

APRIL

2020

winmeen.com

THIRD WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS

15 APRIL - 21 APRIL



www.winmeen.com

1. Which country is the largest producer of Hydroxy Chloroquine accounting for nearly 70 percent of annual global production?

[A] China

[B] India ☒

[C] Brazil

[D] Japan

- ✓ India is the largest producer and exporter of Hydroxychloroquine with nearly 70% of annual global production. As per the recent announcement from the Dept of Pharmaceuticals, our country has enough stock and manufacturing capacity of the formulation to cater both the domestic requirement & export commitments.
- ✓ Indian Council of Medical Research had recommended hydroxychloroquine to be used as a preventive medication for persons in the high-risk group.

2. Which national park in India has set up the country's first quarantine facility for animals?

[A] Jim Corbett Park ☒

[B] Ranthambore National Park

[C] Kaziranga National Park

[D] Gir Forest National Park

- ✓ Jim Corbett, the oldest National Park of India, has set up the country's first quarantine facility for animals. The national park is situated in Paurhi Garhwal region in the state of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ After a tiger was tested positive for COVID-19 in Bronx Zoo in the United States, the Indian park has started to set up about 10 quarantine centres within its premises to isolate animals. The cages built for wild animals are also to be converted into quarantine facility.

3. M S Mahabaleshwara has been reappointed as the MD and CEO of which bank, for three more years?

[A] Punjab National Bank

[B] Karnataka Bank ☒

[C] Bank of Baroda

[D] City Union Bank

- ✓ India's leading Private sector lender Karnataka Bank announced that it has received approval from the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for reappointment of Mahabaleshwara M S as its MD and CEO for next three years, with effect from April 15.

- ✓ The Reserve Bank has also approved the reappointment of P Jayarama Bhat as Non-executive Chairman up to Nov.13, 2021.

4. The YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) web portal is an initiative of which Union Ministry of India?

[A] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

[B] Ministry of Human Resource Development ☒

[C] Ministry of Science and Technology

[D] Ministry of Home Affairs

- ✓ The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has recently launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation).

- ✓ The webportal comprises of a comprehensive dash board, which will assist in monitoring and recording the initiatives of the HRD Ministry. The portal also has information about the COVID-19. It also consolidates the efforts of the research institutions related to COVID-19.

5. Which multilateral funding agency has tripled its COVID-19 response package, initially announced for its developing member countries, to \$20 billion?

[A] World Bank

[B] Asian Development Bank ☒

[C] World Economic Forum

[D] BRICS Bank

- ✓ The multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has tripled its Covid-19 response package initially announced for developing member countries to \$20 billion.
- ✓ Last month, ADB had announced a \$6.5 billion package for its 31 developing member countries to assist them

in recovering the economies. The lender has also announced that \$2 billion will be provided through loans for private sector and financial institutions and microfinance loans for medium-sized enterprises.

6. A new initiative titled 'Food Bank', has been launched in which Indian state to provide free food to the poor and needy, amidst the lockdown due to coronavirus pandemic?

- [A] Assam [B] Kerala
[C] Manipur ☒ [D] Odisha

- ✓ In the north-eastern state of Manipur, a new initiative titled 'Food Bank' has been introduced, to provide free food to the poor and needy, amidst the lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ The Imphal East District Administration has been implementing this initiative, which aims to provide free food and essential items which were donated by the general public, to the beneficiaries. Other items like hand sanitisers & face masks are also being distributed.

7. The Central Bank of which country has become one of the investors with more than one per cent stake in Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC)?

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

- ✓ The Central Bank of China, the 'People's Bank of China (PBoC)' has joined the group of investors with more than one per cent stake in Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC).

- ✓ People's Bank of China now holds 1.01 percent in HDFC, which is the largest standalone housing finance company of India. The Central Bank has been included in the group of 8 foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who own more than one per cent stake in HDFC.

8. The UN's Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has signed an agreement with which Indian non-profit organisation to empower consumers during the coronavirus pandemic?

