EVENTS

NATIONAL

REPORTS & INDICES

IMPACT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES FOR THE YEAR 2018-19 REPORT

Percentage share of different schemes in overall Energy saving (%)
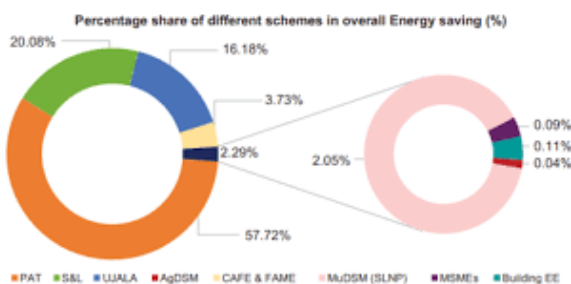
Date: 8th May 2020

The Union Minister of Power has released a Report on "Impact of energy efficiency measures for the year 2018-19" recently.

Key Points:

• India has reduced the energy intensity of the economy by 20% compared to 2005 levels.

• Total electricity savings is up to 9.39% of the net electricity consumption (113.16 Billion Units) in 2018-19.

• The total energy savings in 2018-19 is 2.69% of the total primary energy supply (23.73 million Tonne of Oil Equivalent). This includes both supply side and demand side sectors of the economy.

• 151.74 Million Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (MTCO2) emissions have been reduced. Last year it was 108 MTCO2.

'DIGITAL IN INDIA' REPORT—BY NIELSEN AND IAMAI

Internet And Mobile Association Of India

Date: 8th May 2020

The 'Digital in India' report is published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and curated by Nielsen.

Key Points:

- The report revealed that for the first time there are more internet users in rural areas than urban.
- As of November 2019, in rural India, there were 227 million active internet users, which is 10% more than urban India's which was about 205 million.
- India exceeds another milestone with 504 million active Internet users aged 5 years old or above, 53 million more than 451 million in March 2019, which makes it the 2nd largest internet user behind China, which has about 850 million users. The United States (US)has about 280-300 million users.
- At the state level, Delhi retains the top spot in terms of Internet penetration.
- Among the metro cities, Mumbai has the highest internet population of 13 million.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

VIZAG GAS LEAK

Date: 8th May 2020

Leak of a toxic chemical, Styrene, in a styrene plant owned by South Korean electronics giant LG near Visakhapatnam killed several people and left thousands sick.

Key Points:

- Styrene is a flammable liquid used in the manufacturing of polystyrene plastics, fiberglass, rubber, latex etc.
- It is also found in vehicle exhaust, cigarette smoke, natural foods like fruits and vegetables.
- Short-term exposure can result in respiratory problems, irritation in the eyes, irritation in the mucous membrane, gastrointestinal issues.
- Long-term exposure can lead to central nervous system issues; peripheral neuropathy; cancer; depression etc.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MAHAKAVACH APP

Date: 9th May 2020

Maharashtra Govt Introduces 'MahaKavach' App to Track Suspected COVID-19 Cases.

Key Points:

- It is a real-time digital contact tracing mobile application which enables citizens to contribute and assist the health authorities in contact tracing, geo-fencing and tracking of quarantined COVID-19 patients.
- Selfie attendance feature has been also added in the application to get virtual attendance.
- This app is to be used by individuals as directed by their doctor or medical worker.
- The app will not be accessible to everyone, as the state government aims to use it for very targeted cases.

'PRAVASI RAHAT MITRA' APP—BY UTTAR PRADESH

Date: 10th May 2020

Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' App for migrant workers of state who are returning from different parts of the country amidst lockdown.

Key Points:

- The state revenue department in collaboration with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) has developed this app.
- The app will provide health-related benefits and remedies and will also provide jobs and livelihood related skills.

- In this app, the data related to migrant citizens will be collected. Information like a person's name, educational qualification, temporary and permanent address, bank account details, Corona-related screening status, and experience will be taken in the app. In this, details of more than 65 types of skills will be collected which will help in providing jobs related to the skill-sets of the person.
- The app will display the details of the persons who are staying in the shelter center and the migrants who have reached their homes directly from other states.

CHAMPIONS PORTAL —BY MINISTRY OF MSME

Date: 13th May 2020

Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched CHAMPIONS Portal.

