

APRIL

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SECOND WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS

08 APRIL - 14 APRIL



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1. The Chief Minister of which Indian state has been conferred with the 'Hero to Animals Award', by the animal rights body PETA India?
- [A] West Bengal [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Kerala [D] Odisha ☒
- ✓ The animal rights body PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) India has conferred the 'Hero to Animals Award' on the CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik.
- ✓ The Chief Minister was selected for his empathetic act of allocating Rs.54 lakhs from relief fund, to feed public animals in the municipal corporations of Odisha during the COVID-19 lockdown.
2. Aerobiosys Innovations, which has developed an affordable and emergency-use ventilator called 'Jeevan Lite', is an incubated start-up of which institution?
- [A] IIT – Madras [B] IIT – Hyderabad ☒
- [C] Indian Institute of Science [D] AIIMS
- ✓ Aerobiosys Innovations, an incubated start-up of IIT Hyderabad, Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CfHE) has developed an affordable and emergency-use ventilator called 'Jeevan Lite'.
- ✓ This portable device can be operated through a mobile application. The ventilator can also be operated by a battery, which enables it to be deployed in areas without power supply.
3. The research centre of which organisation have developed full-body disinfection chamber called 'Personnel Sanitization Enclosure'?
- [A] DRDO ☒ [B] AIIMS
- [C] IISc [D] BHEL
- ✓ One of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories Vehicle Research Development Establishment (VRDE), Ahmednagar has designed a full body disinfection chamber called as Personnel Sanitisation Enclosure (PSE). This enclosure is a walk through setup, which is designed for personnel sanitization.
- ✓ The portable system which sanitises one person at a time, is equipped with sanitiser and soap dispenser. An electrically operated pump creates a disinfectant mist of hypo sodium chloride for 25 seconds.
4. After the recent curbs on exports of diagnostic kits by the Indian Government, an exporter will have to get a licence from which authority for out-bound shipments?
- [A] Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) ☒
- [B] Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)
- [C] Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics
- [D] Department of Health Research
- ✓ The Government of India placed curbs on exports of diagnostic kits with immediate effect. As per the recent notification of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, this step has been taken to discourage shipments amid the coronavirus outbreak.
- ✓ An exporter will have to get license from the DGFT for shipments, which were allowed without restrictions earlier.
5. According to the recent announcement of the Health Ministry, about 50 Crore citizens will be eligible for free COVID-19 testing and treatment under which scheme?
- [A] Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana – PMJAY ☒
- [B] Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- [C] Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
- [D] Pradhan Mantri Poshan Abhiyan
- ✓ As per the recent announcement of the Union Health Ministry, more than 50 crore vulnerable citizens will be eligible for free COVID-19 testing and treatment under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ Hospitals empanelled under the AB-PMJAY scheme can use their authorised testing facilities or tie up with an authorised testing facility to provide this service.

6. Bronx zoo, where a tiger was tested +ve for COVID-19 for the 1st time in the world, is located in which country?

- [A] Italy [B] France
[C] United States of America ☒ [D] Germany

✓ A four-year-old female tiger named Nadia from the Bronx Zoo in New York City, has been tested positive for the coronavirus. This is claimed to be the 1st known case where transmission of the COVID-19 from human to an animal has been confirmed.

✓ The tiger is believed to have been infected by an asymptomatic zoo-keeper. Later, six other animals, including lions and tigers, have also been showing symptoms.

7. Which country, through its aid agency has announced a grant of USD 2.9 million to India to help it tackle the effect of coronavirus pandemic?

- [A] Russia [B] China
[C] United States of America ☒ [D] Australia

✓ One of the leading aid agencies in the world, USAID of the United States government, has announced a grant of USD 2.9 million to India to help it tackle the effect of coronavirus pandemic. This assistance was announced by the US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster.

✓ The aid agency will also support the World Health Organization (WHO) initiatives in India. The proposed funds will help the Indian Government of India in curbing the spread of COVID-19.