- [A] CUTS International ☒ [B] Give India
[C] Paani Foundation [D] Startup Village

- ✓ The UN's Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has recently inked an agreement with the Indian non-profit organisation CUTS International, to empower consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International is a Rajasthan-based non-profit organisation founded in 1983. UNIDO and CUTS have also planned to develop a BRICS e-commerce project, which was implemented as a pilot project by UNIDO in the BRICS countries between 2016 and 2018.

9. What was Tim Brooke-Taylor, a British personality who recently passed away?

- [A] Sports person [B] Businessperson
[C] Actor ☒ [D] Politician

- ✓ Veteran British actor Tim Brooke-Taylor (79) has been recently passed away, after contracting COVID-19 infection. The actor was presented the OBE, an order of the British Empire award, which is the second highest ranking Order of the British Empire award.

10. Which technological company has launched a Braille keyboard called 'TalkBack', for assisting the visually challenged users?

- [A] Google ☒ [B] Apple
[C] Xiaomi [D] Nokia

- ✓ Google has recently announced that it has launched a Braille keyboard named 'TalkBack', for assisting the visually challenged users.

- ✓ This new type of keyboard is integrated directly into its Android operating system and the visually challenged users can use the keyboard easily without having to install any extra hardware. The keyboard uses a six-key layout, wherein each key represents one among the six Braille dots.

1. What is the name of the design software system jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and National Informatics Centre?
- [A] SoftCAD [B] CollabCAD ☒
- [C] NetCAD [D] AtalCAD
- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and National Informatics Centre jointly launched a collaborative software system called 'CollabCAD'.
- ✓ The system provided a comprehensive engineering solution from 2D drafting to 3D product design. This software is aimed at enabling the students of Atal Tinkering Labs to create 3D designs, models & printing.
2. Which Union Ministry has launched a nation-wide call centre, which aims at free movement for agricultural commodities?
- [A] Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- [B] Union Ministry of Agriculture ☒
- [C] Union Ministry of Communication
- [D] Union Ministry of Electronics and IT
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Agriculture has recently set up a call-centre for enabling free inter-state movement of agricultural commodities.
- ✓ Named the 'All India Agri Transport Call Centre', it coordinates the movement of perishable goods like vegetables and fruits as well as agricultural inputs like seeds, pesticides and fertilisers from one state to another. If any query in transport is received, the call centre forwards it to officials of state government.
3. 'Nearby Spot' is an initiative of which technological firm, to provide information on locating local stores that sells essential things?
- [A] Facebook [B] Google ☒
- [C] Amazon [D] Apple
- ✓ Technological giant Google has recently launched a new feature under its flagship app Google Pay, called 'Nearby Spot'.
- ✓ This feature enables the users to locate the local stores that sells essential things and to check if they are open amidst the lockdown. The feature has been launched in Bangalore on a pilot basis and will be extended to other cities of the country very soon.
4. 'Exit from The Lockdown' is the report released by which industry body of India?
- [A] CII ☒ [B] NASSCOM
- [C] FICCI [D] ASSOCHAM
- ✓ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a leading non-government and non-profit Industry association of India. It has recently released a report titled 'Exit from The Lockdown – a CII Strategy'.
- ✓ In the report, the association suggested that govt should give adequate notice before announcing the end of restrictions. It also recommended a calibrated lifting of the lockdown. The association also expects the announcement of an economic package before the lifting of lockdown.
5. GMR Airports Limited received approval to build a Greenfield International airport at Bhogapuram. In which state is the place located?
- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Telangana
- [C] Kerala [D] Andhra Pradesh ☒
- ✓ A subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure Ltd, GMR Airports Limited has received the Letter of Award for the development & operation of a Greenfield International airport at Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The airport is to be constructed about 45 kms from the proposed executive capital of the state, Vishakhapatnam. The project is to design, construct, operate and maintain the international airport for 40 years. GMR Airports had previously developed Delhi and Hyderabad international airports.

6. Ashok Desai, who passed away recently, was a famous personality associated with which profession?

- [A] Businessperson [B] Advocate ☒
[C] Sportsperson [D] Politician

- ✓ Veteran advocate and former Attorney General of India Ashok Desai (87) has passed away recently. He held various crucial designations including the offices of Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India. He was also a recipient of the prestigious 'Padma Bhushan' award.

