

Weekly Current Affairs

20 April- 26 April, 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Telangana extends lockdown period till May 7

- The Telangana government has decided to extend lockdown till 7th of May. The state cabinet also decided not to give any exemption to any sector as suggested by the Central Government.
- Night curfew and all other restrictions under implementation in the state will continue till 7th of May.
- CM also asked air travellers not to come to Telangana till 7th May as lockdown will continue.

2. Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to geotag over 7,000 community kitchens

- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to geotag its 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters across 75 districts which produce 12 lakh food packets a day.
- The state government has also tied up with Google to 'Geo-map' the locations of all these establishments on the Google Maps app for ease of beneficiaries.
- Out of these 7,368 community kitchens, 668 are being run by NGOs and religious institutions.
- More than two crore food packets have been distributed in Uttar Pradesh since March 25.

3. Gujarat's GBRC: 2nd Indian institute to decode COVID-19 genome sequence; 3 new mutations found

- Gujarat's Gandhinagar-based Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) has become the second institute in India after the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, Maharashtra to decode the entire genome sequence of the COVID-19 virus but with three new mutations.
- GBRC has found nine mutations in its genome sequence. However, six of the mutations were already found by other research institutes globally but the three new mutations will help in developing medicines or vaccines needed to stop the spread of the deadly virus.
- The first genome sequence of the COVID-19 virus was found by Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) in Beijing, China on January 10, 2020.

4. HRD Minister reviews National online education platform 'SWAYAM'

- Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' held a detailed review of the National online education platform SWAYAM and the 32 DTH Television Education Channels SWAYAM PRABHA in New Delhi.
- In the lockdown condition there has been a tremendous increase in demand and the usage of SWAYAM Courses and SWAYAM PRABHA videos.
- The Ministry in a statement said that 1902 courses are available currently in SWAYAM, which have been offered to 1.56 crore students since launch.

5. Madhya Pradesh Anganwadi workers, Assistants to get benefit of Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana

- In Madhya Pradesh, around one lakh Anganwadi workers and Assistants of the state will get the benefit of Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana. Under this initiative, they will also get a special health insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.
- It is noteworthy that a special insurance scheme has been launched by the Central Government for health workers who are fighting against the COVID-19 epidemic.
- Anganwadi workers are taking risks by conducting door-to-door surveys in every district. Besides, they are also visiting from house to house for provide nutritional food to the children.
- In such a situation, they have contact with many people, which pose a risk of corona infection. Therefore, they should be given the benefit of this insurance scheme.



6. Himachal Pradesh to provide free online medical consultation to sick people through e-sanjeevani-opd

- In order to provide health services in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, the Himachal Pradesh Health Department has come up with a unique idea of providing free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence through e-sanjeevani-opd.
- This free online health service has been started throughout the state and now people can consult to take health advice from the doctors of different medical colleges from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM on all working days.
- In view of COVID-19 pandemic sick people were feeling uncomfortable to visit hospitals, hence for this, the state government with the health department has come up with an idea of 'esanjeevaniopd' through which general health advice will be provided to the people at their residence throughout the state.

7. India's Agriculture minister joins G-20 meet over Covid-19 impact on food safety

- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar participated in a virtual meeting of G-20 Agriculture Ministers to address the issue of Covid-19 impacts on food security, safety and nutrition.
- The G-20 Agriculture Ministers virtual meeting was organized through video conferencing by the Saudi Presidency to deliberate on the ways and means of ensuring continuity of the food supply value chain including livelihood of farmers.
- Agriculture Ministers of all G-20 members and the representatives of some guest countries and International organizations attended the meeting.
- The G-20 nations resolved to have international cooperation in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, to avoid food wastage and losses, and maintain the continuity of the food supply value chain across borders.

8. Manipur becomes the second state after Goa to be Corona free

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has declared the state now has no COVID-19 active case as the second coronavirus patient was discharged from hospital after he tested negative for the deadly virus.
- Though the State has no COVID-19 active case now but people should keep vigil all the time.
- Manipur had two confirmed COVID-19 cases but both the patients, a 23-year-old woman and a 65-year-old man have recovered and have been discharged from hospital.
- Goa was declared a Corona free State a few days back.