Key Points:
- CHAMPIONS Portal is a technology-based control room-cum-management system.
- The CHAMPION stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.
- The portal is launched with an aim to make smaller units big ones by solving their grievances, motivating them, and providing them helping support in all terms as and whenever required.
- The system Is developed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Analytics, and Machine Learning and is incorporated with ICT tools like telephone, internet, and video conference.
- As part of the system, a network of control rooms is created in a Hub & Spoke Model. So far, 66 state-level control rooms are created as part of the system.

SOCIAL

VANDE BHARAT MISSION

Date: 9th May 2020

The Indian nationals stranded overseas due to the global coronavirus lockdown are expected to return under the Vande Bharat Mission.

Key Points:

- It is considered as the largest exercise to bring back Indian citizens since the evacuation of 177,000 from the Gulf region in the early 1990s at the start of hostilities between Iraq and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.
- The mission has given priority to Indian citizens with "compelling reasons to return" – like those whose employment have been terminated, those whose visas have expired and not expected to be renewed under the present circumstances and those who have lost family members in recent times.
- Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express will operate 64 flights to bring back stranded Indians from 12 countries.
- The entire cost of travel will be borne by the passengers under the mission.

HEALTHCARE

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND IMR DATA

Date: 11th May 2020

Registrar General of India has released Birth rate, Death rate, and IMR data.

Key Points:

- The data states that India's infant mortality rate (IMR) has improved very marginally from 33 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 32 in 2018.

- Kerala has received the best IMR value in single digits at 7. Also, only Kerala state has now achieved the United Nations' sustainable development goal in this regard whereas Madhya Pradesh has the worst IMR in the country at 48.
- Registrar General of India also released data for death and birth rates. India's birth rate stood at 20. The death rate was 6.2. Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate in the country at 8 whereas Delhi has the lowest at 3.
- The birth rate in India has declined from 36 in 1971 to 20 now. The death rate in 1971 was 14.9.

SURAKSHA STORE INITIATIVE— BY CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Date: 13th May 2020

The Suraksha Store initiative has been launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Key Points:
- To launch this initiative the consumer affairs department has partnered with two tech startups Safejobs and Seekify.
- The two startups will help to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level.
- The initiative will help to ensure the health safety of citizens during and after the lockdown period and will control and limit the spread of coronavirus.
- The Suraksha Store initiative will help to educate Kirana store owners across the country about the Covid-19 safety guidelines and protocols required to be followed while running their businesses and shops.
- The protocols to be followed by them are decided by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

SWASTHVAYU—BY CSIR-NAL
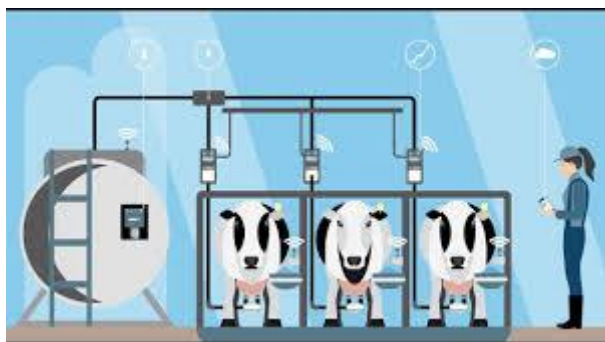

Date: 12th May 2020

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore has developed a Non-Invasive Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) Ventilator named as 'SwasthVayu'.

Key Points:

- This ventilator has been developed in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients.
- It is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible 3D printed manifold coupler with Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter (HEPA Filter).
- It is designed with unique features which help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread.
- The features included in it are Spontaneous, CPAP, Timed, AUTO BIPAP modes with provision to connect Oxygen concentrator Enrichment units externally.
- SwasthVayu machine is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost-effective, compact and configured with a majority of indigenous components.

AWARDS & HONOURS

STARTUP INDIA ANIMAL HUSBANDRY GRAND CHALLENGE AWARDS

Date: 12th May 2020

In September 2019, PM Modi launched a challenge to suggest innovative solutions to address problems faced by the animal husbandry and dairy sector.

