

April - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Conference on Kharif crops fixed the target of food grains for the year 2020-21 at 298 million tonnes.
 - The target was 291 million tonnes for the year 2019-20.

NATIONAL

Fit India Active Day Programme

- ❖ The Government of India launched Fit India Active Day Programme under the flagship initiative called “Fit India”.
- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH has issued guidelines to implement the Fit India Active Day Programme.
- ❖ The programme is launched to make sure children practice fitness even when they stay home.
- ❖ The Fit India Movement was launched to make sure the citizens stay healthy through sports and physical activities.
- ❖ The movement was launched during National Sports Day, 2019 (August 29).
- ❖ The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand.





Sahyog

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology launched Integrated Geospatial Platform to complement Arogya Setu and integrate data from several other initiatives.
- ❖ The platform will receive data from SAHYOG mobile application and from web portal India maps.
- ❖ The Survey of India has launched a mobile application called “Sahyog” to collect information about COVID-19 specific data sets through community engagement.

National Polio Surveillance Network

- ❖ India joined hands with World Health Organization to implement National Polio Surveillance Network to contain COVID-19.
- ❖ Along with COVID-19, the team will also be involved to support elimination of tuberculosis and other diseases.
- ❖ With National Polio Surveillance Project, India eliminated polio in 2014.
- ❖ The Project was launched in 1997.
- ❖ It was collaboration between Indian Government and WHO.
- ❖ The project aimed to cover 100% of immunization in the country.

Supreme Court on Floor test

- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon’s March month decision asking the then Kamal Nath led-Congress government to prove majority by holding a floor test in the Legislative Assembly after the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.
- ❖ A Governor’s power to call for a floor test is not restricted only before the inception of a State government immediately after elections, but continues throughout its term.
- ❖ While directing a trust vote, the Governor should not favour a particular political party.
- ❖ A Governor need not wait for the Speaker’s decision on the resignation of rebel MLAs before calling for a trust vote.

INTERNATIONAL

Google Journalism Emergency Relief Fund

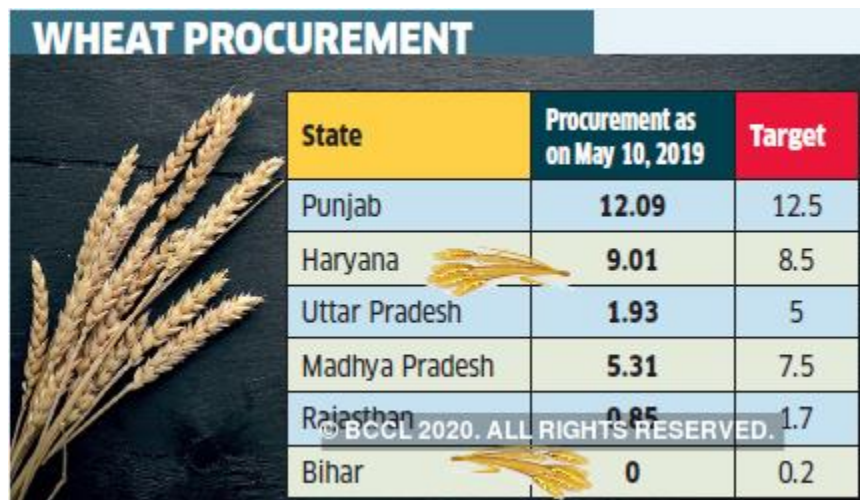
- ❖ Google is planning to launch this emergency fund to help local news outlets struggling to maintain operations in the face of the coronavirus pandemic
- ❖ This financial support is for local newsrooms hit by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of its Google News Initiative.

ECONOMY

All India Agri Transport Call Centre facility

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare launched All India Agri Transport Call Centre facility.
- ❖ The facility will avail inter-state movement of perishables.
- ❖ The call centres are to be operated by IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL).
- ❖ The IKSL has been promoted by the IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited) along with Bharti Airtel and Star global Resource Limited.
- ❖ The IFFCO is the biggest cooperative society in the country that was founded in 1967.

Wheat Procurement



The table displays wheat procurement data for various states in India as of May 10, 2019, compared to their targets. The states listed are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar. Punjab shows the highest procurement at 12.09 million tonnes, exceeding its target of 12.5 million tonnes. Bihar has zero procurement, significantly below its target of 0.2 million tonnes.

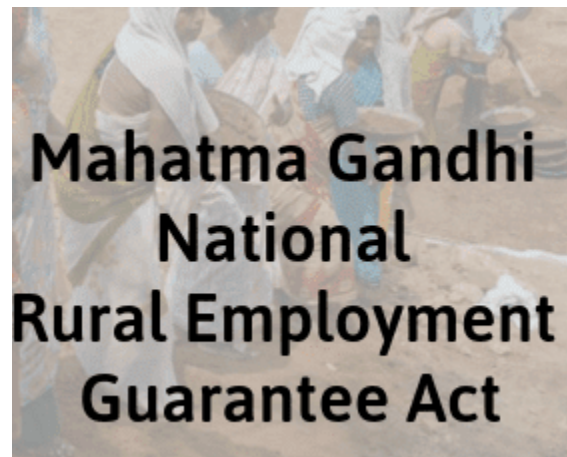
State	Procurement as on May 10, 2019	Target
Punjab	12.09	12.5
Haryana	9.01	8.5
Uttar Pradesh	1.93	5
Madhya Pradesh	5.31	7.5
Rajasthan	0.85	1.7
Bihar	0	0.2

- ❖ Wheat Production is estimated to be at all an all-time high of over 106.21 million tonnes.
- ❖ This is mainly because the acreage in all these major wheat growing states is high.

