

Weekly Current Affairs

6 April- 12 April, 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. PM pays tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to freedom fighter Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary.
- Babu Jagjivan Ram struggled for the rights of the poor, the underprivileged and the victims.
- Jagjivan Ram, born in 1908, passed away on July 6, 1986. He was known popularly as Babuji, and politician from Bihar. His daughter and Congress leader Meira Kumar was the 15th Speaker of Lok Sabha from 2009 to 2014.

2. Odisha launches “Mo Prativa” online cultural competition to engage children during lockdown

- The Odisha government in collaboration with the Unicef has launched “Mo Prativa” online cultural competition among children to keep them engaged at home during the lockdown period.
- Children can participate in competitions of painting, writing of slogans, short stories and poems and poster making, winning entries will get certificates.
- The “Mo Prativa” (My talent) programme is for children in the age group of 5 to 18 years. The entries are being invited on two themes: “Being at home during lockdown” and “My responsibility as a young citizen during COVID-19”.

3. COVID-19: NHA partnered with Uber India to provide transport services to frontline healthcare workers

- On April 4, 2020, National Health Authority (NHA) partnered with Uber India to provide 24/7 free UberMedic transport services to India’s frontline healthcare workers and hospitals engaged in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- Initially, Uber will facilitate the provision of 150 cars free of cost to support medical facilities in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Patna via UberMedic service.
- The new cars supplied to NHA will be equipped with roof-to-floor plastic sheeting enclosing the driver’s seat, thereby acting as a protective barrier between rider and driver.

4. FCI sets new record in single day transportation of food grains

- Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set a new record in single day movement by moving 70 rakes carrying one lakh 93 thousand Metric Tonnes food grains continuously for two days.
- FCI is ensuring that enough food grain stocks are made available in every part of the country during the nationwide lockdown. During the 12 days since the start of lockdown on 25th of last month, FCI has done an average movement of one lakh 41 thousand tonnes of food grain per day as against the pre-lockdown daily average of about 80 thousand tonnes.
- Punjab accounted for about 46 per cent of total food grain movement followed by Haryana, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

5. NHAI achieved record 3,979 km highways construction in FY 19-20

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved the highest ever highway construction feat with an accomplishment of 3,979 km of national highways in the financial Year 2019-20. However, it has completed 88% of highway construction against the target of building 4,500 km highways in FY-20. In the FY 2018-19, NHAI constructed 3,380 km of National Highways.
- The government has initiated a highway development programme in 2015 namely Bharatmala Pariyojana, which includes development of about 65,000 km of NHs. Under Phase-I of the programme, the government has approved implementation of 34,800 km of national highways projects with an outlay of Rs 5.35 lakh crore in a period of five years i.e. 2017-18 to 2021-22. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been mandated to develop 27,500 km of NHs under Phase-I.

6. India relaxed ban on exports of paracetamol, hydroxychloroquine drugs

- The Government of India has relaxed a ban on exports of paracetamol and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) that are used to treat COVID-19. The drugs are currently placed in the licensed category. The move came as the US President Donald Trump had threatened India with retaliation if India rejected the US's demand for the supply of hydroxychloroquine.
- India is one of the biggest manufacturers of the drug across the world. The US along with 30 countries, including South Asian neighbours and key global partners in West Asia, had asked India to lift the ban on the export of hydroxychloroquine drugs.

7. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal announces 5T plan to control the spread of COVID-19

- On April 7, 2020 Delhi Chief Minister(CM) Arvind Kejriwal announced a 5T plan which includes- Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Teamwork & Tracking and monitoring to control the spread of COVID-19 in the state.
- Only through testing, the infected person can be detected & aggressive testing is crucial to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Persons associated with a positive patient are identified and asked for self-quarantine.
- If someone is infected with COVID-19, they will be provided treatment. The virus can be combated & defeated through teamwork.

