

# Weekly One-liners

22-30 April 2020



## Weekly One Liners Updates

22-30th April 2020

Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liner Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-30th) of **April 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for Central Government to \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 2,00,000 crores**.

**Note:**

- RBI has increased the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) by 66% for Central Government to Rs 2,00,000 crore from Rs 1,20,000 crore for the remaining part of first half of the financial year 2020-21 to tackle the financial crisis arisen due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Last week, RBI increased the WMA limit of state governments by 60%.
- With this move states would get greater financial support to undertake COVID-19 containment and mitigation efforts.
- It should be noted that by Fiscal year end (FYE) i.e. on March 31, 2020 the WMA limit for H1 FY21 was increased to Rs 1.20-lakh crore against Rs.75,000 crore.

2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license granted to the \_\_\_\_\_ **Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd.**

**Note:**

- The order came into effect from the close of business on 16 April 2020.
- In the sequence of cancellation of license and commencement of liquidation work, the process of payment of amount will be initiated to depositors of Mapusa Bank as per Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act, 1961.
- During the liquidation, every depositor will be entitled to deposit up to Rs. 5 lakh from the DICGC subject to the general terms and conditions.

3. To issue virtual and physical debit cards to enable its customers to perform secure online transactions Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has collaborated with \_\_\_\_\_ **Mastercard**.

**Note:**

- PPBL will issue Mastercard virtual debit cards to its new customers to perform secure online transactions for everyday purchases.
- After this, Customers will also have an option to request a physical card, for contactless in-store transactions supported by Mastercard's chip-based technology.
- The aim of PPBL is to issue over 10 million digital debit cards in FY 2020-21.

4. Which public sector bank has launched Working Capital demand Loan for agriculture sector \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.

**Note:**

- It is a special credit facility for the agriculture sector & allied activities as a relief measure to fight the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- The loans will be available to all the existing borrowers whose accounts are 'standard' and 'performing' as of March 2020.
  - The loans will be available to all the existing borrowers whose accounts are 'standard' and 'performing' as of March 2020 from poultry, dairy, fisheries and other allied activities and infrastructure activities such as cold storage and rural go-downs.
5. Fitch Ratings Inc in its 'Global Economic Outlook (GEO)' has lowered India's GDP growth forecast to \_\_\_\_\_ **0.8 per cent**.
- Note:**
- It revised its projection due to the global economic downturn caused by the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and Lockdown in India.
  - Prior to this, Fitch had predicted India's economic growth for the financial year (FY 20) at 4.9 %. However, the agency expects the growth rate in 2021-22 (FY 22) at 6.7 %.
6. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in a paper- A plan for economic recovery has stated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is likely to grow at \_\_\_\_\_ **1.5 per cent**.
- Note:**
- In considering the extent of the damage to the economy from the disruption to business, the GDP growth in FY21 is likely to be the lowest in many decades.
  - Without an increase in government spending in the near term for economic recovery, government's revenue will decline and high deficits will be a problem in future.
  - As the capacity utilization levels may be minimum, any significant recovery in investment activities is unlikely. Consumption demand will be sluggish as people's incomes are affected.
7. In accordance with the report on impact of COVID-19 on migration and remittances by World Bank, titled "COVID-19 Crisis: Through a Migration Lens" remittances to India are likely to drop by \_\_\_\_\_ **23 per cent**.
- Note:**
- In 2019, the remittances were increased by 5.5%.
  - Importantly, India is the world's biggest recipient of remittances, which bolster the country's foreign exchange reserves and help fund its current account deficit.
  - Remittance flows are expected to fall across all regions, mostly in Europe and Central Asia (27.5%), followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (23.1%), South Asia (22.1%), the Middle East and North Africa (19.6%), Latin America and the Caribbean (19.3%), and East Asia and the Pacific (13%).
8. To establish innovation centres Tech Mahindra Limited has entered into the partnership with US based \_\_\_\_\_ **IBM** **Note:**
- Both the firms have decided to open a 1st such centre in Bengaluru (Karnataka) later in 2020, which showcases transformation solutions built with IBM Cloud Paks, enterprise-ready containerized software solutions running on Red Hat OpenShift.
  - More such centres will be opened throughout North America and the United Kingdom(UK) sometime in 2020.
  - The tie-up is in line with Tech Mahindra's TechMNxt charter, which aims on providing solutions that enable digital transformation and meet the customer's evolving and dynamic needs.
9. Which institutions has approved Rs 585 cr for Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project \_\_\_\_\_ **World Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under tranche-I of HPSRTP, Road construction work of Barotiwala-Baddi-Sain-Ramshehar with length of 45 kms, Dadol-Ladraurr Road with length of 14.5 kms, Mandi- Riwalsar-Kalkhar of length 28 kms and Raghunathpura-Mandi- Harpura-Bharari road with length of 3.5 kms would be undertaken.
  - Also, the construction of 4,960-km roads has been fixed under Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojna (PMGSY) for FY 2020-21 for which financial allocation of Rs 1,666 crore had been made.
10. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched a preventive healthcare platform 'BAGIC GOQii Co-pay Option' in partnership with a smart health company \_\_\_\_\_ **GOQii**.
- Note:**