7. Who was the first Law and Justice Minister of independent India, who was conferred Bharat Ratna in 1990 posthumously?

- [A] C.D.Deshmukh [B] Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
[C] B.R.Ambedkar ☒ [D] R. K. Shanmukham Chetty

- ✓ The first Law and Justice Minister of independent India was Bhim Rao Ambedkar. He was born on 14th April 1891. His 129th birth anniversary has been commemorated this year, across the country.
- ✓ Dr B.R.Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, which presented the final draft of the Indian Constitution in 1949. He was presented the highest civilian honour of India, 'Bharat Ratna' in the year 1990, posthumously.

8. 'Operation Meghdoot' is commemorated as which day on April 13 every year, by the Indian Army?

- [A] Kargil Day [B] Siachen Day ☒
[C] Meghdoot Day [D] Warrior Day

- ✓ The Indian Army has launched 'Operation Meghdoot' on April 13, 1984 in order to secure the passes on the Saltoro ridgeline, including the Bilafond La pass from Pakistan.
- ✓ The courage and valour exhibited by the Army troops is commemorated every year on April 13 as 'Siachen Day' by the Indian Army across the country. The Siachen Glacier is located in the eastern Karakoram Range in the range of Himalayas.

9. The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has announced a challenge to develop Video Conferencing solution, under which scheme?

- [A] Start-up India [B] Digital India ☒
[C] MUDRA [D] Smart cities scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has announced an 'Innovation Challenge for Development of a Video Conferencing Solution' under the Digital India Programme.
- ✓ The winning team which presents the world-class solution will receive a prize money and assistance of ₹1 crore with additional annual support of ₹10 lakh for three years, for operations and maintenance. Any Indian IT start-up and software product company can participate in the challenge.

10. For the 1st time in the year 2020, April 14 has been observed as which day by the WHO?

- [A] World Chagas Day ☒
[B] World Avian Malaria Day
[C] World Sleeping Sickness Day
[D] World Amebiasis Day

- ✓ For the first time in the year 2020, April 14 has been celebrated as World Chagas Day by the World Health Organisation.
- ✓ In May 2019, the decision-making body of the World Health Organisation, the World Health Assembly announced that April 14 would be observed as World Chagas Day, to create awareness about the infectious disease, caused by parasites. On the same day in 1909, the first patient of this disease was diagnosed.

1. In the webinar series 'DekhoApnaDesh' launched by the Ministry of Tourism, which city was covered in the first webinar?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Delhi ☒
[C] Kolkata [D] Ahmedabad

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Tourism has launched a webinar series named 'DekhoApnaDesh'. The webinar will have information about the important destinations of the country.
- ✓ The webinar series was aimed at highlighting the history and diverse culture of various Indian destinations. Several features like monuments, cuisine, art, dance forms and festivals are being focussed. The first webinar in the series was about the city of Delhi and was titled 'City of Cities – Delhi's Personal Diary'.

2. The Union Ministry of External Affairs has announced a training programme on COVID-19 for healthcare professionals of which regional group?

- [A] BIMSTEC [B] SAARC ☒
[C] BRICS [D] ASEAN

- ✓ The Union Ministry of External Affairs has announced a training programme on COVID-19 for healthcare professionals of SAARC countries. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme will conduct this training programme from Apr.17, 2020.
- ✓ The SAARC leaders had a virtual meeting on March 15, where an idea was proposed by India, to cumulate the efforts of all health professionals against the COVID-19.

3. The 'COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk' (COVSACK), which was seen in news recently, was developed by the laboratory of which institution?

- [A] Defence Research & Development Organisation ☒
[B] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
[C] Bharat Electronics Limited
[D] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

- ✓ Hyderabad based Defence Research and Development Laboratory of DRDO has recently developed 'COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk' (COVSACK), to fight the COVID-19.

