biofortified carrot variety is benefiting more than 150 local farmers. The yield of the variety is 40 to 50 tonnes per hectare. The variety has been cultivated in over 1000 hectares of land this season.

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Three types of Health Care Facilities to be set up to manage COVID-19 cases

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that the hospitals and health facilities have been classified to deal with COVID-19 cases in the country. There are three types of COVID-19 health centres to be set up in the country.

Union HRD Minister launched MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched a unique MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal to address the issues faced by students. The students are facing difficulties due to the closure of colleges and hostels in the view of the COVID-19 outbreak. It was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank.”

C-MET develops a low-cost indigenous prototype of polymer swab

A scientist from the Pune-based Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) has developed a low-cost indigenous prototype of polymer swab. It can be used to collect the samples for coronavirus testing. If the product gets approved for production, the country will not need to depend on imported swabs.

FCI sets new record in single day transportation of food grains

Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set a new record in single day movement by moving 70 rakes carrying one lakh 93 thousand Metric Tonnes food grains continuously for two days. Consumer Affairs Ministry said, FCI is ensuring that enough food grain stocks are made available in every part of the country during countrywide lockdown.

Life Insurance Council: “Force Majeure” does not apply for COVID-19 cases

The Life Insurance council announced that the “Force Majeure” clause will apply to COVID-19 deaths. Apart from the council, Kolkata Port Trust has also invoked force majeure.

What is force Majeure?

Force Majeure clause was introduced for unforeseen circumstances. This includes natural disasters, accidents, epidemics, pandemics.

Imports of Edible Oil decline in India by 32.44%

The Solvent Extractors Association of India reported that edible oil imports in India has declined by 32.44% in March 2020. This is because, India, the largest importer of vegetable oil in the world has reduced its imports due to the threats of COVID-19.

Government of India launches a training module for management of COVID-19 named ‘Integrated Government Online training’ (iGOT)

Accordingly, to take care of the training needs of the frontline workers, the Government of India has launched a training module for management of COVID-19 named ‘Integrated Govt.

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Online training' (iGOT) portal on Ministry of HRD's DIKSHA platform for the capacity building of frontline workers to handle the pandemic efficiently.

Courses on iGOT have been launched for Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Hygiene Workers, Technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), State Government Officers, Civil Defence Officers, Various Police Organisations, National Cadet Corps(NCC), NehruYuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme, Indian Red Cross Society, Bharat Scouts and Guides and other volunteers at the stage.

MHRD launched YUKTI web-portal in New Delhi

Centre launched a web-portal "Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation" (YUKTI) in New Delhi. The web-portal was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank."

YUKTI portal:

YUKTI portal is a unique portal and dashboard to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

April 13, 2020 marked the 101st anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

13 April 2020 marked the 101st anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. On this day, the martyrs who were killed mercilessly in Jallianwala Bagh are remembered. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the innocent martyrs who showed great courage and sacrifice. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, or the Amritsar slaughter, happened on 13 April 1919.

e-NAM completes four years of implementation

The pan-India Agriculture trading portal e-NAM completes four years of implementation. On this occasion, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that e-NAM helped in realising the vision of One Nation One Market for agri produce.

He also said that e-NAM is being expanded to cover additional 415 mandis which will take the total number of e-NAM mandis to 1000 soon. He also added that this online platform will prove to be a giant leap in reforming the agriculture market in India. AIR correspondent reports e-NAM was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 21 mandis on 14th April in 2016.

Jim Corbett becomes India's first quarantine facility for animals

While the world is busy battling coronavirus, the reports of a Malayan tiger being tested positive for COVID-19 in the United States has caught the attention of the Indian authorities. India's oldest National Park Jim Corbett, situated in Uttarakhand's Paurhi Garhwal region, has built isolation wards for animals.

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Electric Vehicle Sale increases by 20% in 2020-21

The Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) has released its data on Electric Vehicles sales. According to its report, the sales of Electric Vehicles have increased by 20% in the Fiscal Year 2019-20.

What is Lifeline UDAN?

The Lifeline UDAN was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to help India fight against COVID-19. Under this initiative, flights were operated in transporting essential equipment and medicines all over the country.

The Lifeline UDAN initiative was a huge success as in just 5 days of its launch, more than 15.4 tonnes of essential supplies have been transported in 62 aircrafts. The products transported included masks and gloves, consumables, etc. In order help public to track Lifeline Udan flights, the status of the flights were uploaded in a portal. The portal was developed by National Informatics Centre.

Prana Vayu: Low Cost Portable Ventilator developed by IIT Roorkee

With only 40,000 ventilators in India, the demand for ventilators are increasing day by day as the number of cases of COVID-19 are increasing day by day. In order to fulfil the demands, IIT Roorkee has developed low cost portable ventilator called “Prana Vayu”.