- Objective of the product is to reward the customers with a healthy lifestyle in the form of co-pay deduction in their health insurance policy named Health Ensure policy.
- The option is an add-on cover which can be opted by the holders of company's existing health insurance policy.
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- If the policyholder agrees for the add-on cover, GOQii will on-board the customer on their app to monitor their engagement level and also send them the health band.

11. Which institutions has launched has launched special liquidity schemes to support MSMEs due to lockdown \_\_\_\_ **SIDBI**.

**Note:**

- The schemes will cover all eligible entities with investment-grade ratings irrespective of the entity's size & the quantum of the loans is 90 days.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received Rs 15,000 crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to provide financial aid to MSMEs.
- The central bank provided the capital through a Special Liquidity Facility (SLF).
- SIDBI will provide the financing to MSMEs through banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs).

12. Which becomes the 1st non-bank company to receive Reserve Bank of India(RBI) nod to enter into co-branding arrangements for prepaid Instruments \_\_\_\_\_ **Transcorp International Ltd(TIL)**.

**Note:**

- It will launch Application Programming Interface (API) based co-branded partnerships for digital, physical and contactless cards with select marquee clients in its own Bank Identification Number (BINs).
- These cards can be used by partners, financial institutions and corporate houses to ease their core business activities & facilitates the accounting department to manage expenses by not having to check every individual bill & eliminates cash as a medium of paying for company expenses

13. The CARE Ratings has projected the gross domestic product (GDP) of India for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 between \_\_\_\_\_ **1.1%-1.2%**.

**Note:**

- Gross Value Added (GVA) has been estimated to grow at 1.4% for FY21.
- Overall growth is expected to be driven only by the government expenditure.
- The agency also revised the GDP forecast for FY20 by declining it to 4.7% from 5% with GVA growth expected at 4.6%.

14. Which public sector bank has launched a special borrowing programme for Self Help Groups (SHGs) with better records \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.

**Note:**

- Under this scheme, a member of SHG will be given a maximum loan of Rs 5,000 & the limit for the group has been fixed at Rs 1 lakh.
- This loan will be sanctioned with an interest rate of 9.4 % for 1 year.
- It has been disbursed in 6 working days & the benefit can be availed till June 30, 2020.
- SHGs with better records and at least twice the loan from IOB will be able to avail this facility.

15. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecasts for the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY 21) to \_\_\_\_\_ **1.9 per cent**.

**Note:**

- The ratings, which is lowest in the last 29 years, based on the assumption that the partial lockdown will continue till mid-May 2020. However, if the lockdown continues even after mid-May, the country will register a negative growth of 2.1% lowest in the last 41 years, and only the sixth instance of contraction since fiscal year 1957-58.
- It is noteworthy that in the financial year 1991-92, the pace of economic growth of the country was just 1.1 %.



16. Which entity has called for a global expression of interest (EoI) to buy 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses & 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based electric cars to operate them in Delhi and Leh \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam**.

**Note:**

- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited.
- The procurement is the first of its kind project in India to develop a complete solution ranging from green energy to fuel cell vehicles & aims to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation sector.
- Other cities for release of FCEVs (fuel cell electric vehicles) at other locations may also be included.

17. Which entity has approved the loan of 1.5 Billion USD to India to support the response actions of the Government of India against the COVID-19 pandemic \_\_\_\_\_ **Asian Development Bank**.