8. For the first time in 2020, April 5 is observed as which day by the United Nations?

- [A] International Day of Conscience ☒
[B] International Day of Promotion of Love
[C] International Day of Peace
[D] International Day of Promotion of Culture

✓ During the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, Bahrain sponsored its Prime

Minister's initiative to designate April 5 as the 'International Day of Conscience'.

✓ The Assembly unanimously adopted resolution "Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience" and declared 5 April as the International Day of Conscience. It is celebrated in 2020 for the 1st time.

9. The National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5, to commemorate the maiden voyage of which ship that was wholly owned by India?

- [A] SS Loyalty ☒ [B] SS Galia
[C] SS Jalabala [D] SS Ramdas

✓ The National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5, to commemorate the maiden voyage of the first wholly owned ship of Indians. It was the first ship was owned by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd.

✓ On the same day in the year 1919, the ship travelled from Mumbai to the city of London, United Kingdom. This year is the 57th edition of the National Maritime Day. World Maritime Day is observed on the last week of September on Thursday annually.

10. Kobe Bryant along with eight others, were selected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The museum cum hall of fame is located in which country?

- [A] Brazil [B] United States of America ☒
[C] Britain [D] Germany

✓ Basketball legend, who died in a helicopter crash earlier this year, Kobe Bryant along with eight others, were selected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Other personalities include American basketball coach Tim Duncan and former professional basketball player Kevin Garnett.

✓ The Honourees will be officially inducted in on August 29 in Massachusetts, United States of America, where the basketball museum, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is located.

1. The Cabinet approved the temporary suspension of the MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) Fund for how many years, amidst the coronavirus pandemic?

- [A] 1 [B] 2 ☒ [C] 3 [D] 4

- ✓ The Cabinet has recently approved to suspend the MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) Fund during 2020–21 & 2021–22, temporarily.
- ✓ Rs.7900 crores, the consolidated amount of MPLAD Funds for 2 years, will be moved to Consolidated Fund of India. The cabinet also promulgated an ordinance to reduce the salaries, allowances and pensions of Members of Parliament by 30 percent for one year. The President, Vice President, Governors of States have said to have voluntarily admitted for the reduction in pay.

2. The Government has constituted an empowered Committee to coordinate with Private Sector, NGOs and International Organisations related to COVID–19. Who chairs the empowered committee?

- [A] Rajiv Kumar [B] Amitabh Kant ☒
[C] Surjit Bhalla [D] Amit Shah

- ✓ The Government of India has constituted an empowered Committee (Group 6) to coordinate with Private Sector, NGOs and International Organisations related to COVID–19. The committee is chaired by the CEO of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant.
- ✓ It aims to address the issues with UN agencies, World Bank, ADB; Civil Society Organisations and Industry associations. Other members include Principal Scientific Advisor Dr. Vijayaraghavan and members from CBIC, Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs.

3. The highest ever highway construction by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was achieved in which financial year?

- [A] 2016–17 [B] 2017–18
[C] 2018–19 [D] 2019–20 ☒

- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently announced that it has completed the construction of 3979 km of highways in the financial year 2019–20.

- ✓ Its official statement also read that this is the highest ever highway construction achieved in a financial year by NHAI, since its inception in 1995. Though NHAI could not meet the target of 4500 km for the current fiscal, it has seen a steady growth in the construction phase.

4. India has received 1.70 lakh personal protection equipment (PPE) coveralls, donated by which country, after opening up supply lines from abroad?

- [A] Australia [B] China ☒
[C] United States [D] Saudi Arabia

- ✓ As per the notification of the Union Health Ministry, India has received 1.70 lakh personal protection equipment (PPE) coveralls, which have been donated by China. The 1.7 lakh coveralls along with 20000 domestic coveralls, a total of 1.90 lakh equipment are to be distributed to hospitals.

- ✓ After the supply lines from abroad have been opened up, India has received the donation of coveralls for the 1st time. It also said that about 3.87 lakh PPEs are available in India.