8. Three HC judges in Jammu & Kashmir High Court administered oath by Chief Justice

- Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar and Justice Puneet Gupta were sworn in as permanent Judges of the common High Court for the Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The newly appointed Judges were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice J&K High Court, Justice Gita Mittal in a simple but impressive ceremony in the Jammu wing of the High Court.
- The sitting Judges of the High Court of J&K joined the oath ceremony through Video Conference while sitting in their respective residences.

9. CCI approves Hitachi's proposed acquisition of 80.1% in power grid business of ABB Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the proposed acquisition of 80.1% stake by Hitachi in the power grid business of ABB Limited.
- The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 80.1% share capital of ABB Management Holding AG (ABB Management) by Hitachi Limited (Hitachi) from ABB Limited (ABB).
- ABB Management will hold the entire power grid business of ABB (Target Business). Hitachi, headquartered in Japan, is the parent company of the Hitachi group of companies.
- It is active in a variety of business segments including IT Solution, Energy Solution, Industry Solution, Mobility Solution, and Smart Life Solution.

10. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust manages to continue its operations smoothly

- In Maharashtra, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Raigad district near Mumbai which is considered to be the busiest container port in the country has managed to continue its operations smoothly even during the nationwide lockdown.
- After the announcement of lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19, JNPT faced several difficulties to continue the regular operation as there was shortage of contract employees, shortage of truck drivers, sealing of state and district borders and difficulty in the movement of the staff.
- But, the container port facilitated smooth operations bringing together all stakeholders including 33 CFS and more than 15 empty containers yard operators. It provided PPE's to all personnel entering Port premises.

11. India's GDP for FY21 projected at 4.8%: UN report

- According to a UN report, India's GDP growth for the current fiscal is expected to slow down to 4.8 percent. It warned that the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to result in significant adverse economic impacts globally.
- The UN 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2020: Towards sustainable economies' said that COVID-19 is having far-reaching economic and social consequences for the region, with strong cross-border spillover effects through trade, tourism and financial linkages.
- India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2019-2020 was estimated at 5 percent and is forecast to slow down to 4.8 percent for the current fiscal 2020-21.
- Economic growth for the country could stand at 5.1 percent for the fiscal year 2021-22.
- The report noted that these are very preliminary forecasts based on the data and information available up to March 10.

12. Madhya Pradesh railways designs mobile doctor booth called 'CHARAK' for zero-contact check-ups

- The West Central Railway's Coach Rehabilitation Workshop (CRWS) in Madhya Pradesh's (MP) Bhopal city, has created a mobile doctor booth called "CHARAK" to eliminate the possibility of physical contact between the doctor and the coronavirus (COVID-19) infected patient.
- A viral barrier chamber has been built in the railway compartment itself, through which doctors will be able to examine patients without direct physical contact.
- This system will prove to be very helpful as there is a shortage of PPE (Personal protective equipment) and medical staff at this time. The mobile booth can go to remote villages & can also be taken up to 500 meters by hand.

13. Hindustan Unilever joins hands with UNICEF to launch 'BreakTheChain' campaign against coronavirus

- Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), a British-Dutch manufacturing company based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, has joined hands with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a mass communication campaign titled '#BreakTheChain' or '#VirusKiKadiTodo' based on 3 themes – social distancing, hand washing and generosity, to inform people about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic and empower them to protect it.
- The campaign will benefit from marketing and access to HUL, on the one hand, technical knowledge will benefit from UNICEF that will lead to such a campaign that people can change their behavior and stay safe during the epidemic.
- HUL has recently contributed Rs 100 crore to help in the ongoing campaign. Apart from this, it also ensuring that people across the country get soap, Sanitizer and other essential items are easily available.

