

April - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India in collaboration with UNICEF has launched Digital Communication Strategy for the Tribal Gatherers to work safely.
 - The programme highlights the importance of social distancing.
- ❖ The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Operation Shield in the containment zones of National Capital Region.
 - SHIELD stands for Sealing, Home quarantine, isolation and tracing, essential supply, local sanitation and door-to-door checks.
- ❖ The Punjab government said it was extending the COVID-19 lockdown in the state till May 1, becoming the second state to do after Odisha.
 - Punjab too has said it may allow relief to farmers in some districts from the lockdown to harvest the winter-spring crop.

NATIONAL

iGOT

- ❖ The Department of Personnel and Training launched online training platform-iGOT in the fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The platform is called iGOT — Integrated Government Online Training.
- ❖ The portal will look after the training needs of the frontline workers.
- ❖ It has been launched on DIKSHA platform of Ministry of Human Resources Development.





INTERNATIONAL

Ceasefire in Yemen

- ❖ The Saudi Arabia led coalition declares cease fire in Yemen.
- ❖ The Intervention of the Coalition in Yemen is said to be in compliance with Article 2 of the United Nations Charter.
- ❖ The Coalition intervened Yemen in the code name “Operation Decisive Storm”.
- ❖ The Coalition includes Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal.
- ❖ The coalition was supported by US as well.
- ❖ Yemen was devastated by a conflict that began in 2015.
- ❖ The Houthis that are backed by the Iran military took much of the control in west of the country.
- ❖ The coup led by the Houthis forced President Mansour Hadi to flee abroad.
- ❖ The rise of the group alarmed Saudi Arabia and eight other Arab states to lead a military campaign restoring Hadi’s Government.

ECONOMY

UN Report

- ❖ The United Nations released a report on Economic and Social Survey of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), 2020.
- ❖ According to the report, the economic growth rate of India stood at 5% in 2019-20.
- ❖ It has forecasted that the growth rate is to shrink to 4.8% in 2020-21 and the growth rate might improve in the year 2021-22.
- ❖ The report predicts that the global economy is to grow at 2.3% in 2020 and will gradually pick up in 2021.

CPI Inflation

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India projected that the consumer Price Index (CPI) is to ease from 4.8% in Q1 to 4.4% in Q2 of the financial year 2020-21.
- ❖ The estimated easing of CPI implies that the aggregate demand will weaken further.



- ❖ Currently, RBI is following target inflation rate in the country.
- ❖ The inflation target has been set at 4% with +2% and -2% as target bands on either sides.
- ❖ This means that RBI will try to maintain the inflation rate between 2% and 6%.
- ❖ The Inflation Targeting was adopted by Government of India in 2015.

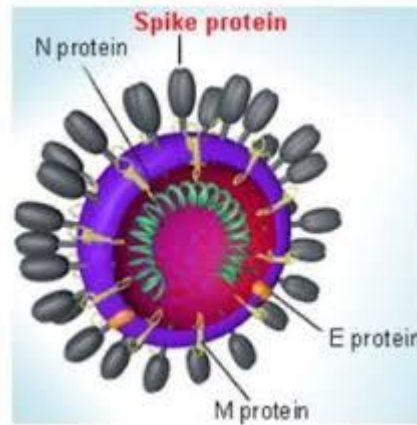
COVID-19 Package Fund

- ❖ The Government of India sanctioned Rs 15,000 crore.
- ❖ It was earlier announced for the Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness package.
- ❖ The main objective of the package is to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ The Funds are to be completely handled by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

nCoVSENSE Module

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology has funded a health care start up called the “Module Innovations” in order to develop COVID-19 testing kit.
- ❖ The purpose of the kit is to make the testing quicker within 10 to 15 minutes.
- ❖ The device will test for antibodies that are generated against COVID-19 in human body.
- ❖ The human body generates Immunoglobulin G and Immunoglobulin M in human body as the virus begins its infection.
- ❖ The antibodies are targeted against the spike proteins of the virus.
- ❖ The current method of testing COVID-19 that uses Real Time Reverse-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) needs more man power and also it takes longer hours.



Swachhata application

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a revised version of Swachhata application.
- ❖ It has separate grievance redressal tool to address complaints of Swachh Bharat Mission.

Mass Manufacturing Technologies

- ❖ The CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) tied up with Bharat Electronics Limited to develop mass manufacturing technologies (hardware and software).
- ❖ The technologies are to focus on production of medical devices.
- ❖ These technologies after creation are to be transferred to companies free of cost.
- ❖ The tie up has helped mitigate COVID-19 through its two recent innovations.
- ❖ They are Digital IR Thermometers and Oxygen Enrichment Unit.