Cabinet: Ordinance to cut salary of PM and MPs by 30% approved

The Union Cabinet approved to cut the salary of Prime Minister and other MPs by 30%. Apart from them, the salaries of president, governor and vice president are also to be cut.

Jan Aushadhi Sugam App launched: Essential Medicines home delivered by “Swasth Ke Sipahi”

The Pharmacists of the Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendra established under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJAP) are delivering essential medicines at the doorsteps of elderly and other patients.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra: Door Delivery of fish Scheme

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra operating under Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has launched a door delivery scheme in Kerala. Under the scheme, it is providing door delivery of fishes to several households in Kochi city.

The Door Delivery scheme has gained a good response in the Kochi city with average daily supply hitting 510 kg. Under the scheme, the KVK is catering 350 homes. Through this, the institute is earning around Rs 1.6 lakh rupees every day.

Arogya Sanjeevani Policy Cigna launched with IRDAI guidelines

Manipal Cigna Health Insurance company has announced the launch of its Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, ManipalCigna. This standard health cover policy in line with IRDAI from one of the

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29 insurers who have received the go-ahead to launch such policies in the industry. Every general insurance company has to launch a standard health plan and has to have an official name Arogya Sanjeevani Policy (name of insurer) for easy comparison by the buyers.

Civil Servants launch 'CARUNA' initiative to fight COVID-19 pandemic, to aid government's efforts

Civil Servants across services including IAS, IPS, IRS have launched a unique CARUNA Initiative to support government in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. CARUNA stands for 'Civil Services Association Reach to Support National Disasters', which has been launched Associations representing officers of Central Civil Services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).

Coronavirus | Geo-fencing app will be used to locate quarantine violators

The government has tested an application that triggers e-mails and SMS alerts to an authorised government agency if a person has jumped quarantine or escaped from isolation, based on the person's mobile phone's cell tower location.

Kerala was one of the first States to use geo-fencing to track COVID-19 cases.

India to host 2020 Asian Boxing Championship

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has announced that India will be hosting the 2020 Asian Boxing Championship. The championship is expected to be held during November-December. The host city is yet to be announced later. The announcement was made by the National Federation President Ajay Singh.

BFI got the hosting rights in February 2020. Asian Boxing Championships were held as two individual events for men and women before 2019. Previously, India organized the men's event in 1980 with Mumbai playing the host. The women's event was hosted by India in 2003 with Hisar, Haryana hosting the event.

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State Related Affairs

COVID-19: Maharashtra and Telangana Government announce major salary cuts

The Maharashtra Government had cut 60% of salary from the Chief Minister and other members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and other representatives of the local governing bodies. The Class A and Class B employees of the government are to take 50% of cut. There will be no salary cuts for Class D employees that includes office assistants and peons. So far Maharashtra has reported 225 COVID-19 infected cases and 10 deaths.

The state of Telangana had also announced such salary cuts. The Telangana Government is to cut 75% of salary from the Chief Minister, members of legislative assembly and state ministers.

Coronavirus: Delhi CM announces Operation Shield to fight Covid-19

Delhi government has come up with a term for its strategy to contain the spread of novel coronavirus – Operation Shield. As per the government strategy, SHIELD stands for sealing, home quarantine, isolation and tracing, essential supply, local sanitation and door-to-door checks.

First remote health monitoring system has been set up in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

The has been set up in India by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh along with Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited (BHEL), a Government of India Navratna company in the defense sector. The system is expected to be used in Uttarakhand state to monitor COVID-19 patients.

The digital medical system has been developed so that the doctor sitting in AIIMS can monitor the patient's body temperature and the amount of oxygen in the blood and the speed of his breath while at home. The therapeutic system will not unnecessarily hospitalize the patient. For this purpose, a website and mobile application have been created.

UP to Become First State to Start Pool Testing of Covid-19 Samples as Cases Jump to 558

As the number of Covid-19 positive patients in Uttar Pradesh reached 558, the state government decided to start pool testing of the coronavirus samples. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) gave permission for pool testing to the state in order to help maximise the testing of samples on a daily basis.

Uttar Pradesh will be the first state to start pool testing, a protocol for the same will be decided soon," said Amit Mohan Prasad, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Delhi to begin clinical trial of plasma enrichment technique

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Doctors will conduct the clinical trial of plasma enrichment technique to treat severely-ill coronavirus patients soon.

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Under the method, Plasma from the blood of the people who have recovered from COVID-19 will be collected. It is believed that it might contain antibodies to the virus that causes the disease and might be effective against the infection.

