

# Weekly One-Liners

15-21 April 2020



## Weekly One Liners Updates 15-21st April 2020

Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liner Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **third week** (15-21st) of **April 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to invest what per cent of the funds raised through targeted long-term repo operations (TLTRO) route \_\_\_\_ **50 per cent**.

**Note:**

- RBI has announced the TLTRO on March 27, 2020 to ensure sufficient liquidity in the corporate bond market and has already conducted three such operations worth Rs 25,000 crore each.
- Now, the liquidity availed under it has to be deployed by banks in investment grade corporate bonds, commercial papers and Non-convertible debentures (NCDs).
- Investments made by banks under this TLTRO facility will be classified as held to maturity (HTM) i.e. owned till maturity.
- Banks will have to maintain specified securities for the amount received in TLTRO in the HTM book at all times till maturity of TLTRO.

2. What will be the rate of interest in the “Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21” to be launched by the RBI on behalf of GoI \_\_\_\_ **2.50 per annum**.

**Note:**

- The Central government after exercising its power conferred under clause (iii) of section 3 of Government securities Act 2006 has launched a new series of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme namely “Sovereign Gold Bond 2020-21”
- It is to be issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in six tranches from April 2020 to September 2020 i.e. in first half of FY 20-21.
- Their sale will be restricted to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.

3. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in partnership with which bank has launched a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based payment platform \_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

**Note:**

- The platform Bharat InstaPay is to enable all types of channel partners of BSNL to digitize their payment transactions on a round the clock basis/ real- time basis.
- In particular it will help the prepaid sellers to buy the services immediately for sale.
- It will improve BSNL’s credibility towards partners, & will help in growth of partners’ business at a faster pace.

4. International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its “World Economic Outlook, April 2020” has decreased India’s GDP growth rate to \_\_\_\_ **1.9%**.

**Note:**

- It has also predicted that in FY 21-22 the Indian economy will recover strongly with a growth projection of 7.4%.
- This current projected GDP growth rate at 1.9% for 2020-21 is 3.9% lower than the January outlook and 5.1% lower than the projection made in 2019.
- On the global front, the economy is projected to contract by -3% in FY 20-21 while it will grow by 5.8% in 2021 as economic activity normalizes due to the containment of COVID-19.

5. Which bank has launched Safety Grid campaign which was conceptualized by Leo Burnett India to help people maintain social distancing \_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.

**Note:**

- It has created physical markers on the ground using the outer grid of its logo at a distance of 1 meter from each outside the outlets like pharmacies, grocery stores, Automated teller machines (ATMs) among others.
- It has been implemented in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar at 1,750 essential services stores & will be implemented at over 4,000 essential services stores across the 8 cities.

6. As per the IMF report titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic and the Asia-Pacific Region: Lowest Growth Since the 1960s' what will the growth of Asia region in 2020 \_\_\_\_ **0 per cent**.

**Note:**

- International Monetary Fund's (IMF) report titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic and the Asia-Pacific Region: Lowest Growth Since the 1960s' stated that Asia will stall at 0% growth in 2020 for the 1st time in 60 years which includes the Global Financial Crisis (4.7%) and the Asian Financial Crisis (1.3%).
- It also stated that the region will be "severe and unprecedented" due to the impact of the pandemic & Asia is still doing better than other regions in terms of activity.

7. Which becomes the 1st Life Insurance company in India to announce additional benefits for its policyholders & agents \_\_\_\_ **Tata AIA**.

**Note:**

- This is to support them during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- All policyholders will get additional benefit equal to the base sum assured or Rs 5,00,000 (no additional cost) whichever is lower, it is applicable for all valid death claims with a date of death on or before June 30th 2020.
- All 'active' agents with their spouse and children are entitled upto Rs 25,000 hospitalization cover if diagnosed with COVID-19 within the period as mentioned for the policyholders.