**Note:**

- The President ADB, Masatsugu Asakawa assured that the ADB is committed to support the Government of India's novel coronavirus response programs and to provide support to the people of India.
- The disbursing of the fund is a part of the package of support form the ADB in coordination with the government and the other development partners.

18. To provide better power connection in rural areas the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan worth of \$346 million for which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.

**Note:**

- The loan, which is ADB's first results-based lending (RBL) modality in South Asia's energy sector, will be sanctioned as part of the Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project & Maharashtra Agribusiness Network Project.
- It will support the state's high voltage distribution system (HVDS) program, in which some 46,800km of high-voltage 11 kilovolts (kV) energy distribution systems will be installed and 121 substations of 33/11 kV modernized by the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL).
- Maharashtra Energy Department and MSEDCL will implement this project,

## Obituaries

1. Name the former prime minister of Fiji who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Laisenia Qarase**.

**Note:**

- The founder of the Soqosoqo Duavata Ni Lewenivanua Party & former Fiji Prime Minister (2000-2006) Laisenia Qarase passed away at 79 in Oceania Hospital, Suva due to an illness. He hails from Mavana, Vanuabalavu, Lau.
- He was the former Managing Director (MD) of Fiji Development Bank, served on the board of Fijian Holdings Limited, was a former Chairman of Fiji Television Limited, was the MD of Merchant Finance & also served as a senator after being nominated by the Great Council of Chiefs.

2. Renowned personality Eugene Merril Deitch passed away recently he was famous for \_\_\_\_\_ **Animation film Director**.

**Note:**

- He was one of the directors behind world's most popular cartoons and directed 13 episodes of Tom and Jerry.
- Deitch directed multiple episodes of the 'Popeye the Sailor' series and also directed popular animator cartoons such as Munro, Tom Terrific and Nudnik.
- Deitch received the "Winsor McCay" Award for his lifetime contribution to animation in 2004. He also won the 'Academy Award' for his Best Animated Short Film named "Munro" in 1960.

3. Name the Indian theatre director-actor and activist who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Usha Ganguly**.

**Note:**

- Usha Ganguly, was an Indian theatre director-actor and activist, most known for her work in Hindi theatre in the 1970s and 1980s, passed away at the age of 75 in Kolkata, West Bengal. She was born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan in 1945.

- She founded Rangakarmee theatre group in 1976, known for its productions like Mahabhoj, Rudali, Court Martial and Antaryatra.
4. Famous sportsperson Michael John passed away recently, he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_ **Football**.
- Note:**
- Former Republic of Ireland and Liverpool forward footballer Michael John Robinson passed away at the age of 61 in Marbella, Spain. He was born on July 12, 1958 in Leicester, England.
  - He appeared in more than 300 official matches in England for five clubs, including Liverpool, and played the last three seasons of his career in Spain with Osasuna (Spanish Football Club).
  - Robinson received the XIII International Vázquez Montalbán prize for Sports Journalism, awarded by FC Barcelona in December 2017. He was the winner of the 2018 Vazquez Montalban International Journalism Award.
5. Renowned personality Irfan Khan passed away recently, he was a famous \_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- The actor was admitted to Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai after suffering from colon infection.
  - He has acted in several remarkable movies like Maqbool, Paan Singh Tomar, The Lunchbox, Haider, Piku, Hindi Medium, Slumdog Millionaire, Jurassic World, The Amazing Spiderman and Life of Pi.
  - He was honoured with various awards along with Padma Shri which is the fourth highest civilian award of India.
6. Renowned personality Rishi Kapoor passed away recently, he was a famous \_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- Rishi breathed his last at the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai. His wife and actor Neetu Kapoor was by his side.
  - Born in the first family of Hindi cinema, Rishi Kapoor was the son of the man India call the showman, Raj Kapoor, and grandson of the famous Prithviraj Kapoor. Rishi was the second son of Raj and the sibling of Randhir, Ritu Nanda, Rima Jain and Rajeev Kapoor.

