

April - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Delhi Government launched “Assess Koro Na” application to conduct door to door survey.
 - The application has been launched in COVID-19 containment zones.
- ❖ The Government of India launched the “Krishi Rath” application to help farmers to transport their agriculture produce to the mandis.
 - The traders can learn farm produce from the application and can consolidate loads posted by different farmers.
- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is to finance 500 million USD projects in India to help the country improve its health care systems.
 - The Asian Development Bank recently announced to support India with 2.2 billion USD of funds.

NATIONAL

Zoom App

- ❖ The Home Ministry has red flagged the Zoom application citing Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In).
- ❖ The Cyber Coordination Centre (CyCord) operating under Ministry of Home Affairs gave warnings for the use of Zoom application.
- ❖ Zoom Application is a web-based video conferencing tool that allows users to meet through video, voices.
- ❖ The Home Ministry has stressed that the government officials should not use the application for official purposes.
- ❖ The Cyncord was launched in 2018.
- ❖ It was launched as a one-stop platform for cyber related crimes such as finding solutions, experience sharing, research findings, finding solutions to deal with cybercrimes, etc.



ECONOMY

RBI measures

- ❖ It has decided to reduce the fixed reverse repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points.
- ❖ It cut the reverse repo rate from 4% to 3.75%.
- ❖ Earlier in March Month, it cut the repo rate to 4.4% from 5.15%.
- ❖ Also, the central bank has announced Rs 50,000 crore for Long Term Repo Operation (LTRO).
- ❖ This time the LTRO is to focus on liquidity needs of microfinances and NBFC.
- ❖ Earlier the LTRO went largely to the public sector undertakings and larger corporations.
- ❖ RBI has eased the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) from 100% to 80%.
- ❖ The LCR is the assets held by the banks to make sure its ongoing ability to meet short-term obligations are fulfilled.
- ❖ The RBI will also provide Rs 50,000 crore special finance assistance to institutions such as SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India), NABARD, National Housing Bank.

Monetary antidote

- RBI provides special refinance facility of ₹25,000 crore to NABARD for refinancing regional rural banks, cooperative banks and micro finance institutions; ₹15,000 crore to SIDBI for on-lending and refinancing; and ₹10,000 crore to NHB for supporting housing finance companies



- Banks can avail themselves of ₹50,000 crore through targeted long term repo operation (TLTRO)

- They must invest funds from TLTRO in investment grade bonds, commercial paper, and non-convertible debentures of NBFCs

- Small, mid-sized NBFCs and micro finance institutions should receive at least 50% of these funds

- Of this, 10% to be invested in MFI securities, 15% in securities issued by NBFCs with asset size of ₹500 crore and below; and 25% in securities of NBFCs with asset sizes in the ₹500 crore-₹5,000 crore range

OBICUS

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India launched OBICUS.
- ❖ OBICUS is Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilization Survey (OBICUS).
- ❖ The survey provides an insight into the demands of the Indian manufacturing sector.
- ❖ The survey covers 2,500 companies both in public and private sector.
- ❖ The survey is conducted quarterly (4 times a year).
- ❖ It is being conducted since 2008.

IMFC meeting

- ❖ The Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman recently attended the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) through video-conference.
- ❖ The discussions at the meeting were based on IMF Managing Director's Global Policy Agenda titled, "Exceptional Times – Exceptional Action".
- ❖ The Committee discusses matters of common concern affecting the global economy and also advises the IMF on the direction its work.
- ❖ The IMFC has 24 members, drawn from the pool of 187 governors.

- ❖ As such, the IMFC represents all the member countries of the Fund.
- ❖ The IMFC meets twice a year, during the spring and Annual Meetings.
- ❖ There is no formal voting at the IMFC, which operates by consensus.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Rapid Anti Body tests

- ❖ The Government of India announced that the Rapid Antibody tests will strictly be used as surveillance test.
- ❖ India recently imported 5 lakh rapid antibody kits from China.
- ❖ India is to continue using DNA based RT-PCR testing to detect COVID-19.
- ❖ This is done by using throat swabs.
- ❖ According to ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), persons with influenza like symptoms and patients with runny nose and sore throat should take the RT-PCR (Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) test.
- ❖ When the test is negative, they should go through antibody test after 7 days.
- ❖ This is being done as antibodies are formed on persons' body only after 8 days a person is infected.

ENVIRONMENT

Water availability in India

- ❖ The average annual per capita water availability in India fell from 1820 cubic meters assessed in 2001 to 1545 cubic meters in 2011.
- ❖ It could reduce further to 1341 and 1140 in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively.

- ❖ In a 2018 report, the water and sanitation advocacy group WaterAid ranked India at the top of 10 countries with lowest access to clean water close to home.
- ❖ Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition.
- ❖ Annual per- capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Ambassador of WWF India

- ❖ The Chess legend Viswanathan Anand was named the ambassador of World Wide Fund India (WWF).
- ❖ He was the first chess grandmaster from India.
- ❖ He won the FIDE World chess championship continuously between 2000 and 2002 and was the first Asian to achieve this.
- ❖ The WWF is an international NGO that was founded in 1961.
- ❖ It is the largest conservation organization in the world.

IMPORTANT DAYS

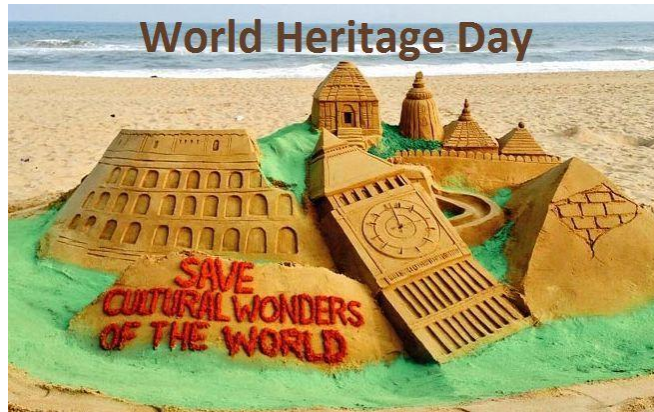
World Hemophilia Day - April 17

- ❖ The day is observed by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH).
- ❖ It is observed to increase awareness about the hereditary bleeding disorders.
- ❖ Hemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder in which blood does not clot properly
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Get + Involved virtually and stay safe".
- ❖ 17 April is also the birthday of Frank Schnabel, a Canada businessman born with severe haemophilia who was the founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH).



World Heritage Day - April 18

- ❖ It is also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- ❖ The aim of celebrating this day is to promote cultural heritage through activities which are undertaken by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).



- ❖ ICOMOS suggested in 1982 that April 18 should be observed as an International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- ❖ It was approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- ❖ Theme of the year 2020 is Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism celebrated the World Heritage Day - 2020 through a webinar series on Mamallapuram and Humayun's Tomb of Delhi.
- ❖ UNESCO defines a World Heritage Site as a "natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and space which requires special protection."
- ❖ There are 38 World Heritage Sites located in India.
- ❖ These include 30 cultural sites, seven natural sites and one mixed-criteria site.
- ❖ India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