9. Third edition of Gujarat's "Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan" begins

- Amid the lockdown for the coronavirus outbreak, Gujarat's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani gave the green signal for the third edition of his government's "Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan".
- This is a conservation plan to deepen water bodies in the state before monsoon.
- The scheme, which will continue till June 10, will see the deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt, and it will be done with people's participation as well as under MGNREGA.
- Apart from maintaining social distancing, local authorities need to provide masks and sanitizers to the workers.
- The scheme was started in 2018 after a weak monsoon, and till date, the state's water storage capacity has increased by 23,000 lakh cubic feet due to deepening of lakes, check-dams, rivers and reservoirs.

10. Karnataka govt launches "Apthamitra" helpline number and app to fight COVID-19

- "Apthamitra" app and exclusive toll-free helpline number 14410 has been launched by the Karnataka government to empower the people of the state in the fight against COVID-19.
- The application aims at providing medical guidance and advice on COVID-19 while the helpline has been dedicated to deal with only COVID-19-related queries including telemedicine, counselling and facilitating testing and treatment for those in need.

11. India slipped two places to 142nd on global press freedom index 2020; Norway tops

- The rank of India has decreased by two places to 142nd from 140th position with a score of 45.33 in the “The World Press Freedom Index 2020” which has analyzed 180 countries. This decline in rank is showing an improvement in the security of Indian media as in 2019 there was no murders of journalists were recorded as against six in 2018. However, constant press freedom violations still remain, including police violence against journalists, ambushes by political activists, and reprisals instigated by criminal groups or corrupt local officials.
- The World Press Freedom Index is compiled by Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or Reporters Without Borders.
- The index has been topped by Norway with a score of 7.84 while North Korea stood at last rank of 180 with a score of 85.82.

12. UP becomes first state with in-house facility of virtual courts

- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to have the requisite infrastructure in all its courts for hearing cases through video conferencing.
- The Allahabad High Court took a number of initiatives to facilitate court proceedings through video conferencing.
- The Allahabad High Court and all district courts of Uttar Pradesh can now conduct multiple court proceedings through virtual courts within the court premises without any internet connectivity.

13. Govt to suspend IBC provisions up to 1-year

- The government has decided to amend the insolvency law to suspend up to one year provisions that trigger insolvency proceedings against defaulters. The amendments to the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) would pave the way for banks to restructure loans.
- The coronavirus outbreak and the nationwide lockdown to curb spreading of infections have significantly impacted economic activities and the latest decision in a way provides more leeway for corporate borrowers in repaying their loans.
- As per existing norms, if a payment default exceeds 90 days then the lender concerned has to refer the account for resolution under IBC or any other mechanism permitted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The lender does not have the option to restructure the loan.
- Currently, RBI norms prohibit restructuring of loans and resolution has to be done under IBC.

14. UNODC launches “Lockdown Learners” series for students, teachers of India

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has rolled out a ‘Lockdown Learners’ series in India under its flagship “Education for Justice” initiative. It has launched ‘Lockdown Learners’ series of online dialogues with educators and students in India.
- The ‘Lockdown Learners’ series emphasizes on COVID-19 and its impact on Sustainable Development Goals, peace and rule of law.

15. JKSLSA launches helpline under 'Serve-the-Seniors Initiative' for senior citizens

- Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority (JKSLSA) has launched a helpline under ‘Serve-the-Seniors Initiative’.
- The objective of starting this helpline, comprising is to help and facilitate the senior citizens who live alone and are unable to step out to get medicines, groceries and other essentials in this hour of crisis.
- The helpline numbers of the Nodal Officers who could be contacted in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh have been declared.
- For Jammu, one can contact - Naushad Ahmad Khan on 9622283677 or Sandeep Kour on 9419223000 and for Kashmir, Noor Mohammad can be contacted on 9419005744 or Tabasum Qadir Parray on 7889835567.
- For Ladakh, one can contact Spalzes Angmo on 9419341131 or Tsewang Phuntsog on 9419978757.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Spain's bull-running festival canceled due to coronavirus pandemic

- Spain's best-known bull-running festival in the northern town of Pamplona has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Hundreds of thousands of people typically attend the centuries-old San Fermin celebration, which sees half-a tonne fighting bulls chase hundreds of daredevils, many wearing traditional white shirts and scarves, through the narrow streets of the city each morning.
- Pamplona's municipal council decided to call off the event, held each year between July 6 and 14, because of the fight against COVID-19.

