

# Weekly Current Affairs

4 May - 10 May, 2020

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1. India ranked 3rd among countries in a scientific publication

- India's gross expenditure in R&D has tripled between 2008 & 2018 driven mainly by the Govt sector and scientific publications have risen and placed the country internationally among the top few.
- This is as per the R&D Statistics and Indicators 2019-20 based on the national S&T survey 2018 brought out by the National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The report shows that with the rise in publication, the country is globally at the 3rd position on this score as per the NSF database, 3rd in the number of Ph.D. in science & engineering.
- India occupies 3rd rank in terms of number of Ph.D.'s awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) after the USA (39,710 in 2016) and China (34,440 in 2015). Number of researchers per million population in India has increased to 255 in 2017 from 218 in 2015 and 110 in 2000.

### 2. Bamboo Conclave held through video Conference

- The Minister of State for North East Development held Bamboo Conclave through video conference to boost the economy of the country with the help of Bamboo resources.
- North East region of India consists of 60% of bamboo reserves of the country. In the past six years, the GoI has given equal importance to the bamboo sector as that of the north east development. Also, The National Bamboo Mission was launched.
- The restructures Bamboo mission was approved in 2018 and implemented in 2019-20. The mission is being implemented in non-forest Government lands. It aims to provide supplement farm incomes to farmers. Apart from the North Eastern States, the mission was launched in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

### 3. Ministry of Tourism hosts 13th webinar titled 'Destination- Sariska Tiger reserve' of "DekhoApnaDesh" series

- The 13th session of Ministry of Tourism's DekhoApnaDesh webinar on 1st May 2020, titled, 'Destination- Sariska Tiger reserve' was a presentation and virtual tour of wildlife adventure, safari experience for the traveller within the Sariska Tiger Reserve' in Alwar district, Rajasthan.
- Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Aravalli Hills, 35 km from Alwar, 250 km SW of Delhi and 110 km NE of Jaipur. The former hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Alwar, the Sariska valley is home to a variety of flora and fauna.
- The park has populations of tigers, leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc.

### 4. PM Modi attended the NAM Summit through a video conference

- On May 4, 2020, PM Modi attended the NAM Summit representing India through a video conference. The Summit is to discuss COVID-19 challenges and solutions.
- This is the first NAM Summit being attended by the Mr Modi since he was sworn in as the Prime Minister in 2014. Mr Modi skipped both the summits as PM in 2016 and 2019. The 2016 summit was held in Venezuela and 2019 in Azerbaijan. In 2012, the former PM Manmohan Singh participated at the Tehran NAM summit.
- The NAM is Non-Aligned Movement forum of 120 developing countries. After the United Nations, NAM is the largest grouping of states. The summit was agreed to convene at the Bandung Conference in 1955. NAM was established in 1961 through initiatives of Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.
- The main aim of the summit is to build aspiration towards collective security, terminating dominance of one country over other and expansion of freedom. The NAM also aimed to soften the cold war that was building among the developed nations.

### 5. GoI increases MSP for Minor Forest Produce ranging from 16% to 66%

- The Government of India has raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) of 49 items. The increase in MSP across various items of minor forest produce varies from 16% to 66%.
- The Pricing Cell set up under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India revises the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) once in every 3 years.

### 6. Delhi govt imposes 70 percent Special Corona Fee on Liquor

- The Delhi state government imposed a 'Special Corona Fee' on liquor. As per the announcement, 70% of the maximum retail price (MRP) will be charged for all categories of liquor that will be sold in the city with effect from 5 May.
- The fee was approved by Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal. Also, a notification was later issued by the Delhi government's finance department.
- The move by the Delhi government aims to boost the government revenue but will also result in a steep rise in the prices of retail liquor bottles.
- The lockdown since 25 March to contain COVID-19 cost the Delhi government around Rs.645 crore in revenue from the sale of alcohol.

### 7. Facebook and Bollywood collaborate on “I FOR INDIA” concert

- Social media networking site Facebook has collaborated with some of the biggest names in Indian entertainment to put together a home-to-home fundraiser concert, 'I For India'.
- 100 percent proceeds from the fundraiser concert will go to the India COVID Response Fund managed by GiveIndia, to support on-ground relief efforts.
- GiveIndia (www.giveindia.org) is India's largest giving platform with reach across 23 states.
- It is associated with over 100 NGOs, working on-ground to support the required interventions with the prevention, healthcare infrastructure, livelihood support, and essentials for people in need, the company mentioned.