Manipur commemorated Khongjom Day at Khongjom War Memorial Complex

Manipur state government commemorated Khongjom Day at Khongjom War Memorial Complex, Thoubal on 23 April. The state paid tribute to the valiant people who fought in the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891.

Khongjom Day:

The last battle fought between the Manipur kingdom and the British Empire was the 1891 armed conflict. The battle was fought in Kheba Hill of Khongjom in the Thoubal district. Manipur Kingdom lost the war. It marked the beginning of British rule in the then princely state. Since then, the Manipur state government has been observing 23 April as 'Khongjom Day' every year.

Andhra Pradesh CM launched Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S.Jaganmohan Reddy launched the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme on 28 April. Under the scheme over Rs.4,000 crore of funds have been released along with Rs.1880 crore towards the pending amount left by the earlier government. Fee reimbursement will be credited directly to mothers' accounts instead of college accounts in the coming academic year 2020-21.

MadhyaPradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches Jeevan-Shakti yojana

The Chief Minister Shri 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. While interacting through video conferencing with the women who have registered for making masks, Shri Chouhan said that they will not only earn profit by preparing the masks but will also participate in a pious work.

Five of the North Eastern States become COVID-19 free

Five of the eight north east states namely Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Sikkim have become COVID-19 free. The other three states namely Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram have not reported new cases. This was announced by the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announces Rs 15 lakh ex-gratia for journalists

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced compensate assistance of Rs 15 lakh for the family members of working journalists who lose their lives due to COVID-19 infection in the state.

Large scale of health problems have been emerged across the world due to the Coronavirus pandemic. In such difficult times, the journalist are delicately discharging their duty and creating awareness among the people about the deadly virus, said a statement issued by the CM.

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Haryana Education Minister launches ‘Sampark Baithak’ app for primary students

After launching the application here, the Haryana education minister, Kanwar Pal, said the curriculum of Class 5 has been made simple and interesting through cartoons and films. He said that this app will prove beneficial, especially for the students of Hindi medium schools.

Delhi Government introduces “Assess Koro Na” application

The Delhi Government launched “Assess Koro Na” application to conduct door to door survey. The application has been launched in COVID-19 containment zones. The data collected is uploaded to the servers in real time. The data are then analyzed immediately. The control centres will access this data and make quick decisions on fulfilling the needs such as ambulance services, medical expert, etc.

Rajasthan starts antibody tests as Jaipur & Jodhpur turn hotspots

Rajasthan has started rapid antibody tests, among the first states to do so, as the state capital Jaipur and Jodhpur have emerged as hotspots, reporting more than half the confirmed Covid-19 cases and accounting for 70% of deaths in the state. The development comes as 26 out of the 33 districts in Rajasthan have confirmed Covid-19 cases, although the state had an early success in curbing coronavirus in Bhilwara.

Daporijo bridge was inaugurated in Arunachal pradesh for traffic movement

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed the Daporijo bridge over the Subansiri river. Despite nationwide lockdown, BRO constructed it, keeping in mind utmost precautions against COVID-19 and to connect the strategic Line of Communication in Arunachal Pradesh. The bridge was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Shri Pema Khandu over video conferencing and open for traffic movement from 20 April.

Karnataka govt launches “Apthamitra” helpline and app to fight COVID-19

Aimed at empowering people in its fight against coronavirus, the Karnataka government launched “Apthamitra” helpline with an exclusive toll free number and a mobile app, aimed at providing required medical advice and guidance for those in need.

The help line and app was launched by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in the presence of senior Ministers and officials of the department.

Digital Learning: Rajasthan Govt launches ‘SMILE’ for e-learning at school

The state’s education department has launched a project ‘SMILE’ in order to ensure that the continuity of teaching and learning will not hamper due to the nation-wide covid-9 lockdown.

State education minister Govind Singh Dotasra said, “Rajasthan has believed and demonstrated its belief in strengthening its education system over the years. Project SMILE is a reinforcement of our commitment to continue imparting education in the difficult situation of coronavirus outbreak.”

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Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu Programme: 25 lakh poor to get houses in AP

The Government of Andhra Pradesh modified the guidelines of Navatnalu-Pedalandariki Illu programme. The scheme is called “Houses for all the poor”. The scheme is called “Houses for all the poor”. The guidelines were changed based on the directions of the High Court.

Odisha government launches on line cultural competition to engage child renduring lockdown

Odisha government, in collaboration with the UNICEF, launched an online cultural competition among children to keep them engaged at home during the lockdown period. Children can participate in competitions of painting, writing of slogans, short stories and poems, and poster making, winning entries will get certificates, said Odisha government’s COVID spokesman Subroto Bagchi.

Mo Prativa

The Mo Prativa (My talent) program is for children in the age group of 5 to 18 years. The entries are being invited on two themes: “Being at home during lockdown” and “My responsibility as a young citizen during COVID-19”.

