The Most Important Current Affairs April 2020

Government of India reviews extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy

The **Government of India** has reviewed the extant **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.** This amendment in the FDI policy has been made to curb the opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic.** To achieve this objective, the Government of India has amended the **para 3.1.1 of extant FDI policy** as contained in **"Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017".**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has officially issued a notice regarding the changes in the para 3.1.1 of the **"Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017"** with **"Press Note No. 3(2020 Series)".** Here is the old as well as the new statements under para 3.1.1 of "Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017".

- About the existing rules: Present Position According to the Chapter:3 of the Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017, under the section titled **"Eligible investors", para 3.1.1 states** that: A non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited. However, a citizen of Bangladesh or an entity incorporated in Bangladesh can invest only under the Government route. Further, a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space, atomic energy and sectors/activities prohibited for foreign investment.
- **After the amendement in the Para 3.1.1** of the Consolidated FDI Policy, **2017, para 3.1.1 (2020 Series)** states that: Revised Position

3.1.1(a) A non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy except in those sectors/activities which are prohibited. However, an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the Government route. Further, a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space, atomic energy and sectors/activities prohibited for foreign investment.

3.1.1(b) In the event of the transfer of ownership of any existing or future FDI in an entity in India, directly or indirectly, resulting in the beneficial ownership falling within the restriction/purview of the para 3.1.1(a), such subsequent change in beneficial ownership will also require Government approval.

The above revision in the **para 3.1.1** of **the "Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017"** is supposed to be implemented from the date of **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) notification.**

RBI announces measures to mitigate impact of COVID-19

Reserve Bank of India has announced a **set of measures** to mitigate the effect of **COVID-19.** RBI has kept in view the following objectives in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Indian economy:

- To maintain adequate liquidity in the system and its constituents in the face of Covid-19 related dislocations.
- To facilitate & incentivise bank credit flows.
- To ease the financial stress.
- To enable the formal functioning of markets.

To fulfill the above objectives, the Reserve Bank of India has taken the following measures:

- RBI has decided to undertake **targeted long-term repo operations** (TLTRO-2.0) for total amount of **Rs 50,000 crore** to begin with in tranches of appropriate sizes. RBI might increase this amount in future as per requirement.
- The funds availed by banks under TLTRO-2.0 should be invested in grade bonds, Commercial Papers, Non-Convertible Debentures of NBFCs with at least 50% going to mid-sized NBFCs and MFIs.
- RBI has announced the allocation of **Rs 50,000 crore** as special refinance facilities to **All India financial institutions** (AIFIs) such as NABARD, SIDBI, NHB to enable them to meet sectoral credit needs. These advances to the above organizations will be charged as per the RBI policy repo rate of 4.40%.

- Out of total allocation of Rs 50,000 crore, **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** will receive the amount of **Rs 25,000 crore** for the refinancing of Regional Rural Banks, cooperative banks and microfinance institutions.

- Out of total allocation of Rs 50,000 crore, **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** will receive **Rs 15,000 crore** or on-lending and refinancing to scheduled commercial banks, non-banks and microfinance institutions.

- The **National Housing Bank** will receive **Rs 10,000 crore** to support housing finance companies.

- **RBI** has also decided to **reduce** the **reverse repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 4% to **3.75%** with immediate effect while the **policy repo rate** will remain unchanged at **4.4%**, Marginal Standing Facility (**MSF**) rate and the **Bank rate** will remain unchanged at **4.65%.**

- To provide greater comfort to the states for undertaking COVID-19 containment and mitigation efforts, the RBI has increased the **ways and means advances** (WMA) limit of **states** by **60%** over and above the level as on March 31, 2020. The increased limit will be available till September 30, 2020.

- In respect of all accounts for which lending institutions decide to grant moratorium or deferment, and which were standard as on **March 1, 2020,** it has been decided that the **90-day NPA norm** shall exclude the moratorium period. It indicates that there would an asset classification standstill for all such accounts from March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020.

- RBI decides to extend the period for resolution plan by 90-days, citing the challenges faced during the resolution of stressed assets in the current volatile environment.

- In view of the COVID-19 related economic shocks, the RBI has **refrained** the **scheduled commercial banks** and cooperative banks from making **any further dividend payouts from profits** pertaining to the financial year ended March 31, 2020 until the further instructions.

To ease the liquidity position at the level of individual institutions, the **RBI** has **brought down** the **Liquidity Coverage Ratio** (LCR) requirement for Scheduled Commercial Banks from 100% to **80%** with **immediate effect**.

Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 extended for one year

The **Government of India** has granted the **extension** to the **Foreign Trade Policy** (FTP) by another one year i.e. **up to 31st March**, **2021**. The FTP was implemented on 1st April, 2015 for 5 years and was valid upto 31st March, 2020. The decision to extend the validity of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was taken in view of the unprecedented current situation arising out of the **pandemic Novel COVID-19.**

Some **key changes** made by Union **Commerce and Industry Ministry** in the FTP are as follows:

- Benefit under all the Export Promotion Schemes except SEIS, available as on date, will remain available for another 12 months i.e. upto 31st March, 2021.

- Validity period of the Status Holder Certificates is also extended.

- Exemption from payment of IGST and Compensation Cess on the imports made under Advance/EPCG Authorisations and by EOUs etc. has been extended till 31st March, 2021.

- The scheme for providing "Transport Marketing Assistance on the specified Agricultural Products" has been extended for one year.

- Extension in time has been allowed for filing various Reports/Returns etc. under various provisions of the FTP.

- Last dates for applying for various duty credit Scrips (MEIS/SEIS/ROSCTL) and other Authorisations have been extended.

Asian Development Bank releases Asian Development Outlook 2020

- The **Asian Development Bank** has released its annual economic publication **"Asian Development Outlook 2020"**. In its annual flagship economic publication "Asian Development Outlook 2020", the Asian Development Bank has projected **India's growth** to slow down to **4%** in the current fiscal year i.e. **2020-2021.** The ADB has cited weak global demand and the government's novel coronavirus containment efforts for the slow down in Indian economy.

- While for fiscal year **2021-2022,** the Asian Development Bank has projected **India's growth** to strengthen to **6.2%**, boosted by government reforms. The Asian Development Bank has also estimated the **growth** in **South Asia** to decelerate to **4.1%** in the fiscal year **2020-2021,** hence will face a milder slowdown. Although, the bank expects the **growth** in **South Asia** to recover to **6%** in the fiscal year **2021-2022.**

PM, President and MPs Salary Cut by 30% , MPLAD funds suspended for 2 years

- The **Union Cabinet** approved an ordinance amending the salary, allowances and pension of **Members of Parliament Act, 1954**, to reduce the allowances and pension by **30% starting April 1, 2020, for a year. All Members of Parliament (MPs), including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Council of Ministers,** would be taking a 30% salary cut due to the impact of the novel coronavirus.

- **Indian President, Vice President and all state governors** have voluntarily decided to take a 30% salary cut for a year in view of the coronavirus outbreak and the expected downturn in the economy.

- The cabinet also approved temporary suspension of MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development) fund scheme during 2020-21 and 2021-22, and the funds will be used for managing health services and the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

- **Rs 7,900 crore** from the MPLADS scheme will go to Consolidated Fund of India. The Rs 10 crore from each MPLAD fund will now go to the Consolidated Fund of India for "managing health and the adverse impact of the outbreak of COVID-19 in India". India is under a 21-day nationwide lockdown to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Jeff Bezos tops Forbes billionaires list "The Richest in 2020"

Forbes has launched the 34th annual world's billionaires list named as **"The Richest in 2020".** The list titled "The Richest in 2020" has been topped by the **Amazon Founder and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos.** This was 3rd time in a row that he has topped the annual world's billionaires list released by Forbes.

Here is the list of top 10 billionaires of the world as per the list "The Richest in 2020":

Rank	Name	Net Worth (in Billion)	Country / Territory	Source
1	Jeff Bezos	$113	United States	Amazon
2	Bill Gates	$98	United States	Microsoft
3	Bernard Arnault	$76	France	LVMH
4	Warren Buffett	$67.5	United States	Berkshire Hathaway
5	Larry Ellison	$59	United States	Software
6	Amancio Ortega	$55.1	Spain	Zara
7	Mark Zuckerberg	$54.7	United States	Facebook
8	Jim Walton	$54.6	United States	Walmart
9	Alice Walton	$54.4	United States	Walmart
10	Rob Walton	$54.1	United States	Walmart

Twitter CEO pledges $1 billion to combat COVID-19 pandemic

- Chief Executive Officer of Twitter, **Jack Dorsey** has pledged to donate **$1 billion** to charities working towards combatting the global **COVID-19 pandemic.** The donation of $1 billion by the Twitter CEO seems to be the largest donation pledged by a private individual in the fight against **COVID-19 pandemic.**

- To fulfill the donation amount of $1 billion, Jack Dorsey will move $1 billion of his digital payments group "Square" equity i.e. 28% of his wealth, to #startsmall LLC to fund global COVID-19 relief.

GoI sanctions Rs. 15000 crores package to boost health infrastructure

Government of India (GoI) has announced to allocate **Rs. 15000 crores** for **'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package'.** The funds sanctioned will be utilized for immediate COVID-19 Emergency Response (amount of Rs.7774 crores) and rest for medium-term support (1-4 years) to be provided under mission mode approach.

The key objectives of the package:
- The Package includes mounting emergency response to slow and limit COVID-19 in India through the development of diagnostics and COVID-19 dedicated treatment facilities, centralized procurement of essential medical equipment and drugs required for treatment of infected patients, strengthen and build resilient National and

- State health systems to support prevention and preparedness for future disease outbreaks, setting up of laboratories and bolster surveillance activities, bio-security preparedness, pandemic research and proactively engage communities and conduct risk communication activities.
- The funds will also help in increasing the production of PPEs (Personal Protection Equipment), ventilators, ICU and other essential equipment.
- These interventions and initiatives would be implemented under the overall umbrella of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

'Operation SHIELD' launched in Delhi

The Operation SHIELD has been launched by the Delhi Government in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the national capital. This will be implemented in 21 containment areas. In the Operation SHIELD:

S stands for: Sealing of area
H stands for: Home quarantine
I stands for: Isolation of infected patients
E stands for: Essential services ensured
L stands for: Local sanitisation
D stands for: Door to door survey
The Delhi government has made it mandatory for the people of Delhi to wear masks while stepping out of their houses.

Prime Minister extends lockdown to 3rd May 2020 to combat COVID-19

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi addressed his countrymen and announced the extension of **lockdown** until **3rd of May 2020** in order to combat the **COVID-19 pandemic in the nation.** The lockdown was initially implemented in India from 25th March 2020 and was scheduled to end on 14th April 2020.