- ✓ The kiosk which has an automatic disinfecting feature, has been developed in association with the doctors of Employees' State Insurance Corporation in Hyderabad. The kiosk enables the healthcare workers to take coronavirus samples from suspected infected patients without frequently changing PPEs.

4. 'As of 2020, what is the maximum subscription an individual can make in Sovereign Gold Bonds, issued by the Government of India?

- [A] 1 kg [B] 2 kg [C] 4 kg ☒ [D] 8 kg

- ✓ According to a recent notification from the Ministry of Finance, the Government of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds, after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

- ✓ The Gold Bonds are set to be issued in six tranches from April 2020 to September 2020. As per the prevalent practice, the minimum subscription for an individual in the bond is 1 gram of gold whereas the maximum subscription is 4 kg. The maximum subscription for a HUF and trusts are 4 kg and 20 kg respectively.

5. Which mobile application is the fastest in the world to reach 50 million users, as per the announcement of NITI Aayog?

- [A] Digilocker [B] Aaykar Setu
[C] Aarogya Setu ☒ [D] UMANG

- ✓ The mobile app recently launched by the Government of India to combat the coronavirus spread in the country named 'Aarogya Setu' has become the fastest application in the world to be downloaded by 50M users.

- ✓ The application took just 13 days to reach 50 million users, as per the announcement of the CEO of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant. The app, which is available on both Android and iOS platforms, was developed by the National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics & IT.

6. Which country has recently announced that it would stop the funding provided to the World Health Organisation (WHO)?

[A] China

[B] Russia

[C] United States of America ☒

[D] Italy

✓ The President of the United States Donald Trump has recently accused the World Health Organisation (WHO) for allegedly supporting China during the initial stage of the pandemic of COVID-19.

✓ As per the President, the WHO failed to investigate the conflicts between the official reports from the Chinese govt & other reliable reports. He also highlighted that the US provides \$400 million to \$500 million per year to the WHO and announced that the funding would be stopped.

7. World Art Day is celebrated on April 15 every year, by which global organisation?

[A] World Art Foundation

[B] UNICEF

[C] UNESCO ☒

[D] FAO

✓ During the 40th session of General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2019, it was proclaimed to celebrate April 15 as World Art Day every year.

✓ The day is celebrated to create awareness about the diversity of artistic and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development of the world. April 15 is also the birth anniversary of the legendary artist Leonardo da Vinci.

8. TLTRO route, which was making news recently, is associated with which institution of India?

[A] Securities and Exchange Board of India

[B] National Highway Authority of India

[C] Reserve Bank of India ☒

[D] Airport Authority of India

✓ The Reserve Bank of India has recently announced that the banks that have availed funds under the 1st tranche of the Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations route, will have to deploy the funds raised within 30 days.

✓ If the banks fail to deploy funds within the stipulated time from the auction, they shall have to pay a penal interest of an additional 200 basis points in the policy repo rate, for the number of days these funds are not deployed.

9. In the year 2020, which country holds the Chairmanship of the ASEAN bloc?

[A] Thailand

[B] Vietnam ☒

[C] Singapore

[D] Philippines

✓ The Chairmanship of the ASEAN group is held annually by the member countries based on the alphabetical order of their English names. In the year 2020, Vietnam holds the Chairmanship of the ASEAN group.

✓ The country assuming Chairmanship chairs the ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Coordinating Council and related summits. Thailand was the Chair of ASEAN for 2019. Recently Vietnam chaired the virtual ASEAN Special Summit and ASEAN+3 Special Summit on COVID-19 response.

10. Which country recently held parliamentary elections, amid the COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] Thailand

[B] Vietnam

[C] South Korea ☒

[D] Laos

✓ South Korea recently held the parliamentary elections of the country, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, becoming one of the first countries to hold election, after the pandemic began.

✓ On the day of election, the total number of positive cases in South Korea was 10,564, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The self-quarantined citizens were allowed to vote after the other voters left.

1. The term 'Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction', which is seen in news often, is a process used for which purpose?