Arvind Kejriwal unveils ‘5T’ plan for Delhi to fight COVID-19

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal unveiled a five-point plan to tackle the coronavirus outbreak after speaking to experts and doctors. The “5Ts”, Kejriwal said, include testing, tracing, treatment, teamwork and tracking and monitoring of the virus.

The Delhi government will start conducting rapid anti-body tests, as recommended by the ICMR, in areas identified as coronavirus hotspots, Kejriwal said, taking into account a possibility of up to 30,000 active cases in the city.

Kerala sets up kiosks to collect samples

Kerala has developed its own inexpensive kiosks for mass collection of samples from people with symptoms for Covid-19. The kiosk, called walk-in sample kiosk (Wisk), is the first of its kind in India, inspired by similar models deployed in South Korea. Two such kiosks were set up at the government medical college premises in Ernakulam.

Haryana doubled salary of Doctors, Nurses, medical professionals dealing with COVID-19 cases

Haryana state government has announced that it is to double the salary of Doctors, Nurses and other medical professionals dealing with COVID-19 patients. The announcement was made by the Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

The announcement stated that the salaries of all those engaged in the fight against COVID-19 including doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, Class IV staff, Ambulance staff, Testing Lab staff will be doubled.

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Chhattisgarh launched Cghaat website for online essential delivery

Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the online delivery website 'Cghaat' on 16 April. Cghaat will facilitate doorstep delivery of fruits and vegetables during the extended lockdown phase due to contain COVID-19 spread.

The web portal, cghaat.in, has been developed by Chhattisgarh government's agency Chips. The fruit and vegetable vendors who are interested to provide services can register online through this portal.

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International Affairs

COVID-19: Wimbledon cancelled for the First Time since World Wars

Wimbledon was cancelled due to the threats of Corona Virus. This is the first time the tournament is being cancelled since the World War II. Wimbledon was scheduled between June 29, 2020 and July 12, 2020 in the outskirts of London. However, it was cancelled considering lock down situation and also due to the threats posed by COVID-19.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup postponed "in the best interest" of everyone

The postponement of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled to be played in November in India, will not derail preparations for the tournament as the country is still committed to "delivering a memorable" meet whenever it is possible, Roma Khanna, the tournament director of the Local Organising Committee, said.

Official mascots of 19th Asian Games unveiled in Hangzhou, China

The official mascots of the 19th Asian Games were unveiled at a digital launch ceremony in Hangzhou, China. The three robots, which are going to be the mascots for the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games are collectively known as the smart triplets.

Former Test spinner Stephen O'Keefe forced to retire after becoming shock omission from NSW player contract list

Former Test spinner Stephen O'Keefe's first-class career is over after he became a shock omission from the NSW player contract list for next summer. O'Keefe confirmed his retirement from Sheffield Shield but said he would continue playing Big Bash for the Sydney Sixers.

India is world's most digitally dexterous country: Survey

Sixty-seven per cent of digital workers in India said emerging technologies such as machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) are increasing their effectiveness at work, according to a survey by Gartner, Inc.

The Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey found that India is the most digitally dexterous country in the world – followed by the UK and the US, due to having the largest Gen Z workforce along with the desire to learn new skills using digital technologies in the workplace.

Lebanon: First Arab Country to legalize Marijuana cultivation

Lebanon became the first Arab country to legalize marijuana cultivation. This has been done by the Lebanese Parliament in order to boost the export of marijuana. According to the United Nations, Lebanon is the third largest supplier of cannabis resin in the world after Morocco and Afghanistan.

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Iran launches first military satellite in latest show of force

Iran said that it successfully launched the nation's first military satellite, another move in the heightened tit-for-tat fight between Washington and Tehran over the regime's missile programs.

The satellite, dubbed Noor, was sent into orbit using a long-range rocket, according to a statement by Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

FATF to review Pakistans performance to fight money laundering

Global anti-money laundering watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has announced that it will review Pakistan's performance to meet international commitments in the fight against terror financing.

FATF will review Pakistan's performance to meet international commitments and standards in the fight against money laundering and terror financing at a meeting that has been scheduled to be held in Beijing on 21-26 June 2020.

New sectors to be added in the second phase of CPEC

Pakistan announced that it is to add more sectors like agriculture and tourism in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The multi-billion-dollar project has slowed down due to the coronavirus outbreak.

China, earlier, has committed to invest over \$60 billion in Pakistan as part of the CPEC under which it planned to build a number of special economic zones (SEZ).