8. The Reserve Bank of India has slashed Reverse Repo rate to \_\_\_\_ **3.75%**.

➤ **Note:**

- It has been decided to reduce the fixed reverse repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points (bps) from 4% to 3.75% with immediate effect to maintain more liquidity in the banking system.
- The reverse repo rate is the rate at which central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) borrows money from commercial banks.
- This will encourage banks to lend to the productive sectors of the economy.
- On the other hand, repo rate remained unchanged to 4.40%, but it could be reduced as inflation is likely to fall below its target in a couple of months.

9. The State Bank of India's (SBI) Ecowrap report estimated India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth may fall to \_\_\_\_ **1.1%**.

**Note:**

- Due to the extension of lockdown till May 3, it has estimated overall loss for FY21 around Rs 12.1 lakh crore or 6% of nominal gross value added (GVA) taking the nominal GVA growth for the entire year to be around 4.2% & the nominal GDP is projected at 4.2%.
- The net tax revenue will have a shortfall of at least around Rs 4.12 lakh crores, and revenue shortfall for states will be Rs 1.32 lakh crores.
- The revised fiscal deficit will be at 5.7% of GDP from the budget estimate of 3.5% in FY21 and after taking into account only the current EBR (Extra Budgetary Resources), the deficit rises to 6.6% of GDP.

10. Which small finance bank has launched Selfe Fixed Deposits (FD) and Selfe savings accounts to expand its digital banking services \_\_\_\_ **Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB)**.

**Note:**

- This will help its customers to avoid visiting the branches as the lockdown is extended till May 3.

- With the Aadhaar and Permanent Account Number (PAN) details customers can open an online account for value of Minimum investment of Rs 5,000 and invest up to Rs 90,000 under 3 minutes
11. Which bank has launched voice assistance-based banking services for its retail banking customers \_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank**.
- **Note:**  
ICICI bank has launched voice assistance-based banking services on its integrated artificial intelligence (AI) powered multi-channel chatbot iPal with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant.
  - Customers can access a wide range of banking services like check balance, seek credit card details & ask queries through voice commands.
12. Fitch Solutions has declined India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the FY 2020-21 to \_\_\_\_ **1.8%**.
- Note:**
- For China, it has revised to 1.1% from 2.6% previously & the real GDP contracts by 6.8% year over year(y-o-y) in the 1st quarter of 2020.
  - In the meantime, the targeted financial stimulus should see stable investment growth remain relatively flat, while strong government consumption will provide the majority support and prevent full year contraction by 2020.
13. People's Bank of China (PBOC) has raised its stake in which Indian Bank \_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- People's Bank of China (PBOC) has raised its stake in Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) from 0.8% to 1.01%.
  - The stake raising process was done as a secondary market transaction. The stakes comprises of 17.49 million shares of the the country's largest mortgage lender HDFC.
14. Which bank has made an announcement that the bank will waive service charges for all ATM transactions \_\_\_\_ **SBI**.
- Note:**
- The decision will also be implemented on the other bank ATMs on account of exceeding the free number of transactions up to 30th June 2020.
  - Therefore, any customer having a debit card from a State Bank of India will be allowed to withdraw cash from any other bank's ATM without incurring any additional charges till 30th June, 2020.
15. The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of which bank \_\_\_\_ **Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd.**
- Note:**
- The central bank has issued an order, barring the bank to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on April 16, 2020.
  - Hence, the Urban Co-operative Bank has been refrained from running the business of 'banking' which comprises of acceptance of deposits as well as repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5 (b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect.

### Obituaries

1. Renowned personality M V Rajasekharan passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_ **Politician**.
- Note:**
- He was former Union Minister of State of planning and statistics and veteran Congress leader.
  - He was also agriculture and rural development consultant.
  - He was born on 12th September 1928 in Maralawadi in Ramanagara District, Karnataka.
  - He represented the constituency of Kanakapura in the Lok Sabha and well known for his value-based politics.
2. Famous sportsperson Zafar Sarfaraz passed away recently, he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_ **Cricket**.
- Note:**
- Former Pakistani first-class cricketer, Zafar Sarfaraz ,50 years, who tested positive to COVID-19 passed away in a hospital at Peshawar, Pakistan.
  - He was born on 30th October 1969 in Peshawar, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan.

