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APRIL – 2020

COVID – 19 NEWS

Arogya Sethu App	**Multi - Lingual Mobile Application** launched by Government of India to track COVID-19
JUNE ALMEIDA	June Almeida was a virologist who *visualised the first human coronavirus.*
Tablighi Jamaat	Over 200 have tested positive for COVID-19 from among 4,000-odd who had gathered in Delhi's Markaz Nizamuddin, the headquarters of the Tablighi Jamaat.
Sahyog App	The Survey of India (SoI) has developed an app **to help the Government and public health agencies take critical decisions in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation**
Corona Kavach App	The Government of India launched Corona Kavach application **to map the location of a COVID-19 positive patient through GPS**.
Assess Koro Na App	The **Delhi Government** launched "Assess Koro Na" application to conduct door to door survey
Jan Aushadhi Sugam App	The Pharmacists of the Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendra established under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana *are delivering essential medicines at the doorsteps of elderly and other patients.*
CoroFlu for COVID-19	Bharat Biotech along with virologists of University of Wisconsin and Madison have begun development and testing of a new vaccine called CoroFlu for COVID-19
Cytokine storm syndrome	Cytokine storm syndrome are seen in some cases of COVID-19 leading to higher mortality.
CARUNA	An initiative by **civil servants to fight against COVID-19**
JEEVAN	Indian Railway makes low cost prototype of Ventilator; ICMR to test the prototype.
Saptapadi	Prime Minister launched "Saptapadi" to fight against COVID-19. *Saptapadi is seven mantras to fight against the virus.*
Project Prana	The students and scientists of IISc Bengaluru have *developed indigenous ventilators under "Project Prana"*

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Bio Suit	A Bio Suit has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) *to keep the medical professionals working with COVID-19 safe*
Prana Vayu	*Low Cost Portable Ventilator* developed by IIT Roorkee
5T plan	**The Government of Delhi** announced 5T plan to tackle the spread of Corona Virus in the Union Territory. *The 5T plan includes Testing, Tracing, Teamwork, Treatment and Tracking*
nCoVSENSE Module Kit	DST developed the Rapid Test Kit. The purpose of the kit is to make the testing quicker within 10 to 15 minutes.
COVSACK	DRDO has developed COVSACK to receive samples from COVID-19 infected patients. **The COVSACK is COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk.**
Cytokine Storm Syndrome (CSS)	❖ Accumulating evidence suggests that a subset of patients with severe Covid-19 might have a "Cytokine Storm Syndrome" (CSS). ❖ CSS is an overly vigorous immune response to a triggering event, mostly, certain viral infections.
Operation Sanjeevani	**India supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines to Maldives**, under Operation Sanjeevani as assistance in the fight against Covid-19.
Operation SHIELD	**The Delhi government** launched the operation. SHIELD stands for Sealing, Home quarantine, isolation and tracing, essential supply, local sanitation and door-to-door checks
Kerala's Kasaragod Model	The Centre showcased the contact tracing and containment model of Kerala's Kasaragod, one of the India's success stories of the containment exercise. ❖ It involves aggressive testing, technology, foolproof contact tracing, and an effective public awareness campaign. ❖ A special officer was appointed to coordinate functioning of the district administration and for effective coordination between line departments at field and secretariat levels. ❖ Section 144 was imposed in the entire district, with seven drones employed for surveillance. ❖ Under the Care for Kasaragod initiative, a detailed action plan, common coordinated action plan was drawn up for combating COVID-19 so that all stakeholders could turn to it when the situation arose