14. Doordarshan emerges among highest watched channel in India

- Doordarshan has emerged among the highest watched channels in India for the week ending 3rd April.
- According to Broadcast Audience Research Council, telecast of Ramayan and Mahabharat was the key attribute. This was despite a surge reported by the private broadcasters who are also experiencing higher viewership.
- The overall TV viewership grew 4 per cent as compared to the previous week and was 43 percent higher than the pre-COVID-19 outbreak period.
- Interestingly, despite the absence of any new sporting event, the viewership for sports channels grew 21 percent as they beamed India's cricket wins from the past and also old WWE matches.

15. Haryana govt doubles salary of Doctors, Nurses, medical professionals dealing with Coronavirus cases

- The Haryana government has decided to double the salary of Doctors, Nurses and other Medical professionals dealing with Coronavirus patients. Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar said that salaries of all those engaged in fight against COVID-19 be it Doctors, Nurses, Paramedical staff, Class IV staff, Ambulance staff, Testing Lab staff will be doubled.
- He said this will be applicable till the Coronavirus period ends.

- He had earlier announced that these professionals will get an ex-gratia benefits between 50 Lakh rupees and 10 Lakh rupees, if they are not covered under the new insurance cover announced by the Centre.

16. MHRD launches 'Bharat Padhe Online' campaign

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a campaign titled 'Bharat Padhe Online' for Crowd Sourcing of Ideas in order to improve the online education ecosystem of India.
- To overcome constraints of online education while promoting the available digital education platforms, the campaign seeks to invite all the best brains of the country to share suggestions/solutions directly with HRD Ministry.

17. With 70% annual global production share, India tops Hydroxychloroquine producer, exporter chart

- India is the largest producer and exporter of Hydroxychloroquine with 70 per cent of annual global production.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals has said that there is enough stock of API and manufacturing capacity of Hydroxychloroquine formulations to meet the country's requirement as well as export obligations.
- Senior Scientist at ICMR Dr Raman Gangakhedkar told the media in New Delhi that the use of Hydroxychloroquine is as Preventive healthcare and not as treatment.

18. SC extended tenure of TDSAT Chairperson Shiva Kirti Singh by three months

- The Supreme Court of India has extended the tenure of chairperson of TDSAT Justice Shiva Kirti Singh by 3 months who was set to retire on April 20, 2020. This decision has been taken by the bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Deepak Gupta headed by Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.
- The bench also expressed concern over the delay in appointment of administrative and technical members of TDSAT and asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to answer on behalf of Centre.
- The administrative member and a technical member of TDSAT retired in October 2018 and May 2019, respectively. Since then only the chairperson is there and the absence of members is halting the tribunal's operations.

19. Finance Ministry extends deadline for mandatory minimum deposit in PPF, Sukanya Samridhi Account till June 30

- The Finance Ministry has extended the deadline for mandatory minimum deposit in Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA) for 2019-20 by three months up to June 30 in view of the lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- The relaxation will be applicable for account holders of PPF, Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA) and Recurring Deposits (RDs).
- The Government has taken the decision to safeguard the interests of small savings depositors in view of the lockdown.
- The Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was launched by the Prime Minister of India on January 22, 2015.



International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Beijing ramps up public transport service amid tomb-sweeping festival

- Beijing has ramped up subway and bus services to meet the needs of the people who commute to various places to pay tribute to the deceased as per the tomb-sweeping traditions.
- Tomb-sweeping Day, also known as Qingming Festival, falls on Saturday (April 4).
- During the period leading to and after the day, people pay tribute to the deceased and worship their ancestors by visiting tombs and making offerings.
- Beijing has strengthened service for 101 regular bus lines surrounding 18 public cemeteries.

2. 28 ferry passengers get swept overboard in a powerful storm off Solomon Islands

- At least 28 ferry passengers were swept overboard in a powerful storm off the Solomon Islands.
- The passengers were heading from the capital Honiara to West Are'are, more than 120 kilometres away, under a government programme to evacuate people to their home villages during the global Coronavirus epidemic.
- The island nation, with a population of just over 600,000, is one of a dwindling number of countries where there have been no reported Coronavirus cases so far.