Here are the key takeaways from the PM's speech:
- PM announced that a strict monitoring of all the hotspots and containment zones will be done by the government.
- Till 20th April 2020, every district will be monitored over the number of hotspots and from 20th April, keeping in mind the situation at that time, several restrictions will be withdrawn by the government in few districts.
- The withdrawal of the restrictions will be conditional i.e. if the development of hotspot is observed, the restrictions will be further imposed, hence removing all the relaxations.

During his address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also urged the Indian citizens to follow the below 7 points to help the country in fighting the COVID-19 outbreak:
- To take care of the aged people, specially those who are suffering from any disease.
- To obey the rules of lockdown and maintain the practice of social distancing.
- Stressed on the usage of home made face masks.
- Encouraged people to follow the Ayush Ministry's guidelines in order to increase the immunity.
- He urged the citizens to use Aarogya Setu App and also appealed to encourage others to do the same in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- To help and care the poor families wherever possible.
- In businesses, he urged the employers to not cut jobs.

To respect the corona warriors i.e. the doctors, nurses, sanitation workers.

MHA issues new activities exempted from lockdown restrictions

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has released a list of new activities that have been exempted from lockdown restrictions to fight **COVID-19**, and to restart the country's economic engine and lessen the pain of millions suffering from the continued lockdown.

The order exempts certain activities from lockdown restrictions:
- The government has allowed the Collection, harvesting and processing of Minor Forest Produce (**MFP**)/ Non-timber Forest Produce (**NTFP**) by Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers in forest areas.
- The government has allowed the activities regarding Bamboo, Coconut, Arecanut, Cocoa, Spices plantations and their harvesting, processing, packaging, sale and marketing.

- The government has allowed several construction activities in rural areas and has permitted non-banking financial companies (**NBFCs**) and Cooperative Credit Societies to function.

India Ranks 142nd in World Press Freedom Index 2020

The **2020 World Press Freedom Index** has been released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The Reporters Without Borders has evaluated the situation for journalists in **180 countries** and territories and indicated the results in 2020 World Press Freedom Index. The 2020 World Press Freedom index states that the world is entering in a decisive decade for journalism linked to crises that affect its future.

Key findings of the World Press Freedom Index 2020:

- Norway has topped the World Press Freedom Index 2020. Norway was placed on the top for the fourth year in a row. Apart from Norway at the top, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Netherlands also finished as the top 5 rankers of the index. North Korea took the last position from Turkmenistan and hence finished 180th in the index.
- **India was ranked 142nd in the index while Pakistan and China were placed at 145th and 177th position respectively.**
- When it comes to regionwise results, Europe persists as the most favourable continent for media freedom, followed by America and Africa.

IMF releases "World Economic Outlook"

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has released **the "World Economic Outlook"** report. **"World Economic Outlook"** report is being published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) twice a year.

Here are the latest projections published in the "World Economic Outlook" report:

- IMF has reduced India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate from **5.8% to 1.9%** in the fiscal year **2020-21.** It has also stated that India's GDP will show recovery in the next financial year with the growth rate **of 7.4%.**
- IMF has projected that the world economy will contract sharply **by 3%** in 2020, overshadowing the damages caused by the **2008–09 financial crisis.**
- IMF has projected China's economy to grow at the growth rate of **1.2%** in the fiscal year **2020-21 while it will grow at 9.2% in the fiscal year 2021-22.**

In the report, IMF has also indicated that the recovery forecast for the fiscal year 2021 is subjected to the assumption that the pandemic being brought under control in the second half of 2020, scaling back the containment efforts and hence restoring the consumer and investor confidence.

National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India" launched

The **"National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India"** has been launched by the Union Minister for Culture (I/C**) Prahlad Singh Patel.** The "National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India", which is a part of the Vision 2024 of the Ministry of Culture, raises awareness about the various intangible cultural heritage elements from different parts of India at national as well as international level. It also recognizes the diversity of Indian culture instilled in its intangible heritage and aims to ensure its protection.

The National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India has been classified in the following 5 broad domains:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship

The National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India has been classified in the above 5 broad domains keeping in view the UNESCO's 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Cabinet Approves Ordinance To Amend Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the **Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.** The above step has been taken to protect the healthcare service personnel as well as property including their living/working premises against the violence during epidemics. The promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 has been approved by the cabinet, keeping in view the recent instances of the most critical service providers i.e. members of healthcare services being targeted and attacked by miscreants, thereby obstructing them from doing their duties during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Who are "Healthcare service personnel"?

Healthcare service personnel comprises of public and clinical healthcare service providers including doctors, nurses, paramedical workers and community health workers; any other persons empowered by the Act to take measures in order to prevent the outbreak of the disease or spread thereof; and any persons declared as such by the State Government via notification in the Official Gazette.

Aim of the amendment in Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897:

The promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 intends to make such acts of violence cognizable and non-bailable offences and also ensure that during any situation akin to the current pandemic, there is zero tolerance to any form of violence against healthcare service personnel as well as damage to property. In the above context, the Violence under this Ordinance will contain harassment, physical injury and damage to the property.

Punishments for violators:

The amendment in the act makes violence cognizable as well as a non-bailable offence. Punishment of imprisonment for a term **of 3 months to 5 years,** and with fine of **Rs.50,000/- to Rs.2,00,000/-,** has been decided for commissioning or abetment of such acts of violence. Imprisonment for a term **6 months to 7 years** and with fine of **Rs.1,00,000/- to Rs.5,00,000/–** has been decided in the case of causing grievous hurt. Along with above, the offender shall also be accountable to pay compensation to the victim as well as twice the fair market value for the damage of property.

An officer of the rank of Inspector will be investigating the offences within a period of 30 days and the trial has to be completed in one year, unless it has been extended by the court for reasons to be recorded in writing.

Bombay, Meghalaya & Orissa high courts to get new chief justices

Supreme Court (SC) Collegium led by the chief justice of India, **Sharad Arvind Bobde** has recommended the appointment of new Chief Justices for the Bombay, Orissa and Meghalaya High Courts (HC).

S. No.	Name	High court
1	Dipankar Datta	Bombay High Court
2	Biswanath Somadder	Meghalaya High Court
3	Mohammad Rafiq	Orissa High Court

Important takeaways:

- **Justice Dipankar Datta**, presently a judge at the Calcutta High Court. He replaces the current Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Bhushan Dharmadhikari.
- **Justice Biswanath Somadder**, presently a judge at the Allahabad High Court. He will replace Mohammad Rafiq.
- **Justice Mohammad Rafiq,** presently a Judge at the Meghalaya High Court. He will replace Sanju Panda as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.

Centre formed IMCTs to make on-spot assessment of Covid-19 situation

The **Government of India** has constituted **Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs),** to make an on-spot assessment **of Covid-19** situation. The condition is especially serious in major hotspot districts or emerging hotspots like: **Ahmedabad and Surat (Gujarat); Thane (Maharashtra); Hyderabad (Telangana); Chennai (Tamil Nadu).**

- The teams set up earlier in Indore **(Madhya Pradesh), Mumbai, Pune (Maharashtra), West Bengal (one team for Kolkata and adjoining districts and the other for North Bengal) and Jaipur (Rajasthan).**
- The IMCTs would be focusing on a range of issues including compliance and implementation of lockdown measures as per guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act 2005, the supply of essential commodities, social distancing in the movement of people outside their homes, the preparedness of health infrastructure, hospital facilities and sample statistics in the district.

Lockdown extended for further period of two weeks from 4th May 2020

Under Disaster Management Act, 2005, Ministry of **Home Affairs** issued an order to further **extend the lockdown** for a period of two weeks beyond 4 May 2020. The lockdown will thus now remain effective till May 17. Ministry of Home Affairs also issued new guidelines to regulate different activities in this period, based on the risk profiling of the districts of the country into Red (hotspot), Green and Orange Zones.

What are Green, Red, and Orange Zone according to MHA guidelines?

- The **Green-Zones** will be districts with either zero confirmed cases till date; or, **no confirmed case in the last 21 days.**

- The classification of districts as **Red Zones** will take into account the total number of active cases, doubling rate of confirmed cases, the extent of testing and surveillance feedback from the districts.
- Those districts, which are neither defined as Red nor Green, shall be classified as **Orange zones.**
- While States and UTs can include additional districts as Red and Orange Zones, they may not lower the classification of a district included by MoHFW in the list of Red or Orange Zones.

RBI announces Rs 50,000 crore Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds

Reserve Bank of India has announced a **Special Liquidity Facility** of **Rs 50,000 crore** for **Mutual Funds** to ease liquidity pressures on the Mutual Funds. This is a measure taken by the RBI to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 and preserve financial stability.

- Under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (**SLF-MF**), **repo operations 90 day**s tenor would be conducted by the RBI at the **fixed repo rate**. The SLF-MF is on-tap and open-ended.
- Under this, the banks will be allowed to submit their bids to avail funding on any day from Monday to Friday (excluding holidays). Availability of the scheme would be from **April 27, 2020 till May 11, 2020** or up to utilization of the allocated amount, whichever is earlier.
- Banks can use the funds availed under the SLF-MF exclusively for meeting the liquidity requirements of Mutual Funds by extending loans, undertaking outright purchase of and/or repos against the collateral of investment grade **corporate bonds**, commercial papers (**CPs**), debentures and certificates of Deposit (**CDs**) held by Mutual Funds
- The Reserve Bank of India also stated that the liquidity support availed under the SLF-MF would be eligible to be categorized as held to maturity even in excess of 25% of total investment permitted to be included in the held to maturity portfolio.
- Exposures under SLF-MF will not be computed under the Large Exposure Framework. Support provided to Mutual Funds under the SLF-MF shall be excluded from banks' capital market exposure limits.

SIPRI releases report "Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019"

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its report **"Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019"**. The report released by SIPRI analysed the **global military spending** in 2019. The report stated that the global military spending in 2019 was **2.2%** of the global gross domestic product (GDP) i.e **7.2%** higher in 2019 than it was in 2010.

Key findings of the report "Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019":

- The total global military expenditure rose to **$1917 billion** in 2019 i.e. an increase of **3.6%** from 2018.
- The **top 5 largest spenders** in 2019 were: **United** States ($732 billion), **China** ($261 billion), **India** ($71.1 billion), **Russia** ($65.1 billion) and **Saudi Arabia** ($61.9 billion).
- This is the **first instance** when two Asian states have featured among the top three military spenders.
- India spent **$71.1 billion** on defence in 2019 which is 2.4% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), rising from 4th position in 2018 to 3rd in 2019.