5. Pravin Rao has been appointed as the new Chairman of which industry body of India?

- [A] NASSCOM ☒ [B] CII
[C] FICCI [D] IMAI

- ✓ The Information Technology Industry body NASSCOM announced that it has appointed Infosys Chief Operating Officer UB Pravin Rao as its chairman for the year 2020–21.

- ✓ Pravin Rao is set to replace the incumbent Chairman WNS Global Services Group CEO Keshav Murugesh. The Chairman and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India, Rekha M Menon has been named as the vice chairperson for 2020–21.

6. Which port-trust became the first state-owned port trust to invoke the clause of force majeure at the backdrop of coronavirus outbreak?

- [A] Kolkata Port Trust ☒ [B] Mumbai Port Trust
[C] Chennai Port Trust [D] Cochin Port Trust

✓ Kolkata Port Trust has recently declared force majeure at its Haldia Dock Complex from 06:00 Hrs on 22 March to 06:00 Hrs on 15 April 2020, thereby becoming the first state-owned major port trust to invoke the clause, at the backdrop of coronavirus outbreak.

✓ The force majeure clause is invoked when the firms are not able to meet their contractual commitments for reasons beyond their control. During the lockdown, as the trade is gripped, several private ports & terminals operating in the country already invoked the clause.

7. Which day that is celebrated on April 6 focusses on health benefits of participating in sporting and physical activity amid social-distancing, this year?

- [A] Intl., Day of Sport and Physical Exercise
[B] Intl., Day of Sport for Development & Peace ☒
[C] Intl., Day of Healthy Habits
[D] Intl., Day of Sports and Games

✓ The United Nation has been observing April 6 as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

✓ This year, the international day focusses on health benefits of participating in sporting and physical activity. The UN also announced a tagline for this day as "For the International Day of Sport this year, let's be active and healthy to beat COVID19".

8. What is the tagline for World Health Day 2020?

- [A] Support Doctors and Health Professionals
[B] Support Nurses and Midwives ☒
[C] Support Health Care
[D] Contribute to Health Care

✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been celebrating the World Health Day on 7th April every year. This year, the tagline for World Health Day 2020 is 'Support nurses and midwives'.

✓ This year had also been designated as the 'Intl., Year of the Nurse and the Midwife'. WHO highlighted the crucial role of Nurses & other health workers, who are working in the COVID-19 response activities of the world.

9. Which Asian country has declared a state of emergency over coronavirus?

- [A] China [B] Japan ☒
[C] Thailand [D] Singapore

✓ The Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe recently declared a state of emergency in the country, due to the rise in the coronavirus cases. A month-long state of emergency starting from April 7 has been declared in the capital city Tokyo and six other parts of the country.

✓ This move gives powers to local governments to contain the spread of the coronavirus, by urging residents to stay at home and calling for businesses to close.

10. Which firm has bagged the order from the Indian Army to set up a unified network management system?

- [A] Tata Consultancy Services [B] Infosys
[C] Larsen & Toubro ☒ [D] Wipro

✓ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged the large order of the Indian Army to set up a unified network management system. The communication business of L&T Construction has secured the order to manage and operate the armed forces network.

✓ The project is to be set up under the Network for Spectrum (NFS). The project is to be implemented in 18 months followed by three years of warranty and seven years of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC).

1. What is the name of the online challenge for students, launched by the innovation cell of MHRD and AICTE, for developing solutions to the Coronavirus pandemic?

- [A] Samriddhi [B] Samadhan ☒
[C] Soochna [D] Chunauti

- ✓ The innovation cell of Ministry of HRD and AICTE have recently launched an online challenge for students called 'SAMADHAN'.
- ✓ This challenge calls for students to search and develop quick solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic that will assist the government agencies and health services. Under the programme, the students of the country will be motivated for conducting new experiments.

2. What is the brand name of the rapid antibody diagnostic kit for COVID-19, developed by the state-owned enterprise, HLL Lifecare Limited?