### 8. HP govt to launched “Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna” for urban employment

- In a bid to revive the economy of the state affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, the Himachal Pradesh (HP) state government has decided to launch employment guarantee scheme called “Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna” that will provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.
- The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister(CM) Jai Ram Thakur.

### 9. NITI Aayog starts “Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan” to protect senior citizens during COVID-19

- Government think tank NITI Aayog in association with Piramal Foundation launched a campaign "Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan" focussed on ensuring well being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The campaign will reach over 2.9 million senior citizens in 25 districts across Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & UP.
- The campaign is aimed at creating awareness about various aspects of senior citizens' health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioral changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic.



**10. Jharkhand launches three schemes for rural job creation**

- In Ranchi, Chief Minister Hemant Soren launches three schemes, Birsa Harit Gram Yojana(BHGY), Neelambar Pitambar JAL Sammridhi Yojana(NPJSY) and Veer Sahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Scheme (VSPHKVS) to provide wage employment for the workers in the rural area devised in convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MNREGA) in the presence of rural development minister Alamgir Alam, water resources minister Mithilesh Thankur and other administrative officials.
- These schemes are made to keep the long term goals for sustainable development and creating new assets for the state.

**11. West Bengal govt launches exit app for stranded people of other states**

- The West Bengal government launched an app for people from other states who are stranded in West Bengal due to the lockdown and want to return to their native place, state.
- A large number of people from other states are stuck in West Bengal due to the lockdown, they can access the app for online permission to leave the state.
- Persons willing to go back to their native states can apply online through this "Exit app".

**12. Uttar Pradesh Government launches “AyushKavach” application**

- Uttar Pradesh Government launched AyushKavach application to help people access prescriptions. These prescriptions will help the people to strengthen their resistance through ancient practices Ayurveda and Yoga. The application aims to boost the immunity of the people through Ayurveda medicines.
- The AyushKavach application is to provide health-related information and also tips about using ayurvedic medicines. The application was launched by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath.

**13. Telangana government extends lockdown till 29th May.**

- Telangana government has extended the lockdown till 29th of this month. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced this after a Cabinet meeting in Hyderabad last evening.
- He said the night curfew will also continue between 7 PM and 6 AM. Only shops selling essential commodities will open in red zones while all shops will remain open in Green and orange zones in villages and at the Block level.
- In municipal towns, 50 percent of shops will be allowed every day and they will be selected by way of lottery. Shops will open between 10 AM and 6 PM. Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Warangal urban, Vikarabad and Suryapet are in red zone.
- The State cabinet will review the situation on the 15th of this month again.
- Telangana has registered 1096 Coronavirus cases till now. 11 fresh cases were reported yesterday. Currently, 439 patients are undergoing treatment.

**14. Vandhe Bharat Mission: The Biggest Evacuation Exercise to evacuate citizens begins**

- On May 7, 2020, the Government of India is to begin “Vandhe Bharat Mission”. The mission is considered as one of the biggest evacuation exercise.
- The Vandhe Bharat Mission aims at bringing stranded Indians from all over the world. More than 14,800 Indians are stranded abroad. The mission also aims at operating non-scheduled commercial flights. These commercial flights will carry people to London and Singapore and also selected places in USA. The flights are being operated based on the Standard of Procedure issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Under the mission, the people evacuated are to compulsorily download “ArogyaSetu” application. After returning to India, these people are to be kept under quarantine for 14 days.

**15. For the first time, India has more Internet users in rural areas than Urban: IAMAI Report**

- The Internet and Mobile Association of India recently released a report according to which the active internet users in rural India has increased by 10% as compared to that of rural India. According to the report, rural India had 227 million active internet users and urban India had 205 million internet users.



This is the first time in Indian history the number of rural internet users have surpassed urban internet users.

- The report says that around 71 million kids between age 5 and 11 go online using devices of their family members. India has also become the second largest internet user after China. In India the number of active internet users of age 5 years and above is 504 million. In China, the number is around 850 million active users. In USA, there are 280 to 300 million users.

