

April - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched “Lifeline Udan” flights for domestic and overseas movement of essential cargo.
 - The objective is to ensure unhindered supply of medical products across the country.

NATIONAL

Arogya Sethu

- ❖ The National Informatics Center operating under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has developed an application “Arogya Sethu”.
- ❖ The app alerts the person whenever he comes in contact within six feet of COVID-19 infected person.
- ❖ While the app searches for information about COVID-19 patient, it does not disturb the privacy of the patient.

National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-19.

- ❖ The Minister of State for Personnel and Public Grievances Dr Jitendra Singh launched the National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-19.
- ❖ The dashboard is to be developed and implemented by DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances).
- ❖ The main objective of the dashboard is quick and timely implementations of COVID-19 response and containment activities.

INTERNATIONAL

70th Anniversary

- ❖ India and China observed the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.
- ❖ India established diplomatic relations with the PRC on 1 April 1950
- ❖ India was the first non-communist country in Asia to establish diplomatic relations with People’s Republic of China (PRC).



ECONOMY

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

- ❖ The Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Ministry announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus.
- ❖ Insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19 in Government Hospitals and Health Care Centres.
- ❖ Safai karamcharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists and other health workers would be covered by a Special insurance Scheme.
- ❖ Any health professional, who while treating Covid-19 patients, meet with some accident, then he/she would be compensated with an amount of Rs 50 lakh under the scheme.
- ❖ Farmers will be receiving the first instalment payment of Rs 2,000 due in April, from their Rs 6,000 annual income support for 2020-21.
- ❖ The payment of Rs 2,000 to 8.7 crore farmers was done under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.

SEZ during Lockdown

- ❖ Around 280 SEZ (Special Economic Zones) that are involved in manufacturing essential goods such as pharmaceuticals, drugs and hospital equipment are operational amidst Lock Down.
- ❖ These economic zones contribute 18% of the exports of the country.
- ❖ It is to be noted that in 2019-20 the exports from the SEZs have increased and has reached 110 billion USD.
- ❖ The SEZs operate under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The states were permitted to operate SEZs under SEZ Act, 2005.

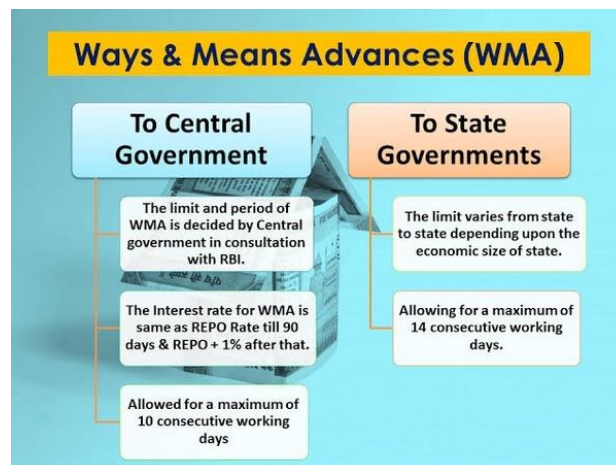
- ❖ The Act defines key role of the state governments in export promotion.

Ways and Means Advances

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has raised the limit for short term credit that the government can borrow from the central bank.
- ❖ The limits for this credit facility, known as 'Ways and Means Advances', has been raised sharply to Rs 1.2 lakh crore for the first half of 2020-21.
- ❖ The increased limit comes at a time when government expenditure is expected to rise as it battles the fallout of a spreading Coronavirus.
- ❖ The availability of these funds will give government some room to undertake short term expenditure over and above its long term market borrowings.

About Ways and Means Advances (WMA)

- ❖ They are temporary loan facilities provided by RBI to the government to enable it to meet temporary mismatches between revenue and expenditure.
- ❖ It was introduced on April 1, 1997, after putting an end to the four-decade old system of adhoc or temporary Treasury Bills to finance the Central Government deficit.
- ❖ The government can avail of immediate cash from the RBI, if required.
- ❖ But it has to return the amount within 90 days, and the Interest is charged at the existing repo rate.
- ❖ The limits for WMA are mutually decided by the RBI and the Government of India.
- ❖ There are two types of Ways and Means Advances — normal and special.
- ❖ Special WMA or Special Drawing Facility (SDF) is provided against the collateral of the government securities held by the state.
- ❖ After the state has exhausted the limit of SDF, it gets normal WMA.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Project Prana

- ❖ The students and scientists of IISc-Bengaluru have developed indigenous ventilators under “Project Prana”.
- ❖ The ventilator was made using pressure sensor that widely finds its application in automobile industry.
- ❖ The ventilator mixes oxygen with compressed air.
- ❖ Recently Indian Naval Dockyard supplied its MOM (Multi-feed Oxygen Manifold) ventilators to Andhra Pradesh Government.
- ❖ The MOM ventilator is portable and is capable of serving 6 patients at a time.

Lancet Infectious Diseases Report

- ❖ A study in the Lancet Infectious Diseases has estimated the mean duration from onset of symptoms (coronavirus) to death to be about 18 days and that of hospital discharge to be about 25 days.
- ❖ The estimates of the case fatality ratio for COVID-19, are substantially higher than for recent influenza pandemics (Example- H1N1 influenza in 2009).

ENVIRONMENT

Anti-smog guns

- ❖ Anti-smog guns installed at in Delhi.
- ❖ The Supreme Court had said that anti-smog guns should be mandatory in projects that require environmental clearance from the State or Centre
- ❖ Anti-smog gun is a device that sprays nebulised water droplets into the atmosphere to reduce air pollution.





CoP 26

- ❖ The United Nations announced that the Conference of Parties (COP 26) that was to be held in Glasgow in Scotland in November 2020 has been pushed to 2021.
- ❖ The CoP 26 is the meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

COP 26 GLASGOW



UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2020

STATES

Price Monitoring & Resource Unit (PMRU)

- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory has become the 12th State where the Price Monitoring & Resource Unit (PMRU) has been set up by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
- ❖ It is a registered society and shall function under the direct control and supervision of State Drug Controller of respective states.

J&K domicile rules

- ❖ The Centre redefines Jammu and Kashmir domicile rules opening up various categories of jobs in the region to people from across the country.
- ❖ The order has been defined under J&K Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act.
- ❖ In law, domicile is the status or attribution of being a lawful permanent resident in a particular jurisdiction.
- ❖ Earlier, Section 35A associated with the abrogated Article 370 had given the legislative assembly of the state the power to define a Jammu and Kashmir resident.

NEW RULES

- **Domicile rights extended to all migrants who have been registered** by Relief and Rehab Commissioner in the erstwhile state
- Anyone who has **studied for a period of 7 years and appeared in Class 10th or 12th exams** in J&K is eligible for domicile certificate
- Change in rules, though **only for lower-end govt jobs**, is politically significant as state employment was previously in accordance with definition of permanent residents

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Autism Awareness Day – April 02

- ❖ The day is observed by the United Nations.
- ❖ It is one of only seven official health-specific UN Days.
- ❖ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in 2007.
- ❖ It aims to take measures to increase awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- ❖ Theme of this year is “The Transition to Adulthood”.
- ❖ The world come together to “Light It Up Blue” in recognition of people with autism.



**World Autism
Awareness Day**

International Children's Book Day – April 02

- ❖ It is a yearly event sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international non-profit organization.
- ❖ Founded in 1967, the day is observed on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, April 2.
- ❖ It is celebrated to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.
- ❖ IBBY Slovenia is the sponsor for International Children's Book Day 2020.