Confederation of Indian Industry releases "A plan for economic recovery"

The **Confederation of Indian Industry** (CII) has recently released a paper titled "**A plan for economic recovery**". In this paper, CII has projected India's GDP growth rates as well stated short term and medium term plans for sustained recovery of Indian economy. CII has estimated GDP growth under **three different scenarios**:

- **Optimistic Scenario**: When the economic activities picks-up slowly post lockdown period and continues to full capacity shortly thereafter. As per this scenario, GDP is expected to register a growth of **1.5%** in the best case.
- **Base Scenario**: It is a situation in which pick-up in economic activity is constrained by restrictions on free movement of goods and people even in post lockdown period. As per this scenario, GDP is estimated to grow at just **0.6%** on an annual basis.
- **Downside Risk Scenario**: It is a situation when COVID-19 outbreak continues and spreads further, leading to prolonged restrictions in existing hotspots while 'new' hotspots get identified. As per this scenario, GDP is likely to fall by **-0.9%.**

On the basis of three scenarios discussed above, CII expects GDP growth to lie between **-0.9% and 1.5%** for the Fiscal Year 2021.

India Ranks 53rd in Open Budget Index 2019

The **International Budget Partnership** has released the **7th edition** of the **Open Budget Survey 2019.** The survey was conducted by the International Budget Partnership as a part of its **Open Budget Initiative**.

In Open Budget Survey 2019, every country is given a score ranging from **0 to 100** based on the simple average of the responses to **109 questions** reflecting an assessment of **8 key budget documents** that should be accessible to the people of country during the budget cycle.

In **OBS 2019,** the global **average transparency score** was **45 out of 100,** stating that score of around 75% of the surveyed countries lying at insufficient levels.

Key Results of the Index:

- The **Open Budget Index 2019** was **topped** by **New Zealand** with a budget transparency score of 87 out of 100.
- **South Africa** was on **2nd** position with a budget transparency score 87 followed by **Sweden** scoring 86 out of 100.
- **Mexico** was on the **4th** position in index with a score of 82, followed by Georgia finishing 5th in the list after scoring 81 out of 100.
- **India** was placed at **53rd** position in the index with a budget transparency score of **49 out of 100**.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **State Bank of India** has listed **green bonds** of **$100 million** (about Rs 750 crore) on BSE's India International Exchange (India INX).
- **Reserve Bank of India has** launched a **twitter campaign** urging bank customers to adopt digital modes of payment that are convenient and safe. RBI emphasised on transacting digitally as it gives the convenience of making payments anytime and anywhere. Through the campaign, RBI reiterated the multiple digital payment options such as **NEFT, IMPS, UPI and BBPS that are available 24*7.** The face of the campaign is Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan.**
- **Jana Small Finance Bank** has launched **"DigiGen"** a digital banking platform where customers can digitally open a savings account and fixed deposit instantly, any time, anywhere.

- **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the extension of tenure of all members and the current part-time chairman of the **Bank Board Bureau (BBB) by 2 years,** which is coming to an end on **April 11,2020.**
- The **licence** of the **Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd.** has been **cancelled** by the **Reserve Bank of** India with an order, barring the bank to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on **April 16, 2020**.
- **State Bank of India** has made an announcement to **waive service charges** for all **ATM transactions** made on SBI ATMs and on the other bank ATMs on account of exceeding the free number of transactions up to 30th June 2020.
- **People's Bank of China (PBOC)** has raised its stake in **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited** (HDFC) from 0.8% to **1.01%**. The stakes comprises of 17.49 million shares of the the country's largest mortgage lender HDFC.
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has become **1st life Insurance Company** in India to announce additional benefits related to COVID-19 for Policyholders and Agents at no additional cost.
- **HDFC** Bank has started **#HDFCBankSafetyGrid campaign** to encourage social distancing in Public places.
- **Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)** bank starts a new feature of voice banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for their customers. The service will enable customers to **#BankWithTheirVoice** and get answers to banking queries, check account balance & transactions, credit card due date and more.
- **Special borrowing scheme** has been launched by the **Indian Overseas Bank** for self help groups (**SHGs**) to help the SHGs in order to overcome the difficulties posed by COVID-19. Each member of a self help group can avail a maximum loan amount of **Rs 5,000** while there is a cap of **Rs 1 lakh** for the group.
- Under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, the **Banking Industry** has been declared by the Government of India as a "**Public Utility Service**" for a period of 6 months i.e. till 21st October 2020. For 6 months, the banking sector would not see any strikes by the employees or officers.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has given its approval to **Transcorp International Ltd** to issue **co-branded prepaid cards**, hence it has become one of the first non-bank companies to receive approval to enter into co-branding arrangements for Prepaid Instruments.

Economy Current Affairs

- **UN 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2020 forecast India's** GDP for FY21 at **4.8%.**

- **Fitch Solutions** has slashed India's economic growth **forecast to 1.8%** for **the financial year 2020-21** citing large-scale loss of income across the economy due to domestic outbreak of COVID-19, causing contracted private consumption.

- **Moody's Investors Service** has cut **India's GDP growth** forecast for the calendar year 2020 to **0.2%,** from 2.5% projected in March. It has also predicted India's GDP growth rate to be **6.2%** for **2021.**

- **Rating agency CRISIL** has cut the GDP growth rate forecast for **India** for **2020-21** (FY21) to **1.8%** from the previous prediction of 3.5%.

- In its latest report, credit rating agency **India Ratings and Research** (Ind-Ra) has slashed **India's** Fiscal Year **2021** gross domestic product (GDP) growth to **1.9%.**

Business Current Affairs

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India** will facilitate **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** with emergency working capital of up to **Rs 1 crore** against their confirmed government orders. The SIDBI's new loan product i.e. **SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against Coronavirus (SAFE)** plus will be provided collateral free and disbursed within **48 hours at an interest rate of 5%.**

- **Punjab National Bank Housing Finance** has partnered with **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** to raise 75 million dollars. The Citibank will also **co-finance 25 million dollars** to finance the mortgage loans in the affordable housing segment. This partnership also states first debt funding by Japan International Cooperation Agency in the housing finance sector in India.

- Government of **Andhra Pradesh** has issued a **"Letter of Award" (LoA)** to **GMR Airports Limited** for the development of greenfield international airport at **Bhogapuram**.

- TVS Motor Company's overseas subsidiary **TVS Motor Singapore Pte. Ltd** has **acquired** the **United Kingdom's** most iconic sporting motorcycle brand '**Norton'** in an all-cash transaction of £16 million.

- **Facebook** has acquired a 9.99% stakes of Reliance Jio i.e. the telecom arm of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). Facebook has bought **the 9.99%** stakes for **USD 5.7 billion (about Rs 43,574 crore).** This deal has put the pre-money enterprise value of Jio Platforms at **Rs 4.62 lakh crore.**

- **Singapore's Caladium Investment** has raised its stake in Bandhan Bank by **1.1 percent from 3.39% to 4.49%.** Caladium Investment PTE Ltd now holds will now holds **7.2 crore shares of Bandhan Bank.**

- **Axis Bank** would acquire a **29%** additional stake in **Max Life Insurance** for an estimated price of Rs 1,592 crore. It will increase the Axis Bank's stake in Max Life to 30%.

International Current Affairs

- **NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg** has announced the appointment of a group of experts to support his work in a reflection process to further strengthen NATO's political dimension.

- **United States** has announced **$2.9 million** aid for India through the **US Agency for International Development** 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.

- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Development Fund (SDF)** has allocated **$5 million** for COVID-19 related projects in its member states.

- **Asian Development Bank assured of $2.2 billion (about Rs 16,500 crore)** support package to India to fight against **COVID-19 pandemic.**

- **Asian Development Bank** has increased the size of its **COVID-19 Response Package** from $6.5 billion to **$20 Billion** as ADB's response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

- **Managing Director of International Monetary Fund,** Kristalina Georgieva has named a group of prominent individuals to serve as her new **External Advisory Group** which includes former RBI governor, **Raghuram Rajan**.

- The **Lebanese parliament** has passed the legislation to legalize the cannabis cultivation for medical and industrial purposes. Earlier, the farming of cannabis was illegal in Lebanon, but now the cannabis farming would be regulated within the country.

- **Iran** has successfully launched its first-ever military satellite named **"Noor"** into the orbit. This satellite is launched by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC], a branch of the country's armed forces.

- **G-20** has launched a "**Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator**" under the **presidency** of **Saudi Arabia** to improve connections as well as to leverage interdependencies for collective partnership, mobilizing, problem-solving, and guiding investments for new COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics as well as vaccines.

- **Saudi Arabia**'s King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud has **abolished** the **death penalty** for crimes committed by **minors**.

National News

- **Department of Science & Technology**, Government of India has approved to set up a rapid response centre "**Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis** (CAWACH)" at a total cost of Rs 56 Crore at Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (**SINE**), **IIT Bombay**.

- **Naval Dockyard** at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh has designed '**Portable Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold** (MOM)' to supply **oxygen** to multiple patients at a time, which could be helpful in a contingency created by COVID-19 spread.

- **National** Cadet **Corps** has offered its volunteer cadets for national duty to fight COVID-19 under '**Exercise NCC Yogdan**'.

- "**Aarogya Setu**" is the official **COVID-19 tracking app** that has been launched by the **Government of India** & 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.

- **National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-19 Grievances** has been **developed** by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances to ensure timely implementation of COVID 19 Response Activities.

- Ministry of **Road Transport** and **Highways** has **extended the validity of documents** that expired since **1st February 2020** till **30th June 2020**. The documents include fitness, driving licence, permits (all types), registration or any other concerned document under the Motor Vehicle Rules.

- Ministry of **Tourism** has launched a portal '**Stranded in India**' to help **foreign tourists** who are stuck in various parts of the country.

- **World Bank** has approved **$1 billion** to the Indian government for a proposed **India COVID-19 emergency response** and **health systems** preparedness project.

- **Civil services officers'** associations have formed an initiative called '**Caruna**' to support and supplement the government's efforts in fighting coronavirus. The acronym 'Caruna' stands for Civil Services Associations Reach to Support in Natural Disasters.

- **IIT-Roorkee** has developed a low-cost portable ventilator called '**Prana-Vayu**' in association with **AIIMS-Rishikesh.** This closed-loop ventilator is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities & can prove useful in ensuring the safety of coronavirus patients.

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched the initiative called "**Lifeline UDAN**" to help India fight against COVID-19. Under this initiative, 132 cargo flights have been operated so far across the country to transport medical cargo including to remote and hilly areas.

- The innovation cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and All India Council for Technical Education has launched a mega ONLINE challenge **called "SAMADHAN"** to fight against covid19.

- During the 21 days nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19, pharmacists, popularly known as "**Swasth ke Sipahi**" of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra are delivering essential services and medicines at doorstep of patients and elderly.

- **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has designated **DigiLocker** as the sole National Academic Depository. The ministry has directed the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** to implement NAD as a permanent scheme within DigiLocker.