[A] Preserving Agricultural Products

[B] Testing COVID-19 ☒

[C] Checking Temperature

[D] Discovering vaccine

✓ In India, the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test has been used for testing the SARS-CoV-2 virus or COVID-19. It is an expensive test as it is performed using imported machines and it takes over 5 hrs to provide result after sample has been taken.

✓ Recently, Scientists from the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum has developed a diagnostic kit Chitra Gene LAMP-N, which uses RT-LAMP technique. It is less expensive and can give results in less than two hours.

2. 'PUSA decontamination and sanitizing tunnel', which was inaugurated recently, has been developed by which research organisation?

[A] Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

[B] Agharkar Research Institute

[C] National Institute of Biomedical Genomics

[D] Indian Agricultural Research Institute ☒

✓ The New Delhi based ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute has recently developed 'PUSA decontamination and sanitizing tunnel'.

✓ The government research institute has developed the tunnel in New Delhi. It has a hand washing setup using soap and water dispenser, operated by foot. The tunnel uses Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QAC) at recommended concentration.

3. National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has collaborated with the regional office of which global organisation to train community leaders?

[A] World Health Organisation [B] UNICEF ☒

[C] World Bank [D] FAO

✓ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has collaborated with UNICEF Hyderabad Field Office.

✓ The Communication Resource Unit of NIRDPR and UNICEF, Hyderabad field office have developed an online programme for Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self Help Groups, National Service Scheme (NSS) officials & volunteers for practicing sanitation & social measures.

4. As per the Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey, which is the most digitally skilled country in the world, with the largest and skilled Gen Z workforce?

[A] United Kingdom [B] India ☒

[C] China [D] United States

✓ As per the Gartner 2019 Digital Workplace Survey, India is the most digitally dexterous or skilled country in the world. India has the largest Gen Z workforce who is also desirous to learn new skills using digital technologies.

✓ As per the survey, 67% of digital workers in India opined that emerging technologies like machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) increase their efficiency at workplaces. India is followed by the UK and the US in the survey.

5. The Ministry of Agriculture has set the target for production of which agricultural commodity at 298.3 million tonnes, for the 2020-21 crop year?

[A] Food Grains ☒ [B] Oil seeds

[C] Sugar Cane [D] Cotton

✓ The Ministry of Agriculture has set the target for production of food grains at 298.3 million tonnes for the 2020-21 crop year, during the National virtual Conference on Kharif crops 2020.

✓ This target is 2% above the estimated production of 291.95 million tonnes in the 2019-20 crop year. The increase in target follows the IMD forecast about a normal monsoon. Target for production of rice and wheat have

been fixed at 117.5 million tonnes and 106.5 million tonnes respectively.

6. Order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS), is a flagship survey conducted by which institution?

[A] Securities Exchange Board of India

[B] Reserve Bank of India ☒

[C] National Stock Exchange

[D] Confederation of Indian Industries

- ✓ Order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS), is the flagship survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. It is a quarterly survey of the manufacturing sector, which has been conducted by the RBI since 2008.

- ✓ Recently, the country's central bank released the 49th round of the OBICUS survey for the period January–March 2020. The survey collects information on the new orders received, backlog of orders etc. As per the recent survey, both capacity utilisation and orders received declined.

7. The government has waived four months' rent of small IT units based in the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). STPI is an autonomous society under which Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Human Resource Development

[B] Ministry of Science and Technology

[C] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[D] Ministry of Electronics & IT ☒

- ✓ The Centre has recently decided to waive 4 months rent of small IT units based in the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). The total cost of the rent waiver to the units, which are either MSMEs or start-ups, for 4 months, is estimated to be around ₹5 crore.

- ✓ STPI, which has 60 centres across the country, is an autonomous society under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

8. 'Feifei', which was recently seen in news, is the mascot released for which famous sports event?

[A] Summer Olympics

[B] Asian Games

[C] Asian Paralympic Games ☒

[D] World Games

- ✓ The mascot for the 4th Asian Paralympic Games named 'Feifei' has been recently released. The event has been scheduled to be held from Oct.2022 in Hangzhou, China.