#### **16. India recorded highest internal displacement of people in 2019: UNICEF report**

- In accordance with the report by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) titled "Lost at Home: The risks and challenges for internally displaced children and the urgent actions needed to protect them". As per the report, at the end of 2019, an estimated 46 million people were internally displaced by conflict and violence, out of which, more than 4 in 10 or 19 million were children.
- From total, almost 33 million new displacements were recorded in 2019 consisting of around 25 million were due to natural disasters and 8.5 million as consequence of conflict and violence.
- Of the above, there were 12 million new displacements involving children, including around 3.8 million of them caused by conflict and violence, and 8.2 million due to disasters linked mostly to weather-related events.

#### **17. Private schools in Mizoram to reduce fees by 50% during the lockdown period**

- In Mizoram, all private schools have decided to reduce the school fees from the students by 50% during the lockdown period.
- This is also resolved that those schools, which have already taken full monthly fees from the students for April, will not charge fees for the month of May.
- This was decided jointly by the education department officials and representatives from student bodies and Independent School Association at a meeting chaired by the state education Minister Lalchandama Ralte.

#### **18. UP becomes first state to provide a facility of beds with ventilators in each district of the state**

- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide the facility of beds with ventilators in hospitals of each and every district of the state.
- Now, all 75 districts of the state can provide higher levels of care to the patients of COVID-19.
- Uttar Pradesh has 24 testing labs for COVID-19 now and around 1,300 beds with a ventilator to fight with this disease.
- The government tries to save the lives of people from COVID-19 through community surveillance.
- For this, the government has constituted a Village Supervision Committee or Gram Nigrani Samiti in every village to curb the spread of Corona.

#### **19. Smart City Nashik uses several creative initiatives to fight coronavirus**

- Smart City Nashik takes several measures and initiatives to fight COVID-19. The measures taken by the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) at the city level include: Spraying of Sodium Hypochlorite by means of 8 Tractors and 13 Pumps on an area of 36 sq.km at various NMC Offices, Quarantine Facilities, and across the City. Spraying of pesticides was done by 287 Malaria fighting workers on across 37.5 Sq. Meter & 109 Km of the area across the city respectively.
- The collection of door-to-door waste and disposal from Home Quarantined households is undertaken by Corporation's sanitation workers separately.
- NMC has initiated 24\*7 Helpdesk System for Inbound calls & pre-recorded, outbound text and voice messages to citizens to get information about the COVID-19.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1. USFDA approves emergency use of an investigational vaccine, Remdesivir**

- The United States Food and Drug Regulatory body recently allowed emergency use of anti-viral investigational vaccine Remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients.
- The USFDA has approved the vaccine after an Indian-American physician, Aruna Subramanian's report on Remdesivir. According to the report, the vaccine shortened the recovery times of people that have fallen ill due to COVID-19 virus. The FDA has provided emergency use authorization of the drug.

### **2. Russian President Vladimir Putin awards commemorative World War II medal to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un**

- The Russian embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea announced that the Russian President Vladimir Putin has awarded North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un a commemorative war medal marking the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.
- The medal was awarded to the North Korean leader for his role in preserving the memory of Soviet soldiers who died on North Korean territory.
- Russia's ambassador in North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, presented the award to the country's Foreign Minister Ri Son-Gwon.

### **3. Iran's parliament introduces new currency, Toman, to tackle inflation**

- The Iranian Parliament has announced the decision to replace its currency "Rial" with another basic unit of currency called the "Toman." Each toman will be worth 10,000 rials under the new system. The move aims to ease the psychological impact of soaring consumer prices on a population that has endured high inflation for decades and grappled the number of zeros in government figures.
- The move by the Iranian government aims to simplify financial transactions. Once the law is ratified, the Central Bank of Iran will have two years to implement the change.
- The rial and the new currency is expected to overlap for between two to five years in the market. The new system was authorized to manage high inflation in the country.


## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. Krishnan Ramachandran appointed as MD & CEO of Max Bupa Health Insurance**

- Max Bupa Health Insurance appointed Krishnan Ramachandran as its new managing director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO). He succeeds Ashish Mehrotra, after almost 5 years of service in company.
- Before this appointment, he served as the CEO of Apollo Munich Health Insurance. Prior to Apollo Munich served in various capacities as practice head healthcare and experience manager at Deloitte Consulting, in India and the United States(US).
- He Has over 23 years of experience in health insurance, healthcare, and life sciences segments.