- [A] Test Sure [B] Make Sure ☒
[C] Check Sure [D] COVID Sure

- ✓ A Central government enterprise under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, HLL Lifecare Limited has developed a rapid antibody diagnostic kit for COVID-19.
- ✓ The kit has been validated and approved by the NIV and the ICMR and will be marketed under the brand name of "Make Sure". The result would be obtained from the patient sample in 15-20 minutes using the kit. About 2 lakh kits for supplying to various government units are to be manufactured within the next 10 days.

3. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with which private firm, has developed a face shield for doctors and medical staff treating COVID-19 patients?

- [A] TATA [B] WIPRO ☒
[C] Larsen & Toubro [D] HCL

- ✓ Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), along with WIPRO, has developed a unique shield for doctors and medical staff treating COVID-19 patients. This full-face shield will protect the healthcare

personnel from directly contracting the coronavirus infection.

- ✓ DRDO has also developed bio-suit to protect the front-line health workers and has supplied masks, full-body suits and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the medical staff.

4. Which state government has unveiled a 5 step plan named "5Ts Plan", to tackle the spread of COVID-19?

- [A] Maharashtra [B] New Delhi ☒
[C] Chandigarh [D] Kerala

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that the state government has formed a 5 step plan named "5Ts Plan" for tackling the spread of COVID-19.
- ✓ The Chief Minister explained that the 5Ts are Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Teamwork, Tracking and Monitoring. He also revealed that mass testing like South Korea will be initiated in Delhi.

5. Which instant messaging platform has limited the sharing of forwarded messages to one chat, amid the rise in fake news during coronavirus pandemic?

- [A] Telegram [B] WhatsApp ☒
[C] WeChat [D] Messenger

- ✓ Facebook owned Instant messaging platform WhatsApp recently announced that it has limited the sharing of frequently forwarded messages to only 1 chat at a time.
- ✓ This step has been taken to curb spreading of misinformation and fake news amid the coronavirus pandemic. WhatsApp also launched the WHO COVID-19 Health Alert service for people across the world and "MyGov Corona" Helpdesk in India in partnership with the Indian government.

6. As per the notification of WIPO, which country topped the world in filing International Patents filed with WIPO, in 2019?

- [A] United States of America [B] China ☒
[C] Russia [D] Germany

- ✓ As per the recent notification of WIPO, China topped the world in filing International Patents filed with WIPO, in 2019. China has filed 58,990 applications in 2019 via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System thereby surpassing the United States, which topped every year since the PCT began operations in 1978.

- ✓ China also recorded growth in the international intellectual property services, treaty-adherence activity of WIPO.

7. What is the name of the tropical Cyclone that hit South Pacific island nations Vanuatu islands and Fiji recently?

- [A] Harold ☒ [B] Sidr
[C] Diane [D] Gretel

- ✓ The Tropical Cyclone named 'Harold' recently hit the South Pacific island nations including Vanuatu islands and Fiji. It started from the south-west Pacific nation Solomon Islands last week, where it claimed 27 lives.

- ✓ Later, it hit the Vanuatu islands and caused damages especially in the main town Luganville. Though the cyclone was expected to only reach Category Three, it reached the Category Four in Fiji, where the winds are blowing up to 240 kilometres per hour.

8. The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide is observed on April 7, to commemorate the genocide happened in which country?

- [A] Libya [B] Rwanda ☒
[C] Sudan [D] Germany

- ✓ The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide is observed on April 7, to commemorate the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

- ✓ The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. April 7 marks the beginning of the genocide done by the Hutu extremist-led government against the more than a million Tutsi minorities. Rwanda observes nation-wide mourning on April 7 and the mourning period ends on the Liberation Day – July 4.

9. Which institution is set to provide emergency loans to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) named 'SAFE PLUS'?

- [A] Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
[B] National Bank for Agriculture and Development
[C] Small Industries Development Bank of India ☒
[D] National Small Industries Corporation Limited

- ✓ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) recently announced that it will provide emergency loans to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) named 'SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency' – SAFE PLUS.