2. Britain's Parliament prepares for virtual debates amid COVID-19 lockdown

- Britain's Parliament is preparing for MPs to return to the House of Commons to hold virtual debates and pave the way for a historic hybrid parliamentary setting amid the coronavirus lockdown.
- Unprecedented changes to the main House of Commons chamber will be rolled out to let politicians tune into statements and question sessions via video link.
- Screens have been installed in the chamber to allow MPs to speak remotely while the limited number attending in person will be signposted where to sit.
- The new practices will initially operate until May 12, although could remain in place for longer.

3. Israel's Netanyahu and rival Gantz agree to form 'emergency' coalition government

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his chief rival signed an agreement to form an "emergency" coalition government.
- The deal between Netanyahu's Likud Party and former military chief Benny Gantz's Blue and White ends months of political paralysis and averts what would have been a fourth consecutive election in just over a year.
- After the last vote on March 2 ended in a stalemate, Netanyahu and former military chief Benny Gantz agreed late last month to try to form a unity government because of the burgeoning coronavirus crisis. The power-sharing agreement means that Netanyahu will almost certainly remain in office for the duration of his upcoming trial on corruption charges.

4. Donald Trump to temporarily suspend immigration to US

- President Donald Trump said he will suspend all immigration into the United States temporarily through an executive order. He has said his forthcoming executive order barring new immigration will apply only to people seeking green cards, will last 60 days.
- It won't affect workers entering the country on a temporary basis.
- Instead, President Trump said the provision would amount to a 60-day pause only on people seeking permanent resident status in the United States.
- He would review the executive order at the end of that period and decide if it should be renewed.

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5. China scheduled to launch its Mars mission named Tianwen-1 this year

- China named its first Mars exploration mission as Tianwen-1 as it celebrated Space Day on 24 April. The observation marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of the country's first satellite Dong Fang Hong-1 in 1970. China's first Mars mission has been scheduled to launch in 2020.
- Aiming to catch up with India, U.S., Russia and the European Union to reach the red planet, China's Mars mission plans to complete orbiting, landing and roving in one mission.
- China National Space Administration's (CNSA) Mars mission as "Tianwen." It means Heavenly Questions or Questions to Heaven, a poem written by China's well-known poet Qu Yuan (340-278 BC).

6. Indian High Commission in Bangladesh holds webinar on trade promotion

- Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, and India Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) has jointly organized a webinar on trade promotion.
- Riva Ganguly Das, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh called upon the business leaders of India and Bangladesh to share innovative ideas in response to the emerging economic scenario amid Corona pandemic in the world.
- During the webinar, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh urged all the participants to work together to overcome the difficulties being faced by the businesses in both the countries due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. US President Trump appointed Indian-American Sudarsanam Babu to country's top science board

- Babu, who is from the prestigious Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), has been appointed as a member of the National Science Board for a six-year term.
- Babu would be the third Indian American in this prestigious board.
- The other two being Sethuraman Panchanathan from Arizona State University and Suresh V Garimella from University of Vermont.

