

March - 30

NATIONAL

Force Majeure

- ❖ Indian Railways has decided that the period from 22.03.2020 to 14.04.2020 shall be treated under “Force Majeure”.
- ❖ During this period no demurrage, wharfage, stacking, stabling, detention and ground usage charge shall be leviable.

Fight Corona IDEathon

- ❖ It is a 2-day online event.
- ❖ The initiative was jointly organised by Ministry of Human Resources Development's Innovation Cell, AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), MEITY Startup Hub (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology), Innovatio Curis and other institutions of global and national prominence.
- ❖ It was organized to search for accessible and affordable technological solutions that can contain the rapid spread of infection, ease the mounting pressure and ensure a quick return to normalcy.



Lockdown Measures

- ❖ The Union Agriculture Minister announced that agriculture and farming related activities have been exempted from Lock Down.
- ❖ It was issued under the second addendum issued by the Home Ministry towards the lock down.
- ❖ The move has been brought in to facilitate unhindered activities related to farming and agriculture.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs introduced new rules under the State Disaster Response Fund.
- ❖ Under the rules, the funds are to be used to facilitate availability of temporary accommodation and food for the migrant workers.
- ❖ Around 80% of India's work force is employed in informal sector and one-third are working as casual labours.

INTERNATIONAL

Defence Production Act



- ❖ US President Donald Trump invoked the Defence Production Act recently.
- ❖ The Act has been invoked in order to direct General Motors, a Multinational Corporation to manufacture ventilators needed to fight COVID-19.

- ❖ The Act was enacted in 1950 in response to Korean War.

ECONOMY

Halting of Policies

- ❖ As the outbreak of corona virus has hit revenue collection, the Government of India has dropped three crucial policies.
- ❖ The revenue collection for the fiscal year 2019-20 has contracted by 3.5% in the first 11 months.
- ❖ The food ministry had earlier proposed taxes on imported crude and refined vegetable oil from Malaysia.
- ❖ The Food Ministry had also proposed supply subsidized rice and wheat to millions of people.
- ❖ The Food Ministry also proposed to provide vitamin-fortified rice that involved an expenditure of 5 trillion rupees.

Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- ❖ It was raised by the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ The PM is the chairman of the fund.
- ❖ It has not been constituted by the Parliament.
- ❖ It is exempted under Income Tax Act.
- ❖ The PMNRF is used to support people affected by natural and man-made disasters.
- ❖ This includes acid attacks, accidents and riots.
- ❖ It is also allotted to people for kidney transplantation treatments, heat, surgeries, etc.
- ❖ It accepts only voluntary donations by individuals and institutions.
- ❖ Contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of Government or from the balance sheets of the public sector undertakings are not accepted.

PM-CARES Fund

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi announced PM-CARES Fund.
- ❖ PM-CARES is Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations fund.



- ❖ The fund is being raised to deal with the distress or emergency as that of COVID-19 pandemic.

About

- ❖ Prime Minister of India is the Chairman of the trust.
- ❖ The other members of the trust include Finance Minister, Home Minister and Defence Minister.
- ❖ Funds being donated to the PM-CARES trust is to be exempted from tax under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act.
- ❖ The account of the fund is held by the State Bank of India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CoNTec

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched CoNTec.
- ❖ CoNTec is COVID-19 Telecommunication Centre.
- ❖ The platform aims to connect the doctors in the country with AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences).
- ❖ Also, CoNTec is to be completely integrated with National Medical College Network.
- ❖ The programme operated by AIIMS is monitored by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Trials of WHO

- ❖ The ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) announced that India is to participate in trials of WHO (World Health Organization).
- ❖ The trials are to identify potential cures for the outbreak of COVID-19.
- ❖ With the number of cases increasing to 940, India becomes eligible to participate in the WHO solidarity trials.

Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC)

- ❖ It is a voluntary group of scientists from National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the IITs, the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and many others.



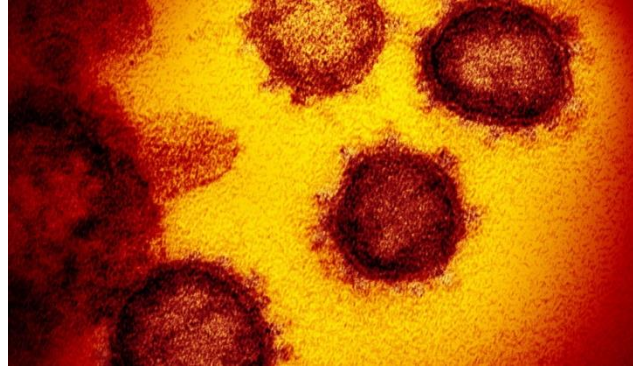
- ❖ It will regularly discuss the rapidly evolving situation with its dire need for science communication.
- ❖ It aims to study the existing and available data to bring out analyses that will support the Central, State and local governments in carrying out their tasks.
- ❖ This platform works through two channels — phone and WhatsApp to connect people in need with those who can provide help.

Source of Covid 19

- ❖ According to a research published in the journal “Pathogen”, virus jumped to humans from Pangolins.
- ❖ Also, mutation was the main reason for the virus to target human cells so easily and hence leads to fast spread of the virus.
- ❖ Pangolins are the most trafficked animals in China.
- ❖ The COVID-19 virus has a spike protein.
- ❖ These proteins contain Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) that facilitates the entry of the virus.
- ❖ The RBD binds with the angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 (ACE-2) found in lungs, heart, kidneys and gastrointestinal tract.
- ❖ The researchers say that COVID-19 is a mutated version of SARS virus that created an epidemic in 2002-03.

Convalescent plasma

- ❖ The Food and Drug Administration of the United States has approved the use of Convalescent plasma collected from patients recovered from COVID-19 to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ The Convalescent plasma treatment had earlier been studied during the outbreaks of 2003 SARS-CoV-1 epidemic, 2009-10 H1N1 influenza virus and 2012 MERS-CoV epidemic.
- ❖ The treatment is mere collection of plasma from a COVID-19 recovered patient and injects them into a critically ill patient of COVID-19.
- ❖ The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body.



STATES

Arr-Rinam

- ❖ It is a tribal lockdown ritual observed in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It has been imposed now on account of COVID- 19 spread.
- ❖ The Galos are one of the 26 major tribes of Arunachal Pradesh that dominate West Siang district
- ❖ This District practise the Arr-Rinam ritual.

Project Arunank

- ❖ It is being implemented by BRO in the state of Arunachal Pradesh
- ❖ The Border Road Organization (BRO) is working in full swing to completely replace the Daporijo bridge.
- ❖ The bridge is the only line of communication to 451 villages located in the China border.
- ❖ The Daporijo bridge is being constructed across the Subansiri river.
- ❖ The Subansiri river runs in the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is the largest tributary of Brahmaputra river.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Theatre Day – March 27

- ❖ It was initiated in 1962 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
- ❖ This day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of the art form “theatre”.



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