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## 2. Deepak Kumar appointed as the new CRO of RBL

- Ratnakar Bank Limited (RBL) has named Deepak Kumar as its new Chief Risk Officer (CRO) for a tenure of two years.
- He will be replacing Ramnath Krishnan as the lender's CRO as decided in its Board of Directors meeting.
- Deepak Kumar has over 37 years of experience.
- He was a part of the Reserve Bank of India's resolution committee for the PMC crisis and also has experience as Chief General Manager of the State Bank of India.

## 3. IES Officer DPS Negi assumes charge as Director General of Labour Bureau

- D P S Negi, a 1985 batch IES (Indian Economic Services) officer has assumed charge as Director General (DG) of Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment by replacing B N Nanda. In addition, he also takes charge as Senior Labour & Employment Advisor of the ministry.
- It is for the first time a dual duty has been given to an IES officer.
- Prior to this appointment, Negi worked as Advisor of Finance, MSME(Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) ministry. He also served as Director of Social Security In Ministry of Labour and Employment & Chief Executive Officer (Director and Head of Department) in the National Buildings Organization, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHUA) from 2006-2014.

## 4. UNEP extends Bollywood actress Dia Mirza's term as Goodwill Ambassador till 2022

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the leading environmental authority in the United Nations (UN) system, has extended the Bollywood actress & environmentalist Dia Mirza's term as its National Goodwill Ambassador for another two years till the end of 2022.
- Dia mirza (38) from Hyderabad (Telangana), was appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador in 2017. She is also a United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Advocate.
- The role of Goodwill Ambassadors on the request of the United Nations is to create awareness and raise funds, engage in public advocacy etc. Their term of service is 2 years. The Goodwill Ambassadors are not paid under the UNEP. However, they are provided with a symbolic payment of 1 USD per year.

## 5. Kumar Sangakkara set for the second term as MCC President

- The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) decided to recommend a second term for its President Kumar Sangakkara as the current activities at the club have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The former Sri Lanka wicketkeeper-batsman became the first non-British President of the club when he assumed office on October 1 last year.
- Sangakkara is all set to enter an elite list of people who have served multiple terms.

# **BANKING**

## 1. RBI cancels licence of CKP Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India suspended operations of CKP Co-operative Bank and cancelled its licence. RBI reasoned that the financial position of the bank is highly adverse and unsustainable.
- There is no concrete revival plan or proposal for merger with another bank. With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd Mumbai, as per the DICGC Act, 1961 will be set in motion.
- On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5,00,000 from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) as per usual terms and conditions.

## 2. HDFC Bank releases "#HumHaarNahiMaanenge" song to keep hopes up amid Covid-19 pandemic

- HDFC Bank has released a song titled #HumHaarNahiMaanenge to keep hopes up amidst the ongoing national lockdown and Covid-19 pandemic. The lyrics of the song have been penned by Prasoon Joshi and music has been composed by AR Rahman.

- The bank has also announced the contribution of Rs 500 each time the song is shared via social media towards the PM-CARES Fund

### 3. PNB Housing Finance Limited signs MoU with IIT Delhi to develop reusable PPE kits

- Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited(PNBHFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Delhi to support the research and development of a unique prototype material to be used in the manufacture of washable and reusable Personal Protective Equipment(PPE) surgical gowns and masks by using Jacquard knitting technology.
- By this MoU, the PNBHFL will support the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi in fast-tracked R&D of high-quality PPE material.

### 4. ABD approved 500 million dollar loan to Bangladesh to fight COVID-19 Pandemic

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday approved an additional loan of 500 million dollar to Bangladesh to manage the impact of Corona virus on its economy and public health.
- ADB said that the loan will benefit 15 million poor and vulnerable people of Bangladesh. It said that around 1.5 million workers, mostly women, in export industries will receive salary support.
- The assistance is part of the dollar 20 billion extended assistance for developing countries' response to the pandemic announced by ADB on April 13. Earlier, ADB had approved 100 million dollar concessional loan for Bangladesh to support its immediate public health requirement arising out of Corona outbreak.