- Amid 21-days nationwide lockdown in India, **Defence Research and Development Organisation** has been using scientific endeavours to develop products in an accelerated manner to combat COVID-19 pandemic. DRDO has developed **Personnel Sanitisation Enclosures (PSE)** and **Full Face Mask (FFM)** to protect primarily healthcare professionals from novel coronavirus.

- **Government of India** has launched **an iGOT** e-learning platform to combat **COVID-19** for all front-line workers to equip them with the training and updates in coping with Pandemic.

- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has collaborated with **UNICEF** to develop a digital communication strategy for promoting a digital campaign for **Self Help Groups.** The partnership aims to highlight the importance of Social Distancing.

- **National Institute of Open Schooling** (NIOS) will run live counseling sessions on **Swayam Prabha** DTH Channel namely **Panini**, Channel **Sharda** and Channel **Kishore Manch**, for secondary and senior secondary levels respectively to overcome the loss of academic time of the students.

- A **webinar** series titled "**#DekhoApnaDesh**" has been launched by the **Indian Tourism Ministry** to provide information on many destinations and culture & heritage of Incredible India. First such semin was held with title "City of Cities: Delhi's Personal Diary".

- **AIIMS Rishikesh** partners with **BEL** (Bharat Electronics Limited) to set up **India's 1st remote health monitoring system** in the state of **Uttarakhand** to monitor COVID-19 patients.
- **Ministry of Labour and Employment** has set up **20 control rooms** to address **wage related grievances** arising in the backdrop of Covid-19. Control rooms have been set up under the Office of Chief Labour Commissioner.
- **Government of India** to set up a chain of **20 lakh retail** shops called '**Suraksha Stores'** across India to provide daily essentials to citizens while maintaining stringent safety norms in the wake of COVID-19.
- **Ministry for Human Resource Development** starts web-portal named **YUKTI** (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of the Ministry of HRD.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the unified e-GramSwaraj Portal and Mobile App on the occasion of **National Panchayati Raj Day 2020**. This 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).
- Government of India has launched a **dashboard containing information of human resources for combating and containing Covid-19.** This dashbaord has been created as an online portal on the website **"covidwarriors.gov.in".**
- Union Health Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan** starts an interactive platform **'COVID India Seva'** to address citizens queries on coronavirus.
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has issued a set of **Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs)** as well as graded relaxations for seafarers.
- **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi** has developed a mobile app named **'WashKaro'.** This mobile app helps to warn the people about a coronavirus containment zone nearby and helps them check whether a news item about the pandemic is genuine or fake.
- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB)** has developed **"Feluda"** a low-cost COVID-19 test strip. It was developed by two scientists Dr Souvik Maiti and Dr Debojyoti Chakraborty.
- Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority (JKSLSA) has launched a helpline under 'Serve-the-Seniors Initiative'.

- The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)** has rolled out **a 'Lockdown Learners' series in India** under its flagship **"Education for Justice"** initiative. It has launched 'Lockdown Learners' series of online dialogues with educators and students in India. The series emphasizes on COVID-19 and its impact on Sustainable Development Goals, peace and rule of law.
- **The Indian government** has put on hold the hike in **dearness allowance** for its government employees in a bid to contain the strain on its finances amid the COVID-19 induced crisis. The development comes less than a month after the union cabinet had approved a hike in DA from **4% to a much higher 21%.** This decision of government will impact about 49.26 lakh central government employees and 61.17 lakh pensioners.
- To enhance its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Government of India** has signed a **$1.5 billion** loan with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**
- **Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd**, a subsidiary of **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited** has announced Global Expression of Interest to provide **10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell** based **electric buses** and 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based **electric cars** in **Leh** and **Delhi**.
- **Unique Identification Authority of India** permits the **Common Service Centres** that operate as banking correspondents (BCs), to provide **Aadhaar updation facility** to make Aadhaar updation easier for citizens.
- **Lucknow's** King George's Medical University (**KGMU**) has become the **1st government hospital** in the country to successfully launch the **plasma therapy treatment** for COVID-19.

States Current Affairs

- **Andhra Pradesh** government has started **distributing pensions** at the **doorstep** to beneficiaries to encourage them to stay at home and avoid stepping out amid the ongoing 21-day lockdown.
- **Utkal Divas** (Odisha Day) is celebrated every year on **1st April** all over **Odisha.**
- **Karnataka** government has launched a mobile application **'Corona Watch'** to track the movement history of persons tested positive, before their detection in order to take precautions and to contain the coronavirus outbreak.
- **Himachal Pradesh** government has started **"Active Case Finding Campaign"** in the state to provide information about the symptoms of COVID-19 to the people at their doorsteps.

- 'Modi Kitchen' has been set up in the Kovai (Coimbatore), Tamil Nadu. It serves 500 meals per day and will remain operational till 14th April 2020.
- Odisha government has launched an online cultural competition "Mo Prativa" in collaboration with the "UNICEF" to keep children engaged at home during the lockdown period.
- Odisha has become the first state to extend the 21-day lockdown till April 30.
- 'V Safe Tunnel' has been installed in Telangana 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.
- Chhattisgarh police has developed the app 'Rakhsa Sarv', with the help of Noida-based startup Mobcoder, which enables them to track the quarantined people through Google Map.
- Government of Telangana invested swiftly to deploy India's first automated "COVID-19 Monitoring System App" by Vera Smart Healthcare.
- Arunachal Pradesh government has launched an app called "COVIDCARE". The newly developed "COVIDCARE" app is an effort of the Arunachal Pradesh government to combat COVID-19.
- Under Western Railway, Ahmedabad railway station at Kalupur, Gujarat has become the 1st station of Indian Railways to install a "Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel".
- Andhra Pradesh government has launched YSR Nirman and COVID-19 portals to fight against Coronavirus pandemic.
- After receiving permission from Indian Council of Medical Research, Uttar Pradesh has become the 1st state to start "Pool Testing" of Covid-19 samples.
- Goa becomes the first state to integrate allopathy and Ayurveda to boost the immunity of COVID-19 patients and those who have been quarantined.
- Two hospitals in Jharkhand have employed 'COBOT-Robotics' Robots to serve food, medicine to COVID-19 patients without human intervention.
- Government of Manipur has launched Electronic format of comic textbooks for Class III, IV and V as steps and measures to make up the gaps for the academic situation, especially for the schools.
- Manipur's Imphal East District Administration has launched initiative 'Food Bank' to provide immediate aid in the form of free food to the poor and needy who are facing scarcity of essential commodities due to the long statewide lockdown due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

- Uttar Pradesh Government joined hands with tech giant Google to formed geotag community kitchens in the state.
- Himachal Pradesh government has rolled out "e-sanjeevani-opd" for free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence throughout the state.
- Border Roads Organisation has constructed 430 feet long bailey "Daporijo bridge" over the Subansiri River in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district.
- State government of Rajasthan has partnered with healthcare startup MedCords to launch 'Aayu & Sehat Sathi app to fight against COVID-19. This app helps state people to consult doctors online and place orders for their medicine requirement in the wake of a lockdown due to COVID-19.
- The Government of Gujarat has given the approval of the 3rd edition of government's 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' amid Coronavirus lockdown. The scheme is a conservation plan to deepen water bodies in the state before the monsoon and was started in 2018 after a weak monsoon.
- The Administration of Pathanamthitta district in Kerala has launched a vehicle called 'Tiranga' (Total India Remote Analysis Nirogya Abhiyaan) for rapid screening of COVID-19 symptoms.
- A new permanent bridge has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to link Kasowal enclave in Punjab with rest of India. This new permanent bridge has been constructed on the river Ravi.
- India's oldest National Park, Jim Corbett National Park becomes India's 1st quarantine facility for animals with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Park has built isolation wards for animals.
- The Government of Manipur commemorated "Khongjom Day" at Khongjom War Memorial Complex, Thoubal, Manipur. This day is observed to remember the people who valiantly fought in the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891.

- **Uttar Pradesh** has become the 1st state with a software based **in-house facility** of **virtual courts** through which multiple court proceedings can now be conducted within the court premises without any internet connectivity.
- **Asian Development Bank** has approved a **USD 346 million** (around Rs 2,616 crore) loan to **Maharashtra** state government to provide reliable power connections in rural areas of Maharashtra.
- Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the **Uttar Pradesh** Government has decided to **ban** the **public gathering** till **June 30, 2020.**
- The government hospital in **Ernakulamhere**, **Kerala** has deployed a robot named '**KARMI-Bot'** to serve COVID-19 patients at the medical college's COVID-19 isolation ward.

Schemes/Committees

- The **Government of India** has constituted an Empowered Group for coordinating response activities with Private Sector, NGOs and International Organisations related to COVID-19. This group which will coordinate response activities with Private Sector, NGOs and International Organisations related to COVID-19, will be headed by the chief executive officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant.
- **Madhya Prades**h government has launched '**Jeevan Amrit Yojana**' to boost the immune system of people to fight (COVID-19) disease.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has started the **'Jagananna Vidya Deevena'** Scheme. Under this scheme, fee reimbursement will be credited directly to mothers' accounts instead of college accounts in the coming academic year 2020-21.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched the **"Jivan Shakti Yojana".** Under this scheme, women in urban areas can earn by making masks at home.
- **Assam government** has launched a new scheme called "**Dhanwantari**" for home delivery of medicines.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **ICICI Securities** has partnered with **IIM Bangalore**'s startup hub N S Raghavan Centre of Entrepreneurial Learning (**NSRCEL**) to launch **program for fintech startups**.
- **Domino's Pizza** has **partnered** with **ITC Foods** to launch "**Domino's Essentials"** through which everyday grocery essentials offered by ITC Foods will be delivered while leveraging the delivery infrastructure of Domino's.