- Zafar Sarfraz, middle-order batsman played 15 First Class (FC) Games for Peshawar and played 6 List A Matches for Peshawar Cricket Team between 1988 to 1992.
3. 1. Renowned personality Ranjit Chowdhry passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- He was well known for his performance in classic comedies like Batou Batou Mein as Sabhi Perreira and Khubsoorat as Jagan Gupta.
  - His mother Pearl Padamsee, was a Jewish descent and a well known drama teacher and stage and film actress and his stepfather Alyque Padmsee, was a theatre actor, director and head of an advertising company in Mumbai
  - He started his film career with “Khatta Meetha” as Russi Mistry.
4. Name the best selling Chilean writer and journalist passed away due to coronavirus complications \_\_\_\_\_ **Luis Sepúlveda Calfucura**.
- Note:**
- He was with Chile’s Communist Youth and socialists working against Pinochet regime and in 1973 he was arrested and imprisoned for treason for 2 and half years and freed after the intervention of Amnesty International.
  - He was exiled from Chile by Pinochet dictatorship in 1977 and settled in Europe in 1980s after his extensive travel.

### Important Days

1. The World Chagas Disease Day was celebrated for the first time on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.
- Note:**
- The main aim of marking the day is to increase awareness of Chagas disease. Also, it focuses on the resources needed to prevent, control and eliminate the disease.
  - The Chagas disease is also called “American trypanosomiasis”.
  - The disease has been termed as silent and silenced disease.
  - This is because, it progresses very slowly and mainly affects the people under poverty who do not have political voice to access health care.
2. International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **March 14**.
- Note:**
- The objective of this is to raise public awareness of destructive water development projects, health and sustainable management of the watersheds.
  - The year 2020 marks the 22nd edition of International Day of Action for Rivers.
  - Theme for the year 2020 is “Women, Water and Climate Change”.
3. The World Voice Day (WVD) is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **16<sup>th</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- World Voice Day (WVD) is a worldwide annual event that takes place on April 16 devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice.
  - The day is celebrated to increase the public awareness of the importance of voice and alertness to voice problems.
  - The Theme of the day for the year 2020 is “FOCUS ON YOUR VOICE”.
4. The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) was celebrated for the first time on \_\_\_\_\_ **March 14, 2020**.
- Note:**
- On this day all countries will be invited to participate through activities for both students and the general public in schools, museums, libraries and other spaces.
  - The day was proclaimed by UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) on the 40th session of the General Conference, November 26, 2019.
  - Theme for the year 2020 is “Mathematics is Everywhere”.
5. World Haemophilia Day is celebrated worldwide on \_\_\_\_\_ **17<sup>th</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- The day is celebrated to create awareness about Haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
  - World Federation of Haemophilia was established by Frank Schnabel in 1963.
  - The World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) initiated the celebration of the World Haemophilia Day in 1989 on April 17 to honor the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of WFH.

