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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of May 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मई माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इसPDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

401. Appointments & Resignations

Members of the 73rd World Health Assembly have elected Bahamian Keva Bain as the body's president. Ms Bain is the Bahamas' permanent representative to the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Keva Bain (Bahamas) – appointed as the President of – 73rd World Health Assembly
- Bahamas – Nassau – Bahamian dollar

402. Acquisitions & Mergers

Tata Power's arm Tata Power International Pte Ltd (TPIPL) has acquired 10% stake in Adjaristsqali Netherlands BV from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for USD 150,000 (about Rs 1.13 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power – acquired 10% stake – in Adjaristsqali Netherlands BV – for USD 150,000
- HQ of Tata Power – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran
- HQs of ABV – Amsterdam, Netherlands | Chairman – Kyrre Olaf Johansen

403. Appointments & Resignations

Delhi High Court judge, Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal has tendered her resignation from the post following her appointment as President of the Delhi State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sangita Dhingra Sehgal – appointment as President – Delhi State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission
- Delhi: CM - Arvind Kejriwal | Governor - Anil Baijal

404. Banking & Economic Affairs

Franklin Templeton Trustee Services has appointed Kotak Mahindra Bank to work together with Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) to assist the trustees in monetising portfolios of the six schemes that are being wound up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Franklin Templeton – appointed – Kotak Mahindra Bank
- To assist the trustees in monetising portfolios of the 6 schemes
- HQs of Franklin Templeton Investments – California, USA
- Executive Chairman – Gregory E. Johnson | President (India) – Sanjay Sapre

405. National & States Affairs

The Jammu & Kashmir government notified Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020, which specify the conditions and the process to obtain the documents required for applying to jobs and avail other privileges restricted to residents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – notified – Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules-2020
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

406. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Bangladesh and India have signed a long standing and time-tested Protocol on Transit and Trade through inland waterways of both countries. This Protocol was first signed in 1972 and It was last renewed in 2015 for five years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Bangladesh = time-tested Protocol on Transit and Trade through inland waterways
- Firstly signed in – 1972
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

407. Current GK

Elephants are facing threat of extinction in Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve. The Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve of which Saleki is a part, is the largest rainforest in India. It stretches for 575 square kilometres across Tinsukia, Dibrugarh and Sivasagar districts in Upper Assam. This virgin forestland is also referred to as the 'Amazon of the East'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve (Amazon of the East) – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

408. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Bharti Airtel's Africa arm has teamed up with UNICEF to provide children with access to remote learning and cash assistance for their families via mobile cash transfers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + UNICEF = e-learning support to students
- UNICEF HQs – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of Airtel Africa – Nairobi, Kenya | CEO & MD – Raghunath Mandava



409. Current GK

Domestic rating agency ICRA Ltd warned of a deep recession as it drastically lowered the FY21 growth forecast for India to minus 5%, citing the very modest fiscal support, extension of the nationwide lockdown and looming labour shortage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICRA Ltd – GDP prediction – minus 5%
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana

410. Banking & Economic Affairs

Canara Bank has launched a special business vertical dedicated for gold loans, keeping in mind the challenges faced by its customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A gold loan campaign will be held till June 30 this year with a 7.85 per cent interest rate per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank – launched – a Special Business Vertical dedicated for Gold Loans
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

411. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Chinese smartphone maker OPPO announced a partnership with telecom major Vodafone to boost 5G adoption in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OPPO + Vodafone = to boost 5G adoption in the world
- HQs of – Guangdong, China | Founder & CEO – Chen Mingyong
- HQs of Vodafone – Berkshire, UK | CEO – Nick Read

412. Important Days & Dates

The World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20 every year. 20th May coincides with the birthday of Anton Jansa, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 – The World Bee Day
- The birth anniversary of – Anton Jansa (pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in 18th century)

413. Schemes & Initiatives

Union Finance Minister Smt.Nirmala Sitharaman announced that “Manodarpan” initiative would be launched for the psychological well being of students, family members and teachers during the time of covid 19 pandemic. Manodarpan initiative provides psychological counselling through website & toll free helpline. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Manodarpan” initiative – for the psychological well being of students, family members and teachers
- Announced by Nirmala Sitharaman (FM Minister – Karnataka)