### Important Days

1. Which Day is celebrated all across the world on April 21 \_\_\_\_ **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)**.
- Note:**
- World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) is a global United Nation (UN) day celebrated on April 21.
  - This day is celebrated to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals.
  - The day was first created with UN resolution 71/284 with the support of 80 countries and the first WCID was celebrated on April 21, 2018.
2. The National Civil Service Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ **21<sup>st</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- The Day celebrated to celebrate the civil servants who dedicate their lives to serve the government and the citizens of the nation and to honour them for their services and to encourage them to continue to do their service with commitments and excellence.
  - This is also to encourage the passion of the Indians to get into civil service.
  - On April 21, 1947, The Home member of Parliament, Sardar VallabhBhai Patel inaugurated the All India Service and referred the civil servants as the 'Steel Frame of India' in his speech addressing the Administrative Services Officers at Metcalf.
  - On April 21, 2006 the First National Civil Service Day was celebrated at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Mother Earth Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ **22<sup>nd</sup> April**.
- Note:**
- The Day is celebrated every year in order to create awareness about pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet.
  - This year is a special occasion as it marks the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and events was coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries.
  - The theme for Earth Day 2020 is "Climate Action".
4. World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ **23<sup>rd</sup> April**.

**Note:**

- This event is organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the day aims to promote reading, publishing and copyright.
- Each year, UNESCO and the international organisations representing the 3 major sectors of the book industry- publishers, book sellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for a period of one year from April 23.
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- World Book Capital 2020: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

5. Every year the United Nation Celebrates the UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day on \_\_\_\_ **23<sup>rd</sup> April.**

**Note:**

- The UN English Language Day is celebrated on the 23rd April every year which is traditionally observed as the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare.
- The celebration of English language day is aimed to educate the people on the history, culture and the achievements associated with the language and to encourage the books, poetry and the literature exchange like activities to promote the language.

6. The World Day of Laboratory Animals has been observed annually on \_\_\_\_ **24<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Note:**

- This World Day for Animals in Laboratories was established by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to educate the public and Governments about the animal tests and the alternatives for the past 40 years.
- The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) is the first organisation in the world to campaign against Vivisection, the act of operating on animals for experimental purposes.
- The society was formed in Victoria Street, London under the name of Victoria Street Society.

7. National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is observed annually on \_\_\_\_ **24<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Note:**

- The day is organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to mark a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power at the rural level.
- On this day PM Narendra Modi launched the e-Gram Swaraj Portal and mobile app and the Swamitva scheme.
- The Unified Portal is a new initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj which will provide the Gram Panchayats with a single interface to prepare and implement their Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

8. Every year 25<sup>th</sup> April is celebrated as \_\_\_\_ **World Malaria Day.**

**Note:**

- 25th April 2020 is observed as World Malaria Day to recognise the global efforts made to control malaria and to commemorate the Africa Malaria Day.
- It is one of the eight official global public health campaigns recognised by the World Health Organisation(WHO).
- The theme of World Malaria Day 2020 is “Zero Malaria Starts with Me”

9. World Intellectual Property Day established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ **26<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Note:**

- The Day is celebrated to educate and learn about the role that Intellectual Property (IP) rights that support and encourage innovation and creativity in creating a green future.
- The day coincides with the date on which the convention establishing the WIPO entered into force in 1970. \
- The theme of this year is “Innovate for a Green Future”

10. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ **26<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Note:**

- The day remembers the explosion at the No.4 reactor in the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant near the city of Pripyat in the north of Soviet Ukraine, in 1986 which spread a radioactive cloud over large parts of the Soviet Union Federation.
- This year marks the 34th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.
- On December 8, 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution designating April 26 as International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.

11. 25th April of every year is celebrated as \_\_\_\_ **World Penguin Day.**

**Note:**

- The Day is celebrated to create awareness about the threat to the existence of these flightless birds.

- The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), a non governmental organisation mentions that this day coincides with the annual northern migration of Adelie penguins of Antarctica.
  - The day is celebrated by individuals and organisations by sharing the facts about the penguins and images and videos of penguins on social media.
12. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work (WDSHW) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **28<sup>th</sup> April**.

**Note:**

- The day is observed by the ILO to raise awareness on the adoption of safe practices in workplaces, focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic.
- April 28 is also the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996.
- Theme of the Day for the year 2020 is Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives.

**New Appointments**

1. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank \_\_\_\_ **N Kamakodi**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of N Kamakodi as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of City Union Bank (CUB), a private sector bank for 3 years with effect from May 1.
- He joined CUB as Deputy General Manager (DGM) in 2003, elevated as General Manager in 2005, Executive Director in 2006 & as MD and CEO with effect from May 1, 2011.

2. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the HSBC Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Noel Quinn**.

**Note:**

- He served as the interim CEO of the bank since August 2019. He was the successor of John Flint.
- Noel joined HSBC in 1987 and has proven the outstanding candidate to take on a role permanently as CEO.
- Quinn will earn a base salary of 1.27 million pounds per annum.

3. Name the Indian who has been appointed as the one of its ambassadors for the “I am badminton” awareness campaign of BWF \_\_\_\_\_ **PV Sindhu**.

**Note:**

- World Champion PV Sindhu, named as one of the ambassadors for Badminton World Federation’s (BWF’s) “I am badminton” awareness campaign to provide a platform for the players to express their love and respect for the sport.
- Five years since the Integrity unit of BWF was formed and the campaign is made to be the forefront of the governing body’s effort to communicate its approach and integrity.
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4. Who has been appointed as the President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) \_\_\_\_\_ **Rakesh Sharma**.

**Note:**

- IMMA represents the manufacturing industry of powered two-wheelers at the global level.
- He was the successor of Johannes Loman.
- Sharma was elected from its member organisation, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

5. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) ltd \_\_\_\_\_ **Shiv Das Meena**.

**Note:**

- The Additional Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Shiv Das Meena Government of India was appointed to hold the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) ltd, for six month or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, effect from 21st April 2020



- Shiv Das Meena – 1989 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu Cadre with over 30 years of experience in the public service is a Bachelor of Civil Engineer and completed his Master in International Studies from Japan.
6. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board(PESB) \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajiv Kumar**.
- Note:**
- The former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board(PESB) by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a period of three years in place of KapilDev Tripathi who took over as the Secretary to the President Ram NathKovind.
  - Rajiv Kumar, IAS officer of 1984-batch of Jharkhand cadre, in September 2017 he took over as the Financial services secretary and initiated many reforms in the banking sectors and retired from the post in February 2020.

### Important News – India

1. Who attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB) \_\_\_\_\_ **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- Note:**
- During the meeting FM commended the NDB's efforts to establish itself as a credible Global Financial Institution & successfully delivered its mandate by adopting a sustainable and inclusive approach.
  - Appreciated NDB's effort to provide financial assistance of about USD 5 billion to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
2. Which agency has been appointed as the implementing agency to handle the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**.
- Note:**
- MNRE will timely review the maximum permissible VGF amount & will reduce if the cost difference comes down.
  - In Case of the existing clause, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) handled the scheme on behalf of the ministry.
  - The CPSU Scheme Phase II aims to set up 12,000 MW grid-connected solar PV power projects under the government producers with the VGF support for self-use or by government entities either directly or through discoms
3. Who chaired the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) meeting approved & allowed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to convert the available surplus rice to ethanol \_\_\_\_\_ **Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- Note:**
- Recently the government has also allowed sugar companies and distilleries to make hand sanitizers using ethanol.
  - By using the surplus rice for ethanol, it will address about 750 million litres from the total capacity of 2 billion litres of grain-based distillery capacities lying idle
4. Who participated in G-20 Extraordinary Agriculture Ministers Meeting through video conference to address the issue of COVID-19 impacts on food security, safety and nutrition \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Singh Tomar**.
- Note:**
- The G-20 nations decided to have international cooperation in the face of COVID-19 pandemic;
  - Agreed for food security, nutrition, share best practices and lessons learnt, promote research, responsible investments, innovations and reforms that will improve the sustainability and flexibility of agriculture and food systems.
5. Which becomes the 1st authorized study centre in the country to carry out the plasma research under trial in view of COVID 19 \_\_\_\_\_ **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Institute of Medical Science and Research**.
- Note:**
- The institute has identified the potential donors for the research and started collecting their plasma.
  - It will carry out ICMR's multicentric collaborative study for phase-2 open level randomised control trial to assess the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma to limit COVID-19 associated complications in moderate disease.
6. Who chaired the committee formed by the central government that suggested a complete revamp of how states collect and compile data for state-level gross domestic product (GDP) and other estimates \_\_\_\_\_ **Ravindra H Dholakia**.