- The theme of the World Haemophilia Day 2020 is “Get+involved”.
6. The World Art Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ **15<sup>th</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- The International Association of Art (IAA/AIAP), partner of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared the World Art Day on April 15.
  - The day is chosen to honor & mark the birthday of famous Mona Lisa’s painter Leonardo da Vinci who is a symbol of world peace, freedom of expression, tolerance and brotherhood.
7. World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ **18<sup>th</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- Also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites is an annual event which is celebrated every year on April 18, to promote awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage of humanity, their vulnerability and the efforts required for their protection and conservation.
  - Theme for the year 2020 is “Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility”.
8. World Liver Day (WLD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ **19<sup>th</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- This celebrated to spread awareness about the importance of liver in our body and liver related diseases.
  - The liver is the second largest and most complex organ in the body, after the brain. It is a key player in your body’s digestive system.
  - The liver performs many crucial functions related to digestion, immunity, metabolism and the storage of nutrients within the body and removing toxic substances from the body.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Bank of India \_\_\_\_ **J Packirisamy**.
- Note:**
- Andhra Bank Managing Director (MD) J Packirisamy has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Bank of India (UBI).
  - The appointments come after some of the public sector banks were merged by the government with effect from April 2020.
  - Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank have merged with Union Bank of India from April 1, 2020.
2. Who has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Canara Bank \_\_\_\_ **Mrutyunjay Mahapatra**.
- Note:**
- The appointments come after some of the public sector banks were merged by the government with effect from April 2020.
  - Mahapatra has been appointed as an OSD in Canara Bank from April 1, 2020 till the age of his retirement.
  - Syndicate Bank merged with Canara Bank from April 1, 2020.
3. Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the PokerStars India \_\_\_\_ **MS Dhoni**.
- Note:**
- Prior to MS Dhoni’s appointment popular Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui was the brand ambassador of the company.
  - Muskan Sethi and Sharad Rao are the other brand ambassadors of PokerStars India, while Aditya Agarwal quit the brand in December 2019.
  - Currently, the brand is at rank four for player traffic among poker sites.
4. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE) Rating \_\_\_\_ **Ajay Mahajan**.
- Note:**
- He is the successor of T.N. Kumar- Interim CEO of the company.
  - Mahajan started his career with Bank of America in 1990 and went on to become MD & Country Head of Global Markets Group.

- He was also part of the management team at inception of Yes Bank in 2004, building UBS' maiden branch in India in 2008 and then working in IDFC (Infrastructure Development Finance Company)
5. Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the CricKingdom \_\_\_\_ **Rohit Sharma**.
- Note:**
- "CricKingdom" is a Dubai-based cricket coaching academy which provides a platform for online coaching after the global COVID-19 pandemic subsides.
  - Provides support on booking of coaches, ground/nets with the management of academies.
  - They are trying to merge the modern scientific training methods with the time-tested theories of the legends in the game.
6. Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Paytm General Insurance Limited \_\_\_\_ **Vineet Arora**.
- Note:**
- Earlier he served as the MD & CEO of Aegon Life Insurance Company and was part of the India Leadership team.
  - Prior to this, he was senior general manager and head of Product, Distribution, Marketing and Wealth Management at ICICI Securities Ltd, where he developed a profitable distribution business across various delivery channels.
7. Who has been appointed as the ambassador of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India's environment education programme \_\_\_\_ **Viswanathan Anand**.
- Note:**
- The programme was started in 1976 as an initiative of Nature Clubs of India (NCI) with aim to create a generation of critical thinkers, problem solvers and environmentally conscious individuals.
  - It follows a 3 way strategy approach namely; building environmental awareness and knowledge; developing requisite capacity and skills; and enabling action for conservation and sustainability.

### Important News - India

1. Exit from the Lockdown report has been prepared by which organization \_\_\_\_ CII.
- Note:**
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in its report titled "Exit from the Lockdown: A CII Strategy" has recommended phase-wise lifting of the lockdown based on the incidence of COVID cases.
  - In this regard, the report made three classifications of geographies as red, amber and green.
  - In the first phase, partial open up (25%) of manufacturing, e-commerce and construction is to be permitted. In the second phase, all other sectors could resumed -Five aspects to be considered while restarting the economy
2. Fit India in collaboration with the which organization is organizing a first-of-a-kind live fitness session under its Fit India Active Day programme for school children across the country \_\_\_\_ **CBSE**.
- Note:**
- The decision has been taken due to the nation-wide lockdown till May 3, 2020, to counter COVID-19 which has restricted the activities of children.
  - These online sessions will enable children to practice fitness even at home in order to remain healthy.
  - The guidelines of the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) to stay healthy and to build immunity will also be shared with students during this programme.
3. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced a training program on COVID-19 for which intergovernmental organization \_\_\_\_ **SAARC**.
- Note:**
- It will be carried out by the Central Government's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.
  - It is to take forward the Prime Minister's (PM) 'Prepare Not Panic' for 'SAARC fights Corona'.
  - PM Narendra Modi has suggested that the health professionals of the member nations come together to fight the coronavirus pandemic at the India-initiated video conference of SAARC leaders on March 15.
4. Which National park becomes the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals \_\_\_\_ **Jim Corbett National Park**.
- Note:**

