



Monthly One-Liners April 2020

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Monthly One-liners April -2020

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of April **2020**. This file is important for the upcoming **State Services Examinations**.

Important News: States

- ✓ **Tamil Nadu** state topped in the all-India level for micro-irrigation (MI), under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**.
 - **Note:** Tamil Nadu topped with coverage of 2,06,853.25 ha for the year financial year 2019-20.
 - The state is followed by **Karnataka and Gujarat with 1,41,103.56 Ha and 1,08,322.00 Ha** of coverage respectively.
 - On the other hand, the cumulative total coverage of MI during 2015-2020 has been topped by **Karnataka (8,15,690.31 ha) followed by Andhra Pradesh (7,17,421.08 ha) and Gujarat (7,00,858.35 ha)**
- ✓ A '**Modi Kitchen**' has been set up in **Tamil Nadu**.
 - **Note:** The kitchen which has a **capacity to serve 500 meals per day** and will remain operational till 14th April 2020.
 - The Modi Kitchen aims to deliver food parcels within a range of radius of 10 kms and has been set up in one of the main shopping areas of the city.
 - This initiative has been taken by the functionaries of the Common Service Centre amid the lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ To provide information about the symptoms of COVID-19 to the people at their doorsteps **Himachal Pradesh** state has launched "**Active Case Finding Campaign**".
 - **Note:** Under the "Active Case Finding Campaign", the information would be provided to the people by the health workers.
 - Every ASHA worker with a two-person team will reach out every house in the village and collect health information of every person.
 - The collected information would be shared by the team with the department via Google form.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state government has launched a mobile application '**Corona Watch**'.
 - **Note:** The mobile application aims to track the movement history of persons tested positive, before their detection in order to take precautions and to contain the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The app will also provide the date and time of visit to spots by the patients. '**Corona Watch**' app also comprises a list of government designated first response hospitals for COVID-19 where citizen with symptoms can visit.
- ✓ **Odisha** state govt has celebrated its **formation day on April 1, 2020**.
 - **Note: Utkal Divas (Odisha Day)** is celebrated every year on **1st April all over Odisha**.
 - Odisha Day is celebrated in the memory of the formation of the state as a separate province on 1 April 1936.
 - This year marks the 83rd Utkal Divas or the foundation day of Odisha.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government has started distributing pensions at the doorstep to its 58,44,240 beneficiaries.

- **Note:** They are using its **2.5 lakh volunteer** eliminating the need for pensioners to step out of their homes.
 - The aim is to **encourage beneficiaries to stay at home and avoid stepping out.**
 - The beneficiaries have been receiving different amounts as per the defined categories.
 - From old age persons to fishermen and folk artists, the pension will help every section amid the ongoing 21-day lockdown.
- ✓ The **Odisha government** has launched an online cultural competition “**Mo Prativa**” in collaboration with the **UNICEF**.
- **Note:** The cultural competition “Mo Prativa” has been launched in order to keep children engaged at home during the lockdown period.
 - The competition will enable children to participate in various activities such as painting, writing of slogans, short stories, poems etc.
- ✓ **Telangana** state has been installed ‘**V Safe Tunnel**’ to sanitize people.
- **Note:** The sanitizing tunnel has been installed at the state Director General of Police’s office.
 - A unique disinfectant named ‘V Safe Tunnel’ sanitizes people from any possible bacteria and other microbes within 20 seconds.
 - The ‘V Safe Tunnel’ aims to minimize the local transmission of Coronavirus in the state by providing maximum protection to people passing through the tunnel in around 20 seconds.
- ✓ As per the report published by **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** for the year ended March 31, 2018 **Rajasthan** state commits highest crime related to the environment in the country.
- **Note:** In accordance with the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for the year ended **March 31, 2018, 40.59%** of the crimes related to the environment in the country were committed in **Rajasthan (RJ) during 2014-16.**
 - The major crimes were violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife Protect Act, 1972 which resulted in using of forest land for non-forest purposes without approval of government and capturing, poisoning, snaring or trapping of wild animals respectively.
- ✓ **Odisha** becomes the first state to extend Covid-19 lockdown till April 30.
- **Note:** Amid unconfirmed speculation about the nationwide lockdown due to end on April 14, **Odisha** has become the first Indian state to extend the ongoing lockdown.
 - In a statement **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** said that his government has decided to extend the lockdown period in **Odisha till April 30.**
- ✓ **Kerala** becomes the first state to commence clinical trial plasma therapy treatment.
- **Note:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given approval to **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**
 - This is to commence convalescent plasma therapy, which uses antibodies from the blood of cured patients, to treat critically ill COVID- 19 cases on a trial basis.
 - Therefore, Kerala becomes the **first state in the country to start clinical trial plasma therapy treatment**
- ✓ **UT Delhi** has announced a **5T plan** which includes- **Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Teamwork** and **Tracking and monitoring** to control the spread of COVID-19 in the state.
- **Note:**
 - **Testing-** Only through testing, the infected person can be detected & aggressive testing is crucial to prevent the spread of the virus.

- **Tracing**- Persons associated with a positive patient are identified and asked for self-quarantine.
- **Treatment**- If someone is infected with COVID-19, they will be provided treatment.
- **Teamwork**- The virus can be combated & defeated through teamwork.
- **Tracking & Monitoring**- Active tracking & monitoring the developments will help to take action to deal with the spread of the virus.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched “**Operation SHIELD**” in identified Containment Areas of the state to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.
 - **Note:** It deals with sealing, home quarantine, isolation & tracking, essential supply of commodities, local sanitisation and door-to-door health checkups.
 - S– Sealing of the immediate area/surroundings after geographical marking.
 - H– Home quarantine of all the people living in the area.
 - I– Isolation and tracing of people who have been first and second contacts.
 - E– Essential supply of commodities is ensured.
 - L– Local sanitization of the area by authorities.
 - D– Door-to-door health checks of everyone living in the area.
- ✓ **Manipur** state Government has launched a new initiative “**Food Bank**” based on the theme ‘**Help End Hunger Today**’.
 - **Note:** The food bank will provide food items (such as rice, aata, maida, daal, edible oil, salt, potato, onions , milk, biscuits, packaged drinking water), hand sanitizers and face masks to drug rehabilitation centres and people living in Imphal East District affected by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus).
- ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh** state government has launched an app called “**COVIDCARE**”.
 - **Note:** The newly developed “COVIDCARE” app is an effort of the Arunachal Pradesh government to combat COVID-19.
 - The “COVIDCARE” app has been launched for the people who are quarantined, asymptomatic or COVID-19 patients, facilitating them various facilities through the app.
- ✓ **Goa** becomes the first state to integrate allopathy and Ayurveda to treat COVID-19 patients.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the first state to **initiate Pool Testing of COVID-19**.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Rajasthan** becomes the first state in the country to carry out Rapid Testing for Covid 19.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the **first state to geotag its community kitchens** and community shelters.