- ✓ As per the Asian Paralympic Committee President, the mascot's design is inspired by the 'Divine Bird' motif described in the Liangzhu Culture. The 1st 'fei' means the birds flying and the second 'fei' represents the mental strength of the athletes.

9. Who has been named the new Ambassador for World Wide Fund India's Environment Education programme?

[A] Virat Kohli

[B] M S Dhoni

[C] Viswanathan Anand ☒

[D] P V Sindhu

- ✓ Legendary Indian Chess player and five-time World chess champion Viswanathan Anand has been named the new Ambassador for World Wide Fund (WWF) India's Environment Education programme.

- ✓ WWF India is celebrating 50 years of its presence and conservation in India. It aims to impart environment education and awareness to school children, youth and citizens across the country. The programme covers over 50 lakh school children across the country.

10. What is the theme of the World Haemophilia Day 2020, celebrated on April 17?

[A] Leaving No one behind

[B] Get + Involved ☒

[C] Know about Haemophilia

[D] Work + Together

- ✓ World Haemophilia Day is observed every year on 17 April across the world, to increase awareness of haemophilia, von Willebrand disease and inherited bleeding disorders. The theme of this year's observance is "Get+involved". The international organisation, World Federation of Haemophilia was established by a businessman Frank Schnabel in 1963.

1. Which international air carrier launched the world's first COVID-19 blood test for its passengers, which gives the result in 10 minutes?
- [A] Singapore Airlines [B] Qantas Airways
- [C] Emirates ☒ [D] ANA All Nippon Airways
- ✓ The largest air carrier of the Middle East region, the Emirates has launched the world's first ten minute COVID-19 blood test for passengers, who are departing from Dubai.
- ✓ Limited passenger flights have been operated by the airline from this month for foreign citizens who want to leave the country. The on-site rapid blood tests are being conducted by the Health Authorities of Dubai.
2. As per the latest guidelines of the Union Home ministry on the extended lockdown, industries operating in which areas have been exempted?
- [A] Metropolitan areas [B] Urban areas
- [C] Semi-urban areas [D] Rural Areas ☒
- ✓ The Union Home ministry has recently announced a set of revised guidelines on the extended curfew till May 3. As per the guidelines, travel by air, rail, metro, public buses, taxis, cab aggregators will remain suspended.
- ✓ However, the industries operating in rural areas, outside the limits of municipal corporations and municipalities, will be exempted. The industries should maintain measures of social distancing and sanitation.
3. In the context of guidelines amid the COVID-19 pandemic, spitting in public places has been made a punishable offence with a fine, under which act?
- [A] Environment protection Act, 1996
- [B] Disaster Management Act, 2005 ☒
- [C] Air (Prevention and control of pollution) act, 1987
- [D] Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897
- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently released a set of revised guidelines after the extension of lockdown till May 3 has been announced. Spitting has been made punishable across the country with a fine under Section 51 (b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ✓ Refusal to follow the orders may result in imprisonment up to one year or a fine, or both. Several states including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana have ordered for banning smokeless tobacco products and spitting in public places. Sale of liquor, gutka and tobacco has also been totally banned
4. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently discovered the presence of another kind of coronavirus in which species?
- [A] Pigs [B] Bats ☒
- [C] Cattle [D] Tigers
- ✓ The researchers from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have recently discovered the presence of another kind of coronavirus in two bat species.
- ✓ The new virus called 'bat coronavirus (BtCoV)' is found in 2 bat species in the states namely Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. Whereas there is no evidence that this virus could cause disease in human beings, as per their study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.
5. The 73rd foundation day of which state is celebrated on 15th of April, every year?
- [A] Arunachal Pradesh [B] Himachal Pradesh ☒
- [C] Assam [D] Sikkim
- ✓ The province of Himachal Pradesh was organised on 15 April 1948, after its 28 princely states, which were called as the Simla Hills States and four Punjab southern hill states, were integrated.
- ✓ To commemorate the foundation of the state, April 15 is being celebrated every year as 'Himachal Day'. Himachal Pradesh was originally classified as a Union territory in 1956. It was created as the 18th state of India in 1971. The first Chief Minister of the state was Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar.