- **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology** has signed an agreement with the **Wipro 3D**, Bengaluru to jointly manufacture **automated ventilators.**
- **BharatPe** inks partnership with **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited** to introduce '**COVID-19 Protection Insurance Cover'** for shopkeepers, who are most affected financially due to Coronavirus outbreak.
- **National Health Authority** has signed an agreement with "**Uber**" to provide transportation service to **public healthcare workers** who are involved in treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- **Dunzo** has partnered with packaged foods company **Britannia Industries** to deliver range of products to its consumers. Britannia Industries has launched a Britannia Essentials store that will be available to Dunzo app users.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **Bharati AXA General Insurance** to launch a **COVID-19 insurance policy.** The insurance plan can be purchased directly from the banking section of the 'Airtel Thanks App' or by visiting the nearest active banking point-of-sales (POS) of Airtel Payments Bank at a price of Rs 499 for fixed sum insured of Rs 25,000.
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** signs agreement with the Indian Army for setting up an advanced IT-enabled system to operate the Armed Forces network under the **Network of Spectrum (NFS).**
- **Hindustan Unilever** has partnered with the **United Nations Children's Fund** 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.
- Hyderabad-based **Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL)** has partnered with **Australia's Griffith Universit**y to develop the COVID-19 vaccine. Scientists from IIL and Griffith University will jointly develop a "live attenuated SARS – CoV-2 vaccine" or COVID-19 vaccine using the "latest codon de-optimization technology".
- **Flipkart Private Limited** inks partnership with **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited** & **Go Digit General Insurance** to launch two health insurance policies. The name of the two policies that specifically cover COVID-19 are **'COVID-19 Protection Cover' and 'Digit Illness Group Insurance'.**

- **Bharat Biotech** ties-up with the US-based company **FluGen** and **University of Wisconsin Madison** to develop a vaccine named **"Coro-Flu"** to fight against COVID-19. CoroFlu will build on the backbone of FluGen's flu vaccine candidate known as M2SR.
- **YES Bank** has announced the extension of its **strategic bancassurance relationship** with the **Max Life Insurance** for **5-years** in order to reaffirm their commitment to invest in building a digitally-enabled ecosystem.
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**) and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (**CUTS**) have signed agreement to empower consumers to contribute to the global development agenda as well as support their respective governments in times of global crisis due to **coronavirus**.
- **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)** inks partnership with **Mastercard** to issue virtual and physical debit cards. These cards enable its customers to perform secure online transactions, make payment in stores as well as withdraw cash from ATMs.
- **National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT)** Limited announced that its United States subsidiary has signed a managed service agreement with a US-based education technology (**EdTech**) **company.**
- **Vodafone idea** ties up with **Paytm** to launch the **'Recharge Saathi'** program to help individuals and small businesses to earn additional income. Vodafone Idea will also give an assured cashback to merchant partners for multiple recharges.
- **Nokia** and **Bharti Airtel** has signed a deal of about **$1 billion** in order to enhance the network capacity of **Bharti Airtel.**

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **Lakshminarayanan Duraiswamy** has become the new **Managing Director** of the **Sundaram Home Finance.**
- The **Centre** has **extended** the tenure of **Reserve Bank** Deputy Governor **BP Kanungo** by a year with effect from April 3, 2020**.**
- The term of **Madhabi Puri Buch** as a Whole Time Member (WTM) at **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has been extended by 6 months.
- **Infosys'** chief operating officer, **UB Pravin Rao** becomes the new chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), for 2020-21. He will succeed **Keshav Murugesh**, Group CEO, WNS Global Services.

- The tenure of Justice **Shiva Kirti Singh,** as the incumbent Chairman of the **Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)** has been extended by the **Supreme Court of India.**
- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has appointed **Parag Raja** as managing director and chief executive officer of the company.
- **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance** has appointed **Anamika Roy Rashtrawar** as the new Managng Director & Chief Executive Officer of the company.
- **Karnataka Bank** has received Reserve Bank of India nod for reappointment of **Mahabaleshwara M S** as MD and CEO for next 3 years.
- Chairman and managing director of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, **P. K. Purwar** have been given the **additional charge as CMD** of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (**MTNL**).
- World Wide Fund (WWF) India has appointed **World chess champion Viswanathan Anand** as its ambassador for the environmental education programme.
- **Paytm** has appointed **Vineet Arora** as new managing director and chief executive officer of **Paytm General Insurance Ltd.**
- **Ajay Mahajan** has been appointed as **Managing Director & Chief Executive** of credit rating agency "**CARE Ratings**".
- **Birupaksha Mishra** becomes new **Executive Director** of **Union Bank of India**, after its amalgamation with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank.
- **Kapil Dev Tripathi** has been appointed as the Secretary to the President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind.** He will replace Sanjay Kothari, who was selected as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner in February.
- **N Kamakodi** has been reappointed as the **MD & CEO of City Union Bank Ltd** for a further period of three years.
- **International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA)** has elected **Rakesh Sharma**, Executive Director, Bajaj Auto as its President for a 2-year tenure.
- **Sanjay Kothari** took oath as **Central Vigilance Commissioner of India.**
- **Neeraj Vyas** has been appointed as the **interim MD & CEO** of **PNB Housing Finance** Ltd. He will replace Sanjaya Gupta.
- Government of India has appointed **T.S. Tirumurti** as the next **Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India** to the **United Nations**. He will replace Sayyad Akbaruddin.

- Former Karnataka cricketer, **J. Arunkumar** has been appointed as the **head coach** of the USA national cricket team.
- The former finance secretary **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **Public Enterprises Selection Board**. He will replace Kapil Dev Tripathi.
- **Deepak Mittal** has been appointed as the next **Ambassador** of India to the State of **Qatar**. He will replace P. Kumaran.
- **Piyush Srivastava** has been appointed as the next **Ambassador** of India to the **Bahrain**. He will replace Alok Kumar Sinha.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, additional secretary, **Shiv Das Meena** has been appointed as **chairman** and **managing** director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (**HUDCO**).

Ranks and Reports

- **The "Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker"** has identified **India's response to Covid-19** as one of the most **stringent in the world.** This tracker is created by researchers from Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. The tracker is designed to systematically record government responses worldwide and aggregate the scores into a common 'Stringency Index'.
- **World Bank** has released a report titled **"South Asia Economic Focus"** forecasting a sharp economic fall in each of the region's eight countries. The report states that the regional growth will get dropped to a range between **1.8% and 2.8% i**n 2020, down from 6.3% that was projected 6 months ago. India's economy has been expected to grow at 1.5% to 2.8% in the fiscal year 2020-2021.

Sports Current Affairs

- The **2021 World Athletics Championships** which was originally scheduled to held in **Eugene, Oregon** from August 6-15, 2021 has been **shifted** to **2022**.
- The tennis Grand Slam tournament **Wimbledon 2020** has been **canceled** for the first time since World War II due to **coronavirus pandemic**.
- **Olympic Council of Asia** has announced the **official mascots** of the **19th Asian Games** to be held in **Hangzhou** in **2022**. The 3 robots: **Congcong, Lianlian** and **Chenchen** which are collectively known as "**The Smart Triplets"** will be the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games.
- **India** football team retained its **108th spot** in the latest **FIFA rankings.** While **Belgium** ranked first and world champion France is in 2nd place and Brazil is at 3rd spot.

- 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.
- **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.
- **FIFA,** the world's governing body for football announced that it took the decision to postpone the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup tournament due to the coronavirus pandemic. **The FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup** was scheduled to be played in India between November 2nd to 21st.
- England's all-rounder **Ben Stokes** has been named as the leading cricketer in the **world in its 2020 edition by Wisden.** In Women's category, Australia's **Ellyse Perry** has been named the **Wisden's Leading Female Cricketer in the World.** The other Five Cricketers of the Year by Wisden's are Jofra Archer (England), Pat Cummins (Australia), Simon Harmer (South Africa), Marnus Labuschagne (Australia) and Ellyse Perry (Australia- female).
- "**Feifei**" to be the **mascot** for **Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games**, **China**. 1st 'fei' of the mascot means the birds flying, implying inclusiveness, respect, and fraternity of human society while the 2nd 'fei' means the mental tenacity of the athletes with disabilities pursuing dreams and reaching beyond themselves.
- **Indian Premier League** (IPL) **governing council** of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) **suspends IPL 2020 indefinitely** due to Covid-19.
- World-famous cycle race tournament **"Tour de France"** has been **postponed** due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- National Sports Federation of India has announced that **India** will **host** the **Asian Boxing Championships for men and women** in November-December 2020.
- **Ferrari's Charles Leclerc** wins the **Formula One Esports Chinese Virtual Grand Prix championship.**
- **World Badminton Champion, P V Sindhu** has been selected as one of the ambassadors for Badminton World Federation (BWF)'s **"I am badminton" awareness campaign.**
- The **11th edition** of **World Games** which is to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, US (United States) has unveiled an updated **logo** and title after being delayed a year because of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- **Alireza Firouzja** beats World Chess **Champion Magnus Carlsen** in the final of the Banter Blitz Cup 2020 and to claim the **$14,000 prize.**
- **Deepak Agarwal** has been **banned** by the **ICC** from all cricket for a period of 2 years after he accepted one charge of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.
- **India** lost the **hosting rights** of the **men's World boxing championship 2021** to **Serbia**.
- Indian middle-distance runner, **Jhuma Khatun** was banned for 4 years for using banned substances by the **Athletics Integrity Unit** (AIU) for the doping case from 2018.
- **Pakistan Cricket Board** has **banned** Pakistan batsman **Umar Akmal** from all forms of cricket for a period of three years. He has been charged with two breaches of anti-corruption codes of Pakistan Cricket Board.
- Former **Pakistan women's** skipper **Sana Mir** announced her **retirement** from **international cricket**.

Summits And Conferences

- The **United Nation's COP26 climate change conference** set to take place in **Glasgow** in November has been postponed till next year due to COVID-19.
- **Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** will chair the **Extraordinary Virtual G20 leaders' Summit** to deliberate on strategies to combat the coronavirus pandemic.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** represented India in the **virtual session** of the **2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** meeting held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia to discuss the global economic outlook amid advancing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

- The **44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO** has been **postponed** due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was scheduled to be held in Fuzhou of eastern **China's Fujian Province.**
- The **Indian High Commission in United Kingdom** has organised a virtual roundtable COVID-19 meet for businesses **"Covid-19: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward"**.
- The **National Conference on Kharif crops 2020** was held through video conference.
- The **G-20 Extraordinary Agriculture Ministers Meeting** was held through Video Conferencing. The meeting was held on the issue of COVID-19 as well as its impact on **food security, safety and nutrition.** Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** participated in the Extraordinary virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture Ministers organised under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.
- The **5th Annual Meeting** of **Board of Governors** of **New Development Bank** was held through video-conference. Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** represented India in the Annual Meeting.
- Indian High Commission in **Bangladesh,** and **India Bangladesh** Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) has jointly organized a webinar on trade promotion.
- The **11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue** hosted by Germany and co-chaired by the **United Kingdom.**

Awards & Recognition

- Chief Minister of Odisha**, Naveen Patnaik** has been conferred **with 'Hero to Animals Award'** by animal rights body **PETA India** for allocating funds to feed community animals in Odisha during the lockdown over the novel coronavirus pandemic.
- **Adam Higginbotham's** book **"Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster"** wins the William E. Colby Award.
- **Ram Prasad Kadel** of **Nepal** has been selected for the **Nikkei Asia Prize 2020** in the category of **Culture** and **Community**.
- **Anthony Tan** (Malaysia) & **Tan Hooi Ling** (Malaysia) has been selected for the **Nikkei Asia Prize 2020** in the category of **Economic** and **Business Innovation**.

