

March - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Delhi government announced that it will implement the health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the state.

NATIONAL

India's First Covid 19 dedicated Hospital

- ❖ The Reliance Group of Companies in collaboration with Brihan mumbai Municipal corporation has set up a COVID-19 Centre at the Seven Hills Hospital in Mumbai.
- ❖ The centre is completely supported by Reliance Foundation.
- ❖ It has all required infrastructure including a negative pressure room.
- ❖ The Negative Room Pressure technology is used to isolate patients.



Lock down in India

- ❖ With COVID-19 spreading in India, the Government of India announced complete Lockdown for 21 days starting from March 25th.
- ❖ Government of India has allocated Rs 15,000 crores to fight against Corona Virus.
- ❖ The Fund is to be used to increase health infrastructure in the country.
- ❖ It had invoked the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ The COVID-19 was listed as “notified Disaster”.
- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has listed the commercial establishments that will continue to operate during the lock down.



- ❖ It includes power generation units, petrol pumps, cold storage units, private security agencies, food & medical equipment and pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ It has ruled curfew in some areas, Section-144 in some other areas and lock down in many other areas.
- ❖ The action is called Lock Down when there are restrictions on assembly.
- ❖ However, essential services are available in these situations.
- ❖ The Lock Down shall be enforced by a collector or the chief medical officer.
- ❖ Under the Section 144, when the assembly of people are prohibited according to Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ Under Section 144, more than 5 people are not allowed to assemble.
- ❖ The action is called Curfew when Section 144 is imposed along with the shutdown of essential services.
- ❖ The Curfew powers lies with Collector and Police Commissioner.

INTERNATIONAL

Four Mega Trials

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently launched a mega trial of four most promising corona virus treatments.
- ❖ It includes
 - Remdesivir, an anti-viral compound
 - Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine, the Malarial medications
 - Combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir, HIV drugs
 - Interferon-beta along with the combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir
- ❖ The drug Remdesivir was found to treat E-Bola viral infections during the E-bola outbreak in Congo.
- ❖ The drug has been proved that it inhibits other Corona Virus Stains called SARS and MERS.

ECONOMY

The Invest India Business Immunity Platform

- ❖ India's National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency called the Invest India launched "The Invest India Business Immunity Platform".



- ❖ The platform is to give real time updates about India's response and actions against Corona Virus.
- ❖ The Platform has partnered with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).

Transfer of Funds

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment transferred funds to the account of construction workers in the backdrop of outbreak of COVID-19.
- ❖ The Labour Ministry has directed the state governments and Union Territories to transfer Rs 52,000 crores to the accounts of construction workers.
- ❖ The step has been taken by the Ministry according to the ruling under Section 60 of Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996 (BOCW Cess Act).
- ❖ Under the Act, the cess is collected from every employer working in construction work of Government or other Public Sector undertaking.
- ❖ It is collected by the state Government.

Key measures in Economy

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced several key measures in the view of Corona Virus Pandemic.

Key points

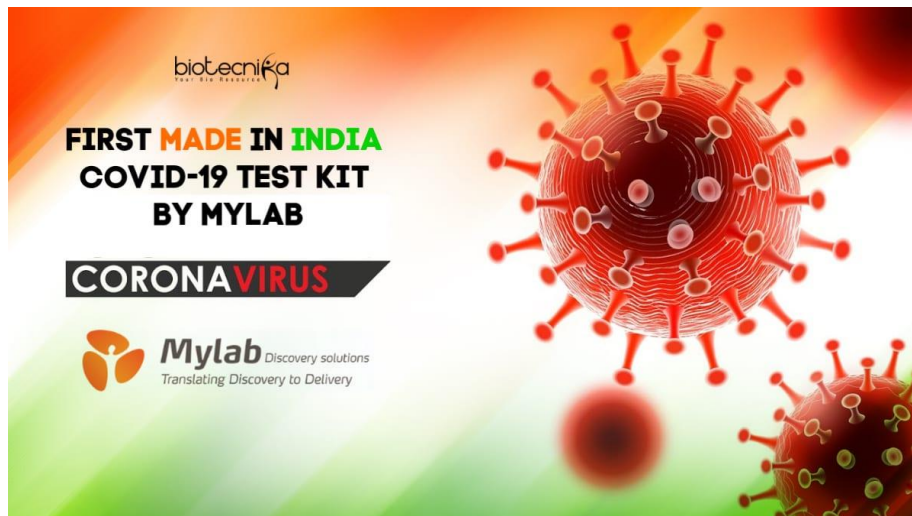
- ❖ No charges on withdrawal of cash in bank ATMs.
- ❖ Also, the digital charges on trade transactions have been reduced.
- ❖ The PAN card and Aadhaar card linking were extended to June 30.
- ❖ The Vivaad Se Vishwas Scheme has been extended to June 30.
- ❖ The Compliances under Wealth Tax act, Income Tax Act, Black Money Act, Benami Transaction Act and Vivaad Se Vishwas have also been extended to June 30.
- ❖ The GST returns, Sabka Vishwas scheme filing dates have also been extended to March 31.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MyLab

- ❖ A Pune based testing services MyLab has become the first Indian company to get a commercial approval from CDSCO for the sales of COVID-19 testing kits.