- ✓ Working capital of up to Rs 1 Crore will be provided to small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in manufacturing of medical equipment and products related to COVID-19. The SAFE PLUS collateral-free loans will be disbursed within 48 hours at an interest rate of five per cent. The limit of the loans has been enhanced from 50 lakh rupees to two crore rupees.

10. As per a recent report, about 400 million workers of India will fall into poverty. Which international organisation released the report?

- [A] World Bank
[B] World Economic Forum
[C] International Labour Organisation ☒
[D] United Nations

- ✓ According to a recent report from International Labour Organisation (ILO) titled 'ILO Monitor 2nd edition: COVID-19 and the world of work', about 400 million workers of India will fall into poverty. India has nearly 90% of its people working in informal economy.

- ✓ It also revealed that the lockdown measures in India have impacted these workers significantly. The measures are at the high end of University of Oxford's COVID-19 Government Response Stringency Index.

1. What is the amount of financial package released by the Centre for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package', to the states/UTs?
- [A] Rs.10000 Cr [B] Rs.15000 Cr ☒
[C] Rs.20000 Cr [D] Rs.25000 Cr
- ✓ The Union Government has approved Rs. 15,000 crores for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package' for States / UTs. Rs 7,774 crore is expected to be released for immediate response.
- ✓ This package which has been approved to build the health infrastructure, will be provided in three phases — January 2020 to June 2020, July 2020 to March 2021 and April 2021 to March 2024. This fund would be divided on the basis of the number of positive COVID-19 cases and the size of the State / UT.
2. An initiative of 'Arogya Setu Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) service' has been launched by the Centre in association with which state government?
- [A] Tamil Nadu ☒ [B] Rajasthan
[C] Kerala [D] Odisha
- ✓ An Interactive Voice Response System initiative called "Arogya Setu IVRS" has been launched by the Centre in association with Tamil Nadu government & IIT Madras. The service has been launched for people who do not use smart phones and to assist them in tackling COVID-19.
- ✓ It will be activated by a missed call and the location of the user is identified. Assistance on healthcare and guidance will be available through the voice service.
3. Which state/UT has announced 'Operation SHIELD' in containment zones to contain the spread of COVID-19?
- [A] Maharashtra [B] Telangana
[C] New Delhi ☒ [D] Punjab
- ✓ As per the announcement of the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the government will implement 'Operation SHIELD' at 21 locations which have been identified as containment zones in the UT.
- ✓ 'Operation SHIELD' is an acronym, which includes Sealing; Home Quarantine; Isolation and Tracing of people; Doorstep Delivery of Essential Items; Local Sanitisation and Disinfection and door to door checking of people having symptoms of COVID-19.
4. India's fiscal deficit stood at 5.07% of gross domestic product (GDP) in February. What is the revised fiscal deficit target for FY20, as a percentage of GDP?
- [A] 3.5 [B] 3.8 ☒ [C] 3.2 [D] 3.0
- ✓ According to a recent report released by the government, India's fiscal deficit stood at 5.07% of gross domestic product (GDP) in February. Industrial output, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production, was also at 4.5% in February.
- ✓ The Government has revised its fiscal deficit target of 3.8% of GDP for FY20, during the 2020 Union Budget presentation. With a 5.07% fiscal deficit, it is expected that the revised target for the year 2019-20 would be difficult to be achieved.
5. National Pension System (NPS) subscribers are to be allowed partial withdrawal for covering expenses for COVID-19 treatment. Which organisation manages NPS?
- [A] Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority
[B] Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority of India ☒
[C] Life Insurance Corporation of India
[D] Securities and Exchange Board of India
- ✓ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA) recently announced that the National Pension System (NPS) subscribers will be allowed partial withdrawal for covering expenses related to COVID-19 treatment.
- ✓ It also announced that COVID-19 would be declared as a critical illness which is life threatening in nature. PFRDA also announced that there is no provision for partial withdrawal for Atal Pension Yojana customers at present. Both NPS and APY are managed and run by PFRDA.