Indonesia has world's largest Buddhist temple with 504 Buddha statues

The Borobudur Temple, located on the Indonesian island of Java, is the world's largest Buddhist temple. Built in the 9th century during the reign of Syailendra dynasty, the temple was constructed with approximately 56,000 cubic metres of volcanic stone, has around 504 Buddha statues and is decorated with 2,672 relief panels. It was restored with UNESCO's help in the 1970s.

Malaysia, Thailand weightlifters barred from Tokyo Olympics

Malaysia and Thailand have been banned from sending weightlifters to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo because of multiple doping offences, the Independent Member Federations Sanctions Panel announced (April 4).

Indonesian Anak Krakatau volcano witnessed longest eruption

Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted on 11 April. It spewed a column of ash 500 meters into the sky. It last erupted in 2018. No casualties were reported. Anak Krakatau means the child of Krakatau, is the offspring of the famous Krakatau volcano. The volcano first erupted in 1883 triggered a period of global cooling.

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APEC economy to be reduced by 2.7 per cent in 2020

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region has been expected to post an economic decline by 2.7 percent in 2020 because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

As per the APEC Secretariat, this will be the most significant fall since the zero -growth rate logged in 2009 because of the financial crisis.

The region with 21 member countries had recorded an economic growth rate of 3.6 percent. The countries are expected to see this fall due to the ongoing global health crisis that has dangerously impacted the world economy.

11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue conducted via video conference

11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue with 30 countries including India took place on April 28, 2020, through a video conference. The dialogue was conducted to discuss the ways of tackling the societies and economies after COVID-19.

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar attended the Petersberg Climate Dialogue and talked about climate technology that must be available at an affordable cost.

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Foreign Relation

China and US bring in aid for India

The United States has announced 2.9 million USD aid for India to fight against COVID-19. Apart from the US, China is to donate more than 1,70,000 Personal Protective Equipment to India.

India-China Currently, there are 3,87,000 PPE kits in the country. The domestic supply of the PPE kits will increase after the kits from China arrive in India. India is also negotiating with Singapore to import around 8 million PPE kits.

India to attend BRICS meeting on COVID-19

India is to attend BRICS foreign ministers meet by the end of April 2020. The members will discuss economic fallout due to the spread of COVID-19. The foreign ministers meet of the BRICS grouping is to be conducted through video link.

It is essential to conduct more of such meeting as the global economic growth is declining at its highest. The International Monetary Fund has projected the global growth rate to be -3% in the year 2020-21.

Govt approval must for all FDIs from neighbouring countries including China

The government made its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments from countries that share land border with India to curb “opportunistic takeovers” of domestic firms following the Covid-19 pandemic, a move which will restrict FDI from China.

India sends HCQ and sterile surgical gloves to Bangladesh

India sent 1 lakh Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) tablets, 50,000 sterile surgical gloves and other emergency medical supplies to Bangladesh. Earlier, India had provided 15,000 head covers and 30,000 surgical masks to Bangladesh in the first tranche of assistance under COVID-19 emergency funds. The HCQ tablets and surgical gloves are the second tranche of medical supplies being provided under the funds.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar to attend BRICS meet on Covid-19

India will participate in a key meeting of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) foreign ministers to discuss the fallout of the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Sars-Cov-2, which first emerged in China’s Wuhan city late last year, has killed more than 200,000 people worldwide and infected over 3 million others, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

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Indo-US IUSSTF to address COVID-19 challenges

The IUSSTF, Indo-US Science and Technology Forum has invited proposals from Indian and American scientists. The proposals will demonstrate value and benefits of Indo-US partnership in COVID-19 research.

The global partnerships and collaborations are bringing together scientists and engineers from different parts of the world to find solutions for COVID-19. The IUSSTF is now encouraging such collaborations to catalyze both India and United States.

Govt notifies Mauritius as eligible country for Category-I FPIs

The government notified Mauritius as an “eligible country”, enabling its investment entities to register as Category-I foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) with lower KYC requirements.

Category-I FPIs include government and government-related investors such as central banks, sovereign wealth funds, international or multilateral organizations or agencies, including entities controlled or at least 75 per cent directly or indirectly owned by such government and government related investor, pension and university funds.

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Rank

Damani, Poonawalla only Indian billionaires on Bloomberg list to get richer in 2020

DMart Founder Radhakishan Damani's net worth has surged 11% this year to \$10.7 billion, making him the biggest gainer among the 12 richest Indians whose wealth is tracked by Bloomberg. Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla was the only other Indian tycoon among the 12 whose wealth rose in 2020. Poonawalla's wealth rose by 2.6% to \$8.9 billion this year.

IIT Kharagpur ranks 57 among global peers for sustainable impact research

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has been ranked 57th among global universities for its impact research in areas that help achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) as mandated by the United Nations.

The global ranking maps the contribution of over 800 universities in 89 countries on SDG parameters, and comes at a time when the sustainable development discourse is gathering ground amid a global pandemic.