3. Britannia Industries partners with Dunzo to deliver essential items

- An online delivery platform, Dunzo has tied up with packaged foods company Britannia Industries to deliver range of products to its customers. Britannia Essentials store have been launched by Britannia Industries, that will be available to Dunzo app users.
- The batch of essential products produced by Britannia Industries will be available at Britannia's distribution centers and will be sourced by Dunzo from distribution centers to ensure proper handling of goods as well as the availability of these products to the people.

4. Brazilian Prez Bolsonaro thanks PM Modi, people of India for helping Brazil tackle COVID-19 outbreak

- Brazil President Bolsonaro in his address to the nation thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India for helping Brazil tackle the COVID-19 outbreak by providing raw materials for Hydroxychloroquine production.
- Mr. Bolsonaro said that Brazil would receive the raw materials following his direct conversation with Prime Minister Modi.
- He expressed gratitude towards the Prime Minister and the people of India.

5. Development Fund allocates \$5 million for Covid-19 projects

- The SAARC Development Fund (SDF) has allocated USD 5 million (about Rs 38 crore) for COVID-19 projects in eight member countries as the virus pandemic threatens economic activities across the globe.
- This COVID-19 project shall be funded by SDF under its social window thematic areas.
- The objective of the USD 5 million allocation is to provide fund support to the member states in their efforts and to protect the people of the SAARC member states by mitigating the financial losses and severe socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The SAARC Development Fund is mandated to build regional integration and economic cooperation through project funding in all the member countries through its economic, infrastructure and social windows.

6. Top Oil producers except Mexico agree to output cuts: OPEC

- OPEC said that the major oil producers except Mexico have agreed to cut output in May and June by 10 million barrels per day, after marathon talks to counter collapse in prices.
- The agreement, which reduces production to eight million barrels per day from July to December, depends on Mexico's support for it to take effect.

- Global fuel demand has plunged by around 30 million barrels per day, or 30 percent of global supplies, as steps to fight the virus have grounded planes, cut vehicle usage and curbed economic activity.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Indian-origin MP “Lisa Nandy” appointed as UK’s shadow foreign minister

- Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour Party's newly-elected Leader, named Indian-origin MP Lisa Nandy as his shadow foreign secretary.
- Starmer's new committee will be responsible for coordinating Labour's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

2. Kobe Bryant, eight others selected for Basketball Hall of Fame

- Kobe Bryant will be posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The five-time NBA champion died, aged 41, in a helicopter crash in January alongside his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others.
- He was the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2008, was Finals MVP twice and earned 18 All-Star selections. He was in the United States team that won Olympic gold in 2008 and 2012.
- Tim Duncan, a five-time NBA champion with the San Antonio Spurs, and Kevin Garnett, who helped the Boston Celtics win the championship in 2008, were also inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is named after Dr James Naismith, the Canadian physician who invented basketball.

3. U.B. Pravin Rao appointed as Chairman & Rekha Menon as vice-chairperson of NASSCOM

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) appoints Infosys Chief Operating Officer(COO) UB Pravin Rao as its chairman & chairman and senior managing director of Accenture in India Rekha M Menon as its vice president for 2020-21.
- UB Pravin Rao succeeds Keshav Murugesh, Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of World Network Services (WNS) Global Services, who served as chairman of NASSCOM for the year 2019-20. Previously Rao was the vice-chairman of NASSCOM.
- The appointment was announced at the NASSCOM Executive Council meeting through video conference due to lockdown (COVID-19)

4. Shafali Verma named as brand ambassador by PepsiCo

- Beverage Major PepsiCo has named Shafali Verma, 16 years old, Indian Women Cricketer, as one of its brand ambassadors for one year. Pepsi will be Shafali’s first contract with a major brand. The beverage firm recently signed Bollywood star Salman Khan as its face for 2 years.
- Shafali Verma hails from Haryana is the explosive top-order Indian batswoman, who played the ICC (International Cricket Council) Women’s T20I (Twenty20 International) World Cup against Australia in Melbourne.
- She also claimed the top spot in ICC T20I rankings and also became the youngest woman cricketer to play for India when she debuted against South Africa.