**Note:**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) on June 30, 2018 formed a 13 member committee to review the methodology of estimation of sub-national accounts (state & district), revise the base year for national accounts or GDP calculation & suggest recommendations.
- It is headed by Ravindra H Dholakia, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad.
- The Committee suggested that the goods and services tax (GST) to be used for estimating incomes and other statistics at the state level.

7. To invite e-learning content contributions Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched which programme \_\_\_\_\_ **VidyaDaan 2.0**.

**Note:**

- The contribution can be made by individuals, teachers, educationists, subject experts, schools, government and non-government organisations etc after registering & nominating themselves.
- The program will soon be inviting contributions for Teacher Training material.

8. Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) which is developed by \_\_\_\_\_ **DRDO**.

**Note:**

- This mobile lab has the testing capacity of more than 1000 to 2000 samples daily.
- The Mobile Viral Research lab is the combination of a Bio-Safety Level (BSL)-3 and a BSL-2 lab essential to carry out activities.
- The Mobile lab was set up in a record time of 15 days which usually takes about 6 months

9. Which scheme has been launched by the PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th of April 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Swamitva Scheme**.

**Note:**

- On the occasion an integrated e-Gram swaraj Portal & Mobile app for accelerating the pace of development in India's villages was also launched.
- The Unified Portal is a new initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj which will provide the Gram Panchayats with a single interface to prepare and implement their Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)
- The scheme provides an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

10. Who will head the reconstituted 16-member National Shipping Board (NSB) \_\_\_\_\_ **Malini Shankar**.

**Note:**

- The Ministry of Shipping has given its consent for the reconstitution of the 16-member National Shipping Board (NSB), the highest advisory body on matters related to Indian shipping and its development or other matters arising out of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- The reconstituted board will be headed by former Director General of Shipping Malini Shankar.

11. The premier multilateral air combat training Exercise Pitch Black 2020 has been cancelled which was to be conducted by the \_\_\_\_\_ **Royal Australian Air Force**.

**Note:**

- Exercise Pitch Black 2020 scheduled to be held from July 27 to August 14 2020.
- The next edition is scheduled in 2022.
- It is a biennial three week multinational large force employment exercise conducted primarily from RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal.

12. Which service has been declared as public utility service (PUS) for six months by Ministry of Labour and Employment \_\_\_\_\_ **Banking**.

**Note:**

- It means the employees and officers of the banking sector are barred to do any strikes in the given period.
- This decision has been taken due to the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the economic activities.
- The notification for the same has been issued by the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stating about the order implemented by the Labour and Employment Ministry.

13. On the occasion of the World Book Day the Union Minister of Human Resource and Development(HRD), Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched \_\_\_\_\_ **#MyBookMyFriendcampaign**.

**Note:**

- The World Book Day is celebrated in the lockdown and he asked the students to read books of their interest and share about the book they are reading with him in the social media using #MyBookMyFriend.
- He mentioned that the campaign will run for the next seven days for the people to join the campaign.

14. 1st government (govt) hospital in India to successfully launch the Convalescent Plasma Therapy (CPT) treatment for the COVID-19 patients \_\_\_\_\_ **The King George Medical University (KGMU)**.

**Note:**

- The 1st dose of CPT was administered to a 58-year old patient.
- It is an experimental procedure for COVID-19 patients, where plasma, a blood component, from a cured patient is transfused to a critically ill coronavirus patient as the blood of the recovered COVID-19 person has developed antibodies to fight the virus.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently allowed states to start clinical trials of CPT.

**Important News – State**

1. Which becomes the 1st state with a software-based in-house facility of virtual courts \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- As per an apex court directive to develop video conferencing system for hearing cases and also for maintaining social distancing, Allahabad High Court has developed a new software by which multiple court proceedings at the High Court and district courts across the state can be conducted through virtual courts within the court premises without any internet connectivity.
- With this facility, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to have software-based in-house facility of virtual courts.

2. Which state government has launched 'Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana' to benefit the Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- Under the scheme, the state government will provide a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.
- The benefit of this scheme will be given to the warriors under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which was launched by the central Government to cover only the field staff of health, police and other departments working day and night to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

3. Which state government has partnered with MedCords to provide online consultations and to deliver medicine to the people of the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.

**Note:**

- MedCord will provide the requirements of over 68 million people throughout Rajasthan through its integrated solution – Aayu and SehatSathi app.
- The aim of the startup is to provide access to quality healthcare in urban and rural India.
- MedCord is fully adopted in 7 districts of Rajasthan (Kota, Udaipur, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Ajmer, Pali and Jaipur).