Important Days

- **World Autism Awareness Day** was observed globally on 2 April with the theme '**The Transition to Adulthood**'.

- **International Transgender Day of Visibility** is being observed globally on **31st March** every year to celebrate transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

- **International Mine Awareness Day** observed globally on **4 April** every year to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.

- **National Maritime Day** in India is observed on **5 April** every year. This year is **57th edition of the National Maritime Day.**

- The **United Nations** declares **April 5** as **International Day of Conscience.** This day serves to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things. April 5, 2020, will mark the first International Day of Conscience, which is a United Nations day.

- The **United Nations** celebrates **6th of April every year** as the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.**

- The **World Health Day** is a **global health awareness day celebrated on 7 April every year.** The Theme of World Health Day 2020**: Support Nurses And Midwives.**

- International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda observed globally on 7 April every year.

- **World Homoeopathy Day** observed globally on **10 April every year** to mark the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr Samuel Hahnemann. The theme of 2020 is **"Linking research with education and clinical practice: Advancing scientific collaborations".**

- **National Safe Motherhood Day** is observed on **April 11 every year.** At the request of WRAI, an alliance of 1800 organizations, in 2003, the Government of India declared April 11th, the anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi's birth, as National Safe Motherhood Day.

- **World Hemophilia Day** is observed globally on **17 April** every year to raise awareness for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. The **theme** of World Haemophilia Day 2020: **"Get + Involved".**

- **World Art Day** is celebrated globally on **15 April** every year to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art.

- **World Chagas Disease Day** observed globally on **14 April** to increase awareness of Chagas disease and to marked as a day to spread awareness about this "silent and silenced disease". It was celebrated for the 1st time.

- The **International Day of Human Space Flight 2020** observed globally on **April 12** every year.

- **World Heritage Day 2020** observed globally on **18 April** every year to preserve the human heritage and to recognise all the efforts of relevant organizations. The **theme** of World Heritage Day 2020 is **"Shared Culture', 'Shared heritage' and 'Shared responsibility".**

- India celebrates **National Panchayati Raj Day** on **24 April every year.**

- **UN Chinese Language Day** is observed globally on **April 20** every year. The day has been chosen to pay tribute to **Cangjie,** who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about **5,000 years ago.**

- **World Liver day** is observed on **19 April** every yea to spread awareness about the liver-related disease.

- **World Creativity and Innovation Day** is observed globally **on 21 April every year.**

- The **Government of India** celebrates **Civil Services Day** on 21st April every year. **Civil Services Day** is celebrated on this day to commemorate the address of the first Home Minister of Independent India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** to the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.

- **Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day** is observed globally on **22 April every year.** The theme of Earth Day 2020: **Climate Action.**

- **World Book and Copyright Day** is observed globally on **23 April** every year. World Book Capital for 2020: **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** The slogan for 2020**- "KL Baca – caring through reading"**

- **English Language Day** is observed globally on **23 April** every year. The Day marks the birthday and date of death of famed writer **William Shakespeare.**

- **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** observed globally **on 24 April.**

- **World Malaria Day** is observed globally on **25 April** every year to spread awareness among people globally to fight against malaria. The theme of World Malaria Day 2020 is **"Zero malaria starts with me."**

- **International Delegate's Day** observed globally on **25 April** every year to raise awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations. This year is **the 75th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference.**

- India celebrates **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** on **30th April** to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database.

- **International Jazz Day** is observed globally on **30 April** every year to create awareness around the world of the virtues of jazz as a force of peace, unity, dialogue, and enhanced cooperation among people, and an educational tool.

- **International Dance Day** is observed globally on **29 April** every year.

- **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is observed globally on **28 April** every year to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally and raise awareness to ensure health and safety at the workplace.

- **World Immunization Week 2020** will be observed from **24th April to 30th April 2020.** It is observed every year in the last week of April to encourage the use of vaccines in order to protect the people of all ages against disease. The **theme** of World Immunization Week 2020 is **#VaccinesWork for All**.

- **World Intellectual Property Day** is observed globally on **April 26** every year. The **theme** of day is **"Innovate for a Green Future"**.

- **International Workers' Memorial Day** is observed globally on **28 April** every year. The **theme** for International Workers' Memorial Day 2020: **Coronavirus**.

Defence Current Affairs

- Indian Navy's **Naval Dockyard** in Mumbai has designed and developed its own **handheld infrared-based temperature sensor gun** for the **screening** of personnel in a bid to limit the spread of COVID-19.

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has launched **'Operation Sanjeevani'** and air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to the Maldives via transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the COVID 19.

- **United States** has approved the sale of **Harpoon air-launched anti-ship missiles** and **Mark 54 lightweight torpedoes** to **India** to enhance India's deterrent capabilities against "**regional threats"** and also to strengthen its homeland defence.

- Indian Navy's **Naval Aircraft Yard (Kochi)** has formed **"Air Evacuation Pod (AEP)"** for the safe evacuation of COVID-19 patients from remote areas. The pod is made up of aluminium, nitrile rubber and perspex.

- **Central Industrial Security Force** has launched an e-office application named **'e-karyalay'** to enable the movement of files and documents of CISF without physical touch. This has been done to prevent coronavirus infection due to frequent touching of files by many persons.

- **Australia** has cancelled **"Pitch Black 2020"** premier multilateral air combat training exercise between India and Australia.

Science and Technology

- **Bio suit** named as "**Personal Protective Equipment"** has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) to keep the medical, paramedical and other personnel engaged in combating COVID-19 safe from the deadly virus.

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) has selected mission **"Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE)"** to look into how the Sun generates and releases **solar particle storms** into **planetary space**.

- Amidst the rising cases of COVID-19 in India, **IIT Kanpur** has started developing **portable ventilators** which will be significantly cheaper than the ones available in the market.

- A team of Indian **IIT Guwahati** has developed a **drone** with "**automated sprayer**" to **sanitise large areas** such as roads, parks and footpaths in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **Genrich Membranes** has developed **a 'Membrane Oxygenator Equipment'** for the treatment of **COVID-19 patients.** The device has been developed to treat breathlessness which is one of the critical symptoms of COVID-19. The device is based on innovative & indigenous hollow-fiber membrane technology and can enrich oxygen in the air up to 35%.

- **NASA unveils plan** to setup **Artemis**, the first human base camp on **Moon's south pole by 2024.** NASA is working on the Artemis program that aims to land humans on **the moon by 2024.**

- **Google** has announced the launch of a virtual Braille keyboard for **Android users** with low vision or blindness. This new keyboard will enable these people to type on their phones without additional hardware.

- The scientists of **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)** have designed and developed an highly efficient super absorbent material titled **"Chitra Acrylosorb Secretion Solidification System".**

- **DRDO** has rolled out new products namely "**Automatic Mist Based Sanitiser Dispensing Unit**" and "**UV Sanitisation Box** and **Hand-held UV device**" to enable COVID-19 disinfection process.

- A compact and portable **solid-state sensor** has been developed by the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (**CeNS**) to **detect** the **heavy metal ions in water.**

- **Department of Science and Technology**, Government of India, has rolled out an Integrated Geospatial Platform known as "**SAHYOG**" to help in **decision making** during the present **COVID-19** outbreak and support with area-specific strategies in order to handle the socio-economic impact in the recovery phase.

- "**COVSACK**" is a kiosk developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** to make the process of collecting COVID-19 samples free of infection spread and to help in combatting the COVID-19.

- **IIT-Bombay** has developed a digital stethoscope called "**AyuSynk**" to check patients who are infected with **COVID-19**.

- **Google** and **Apple** collaborates to fight against **COVID-19** via contact tracing technology, enabling the use of Bluetooth technology to help governments and health agencies reduce the spread of the Corona Virus.

- **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories** has developed **Personal Protective Coverall Suit** in association with **MAF Clothing Pvt. Ltd.**, Bengaluru. The polyproplylene spun laminated multi-layered non-woven fabric based suit has been developed for the front line health workers in order to fight aginst COVID-19.

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** (Punjab) has developed & designed a '**WardBot**' to deliver medicines and food to COVID-19 patients in isolation wards without human intervention.

- For the rapid detection of pathogens, a device named "**bug sniffer**" has been developed by the researchers at **the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune.**

- A low-cost **electro-catalyst** has been developed with "**Fish gills**" by the scientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology.

- **IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh** has developed a **high-speed magnetic Random Access Memory (RAM) which** is faster, energy-efficient and stores more data in a smaller volume as compared to existing data storage technologies.

- Scientists from International **Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials** (ARCI) has developed an advanced **tool "NanoBlitz 3D"** in collaboration with Nanomechanics Inc., USA. **NanoBlitz 3D** can be used for the mapping of nano-mechanical properties of materials such as multi-phase alloys, composites, and multi-layered coatings.

- **Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh** has launched India's 1st COVID-19 sample collection mobile Lab through video conference. India's 1st COVID-19 sample collection mobile Lab has been named as **"Mobile BSL-3 VRDL Lab".**

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** has announced that they will launch astronauts **Bob Behnken** and **Doug Hurley** to International Space Station (ISS) on May 27, 2020. A SpaceX rocket will carry two astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) in **Crew Dragon spacecraft.**

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** has developed a high-pressure ventilator called **VITAL (Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally) to treat COVID-19 patients.**

- **Scientists** from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research has developed "**Berberine**" based **Alzheimer inhibitor**. Scientists modified berberine to **"Ber-D"** which is a soluble (aqueous) and acts as antioxidant.

- A low-cost robotic device named as **"Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device** (H-CARD)**"** has been developed by **CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute**. It will be used in the collection of samples of people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, and will also be useful in treating COVID-19 patients.

- **Scientists** who have been observing the ozone hole at **Copernicus' Atmospheric Monitoring Service** has announced that the **Ozone layer hole** is now **closed** in the North Pole.

- A low-cost mechanical **ventilator** "**Ruhdaar**" has been developed by team of engineering students from IIT Bombay, NIT Srinagar and Islamic University of Science & Technology, Jammu and Kashmir.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) **Hubble Space Telescope**, has completed **30th year** in orbit on 25 April 2020.
- **Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Kerala** has developed an AI Semantic search engine called '**Vilokana'** to enable researchers to get deeper insights into scientific studies, especially when they need to find an early solution to the COVID-19 crisis.