5. Parag Raja appointed as MD & CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company appointed Parag Raja as the new MD (Managing Director) & CEO (Chief Executive Officer). The appointment will be subject to the requisite approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Parag Raja will be the successor of Vikas Seth.
- Raja served as the Chief Distribution Officer at Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) where he is responsible for planning & executing the strategic direction for expanding the company’s footprint across India.
- He was also one of the founding members of the Max Life Insurance and worked with the company for 15 years.

- Raja has a total experience of nearly 21 years, including 19 years in the life insurance industry.

6. Anamika Roy Rashtrawar appointed as MD & CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

- On April 9, 2020, Anamika Roy Rashtrawar was appointed as MD (Managing Director) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance. She was the successor of Warendra Sinha.
- She was the first woman MD and CEO of a large private sector IFFCO Tokio general insurance company.
- Anamika Roy is a dynamic woman leader who has been on the board of the company and has successfully led many businesses in the company, especially the digitalization projects.

BANKING

1. ADB expects India GDP to slip to 4 pc in 2020-21

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's growth to slow down to 4% in the current fiscal year, citing weak global demand and the government's COVID-19 containment efforts. The outlook for India remains subdued, with growth slowing from 5.0% last fiscal year to 4.0% this year, it said in the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020 released.
- The ADO is its annual flagship economic publication. The bank expects the country's gross domestic product growth to strengthen to 6.2% in FY22, boosted by government reforms.
- The forecast assumes that the Covid-19 pandemic dissipates and full economic activity resumes from the second quarter of this fiscal year.

2. Govt nominated IOB & HDFC Bank for collecting donations of PM Cares Fund

- After State Bank of India (SBI), now State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and private lender Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Bank have been nominated for the collection of donations for Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-Cares Fund), which was set up on March 28, 2020 to raise money for providing relief to the affected due to Coronavirus outbreak.
- The contributions can be made by RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, cheques and demand drafts were drawn in favour of PM-Cares Fund.
- One can also remit contributions directly by the electronic clearing system (ECS) to the designated savings bank account of nominated banks. It should be noted that all donations are entitled to 100% income tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

3. Housing Finance signs agreement with JICA to raise \$75 million

- Punjab National Bank Housing Finance has signed a pact with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to raise 75 million dollars.
- The Citibank will be co-financing 25 million dollars in order to finance the mortgage loans in the affordable housing segment.
- The tie-up also states first debt funding ever done by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the housing finance sector in India.

4. RBI relaxed the norms of State/UT to avail overdraft

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the number of days that a State/UT can continue to overdraft to 21 working days from the current stipulation of 14 working days as they are facing cash flow mismatches due to coronavirus.
- In addition, the number of days that a State/UT can overdraft in a quarter has also been increased to 50 working days from the current stipulation of 36 working days, while all other stipulations remain unchanged.
- The new arrangement is effective immediately and is valid until September 30, 2020.

- It has also increased the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit by 30% from the existing limit (Rs 1.20 lakh crore) for all States/UTs which was effective from April 1, 2020 & is valid till September 30, 2020.

5. IMF MD ropes in Raghuram Rajan, 11 others to key external advisory group

- IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva named former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and 11 others to her external advisory group.
- The group will provide perspectives from around the globe on key developments and policy issues, including responses to the exceptional challenges the world now faces due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Rajan, 57, who was the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor for three years until September 2016, is currently working as a professor at the prestigious University of Chicago.