IndiGo enters Brand Finance Top 50 Airlines list recognising the most valuable and strongest airline brands in 2020

India's leading carrier – IndiGo – has been recognised as one of the most valuable and strongest airlines as per the Brand Finance Airlines 50 report for 2020. The airline was ranked at number 43 in the report as it entered the list for the first time. IndiGo, the only airline from India, ranked above the other two new entrants in the list – Shanghai Airlines from China and Vueling from Spain.

Mr. William Boulter, Chief Commercial Officer, IndiGo said, "Amidst the unprecedented times that we all are going through, this news brings a cheer and is a testament to the hard work that has gone behind scaling up our network and operations over the last one year. At IndiGo, we have not only invested our time, but our hearts to make it the brand that it."

Coronavirus: Mumbai becomes first city in India to make face masks compulsory in public

As the number of coronavirus cases in Maharashtra had crossed 1,000, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) made wearing face masks mandatory in public places. Mumbai is the first city in India to make masks compulsory.

"All person must wear a three-ply mask or a cloth mask in public places such as streets, hospitals, offices and markets," Praveen Pardeshi, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner said in a letter.

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India retains 108th slot at FIFA's latest ranking

India football team retained its 108th spot in the latest FIFA rankings issued. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole raft of international fixtures including qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup and other major tournaments has been postponed.

The dates were redrawn for showpiece men's events such as the Olympic football tournament, CONMEBOL Copa America and UEFA EURO.

UP became the first state in India to geotag its 7,368 community kitchens

Uttar Pradesh became the first state in India to geotag its 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters across 75 districts which produce 12 lakh food packets a day.

The UP state government has partnered with Google to 'Geo-map' the locations of all these establishments on the Google Maps app for ease of beneficiaries. The state government has established community kitchens in adequate numbers in each of the 75 districts. More than two crore food packets have been distributed in Uttar Pradesh since 25 March.

World Press Freedom Index 2020: India ranks 142, drops down by two places

India has ranked 142 out of 180 in the Global press freedom index. The report was released on April 21 in the annual Reporters without borders analysis.

'World Press Freedom Index 2020' stated as there were no murders of journalists in India in 2019 as compared to 6 in 2018, it showed that the security system in India seemed to have improved.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank ranks 5th among 'Best Large Workplaces in Asia 2020' by Great Place To Work Institute

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank is ranked 5th among 'Best Large Workplaces in Asia 2020' by the Great Place To Work Institute. In 2019, Ujjivan SFB was ranked 16th in the Best Large Workplaces in Asia. Ujjivan SFB has been consistently featured in the list of best companies to work for by Great Place To Work® for nearly a decade.

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Business

Reliance Foundation's 'Mission Anna Seva' biggest free meal program run by any corporate: Nita Ambani

Reliance Foundation's 'Mission Anna Seva' that aims to provide over 3 crore meals to marginalised communities and frontline workers facing hardships during the lockdown, is the largest free meal programme by any corporate foundation globally, its chairperson Nita Ambani said.

Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of India's largest firm Reliance Industries, has pledged free meals, build country's first COVID-19 hospital and is supplying PPEs and masks as part of its effort to help the nation fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chemicals, Petrochemicals industry becomes top exporting sector for 1st time

India's chemical exports rose by 7 per cent to 2.68 lakh crore rupees during April-January period of the last fiscal, and became the top exporting sector in the country for the first time. Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda congratulated the chemicals and petrochemicals industry on becoming the top exporting sector of the country for the first time.

Flipkart, Tata Consumer tie up to distribute, deliver essentials

E-commerce firm Flipkart and Tata Consumer Products Ltd have partnered to enable access to essential food and beverage products to Indians through a system where the latter's distributors will list as marketplace sellers on the former's platform.

TVS acquires Britain iconic sporting motorcycle brand Norton

TVS Motor Company announced the acquisition of the UK's most iconic sporting motorcycle Norton for £16 million, by acquiring certain assets of Norton Motorcycles (U.K.)

The brand is known for its classic models and eclectic range of luxury motorcycles, ranging from the authentic retro classic reboots. Finally TVS Motor Singapore Pte. Ltd signed an asset purchase agreement with Norton Motorcycles Holdings Ltd and Norton Motorcycles (UK) Ltd

Microsoft adds five Indian languages to Microsoft Translator

Microsoft India has announced that Microsoft Translator will now offer real-time translation in five additional languages. The newly added languages include Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam, and Punjabi.

This takes the total number of Indian languages supported to 10, including Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. With this, the service will now allow over 90% of Indians to access information and work in their native/preferred languages, making computing language-agnostic and more inclusive in the country.