## Books and Awards

### 1. American Academy of Arts and Sciences honours Professor Shobhana Narasimhan

- Professor Shobhana Narasimhan has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has been honoured for her distinguished work in the field of sciences.
- She has done remarkable work on the rational design of nanomaterials, determining the affect of lowering of dimensionality and reduction of size on the properties of material.
- Albert Einstein, Nelson Mandela and Charles Darwin are some of the previous International Honorary Members being honoured by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### 2. Union Culture Minister releases e-book “Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered”

- Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel has released an e-book titled “Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered” on the occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal.
- E-book titled “Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered” has been prepared by the Ministry of culture along with Prof B. B. Lal Centenary Celebration Committee.

### 3. Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero”: a biography of Captain Vijyant Thapar, released

- Penguin Random House will publish the e-book titled as “Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero”.
- The book is “first-ever” biography giving a rare insight into the heart and mind of one of India’s bravest soldiers.
- The book has been penned by Vijyant’s father Colonel VN Thapar and writer Neha Dwivedi, a martyr’s daughter herself.
- Captain Vijyant Thapar was only 22 when he was martyred in the Kargil war in 1999.



## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. Lt Gen Raj Shukla assumed command of ARTRAC**

- Lieutenant General Raj Shukla assumed command of the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) on 1 May 2020.
- Lieutenant General Raj Shukla is a graduate of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla and the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun. He was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in December 1982.

### **2. Indian Navy launches Operation “Samudra Setu” to repatriate citizens**

- Indian Navy has launched Operation “Samudra Setu” - meaning “Sea Bridge”, as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas. Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently en route to the port of Malè, Republic of Maldives to commence evacuation operations from 08 May 2020 as part of Phase-1.
- The Indian Mission in the Republic of Maldives is preparing a list of Indian nationals to be evacuated by Naval ships and will facilitate their embarkation after requisite medical screening. A total of 1000 persons are planned to be evacuated during the first trip, catering for COVID- related social distancing norms vis-a-vis the carrying capacity and medical facilities available onboard.

### **3. DRDO Develops Ultraviolet Disinfection Tower “UV blaster” for sanitization of Coronavirus prone areas**

- The Laser Science & Technology Centre(LASTECH), Delhi-based, laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO), Defence ministry with the assistance of New Age Instruments and Material Private Ltd., Gurugram developed “UV blaster” an ultraviolet(UV) disinfection tower for a quick and chemical-free sanitization of areas that are highly prone to the infection of a novel coronavirus in method.
- The UV Blaster consists of six lamps of 43 watts of UVC power at a 254-nanometre wavelength for 360-degree illumination and it can be accessed remotely through laptop or mobile phone with a WIFI link.

### **4. Astronomers find Jupiter like cloud bands on closest brown dwarf**

- A team of astronomers at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) discovered that the Luhman 16A, closest known brown dwarf showing signs of cloud bands similar to the Jupiter and Saturn using the technique of polarimetry to determine the properties of atmospheric clouds outside the solar system .
- Luhman 16A is a part of a binary system containing a second brown dwarf, Luhman 16B both having similar mass and temperature. It is presumed that both are formed at the same time and show different weather like the Earth and Venus which are twin with different weather.



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## SPORTS

### 1. Egypt's tennis player Youssef Hossam gets life ban for match-fixing

- The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) banned Egyptian tennis player Youssef Hossam for life after being found guilty of "multiple match-fixing" and other corruption charges.
- The Unit's investigation established that from a period between 2015 and 2019, Hossam conspired with other parties to carry out an extensive campaign of betting-related corruption at the lower levels of professional tennis.
- Hossam was found guilty for 21 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program which included eight cases of match-fixing, six cases of facilitating gambling, two cases of soliciting other players not to use best efforts, three failures to report corrupt approaches, two failures to co-operate with a TIU investigation.
- The 820-ranked player in ATP singles, Hossam, is now permanently excluded from competing in or attending any sanctioned tennis event organised or recognised by the governing bodies of the sport.

### 2. FINA postpones 2021 Fukuoka Aquatics World Championships to May 2022

- On 4th May, following the postponement of 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021 the governing body of swimming Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships, Fukuoka, Japan to May 13 to May 29 of 2022 due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.
- The postponement was done after the discussion with the broadcasters, athletes and national federations following the similar moves of the athletics and soccer for the world championships in Oregon and women's European soccer championship.