- ❖ The three states namely Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana account to 90% of wheat production in the country.

MGNREGA

- ❖ Under the Lockdown guidelines, the Government allows industrial works, road construction works and MGNREGA to begin in the rural areas.
- ❖ The aim is to help workers of unorganized sector and the migrants.
- ❖ MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is the biggest source of employment generation in the country.
- ❖ The central government had allocated Rs 60,000 crore for MGNREGA for the financial year 2020-21.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COVSACK

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed COVSACK to receive samples from COVID-19 infected patients.
- ❖ The COVSACK is COVID-19 Sample Collection Kiosk.
- ❖ The COVSACK was developed by consulting doctors in Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- ❖ There is no involvement of manual disinfection in the entire process.
- ❖ Moreover, the cabin is flushed with water and UV light.
- ❖ Therefore, the system is safe to use.



Testing Kit by SCTIMST

- ❖ The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science (SCTIMST), an institute of national importance developed a diagnostic kit.
- ❖ The time taken by the kit to examine the samples is half as that of the time taken by the RT-PCR tests.
- ❖ The kit uses RT-LAMP (Reverse Transcriptase Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification) technique to identify the N gene of the virus.
- ❖ The technique has begun to replace RT-PCR for its rapidity, simplicity, sensitivity and specificity.

Rapid Antibody testing

- ❖ India is buying RNA extraction kits and antibody testing kits from China.
- ❖ India will also import PPE kits from China.
- ❖ The rapid antibody testing is quicker than the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing.
- ❖ It takes 15 to 30 minutes to provide the results.
- ❖ The kit uses a lancet to prick on a person's finger and collects blood to examine for antibodies.

- ❖ The test checks for IgM and IgG antibodies.

ENVIRONMENT

Bats in Myanmar

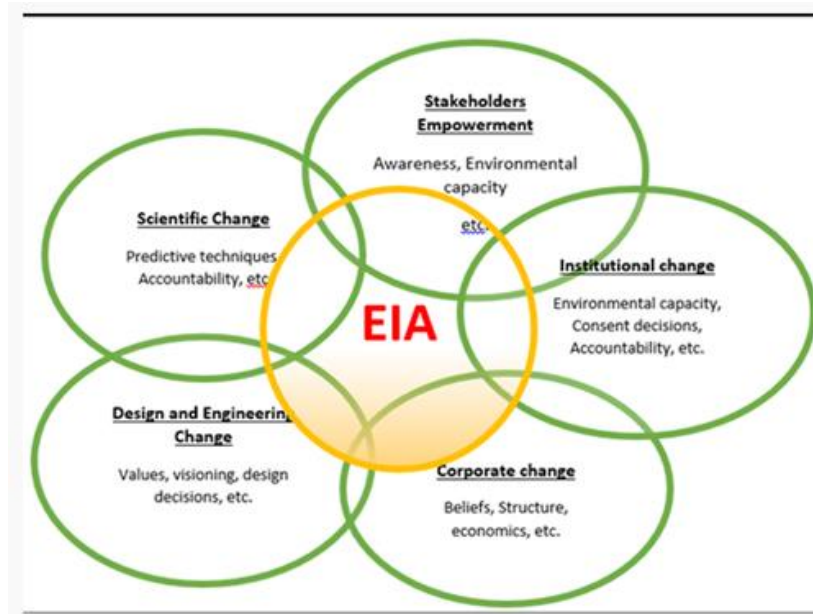
- ❖ Scientists have discovered six new coronaviruses among bats in Myanmar.
- ❖ This is the first time these viruses have been discovered.
- ❖ They aren't closely related to covid-19 or SARS or MERS – two other types of coronavirus.
- ❖ Experts estimate that thousands of coronaviruses are present in bats.
- ❖ Researchers detected these new viruses while conducting bio surveillance of animals and people.
- ❖ It was done to better understand the circumstances for disease spillover.
- ❖ It was part of a project known as PREDICT.
- ❖ The team was formed by the Smithsonian's Global Health Program.
- ❖ The findings have been published in the scientific journal PLOS ONE.



Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

- ❖ Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ It contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process.
- ❖ To address unprecedented situation arising from COVID-19, and to ramp up availability or production of various drugs, the Environment Ministry has made an amendment to EIA Notification 2006.

- ❖ All projects or activities in respect of bulk drugs and intermediates, manufactured for addressing various ailments, have been re-categorized from the existing Category 'A' to 'B2' category.



Monsoon Forecast

- ❖ Recently the IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) has predicted that India will likely have a normal monsoon in 2020, with a chance of 'above normal' rain in August and September.
- ❖ It has also officially redefined the definition of what constitutes 'normal' rainfall and reduced it by 1 cm to 88 cm from 89 cm.
- ❖ The June-September rainfall accounts for 75% of the country's annual rainfall.
- ❖ The IMD issues a two-stage forecast: the first in April, followed by a more detailed one in the last week of May, which will also illustrate how the monsoon will spread over the country.
- ❖ IMD relies on supercomputers, mathematically simulating the physics of the ocean and the atmosphere.