6. A government appointed committee has recently proposed to establish 'National Institute of Valuers'. Who is the head of the committee?

- [A] Shaktikanta Das [B] Manmohan Singh
[C] Raghuram Rajan [D] M S Sahoo ☒

- ✓ The Government of India has constituted a committee of experts in 2019 August, to suggest measures on an institutional framework for regulation & development of valuation.
- ✓ The committee was headed by the Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, M S Sahoo. Recently, the committee submitted the "Draft Valuers Bill, 2020" and suggested to establish a National Institute of Valuers. Union Corporate Affairs Ministry has recommended to set up the proposed institute.

7. Abdelouahab Aissaoui, who won the prestigious 'International Prize for Arabic Fiction', belongs to which country?

- [A] Egypt [B] Sudan
[C] Algeria ☒ [D] Iraq

- ✓ Algerian author Abdelouahab Aissaoui has been selected for the prestigious 'International Prize for Arabic Fiction' for his novel "The Spartan Court".
- ✓ The prize is backed by the Booker Prize Foundation of the United Kingdom and financed by Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism. The winner was announced online and as per the announcement, Aissaoui will receive \$50,000 and assistance for translating the book to English.

8. India's Health Ministry and WHO have decided to deploy the WHO's surveillance network of which disease, for fighting COVID-19?

- [A] Malaria [B] Polio ☒
[C] Tuberculosis [D] Measles

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization have decided to deploy the

WHO's National polio surveillance network (NPSN) and associated field staff, for fighting COVID-19.

- ✓ The NPSP team members will also extend their support by sharing information and best practices from their previous experience gained during Polio eradication process. The WHO field staff will assist in immunization, surveillance and elimination of Tuberculosis and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

9. What is the name of the proposed retail shops to be certified by the Government, to encourage distancing and sanitation practices?

- [A] Janata Stores [B] Suraksha Stores ☒
[C] Bharat Stores [D] Lakshman Stores

- ✓ The Indian Government has planned to set up a chain of retail shops across India called 'Suraksha Stores'. The stores provide essential goods and services to people by following stricter safety and sanitation measures.
- ✓ Recently, the top 12 consumer goods manufacturers of the country have partnered with the government in operating the Suraksha Stores. The firms will educate the retail stores to become certified sanitised retail outlets. The stores will also be compliant to the 'Aarogya Setu' application.

10. In the National assembly elections held amid the COVID-19 pandemic, who has been re-elected as the President of South Korea?

- [A] Moon Jae-in ☒ [B] Kim Jong-un
[C] Kim Jae ryong [D] Nguyen Phu Trong

- ✓ South Korea recently conducted its national assembly elections amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, prevalent across the world.
- ✓ In the elections, the ruling party of South Korea has won a landslide victory, confirming the incumbent President Moon Jae-in rule the country again. The turn out in the elections was 66.2%, which was higher than any of the election held in the country since 1992.

1. The Union Home Ministry has flagged which video-conferencing software as vulnerable to cyber-crimes?

[A] Skype

[B] Zoom ☒

[C] Duo

[D] Meet

✓ The Union Home Ministry has red flagged popular video-conferencing software Zoom, as vulnerable to cyber-crimes.

✓ The Central Government has also directed Ministers and Central government officers not to use third party video conferencing applications and software. Cyber Coordination Centre (CyCord) under the Union Home Ministry has released security guidelines for using the Zoom software.

2. 'Assess Koro Na' is a new app being implemented in which Indian State / UT, for containing the spread of COVID-19?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Kerala

[C] New Delhi ☒

[D] Odisha

✓ The Delhi government has launched a new application called 'Assess Koro Na' and has directed its officials to use the new app to conduct door-to-door survey.

✓ The survey is carried out in coronavirus containment zones, and with the realtime information collected through the app, the control centres can decide quickly if they require ambulances and medical equipment.

3. What is the name of the mobile application launched by the Union Agriculture Ministry, for better transportation of perishable agricultural goods during lockdown?