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Tech Mahindra teams up with IBM to set up innovation centres

IT services firm Tech Mahindra said it is collaborating with the United States-headquartered IBM to help businesses transform operations and accelerate their hybrid cloud strategies.

As part of this relationship, the two companies will establish innovation centres to address complex business problems across industries, including telecommunication, manufacturing, financial services, insurance, retail and healthcare.

Facebook buys 9.99% stake in Reliance Jio platform

Facebook has announced the investment of Rs. 43,474 crores in Reliance Jio for 9.99 percent stake on April 22. It is the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's tech sector.

The announcement of signing a binding agreement for an investment of Rs. 43,474 crore was made by Jio Platform Ltd, Reliance Industries Ltd., and Facebook.

TCS to power Israel's first fully digital bank

India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCSNSE 6.15 %) will launch Israel's first fully digital bank in what is being seen as a trans-formative initiative that can impact the business model of other sectors as well.

TCS was selected by Israel's Ministry of Finance to transform its banking sector by building a banking service bureau that would serve as a shared, plug-and-play, digital banking operations platform – powered by the TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform ..

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Defence News

Ex-Service Men rise to “Service Before Self” to fight COVID-19

The Indian Army serves under the motto “Service Before Self”. Continuing to live with the motto even after retirement, the department of Ex-service men operating under Ministry of Defence took the initiative to mobilize ex-servicemen to assist state and district administration.

“COVSACK” developed by DRDO to combat COVID-19

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed COVSACK to receive samples from COVID-19 infected patients. The COVSACK is COVID-19 infected patients. The COVSACK is COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk.

Indian Army observes “No Movement”; Special train to ferry soldiers

The Indian Army chief Lt General Manoj Naravane issued directives to all the military cantonments, headquarters, establishments to strictly ensure no movement of forces till April 19, 2020. This is being done to fight COVID-19 during extended lock down.

Tianwen-1: China names its first Mars mission ‘Tianwen-1’; launch planned for later this year

China has named its first Mars exploration mission as ‘Tianwen-1’. The announcement was made on April 24, 2020, the same day when the nation celebrated ‘Space Day’ to mark the 50th anniversary of the launch of its first-ever satellite ‘Dong Fang Hong-1’ in 1970.

The mission is expected to be launched later this year. With the mission, China aims to catch up with the other nations that have launched successful mars missions including the United States, European Union, Russia and India.

India became third largest military spender in the world

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report titled “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019” stated that India has become the third-largest military spender in the world, after the US and China.

For the first time that India and China are among the top three military spenders. The military spending of India grew by 6.8% to \$71.1 billion in 2019. This was the highest military spending in South Asia. The report stated that the total global military expenditure rose to \$1,917 billion in 2019, which is an increase of 3.6% from 2018 and the largest annual growth in spending since 2010.

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Science and Technology

NASA announces SUNRISE Mission

NASA announced Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SUNRISE) mission. The mission is to study about how sun creates Giant Solar Particle Storms. Studying the solar storms, the mission aims to understand the working of the solar system. The study will also aid future astronauts travelling to Mars and protect them from solar storms.

DRDO develops equipment for effective sanitisation of public spaces

In the continuing quest for developing indigenous solutions to combat the Corona Virus Pandemic, Defence research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is ready with technologies for sanitising areas of different sizes. The Centre for Fire Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi has developed two configurations of sanitising equipment. These are spinoffs from technologies developed for fire suppression applications.

NASA plans Artemis Base Camp to land human on moon by 2024

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been working on the 'Artemis Program' that aims at landing humans on the moon by 2024.

Apart from unveiling this plan, NASA has also released the report, titled 'NASA's Plan for Sustained Lunar Exploration and Development', mentioning what this achievement will do for US lunar presence all over the world.

Demo-2 mission: NASA to launch Astronauts to space first time in 11 years

NASA announced that it will launch its flight of astronauts on May 27, 2020. This is the first flight of NASA in 9 years. The mission is to use Falcon-9 rocket. The astronauts are to be sent for an extended stay at the international space station.

The mission is to be launched by SpaceX. It is the first crewed launch of the Elon Musk space company. The mission of NASA sending astronauts to International Space Station has been named "Commercial Crew Programme".

INST uses Fish Gills to develop low cost electro-catalysts

The Institute of Nano Science and Technology operating under Department of Science and Technology has launched an environment friendly catalyst for rechargeable metal battery.

The Catalyst used is made of fish gills. It is low cost and can be used in energy conversion devices. The catalyst invented will overcome the bottlenecks in storage technologies such as metal-air battery, fuel cell and biofuel.