- **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 Organizations), 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
- ✓ **Border Roads Organisation** has constructed 430 feet long bailey “**Daporijo bridge**” in **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.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** state government has rolled out “**e-sanjeevani-opd**” for free online medical consultation to sick people.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** becomes the 1st state with a software-based in-house facility of virtual courts.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched ‘Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana’ to benefit the Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state.
 - **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).
- ✓ **Rajasthan** government has partnered with MedCords to provide online consultations and to deliver medicine to the people of the state.
 - **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)**.
- ✓ **Delhi** government has launched “Assess Koro Na” app for door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones.
 - **Note:** The first phase of the app-based assessment will be launched in South Delhi.
 - Since there is a delay in collecting and analyzing 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.**
- ✓ **Gujarat** government has approved the 3rd edition of his government's '**Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan**' (SSJA).
 - **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.
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh** 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.
 - **Note:** It is a National Teleconsultation Service of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & is the 1st of its kind online OPD (Outpatient Department) service.
 - It aims to provide healthcare services to patients in their homes, which enables a safe and structured video-based clinical consultation between a doctor in a hospital and a patient at home.
- ✓ **Karnataka** state government has launched "Apthamitra" helpline toll free number and an application to empower the people to fight against coronavirus pandemic.
 - **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 (SERI)** and the corona like symptoms.
- ✓ **Assam** state government has launched a special **scheme called 'Dhanwantari'**, under which locally unavailable medicines will be delivered to patients at home.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched **zero interest loan scheme for Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).**
 - **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 program got postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched **Jeevan Shakti Yojana** to enable women in urban areas to earn by making masks at home.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Gujarat** state government has launched a **unique initiative called 'Umbare Aanganwadi under Integrated Child Development Services programme** to reach out to children during the lockdown.
 - **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.

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** 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.**
 - **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: India

- ✓ The virtual meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers was attended by **Piyush Goyal**.
 - **Note:** Piyush Goyal has urged the G20 nations to build a universal framework to boost the affordable access & facilitate easy movement of health professionals across national borders to fight over COVID-19.
 - He stressed on the need to uphold multilateral commitments and improve its effectiveness to meet current challenges.
- ✓ As per revised norms of the central government the limit for a person reside in J&K to become permanent resident of the UT -- **15 Years**.
 - **Note:** A new definition for domicile for Jammu and Kashmir was introduced. As per the new definition a person residing in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for at least 15 years or has studied for a period of seven years in Jammu and Kashmir and appeared in Class 10 or 12 examinations will now be eligible to be a permanent resident of the UT.
 - This new rule was issued under the Section 3A of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Adaptation of State Laws Order 2020, under the Jammu and Kashmir civil services decentralisation and recruitment Act.
- ✓ **Indian Council for Cultural Relations** has launched a competition titled **“United Against Corona- Express through Art”**.
 - **Note:** The aim of the competition is to unite citizens across the world.
 - The competition was announced by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and this soft-power initiative is being organized by ICCR.
 - ICCR invites Indians and world citizens to submit their work of art expressing their emotions, feelings, ideas, and innovative thoughts on the COVID- 19.
- ✓ The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has extended the existing foreign trade policy (2015-20) to **March 2021**.
 - **Note:** The existing Policy came into effect on **1st April 2015**, is valid for **5 years** and was originally up to **March 31, 2020**.
 - Now, the commerce ministry will continue to provide the relief under various export promotion schemes such as Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) by granting an extension of another one year.
- ✓ Donations for PM-CARES Fund granted tax exemption of **100%**.
 - **Note:** the donations made under newly-formed Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES FUND) to provide assistance to the persons affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, are made eligible for 100% deduction under section 80G of the Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961.
 - For this, the provisions of the IT Act are amended through the Taxation and other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020.
- ✓ National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered its volunteer cadets to assist the civilian authorities to fight COVID-19 under **‘Exercise NCC Yogdan’**.
 - **Note:** It has issued guidelines for the temporary employment of its cadets to enhance the operations of various organizations involved in relief efforts & fighting the pandemic.
 - The tasks for NCC cadets include- manning of helpline, call centres; distribution of relief materials, medicines, food, essential commodities; community assistance; data management and queue & traffic management.
- ✓ To build a portable and lightweight emergency ventilator system Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has partnered with **‘Wipro 3D’**.

- **Note:** The ventilator system will be based on Artificial Manual Breathing Unit (AMBU) to assist the breathing of the critical patients who have no access to ICU.
 - This ventilator system is essentially a hand held device also called as AMBU bag or bag-valve-mask (BVM) to provide positive pressure ventilation to a corona patients with breathing difficulties with a controlled rate of expiration, inspiratory to expiratory ratio, Tidal volume etc.
- ✓ The COVID- 19 **National Preparedness Survey 2020** was conducted in **410** districts.
 - **Note:** The COVID-19 National Preparedness Survey 2020 was conducted in 410 Districts in the Country within 3 working days beginning on March 25, 2020.
 - The survey was conducted with responses from 410 civil servants who are providing field level leadership.
- ✓ To fight COVID-19 Civil services associations form an initiative called '**Caruna**'.
 - **Note:** Associations representing officers of Central Civil Services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), have created an initiative called 'CARUNA.
 - The CARUNA stands for Civil Services Associations Reach to Support in Natural Disasters.
 - This is to assist and supplement the government's efforts to battle against Corona Virus (COVID-19).
- ✓ The National Health Authority (NHA) partnered with taxi company **Uber India** to provide 24/7 free transport services to India's frontline healthcare workers.
 - **Note:** Initially, Uber will facilitate the provision of 150 cars free of cost to support medical facilities in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Patna via UberMedic service.
 - The new cars supplied to NHA will be equipped with roof-to-floor plastic sheeting enclosing the driver's seat, thereby acting as a protective barrier between rider and driver.
- ✓ '**Operation Sanjeevani**' launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to Maldives via transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the virus.
 - **Note:** Medicines including influenza vaccines, anti-viral drugs such as Lopinavir arid Ritonavir & other useful items were purchased by the Maldives' State Trading Organisation (STO) from 8 suppliers in India.
 - But due to the 21-day lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 epidemic, it could not be possible to take them to Maldives by any other means.
- ✓ To deal with Covid-19 epidemic the central government has constituted a 10-member group under the chairmanship of **Amitabh Kant**.
 - **Note:** The work of this group will primarily identify issues through 3 groups of stakeholders, the empowered group set up for coordination with private sector, NGOs and international organisations then present effective measures to address solutions to the issues related to the formulation of plans for counter-activities related to COVID-19.
- ✓ To help India fight against COVID-19 the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the initiative called "**Lifeline UDAN**".
 - **Note:** Under Lifeline UDAN initiative of Ministry of Civil Aviation, 132 cargo flights have been operated so far across the country to transport medical cargo including to remote and hilly areas.
 - With support from Air India, Alliance Air, IAF and private airlines, medical supplies of more than 184 tons have been delivered till date during lockdown period.