414. Obituaries

Veteran Marathi writer and playwright Ratnakar Matkari passed away at the age of 81. He was considered as a pioneer of the children's drama movement in Marathi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ratnakar Matkari – passed away – Marathi writer and playwright

415. Important Days & Dates

The World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20 every year. 20th May coincides with the birthday of Anton Jansa, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention. The theme of this year was “Bee Engaged”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 – The World Bee Day
- The birth anniversary of – Anton Jansa (pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in 18th century)
- Theme – “Bee Engaged”

416. National & States Affairs

India Post, Mumbai, paid a tribute to migrant workers by releasing a Special Postal Cover dedicated to them. The official release of the postal cover took place at the Mumbai General Post Office (GPO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai General Post Office – release of Special Postal Cover – a tribute to “Migrant Workers”
- GPO – General Post Office
- Indian Post: Director General – Mrs. Meera Handa | Secretary – Shri Ananta Narayan Nanda



417. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said that the export from the country is expected to fall by 20 per cent in the current fiscal in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per FIEO – Export to fall by – 20%
- HQs of FIEO – New Delhi | President – Sharad Kumar Saraf

418. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI), the apex body of the F&B industry, has partnered with fintech start-up DotPe to build its own tech platform that would enable them with online payments for digital ordering & bill settlements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DotPe + NRAI = to build its own tech platform
- HQs of DotPe – Gurgaon, Haryana | HQs of NRAI – New Delhi

419. Persons in News

The ICC Cricket Committee recommended changes to ICC regulations including prohibiting the use of saliva to shine the ball to mitigate the risks posed by coronavirus. The Committee is chaired by Anil Kumble. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The ICC Cricket Committee – recommended – ban on use of saliva to shine the ball
- The committee headed by – Anil Kumble
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Shashank Manohar | CEO – Manu Sawhney

420. National & States Affairs

Jharkhand government has come out with three-way retail sale of liquor in the state. Roping in e-commerce sites like Zomato and Swiggy for home delivery of liquor in urban areas and incorporating e-token system at 15 district headquarters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – 3-way retail sale of liquor in the state
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu



421. Obituaries

Iran's longtime OPEC governor, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, has died from a brain hemorrhage two weeks after falling into a coma. He was 68. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hossein Kazempour Ardebili – passed away – OPEC Governor of Iran
- HQs of OPEC – Vienna, Austria | Secretary general – Mohammed Barkindo
- Iran – Tehran – Rial

422. National & States Affairs

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said that the Government of India has launched scheme for 100% solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 100% solarisation of Konark sun temple – scheme launched by MoNRE (Raj Kumar Singh)
- Konark sun temple located in – Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

423. Banking & Economic Affairs

Kotak Mahindra Bank has introduced video-KYC facility for customers opening savings account on Kotak 811 - the bank's digital banking platform. This private lender is the first Indian bank to offer video based "zero-contact" onboarding service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – introduced – video-KYC facility
- HQs – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak

424. Persons in News

Lesotho's new Prime Minister, Moeketsi Majoro, was sworn, a day after his predecessor resigned over a murder case. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Moeketsi Majoro – sworn in – PM of Lesotho
- Thomas Thabane – resigned as the PM of Lesotho
- Lesotho – Maseru – Lesotho loti

425. International Affairs

Extremely severe cyclone Amphan made landfall between Digha, West Bengal, and Hatia island in Bangladesh leaving a trail of destruction and claiming two lives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cyclone Amphan - landfall between Digha (West Bengal) & Hatia island (Bangladesh)
- The name "Amphan" proposed by – Thailand
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha

426. National & States Affairs

Ladakh union territory has become COVID-19 free as nineteen more positive patients were discharged from a hospital in Leh district after being recovered from the disease. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh – became COVID-19 free
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

427. International Affairs

Pinanga andamanensis, an IUCN critically endangered species, a rare palm endemic to the South Andaman Island is finding a second home at Thiruvananthapuram-based Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Pinanga andamanensis" – Critically endangered species of "Palm" tree – South Andaman Island
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang

428. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, the National Hydrographer to the government of India, has been honoured with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography. The award was first presented in 2006 by the UK Ministry of Defence sponsored UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar – honoured with – Alexander Dalrymple Award-2019
- First presented in – 2006 – by UK Ministry of Defence

429. Appointments & Resignations

Govinda Rajulu Chintala has been appointed the chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Chintala, at present, is working as the chief general manager (CGM) of the bank. He will hold the post till his superannuation on July 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govinda Rajulu Chintala – appointed as the Chairman of – NABARD
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra

430. Current GK

American brokerage Goldman Sachs expects the Indian economy to contract by 5% in FY21, making it the worst performance by the country ever. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goldman Sachs – expected Indian economy to be contracted by 5% - in FY2021
- HQs of Goldman Sachs – New York, USA | CEO – David M. Solomon

431. National & States Affairs

Karnataka's centre of excellence in cyber security (CySecK) has launched an accelerator programme for cyber security start-ups. Branded as H.A.C.K, it is the State's first cybersecurity-specific accelerator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched an accelerator programme for cyber security start-ups
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B S Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

432. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech and Thomas Jefferson University of Philadelphia have signed an exclusive deal to develop a new vaccine candidate for Covid-19. The novel vaccine was developed using an existing deactivated rabies vaccine as a vehicle for coronavirus proteins. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharat Biotech + Thomas Jefferson University = to develop a new vaccine
- Bharat Biotech HQs – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella
- Thomas Jefferson University – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

433. National & States Affairs

Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval to Extension of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) up to 31st March, 2023 for further period of 3 years to enable old age income security for Senior Citizens. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) – extension – for further 3 years (till March, 2023)
- Union Cabinet is chaired by – PM Modi (Varanasi, UP)

434. Science & Technology

In order to help health workers in conducting a thermal screening of the people, 'Club First' has developed India's first service robots named as "Sona 1.5 and Sona .5" [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Club First – developed – robots named as "Sona 1.5 and Sona .5"
- HQs of Club First – Jaipur, Rajasthan

435. Important Days & Dates

The World Metrology Day is observed every year on 20 May, which commemorates anniversary of signing of Metre Convention in 1875. The theme for this year was "Measurements for global trade". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 20 – The World Metrology Day
- Theme – "Measurements for global trade"

436. Sports & Games

Just over two months after it was suspended, the German Bundesliga is set to resume, in turn becoming the first major team sports league in the Western world to do so during the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Bundesliga" football league – Germany – Is set to resume during the coronavirus pandemic
- Germany – Berlin – Euro

437. Amount & Agreements

India has given USD 2 million in aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees in support of its core programmes and services, including education and health. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USD 2 million aid – to UNRWA – by India – for the welfare of Palestinian refugees
- HQs of UNRWA – Amman, Jordan | Commissioner-General – Pierre Krahenbuhl
- Palestine – Ramallah & East Jerusalem – Israeli new shekel & Jordanian dinar

438. Schemes & Initiatives

In the tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, the women of Rural Livelihood Mission have started “Didi Vehicle Service” for rural women for the safe delivery. This vehicle service is completely free. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – “Didi Vehicle Service” for rural women
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

439. Current GK

Domestic flight operations started from the “Chaudhary Charan Singh airport” as passenger air travel resumed within the country after a gap of two months, owing to the Covid-19-induced lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chaudhary Charan Singh airport – Lucknow, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

440. Schemes & Initiatives

A National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission will be launched, for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in grade 3 by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission”
- For children to attain literacy & numeracy in Grade 3 – by 2025

441. Schemes & Initiatives

'Tatpar' programme was launched by the Ranchi district administration to ease tiresome journey of migrant workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Tatpar' programme – Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

442. Current GK

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has accorded environmental clearance for extension drilling & testing of Hydrocarbons at seven locations under Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Area. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Area – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

443. National & States Affairs

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Uttar Pradesh Startup Fund' handing over the first installment of Rs 15 Cr to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in order to mobilize the youth of the state towards entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + SIDBI = launched – 'Startup Fund'
- Amount of 1st installment – Rs 15 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa

444. Science & Technology

Indian Railways develops robot to assist hospital staff. The Robot named "RAIL BOT (R-BOT)" has been developed by the South Central Railway to assist in hospital management functions towards patient care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Central Railway – developed – robot named "RAIL BOT (R-BOT)"
- HQs of South Central Railway zone – Secunderabad
- General Manager – Shri Gajanan Mallya

445. National & States Affairs

The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated a slew of measures under its “Samagra Shiksha” programme to facilitate students with complete access to education through technological interventions and other viable means in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – promotes e-learning under "Samagra Shiksha"
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

446. Defence Affairs

For the first time the Indian Army is planning to take civilians on a three-year short service or 'Tour of Duty' on trial basis. The selected candidates will get a chance to serve the nation as officers and/or other ranks. They will earn somewhere around Rs 80,000 to 90,000 per month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – 'Tour of Duty' Scheme – a three-year short service for citizens
- Approximate income of 'Tour of Duty' Officers – Rs 80,000 to 90,000 per month
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi
- Chief – General Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Satinder Kumar Saini

447. National & States Affairs

“Coir Geo textiles” has got a nod for rural road construction under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana ph III, as per National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) under the Ministry of Rural Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Coir Geo textiles” – got a nod – for rural road construction
- Under – Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana ph III
- NRIDA works under – Ministry of Rural Development (Narendra Singh Tomar – Morena, Madhya Pradesh)

448. National & States Affairs

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the reduction of Statutory Provident Fund Contribution by both employers and employees for the next three months to 10% of basic wages from 12%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Statutory Provident Fund Contribution – reduced – to 10% (from 12%) – For the next 3 months (till July)
- Announced by Nirmala Sitharaman (FM Minister – Karnataka)

449. Sports & Games

The National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) has provisionally suspended two powerlifters - Savita Kumari and Ankit Shishodia for violating anti-doping rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Savita Kumari and Ankit Shishodia – Powerlifting – banned by NADA
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | DG – Navin Agarwal
- Ambassador of NADA – Suniel Shetty

450. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) have jointly developed new generation Iron-Manganese based alloys for biodegradable metal implants for use in humans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IARCPMNM + CTIMST = developed Iron-Manganese based alloys
- HQs of CTIMST – Kerala | Director – Asha Kishore

451. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Six urban local bodies, Ambikarpur (Chhattisgarh), Rajkot, Surat (both Gujarat), Mysore (Karnataka), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) have been certified 5 star of garbage free cities for the 2019-20 assessment year by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 cities – certified for 5 star rating in “Star Rating Of Garbage Free Cities List 2019-20”
- 1. Ambikarpur 2. Rajkot 3. Surat 4. Mysore 5. Indore 6. Navi Mumbai

452. Appointments & Resignations

Indian Steel Association (ISA) appointed Dilip Oommen as its new President with immediate effect. He was the CEO of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India and now has taken over as the President of ISA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dilip Oommen – appointed as the President of – Indian Steel Association (ISA)
- He was the CEO of – Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India
- HQs of ISA – New Delhi | Director – Ravinder Kumar Bhan

453. National & States Affairs

In Madhya Pradesh, the Board of Secondary Education will no longer conduct the examinations for the remaining subjects of the 10th board in the state while remaining papers of the 12th board, examinations will be held. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MPBSE – will no longer conduct the exams for the remaining subjects of 10th
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

454. Banking & Economic Affairs

Canara Bank has launched a special business vertical dedicated for gold loans, keeping in mind the challenges faced by its customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank – launched a special business vertical – dedicated for “Gold loans”
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

455. International Affairs

China has accused the Indian Army of crossing into its territory and of “blocking” its patrols and “attempting to unilaterally change the status” on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries in Sikkim and Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China has accused the Indian Army – for crossing into its territory and of “blocking” its patrols
- On the LAC – Line of Actual Control between – Sikkim & Ladakh
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

456. National & States Affairs

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released three handbooks prepared by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on measures taken by the Board to adopt value-based global standards of education. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HRD Minister – released 3 handbooks – prepared by the “CBSE”
- Parent Org. of CBSE – HRD Ministry (Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja

457. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

E-commerce giant Flipkart has partnered with the private general insurer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (BAGIC) to offer motor insurance cover to customers on the digital platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Bajaj Allianz = to offer motor insurance cover
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal
- HQs of BAGIC – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

458. Schemes & Initiatives

To spread awareness about the psychological impact of the lockdown and measures to be adopted to overcome it, in Jammu & Kashmir, the department of information and public relations (DIPR) started a new initiative named 'Sukoon'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jammu & Kashmir – DIPR – started a new initiative named 'Sukoon'
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – G C Murmu

459. Persons in News

The Congress, is so rudderless that on 19 May, the party's Twitter handle showcased a photograph of former President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, recalling his numerous achievements as the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He was the sixth President of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neelam Sanjiva Reddy – 6th President – 1st CM of Andhra Pradesh

460. Acquisitions & Mergers

Global technology firm Accenture has acquired Ahmedabad-based Byte Prophecy, an automated insights and big data analytics company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Accenture – acquired – Byte Prophecy (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)
- HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet

461. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

Punjab Government promulgated 'The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Amendment Ordinance, 2020. As per new provisions, the temporary release of the prisoners has been allowed beyond the maximum period of 16 weeks in a calendar year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab promulgated – 'The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Amendment Ordinance-2020
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

462. Science & Technology

Scientists at CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, have developed two mobile indoor Disinfection Sprayer units named BPDS and POMID. These units can be used for cleaning and disinfecting pathogenic micro-organism effectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CMERI – developed 2 mobile indoor Disinfection Sprayer units – named “BPDS and POMID”
- HQs of CMERI – Durgapur, West Bengal

463. National & States Affairs

As many as 211 singers have composed a song titled 'Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam - Vasudev Kutumbakkam' which was shared by the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on Twitter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Total 211 singers – composed a song titled 'Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam - Vasudev Kutumbakkam'
- The song penned by – Praseen Joshi
- The song composed by – Shankar Mahadevan

464. Amount & Agreements

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has extended ₹ 20,500 Cr special liquidity facility to co-operative banks (₹15,200 crore) and Regional Rural Banks (₹5,300 crore) in various States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD – extended SLF of – ₹ 20,500 Cr – to co-operative banks & RRBs
- SLF – Special Liquidity Facility
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu



465. Science & Technology

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research - Guwahati (NIPER-G) have come out with two products of help in the fight against the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19. The first product is a 3D-printed hands-free object and the second product is a 3D-printed antimicrobial face-shield. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIPER-G (Guwahati) – developed – “3D-printed hands-free object” and “3D-printed antimicrobial face-shield”

466. National & States Affairs

“National Test Abhyas app” that was launched by union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been downloaded by over two lakh medical and engineering aspirants of India within 72 hours. The National Test Abhyas app provides free mock tests to the JEE and NEET aspirants and it was developed by National Testing Agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “National Test Abhyas app” – Free mock tests – for the JEE and NEET aspirants
- Launched by – “HRD Ministry” (Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- Developed by – National Testing Agency

467. Appointments & Resignations

Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) has appointed Rajesh Goel as director general (DG) of the association. Earlier, Goel was serving as the chairman and managing director, Hindustan Prefab Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Goel – appointed as the DG of – NAREDCO (New Delhi)

468. Persons in News

Israel's new government, headed once again by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was sworn into office. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Benjamin Netanyahu – sworn as the PM of Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel
- President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

469. National & States Affairs

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has exempted businesses not dealing with retail customers from deploying certain e-payment facilities using debit cards powered by RuPay, UPI & UPI QR Code. Non-retail Rs 50 Cr plus businesses are not required to provide RuPay, UPI-based payment facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBDT exempted – Non-retail Rs 50 Cr plus businesses – from providing RuPay or BHIM-UPI facilities
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – P C Mody

470. Science & Technology

Ayurvedic herb Ashwagandha can be an effective therapeutic and preventive drug against the COVID-19 infection, according to a collaborative research by IIT-Delhi and Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Ashwagandha” – effective against Covid-19 – according to a collaborative research by IIT-Delhi + Japan's National Institute of AIST