## OBITUARIES

### 1. Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi passed away due to COVID-19 disease

- Former Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi (retd) passed away. He was 62 years old. He died after suffering cardiac arrest at AIIMS in Delhi. He was tested positive for coronavirus on 2 April.
- On 7 July 2018, he was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court. On 27 March 2019, he took oath as a Judicial Member of Lokpal of India. He played a vital role in setting up the Institution of Lokpal of India with his innovative ideas and inputs.

### 2. Former Union Minister Dalit Ezhilamalai passed away at 74 in Chennai.

- According to sources, the 74-year-old Dalit Ezhilamalai died after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.
- Ezhilamalai was a leader of the Pattali Makkal Katchi, and was Union Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare (Independent Charge) during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1998–99.
- He was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha from Chidambaram.
- As an army officer he took part in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. He was a recipient of the Sainik Seva Medal from the President for meritorious service in the Army.

### 3. Creator of "Finding Nemo & Toy story", Rob Gibbs passes away

- Rob Gibbs, who worked on films like Toy Story 2, Finding Nemo, Inside Out, Onward, Monsters, Inc. and Incredibles 2 died at the age of 55.
- The Pixar director, story artist and writer worked at the Pixar studios for 20 years.
- Gibbs' also has the short film Tokyo Mater (2008), the series Mater's Tall Tales and Tales From Radiator Springs, all emanating from the Cars franchise, Brave (2012), Monsters University (2013),
- Incredibles 2 (2018) and the upcoming Monsters at Work series for Disney+ to his credit.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. International Midwife Day is celebrated on the 5th of May every year.**

- International Midwife Day is celebrated on the 5th of May every year, to appreciate the work of midwives. Midwives are women who have practical knowledge of helping pregnant women give birth.
- In the early times when there were no highly professional and equipped hospitals for pregnant ladies, they used to give birth to a child at home with the help of these midwives.
- To celebrate these brave women and respect their work, International Midwife Day is celebrated. The theme of the International Midwife Day 2020 theme is-: “Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is NOW!”.

### **2. World Asthma Day takes place on the first Tuesday of May every year.**

- World Asthma Day takes place on the first Tuesday of May. This year, the World Asthma Day is observed on May 5, 2020.
- It is a global initiative to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. Asthma is a long term disease that affects the lungs. This disease causes inflammation in the airways and narrows them making it difficult to breathe.
- As per the WHO, about 80% of asthma deaths occur in low and lower-middle-income countries. The theme for World Asthma Day 2020 is “Enough Asthma Deaths”.

### **3. World Athletics Day is celebrated on 7 May**

- World Athletics Day is celebrated on 7 May. The date of observation is subjected to change as International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decides the date every year, but the month remains the same which is May. The day aims to boost participation in athletics among youngsters.
- World Athletics Day falls under the social responsibility project of IAAF 'Athletics for a Better World.' The day is observed to make people aware of the various health issues and to promote physical fitness. The day also aims to establish a link between the youth, sport, and environmental conservation.
- World Athletics Day was celebrated for the first time in the year 1996. The observation of the day was initiated by Primo Nebiolo, the then-president of IAAF. Several competitions take place on the day with the most common types are track and field, road running, race walking and cross country running, etc.

### **4. Rabindranath Tagore's 159th birth anniversary celebrated on 7th May**

- Every year May 7 is celebrated as Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti. He started writing poetry at the age of 8 and published his first collection at the age of 16.
- His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems: India's Jana Gana Mana and Bangladesh's Amar Shonar Bangla. The Sri Lankan national anthem was inspired by his work.
- He became in 1913 the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

### **5. The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated every year on 8th May**

- May 8 is observed as the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Every year, the day celebrates the principles of the “International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”.
- The celebrations aim to pay tribute to the volunteers who participated in the event as well as welcome their precious contribution to helping people in need. Mainly, World Red Cross Day focuses on the food shortage, natural calamities, war as well as diseases of the epidemic.
- This day commemorates the birth anniversary of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founder Henry Dunant. Henry Dunan won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.
- The Red Cross Society has won the Nobel Prize thrice: in 1917, 1944 and 1963. No other organisation has won the Peace Prize more than the Red Cross.



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