- ✓ Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has approved to set up a rapid response centre -- **“CAWACH”**.
 - **Note:** CAWACH stands for Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis. Rapid response centre “CAWACH” has been set up at a total cost of Rs 56 Crore at Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay.
 - Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) is a rapid response centre which has been set up to scout, evaluate and support the innovations and start-ups that address COVID-19 challenges.
- ✓ **Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam** has designed ‘Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)’.
 - **Note:** This oxygen manifold is designed to supply oxygen to multiple patients at a time, which could prove helpful in a contingency created by COVID-19 spread. The preliminary trials were conducted at MI Room at NDV, followed by rapid trials at the Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani, where it was successfully installed within 30 minutes.
 - The Navy personnel from the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) have developed a ‘Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)’ using a six-way radial header fitted to a single cylinder.
- ✓ Name the official COVID-19 tracking app that has been launched by the Government of India -- **Aarogya Setu**.
 - **Note:** The “Aarogya Setu” app has been developed by the National e-Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 - The Government of India has launched the mobile application “Aarogya Setu” to connect essential health services with the people of India to fight against COVID-19.
- ✓ To help foreign tourists who are stuck in various parts of the country the Ministry of Tourism has launched a portal **‘Stranded in India’**.
 - **Note:** The portal consists of information around COVID-19 helpline numbers and call centres that foreign tourists can reach out for help, information around Ministry of External Affairs control centres along with their contact information and information around state-based/regional tourism support infrastructure.
- ✓ Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved an ordinance to cut in the salaries of all Members of Parliament by **30%**.
 - **Note:** It also provisioned a two-year suspension (2020-21 and 2021-22) of the MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme so that the amount saved can go to the Consolidated Fund of India to fight COVID-19.
 - This announcement was made by Prakash Javadar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved the highest ever highway construction feat with an accomplishment of **3,979 km**.
 - **Note:** However, it has completed 88% of highway construction against the target of building 4,500 km highways in FY-20.
 - In the FY 2018-19, NHAI constructed 3,380 km of National Highways. Under Phase-I of the programme, the government has approved implementation of 34,800 km of national highways projects with an outlay of Rs 5.35 lakh crore in a period of five years
- ✓ The name that has been given to mega ONLINE innovation challenge launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) -- **SAMADHAN**.
 - **Note:** The innovation cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched a mega ONLINE challenge called “SAMADHAN” to fight against covid19.

- Under the “**Samadhan**” challenge, the students and faculty will be motivated for doing new experiments and new discoveries and provide them with a strong base leading to a spirit of experimentation and discovery.
- ✓ **iGOT e-learning platform** has been launched by the government of India for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic.
 - **Note:** Giving COVID 19 training to other potential second line workforce, India will be better prepared for the emergent situations. The target group is Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Hygiene Workers, Technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), Central & State Govt. Officers, Civil Defence Officials, various Police Organisations, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS), Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Bharat Scouts & Guides (BSG) and other volunteers.
- ✓ **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has removed export restrictions on 24 pharma ingredients including 12 active pharmaceutical ingredients, it operates under **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
 - **Note:** In this regard, amendment has been made in the chapter 29 and 30 of the Schedule 2 of the ITCHS (Indian Trade Clarification based on Harmonized System) Export Policy, 2018 which is related APIs and formulations.
 - It should be noted that the outbound shipments of paracetamol and its formulations continue to remain restricted or need a license from the government to get exported
- ✓ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has divided the the health centers into 3 categories namely- COVID Care Centre, Dedicated COVID Health Centre and Dedicated COVID Hospital.
 - **Note:** Under these facilities, it will be ensured that the capacity of hospital beds is used only for moderate and severe patients of infection. Patients suspected of corona or patients with mild or very mild symptoms will be placed in Covid Care Center.
 - Patients with moderate symptoms of coronavirus will be admitted in Dedicated COVID Health Centre. Serious patients infected with the corona virus will be admitted in Dedicated COVID Hospital.
- ✓ Name the mobile doctor booth created by the West Central Railway’s Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) -- **CHARAK**.
 - **Note:** This is to eliminate the possibility of physical contact between the doctor and the coronavirus (COVID-19) infected patient.
 - A viral barrier chamber has been built in the railway compartment itself, through which doctors will be able to examine patients without direct physical contact.
- ✓ **Hindustan Unilever** has partnered with **UNICEF** to support India to combat COVID-19.
 - **Note:** Hindustan Unilever has partnered with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to support India to combat COVID-19.
 - The partnership aims to initiate a mass communication campaign with an objective of informing and empowering the general public against the COVID-19 pandemic. The mass communication campaign titled ‘#BreakTheChain’ or ‘#VirusKiKadiTodo’ will unite the technical knowledge of UNICEF with the marketing expertise and scale of HUL.
- ✓ The government of India has approved for the ‘India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package -- **Rs.15000 crores**.
 - **Note:** The package is to build health infrastructure in states and UTs till March 2024. Of the 15,000 crore, Centre would release Rs.7,774 crore for

immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response use till June 2020 and the rest will be set for medium-term support of 1-4 years.

- ✓ To launch a digital campaign to ensure work safety of Tribal Gatherers TRIFED has collaborated with WHO and **UNICEF**.
 - **Note:** This is to ensure tribal gatherers carry on their work safely during the collection and harvest of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)/Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).
 - This collaboration will promote a digital campaign for Self Help Groups (SHGs) highlighting the importance of Social Distancing.
 - This will further create awareness among the tribal community and also provide Do's and Don'ts Advisories relating to NTFP during Covid-19.
- ✓ The Supreme Court (SC) of India has extended the tenure of chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) **Justice Shiva Kirti Singh**.
 - **Note:** This decision has been taken by the bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Deepak Gupta headed by Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.
 - The bench also expressed concern over the delay in appointment of administrative and technical members of TDSAT and asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to answer on behalf of Centre.
- ✓ To improve the online education ecosystem of India Union Human Resource Development Ministry has launched the campaign -- '**Bharat Padhe Online**'
 - **Note:** The campaign aims to invite all the best brains in India to share suggestions or solutions directly with the HRD Ministry, to overcome the obstacles of online education while promoting the available digital education platforms.
 - Educators across the country can also contribute with their expertise in the field of education, where a conversation may be initiated about the limitation of the current online education scenario, challenges faced by them in traditional classrooms that can be addressed through online education & the structure of a perfect online education ecosystem.
- ✓ **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has allowed the use of a diagnostic machine used to test drug-resistant TB (Tuberculosis) for conducting coronavirus tests namely **Truenat™**.
 - **Note:** Currently, India is using **Real Time-Polymerase Chain Reaction test** recommended by the US and approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).
 - During the investigations, samples will be taken from the nose and throat and sent to the viral transport medium (VTM) provided with the kit. Earlier ICMR has also recommended the use of the Truenat beta CoV test on Truelab workstation, which is used to detect drug resistant TB.
- ✓ **Ahmedabad** railway station becomes first station of IR to install sanitizing tunnel.
 - **Note:** The Ahmedabad railway station at Kalupur, Gujarat of Western Railway became the first station of Indian Railways (IR) to install a Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel to ensure the safety of staff and passengers in the view of the COVID-19.
 - The tunnel was inaugurated by Ahmedabad DRM (Divisional Railway Manager) Deepak Jha.
- ✓ Exit from the Lockdown report has been prepared by 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 resume –Five aspects to be considered while restarting the economy
- ✓ Fit India in collaboration with **CBSE for** first-of-a-kind live fitness session under its Fit India Active Day programme for school children across the country.
 - **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.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced a training program on COVID-19 for 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.
- ✓ **Jim Corbett National Park** becomes the India’s 1st quarantine centre for animals.
 - **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 centres 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.
- ✓ **Narendra Singh Tomar** chaired the National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 by video conference.
 - **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.
- ✓ **M S Sahoo Committee** submitted its report on “valuation professionals” and proposed an institutional framework for valuers by setting up National Institute of Valuers (NIV).
 - **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 establishing a National Institute of Valuers, which is now open for comments till May 14, 2020.
- ✓ **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through video conferencing.