Free testing for Covid-19	**Free testing for Covid-19 shall continue to be made available to the poor eligible under the** *Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.*
(PM-CARES) Fund	The Central Government has decided to accept contributions from abroad, irrespective of the nationalities, to the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund
State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF)	❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order authorising the States to use the fund ❖ To provide "for temporary accommodation, food, clothing, medical care, etc." to homeless people, including the stranded migrant labourers ❖ The government has decided to treat Covid-19 as a "notified disaster"
On April 3, 2020	PM Modi addressed India to **switch off their lights at 9 PM for nine minutes and light lamps or candle.** This is being done to show the united strength of the country against the virus.
YouTube, Zoom app and Google Classroom	Being used by the educational institutes for the e-learning
Healthcare Institutions Face Cyber Threats	The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) has warned member countries that cyber - criminals are attempting to target major hospitals and other institutions on the front lines of the fight against Covid-19 with ransomware
SATYAM: Yoga Against Viruses	The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has initiated the Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) programme for fight against Covid - 19
Tiger being infected with Covid-19	**A Tiger being infected with Covid-19 in New York (Bronx Zoo)**, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued an advisory regarding the containing and management of Covid-19 in National Parks/Sanctuaries/ Tiger Reserves
Covid-19 Community Mobility Reports	**Google** has released 'Covid-19 Community Mobility Reports'. These reports aim to provide insights into what has changed in response to policies aimed at combating Covid-19.
Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)	The **Andhra Pradesh** Government is to buy Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold developed by Indian Navy, Vishkhapatnam *to meet the requirement of oxygen supply to COVID-19 patients.*
Bharat Padhe Online Campaign	❖ The Ministry of Human Resources Development has launched a week long campaign called "Bharat Padhe Online Campaign".

	❖ *The campaign aims to improve online education in India*
Remote Health Monitoring System	India's first remote Health Monitoring System set up in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
Exercise NCC Yogdan	National Cadet Corps (NCC) launched "Exercise NCC Yogdan" **to offer a helping hand to the authorities fighting against COVID-19.**
Service Before Self	Ex-Service Men rise the motto "Service Before Self" **to fight against COVID-19**
Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination	According to a US-based research, a combination of reduced morbidity and mortality could make the **Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination a "game-changer" in the fight against novel coronavirus.**
Immunity Passport	❖ A few countries have started considering issuing "**immunity passports" or some kind of certificates indicating a person has immunity to COVID-19.** ❖ However, the World Health Organization has warned against idea of 'immunity passports'
Shadow pandemic	❖ The UN Women has urged member-states to include prevention of violence against women in their action plans on COVID-19. ❖ **It has also called the rise in gender-based violence a "shadow pandemic"**
Chitra GeneLAMP-N	❖ **It is a diagnostic test kit that can confirm COVID19 in 2 hours at low cost.** ❖ It has been developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance, of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
Bear bile	❖ For treating severe and critical cases of COVID-19, **Chinese government has recommended an injection of Tan Re Qing, which contains bear bile.** ❖ Bile from bears tends to be high in ursodeoxycholic acid, also known as ursodiol, which is helpful in dissolving gallstones and treating liver disease.
Arogya Sanjeevani insurance policy	The Union Government has announced that all COVID-19 hospitalisation expenses will be covered under Arogya Sanjeevani insurance policy.

Laws that came during, India Coronavirus Lockdown

Section 188 IPC	Deals with those disobeying an order passed by a public servant, and provides for imprisonment ranging from one to six months. For those violating orders passed under the Epidemic Diseases Act, Section 188 IPC is the provision under which punishment is awarded
Section 505 IPC	Provides for imprisonment of three years or fine, or both, for those who publish or circulate anything which is likely to cause fear or alarm. Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act provides for imprisonment, extending to one year, of those who make or circulate a false alarm or warning regarding a disaster or its severity or magnitude
Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005	Provides for punishment for two kinds of offences: obstructing any officer or employee of the government or person authorised by any disaster management authority for discharge of a function; and refusing to comply with any direction given by the authorities under the Act. Punishment can extend to one year on conviction, or two years if the refusal leads to loss of lives or any imminent danger.
Section 52, Disaster Management Act	Under Section 52, Disaster Management Act, whoever makes a false claim for obtaining "any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits" from any official authority can be sentenced to a maximum of two years imprisonment and a fine will be imposed on the person.

TAMIL NADU

1) **Cauvery Water Management Authority brought under Jal Shakti Ministry** which was earlier under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

2) **38th District**: On 7th April 2020, *Mayiladuthurai* becomes Tamil Nadu's 38th district after bifurcation of Nagapattinam

3) **Arogyam Scheme**: Chief minister Edappadi launched the Arogyam scheme **to boost immunity against CORONA infections**

   KABASURA KUDINEER: The Ministry of AYUSH has approved the "Kabasura Kudineer" and the "Nilavembu Kudineer" to boost the immunity.