Key Points:

• The challenge was launched at a national animal disease control program held at Mathura.

• Now the result for the challenge was declared by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh.

• Following is the list of selected winners in various categories:-

Sr No	Category	Winner
1	Eliminating Milk Adulteration	White Gold Technologies LLP, Mumbai
2	Value Added Products	Krushak Mitra Agro Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
3	E-commerce Solutions	MoooFarm, Gurugram, Haryana
4	Product Traceability	EmerTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
5	Breed Improvement & Animal Nutrition	Adis Technologies, Belagavi, Karnataka

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY

National Technology Day

Date: 11th May 2020

Since 1999, May 11 is celebrated as National Technology Day to mark India's technological advancements.

Key Points:

• This year, on behalf of the Ministry of Science & Technology, Technology Development Board (TBD) has organised a conference to celebrate the day.

• The theme of the conference is 'Rebooting the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations titled RESTART'.

- On May 11, 1998, India detonated three nuclear bombs in the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range.
- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam led the Indian team of scientists to successfully test-fire the Shakti-1 nuclear missile at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range.

POLICY & SCHEMES

FIR AAPKEDWAR YOJANA—BY MADHYA PRADESH

Date: 13th May 2020

FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana has been launched by the state government of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points:
- Under this Yojana, a person would not be required to visit the police station to lodge an FIR.
- The yojana has been started in 23 Police stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters.
- Dial 100 vehicles will have trained Head Constables to lodge FIR. FIR for basic complaints will be lodged on the spot. Whereas, for any serious complaints guidance will be provided by the senior officials.
- Also a helpline 'Dial 112' was launched to facilitate the immediate availability of ambulance, police, and firefighting services.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS AND SAFETY CONFERENCE
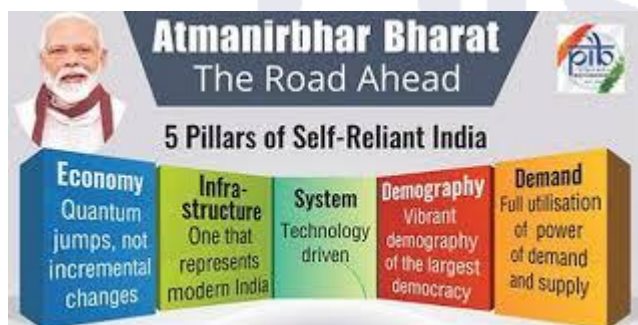

Date: 13th May 2020

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda addressed the video conference on 'Tribal livelihoods and safety'.

Key Points:

- The conference was organized for all states and Union Territories and was attended by chief ministers of the states, deputy chief ministers, state-tribal ministers and forest state ministers.
- Arjun Munda reviewed the task performing under Prime Minister's Vand-han Yojana in the states.
- The goal is to boost the minor forest produce with value addition and marketing with the help of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs).
- Also a discussion on fair support price was initiated in the conference which will be very helpful to generate additional livelihoods for the migrants who are returning home due to COVID-19 lockdown situation.
- Small scale units at the village level will be set up which will help to provide employment to tribal returnees from different states. And to develop the market chain to sell rural products of organic in nature to National and International markets.

ECONOMY

ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN OR SELF-RELIANT INDIA MOVEMENT

Date: 14th May 2020

Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan or Self-Reliant India Movement is an economic package launched by the Union Finance Ministry.
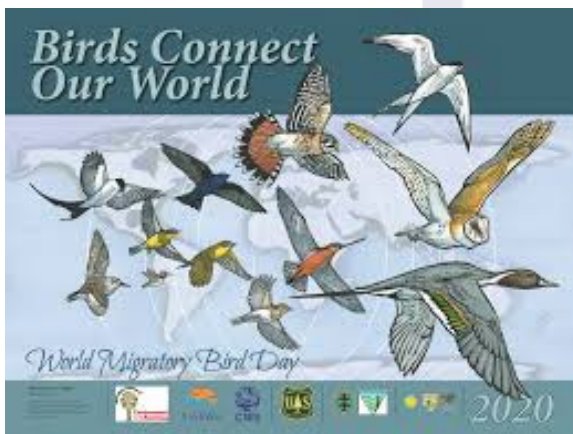
Key Points:

- Under this Abhiyan, PM Narendra Modi announced a special economic and comprehensive package of Rs.20 lakh crores, equivalent to 10% of India's GDP, for relief and credit support related to businesses, especially to MSME sector to support Indian Economy to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

- Recently, the government announced an economic stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore, equivalent to 10% of India's GDP, and big-bang systemic reforms under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India).
- The intended objective of this plan is two-fold. First, interim measures such as liquidity infusion and direct cash transfers for the poor will work as shock absorbers for those in acute stress.
- The second, long-term reforms in growth-critical sectors to make them globally competitive and attractive.
- Together, these steps may revive the economic activity, impacted by Covid-19 pandemic and create new opportunities for growth in sectors like agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), power, coal and mining, defence and aviation,etc.

<div align="center">**INTERNATIONAL**</div>

ENVIRONMENT

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY (WMBD)

Date: 9th May 2020

The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2020 was observed on 9th May 2020.

Key Points:

- The first WMBD was celebrated in 2006. The event helps to raise global awareness about threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and need for international cooperation to conserve them.
- It was organized by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) together with Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
- The Theme for the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World".

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2020

Date: 14th May 2020

Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Key Points:

- The FRA 2020 has examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.
- Forest area has declined all across the world in the past three decades. The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.
- The area of naturally regenerating forests worldwide decreased since 1990, but the area of planted forests increased by 123 mha.
- Africa had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 mha, followed by South America, at 2.6 mha.
- On the other hand, Asia had the highest net gain of forest area in 2010–2020, followed by Oceania and Europe.

HEALTHCARE

AIIB GRANTS $500 MILLION LOAN TO INDIA TO COMBAT COVID-19

Date: 9th May 2020

An agreement between the Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has been signed for the approval of a loan of $500 million for the "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project".

Key Points:

- The loan amount will help India to combat the COVID-19 pandemic situation and strengthen its public health.
- The loan amount will be helpful to all States and Union Territories (UT) of India and will address the needs of infected people,at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.
- The loan will help in scaling up procurement of PPE, oxygen delivery systems, and medicines, which is required in large quantities in this pandemic situation.
- The project will support research on COVID-19 by Indian and other global institutions working in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MISSION SAGAR

Date: 11th May 2020

The government of India launched "Mission Sagar" to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Key Points:

- The mission is inspired by PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- The mission is carried out by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams.

INDO-BANGLADESH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Date: 14th May 2020

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organized a virtual conference between India and Bangladesh.

Key Points:

- The conference was addressed by Union Development of North Eastern Region(DoNER) Minister Jitendra Singh and focussed on the vital role of the North Eastern region in order to boost the trade between the two countries.
- He also assured that new paradigms will emerge post-COVID with a possibility for new development in economy, trade, scientific research and several other diverse areas.
- He also urged the participants to make efforts to boost the trade of items like coal, ginger, cement, plastic, bamboo etc.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

32ND COMMONWEALTH HEALTH MINISTERS' MEETING

Date: 15th May 2020

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting which was conducted through video conference.

Key Points:

- The theme of the conference was "Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response."

- The conference highlighted the measures taken by the Indian government to fight against COVID-19.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan stressed the various measures like lockdown activity, keeping surveillance at the entry point in order to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 in the public areas.
- Also, he mentioned the efforts taken by the officials to evacuate the people stuck abroad amidst lockdown situations, health infrastructure, etc.
- He discussed that India has provided essential medicines such as Hydroxy-chloroquine (HCQ) to around 100 needy countries, extending solidarity and support during this time of crisis.

REPORTS & INDICES

ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX

Date: 15th May 2020

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2020.

Key Points:
- As per the report it is observed that India has moved up by two positions because of the improvement achieved by India in key parameters like economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability.
- This time, India has ranked 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI). In the previous year, it was ranked at 76th position.
- Sweden has topped in the report for a third consecutive year.
- Sweden is followed by Switzerland and Finland in the second and third positions respectively.
- As per the report, India has made significant improvement in energy efficiency through bulk procurement of LED bulbs, smart meters, and programs for labelling of appliances.

SPACE

VANEEZA RUPANI

Date: 8th May 2020

Why in news: Indian-origin girl names NASA's first Mars helicopter.