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Shilpa Medicare launched the anti-cancer drug Dasashil

Shilpa Medicare launched its generic version of cancer drug Dasatinib. The monthly therapy cost of Rs.6,440. The company launched the Indian branded generic of Dasatinib, an anti-cancer drug with a brand name “Dasashil.”

SVP Institute becomes first to carry out plasma research in view of Covid-19

In Gujarat, the total number of Covid 19 cases crossed 2000 mark with 127 fresh case. Maximum 67 cases have been reported from Surat followed by 50 from Ahmedabad. Meanwhile, Ahmedabad based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science and Research became the first authorized study centre in the country to carry out plasma research under trial in view of Covid 19.

Hubble Space Telescope: NASA’s longest living Space Telescope celebrates 30th anniversary

NASA celebrated its 30 years of launch of Hubble Space Telescope. It is one of the longest living Space Telescopes in the world.

About Hubble Space Telescope –

The Hubble Space Observatory is run in partnership with European Space Agency. The telescope has played a crucial role in the discovery of accelerating expansion of the cosmos. Also, it was Hubble Telescope that gave the evidence of existence of black holes in the centres of the galaxy.

Largest hole in the Ozone Layer closes by itself

The C3S (Copernicus Climate Change Service) and CAMS (Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service) confirmed that the hole in the Ozone layer has healed itself. The hole was 1 million square kilometres wide above the Arctic. The hole was identified by the scientists in March 2020. It was formed due to unusual climatic conditions.

Lucknow Medical Hospital first in the country to launch Plasma Treatment Therapy

The King George Medical University in Uttar Pradesh became the first government hospital to launch plasma therapy to treat COVID-19. The first dose of plasma therapy was given to a 58-year old patient.

What is the process? The patients recovered from COVID-19 generate IGM and IGG antibodies against the virus. These antibodies are assessed from the samples of the donors through rapid tests. The plasma collected from the volunteering donors are then transfused into patients that are critically sick due to the virus.

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Obituary

Name	Associated Field
Passang Wangchuk Sona	Former Arunachal Pradesh minister
Nirmal Singh Khalsa	Gurbani maestro
Eddie Large	Veteran English comedian
Tony Lewis	co-inventor of Duckworth- Lewis Method
Bill Withers	"Lean On Me" Singer
Adam Schlesinger	US power pop band Fountains of Wayne
Lee Fierro	'Jaws' actress
Jay Benedict	American actor
Mahmoud Jibril	Former Libya Prime Minister
Brahm Kanchibotla	Indian-American journalist
Honor Blackman	James Bond actress
John Prine	the raspy-voiced country-folk singer
Donato Sabia	Italian Olympic 800m finalist
Shanti Hiranand	Padma Shri classical singer
RK Dwivedi	Freedom fighter and veteran Congress leader
Stirling Moss	F1 car racer
Walter D'Souza	Former Gujarat cricketer
Doug Sanders	Golf Legend
Peter Bonetti	Legendary Chelsea goalkeeper
Zafar Sarfaraz	Former Pakistan first-class cricketer
Willie Davis	Pro Football Hall of Famer
Gene Deitch	An American Oscar-winning illustrator, animator, film director and producer
Ratnakar Chaini	Renowned Litterateur
Thespian Usha Ganguly	Eminent theatre personality
Ravi Vallathol	Malayalam actor
Devanand Konwar	Former Governor, Veteran Congress Leader
Irrfan Khan	Bollywood actor
Michael Robinson	Former Footballer
Rishi Kapoor	Veteran actor

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Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
World Autism Awareness Day	April 02	The transition to Adulthood
International Day of Conscience	April 05	
National Maritime Day	April 05	Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet
Mahavir Jayanti	April 06	
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	April 06	
World Health Day	April 07	Support nurses and midwives
CRPF Valour Day	April 09	
National Safe Motherhood day	April 11	
International day Day of Human Space Flight	April 12	
World Chagas Disease Day	April 14	
World Hemophilia Day	April 17	Get + Involved virtually and stay safe
International Day For Monuments and Sites	April 18	
World Heritage Day	April 18	Shared Culture', 'Shared heritage' and 'Shared responsibility
UN Chinese Language Day	April 20	
World Creativity and Innovation Day	April 21	
World Earth Day	April 22	Climate Action
International Girls in ICT day	April 23	
World Book and Copyright Day	April 23	
International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	April 24	
National Panchayati Raj Day	April 24	
World Malaria Day	April 25	Zero Malaria Starts with me
World Veterinary Day	April 25	Environmental protection for improving animal and human health
World Immunization Week	Every year, last week of April	Vaccines work for All
International Delegate's Day	April 25	
International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	April 26	
World Intellectual Property Day	April 26	Innovate for a green future
World Day for Safety and Health at Work	April 28	Stop the Pandemic
International Dance Day	April 29	
International Jazz Day	April 30	