- Jim Corbett National Park has become the India's 1st quarantine centre for animals with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).
  - It is India's oldest forested wildlife sanctuary located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
  - At least 10 quarantine centers are being set up within the complex to handle the corona virus prey animals & Cameras will be installed in the park to monitor the cold and cough symptoms of animals.
5. Who chaired the National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 by video conference \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Singh Tomar**.
- Note:**
- During the conference the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar said that all states should aim to achieve the kharif target and also the doubling of farmers' income should be taken up in mission mode.
  - The main aim of the conference was to discuss various issues & to list the steps with the states on the preparedness for Kharif cultivation due to the lockdown situation.
6. Which committee submitted its report on "valuation professionals" and proposed an institutional framework for valuers by setting up National Institute of Valuers (NIV) \_\_\_\_\_ **M S Sahoo Committee**.
- Note:**
- The government-appointed 8-member committee of experts headed by IBBI Chairperson M S Sahoo
  - The Committee has submitted its report on "valuation professionals" and proposed an institutional framework for valuers by setting up National Institute of Valuers (NIV).
  - In this regard the committee has submitted its report to the Government of India on March 31, 2020 along with Draft Valuers Bill, 2020, recommending to establish a National Institute of Valuers, which is now open for comments till May 14, 2020.
7. Who attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through video conferencing \_\_\_\_\_ **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- Note:**
- The discussion in the meeting is based on IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva global policy agenda titled, "Exceptional Times – Exceptional Action".
  - IMFC's members updated the committee on the measures & actions taken by the member countries to combat COVID-19 & remarked on IMF's crisis-response package to address global liquidity and members' financing needs.
8. National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad is training community leaders online to combat COVID-19 in collaboration with \_\_\_\_\_ **UNICEF**.
- Note:**
- Both the organization is training over 28.33 lakh community leaders through online programs to practice social behaviours required to control the transmission of COVID-19 cases in villages in association with the governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Karnataka.
  - The online training program was initiated along the line of a detailed risk communication plan to build capacities of panchayat raj institutions (PRI), self-help groups (SHG), National Service Scheme (NSS) officials, volunteers and community radio stations (CRS) to control the spread of Coronavirus in their groups and village communities.
9. The ministry of finance has increased the coverage of lender's loss in case of loan default under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) scheme to \_\_\_\_\_ **75%**.
- Note:**
- The aim of the amendment is to incentivise lending to micro businesses which bear the impact of coronavirus outbreak & the lockdown.
  - Lenders can pay a fee for the portfolio of loans they want to cover under the guarantee, which enables them to lend easily while improving profitability
  - The lender's burden under the scheme has reduced from the first 5% of the amount in default to 3%.
10. What amount has been released by the central government to to State & UTs under MGNREGS \_\_\_\_\_ **7,300 crores**.
- Note:**
- The Central Government has released 7,300 crore rupees to the States and Union Territories (UT) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to liquidate pending dues of last financial year but also the wages dues for the first fortnight of 2020-21.
  - Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar conducted a detailed review of all flagship schemes of the Rural Development and said that MGNREGS works in Non-Containment Areas with adequate focus on social distancing, must be resumed in an efficient manner.
11. Who attended G20 Health Ministers Meeting held via video conference to control COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**.