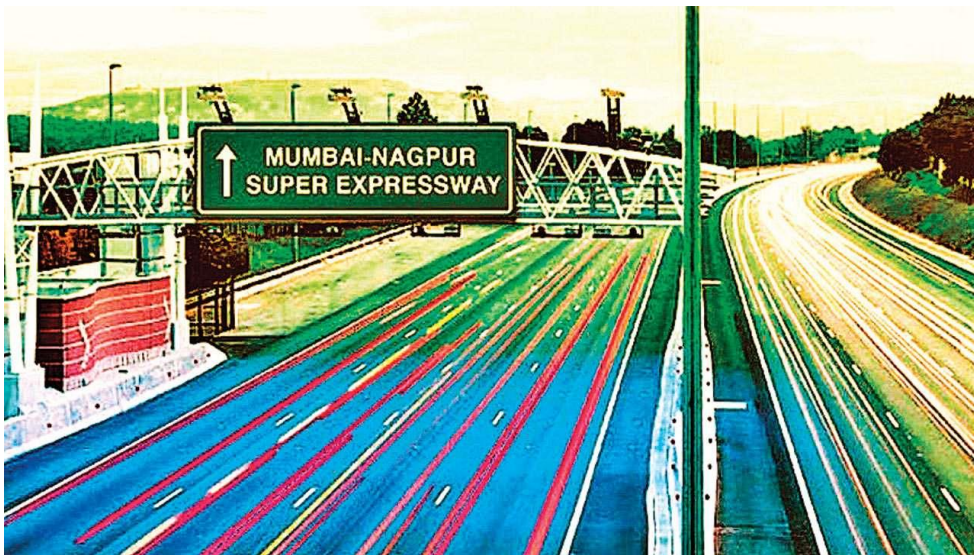
ENVIRONMENT

Mumbai-Nagpur highway

- ❖ The National Wildlife Board (NBWL) issued final nod for Mumbai-Nagpur highway
- ❖ This Highway passes through the 10-km eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Katepurna and Karanja Sohal Blackbuck wildlife sanctuaries.

About NBWL

- ❖ NBWL is a “Statutory Organization” constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ It is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL.
- ❖ It has 47 members including the Prime Minister.
- ❖ It includes three Members of Parliament (two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha), five NGOs and 10 eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists.



IMPORTANT DAYS

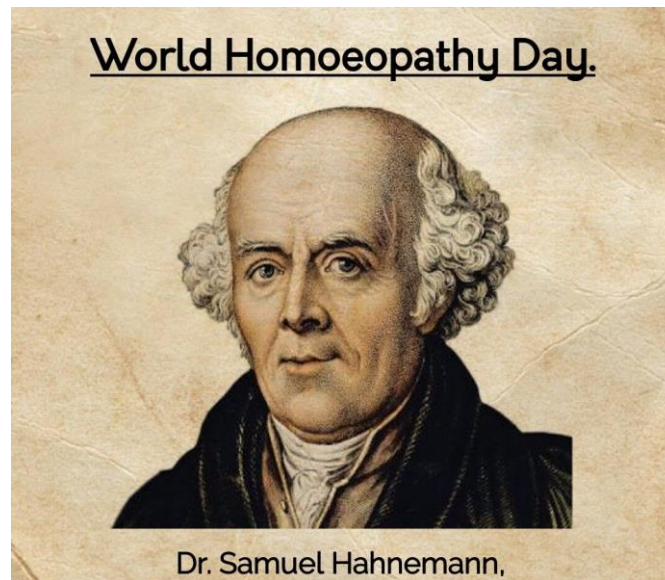
Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) – April 9

- ❖ ICCR celebrated its 70th foundation day on April 9.
- ❖ ICCR was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Independent India’s first Education Minister.
- ❖ It is an autonomous organisation.
- ❖ It works under the Ministry of External Affairs.

World Homeopathy Day – April 10

- ❖ It is observed to commemorate the Birthday of Dr. Hahnemann, the Founder of Homoeopathy.

- ❖ Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann was a German physician.
- ❖ He is credited with the invention of homoeopathy.
- ❖ The theme of this year for this day is 'Linking research with education and clinical practice: Advancing scientific collaborations'.
- ❖ World Homeopathy Awareness Week is also celebrated annually between April 10th and April 16th.
- ❖ Homoeopathy is one of the most popular medical systems in India.
- ❖ It is an alternative form of medicine.
- ❖ It is a form of medicine that works on the principle of triggering the body's own healing responses.
- ❖ The AYUSH includes medical services of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy '.
- ❖ India is the biggest drug manufacture and traders' sector in Homoeopathy.
- ❖ For this year, the official theme, set by AYUSH Ministry, is 'Enhancing the scope of Homeopathy in Public Health'.



National Survey Day – April 10

- ❖ This day has a special significance in the History of Surveying.
- ❖ On this day the Major William Lambton started the GTS (Great Trigonometrical Survey) and the work of measurement of Great Arc from St. Thomas Mount in Chennai to foothills of Himalayas, on 10th April, 1802.
- ❖ The Great Trigonometrical Survey was a project which aimed to measure the entire Indian subcontinent with scientific precision.



- ❖ The Survey of India is India's central engineering agency in charge of mapping and surveying.
- ❖ Set up in 1767 to help consolidate the territories of the British East India Company, it is one of the oldest Engineering Departments of the Government of India.
- ❖ It is headquartered at Dehra Dun.
- ❖ It works under the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The slogan of the organization is "We know every inch of the nation, because we map every inch of it".