4) **www.ethottam.com:** Tamil Nadu government has launched the portal **for the online shopping of the Fruits and Vegetables.** Products will be delivered within 72 hrs.

5) **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease:** The Chief Minister has launched the Mobile X-Ray Van for identified the "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease"

6) **Amma Unavagam:** *Free of Cost of Foods* has been distributed by the "Amma Unavagam" for the needy people due to COVID-19

7) According to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, **Tamil Nadu has been the Topmost state at the all-India level for micro-irrigation**

8) **Disaster management data analytics centre:** The centre is expected to **strengthen the state's disaster management efforts against the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic**

9) **3 New Robots:** The Health Minister has launched the 3 New Robots to help the Corona infected patients in Stanley Hospital, Chennai

10) **Pon. Kalaiyarasan Committee:** To Review the **Reservation for Tamil Nadu Government School Students in Medical seats.**

11) **Helpline Number 181, 1091, 112:** The Tamil Nadu government has launched the Helpline Numbers for the **Women against the domestic Violence.**

NATIONAL

1) **Kerala** has got the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) approval for the clinical protocol exploring the feasibility of **convalescent plasma transfusion which may be administered to severe Covid-19 patients**.

2) The National Highway Authority of India **completed the construction of 3,979 km of national highways in the financial year 2019-20** *(Highest in Indian History)*

3) **Floor Test is Governor's Discretion:** The Supreme Court of India has held that a Governor can call for a floor test any time he/she objectively feels a government in power has lost the confidence of the House and is on shaky ground *(**Article 163 talks about the discretionary power of the governor**)*

4) **Covid-19 Affects Odisha's Art and Festival:** Odisha's government banned the **Meru Jatra festival** on the occasion of Mahavishub Sankranti (13th

April, 2020), due to Covid-19. **Covid-19 has also affected the sale of Pattachitra paintings.**

5) **Mo Prativa:** The *Odisha Government* launched the "Mo Prativa" programme in collaboration with UNICEF for the children to participate in online competitions such as writing slogans, drawings, short story writing, paintings, etc.

6) **Krishi Vigyan Kendra:** The **Kerala government** launched the **Door Delivery of fish Scheme**

7) The Government of India marked the anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on April 13, 2020.

8) **A group of Nihangs** attacked a Punjab police party and chopped off the hand of an assistant sub-inspector when stopped for a curfew pass. **Nihang is an order of Sikh warriors.**

9) The **Odisha government** has promulgated an ordinance to deal with COVID 19 spread by amending Section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

10) The Central government appealed in the Supreme Court that media outlets, in the **"larger interest of justice",** should only publish or telecast anything on Covid-19 after ascertaining the factual position from the government.

11) **The Centre Defines J&K Domicile Rules:**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020.
On 6th August 2019, the Centre revoked J&K's special status under Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution and bifurcated it into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
The two revoked constitutional provisions let the state legislature decide the 'permanent residents' prohibiting a non-J&K resident from buying property there and ensuring job reservation for its residents
There are 12 States, including Himachal Pradesh, where provisions of special status under Article 371 apply.
The provisions pertain to regulation of ownership and transfer of land in order to conserve the limited resources available for development and to ensure that the State preserves its unique identity

INTERNATIONAL

1) *India and China mark 1ˢᵗ April 2020 as the 70ᵗʰ anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations* between them starting from 1950 till now.

2) **Japan** declared emergency to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

3) World Health Organization (WHO), **the Democratic Republic of Congo recorded a second Ebola death** in days following more than seven weeks without a new case

4) According to the United Nations (UN), due to the Covid-19 pandemic, *measles immunisation campaigns have been delayed in 24 countries and will be cancelled in 13 other countries*

5) The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has highlighted that *China has become the biggest source of applications for international patents in the world.*

6) Global Health 50/50 suggested that the gender-split of Covid-19 cases in all countries is roughly 50-50, barring two exceptions: India and Pakistan.

7) Yanomami Tribal boy died in Brazil after contracting Covid-19, raising fears for the Amazon tribes.

8) **ANAK KRAKATAU:** It is a volcanic island in the **Sunda Strait between the Java and Sumatra islands in Indonesia.**

ECONOMICS

1) **Helicopter Money:**

   ❖ With the **increasing economic crisis**, Helicopter Money is a solution being suggested by economic specialists all over the world.

   ❖ Helicopter Money was the term framed by an American Economist Milton Friedman.

   ❖ Helicopter Money is the monetary policy tool used for Quantitative Easing. It aims to dump money into a struggling economy.

2) **Operation Twist:**

- ❖ RBI to Restart Operation Twist

- ❖ RBI has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for ₹10,000 crore each on April 27, 2020 considering the current and evolving liquidity and market conditions.

- ❖ Such **Open Market Operations are known as 'Operation Twist**,' which was used by the RBI in December, 2019 for the first time.

3) ***Why oil prices fell below zero?***

Prices of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) in the US, recently fell to "minus" $40.32 a barrel.
- ❖ This the lowest crude oil price ever recorded (the previous lowest was immediately after World War - II).
- ❖ At this price, **the seller of crude oil would be paying the buyer $40 for each barrel that is bought**.

4) The **Rupee slipped 17 paise against the dollar on 15th April 2020**, amid heightened uncertainty over the economy as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to spread.

5) According to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the eight core sector industries ***recorded a growth of 5.5% in February, 2020 which is highest in 11-months.***

6) The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has assured the Ministry of Finance of **USD 2.2 billion (about Rs 16,500 crore)** support to India in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic

7) The Government of India (GoI), in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has decided to issue **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) in six instalments, from April 2020 to September 2020.**

8) **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a $500 million** grant to cancel six months of debt payments for 25 of the world's most impoverished countries.

9) The World Bank has released the South Asia Economic Focus report. The report saw ***India's growth at 1.5 - 2.8% in 2020-21*** which is the slowest since 1991 economic reforms.

10) **Impact of Economic Slowdown Due to Covid-19:**

Amid the ongoing economic slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic, the government is facing several challenges like:

❖ Fall in tax collections.

❖ Foreign investors sold over ₹1 lakh-crore securities in a month (March), for the first time in history.

❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to shorten trading hours for foreign exchange and money markets products.

SPORTS

1) **Wimbledon Postponed** due to Covid-19 since the World War II.

2) **Tokyo Olympics were also postponed** due to Covid-19.

3) **Asian Youth Games** to be held in China in November 2021

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
ASEAN Summit on Covid-19	The discussions pertained to the impact of Covid-19 on southeast Asia	Vietnam by online
G20 Finance Minister Meet	Nirmala Sitaraman represented India to attend the second G20 Finance Minister Meet. The virtual meet was chaired by Saudi Arabia.	Saudi Arabia

SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)	To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.	The Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana	**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 under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).	The Union Government
Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan	A conservation plan to deepen water bodies in the state before monsoon.	Gujarat

REPORTS / INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	INDIA's RANKING	TOP RANKING
PRESS FREEDOM INDEX	Reporters Without Borders	142	Norway
GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX	Institute for Economics and Peace	7	

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
Project Artemis	1st Human Base Camp on moon's south pole by 2024	NASA
Xingyun-2 01 & 02	❖ China will launch the two communications satellites named Xingyun-2 01 and 02 for its space based Internet-of-Things project. ❖ Xingyun-2 01 has been named "Wuhan" where it was designed and developed by the Xingyun Satellite Company	China
TIANWEN-1	China's first Mars exploration mission to be launched later this year.	China
SUNRISE MISSION	The Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE) will explore how Sun generates and releases the giant weather storms, known as the solar particle storms, into space	NASA
DEMO-2 MISSION	It is a NASA's mission to send astronauts to International Space Station (ISS) on SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft.	NASA

FOMALHAUT B	Researchers have confirmed that the earlier discovered exoplanet **Fomalhaut b is not an exoplanet**	NASA
GRACE-FO mission	New satellite-based, weekly global maps of soil moisture and groundwater wetness conditions were developed by US space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) on March 31, 2020	NASA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERIES	PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Sodium Hypochlorite solution	The spraying of Sodium Hypochlorite solution in Disinfectant tunnel to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) was found to be harmful on people.	
Maze ransomware	A ransomware attack infects computers in a network and encrypts files on these computers and then demands a ransom to recover the files	
Classical swine fever	More than 1,300 pigs have died across five districts of eastern Assam of classical swine fever	Assam

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

SPECIES / PLACES	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Armyworm Attack	The armyworm attacks the crops severely	Assam
Earthquakes in ionosphere	Scientists of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) have come up with a study of the signatures of recent large earthquakes into the ionosphere.	Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG)
Madhuban Gajar	a bio - fortified carrot variety	Gujarat
Wormivet	Indigenous herbal medicine to treat worms in Cattle	National Innovation foundation India
ANTHURIUM	Anthurium is domestic flowering plant known for purifying surrounding air and remove harmful airborne chemicals like formaldehyde, ammonia, toluene, xylene, and allergens.	National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India

CYCLONE

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released a new list of names of tropical cyclones over north Indian Ocean including Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea	The new list comprises of 169 names including 13 from India such as **Gati, Tej, Aag, Neer, Vyom, Jhar, Jaladhi, Murasu, Probaho, Prabhanjan, Ghumi, Ambud and Vega.**

APPS & PORTALS

Bharat Padhe Online Campaign and YUKTI web-portal	The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched two new initiatives Bharat Padhe Online Campaign and YUKTI web-portal *for improving and monitoring the online education ecosystem in India.*
SAMADHAN Challenge	A mega online challenge, SAMADHAN has been launched to *test the ability of students to innovate.*
e-Gram Swaraj Portal	To bring in better transparency and strengthening of the e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country through decentralized planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.
iGOT Portal	An Online Training Portal launched on DIKSHA platform of MHRD
YUKTI Portal	**YUKTI** is Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation. *It will act as a platform for the institutions to share their knowledge about challenges faced in encountering COVID-19.*
Krishi Rath App	The Government of India launched the "Krishi Rath" application *to help farmers to transport their agriculture produce to the mandis*.
NAADI App	The **Puducherry government** has rolled out a new mobile application platform *to help trace, track and contain the spread of COVID-19.*

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
Viswanathan Anand	Ambassador of World Wide Fund India
Sanjay Kothari	Central Vigilance Commissioner

BOOKS & AUTHORS

BOOKS	AUTHORS
The Enlightenment of the Greengage Tree	Shokoofeh Azar
Backstage: The Story Behind India's High Growth Years	Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Sridevi: The Eternal Screen Goddess	Satyarth Nayak
The Art of Her Deal: The Untold Story of Melania Trump	Mary Jordan
How the Onion Got Its Layers	Sudha Murty

FESTIVALS

S.No.	FESTIVAL	STATE
1.	**Ambubachi Mela**	Assam

IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
April 1	Utkal Divas	Odisha Statehood Day celebrated on April 1
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	**THEME:** *"The Transition to Adulthood"*
April 3	Army Medical Corps Raising Day	**MOTTO:** *"Survey Santu Nirmaya"*
April 7	World Health Day	**THEME:** *"Support Nurses and Midwives"*
April 10	World Homeopathy Day	**THEME:** *"Enhancing the scope of Homoeopathy in Public Health"*
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight	The day commemorates the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's historic spaceflight in 1961
April 14	World Chagas Disease Day	To increase awareness of Chagas disease

April 17	World Haemophilia Day	**THEME:** *"Get + Involved virtually and stay safe"*
April 18	World Heritage Day	**THEME:** *"Shared Culture, Shared heritage and Shared responsibility"*
April 19	World Liver Day	
April 21	Civil Services Day	It is celebrated as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the causes of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	
April 25	World Malaria Day	**THEME:** *"Zero malaria starts with me"*
April 25	World Veterinary Day	**THEME:** *"Environment Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health"*
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	**THEME:** *"Innovate for a Green Future"*
April 28	World Day For Safety And Health At Work	**THEME:** *"Safety and health at work can save lives"*

Last Week of April:

❖ World Immunization Week

❖ **THEME:** *"Vaccines Work for all Vaccines Work for all"*