2. Former IAS officer Kapil Dev Tripathi appointed as the Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind

- Former IAS officer Kapil Dev Tripathi has been appointed as the Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr Tripathi for a term co-terminus with the tenure of the President.
- Mr Tripathi, a 1980 batch IAS officer (Retired) of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is at present the Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

3. PV Sindhu named as an ambassador of BWF's "I am badminton" awareness campaign

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) named Indian shuttler PV Sindhu as one of the ambassadors for its "I am badminton" awareness campaign.
- The "I am badminton campaign" provides a platform for the players to express their love and respect for badminton by advocating and committing to clean and honest play. BWF's Integrity Unit was established in 2016. The campaign has been at the forefront of BWF's efforts to communicate its approach to integrity. The unit promotes sports integrity which is about keeping the sport free of corruption, doping, and match manipulation.
- Other players who are included in the campaign are Germany's Marc Zwiebler, Canada's Michelle Li, the Chinese duo of Zheng Si Wei and Huang YaQiong, England's Jack Shephard, Germany's Valeska Knoblauch, and Hong Kong's Chan Ho Yuen.

4. Bajaj Auto's Rakesh Sharma takes over as IMMA President

- The International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) has appointed Bajaj Auto Executive Director (ED) Rakesh Sharma as its president.
- Sharma had been previously holding office as vice-president in IMMA, elected in May 2019.
- The election of the new president took place through a General Assembly by correspondence on April 21, 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Sharma joined Bajaj Auto in October 2007 as President (International Business) and is currently the executive director

BANKING

1. New Development Bank's to provide 1 billion dollar emergency assistance to India

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman appreciated efforts of New Development Bank on fast tracking of financial assistance of about five billion dollars to BRICS countries including Emergency Assistance of one billion dollar to India to combat COVID-19 pandemic.
- The NDB was established by the BRICS countries -Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa in 2014.
- NDB has so far approved 14 Indian projects for an amount of 4,183 million dollar.
- The purpose of the Bank is to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging market economies.

2. RBI gives approval to Kamakodi's reappointment as MD & CEO of City Union Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval for the re-appointment of N Kamakodi as MD & CEO of City Union Bank (CUB).
- He has been appointed for three years with effect from May 1.
- Kamakodi has been associated with the Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu) -headquartered CUB since 2003. He was elevated as MD and CEO in 2011.

3. Remittances likely to plunge 20 % amid Covid-19 pandemic: World Bank

- The World Bank said that the remittances are expected to plunge by about 20 percent globally this year due to Covid-19 pandemic. In its report, the Bank said the biggest decline in recent history, as closures cause a global recession and job losses that prevent workers from sending money to their families back home.
- Developing countries are losing a key source of revenue as the coronavirus pandemic causes worldwide shutdowns, sharply reducing payments from workers living abroad.
- The report mentioned that total remittance, which comprise up to one-third of the economies of some poor countries, are expected to fall to 445 billion dollar from 554 billion dollar in 2019.

Awards and Books

1. A book titled "How the Onion Got Its Layers" authored by Sudha Murty to release on April 23

- A book titled "How the Onion Got Its Layers" authored by Sudha Murty was published by Puffin. The book is being released in its e-book and audio form for young children.
- The book seeks answers to several questions related to the bulb like its many layers and why it brings tears to the eyes when cut.
- "How the Onion Got Its Layers" marks the first ever audio book by Murty and will be released on World Book Day, ie, April 23, 2020. This is the second book of the Chapter series by Murty, the first being "How the Sea Became Salty".

2. Adam Higginbotham's "Midnight in Chernobyl" wins William E. Colby Award 2020

- Adam Higginbotham won the William E. Colby Award 2020 for his book "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster" published by Transworld Digital (February 14, 2019) won USD 5,000 prize.
- Earlier this year, this book won the American Library Association's Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.
- Previous winners include Karl Marlantes' novel "Matterhorn" and Dexter Filkins' "The Forever War."



Science Tech & Defence

1. Facebook launches third party fact checking in Bangladesh

- Facebook announced the launch of its third party fact checking system in Bangladesh to discourage the spread of fake news in the country. Facebook in partnership with Boom Fact check will review and rate the stories.
- It will debunk misinformation on topics from health and medicine to current affairs so that Facebook users in Bangladesh are able to identify factual information and news online.
- When third party fact-checkers rate a post as false or fake, it will appear less or at the bottom of the news feed. This will reduce the spread of the post. Boom is an Indian fact checking website which is available in English, Hindi and Bengali.
- Facebook started its fact-checking programme in 2016 and now it covers 60 partners in 50 languages.