Awards and Books

1. Naveen Patnaik gets PETA's "Hero to Animals Award" for feeding community animals

- The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has been conferred with Hero to Animals Award by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India for feeding community animals in five municipal corporations and all 48 municipalities of Odisha during the COVID-19 lockdown. He has allocated Rs 54 lakhs from a relief fund for the same.
- He has presented a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation from PETA India. It should be noted that the central government advisory body the Animal Welfare Board of India had urged state governments and union territories (UTs) to allow animal welfare volunteers to feed community animals.
- Also, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries mandated veterinary services and animal shelters to function as normal and kept in the "essential services" list.

2. Two new books providing a better understanding of COVID-19 will release in May 2020

- To provide better understanding and prevention of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), two new books are all set to release in May 2020. The books are:
- How Contagion Works: Science, Awareness and Community in Times of Global Crisis" by Italian physicist Paolo Giordano.
- Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs" by epidemiologist Michael Osterholm and author Mark Olshaker.
- Both books will be published by Hachette, United States (US).

3. The Book titled 'The Wizenard Series: Season One'- created by Kobe Bryant & authored by Wesley King

- The book 'The Wizenard Series: Season One' is created by American Basketballer Kobe Bryant & authored by Wesley King tops the New York Times' middle-grade hardcover list, which is to be released on April 19, 2020. It is published by Kobe Bryant's Granity Studios(April 1, 2020).
- The book had already topped the Amazon's bestseller list for children's basketball books
- It states about the strain and sacrifice, supernatural breakthroughs, and supreme dedication to the game where Bryant is the series creator who envisioned the storylines
- Kobe Bryant has authored a book- 'The Mamba Mentality: How I Play'(2018) which was also a best-seller and has been on Amazon's top lists.



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4. Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Mary Jordan writes book on Melania Trump called 'The Art of Her Deal'

- A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for The Washington Post has written an unauthorized biography of first lady Melania Trump.
- Mary Jordan's "The Art of Her Deal," which draws upon more than 100 interviews.
- Jordan began working on the book in 2015, well before Donald Trump's surprise victory in the presidential election.
- She investigated everything from Melania Knauss' childhood in Slovenia to her years as a model to her relationship with her husband.

Science Tech & Defence

1. DRDO Laboratory designs full body disinfection chamber

- Vehicle Research Development Establishment, VRDE Ahmednagar which is a DRDO Laboratory has designed a full body disinfection chamber called as PSE. This is a portable system equipped with a sanitiser and soap dispenser.
- The decontamination starts using a foot pedal at the entry. On entering the chamber, an electrically operated pump creates a disinfectant mist of hypo sodium chloride for disinfecting.
- The mist spray is calibrated for an operation of 25 seconds and stops automatically indicating completion of operation. Approximately 650 personnel can pass through the chamber for disinfection until the refill is required.

2. Mizoram government launches 'mCOVID-19' App for all COVID-19 related information

- Mizoram government has launched 'mCOVID-19' mobile application to provide its users all necessary and correct information in the fight against COVID-19.
- The app will give a big help to the State Level Task Force, Departments of Health & Family Welfare, Disaster, Management & Rehabilitation and also the general public to contain the spread of the coronavirus.
- The initiative was taken by the ICT Department engineers, who have developed the 'mCOVID-19' mobile app without asking for any funds from the government.

3. NASA unveils plan to setup 'Artemis', the first human base camp on Moon's south pole by 2024

- NASA is working on the Artemis program that aims to land humans on the moon by 2024. The space agency has put forward a plan showing what a US lunar presence may look like after the milestone.
- NASA submitted a 13-page report to the National Space Council on 2 April. NASA unveils plan to setup Artemis, the first human base camp on Moon's south pole by 2024
- The report titled NASA's Plan for Sustained Lunar Exploration and Development offers a summary of how the space agency will accomplish the 2024 moon landing mission.
- The initial plan is to move to one to two-month stays to learn more about the moon and the universe.