**Note:**

- An international forum of Health Ministers of G20 countries was held on April 19, 2020, via Video Conference.
- Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) estimated that, Over \$8 billion is required to combat the COVID-19 pandemic .
- The objective behind this meet was to discuss weaknesses in health systems that made the world vulnerable to the coronavirus outbreak to pursue unified efforts towards mitigation of COVID-19.

12. Who will head the high level task force for vaccine and drug testing for coronavirus disease \_\_\_\_ **Vinod Paul and Krishnaswamy VijayRaghavan.**

**Note:**

- The objective of the task force is to catalyze national and international efforts towards vaccine development to treat Covid-19.
- The task force members include Director General of Health Services, Dr. Rajiv Garg, Drug Controller General of India, Dr. VG Somani and representatives of Ayush (Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), department of biotechnology, among others.

**Important News – State**

1. Which becomes the first state to integrate allopathy and Ayurveda to treat COVID-19 patients \_\_\_\_ **Goa.**

**Note:**

- Goa Chief Minister (CM) Pramod Sawant announced that Goa becomes the first state to integrate allopathy and Ayurveda to treat COVID-19 patients and those who have been quarantined.
- The CM also added that although Ayurveda cannot cure COVID-19, it will certainly boost patients' immunity.

2. Which becomes the first state to initiate Pool Testing of COVID-19 \_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given its approval for pool testing to Uttar Pradesh (UP), making latter the first state to do so.
- The decision has been taken to maximize the sample testing on a daily basis as the cases of COVID-19 positive patients are increasing in the state.

3. Which becomes the first state in the country to carry out Rapid Testing for Covid 19 \_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan.**

**Note:**

- State's urban primary health centre of TopkhanaDesh (also known as Jaju Dispensary) in Jaipur started rapid tests at 5 p.m where 52 persons were tested and all were found COVID-19 negative.
- This test will be done at a large scale to assess the prevalence of Covid 19 in hotspots or red zones.
- Apart from this, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or laboratory tests will continue to be done in acceleration in the containment zones all over Rajasthan.

4. Which becomes the first state to geotag its community kitchens and community shelters \_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The Yogi Adityanath State government has also tied up with Google to "Geo-map" for the location of all these establishments through the Google Maps app for ease of beneficiaries.
- Out of these 7,368 community kitchens, 668 are being run by NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations), religious institutions and more than 2 crore food packets have been distributed in UP since March 25, 2020.
- Relief Commissioner Sanjay Goyal, added that the concept of relief camps and community kitchens is not new as every year, the DMs (District Magistrates) work out similar plans in areas affected by yearly droughts and floods

5. Border Roads Organisation has constructed 430 feet long bailey "Daporijo bridge" in which state \_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over video conferencing.
- The bridge is built over Subansiri River the largest tributary of Brahmaputra.
- The new bridge will provide adequate movement of supplies for 451 villages and approximately 3,000 security force personnel deployed along the India-China border. The bridge replaced an older bridge in Daporijo, which was constructed in 1992.

6. Which state government has rolled out "e-sanjeevani-opd" for free online medical consultation to sick people \_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The “e-sanjeevani-opd” has been launched to provide free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence throughout the state.
- Hence, through this new initiative, the Himachal Pradesh government will ensure the facility of health services to the people in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Important News – World**

1. Which country has stopped its funding towards World Health Organization (WHO) \_\_\_\_ **United States.**

**Note:**

- The United States provides 400-500 million USD to the organization annually.
- The American President Donald Trump was threatening the world organization that the United States would freeze its funding. The President has now stopped the funding completely accusing the organization being completely China-centric.

2. South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu affected by which cyclone for which UN releases \$ 2.5 million \_\_\_\_ **Harold.**

**Note:**

- The United Nations (UN) humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock announced and released 2.5 million dollar from its emergency humanitarian fund to help thousands of people in the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu.
- The island nation is affected by Cyclone Harold.
- The cyclone made landfall on the largest island in Vanuatu, Espiritu Santo.