2. Indian Navy develops air evacuation pod for COVID-19 patients

- Indian Navy's Southern Command, Kochi has developed an air evacuation pod (AEP) to airlift COVID-19 infected patients safely from remote areas such as islands and ships in a fully sealed patient transfer capsule.
- The evacuation pod was designed under guidance of Principal Medical officer of the naval air station, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Garuda, Kochi, in consultation with specialists from the naval hospital INHS (Indian Naval Hospital Ship) Sanjivani and Headquarters of Southern Naval Command.
- The pod is made up of aluminium, nitrile rubber and perspex. It weighs only 32 kg and has incurred a manufacturing cost of Rs 50,000 which is only 0.1 percent of cost of an imported equivalent (Rs 59 lakh).

3. Study says renewable energy subsidies in India dropped by 35 percent in 2016-19 period

- A new study by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) report stated that India's renewable energy subsidies fell 35% between 2016-17 and 2018-19.
- The report was titled "Mapping India's Energy Subsidies 2020" which said that the support for renewable energy was to increase again. But the COVID-19 pandemic has made it critical to stay on track.
- Policy decisions such as the solar safeguard duty and tariff caps on auctions meant that there was a slowdown in new capacity addition and as a result of lower state subsidy outgo as well.

4. Iran successfully launched a military satellite into Orbit

- The first military satellite of the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully launched into orbit by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
- Satellite reached an orbit of 425 kilometers (264 miles) above the Earth's surface. The two-stage launch took place in Iran's Central Desert, The satellite was sent into orbit using a Ghased, or "Messenger," satellite

5. Facebook acquires a 9.99% stake in Reliance Jio for Rs 43,574 crore

- Reliance Jio, the telecom unit of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has sold a 9.99 percent stake to US tech giant Facebook for \$5.7 billion, or Rs 43,574 crore.
- The multibillion-dollar deal will make Facebook the largest minority shareholder in Jio Platforms Limited. This is the largest investment for a minority stake by a technology company anywhere in the world and the largest FDI in the technology sector in India.
- Facebook would focus on collaborating its messaging platform WhatsApp with Reliance's e-commerce venture JioMart to enable people to connect with small businesses.

6. CSIR-IGIB scientists develop low-cost COVID-19 test 'Feluda'

- Scientists working at the, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) have developed a low-cost test which can detect the coronavirus within an hour.
- The report states that the test, named Feluda after a fictional sleuth created by filmmaker and writer Satyajit Ray, was developed by two scientists - Dr Souvik Maiti and Dr Debojyoti Chakraborty.
- It is expected to cost around Rs 500 against the usual RT-PCR test that costs Rs 4,500 in private labs.

7. India's first Mobile Virology Research Lab developed by DRDO inaugurated in Hyderabad

- Unique and first of its kind facility in the country, a Mobile Virology Diagnostics and Research Laboratory has been inaugurated in Hyderabad at the ESI medical college.
- Developed by the DRDO, the Biosafety level-3 laboratory can test thousand samples for Coronavirus daily and can scale up to 2000 in future.
- The laboratory also has a facility to trial drugs and conduct research on Coronavirus. The laboratory has been developed in less than two weeks.

Sports

1. Mohun Bagan declared I-League champions as season gets called off

- Mohun Bagan were officially crowned as the winners after the remaining 28 matches of the I-League were cancelled as coronavirus continues to rage.
- Mohun Bagan declared as the I-League champion for the 2019-20 season as they stand atop current standings in the Hero I-League until the point of suspension.

2. Bhaichung Bhutia among 50 footballers to take part in FIFA's initiative to applaud 'humanity's heroes'

- Former Indian captain Bhaichung Bhutia was among the 50 footballers to take part in the FIFA's initiative to pay tribute to 'humanity's heroes' amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- FIFA expressed gratitude towards all the healthcare workers and other professionals who are giving their all to ensure society continues to function in the face of the coronavirus.
- FIFA shared a video on their official Twitter handle where footballers from present and past came been seen applauding the frontline workers.