4. Which state government has launched "Assess Koro Na" app for door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The first phase of the app-based assessment will be launched in South Delhi.
- Since there is a delay in collecting and analysing the data of a person in a physical form during the door-to-door survey.
- With this app, the data collected can be uploaded on the servers in real-time and immediate analysis.

5. Which state government has approved the 3rd edition of his government's 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' (SSJA) \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat**.

**Note:**

- The scheme will continue till June 10, 2020 with a focus on deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt.
- It will be done with people's participation as well as under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).
- The scheme will create employment opportunities for the rural population amid the lockdown.

6. Which state government has started to use eSanjeevaniOPD through which free online medical consultation & general health advice will be provided to the people at their residence \_\_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh**

**Note:**

- It is a National Teleconsultation Service of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & is the 1st of its kind online OPD (Out Patient Department) service.

- It aims to provide healthcare services to patients in their homes, which enables a safe & structured video-based clinical consultations between a doctor in a hospital and a patient at home.
7. Which state government has launched “Apthamitra” helpline toll free number and an application to empower the people to fight against coronavirus pandemic \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.
- Note:**
- The Apthamithra helpline will provide service from 8 AM to 8 PM, with four helpline centers in Bangalore, one center in Mysore and one in Bantwal, Mangalore with a capacity of 300 seats.
  - The helpline is to reach out to people in the corona hotspot areas and to identify the Influenza Like illness (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) and the corona like symptoms.
8. Which state government has launched a special scheme called ‘Dhanwantari’, under which locally unavailable medicines will be delivered to patients at home \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam**.
- Note:**
- The Assam state government’s health department has launched a special scheme called ‘Dhanwantari’, under which locally unavailable medicines will be delivered to patients at home. This medicine is free up to 200 rupees.
  - If the required medicine is not available at a distance of 10 km from the house, the government will provide the medicine at home. This facility can be availed by calling 104.
9. Which state government has launched zero interest loan scheme for Women Self-Help Groups(SHG) \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Each SHG will receive a sum ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000 towards the interest component on their loans.
  - The State will also distribute house-sites to over 27 lakh women on July 8 as the programme got postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
10. Which state government has launched Jeevan Shakti Yojana to enable women in urban areas to earn by making masks at home \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The government will pay them Rs 11 per mask.
  - The CM interacted with some women of the state through video conferencing, who have registered to make masks.
11. Which state government has launched a unique initiative called ‘Umbare Aanganwadi’ under Integrated Child Development Services programme to reach out to children during the lockdown \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- Under this initiative, the ICDS department of the state will mainly offer ready to eat nutritious food packets through AMUL to its beneficiaries including 14 lakh children between 3-6 years of age, pregnant and nursing women and adolescent girls through the network of around 53 thousand Aanganwadi.
12. Which state government has launched ‘Covid Pharma’ app to keep a track of people buying medicines over-the-counter (OTC) for cough, cold and fever from medical stores across the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The pharmacies in the State is expected to download the app and register the details of persons, including their mobile number.
  - To monitor patients who experience any increase in cold & fever, which helps to trace easily the persons with any symptoms of coronavirus.
  - It works as an additional precautionary measure for regular sample testing simultaneously

### Important News – World

1. Annual Global Report on Food Crises titled “2020 Global Report on Food Crises-Joint Analysis for better decisions” by \_\_\_\_\_ **United Nation’s World Food Programme (WFP)**.
- Note:**
- As per the report number of people from 50 countries in the food crisis rose by nearly 10% to 123 million people from 112 million in the 2019 edition.
  - The reports also found another 183 million were at risk of slipping into a food crisis.
  - The 10 countries faced worst food crisis in 2019 by number of people in Crisis are Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Haiti.
2. Which organization has launched the “Lockdown Learners” series of online dialogues with students and educators in India on COVID-19 & its impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), peace and the rule of law \_\_\_\_\_ **UNODC**.

**Note:**

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) under its flagship Education for Justice Initiative launched the “Lockdown Learners” series of online dialogues with students and educators in India on COVID-19 & its impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), peace and the rule of law.
- The aim of this initiative is to make students aware of the vulnerable groups and emerging issues such as cybercrime, misinformation, gender-based violence, discrimination, and corruption, among others.