- ❖ The testing methodology adopted have been validated by National Institute of Virology in Pune.
- ❖ It is First 'Made in India' COVID19 Test Kit that has been commercially approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ❖ The kits are based on Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain reaction
- ❖ A single kit can study 1000 samples.
- ❖ The testing time of COVID-19 in current lab testing services is 4 hours.
- ❖ However, MyLAB's testing time is 2 ½ hours.
- ❖ The laboratory is to sell the kits at Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,500 per test.
- ❖ Currently, the Government of India has fixed the cap price of COVID-19 as Rs 4,500.



Hanta Virus

- ❖ A man in Yunnan Province of China has tested positive for Hanta Virus.
- ❖ The symptoms of Hanta Virus are similar to that of the Corona Virus.
- ❖ The Hanta Virus, also called the Orthohanta virus spreads through rats.
- ❖ It transmits through urine, droppings, saliva of rodents.
- ❖ The virus enters humans through their nose, mouth or eyes.
- ❖ The virus does not spread from person-to-person.

Bio Safety Levels

- ❖ The National Centre for Disease Control provides four levels of Bio-Safety to be followed in India.



- ❖ Bio-Safety is the principle used to contain the spread of pathogens and toxins.
- ❖ India follows Bio-Safety Levels as prescribed by the World Health Organization
- ❖ There are four Bio-Safety levels.
- ❖ It includes
 - BSL-1 that are basic teaching laboratories.
 - BSL-2 offering diagnostic services
 - BSL-3 offers high containment special diagnostic services.
 - BSL-4 are those laboratories that handle dangerous pathogens.
- ❖ The COVID-19 has been put under BSL-4 level.

Biosafety Level	BSL-1	BSL-2	BSL-3	BSL-4
Description	· No Containment · Defined organisms · Unlikely to cause disease	· Containment · Moderate Risk · Disease of varying severity	· High Containment · Aerosol Transmission · Serious/Potentially lethal disease	· Max Containment · "Exotic," High-Risk Agents · Life-threatening disease
Sample Organisms	E.Coli	Influenza, HIV, Lyme Disease	Tuberculosis	Ebola Virus
Pathogen Type	Agents that present minimal potential hazard to personnel & the environment.	Agents associated with human disease & pose moderate hazards to personnel & the environment.	Indigenous or exotic agents, agents that present a potential for aerosol transmission, & agents causing serious or potentially lethal disease.	Dangerous & exotic agents that pose a high risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections & life-threatening disease.
Autoclave Requirements	None	None	Pass-thru autoclave with Bioseal required in laboratory room.	Pass-thru autoclave with Bioseal required in laboratory room.

ENVIRONMENT

Earth quake at Pacific

- ❖ On March 25, 2020, 7.5 magnitude earthquake hit northern Pacific.
- ❖ The quake was 37 miles deep and struck the eastern Kuril Islands of Russia.
- ❖ The Kuril Islands are a volcanic Archipelago that separates Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The islands are currently under Russian Administration.
- ❖ However, claims of Japan over 4 southern most islands of the Archipelago have led to the ongoing Kuril Islands Dispute.

- ❖ The Islands are located at the tectonically instable region called the “Ring of Fire”.
- ❖ The Ring of Fire is the areas of Pacific Ocean where several volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.



STATES

Public Safety Act

- ❖ Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah was released from detention after 7 months.
- ❖ He was booked under Public Safety Act
- ❖ Public Safety Act, 1978 The act is a preventive detention law.
- ❖ Under the act, any person can be taken into custody in order to prevent them from acting harmful against the security of the state.
- ❖ The Act applies only to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Abel Prize

- ❖ The Norwegian Academy of Science is to award the Abel Prize for the year 2020 to the two great mathematicians Hillel Frustenberg and Gregory Margulis.
- ❖ They are being honoured for their work towards probability and dynamics in number theory, combinatorics and Group Theory.
- ❖ The Abel Prize is a Norwegian prize that is being presented annually by the King of Norway.