[A] Krishi Upakar

[B] Krishi Raksha

[C] Kisan Rath ☒

[D] Kisan Raksha

✓ The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has recently launched a mobile application named 'Kisan Rath', for better transportation of perishable agricultural goods during lockdown.

✓ Developed by the National Informatics, the mobile app assists the farmers to find transport facility. Recently, a nationwide call centre has also been launched for the same purpose.

4. Which organisation granted a special refinance package of Rs.50000 Cr to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Housing Bank (NHB)?

[A] World Bank

[B] ADB

[C] Reserve Bank of India ☒

[D] AIIB

✓ The Reserve Bank of India has recently granted a special refinance package of Rs.50000 Cr to All India financial institutions (AIFI) such as the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Housing Bank (NHB).

✓ Due to the financial crisis witnessed by the AIFIs, they could not mobilise resources from the market. Rs. 25,000 crore is granted to NABARD for refinancing regional rural banks, cooperative banks and micro finance institutions. Rs. 15,000 crore is given to SIDBI for on-lending and Rs. 10,000 crore is given to NHB for supporting housing finance companies.

5. Business confidence index is released in a quarterly survey conducted by which Indian institution?

[A] NITI Aayog

[B] National Council for Applied Economic Research ☒

[C] Observer Research Foundation

[D] Centre for Public Policy Research

✓ India's leading economic think tank, National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) conducts a quarterly survey and releases Business confidence index (N-BCI). NCAER has recently released its recent quarterly business confidence index, conducted in March. As per the survey, the index fell to 77.3 which is the lowest since 1998 Asian Financial crisis. In the 3rd quarter, the index was 111.2.

6. 'Ecowrap' is the flagship economic research report of which financial institution of India?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India [B] SBI ☒
[C] SEBI [D] NABARD

- ✓ India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has recently released the recent edition of its flagship economic research report 'Ecowrap'.
- ✓ As per the report, the GDP growth of India may dip to 1.1 % in the current financial year. The main reason for the slash in growth rate is the -ve impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on Indian economy. It also highlighted that the growth rate of 2019-20 is estimated at 4.1 %.

7. India's leading automobile manufacturer TVS Motor Company Limited has acquired which popular bike manufacturer?

- [A] Triumph [B] Norton ☒
[C] Jawa [D] Victory

- ✓ India's leading automobile manufacturer TVS Motor Company Ltd has recently acquired the 122 year old British bike manufacturer Norton Motorcycles (UK) Ltd.
- ✓ As per the recent asset purchase agreement signed between the overseas subsidiary of TVS in Singapore and the Norton Motorcycles, the brand Norton along with the associated brands were acquired.

8. Abba Kyari, who recently passed away due to COVID-19, was the Chief of Staff of which African country's President?

- [A] Egypt [B] Libya
[C] Algeria [D] Nigeria ☒

- ✓ The Chief of Staff of the President of Nigeria, Abba Kyari, recently passed away, after contracting the COVID-19.
- ✓ Abba Kyari was considered as one of the most powerful personnel in the country and he was also the top official advisor to the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari. The spokesperson of the President confirmed his death.

9. Which international financial institution remarked that Asia is expected to grow at 0 percent in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic?

- [A] World Bank [B] International Monetary Fund ☒
[C] ADB [D] United Nations

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently announced that Asian region is expected to grow at 0 percent in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The institution also remarked that this would be its worst growth performance in the past 60 years. This estimate has been released in the blog titled, "COVID-19 Pandemic and the Asia-Pacific Region: Lowest Growth since the 1960s". IMF recently estimated India's growth rate at 1.9% in the current financial year.

10. What is the theme of the 'World Heritage Day 2020', celebrated on April 18?

- [A] Universal Heritage, Unique Heritage
[B] Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility ☒
[C] Rural Landscapes
[D] Heritage sites and Tradition

- ✓ April 18 is observed as World Heritage Day every year, to promote cultural heritage across the world. The celebrations are led by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
- ✓ The proposal of the ICOMOS to celebrate April 18 as Heritage Day had been accepted by the UNESCO in 1983. The theme of this year's observance is 'Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility'.