Books & Authors

- **The Pulitzer Prize-winning American** reporter for The Washington Post, **Mary Jordan** has written a book titled '**The Art of Her Deal: The Untold Story of Melania Trump'.** It is published by Simon & Schuster and is to be released on June 16, 2020.
- Sports journalist, **V. Krishnaswamy has** authored a book titled **"Shuttling to the Top: The Story of P.V. Sindhu"**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- **All India Council for Technical Education** has launched "**MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal"** to address the issues faced by **students** due to closure of colleges and hostels amid national lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- Online Hackathon "**Hack the Crisis-India"** has been launched to find the working solutions to **overcome the COVID 19 pandemic**.
- **IBM** has introduced an Artificial Intelligence platform '**Watson Assistant for Citizens'** in India free of cost to address **COVID-19 queries**.
- **Guinness World Records** has officially confirmed **Bob Weighton**, from the United Kingdom, as the oldest person living (male) at 112 Years and 1 day as of 30 March 2020.
- **PhonePe** has partnered with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** to launch a unique coronavirus hospitalisation insurance policy called "**Corona Care**".
- **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has launched a dedicated Twitter handle for **authentic COVID-19 updates**. The account is named as **#IndiaFightsCorona** and it uses the handle **@CovidnewsbyMIB**.
- Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** has launched a **5T plan** to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in the national capital. According to the Delhi governemt, the 5T plan consists of 5 pillars namely: **testing, tracing, treatment, teamwork and tracking.**

- 4-year-old female Malayan tiger **"Nadia"** has tested positive for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the **Bronx Zoo, New York.** The test result was confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa, US.
- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has launched a campaign titled **'Bharat Padhe Online'** for Crowd Sourcing of Ideas in order to improve the online education ecosystem of India.
- **Google** has launched **'Nearby Spot'** under "**Google Pay**" to assist users to find local stores selling essentials like groceries that are open, amid the lockdown.
- **Atal Innovation Mission,** NITI Aayog and National Informatics Centre have jointly launched **Collaborative CAD Software** (**CollabCAD**) to provide a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product design.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** has developed a **double layered Khadi** mask in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- **Rs.10 lakhs Compensation** has been decided for all **Postal employees** including **Gramin Dak Sevaks** succumbing to the disease while brought on duty.
- **Delhi Government** has launched **'Assess Koro Na'** mobile application and has also advised the officials to use the new 'Assess Koro Na' app to do **door-to-door survey** in COVID-19 containment zones.
- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched a mobile application "**Kisan Rath"** to **facilitate transportation** of foodgrains and perishables during lockdown.
- The **Pusa Decontamination and Sanitizing Tunnel** has been inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Framers' Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary.
- **Kerala** has become the **1st state** of India to start **clinical trial of plasma therapy** for COVID-19 treatment.
- An initiative "**CovidGyan**" has been launched by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Indian Institute of Science, and Tata Memorial Centre. It will bring the **scientific and factual aspects of COVID-19 pandemic** outbreak on to **public domain.**
- India's Public service broadcaster **Prasar Bharti** has rolled out a new channel called **DD Retro**, specifically dedicated to old classics of Doordarshan.
- **Board of Control for Cricket in India** has created a video to promote wearing masks in public places and help the country to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The **'Team Mask Force'** has shot a video message featuring various cricketers, all of them speaking about the importance of wearing masks.

- **Facebook** has partnered with an Indian fact checking website "Boom" to launch a third party fact checking system in **Bangladesh.**
- **"Covid FYI"** is a one-stop digital directory containing information of all COVID-19 related services and helplines released by official sources. It has been made by an international team of 16 members led by **Simran Soni,** a student of IIM Kozhikode.
- **Pune Municipal Corporation** has developed a mobile application named **"Saiyam"** to effectively track the home-quarantine citizens and to ensure they stay in the home.
- In the wake of growing demand for sanitizers amid COVID-19 outbreak, the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has created an alcohol-based herbal sanitizer.
- Union Human Resource Development Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched a campaign **"#MyBookMyFriend"** on social media on the occasion of World Book Day.
- **National Book Trust, India** and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** has organized a WEBINAR on Post-COVID Publishing Scenario in New Delhi on the occasion of WORLD BOOK & COPYRIGHT DAY and featured the participation of Union Minister of HRD Shri **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.**
- **IIT Delhi** team has developed a web-based COVID-19 dashboard **"PRACRITI** (PRediction and Assessment of CoRona Infections and Transmission in India)" that gives detailed state-wise and district-wise predictions of COVID-19 cases in India.
- **Maruti Suzuki** has developed **low-cost ventilators** for helping the government in the fight against COVID-19.

Obituaries

- **Tony Lewis**, one of the men behind the **Duckworth-Lewis-Stern** (DLS) method passed away.
- Emmy award-winning **singer-songwriter Adam Schlesinger** passed away due to COVID-19.
- Padma Shri awardee and former '**Hazuri Raagi'** at the **Golden Temple, Bhai Nirmal Singh** passed away after testing positive for COVID-19.
- **Physicist Philip Warren Anderson** who received **Nobel Prize** in **Physics** for contribution in fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems, passed away.
- **Spanish** Princess **Maria Teresa** has become the first royal to pass away due to COVID-19.
- The legendary **historian** and **educationist**, Professor **Arjun Dev** passed away.
- World renowned **virologist** from **South Africa**, **Gita Ramjee** passed away after contracting the novel coronavirus.
- American songwriter, soulful singer, guitarist & 3 time Grammy award winner **Bill Withers** passed away.
- Former New Zealand wicket-keeper **batsman Jock Edwards** passed away.
- Former Libya Prime Minister **Mahmoud Jibril** passed away due to COVID-19.
- Veteran Malayalam Music composer, **MK Arjunan** passed away.
- Veteran American actor **Forrest Compton** passed away due to COVID-19 complications.
- Malayalam film and theatre actor **Kalinga Sas**i passed away. His real name was V Chandrakumar.
- Kannada actor **"Bullet" Prakash** passed away. He was known for his comic roles and performances in films like Aithalakkadi and Aryan.
- James Bond film **actress Honor Blackman** has passed away.
- Indian-American journalist, **Brahm Kanchibotla**, passed away due to coronavirus. He was a former contributor to the United News of India news agency and was working as New York and UN correspondent of the United News of India.
- Former Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid coach **Radomir Antic** passed away.
- Former Madhya Pradesh minister **Hazarilal Raghuwanshi** passed away.
- American folk singer **John Prine** has passed away due to the COVID-19 complications.
- Renowned Hindustani classical singer and Padma Shri awardee **Shanti Hiranand Chawla** passed away.
- The former Zimbabwean cricketer **Jackie du Preez** passed away. The leg-spinner played for South Africa in Zimbabwe's pre-independence days.
- Film, television and theatre actor **Ranjit Chowdhry**, who was best known for his work in movies Baton Baton Mein, Mississippi Masala, Khubsoorat and Bollywood/Hollywood, has passed away.
- Former American football player **Willie Davis** who was inducted into the National Football League's (NFL) Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1981, has passed away.
- Freedom fighter **R V Bhuskute,** who had participated in the Quit India Movement, has passed away.
- Former Switzerland's Ice hockey player **Roger Chappot** passed away due to Coronavirus.
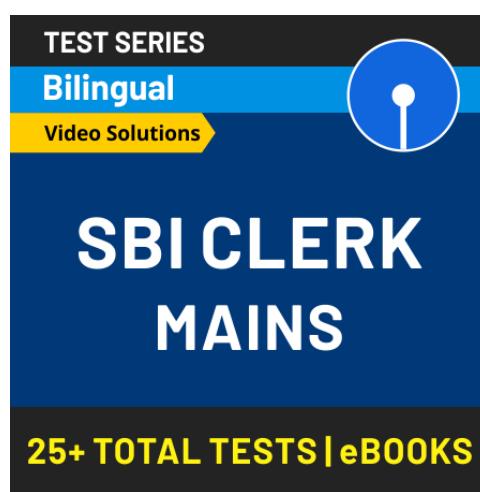
- Former pro golfer **Doug Sanders** who was also known as the "peacock of the fairways", passed away.
- Father of modern Iraqi architecture **Rifat Chadirji** passed away due to COVID-19.
- Former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader **M.V. Rajashekaran** passed away.
- India's former Attorney General and senior advocate **Ashok Desai** passed away. He was Attorney General from July 1996 to May 1998.
- British Comedian **Tim Brooke-Taylor,** who was popular as one third of the famous 1970s show The Goodies, and I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue, has passed away due to novel coronavirus.
- The legendary motor-racing driver, **Sir Stirling Moss** has passed away.
- Former England and Chelsea goalkeeper **Peter Bonetti** passed away.
- Oscar-winning animator, film director and producer, **Gene Deitch** passed away.
- BMW Group President and CEO **Rudratej Singh** has passed away.
- Former Fiji Prime Minister **Laisenia Qarase** has passed away. He served as the sixth Prime Minister of Fiji from 2000 to 2006.
- Eminent theatre director, actor and activist, **Usha Ganguly** passed away.
- Former Rajya Sabha member from Odisha **Basanta Das** passed away.
- National Film Award winning Bollywood actor **Rishi Kapoor** has passed away.
- Padma Shri award winning Bollywood actor **Irrfan Khan** passed away.
- Grammy-nominated gospel singer **Troy Sneed** has passed away due to the novel coronavirus.
- Former Liverpool striker, **Michael Robinson** passed away. He has featured in more than 300 official matches in England for five clubs, including Liverpool.
- Noted Odia Dramatist & playwriters **Bijay Mishra** passed away.
- Ex-NASA Administrator **James M. Beggs** passed away. He was the sixth administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Veteran politician and former Governors of Bihar, Tripura, and West Bengal, **Devanand Konwar** passed away.
- Veteran sports photojournalist **Ronojoy 'Ronny' Roy** passed away.

Static Takeaways

- Chairman of National Book Trust, India: Govind Prasad Sharma.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Ashwini Kumar Choubey.
- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Harsh Vardhan.
- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Mahendra Nath Pandey.
- DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy; Established: 1958; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism: Prahalad Singh Patel.
- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Jairam Gadkari.
- Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions: Jitendra Singh.
- Director-General of NCC: Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra; Headquarters of NCC: New Delhi.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh: Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy; Governor: Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa; Headquarters: Manila, Philippines.
- Managing Director of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva.
- President of World Bank: David Robert Malpass; Headquarter: Washington DC.
- Chairman of Sundaram Home Finance: T.T. Srinivasaraghavan.
- Union Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretary-General: Patricia Espinosa.
- CEO & Co-founder of Bharatpe: Ashneer Grover.
- MD of ICICI Lombard: Bhargav Dasgupta.
- MD & CEO of ICICI Securities: Vijay Chandok.
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor: R. N. Ravi.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.
- Governor of Jharkhand: Droupadi Murmu.
- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh: Jai Ram Thakur; Governor: Bandaru Dattatraya.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: B. S. Yediyurappa; Governor: Vajubhai Vala.

- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.
- Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath.
- Chief Minister of Punjab: Captain Amarinder Singh; Governor: VP Singh Badnore.
- Apple Inc. CEO: Tim Cook; Headquarters of Apple Inc: California, USA.
- Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): Jim Bridenstine; Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Harsh Vardhan.
- CEO of Phonepe: Sameer Nigam; Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Prakash Javadekar.
- Chairman of AICTE: Anil Sahasrabudhe.
- Union Minister of Human Resource Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
- Chief Executive Officer of UBER: Dara Khosrowshahi.
- Executive Director of UNICEF: Henrietta H. Fore.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri.
- UNICEF Formation: 1946; Headquarters: New York City, U.S.
- President of UNICEF: H.E. Ms Rabab Fatima.
- Chief Minister of Telangana: K Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan.
- CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel.
- Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey.
- Founder and CEO of Vera Healthcare: Dharma Teja Nukarapu.
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu; Governor: B.D. Mishra .
- SAARC 8 members states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Headquarters of SAARC: Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Secretary-General of SAARC: Esala Ruwan Weerakoon.
- Headquarters of USAID: Washington, D.C., United States.
- USAID Administrator: Mark Green.
- Headquarters of L&T Technology Services (LTTS): Vadodara, Gujarat.
- CEO of L&T Technology Services (LTTS): Dr Keshab Panda.
- MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: Anubrata Biswas.
- MD and CEO of Bharti AXA General Insurance: Sanjeev Srinivasan.
- Chairman of Britannia Industries: Nusli N Wadia.
- Managing Director of Britannia Industries: Varun Berry.
- Chairman & Managing Director of SIDBI: Mohammad Mustafa.
- Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi; Headquarter: Mumbai.
- NASSCOM Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NASSCOM Founded: 1 March 1988.
- Capital of Thailand: Bangkok; Currency: Thai baht.
- Prime Minister of Thailand: Prayut Chan-o-cha.
- Capital of Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur; Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.
- Prime Minister of Malaysia: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.
- President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Founded: 21 May 1904.
- According to the International Maritime Organization, "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet" has been selected as the World Maritime theme for 2020.
- The Federation of World Peace and Love (FOWPAL), an international peace organization, was established by Dr Hong, Tao-Tze in the United States in 2000.
- President of the World Health Organisation: Tedros Adhanom Trending.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- WHO founded: 7 April 1948.
- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946.
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Director-General: Audrey Azoulay.
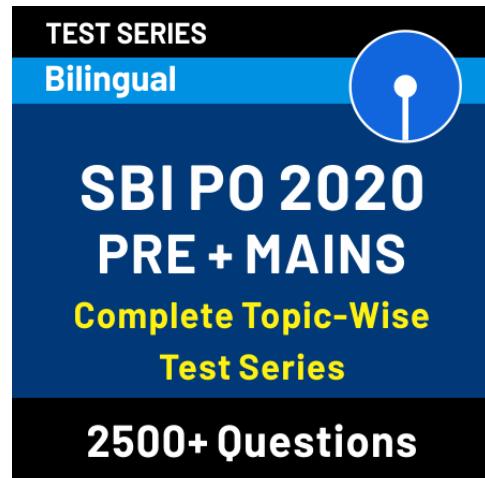
- Managing Director of PNB Housing Finance: Sanjaya Gupta.
- Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH): Shripad Yesso Naik.
- 24th October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.
- Headquarters of Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL): Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) founded: 1982.
- Chairman of Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL): Dilip Rath.
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai; Headquarters: California, United States.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- The tagline of Jana Small Finance Bank: 'Paise Ki Kadar'.
- MD and CEO of Jana Small Finance Bank: Ajay Kanwal.
- Headquarters of ICICI Lombard: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- MD & CEO of ICICI Lombard: Bhargav Dasgupta.
- Digit general insurance Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- President of FIFA Gianni Infantino.
- Headquarters of Bharat Biotech: Hyderabad,Telangana.
- Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Biotech: Krishna M Ella.
- Headquarters of Banks Board Bureau: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- In February 2016, the government formed the Banks Board Bureau and was given the responsibility of deciding candidates for the top positions in public sector banks and financial institutions.
- Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC): V.K. Saxena.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Girish Chandra Murmu.
- Chairperson of NITI Ayog: Narendra Modi.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Ayog: Amitabh Kant.
- Vice Chairperson of NITI Ayog: Rajiv Kumar.
- Headquarters of NITI Ayog: New Delhi.
- Director-General of National Informatics Centre: Neeta Verma; Headquarters of NIC: New Delhi.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment: Santosh Kumar Gangwar.
- MD & CEO of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL): M V Gowtama.
- Union Minister of Home Affairs: Amit Shah.
- Manipur Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh.
- Governor of Manipur: Najma Heptulla.
- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren.
- Capital of Goa: Panaji
- Chief Minister of Goa: Pramod Sawant
- Karnataka Bank Limited Headquarters: Mangalore, Karnataka.
- Karnataka Bank Limited Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India.
- Vice chairman and CEO of HDFC: Keki M Mistry.
- Managing Director of HDFC: Renu Sud Karnad.
- Governor of People's Bank of China: Yi Gang.
- Chairperson of State Bank of India: Rajnish Kumar; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Union Bank of India MD & CEO: Rajkiran Rai G.
- Care Rating Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- MD & CEO of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd: Satish Kumar Gupta.
- Paytm founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
- Director of World Wide Fund: Marco Lambertini.
- CEO of TATA Power: Praveer Sinha.
- President of China: Xi Jinping; Capital: Beijing; Currency: Chinese Yuan.
- Director General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay.
- President of Boxing Federation of Indian: Ajay Singh.
- Capital of France: Paris.
- The currency of France: Euro, CFP Franc.
- BCCI President: Sourav Ganguly; Headquarter of BCCI: Mumbai.
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization Headquarters: Vienna, Austria; Director General: LI Yong.
- MD & CEO, Tata AIA Life Insurance: Rishi Srivastava.
- Headquarters of World Federation of Hemophilia: Montreal, Canada.
- CEO of Prasar Bharati: Shashi S. Vempati.
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan.
- Capital of Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram.
- Director of IIIT-Delhi: Ranjan Bose
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu; Governor: B.D. Mishra.

- Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani; Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Dev Vrat.
- Gir Forest National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Sasan Gir, is a forest and wildlife sanctuary near Talala Gir in Gujarat, India.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada river near Navagam, Gujarat.
- Director General Border Roads (DGBR): Lt Gen Harpal Singh.
- Prime Minister of Lebanon: Hassan Diab.
- Capital of Lebanon: Beirut; Currency: Lebanese pound.
- Managing Director & CEO of ICICI Bank: Sandeep Bakhshi.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Managing Director of HDFC Bank: Aditya Puri.
- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde took oath as the 47th Chief Justice of India.
- Supreme Court established: 28th January 1950.
- City Union Bank Founded: 31 October 1904.
- City Union Bank Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.
- City Union Bank Chairman: R. Mohan.
- International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association Founded: 1947.
- International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- The members of the G20 group are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, ?Republic o?f Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union (EU).
- President of New Development Bank: K V Kamath.
- Headquarters of Badminton World Federation: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Badminton World Federation Founded: 5 July 1934.
- President of Badminton World Federation: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen.
- Prime Minister of Fiji: Frank Bainimarama.
- Capital of Fiji: Suva; Currency: Fijian dollar.
- Director of National Botanical Research Institute: Dr. S.K. Barik.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, Director: Sarit Kumar Das.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar Founded: 2008.
- Director of International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI): G. Padmanabham.
- Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research: Shekhar C. Mande.
- Director of Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology: Anurag Agrawal.
- Lt. Governors of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Union Minister of Panchayati Raj: Narendra Singh Tomar.
- International World Games Association Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International World Games Association President: Jose PerurenaLopez.
- International World Games Association Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Joachim Gossow.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- Director-General of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes: Ghada Fathi Waly.
- Iran Capital: Tehran; Currency of Iran: Rial; President of Iran: Hassan Rouhani.
- Director-General of CISF: Rajesh Ranjan; CISF established: 1969.
- Keibul Lamjao National Park is a beautiful place, located in the Bishnupur district of the state of Manipur. The only floating park in the world, located in North East India, and an integral part of Loktak Lake.
- Bandhan Bank Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Bandhan Bank MD & CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh.
- Bandhan Bank Tagline: Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai.
- Central Vigilance Commission formed: February 1964.
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan: Imran Khan.
- President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Capital of Pakistan: Islamabad.
- President of World Anti-Doping Agency: Witold Banka.
- World Anti-Doping Agency Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.
- President of International Boxing Association (AIBA): Dr Mohamed Moustahsane; Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Chairman of ICC: Shashank Manohar; Chief Executive: Manu Sahney; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- CEO of the Common Service Centre (CSC): Dinesh Tyagi.
- Chairman & MD National Thermal Power Corporation: Gurdeep Singh.
- Chairman of Maruti Suzuki: R.C. Bhargava.
- Managing Director & CEO of Maruti Suzuki: Kenichi Ayukawa.
- Capital of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh; Currency: Saudi riyal.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment: Santosh Kumar Gangwar.
- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank: Karnam Sekar.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank chairman: P Gopi Krishna.
- Qatar Capital: Doha; Currency: Qatari riyal.
- Prime Minister of Qatar: Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani.
- King of Bahrain: Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa;
- Capital of Bahrain: Manama; Currency of Bahrain: Bahraini Dinar.
- Director of Public Enterprises Selection Board: Kailash Dan Ratnoo.
- Chairman of USA cricket: Paraag Marathe.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of USA cricket: Iain Higgins.
- Secretary of Public Enterprises Selection Board: Kimbuong Kipgen.
- Prime Minister of Japan: Shinzo Abe.
- Capital of Japan: Tokyo; Currency of Japan: yen.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Babul Supriyo.
- The members of the G20 group are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union (EU).
- Chief Executive Officer of Transcorp International Ltd: Amitava Ghosh.
- MD & CEO (India and South Asia) of Bharti Airtel: Gopal Vittal.
- President and Chief Executive Officer of Nokia: Rajeev Suri.
- Headquarters of Axis Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry.
- The tagline of Axis Bank: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi.
- Max Life Insurance Company Headquarters: New Delhi.

- MD & CEO of Max Life Insurance Company: Prashant Tripathy.
- Capital of Australia: Canberra.
- Prime Minister of Australia: Scott John Morrison.
- The currency of Australia: Australian Dollar.
- Capital of Assam: Dispur; CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Lal Ji Tandon.
- Madhya Pradesh (CM): Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Lalji Tandon.
- Capital of Madhya Pradesh: Bhopal.
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.
- Headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- CEO of World Intellectual Property Organization: Francis Gurry.
- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.
- President of International Labour Organization: Guy Ryder.
- International Labour Organization Founded: 1919.
- Headquarters of International Theatre Institute: Paris, France.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH): Shripad Yesso Naik.
- Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Parshottam Rupala.
- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda.
- Minister of State for Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta.