

April - 02

NATIONAL

Community Forest Resources

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently commissioned a study about Community Forest resource Rights.
- ❖ According to the study, broad guidelines are needed to implement Community Forest Rights.
- ❖ The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also called the FRA act defines the Community Forest resource Rights.
- ❖ It also says that a village shall get its traditionally held forest land.
- ❖ It empowers the Gram Sabhas the right to protect, conserve and regenerate.
- ❖ The 73rd amendment of the constitution also empowers the Gram Sabhas to govern community forests.
- ❖ However, there are no guidelines to implement Community Forest Rights.
- ❖ The State Governments should create guidelines according the local condition and their tradition.

What is a Community Forest?



Ordinance on PM Cares Fund

- ❖ The Government of India passed an ordinance to allow 100% exemption of Tax on donations made on PM Cares Funds.
- ❖ The ordinance has also extended the time limit of direct and indirect tax filings to June 30, 2020.



Medical devices as drugs

- ❖ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) revised the ceiling price of 883 scheduled formulations.
- ❖ The NPPA has notified 24 classes of medical devices as drugs under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ The devices are to be monitored and treated as drug for quality control and price monitoring.



International painting competition on COVID-19

- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched global painting competition.
- ❖ The Title is "United against CORONA-Express through Art".
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was the first Education minister of India.

INTERNATIONAL

Nationalization of Hospitals

- ❖ The Spanish government has nationalised all its private hospitals and healthcare providers in the country to fight the spread of Coronavirus.
- ❖ The move comes after the World Health Organisation warned that the pandemic is a "defining global health crisis of our time" and urged the countries to "test, test, test".

Covid 19 and World Bank

- ❖ The World Bank announced that it is to offer 1 billion USD to Government of India to implement Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems preparedness project.
- ❖ It will strengthen the national system and keep up public health preparedness in the country.



World Bank poverty findings

- ❖ The World Bank announced that around 11 million are to enter poverty in Pacific and East Asia due to the spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ According to the World Bank, around 35 million people in Pacific and Asia will escape poverty.
- ❖ This includes 25 million in China alone.

ECONOMY

Small Savings Interest Rate

- ❖ The Government of India lowered interest rates of several small savings scheme for the first quarter of 2020/21
- ❖ The interest rates of the schemes like Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Kisan Vikas Patra, National Savings Certificate and Public Provident Funds were reduced.

Subject: Revision of interest rates for Small Savings Schemes - reg.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 9(1) of the Government Saving Promotion General Rules, 2018, the rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of financial year 2020-21 starting from 1st April, 2020 and ending on 30th June, 2020 have been revised as indicated below:

Instruments	Rate of interest from 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020	Rate of interest from 01.04.2020 to 30.06.2020	Compounding frequency*
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0	Annually
1 Year Time Deposit	6.9	5.5	Quarterly
2 Year Time Deposit	6.9	5.5	Quarterly
3 Year Time Deposit	6.9	5.5	Quarterly
5 Year Time Deposit	7.7	6.7	Quarterly
5 Year Recurring Deposit	7.2	5.8	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.6	7.4	Quarterly and paid
Monthly Income Account	7.6	6.6	Monthly and paid
National Savings Certificate	7.9	6.8	Annually
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.9	7.1	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.6 (will mature in 113 months)	6.9 (will mature in 124 months)	Annually
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.4	7.6	Annually

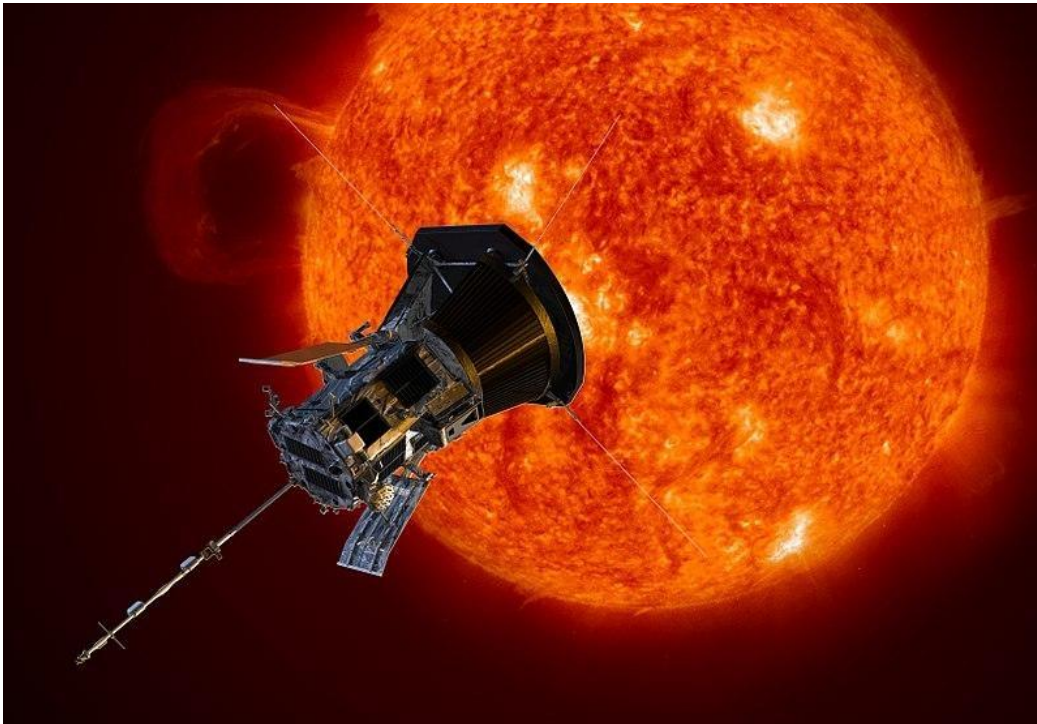
2. This has the approval of Finance Minister.