- **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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 incentivize 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%.
- ✓ Amount **7,300 crores** has been released by the central government to State & UTs under MGNREGS.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** attended G20 Health Ministers Meeting held via video conference to control COVID-19.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Vinod Paul and Krishnaswamy VijayRaghavan** will head the high-level task force for vaccine and drug testing for coronavirus disease.
 - **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.

- ✓ **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB).
 - **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.
- ✓ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** 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).
 - **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
- ✓ **Dharmendra Pradhan** chaired the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) meeting approved & allowed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to convert the available surplus rice to ethanol.
 - **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
- ✓ **Narendra Singh Tomar** has 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.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Institute of Medical Science and Research** becomes the 1st authorized study centre in the country to carry out the plasma research under trial in view of COVID 19.
 - **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 randomized control trial to assess the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma to limit COVID-19 associated complications in moderate disease.
- ✓ **Ravindra H Dholakia** 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.
 - **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.
- ✓ To invite e-learning content contributions Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched 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.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ **Swamitva Scheme** has been launched by the PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th of April 2020.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Malini Shankar** will head the reconstituted **16-member National Shipping Board (NSB)**.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **Banking** service has been declared as **public utility service (PUS) for six months** by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 - **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.
- ✓ On the occasion of the World Book Day the Union Minister of Human Resource and Development (HRD), Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched **#MyBookMyFriend** campaign.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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-World

- ✓ As per the **UNCTAD report** titled the World will witness recession except **India and China**.
 - **Note:** According to the latest UN report the world economy will go into recession except India and China due to coronavirus pandemic.
 - With two-thirds of the world's population living in developing countries facing unprecedented economic damage from the coronavirus crisis.
 - The exporting countries will face \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion drop in investment from overseas in the next two years.
- ✓ The **World Bank** in its Economic Update for East Asia and Pacific (EAP) titled “East Asia and Pacific in the Time of COVID-19” stated that poverty is estimated to increase **11 Million**.
 - **Note:** The World Bank in report says that the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic could drive an additional 11 million people into poverty in East Asia and the Pacific.
 - In the worse-case scenario outlined by the Washington-based financial institution, the region could suffer its sharpest downturn in more than two decades, plunging much of Asia into a prolonged recession.
- ✓ **United Nation’s COP 26** climate change summit postponed till **2021**.
 - **Note:** The conference was planned to take place from 9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, Scotland in the United Kingdom (UK).
 - Pre-COP and ‘**Youth for the Climate**’ event were also postponed supposed to be held in Italy.
 - This decision has been taken by the COP Bureau of the UNFCCC after discussion with the UK and Italian partners.
- ✓ **USD 1 billion** amount has been offered by the **World Bank to the Indian government** for a proposed India **COVID-19** emergency response and health systems preparedness project.
 - **Note:** This four-year project aims to develop the preparedness of India’s health care systems in the time of the pandemic.
 - The idea of the project will be to respond and mitigate the COVID-19 threat and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in India, as per the project document.
 - The World Bank funding is from its COVID-19 fast-track facility where both the entities (World Bank and the government of India) will work on following the best international practice.
- ✓ **USD 2.9 million** amount has been announced by the aid agency **USAID to India** to fight against Coronavirus.
 - **Note:** The funds announced are going to help India in its fight against COVID-19 and to also provide care for those who are affected and help the local communities with the tools to stop the pandemic spreading in the country.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other relevant agencies, is working closely with India to support the country’s response to the pandemic. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) is one of the leading aid agencies globally.
- ✓ **USD 5 million** amount has been allocated by the SAARC Development Fund for COVID-19 projects.
 - **Note:** The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Development Fund (SDF) has allocated USD 5 million (about Rs 38 crore) for COVID-19 projects in 8 member countries, in an effort to mitigate the financial losses and severe socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

- ✓ **China** has become the world leader in international patent filings via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
 - **Note:** China has filled a total of 58,990 applications surpassing the United States (US), which was at top spot since the PCT began operations in 1978.
 - It should be noted that for the third consecutive year, Chinese telecoms giant Huawei topped the global ranking in 2019 with 4,411 PCT applications.
 - It was followed by Mitsubishi of Japan, which made 2,661 filings, Samsung of South Korea with 2,334 filings and Qualcomm of the US with 2,127 filings
- ✓ **UNIDO** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Consumer Unity and Trust Society**.
 - **Note:** The MoU, valid for 5 years, aims to create joint technical co-operation initiatives to support ongoing activities in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
 - As per the MoU, CUTS will support e-commerce as a platform to accelerate Member States' transition to the digital economy and adapt to the 4th Industrial Revolution.
 - Both the agencies also decided to implement a BRICS e-commerce project that will build upon the success of UNIDO's pilot e-commerce project implemented in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries from 2016 to 2018.
- ✓ **United States** has **stopped its funding towards World Health Organization (WHO)**.
 - **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.
- ✓ **South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu affected by Harold cyclone** for which **UN releases \$ 2.5 million**.
 - **Note:** The United Nations (UN) humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock announced and released **2.5 million dollars** 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ In accordance with the **Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey, India** becomes the **world's most digitally dexterous (skilful) country** in the world.
 - **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.
- ✓ **North Korea** test fired **anti-ship cruise missiles** as a part of military exercises recently.
 - **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 grandfather 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.
- ✓ **South Korea** becomes the **first country to hold national election** amidst COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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**.
- ✓ **UNODC** 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.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Lebanon** becomes **the 1st Arab nation to legalise cannabis** (also known as marijuana) farming for medicinal & industrial use.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Pakistan** hosted the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) health ministers** virtual conference.

- **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
- ✓ 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.