4. IIT-Roorkee, AIIMS-Rishikesh develop low-cost portable ventilator 'Prana-Vayu' for COVID-19 patients

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Roorkee, in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Rishikesh, has developed a low-cost ventilator.
- A presentation was made before 450 industry representatives for early mass production.
- The ventilator, Prana Vayu, will cost Rs. 25,000 per unit, much less than the products available in the market.
- Prana Vayu was presented to more than 450 industry representatives in a webinar organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for its mass production.

5. Flipkart, ICICI lombard & Go Digit to offer two COVID-19 health insurance policies

- Flipkart Private Limited, an e-commerce marketplace in partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited and Go Digit General Insurance, has launched two health insurance policies namely – ‘Covid-19 Protection Cover’ & ‘Digit Illness Group Insurance’ that specifically cover coronavirus (COVID-19) on its platform.
- Both the policies provides an easy claim, hospitalisation, room or intensive care unit (ICU) expenditure, ambulance assistance and teleconsultation and do not require any medical testing at the time of purchase.
- COVID-19 protection cover offered by ICICI Lombard, on the positive diagnosis of COVID-19, paid to the customer of Rs. 25,000. It has been priced at an annual premium of Rs 159

Sports

1. 2021 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama postponed to 2022

- The International World Games organisers announced that 2021 World Games to be held in Birmingham, Alabama has been postponed to the year 2022 due to the conflict of rescheduled dates of the Tokyo Olympics.
- The rescheduled dates of World Games are from July 7 to 17, 2022.

2. Former Australia Test spinner Stephen O'Keefe retires from 1st class cricket

- Former Australia Test spinner Stephen O'Keefe has retired from first-class cricket after being omitted from New South Wales' list of contracted players for the next domestic season.
- The 35-year-old left-armer took 35 wickets in nine tests - including 12 in a match against India at Pune in 2017.
- O'Keefe took 16 wickets at 22.25 as New South Wales won the Sheffield Shield four-day title last season, the most by any spinner in the competition.

3. England's Ben Stokes named as leading cricketer in the world by Wisden

- England all-rounder Ben Stokes ended Virat Kohli's 3-year reign to be named Wisden's leading cricketer in the world.
- Stokes was later named both BBC Sports Personality of the Year and received an OBE in the New Year's Honours List before claiming ICC Men's Player of the Year honors.
- Andrew Flintoff was the last English player to win the award in 2005.
- Before Stokes, India captain Virat Kohli had won the award three straight times.

4. FIFA's ranking 2020: Indian football team stats at 108th position; Belgium on top

- According to the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking 2020, released on April 09, 2020, Indian football team retained its 108th position with 1187 points.
- While Belgium ranked first and world champion France is in 2nd place and Brazil is at 3rd spot.
- In the wake of the coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic, qualifier tournaments have been postponed for the FIFA World Cup and other major games at the international level. Not only this, due to Corona, the Olympic football tournament, CONMEBOL (South American Football Confederation) Copa America and UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) EURO also had to cancel famous events.

Obituaries

1. Times Grammy Award winner Bill Withers passes away

- American singer and songwriter Bill Withers, whose songs from the 1970s have provided immeasurable inspiration in the decades, die at the age of 81.
- Withers earned international acclaim for songs like “Lean on Me” and “Ain't No Sunshine”, both are on Rolling Stone's list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.
- The three-time Grammy Award-winning artist enjoyed an active music career that lasted from 1970 to 1985

2. Kannada comic actor 'Bullet' Prakash passes away

- Kannada actor "Bullet" Prakash who was known for his comic roles and performances in films like Aithalakkadi and Aryan, passed away.
- He had been a part of more than 300 films and had recently signed a couple of

3. Former Libya interim Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril dies

- Mahmoud Jibril, the former leader of the opposition Libyan government during the civil war that toppled Muammar Gaddafi after 40 years of rule, has died in Cairo after being hospitalised with the coronavirus.
- The 67-year-old had been quarantined at a hospital in the city since late last month.
- He was an economic advisor to the Gaddafi government in its final years, before joining the revolution in 2011.
- Jibril had been interim prime minister for about seven months in 2011 and resigned after Gaddafi was captured and killed in the city of Sirte.