6. April 9 is celebrated by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as which day?

- [A] Anti-Doping Day [B] Play True Day ☒
[C] Fair Play Day [D] World Play Day

- ✓ World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is celebrating the 'Play True Day 2020' on April 9, which has been celebrated since 2014.
- ✓ Canada-based World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation launched by the International Olympic Committee, to promote awareness against drugs in sports. WADA is celebrating the day this year with the theme 'Play Safe on Play True Day 2020'.

7. Chris Cassidy is associated with which profession?

- [A] Sportsperson [B] Astronaut ☒
[C] Virologist [D] Economist

- ✓ Chris Cassidy, an astronaut of NASA, along with two cosmonauts of Russia – Roscosmos, Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner docked at the International Space Station. The three-man crew docked successfully aboard the Soyuz MS-16 capsule, which was launched from the Russia's space hub, Baikonur, in its neighbouring country Kazakhstan.
- ✓ The crew reached the ISS at 1413 GMT, over six hours after blasting off. The next crew to return to Earth from the ISS will fly to their home countries on April 17.

8. Masatsugu Asakawa is the President of which international financial institution, which has also assured \$2.2 billion assistance to India?

- [A] World Economic Forum [B] World Bank
[C] Asian Development Bank ☒ [D] BRICS Bank

- ✓ Manila-based international financial institution, Asian Development Bank (ADB) assured \$2.2 billion assistance to India, for tackling the COVID-19 outbreak.
- ✓ Earlier, the World Bank has approved to provide \$1 billion assistance to India for fighting against COVID-

19, especially to detect and prevent the disease and to strengthen its public health preparedness.

9. The Centre has removed the customs duty and health cess on the import of medical equipment related to COVID-19 till which month of 2020?

- [A] June [B] August
[C] September ☒ [D] December

- ✓ The Union government recently announced that it has removed customs duty and health cess on the import of medical equipment related to COVID-19 till September 30, 2020. The exemption on customs duty and cess have been given to all related medical equipment including ventilators, surgical masks, PPE, and test kits.
- ✓ This step is expected to boost availability of the products in the country, as per the Department of Revenue. The exemptions will be applicable on inputs used to manufacture the equipment.

10. What is the name of the campaign launched by the Ministry of HRD, for crowd sourcing of ideas to improve online education ecosystem of India?

- [A] Bharat Padhe Online ☒ [B] Bharat Idea Online
[C] Bharat Shiksha Online [D] India Studies

- ✓ The Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched a 'Bharat Padhe Online' campaign for crowd sourcing of ideas to improve online education ecosystem of India.
- ✓ This week-long campaign invites all the people in the country to share suggestions and solutions about overcoming constraints of online education. The ideas can be shared directly with HRD Ministry through their mail address or their twitter account.

1. Which former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India has been named in the external advisory group of the IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva?

- [A] Urjit Patel [B] Raghuram Rajan ☒
[C] Y V Reddy [D] D Subbarao

- ✓ The Chief of International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva has recently named former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Raghuram Rajan and 11 other experts in her external advisory group.
- ✓ The group is expected to provide perspectives on policy issues and responses to the challenges faced by the world due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ The group has 12 eminent individuals who have expertise in policy-making, global market and private sector. Raghuram Rajan is currently serving as a professor at the University of Chicago.

2. National Commission for Women (NCW) launches WhatsApp number to report cases of domestic violence. Where is the Headquarters of NCW located?

- [A] Lucknow [B] New Delhi ☒
[C] Nagpur [D] Mumbai

- ✓ The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recently launched a WhatsApp number, where people can report cases of domestic violence.
- ✓ As per the announcement of NCW, the cases of domestic violence have seen a big increase during the lockdown period resulting from coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ This WhatsApp number service will be operated in addition to the existing online complaint links and emails and only for the period of lockdown. The headquarters of NCW is New Delhi.

