

April - 11

TNPSC BITS

- The SAFE scheme is SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency Response (SAFE) against Corona Virus.
- Under this, the SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) bank will provide emergency working capital of Rs 1 crore to small and medium enterprises.

TAMIL NADU

Fund at Doorsteps

- For customers who cannot afford to go out due to the curfew, Indian Postal Payments Bank (IPPB) has introduced Fund at Doorsteps with the help of Aadhar.
- Under this one can withdraw up to 10000 rupees.
- Under this one can withdraw money from any of the bank account which has been linked with Aadhar through Aadhar Enabled Payment System.
- The customer has to place his or her finger on the biometric device with the postman to authenticate the identity
- IPPB is a 100% government owned Public Sector Bank, operating with the Department of Posts under Ministry of Communications.
- On 19 August 2015 India Post got licence to run a payments bank from Reserve Bank of India.
- The pilot project of IPPB was inaugurated on 30 January 2017 at Raipur and Ranchi.
- It rolled out the Aadhaar enabled payment system services in September 2019.



NATIONAL

Supreme Court on Covid 19

- The Supreme Court has ordered private medical labs (4500 Rupees) across the country to not charge patients for testing for Covid 19.
- The court added that coronavirus tests must be carried out in NABL-accredited labs (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) or any agencies approved by the WHO or ICMR.
- The bench suggested that the Centre should ensure that private laboratories do not charge high amount and government should create a mechanism for reimbursement of the fees charges for the tests.

INTERNATIONAL

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”.
- As per data compiled by the U.N. body, France has seen a 30% increase in domestic violence since the lockdown on March 17.
- In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.



Suspension of Blue Helmets

- The United Nations announced that the organization is suspending its peace keeping forces till June 30.
- This is being done to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 virus.
- The United Nations Peace Keeping was founded in 1945.
- The force is sometimes addressed as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets.
- It is the responsibility of the UNSC to maintain international peace and security.



COVID-19 and world of work

- The International Labour Organization released its report, “COVID-19 and world of work”.
- According to the report, around 400 million people are to enter poverty in India.
- The reductions of jobs are to be more in Arab countries and in Asia and Pacific.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAI)

- India has shared nine whole genome sequences of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) with the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAI).
- All these have been shared by the Pune-based National Institute of Virology.
- Early in March, India became the fifth country in the world to sequence the genome of the novel Coronavirus, or Covid-19.
- With 621, the U.S. has shared the most number of sequences, followed by the U.K. (350), Belgium (253) and China (242).



- The CCMB (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology), CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) and IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) are working on genome sequencing of COVID-19.
- Genomic sequencing is a technique that allows us to read and interpret genetic information found within DNA or RNA.
- It is being done to understand the evolution of the virus.
- Sequencing the genome of SARS-CoV-2 will help understand
 - Where the virus came from.
 - If there are different strains circulating in India.
 - How the virus has spread.
- GISAID is a public platform started by the WHO in 2008 for countries to share genome sequences.
- In 2010 the Federal Republic of Germany became the official host of the GISAID platform.

Three types of Health Care Facilities

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that the hospitals and health facilities have been classified to deal with COVID-19 cases in the country.
- The ministry has also announced that if one person does not follow strict guidelines of social distancing, he or she shall infect 406 people in just 3
- There are three types of COVID-19 health centres to be set up in the country.
- The three types of centres are as follows
 - COVID Care Centre
 - Dedicated COVID Health Centre
 - Dedicated COVID Hospital

COVID Care Centre

- These centres will attend cases that are clinically assigned as very mild or mild.
- They can be hostels, stadiums, schools, lodges, etc.

Dedicated COVID Health Centre

- These centres will attend cases that are assigned as “moderate”.
- These centres will compulsorily have oxygen support in all beds.
- Also, these centres will have dedicated ambulance support equipped with sufficient oxygen support.

Dedicated COVID Hospital



- These hospitals attend cases that have been clinically assigned as “severe”.
- They can be either a complete hospital or a part of the hospital.
- The private hospitals shall also be designated to this category.
- These hospitals will hold complete set up of ICUs, beds with oxygen support and ventilator units.

Nasal Passage Gel for COVID-19

- The Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering and IIT Madras have developed a nasal passage gel that will inactivate COVID-19 virus.
- The funding to support the technology is to be provided by SERB (Science and Engineering Research Board), a statutory body operating under Department of Science and Technology.
- Under one approach, the plan is to create a causative agent that will prevent the virus from binding to the host cells.
- Another approach is to inactivate the virus by trapping them.

ENVIRONMENT

Bio fortified carrots

- A farmer scientist of Junagadh district, Gujarat Vallabhai Vastambhai Marvaniya developed bio fortified carrots.
- The carrots are locally called “Madhuban Gajar”.
- It has 277.75 mg/kg of β -Carotene and 276.7 mg/kg of iron.
- The validation trials of the carrot were conducted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF).
- It is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- It was set up in February 2000 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat to provide institutional support for the grassroots innovations across the country.



Super Pink Moon

- Super Pink Moon occurred for the second time in the year 2020.
- A Super moon phenomenon occurs when Moon is "full" and reaches perigee.
- Perigee is the point of Moon's orbit when it's nearest to the Earth.
- Its orbit to the earth is elliptical in Nature.
- Thus, when a full Moon is nearest to the Earth, a Super moon occurs.
- The Moon appears to be 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter than the average full moon.
- April Super moon is known as Pink Super moon as it is named after pink flower that is native to eastern North America.
- Therefore, the supermoon in the month of April derives its name from this flower.
- It refers to the colour of the flower not the colour of the moon.



STATES

Lockdown in Odisha

- Odisha is the first Indian state to extend Covid-19 lockdown till April 30.
- Activities related to agriculture, animal husbandry and MGNREGS will be facilitated during the lockdown period following social distancing norms in Odisha.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Valour Day – April 9

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) on April 9.
- On this Day in 1965, the CRPF lost six of its brave soldiers while thwarting the attempts of Pakistan Army at the Sardar Post at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- This was the first time a full-fledged infantry brigade fierce fully and successfully fought against the Pakistan army.