4. Indian-American journalist Brahm Kanchibotla dies of COVID-19 in New York

- Indian-American journalist Brahm Kanchibotla has died of COVID-19 that is ravaging New York, the epicentre of the pandemic in the US. The journalist died in after nine days in a hospital.
- Brahm Kanchibotla, 66, was a correspondent for United News of India. During his 28-year career in the US, he had worked for 11 years as a content editor for Merger Markets, a financial publication, and also did a stint with News India-Times weekly newspaper.
- He had emigrated to the US in 1992 after having worked for several publications in India.

5. 1960s 'James Bond' girl Honor Blackman passed away at 94

- On April 7, 2020, Honor Blackman, one of the memorable co-stars of the early James Bond films, passed away at the age of 94 in Lewes, Sussex, England. She was born on August 22, 1925 in Plaistow, Essex, England.
- Honor Blackman shot to fame in her late 30s after playing legendary Bond girl Pussy Galore in the 1964 movie Goldfinger.
- She was well known in Britain for playing the character Cathy Gale in the popular 1960s Television (TV) spy series The Avengers and she had guest appearances on TV shows such as "Doctor Who", "Colombo" and "Coronation Street".
- Blackman also played the goddess Hera in the 1963 film "Jason and the Argonauts", & appeared in "Bridget Jones's Diary".

6. Italian Olympic 800 meters finalist Donato Sabia passed away at 56

- On April 8, 2020, Donato Sabia, twice Olympics 800 meters finalist and the former European Indoor Champion, passed away at the age of 56 in Potenza, Italy due to Coronavirus. He was born on September 11, 1963 in Potenzo, Italy.
- Sabia finished fifth in the 800 meters at Los Angeles in 1984 and seventh in Seoul in 1988.
- He won the gold medal in the same event at the European Indoor Championships in 1984.

7. Former Zimbabwean cricketer Jackie du Preez passes away

- The former Zimbabwean cricketer Jackie du Preez passed away. The leg-spinner played for South Africa in Zimbabwe's pre-independence days.
- He played two Tests for South Africa in 1967.
- Du Preez didn't represent South Africa thereafter but enjoyed a long and successful first-class career.
- He also enjoyed enough success with the bat so as to be labelled an all-rounder, scoring 4,063 runs in first-class cricket at an average of 23.76, including one century and 19 fifties.

Important Days

1. Health Day is celebrated on 7 April

- World Health Day is celebrated on 7 April every year. The day aims to create awareness of health to highlight a priority area of concern for the World Health Organization. In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly.
- The day honors the contribution of nurses and midwives and recognizes their vital role in keeping the world healthy.
- World Health Day is marked by the World Health Organization (WHO) and many other organizations. The day aims to spread awareness around maintaining good health and a balanced lifestyle.

2. World Homoeopathy Day observed every year on 10 April

- The world homeopathy day is celebrated each year on April 10.
- This day is celebrated to honor the birth of the father of the Homoeopathic system of medicines Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.
- Born in Paris, France, he was a German physician, who was an acclaimed scientist, a great scholar, and linguist.
- He discovered the way to heal through the use of homeopathy.
- 2020 theme: "Linking research with education and clinical practice: Advancing scientific collaborations".

3. International Day of Human Space Flight observed every year on 12 April

- The International Day of Human Space Flight is the annual celebration, held on April 12, of the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin. It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on April 7, 2011.
- Yuri Gagarin crewed the Vostok 1 space flight in 1961, making one orbit around the Earth over 108 minutes in the Vostok 3KA spacecraft launched by Vostok-K launch vehicle.
- In the Soviet Union, April 12 was commemorated as Cosmonautics Day since 1963, and is still observed in Russia and some former Soviet states.

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