Important News: Economy

- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan agreement worth of \$60 million with affordable housing loan provider **Aavas Financiers Ltd.**
 - **Note:** The grant, provided under the ADB's supporting access to housing finance for women and in lagging states project, will help increase higher rates of property ownership for women in lower-income groups.
 - At present, India saw the acute housing shortage of 18.7 million units in urban region & 43.7 million units in rural region, that mostly affecting low-income groups, who are facing major problems in receiving mortgages including a lack of documents to prove their incomes.
- ✓ Standard & Poor Global Ratings has slashed down India's growth forecast for financial year 2020-21 to **3.5%**.
 - **Note:** The growth rate has been slashed due to the deteriorating credit conditions in the Asia-Pacific region as a result of Covid-19 outbreak.
 - It also expects a sharp growth at 7.3% in the Indian economy for FY22 & also has lowered India's growth rate to 5.2% from 5.7% before lockdown.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has hiked the limit of **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2020-21 for the centre to **Rs 1.2 lakh crore.**
 - **Note:** The increment will help state & central government to overtake the current mismatch in the cash flow of their receipts and payments & will step up expenditure in the social sector, including health and sanitation at the time of outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ✓ For the proposed a 4 -year COVID-19 emergency response & health systems preparedness project in **India**, the **World Bank** has offered **USD 1 billion.**
 - **Note:** The project aims to develop the preparedness of India's health care systems in the time of the pandemic & also to respond and mitigate the pandemic.
 - The project measures the progress on key indicators, such as the proportion of laboratory-confirmed cases of Covid-19 who responded within 48 hours and the proportion of samples submitted for the confirmed Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2.
- ✓ The **United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) World Economic Forecasting Model** estimates that the global economy could shrink by **1%**.
 - **Note:** The UN has also warned if the restrictions on economic activities are extended without adequate fiscal responses, the decline could be even deeper.
 - The analysis estimated best & worst scenarios for global growth in 2020
- ✓ According to the Fitch Solutions India's fiscal deficit is expected to go up to what per cent of GDP -- **6.2 %.**
 - **Note:** The reason for this is the economic stimulus package given to deal with the economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.
 - The government had set a target of limiting the fiscal deficit to 3.5 % of GDP during the current financial year FY 2020-21.
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020** has forecasted a slowdown in Indian economic growth to **4%**.
 - **Note:** For FY 21-22 it has predicted Indian economic growth to 6.2%.

- On the region front, Asia and Pacific are expected to decline to 2.2% in FY 20-21 and then rebound to 6.2% in 2021.
- Also, the growth in South Asia will downgrade to 4.1% in FY 20-21 and then recover to 6% in FY 21-22.
- ✓ **Fitch Ratings** has trimmed the Indian growth forecast for fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021 to **2%**.
 - **Note:** This would be the slowest growth in India over the past 30 years.
 - On the global front, Fitch has predicted a contraction of 1.9% in GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth for FY 20-21.
- ✓ The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has announced to provide emergency working capital to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) up to **one crore**.
 - **Note:** The SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against coronavirus (SAFE) loan limit has been increased to 2 crores from Rs 50 lakhs. It is a financial assistance program launched by SIDBI for (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) MSMEs that engage in the manufacturing of products (hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, head gear, bodysuits, shoe covers, ventilators, goggles, among others) or offer services to combat the novel coronavirus.
- ✓ According to the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report** India's GDP growth for FY 20-21 is likely to be declined to **4.8%**.
 - **Note:** As per the report the Economic growth for the country could stand at 5.1% for fiscal year 2021-22.
 - It should be noted that our Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had projected India's GDP growth of 6-6.5% while presenting economic survey 2020-21, up from 5% estimate for 2019-20.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **World Bank** has approved **Rs 585 cr for Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project**.
 - **Note:** Under tranche-I of HPSRTP, Road construction work of Barotiwala-Baddi-Sain-Ramshehar with length of 45 kms, Dadol-Ladraur 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.
- ✓ **SIDBI** has launched special liquidity schemes to support MSMEs due to lockdown.
 - **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).
- ✓ **Transcorp International Ltd (TIL)** becomes the **1st non-bank company** to receive Reserve Bank of India(RBI) nod to enter into co-branding arrangements for prepaid Instruments.
 - **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
- ✓ **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 %.
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank** 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.
 - **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 from the ADB in coordination with the government and the other development partners.
- ✓ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a loan **worth of \$346 million for Maharashtra** state to provide **power connection in rural areas**.
 - **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.

Awards and Honours

- ✓ Manufacturing unit of Indian Railway **Chittaranjan Locomotive Works** has set the **Limca Book of Records** for producing record **431 locomotives in the financial year 2019-2020**.
 - **Note:** This was achieved despite novel coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that creating disruptions during the current financial year (FY20).
 - The unit has surpassed its own previous year (2018-2019) record when it produced 402 locomotives in 297 working days. CLW's Locomotive production has increased 75% over the last 6 years period from 250 in 2014-15 to 431 in 2019-20 in line to support 100% Electrification and 'Make in India' initiative of the central government.
- ✓ NGO '**ARMMAN**' has been awarded the **Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship 2020** in recognition of its exceptional work in the maternal and child health space in India.
 - **Note:** ARMMAN, an India-based non-profit organization (NPO), has been awarded the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship 2020 in recognition of its exceptional work in the maternal and child health space in India, along with 4 other awardees.
 - ARMMAN is the only organization from Asia and Africa, selected from 700 organizations.
- ✓ **Naveen Patnaik** has been conferred with 'Hero to Animals Award' by animal rights body PETA India.
 - **Note:** He has been awarded by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for allocating funds to feed community animals in Odisha during the lockdown over the novel coronavirus pandemic.
 - The lockdown has not only affected people but animals as well. In the concern that the animals do not go starving in such conditions, CM approved of Rs 54 lakhs from a relief fund to feed animals of the community.
- ✓ **Ben Stokes** has been named as the leading cricketer of the world in 2020 by Wisden.
 - **Note:** England's all-rounder Ben Stokes has been named as the leading cricketer in the world 2020 by Wisden.
 - Andrew Flintoff was the last English player to win the award in 2005.
 - Ben Stokes was the hero of the Cricket World Cup 2019 final as he guided England to their maiden triumph in the 50-over showpiece tournament at Lord's on July 14.
- ✓ Female cricketer **Ellyse Perry** has been named the Wisden's Leading Female Cricketer in the World 2020.
 - **Note:** Australia's Ellyse Perry has been named the Wisden's Leading Female Cricketer in the World.
 - Perry scored the highest runs and took the most wickets as Australia successfully retained their Women's Ashes title against England last year.
- ✓ Power company **Tata Power** has won the Edison Award for social innovation.
 - **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.
- ✓ Algerian Novelist **Abdelouahab Aissaoui** has won the 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) 2020 for his novel 'The Spartan Court'.

- **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).
- ✓ **Adam Higginbotham** has won the William E. Colby Award 2020 for his book “Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World’s Greatest Nuclear Disaster”.
- **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.