3. Special ASEAN Summit and special ASEAN plus 3 summits held via video conferencing was chaired by \_\_\_\_ **Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam.**

**Note:**

- The summit was attended by heads of state or government of the 10 ASEAN members– Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- The objective behind this summit was to discuss measures relating to containing and preventing the spread of COVID-19 and to support people in the countries hit by the disease.

4. In accordance with the Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey which country becomes the world’s most digitally dexterous (skilful) country in the world \_\_\_\_ **India.**

**Note:**

- India has a vast Gen Z workforce who are keen to learn new digitally powered skills in the workplace.
- India is followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US).
- It should be noted that Generation Z or Gen Z are the ones born between 1995 and 2009.

5. Which country test fired anti-ship cruise missiles as a part of military exercises recently \_\_\_\_ **North Korea.**

**Note:**

- The missiles were of short range and test fired into the sea.
- The missiles were test fired to celebrate the birth anniversary of Kim II Sung. He was the grand father of the current North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.
- The missiles were capable of travelling 150 kilometres. According to the South Korean officials, multiple missiles were test fired.

6. Which country becomes the first country to hold national election amidst COVID-19 pandemic \_\_\_\_ **South Korea.**

**Note:**

- 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.
- There were 14,000 polling booths set up for elections and at every polling booth the temperature of the voters was checked before they were allowed to vote.

7. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has increased the size of its COVID-19 Response Package to \_\_\_\_ **\$20 Billion.**

**Note:**

- The amount in the COVID-19 Response Package was initially \$6.5 billion as per announcement in March 2020 as ADB’s response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ADB has also approved ways and means to streamline its actions for quicker and more flexible delivery of assistance.

**Honor & Awards**

1. Which power company won the Edison Award for social innovation \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Power**.

**Note:**

- The company bags the awards for its 'Club Enerji #Switchoff2SwitchOn' campaign. It has brought about 533 participating schools across India, saving over 29.8 million units of power since its inception in 2007.
- Tata Power is India's largest integrated power company and has an installed capacity of 10,763 megawatts together with its subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities.

2. Name the Algerian Novelist who won the 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) 2020 for his novel 'The Spartan Court' \_\_\_\_\_ **Abdelouahab Aissaoui**.

**Note:**

- The novel was published by Dar Min in 2018 & will receive USD 50,000 and funding will be provided for the English translation.
- It is shortlisted from 6 novels, where the other 5 authors will each receive USD 10,000.
- It is a historical novel that relates the power struggle between Ottoman and French colonial powers in Algeria where it interconnects the lives of 5 characters in Algiers at the beginning of the 19th century (1815 to 1833).

**Sports News**

1. What is the official mascot for 4th Asian Para Games 2022 \_\_\_\_ **'Fei Fei'**

**Note:**

- The organizing committee of Hangzhou Asian Games, has released 'Fei Fei' the bird as an official mascot for 4th Asian Para Games 2022, which is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from 9 - 15 October 2022.
- The design inspiration of "Feifei" comes from the motif of the 'Divine Bird' in the Liangzhu Culture and represent both Hangzhou city's heritage and its innovation in technology.
- The first fei' of the mascot represents the birds flying, implying inclusiveness, respect, and fraternity of human society, whereas the 2nd fei' represents the mental tenacity of the athletes with disabilities pursuing dreams and reaching beyond themselves.

2. According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Ranking 2020 of senior male players which Indian player got top rank \_\_\_\_\_ **Achanta Sharath Kamal**.

**Note:**

- India's table tennis star Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the top-ranked player at 31st position with 6460 points by beating Sathiyam Gnanasekaran (who slipped one place to number 32).
- The list has been topped by Fan Zhendong of China with 17915 points.
- The jump of 7 places in the rankings comes after Sharath acquired the title at the Oman Open 2020, his first ITTF title in the last 10 years.

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