3. Which Public Sector Undertaking of India partnered with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh and developed a remote monitoring system for COVID-19?

- [A] Bharat Electronics Limited ☒ [B] BHEL

[C] HAL [D] Electronics Corporation of India Limited

- ✓ Bengaluru-based aerospace and defence Public Sector Undertaking, Bharat Electronics Ltd has partnered with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh and developed a remote monitoring system for COVID-19.
- ✓ This newly developed system reduced the need for personal protective equipment as it uses non-invasive sensors to measure the main parameters including temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate.

4. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given approval to plasma therapy for COVID-19 treatment to Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST). The institution is located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Kerala ☒
[C] Telangana [D] Karnataka

- ✓ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given approval to plasma therapy for COVID-19 treatment to Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST).
- ✓ It is an institution of national importance under the Department of Science and Technology, located in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of the state of Kerala.
- ✓ The treatment called 'convalescent-plasma therapy' transfers the antibody from a recovered patient to a sick person, increasing his/her immune power. The scientists have also discovered Chitra Disinfection Gateway and Chitra UV Based Facemask Disposal Bin.

5. Who represented India in the recently held G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual Meeting?

- [A] Piyush [B] Dharmendra Pradhan ☒
[C] Harsh Vardhan [D] Nirmala Sitharaman

- ✓ Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan represented India in the recently held G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual meeting.

- ✓ Saudi Arabia, which currently holds the Presidency of G20 nations, had called for the Energy Ministers' meeting. It was chaired by Energy Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdulazi. Heads of several international organizations including OPEC, IEA and IEF also attended the meeting. The meeting focused on measures to ensure stable energy markets.

6. Name the renowned Hindustani classical singer and Padma Shri awardee, who recently passed away?

[A] Walter D'Souza [B] Shanti Hiranand ☒

[C] Sasi Kalinga [D] M K Arjunan

- ✓ Veteran Hindustani classical singer and Padma Shri awardee Shanti Hiranand Chawla passed away at Gurgaon, at the age of 87. She had been conferred with several accolades including the prestigious, 'Padma Shri' award in 2007.

7. Anak Krakatau volcano which was recently seen erupting ash and lava continuously, is located in which country?

[A] Philippines [B] Indonesia ☒

[C] New Zealand [D] Australia

- ✓ Anak Krakatau volcano is located in Indonesia and was seen in news recently as it was continuously erupting ash and lava. This was the longest eruption since 2018, when the explosion and collapse of the island caused a deadly Tsunami along the coasts of Sumatra and Java, which killed 430 people. A level 2 alert status on a scale of four was made for the eruption.

8. As per the recent notification from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which industry has been exempted from the lockdown?

[A] Coal Mining [B] Fishing & Aquaculture ☒

[C] Textile [D] Automobile

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently released a notification, wherein it has exempted the operations of Fishing (Marine) and Aquaculture

Industry from the nation-wide lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

- ✓ The operations of the marine and aquaculture industry including harvesting, processing, packaging, cold chain, sale and marketing; hatcheries, movement of fish / shrimp etc. were exempted in the order.

9. The World Homeopathy Day is celebrated on which day, every year across the world?

[A] Apr.6 [B] Apr.8 [C] Apr.10 ☒ [D] Apr.12

- ✓ Every year April 10th is observed as World Homeopathy Day. The theme of this year's World Homeopathy Day is selected as "Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health".

- ✓ This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the father of the Homeopathy system of medicines. Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), under the Ministry of AYUSH organized an international webinar on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day.

10. National Safe Motherhood Day is celebrated on April 11. Which scheme was launched in 2011, to encourage institutional deliveries?

[A] Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram ☒

[B] Janani Suraksha Yojana

[C] Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

[D] Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- ✓ In 2003, the government of India declared the national safe motherhood day on April 11, which is the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about access to care during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services.

- ✓ The govt of India has launched Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram in 2011, to motivate the general public to opt for institutional deliveries. It aimed to eliminate out of pocket expenses for pregnant women and infants in accessing public health institution.