Important Events: Sports

- ✓ Grand Slam tournament **Wimbledon 2020** has been cancelled for the first time since World War II due to coronavirus pandemic.
 - **Note:** The tournament organizer, All England Club (AELTC) after an emergency meeting announced that the Championships 2020 will be cancelled due to public health concerns linked to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic. The tournament was due to be played between 29 June and 12 July.
- ✓ **World Athletics championship** shifted to **the year 2022**.
 - **Note:** The 2021 world athletics championships will be shifted to 2022. The championship was originally scheduled to held in Eugene, Oregon from August 6-15, 2021.
 - The announcement came immediately after the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic will now take place on July 23-August 8, 2021.
 - The athletics federation also talking to the organisers of the 2022 European Athletics Championships, which are due to take place in Munich on August 11-21.
- ✓ **'The Smart Triplets'** will be the mascot 19th Asian Games.
 - **Note:** The Olympic Council of Asia has announced the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou in 2022.
 - The three robots namely Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen which are collectively known as "The Smart Triplets" will be the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games.
 - The mascot was unveiled by Olympic Council of Asia at a digital launch ceremony in Hangzhou, China.
- ✓ **Kobe Bryant** has been inducted into Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
 - **Note:** The late Kobe Bryant has been selected as a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
 - He has been selected as the member of the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.
 - Kobe Bryant, the 18-time NBA All Star, has now become a part of 9-member class that also constitutes multiple All-Star selections Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett.
- ✓ The **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)** has banned two countries **Malaysia & Thailand** from participating in weightlifting events at the Tokyo Olympics due to multiple doping offences.
 - **Note:** The Independent Member Federation Sanctions Panel (IMFSP) of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has banned the Malaysia & Thailand weightlifters from competing in Tokyo Olympics 2020.
 - IMSP has imposed the disciplinary sanctions on both the countries from participating in weightlifting events at the Tokyo Olympics for doping violations.
- ✓ India's rank in the latest FIFA Ranking -- **108th**.
 - **Note:** According to the FIFA latest World Ranking 2020, released on April 09, 2020, Indian football team retained its 108th position with 1187 points.
 - While Belgium ranked first and world champion France is in 2nd place and Brazil is at 3rd spot.
- ✓ **India** will host Asian Boxing Championships 2020 in November 2020.
 - **Note:** India will host the Women's and Men's Asian Boxing Championships 2020 in November-December as he expressed confidence that by then the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic would have been completely under control.

- However, the host city will be decided by BFI after things return to normal. India last hosted the Men's Asian Championship in Mumbai, Maharashtra in the year 1980, while the Women's Championship was hosted in 2003 in Hisar, Haryana.
- ✓ **'Fei Fei' will be** the official mascot for 4th Asian Para Games 2022.
 - **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.
- ✓ According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Ranking 2020 of senior Indian male players **Achanta Sharath Kamal** got top rank.
 - **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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Mirabai Chanu and Jeremy Lalrinnunga have been qualified to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, they are associated with **Weightlifting** sports.
 - **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.
- ✓ Sana Mir announced her retirement from international cricket held, she held from **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.
- ✓ India lost the hosting rights of 2021 Men's World Boxing Championships to **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.
- ✓ Quadrennial 50-over Women Cricket World Cup 2021 to be held in **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 and scheduled from February 6 to March 7 in 2021.

Personalities in News

- ✓ **D. Lakshminarayanan** has been appointed as the **Managing Director of the Sundaram Home Finance**.
 - **Note:** He will take charge on April 1, 2020 and will replace Srinivas Acharya. Srinivas Acharya has been the company's MD since 2010 & has been part of the Sundaram Finance Group for almost 4 decades.
 - The company had posted a total income of Rs 1006 crore and a net profit of Rs 145 crore for the financial year 2019.
- ✓ The government extended the tenure of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) acting President **BSV Prakash Kumar**.
 - **Note:** Earlier he was appointed as the acting President for 3 months from January 5 after the retirement of NCLT president Justice Mahesh Mittal (M.M.) Kumar.
 - He had previously served as a Judicial Member of the NCLT's Madras bench.
- ✓ The Government has extended the appointment of Madhabi Puri Buch as a whole time member (WTM) of the **SEBI**.
 - **Note:** She was appointed as a WTM of SEBI for a period of 3 years in April 2017 whereas all the appointed members and Chairman of SEBI were only men from the public sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
 - She was not only the first woman to be appointed as a WTM of SEBI but also the first person from the private sector.
 - In SEBI, she handles a range of departments from market and market intermediaries regulation to integrated surveillance and economic and policy analysis.
- ✓ **UB Pravin Rao** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
 - **Note:** UB Pravin Rao succeeds Keshav Murugesh, Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of World Network Services (WNS) Global Services, who served as chairman of NASSCOM for the year 2019-20.
 - Previously Rao was the vice chairman of NASSCOM.
- ✓ **Shafali Verma** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PepsiCo for one year.
 - **Note:** Pepsi will be Shafali's first contract with a major brand. The beverage firm recently signed Bollywood star Salman Khan as its face for 2 years.
 - Shafali Verma hails from Haryana is the explosive top-order Indian batswoman, who played the ICC Women's Twenty20 International World Cup against Australia in Melbourne.
- ✓ **Parag Raja** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company.
 - **Note:** The appointment will be subject to the requisite approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
 - Parag Raja will be the successor of Vikas Seth. Raja served as the Chief Distribution Officer at Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI).
- ✓ **Anamika Roy Rashtrawar** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance.

- **Note:** She was the successor of Warendra Sinha. She was the first woman MD and CEO of a large private sector IFFCO Tokio general insurance company.
 - She joined the company as a whole-time director in June 2018 and spearheaded the company's business transformation project by expanding operations in tier -II, III, IV towns.
- ✓ **Raj Vikash Verma** has been appointed as part-time Chairman of AU Small Finance Bank for the period of one year.
 - **Note:** Verma was inducted as an Independent Director with the AU Bank in January 2018.
 - He was the former Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of National Housing Bank (NHB).
 - Verma was a certified Associate of the Indian Institute of the Bankers (CAIIB).
- ✓ **Sanjay Agarwal** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AU Small Finance Bank.
 - **Note:** Sanjay Agarwal reappointed as Managing Director (MD) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer).
 - Agarwal has been associated with this institution (AU small finance bank) since its inception in 1996 (erstwhile AU Financiers India Limited), is also its promoter.
 - AU Small Finance Bank is an Indian Scheduled Commercial bank that was founded as a finance company AU financiers (India) Limited incorporated as L.N. Finco Gems Private Limited
- ✓ **Mahabaleshwara M S** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Karnataka Bank.
 - **Note:** Private sector lender Karnataka Bank received RBI (Reserve Bank of India) approval for the re-appointment of Mahabaleshwara M S as MD (Managing Director) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) for next 3 years.
 - The bank regulator has also approved for reappointment of Polali Jayarama Bhat as part time (non-executive) chairman.
- ✓ **Sara Ali Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the James Bullough Lansing (JBL)'s campaign –“Live it Real, Live it Raw”.
 - **Note:** She lines up with JBL ambassadors and partners from music, sports, and entertainment industries including actor and humanitarian Priyanka Chopra, music mogul AR Rahman, and Olympian Shuttler PV Sindhu in India.
 - Mahindra Group's MeraKisan, an organic Agri producer has partnered with The Vice-Captain of the Indian Test Cricket team Ajinkya Rahane, as part of this, he will own equity & will be its brand ambassador.
- ✓ **J Packirisamy** has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Bank of India.
 - **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.

