

April - 30

## INTERNATIONAL

### International Financial Services Centre Authority

- ❖ The Government of India has established this Authority.
- ❖ The headquarters of the authority is to be established in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The main function of the authority is to regulate financial products such as contracts of insurance, deposits, and securities of the financial institutions.
- ❖ The authority consists of 9 members that are appointed by the Government of India.
- ❖ The members are to have a term of three years.
- ❖ The members include Chairperson, two members from Ministry of Finance, one each from RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA and two members based on the recommendation of search committee.

### Exercise Pitch Black

- ❖ The biennial warfare exercise hosted by Royal Australian Air Force was cancelled due to COVID-19 threats.
- ❖ The main aim of the exercise is to practice Defensive Counter Air combat and Offensive Counter Air Combat.
- ❖ In 2018, India participated in the exercise for the first time.



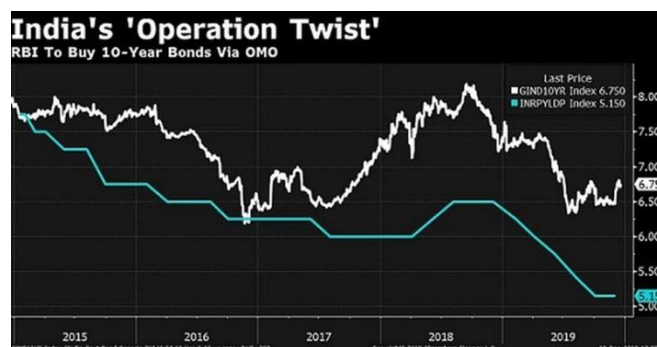
## ECONOMY

### Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API)

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) has collaborated with LAXAI Life Sciences to produce Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients inside India.
- ❖ This will help to reduce dependence of pharmaceutical sector on Chinese imports.
- ❖ The Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients are also known as bulk drugs.
- ❖ They are the main part of the drugs that produce intended effects.
- ❖ India is the third largest producer of API in the world.
- ❖ Around two-third of the API of India are imported from China.
- ❖ In March 2020, the Government of India had constituted a committee under chairmanship of CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organization) director to revive the API industry.

### Operation Twist

- ❖ The Reserve bank of India has decided to bring back its bond swapping programme.
- ❖ It is billed as India's Operation Twist with an aim to help monetary transmission.
- ❖ The RBI said that it will conduct purchase and sale of government securities under open market operations (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore.
- ❖ 'Operation Twist' is RBI's simultaneous selling of short-term securities and buying of long term securities through open market operations (OMO).
- ❖ Under this mechanism, the short-term securities are transitioned into long-term securities.
- ❖ The RBI manages and controls the liquidity, rupee strength and monetary management through purchase and sale of government securities (G-Secs) in a monetary tool called Open market Operations.





## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Hydrogen Fuel Cell**

- ❖ The National Thermal Power Corporation recently had invited expression of interest for procuring ten Hydrogen Fuel Cell based buses and 10 similar electric cars.
- ❖ These environment-friendly vehicles would be used in Delhi and Leh.
- ❖ It is first of its kind project in the country.
- ❖ It is to decarbonize transport system in the country.
- ❖ The Hydrogen Fuel Cell use chemical process to convert hydrogen rich fuel into electricity.
- ❖ The main advantage of fuel cells is that they need not be charged frequently.
- ❖ They produce electricity as long as the fuel is available.
- ❖ The major benefits of hydrogen fuel cells include high efficiency, low to zero emissions, fuel flexibility, quiet operation, durability and energy security.
- ❖ Hydrogen fuel is a zero-emission fuel burned with oxygen.
- ❖ It can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines.
- ❖ It is also used as a fuel for spacecraft propulsion.

### **Herbal Decongestant Spray**

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) has developed herbal decongestant spray.
- ❖ The spray is used to prevent COVID-19 infection and to ease wearing masks.
- ❖ The NBRI is a Lucknow based laboratory that mainly focuses on botanical research work.

### **Guidelines for the use of AC**

- ❖ The Central Public Works Department has issued guidelines to use air conditioners during COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The guidelines were prepared by the Indian Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioner Engineers (ISHRAE).
- ❖ The main objective of the guidelines is to counter the fact use of air conditioners lead to increased spread of COVID-19.



- ❖ The ideal temperature is to be maintained between 24 degree Celsius and 30 Degree celsius.
- ❖ The relative humidity should be maintained between 40% and 70%.
- ❖ In order to maintain positive pressure in the space, the mechanical exhaust air shall be 70% to 80% of fresh air quantity.
- ❖ The Government of India had already issued an order that every air conditioner should have minimum temperature threshold as 24 degree celsius.

### **Mutation of Corona Virus**

- ❖ National Institute of Biomedical Genomics in Kalyani, West Bengal has released a study stating that novel coronavirus has mutated into 10 different types.
- ❖ Among them, A2a has become dominant across all the geographical regions.
- ❖ The A2a mutation has been highly efficient in entering human lungs in large numbers.
- ❖ The virus can be classified into O, A2, A2a, A3, B, B1, and many other types.
- ❖ At present, 11 types have been identified that include type O.
- ❖ It was the ancestral type that originated in Wuhan.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare – April 29**

- ❖ In November 2005 the UN decided to observe this Day.
- ❖ The date April 29 was chosen for this observance because it was when the Chemical Weapons Convention came into force.
- ❖ The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29 April 1997.
- ❖ The OPCW, with its 193 member states, has its seat in The Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ The organisation was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.



### **International Dance Day – April 29**

- ❖ It is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.
- ❖ It is the anniversary of the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the French dancer and the creator of modern ballet.



### **International Jazz Day – April 30**

- ❖ In November 2011, the UNESCO officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day
- ❖ It aims to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.



## **Ayushman Bharat Diwas – April 30**

- ❖ It is a National Health Protection Scheme.
- ❖ It was announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence speech of 2018.
- ❖ The scheme has the health benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.

