

April - 10

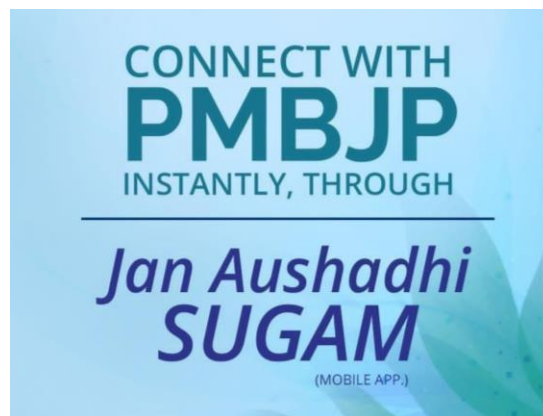
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ On April 7, 2020, the world's third largest economy, Japan declared emergency to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Japan is known for its higher old age population.

NATIONAL

Jan Aushashi Sugam App

- ❖ The Pharmacists of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra established under the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJAP) are delivering essential medicines at the doorsteps of elderly and other patients.
- ❖ The PMBJAP was launched with the intension of providing affordable medicines to the citizens of the country.
- ❖ It is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers.
- ❖ The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP.
- ❖ The BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.



Aahar 2020

- ❖ The 35th edition of the Food and Hospitality fair AAHAR recently commenced in New Delhi.

- ❖ It was organized by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) in association with the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA) under the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.



COVID -19 Task Force

- ❖ The Union government has set up a ‘COVID-19 Task Force’ for mapping the COVID-19 related technology capabilities in start-ups, academia, research and development labs and industry.
- ❖ The capacity mapping group consists of representatives from
 - Department of Science and Technology (DST)
 - Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
 - Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEIT)
 - Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
 - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
 - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
 - Start-up India
 - All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

Samadhan

- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched “Samadhan”, a challenge to address COVID-19 in the country.
- ❖ This online challenge was launched by the Innovative Cell of Ministry of Human Resources Development and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) along with Forge.
- ❖ It aims to motivate the students to make new discoveries and perform new experiments and come up with solutions that will help fight COVID-19.

INTERNATIONAL

Foreign Aid to India on Covid 19

- ❖ The United States has announced 2.9 million USD aid under its American Global Response Package for India to fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ China has donated more than 1,70,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to India at free of cost.

Purple notice

- ❖ The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) has warned member countries that cybercriminals were attempting to target major hospitals and other institutions on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 with ransomware.
- ❖ In this regard, the Interpol has also issued a 'Purple Notice'.
- ❖ The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is a 194-member intergovernmental organisation.
- ❖ Headquartered in Lyon, France, it was formed in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956.
- ❖ India joined the organisation in 1949.



ECONOMY

India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference

- ❖ The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry - FICCI organized India Pharma 2020 & India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ Theme of the event is “India Pharma: Meeting Challenges of Affordable and Quality Healthcare and India Medical Device: Promoting Affordable responsible and Quality Medical Device for Universal Health Care”.
- ❖ This year is the fifth edition and the event is being organized for the first time in the State of Gujarat.
- ❖ The Indian pharmaceutical market is the third largest in terms of volume and thirteenth largest in terms of value.
- ❖ India is the largest supplier of generic medicines globally.



Decline of Edible Oil imports in India

- ❖ The edible oil imports in India has declined by 32.44% in March 2020.
- ❖ India, the largest importer of vegetable oil in the world, has reduced its imports due to the threats of COVID-19.
- ❖ India feeds its citizen with 60% of imported edible oil.
- ❖ India imports its palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia.
- ❖ India imports soyabean oil from Argentina and sunflower oil from Ukraine and Russia.

Unemployment in India

- ❖ The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) recently released a survey on the current unemployment situation in India.
- ❖ More than 20% of Indian Economy has lost their jobs since the lock down.
- ❖ The unemployment rate for the month of March is expected to be 8.7% as compared to 7.8% in February.
- ❖ The Government of India publishes Unemployment report every year.
- ❖ In 2019, the unemployment rate was 6.1%.
- ❖ It was the highest in 45 years of Indian History.

Bharatmala Pariyojana

- ❖ The National Highway Authority of India completed the construction of 3,979 km of national highways in the financial year 2019-20.
- ❖ This is the highest ever target achieved by the authority in a financial year since its establishment.
- ❖ The Government of India envisaged construction of national highway under Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Road and Transport and Highways.
- ❖ It was launched in 2015.
- ❖ The scheme has set a target of completing 65,000 Km of Highways.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NAMASTE Portal

- ❖ It is developed by the Ministry of AYUSH.
- ❖ Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy is the expansion of AYUSH.



- ❖ Recently, the Ministry has developed National Ayurveda Morbidity Codes (NAMC), which is a comprehensive classification of diseases described in Ayurveda and Standardized Ayurveda Terminologies.
- ❖ National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (NAMASTE Portal) was launched on 17th October, 2017 (2nd Ayurveda day).
- ❖ The National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).

Anti-microbial coating

- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institution under DST, has come up with a one-step curable anti-microbial coating.
- ❖ This coating is capable of completely killing the influenza virus and resistant pathogenic bacteria and fungi, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, fluconazole-resistant *C. albicans* spp. and a range of virus type Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-19).
- ❖ The anti-microbial coating can be applied or fabricated into surfaces such as textiles, plastics, etc.
- ❖ It is anticipated that the coating will not allow microorganisms to become active on coated surfaces.
- ❖ The coating kills the microbes within 30 minutes of contact.
- ❖ The Compound developed through the technology is soluble in several solvents such as plastics, textiles, PVC, polystyrene, polyurethane.
- ❖ During the COVID-19 outbreak, the coating may be used to protect personal protective tools, clothes and equipment of health workers.

ENVIRONMENT

Forest Rights Committee

- ❖ The Tribal affairs ministry recently constituted a committee on Community Forest Resources (CFR Guideline) under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).
- ❖ The ministry created a committee headed by NC Saxena, former member of the Planning Commission of India and of the National Advisory Council.
- ❖ The CFR right under the FRA empowers Gram Sabha to conserve and manage their forest.
- ❖ In 2016, CFR guidelines were prepared by MoTA, in consultation with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).



- ❖ Earlier the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) appointed committee to facilitate legal recognition for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).
- ❖ It was headed by former MoTA secretary Hrusikesh Panda.
- ❖ These committee members decided to visit Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Under FRA, habitat rights are given to PVTGs and pre-agriculture communities and it gives them access to the resources in the area recognized as their habitat.