- ✓ **Mrutyunjay Mahapatra** has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Canara Bank.
 - **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.
- ✓ **MS Dhoni** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the PokerStars India.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Ajay Mahajan** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE) Rating.
 - **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)
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the CricKingdom.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Vineet Arora** has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Paytm General Insurance Limited.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Viswanathan Anand** has been appointed as the ambassador of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India's environment education programme.
 - **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.

- ✓ **N Kamakodi** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of City Union Bank.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Noel Quinn** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the HSBC Bank.
 - **Note:** He had 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.
- ✓ **PV Sindhu** has been appointed as the one of its ambassadors for the “**I am badminton**” awareness campaign of BWF.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Rakesh Sharma** has been appointed as the President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA).
 - **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).
- ✓ **Shiv Das Meena** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Ltd.
 - **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.
- ✓ **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
 - **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 Nath Kovind.

- 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.

Obituaries

- ✓ Professor **Arjun Dev** passed away recently; he was a veteran **Historian**.
 - **Note:** He served as a historian at the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT).
 - He also co-wrote some of the extremely popular textbooks with his wife Indira Arjun Dev.
 - Arjun Dev served as Member Secretary of the National Steering Committee on Textbook evaluation.
 - One of his books, which was discontinued by NCERT and was republished by Orient Blackswan as “History of the World: From the Late 19th to the Early 20th century”, has remained a widely read text.
- ✓ Nobel Prize- winning physicist who expanded the world’s understanding of magnetism, superconductivity and the structure of matter, passed away -- **Philip Warren Anderson**.
 - **Note:** The American theoretical physicist graduated from Harvard University in 1949 & then worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories until he began teaching at Princeton and the University of Cambridge.
 - Anderson received Nobel Prize in Physics in 1977, along with Nevill Francis Mott of Britain & the American John Hasbrouck van Vleck, for their contribution on fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems.
- ✓ Padma Shri awardee and former “**Hazoori Raagi**” at the Golden Temple, passed away -- **Bhai Nirmal Singh Khalsa**.
 - **Note:** He has the knowledge of all 31 “raags” in the Gurbani of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Holy Book).
 - In 2009, Singh received the Padma Shri award from the Government of India for his contribution of services in the field of arts and he was the first Hazoori Raagi to receive the award.
- ✓ Name the American singer-songwriter, record producer and bassist passed away due to Coronavirus -- **Adam Lyons Schlesinger**.
 - **Note:** He was the co-founder of the 2000s pop-rock band “Foundations of Wayne” & known for co-writing the band’s 2003 hit “Stacy’s Mom”.
 - Schlesinger won 3 Emmy awards, two for original music and lyrics for the 2011 and 2012 Tony Awards and, another for original music and lyrics for “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend” in 2015.
 - “**A Colbert Christmas**”, co-written by Schlesinger & David Javerbaum, won him the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album.
- ✓ World renowned virologist **Gita Ramjee** passed away in Johannesburg, South Africa.
 - **Note:** She was the stellar vaccine scientist and an HIV prevention research leader.

- Gita was born on April 8, 1956, in Kampala, Uganda. She served as the Clinical Trials Unit Principal Investigator and Unit Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) offices in Durban.
- ✓ American songwriter, soulful singer, guitarist & 3 time Grammy award winner **Bill Withers** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He is well known for these compilations- Lean on Me, Ain't No Sunshine, Just the two of us (for which he received Grammy awards) & Lovely Day.
 - He has produced 9 albums, his debut album is Just As I Am(1971) & the last album was Watching You Watching Me(1985).
 - In 2006 he was awarded the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Rhythm & Soul Heritage Award, in 2007- Inducted into West Virginia Music Hall of Fame & in 2015- Inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- ✓ Libya's former Prime Minister **Mahmoud Jibril el-Warfally** passed away due to Coronavirus.
 - **Note:** He served as the interim Prime Minister (PM) of Libya for almost a year during the Libyan Civil War in 2011, chairing the executive board of National Transitional Council and later killed Moammar Gaddafi in 2011.
 - He also served as an economic advisor to the Gaddafi government before the revolution and served as the interim leader until the country held its first free elections in four decades in 2012.
- ✓ **Malayalam Music Composer** M.K. Arjunan passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He tuned about 700 songs, many of them among the biggest hits of all time.
 - His songs were celebrated as much as those of great composers like G. Devarajan (who was also his guru), M.S. Baburaj, V. Dakshinamoorthy and K. Raghavan.
 - He was awarded Kerala State award for the best composer in 2017 for Jayaraj's Bhayanakam.
- ✓ Renowned personality **Honor Blackman** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Honor Blackman was one of the memorable co-stars of the early James Bond films.
 - Honor Blackman shot to fame in her late 30s after playing legendary Bond girl Pussy Galore in the 1964 movie Goldfinger.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Radomir Antic passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Radomir Antic, Serbian football manager and player, the only man to have coached Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid, passed away at the age of 71 in Madrid, Spain.
 - Antic managed Atletico on three separate occasions, winning the league and cup double in 1995-96 and only one of two people to coach EL Clasico rivals Real and Barca during his career after Enrique Fernandez Viola.
- ✓ Two-time **Grammy award winner & Grammy lifetime achievement award** winner American folk singer **John Prine** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** John Prine passed away due to coronavirus complications. His best works are Missing Years, Fair and Square for which he received Grammy

awards, Angel From Montgomery, Illegal Smile, Christmas in Prison & Tree of Forgiveness among others.