3. Which becomes the 1st Arab nation to legalise cannabis (also known as marijuana) farming for medicinal & industrial use \_\_\_\_\_ **Lebanon.**

**Note:**

- This is to boost the exports & to beat the economic crisis created by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Lebanon faces the worst economic crisis due to lockdown since the 1975-1990 civil war.
- Earlier the Lebanon banned growing, selling and consuming cannabis
- As per the United Nations (UN), Lebanon is the 3rd largest supplier of cannabis resin in the world after Morocco and Afghanistan.

4. Which country hosted the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) health ministers virtual conference \_\_\_\_\_ **Pakistan.**

**Note:**

- The meeting was chaired by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza and SAARC Secretary-General- Esala Ruwan Weerakoon also attended the virtual conference.
- During the virtual conference SAARC countries agreed to enhance cooperation in the health sector, particularly in the context of efforts to combat the virus at the regional level.
- India was represented by Rajiv Garg, the Director General of Health Services

5. To organize a virtual workshop “The Contract Management during Emergency situations” World Bank has tie up with \_\_\_\_\_ **All India Management Association.**

**Note:**

- The aim of the agreement is to create awareness about the likely impact of the coronavirus (COVID -19) pandemic on the implementation of the bank-funded projects.
- The workshop saw the discussion over the role of Dispute Resolution Boards and Arbitrators in case of the disagreement between the parties
- It was attended by Dr. Ajit Patwardhan, contract management expert, Director Planning and Coordination, JTFRP and other senior officers of JTFRP

### Honor & Awards

1. Who won the William E. Colby Award 2020 for his book “Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World’s Greatest Nuclear Disaster” \_\_\_\_\_ **Adam Higginbotham.**

**Note:**

- The Award was established in 1999 by William E. Colby Military Writers’ Symposium at Norwich University in Vermont to recognize the 1st work of fiction or nonfiction that has made a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations, or international affairs
- It is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, and sponsored in part by the Chicago-based Pritzker Military Foundation.
- It is named in honor of the late Central Intelligence Agency(CIA) director, William Egan Colby.

### Sports News

1. The 11th edition of World Games which has unveiled an updated logo and title after being delayed a year because of the Coronavirus pandemic scheduled to be held in \_\_\_\_\_ **Birmingham, USA.**

**Note:**

- The World Games 2021 Birmingham has been renamed to World Games 2022 Birmingham.
- The World Games was initially scheduled for July 2021, but it will now be held from July 7 to 17, 2022 to accommodate the one-year postponement of the 2020 Summer Olympics.



2. Mirabai Chanu and Jeremy Lalrinnunga have been qualified to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, they are associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Weightlifting.**

**Note:**

- Jeremy placed 22nd in the 67kg category in the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) ranking list
- Mirabai ranked 4th in the 49kg category.
- In the video conference of Executive board of IWF on 17-18 March recommended that to close the qualification process since the five continental championships were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic and the selections were made with the current world rankings.

3. Sana Mir announced her retirement from international cricket held, she held from which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Pakistan.**

**Note:**

- Sana Mir, right handed batter made her debut in One Day International (ODI) against Sri Lanka in Karachi in December 2005 and her ODI in Lahore against Bangladesh in November 2019. In 120 ODIs she took 151 wickets.
- She made her Twenty20 International(T20I) debut in Dublin against Ireland in May 2009 and her last T20Is in Lahore against Bangladesh in October 2019. In 106 T20Is she took 89 wickets and scored 802 runs.

4. India lost the hosting rights of 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Serbia.**

**Note:**

- The Boxing Federation of India acknowledged the delay but blamed it on "procedural complications" arising out of the AIBA's failure to resolve "issues" with regards to the account in which the money was to be transferred.
- The payment of what is estimated to be \$4 million was due to be made on December 2 last year.

5. Quadrennial 50-over Women Cricket World Cup 2021 to be held in which country for that India, New Zealand, Australia, England and South Africa have sealed a direct berth \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand.**

**Note:**

- ICC has announced that India, New Zealand, Australia, England and South Africa have sealed a direct berth for the quadrennial 50-over Women World Cup 2021 to be held in New Zealand. & scheduled from February 6 to March 7 in 2021.

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