471. Science & Technology

Moderna Inc's experimental coronavirus vaccine, the first to be tested in the United States, produced protective antibodies against the virus in a small group of healthy volunteers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Moderna Inc (USA) – tested and produced protective antibodies against the virus
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

472. Schemes & Initiatives

Inspired by the Hon. CM. of Maharashtra Shri Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray's Announcement on Revival of Industries in Maharashtra, Integrated Risk Insurance launched their Initiative 'Mee Annapurna'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Initiative 'Mee Annapurna' – DIPR – Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

473. National & States Affairs

Haryana government allows opening of all sports complexes and stadiums in the state under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for containment of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to open of all sports complexes and stadiums
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

474. Defence Affairs

Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has approved procurement of 26 items out of 127 already notified defence items only from local suppliers to boost 'Make in India' under clause 3(a) of the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DDP – approved – procurement of 26 items out of 127 – under Public Procurement Order-2017
- DDP comes under – Ministry of Defence (Rajnath Singh – Lucknow, UP)

475. Current GK

Solar minimum is the period of least solar activity in the 11-year solar cycle of the Sun. During this time, sunspot and solar flare activity diminishes, and often does not occur for days at a time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Solar minimum – the period of least solar activity in the 11-year

476. National & States Affairs

The Indian Railways operationalised its most powerful 'Made in India' locomotive - a 12000 HP engine named WAG12 with Number 60027. It was manufactured by Madhepura Electric Loco Factory situated in Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – operationalised a locomotive – a 12000 HP engine named WAG12
- Manufactured by Madhepura Electric Loco Factory (Bihar)
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | Union Minister – Piyush Goyal (Maharashtra)

477. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

E-commerce marketplace Flipkart announced a partnership with Vishal Mega Mart retail store chain to facilitate the delivery of essentials at consumers' doorstep in 26 cities across the country. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Vishal Mega Mart = to facilitate the delivery of essentials at consumers' doorstep in 26 cities
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal



478. Books & Authors

On 19 May 2020, to celebrate the occasion of 86th birthday of a popular author Ruskin Bond, a new book titled "Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes" was released in an e-book format. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes" book – Ruskin Bond (86th Birthday)

479. Appointments & Resignations

SoftBank Group Corp said that Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma will resign from its board, in the latest departure by a high-profile ally of CEO Masayoshi Son. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jack Ma (co-founder of Alibaba) – will resign "SoftBank Group"
- HQs of Alibaba – Hangzhou, China | CEO – Daniel Zhang
- HQs of Softbank – Tokyo, Japan | Founder & CEO – Masayoshi Son

480. Current GK

Facebook announced it is launching Shops, a service that will allow businesses to display and sell products on its platforms. Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's CEO, is positioning "Facebook Shops" as a tool for small businesses to move online due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook – to launch "Facebook Shops" for small businesses
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

481. Defence Affairs

The Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) under the Ministry of Defence has inked a pact with eGov Foundation to drive government e-initiatives while bringing better citizen centric services across all 62 cantonment boards in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGDE + eGov Foundation = for online management of cantonment boards
- DGDE comes under – Ministry of Defence (Rajnath Singh – Lucknow, UP)

482. Important Days & Dates

Celebrated every year on May 21, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was instituted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 which recognizes the need to “enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development, and global peaceful coexistence”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 21 – “World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development”
- Instituted by – the “United Nations General Assembly” in – 2002

483. International Affairs

China will provide USD 2 billion to the WHO over two years to fight the coronavirus pandemic rallying around the World Health Organization and its efforts even as the Trump administration has slashed funding for the UN health agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – USD 2 billion – to the WHO
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

484. Important Days & Dates

The world celebrated its first International Tea Day on May 21, 2020. The day is observed primarily with a view to increasing consumption of tea. It is celebrated by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 21 – “International Tea Day”
- Celebrated by – FAO (HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu)
- HQs of Tea Board of India – Kolkata, West Bengal

485. Science & Technology

Japan launched its new space defense unit to monitor and counter threats to the country's satellites. The unit will cooperate with US Space Command as well as Japan's space exploration agency, JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – launched its new Space Defense Unit – unit to monitor and counter threats to the Satellites
- Space Agency of Japan – JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Shinzo Abe