- He was inducted into Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003 & Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2019 & received the PEN/New England Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award in 2016.
- ✓ Renowned player **Donato Sabia** passed away due to Coronavirus.
 - **Note:** Donato Sabia, twice Olympics 800 meters finalist and the former European Indoor Champion, passed away at the age of 56 in Potenza, Italy due to Coronavirus.
 - He was born on September 11, 1963 in Potenzo, Italy.
- ✓ Famous Indian American **Brahm Kanchibotla** passed away due to coronavirus.
 - **Note:** In recent years, he has been writing for two Indian-American publications, the Indian Panorama and the South Asia Times.
 - During his 28-year career in the US, he worked for 11 years as a content editor for Merger Markets, a financial publication, and also worked for News India-Times Weekly.
 - He emigrated to the US in 1992 after having worked for several publications in India.
- ✓ Famous Shanti Hiranand Chawla passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Shanti was trained in thumri, dadra and ghazal singing by Begum Akthar. With the passing of Shanti Hiranand the Begum Akthar era is formally over.
 - She was world-renowned for keeping the legendary ghazal singer's style alive in her performances, which she staged all across the world including Lahore, Islamabad, Toronto, Boston, New York and Washington.
- ✓ Legendary sportsperson Sir Stirling Moss passed away recently.
 - **Note:** Moss was widely regarded as the greatest driver never to win the Formula One drivers' world championship.
 - The British driver took part in Formula One from 1951 to 1961 and also made 67 starts in the F1 World Championship, claiming victory winning 16 races and claiming 16 pole positions and 24 podium positions.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Peter Bonetti passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was part of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team but was unused throughout the tournament.
 - He was featured in 1970 World Cup quarter-final defeat by West Germany.
 - He was nicknamed as 'The Cat' because of his safe handling, lightning reflexes and his graceful style.
- ✓ Renowned **Politician M V Rajasekharan** passed away recently.
 - **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.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson Zafar Sarfaraz passed away recently.
 - **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.
- ✓ Renowned personality **Ranjit Chowdhry** passed away recently.
 - **Note:** He was well known for his performance in classic comedies like *Baton Baton 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 Russie Mistry.
- ✓ **Luis Sepúlveda Calfucura**, the best-selling Chilean writer and journalist passed away due to coronavirus complications.
 - **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.
- ✓ Name the former prime minister of Fiji **Laisenia Qarase** passed away recently.
 - **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.
- ✓ Renowned personality Eugene Merrill Deitch passed away recently.
 - **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.
- ✓ Name the Indian theatre director-actor and activist **Usha Ganguly** passed away recently.
 - **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*.
- ✓ Famous sportsperson **Michael John** passed away recently, he was associated with **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.
- ✓ Renowned personality Irfan Khan passed away.
- **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.
- ✓ Renowned **Actor Rishi Kapoor** passed away.
- **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

- ✓ **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed every year on **April 2**.
 - **Note:** The World Autism Awareness Day is observed to raise awareness about autism and problems faced by people suffering from it.
 - The day has been observed since 2008.
 - The day is one of the seven health-based United Nations (UN) days. The theme for 2020 is “The Transition to Adulthood”.
- ✓ The **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed every year on **4th April**.
 - **Note:** It is observed to create awareness on landmines, other threats and progress towards their eradication.
 - In 2005, the UN (United Nations) General Assembly declared April 4 as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- ✓ The **57th Edition of National Maritime Day (NMD)** was celebrated on **April 5, 2020**.
 - **Note:** The day is observed annually to raise awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy.
 - The **National Maritime Day was first celebrated on April 5, 1964**.
 - The saga of India shipping first started on April 5, 1919, when the SS Loyalty, the first ship of **The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited** travelled from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ The **International Day of Conscience (IDC)** is observed for the 1st time on **5th April 2020**.
 - **Note:** This is celebrated to recognize the need to establish stability, well-being, peaceful and friendly relations on the basis of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
 - FIFA has joined forces with the **United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO)** in supporting the “**#BeActive campaign**” launched on the UN International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- ✓ The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSP) is celebrated every year on **6th April**.
 - **Note:** This is celebrated to recognize the power of sport in promoting social change, community development and to encourage peace and understanding.
 - The United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2013 has declared April 6 as IDSP & is celebrated annually since then 2014.
- ✓ The International Romani Day is observed every year on **8th April**.
 - **Note:** The day is observed annually to raise awareness of the issues faced by Romani people and to celebrate Romani culture.
 - The International Romani Day was officially declared at the fourth World Romani Congress of the International Romani Union (IRU) in Serock, Poland, in 1990.
 - The day also remembers the first major international meeting of Romani representatives held between April 7 to 12, 1971 in Chelsfield, England.
- ✓ The **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **10th April**.
 - **Note:** This year the day marks the 265th birth anniversary of the father of the Homeopathy systems of medicines Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, German physician.
 - He discovered the way to heal through the use of homeopathy.
 - The term ‘homeopathy’ comes from the combination of the two Greek words, homeo- meaning similar & pathos- meaning suffering or disease.

- Theme of the day this year 2020 is “**Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health**”.
- ✓ The **Play True Day** is observed every year on **9th April**.
 - **Note:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) celebrated the Play True Day 2020.
 - The theme of this year is ‘Play Safe on Play True Day 2020’.
 - WADA and the anti-doping community worldwide is celebrating the ‘Play True Day’ since 2014.
 - WADA celebrates the day with athletes, national and regional anti- doping organizations, sports federations, major event organizers & other anti- doping stakeholders from the global clean sport community.
- ✓ **National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD)** is celebrated annually on **11th April**.
 - **Note:** The day is celebrated to raise awareness on proper healthcare and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women.
 - NSMD is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) to ensure that every woman should have the availability and enough access to care during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services
- ✓ The **international day of human space flight** is observed across the world annually on **12th April**.
 - **Note:** The day remarks 1st human to orbit the earth- Yuri Gagarin in “Vostok 1” on April 12, 1961.
 - The day is observed to celebrate the space age for the human race to reaffirm the vital role of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals and improve the well-being of states, people, and to realize the ambition of maintaining the space for peaceful purposes.
 - The 1st human-made Earth satellite Sputnik I was launched into outer space on 4th October 1957 which opened a new way for space exploration.
- ✓ National Pet Day is celebrated every year on **11th April**.
 - **Note:** The Day is celebrated to create public awareness about animals that currently live in shelters and rescues and are in need of a forever home.
 - National pet day was founded in 2006 by Colleen Paige, who is a renowned animal welfare advocate and lifestyle expert.
- ✓ The World Chagas Disease Day was celebrated for the first time on **14th 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.
- ✓ **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.
 - Theme for the year 2020 is “**Women, Water and Climate Change**”.
- ✓ The **World Voice Day (WVD)** is celebrated every year on **16th 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**”.
- ✓ 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”.
- ✓ **World Haemophilia Day** is celebrated worldwide on **17th 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”**.
- ✓ The World Art Day is celebrated every year on **15th 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 honour & 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.
- ✓ World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on **18th 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**”.
- ✓ **World Liver Day (WLD)** is observed every year on **19th 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.
- ✓ **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is celebrated all across the world on April 21.
 - **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.
- ✓ The **National Civil Service Day** is celebrated every year on **21st 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.
- ✓ **Mother Earth Day** is celebrated every year on **22nd 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"**.
- ✓ World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on **23rd 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.
- ✓ Every year the United Nation Celebrates the UN English Language Day and UN Spanish Language Day on **23rd 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.
- ✓ The **World Day of Laboratory Animals** has been observed annually on **24th 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.
- ✓ National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is observed annually on **24th 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).
- ✓ Every year 25th 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"

- ✓ World Intellectual Property Day established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is celebrated every year on **26th 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**”
- ✓ International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on **26th 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work (WDSHW)** is observed every year on **28th 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.



Monthly One-Liners

April 2020

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