Obituaries

1. Tom and Jerry director Gene Deitch dies at 95

- Gene Deitch, an American Oscar-winning illustrator, animator, film director and producer has died.
- Deitch's movie Munro won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 1960.
- Earlier, he had created the Tom Terrific series, while Sidney's Family Tree, which he co-produced, was nominated for an Academy Award in 1958.
- Working from behind the Iron Curtain, he directed 13 episodes of Tom and Jerry and also some of the Popeye the Sailor series.

2. BMW India CEO Rudratej Singh passes away

- Rudratej Singh, the President and CEO of BMW Group India, passed away. He was 46.
- Rudratej Singh joined BMW Group India on August 1, 2019. Prior to that, he was serving as the Global President at Royal Enfield.
- The 46-year-old had also worked with Unilever in India and international markets for more than 16 years.

3. Renowned thespian Usha Ganguly passes away at 75

- Eminent theatre director, actor and activist, Usha Ganguly passed away. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for direction in 1998.
- She has also been honoured by the West Bengal Government as the best actress for the play Gudia Ghar. She was credited for introducing an alternative Hindi theatre in West Bengal, in the 1970s and 1980s.

Important Days

1. The UN Chinese Language Day is observed annually on April 20

- The UN Chinese Language Day is observed annually on April 20. This event is celebrated every year by UNESCO.
- It was first observed in 2010 by the organisation to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) through the organisation.
- The first UN Chinese Language Day was held on November 12, 2010. In 2011, the date was moved to April 20.

2. The National civil services day is observed on April 21

- The National civil services day is observed on April 21. The civil service system is the backbone of the administrative machinery of the country.
- The civil servants are responsible for implementing all the government policies and schemes successfully up to the root level.
- April 21 was chosen to be celebrated as Civil Service Day to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.
- In his address, he called Civil Servants, the 'steel frame of India'.

3. Earth Day is observed every year on 22 April

- The day is celebrated worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection.
- The day was proposed at the UNESCO conference in 1969 and the first Earth Day celebrations took place in

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- World Earth Day 2020 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the day since it started being observed in 1970. The theme of Earth Day 2020: 'Climate Action'.

4. English Language Day observed globally on 23 April

- English Language Day is observed globally on 23 April every year. It marks the birthday and date of death of famed writer William Shakespeare.
- This Initiative was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010 "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization".
- The days for different languages are: Arabic (18 December); Chinese (20 April); English (23 April); French (20 March); Russian (6 June); Spanish (23 April)

5. World Books and Copyright Day observed every year on 23 April

- World Book and Copyright Day is observed on 23 April. The day is celebrated by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and other related organizations.
- The World Book and Copyright Day is observed in over 100 countries, where schools, private businesses, voluntary organisations and many more come together to pay a tribute to authors and books. In 1995, UNESCO decided that on this date the World Book and Copyright Day should be celebrated in reference to the Catalan festival and also, as the date marks the anniversary of the birth and death of William Shakespeare and some other authors.

6. The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is observed every year on 24 April

- The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is observed every year on 24 April.
- The UN Assembly proclaimed the day while considering that preserving the values of multilateralism and international cooperation is fundamental to promote and support the three pillars of the UN - Peace and Security, Development and Human Rights.
- The day was first observed by the United Nations (UN) on April 24, 2019.

7. National Panchayati Raj Day observed every year on 24 April

- Nation celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April every year. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organizes the National Panchayati Raj day or the National Local Self Government Day.
- India celebrates the first National Panchayati Raj Day or the National Local Government Day on April 2010.
- On this day, the Constitution of India recognized Panchayats as 'Institutions of self-government'. It marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 with effect from 24 April 1993. As per the amendment, the states are empowered to carry out steps to organize village panchayats. The states can provide them with the necessary powers and authority necessary to facilitate them to function as units of self-government

8. World Creativity and Innovation Day is a global UN day celebrated on April 21

- World Creativity and Innovation Day is a global UN day celebrated on April 21.
- The day is observed to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem-solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the "global goals".
- The founder of the day was the Canadian Marci Segal.

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VIDEO COURSE
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