486. Schemes & Initiatives

Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, “PM eVidya” programme to be launched immediately. Each Classroom from 1 to 12 will have one TV channel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “PM eVidya” programme – for class 1 to 12
- Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

487. International Affairs

Hanko is a traditional practice of marking the seal on documents. As the number of Covid cases in Japan rise, the ‘Hanko’ tradition is coming under fierce criticism, with industry leaders demanding that the tradition be abandoned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Hanko’ tradition – belong to Japan
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Shinzo Abe

488. National & States Affairs

The BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) decided to reduce the listing fee for their small- and medium- enterprise (SME) platforms by 25 %, amid challenges due to Covid-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE & NSE – to reduce their listing fee for SMEs by – 25%
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

489. International Affairs

The US Senate passed legislation that could prevent some Chinese companies from listing their shares on US exchanges unless they follow standards for US audits and regulations. [{Read more}](#).

Key Points:

- The US Senate – passed a legislation – to prevent some Chinese companies from shares listing
- USA: Capital – Washington, D.C. | President – Donald Trump

490. Important Days & Dates

Anti-Terrorism Day was observed on May 21 to mark the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- May 21 – “Anti-Terrorism Day”
- The death anniversary of – Rajiv Gandhi (former PM) – assassinated in 1991

491. National & States Affairs

In a major relief to state governments, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an increase in the borrowing limit of states from 3% to 5% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP for the financial year 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Borrowing limit of states – increased to 5% (from 3%)
- Announced by Nirmala Sitharaman (FM Minister – Karnataka)

492. Schemes & Initiatives

In Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind of initiative, “Charan Paduka” campaign has been started for the migrant labourers passing through the state. Under this campaign, the migrant labourers going barefoot are being provided shoes and slippers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – started “Charan Paduka” campaign
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

493. Persons in News

The government has accepted and implemented three important recommendations of committee of experts (CoE) under the Chairmanship of Lt General D B Shekatkar (Retd) relating to border infrastructure. These were related to speeding up road construction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A committee relating to border infrastructure – headed by Lt General D B Shekatkar

494. International Affairs

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is set to take charge as the chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board. Mr Vardhan would succeed Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan, currently the Chairman of the 34-member WHO Executive Board. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – to take charge as the chairman of – the WHO Executive Board
- No. of Members in the WHO Executive Board – 34
- He will succeed – Dr Hiroki Nakatani (Japan)
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194



495. National & States Affairs

Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched IGNOU's Online Programme, MA (Hindi) through Facebook Live session. This would strengthen the "Padhe India Online" initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MA (Hindi) Online Programme – of IGNOU – launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- Under - "Padhe India Online" initiative

496. Amount & Agreements

The government will allocate an additional Rs 40,000 Cr to MGNREGA to provide employment boost as Nirmala Sitharaman released details of the last set of economic package. The government's new announcement will help generate nearly 300 Cr person-days in total. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Additional Rs 40,000 Cr – to MGNREGA
- Announced by Nirmala Sitharaman (FM Minister – Karnataka)

497. National & States Affairs

Madhya Pradesh government has decided to provide Covid-19 patients video-calling facility and TV sets to fend off depression as well as boredom among coronavirus patients in hospitals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – to provide Covid-19 patients video-calling facility and TV sets
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

498. Defence Affairs

One of the world's last remaining horse-mounted regiment – "the 61 Cavalry" prominently known for its ceremonial and equestrian roles is set to be converted into a full-fledged armoured regiment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 61 Cavalry regiment (Indian Army) – set to be converted into a full-fledged armoured regiment
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi
- Chief – General Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Satinder Kumar Saini

499. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

In an updated checklist of Indian amphibians on its website, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has listed 20 species as critically endangered and 35 as 'endangered'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20 species as 'critically endangered' and 35 as 'endangered' – listed by ZSI
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal

500. International Affairs

The Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have opened their borders to one another, creating a coronavirus "travel bubble". This is the first "travel bubble" in Europe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Baltic countries – opened their borders to one another
- Countries included: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- Estonia – Tallinn – Euro | Latvia – Riga – Euro | Lithuania – Vilnius – Euro



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