(Rajesh Panwar)
Dy. Director (Budget)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SUNRISE) mission

- ❖ The NASA announced SUNRISE mission is to study about how sun creates Giant Solar Particle Storms.
- ❖ Studying the solar storms, the mission aims to understand the working of the solar system.
- ❖ It aims to study how the Sun generates and releases giant space weather storms – known as solar particle storms – into planetary space.
- ❖ The study will also aid future astronauts travelling to Mars and protect them from solar storms.
- ❖ The mission is to study sun's spectrum.
- ❖ This is important as sun's spectrum cannot be studied from the earth due to the ionosphere.
- ❖ It is an array of six CubeSats operating as one very large radio telescope.



Three quasi sub species of COVID-19

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) reported that three quasi sub species of COVID-19 virus are in circulation in the country.
- ❖ According to the council, they were imported variants.



- ❖ In India, the COVID-19 cases originated from people with travel history.
- ❖ Hence, the virus was brought from outside India.
- ❖ So far, science has not discovered how the virus is behaving in other parts of the world.
- ❖ However, ICMR confirms that the virus in India has taken its variant form due to external and biological factors of the country and people living in the country.

ENVIRONMENT

Bear Bile for COVID-19

- ❖ The Chinese Government has put on a list of medicines that shall be used to treat COVID-19.
- ❖ It includes both Chinese traditional medicines and western medicines as well.
- ❖ Among these, “Tan Re Qing” has been identified as best cure.
- ❖ This traditional medicine carries bear bile
- ❖ The Ursodeoxycholic acid in the bear bile is the curing component of COVID-19.
- ❖ It is also called Ursodiol.

STATES

Salary Cut

- ❖ The Maharashtra and Telangana State Governments announced major salary cuts due to Covid-19 outbreak.
- ❖ The Maharashtra Government had cut 60% of salary from the Chief Minister and other members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and other representatives of the local governing bodies.
- ❖ The Telangana Government is to cut 75% of salary from the Chief Minister, members of legislative assembly and state ministers.

Houses for all the poor

- ❖ The Government of Andhra Pradesh modified the guidelines of Navatatanalu-Pedalandariki Illu programme.
- ❖ The scheme is called “Houses for all the poor”.



- ❖ Under the scheme, house sites are to be allotted to the poor at Re 1 to the poor with white ration cards.
- ❖ The “Navartnal” is a flagship scheme of the Andhra Pradesh Government.
- ❖ There are nine (Navaratna) welfare schemes.



Punjab Village and Small Towns Act

- ❖ This law was recently invoked in Panchkula of Haryana to curtail movement during lockdown.
- ❖ This law was first enacted in 1918 in erstwhile Punjab to make provisions for nightly patrol duty by inhabitants of small villages and towns in cases of emergency.
- ❖ Under this Act, if the Deputy Commissioner of a district in Punjab or Haryana is of the opinion that in a village, special measures need to be taken to secure public safety, he has the power to make an order requiring all “able-bodied adult male inhabitants” to patrol the village.

SPORTS

Wimbledon 2020

- ❖ Wimbledon was cancelled due to the threats of Corona Virus.

- ❖ This is the first time the tournament is being cancelled since the World War II.
- ❖ Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was first held in 1877.
- ❖ Since then it has been contested every year at London.
- ❖ However, it was cancelled during two stretches.
- ❖ The first time was during the First World War between 1915 and 1918.
- ❖ It was cancelled another time during the second world war between 1940 and 1945.
- ❖ It is the oldest Tennis Tournament in the world.
- ❖ It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments.
- ❖ The other three include French Open, US open and Australian Open.
- ❖ Wimbledon is the only tournament that is still played on grass.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Utkal Divas – April 01

- ❖ It is also known as Odisha Day.
- ❖ It is in the memory of the formation of the state as a separate state out of Bihar, Bengal and Odisha provinces with addition of Koraput and Ganjam from Madras Presidency on 1 April 1936.
- ❖ On November 9, 2010, Parliament of India renamed Orissa as Odisha and Oriya language as Odia.



- ❖ It is well known in the history for its kalinga kingdom during ancient times
- ❖ In 250 BC, it was conquered by King Ashoka, which resulted in the state flourishing for almost a century under the rule of the Mauryan Dynasty.