Key Points:

- Indian-origin girl Vaneeza Rupain has earned the honour of naming NASA's first Mars helicopter.
- The helicopter has been officially named Ingenuity.
- It will be the first aircraft to attempt powered flight on another planet.
- NASA's Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter are currently undergoing final assembly and checkout. They will be launched in July 2020.

SPORTS

DEEPA MALIK

Date: 12th May 2020

Why in news: Announced her retirement to head India's Paralympic Committee.

Key Points:

Para-athlete Deepa Malik followed the National Sports Code guidelines and announced her retirement to hold her post as the president of the Paralympic Committee of India.

As per the National Sports Code, an active athlete cannot hold an official post in any federation.

Deepa Malik has been a flag bearer for para-sports in the country and she was awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna last year. As a result, she became the first Indian woman para-athlete to be conferred with the accolade.

She is the first Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games. Malik is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Arjuna Award.

INTERNATIONAL

POLITY

MUSTAFA AL KADHIMI

Date: 8th May 2020

Why in news: Becomes the new Prime Minister of Iraq.

Key Points:

- Mustafa Al Kadhimi has been chosen as Iraq's new Prime Minister, ending months of political deadlock.
- He has become Iraq's first proper Prime Minister after Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November 2019 due to massive anti-government protests.
- Al Kadhimi, a former intelligence chief, does not belong to any political party. He was nominated for the post of Prime Minister in early April by Iraq's President Barham Salih.

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## DEFENCE

DEFENCE MINISTRY ABOLISHES OVER 9000 POSTS

Date: 8th May 2020

In a major decision the Ministry of Defence,Government of India has abolished over 9000 posts in the Military Engineering Service (MES).

Key Highlights:
- The move is seen as per the recommendations of the Lt. Gen. D.B. Shekatkar (Retd.) Committee.
- The committee had suggested measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance armed forces' expenditure.
- Total 9,304 posts in MES out of the total 13,157 vacancies of the basic and industrial staff has been approved by the Defence Minister as proposed by Engineer-in-Chief, MES.
- This is one of the recommendations made by a panel to enhance combat capability and rebalance armed forces' expenditure
- In this leaner structure work of the MES could be partly done by departmentally employed staff and other works could be outsourced.
- The move is aimed at making the MES an effective organisation with a leaner workforce.
- The restructured MES will be well equipped to handle complex issues in the emerging scenario in an efficient and cost- effective manner.

CERT-IN ISSUES WARNING OVER EVENTBOT BANKING MALWARE
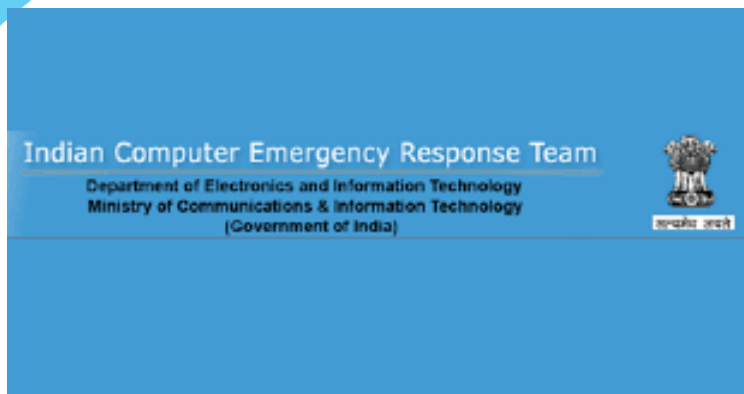
Date: 14th May 2020

The Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-In) has issued warnings against a mobile banking malware called "EventBot",

Key Highlights:

- This malware named EventBot steals personal financial information and is found to be affecting Android phone users in India
- The CERT-In has issued a against this Trojan malware as it may masquerade as a legitimate application such as Microsoft Word, Adobe Flash, and others using third-party application downloading sites to infiltrate into victim device
- The Eventbot is a mobile-banking Trojan and info-stealer that abuses Android's in-built accessibility features.
- It steals user data from financial applications and can read user SMS messages and intercept SMS messages
- "EventBot" targets over 200 different financial applications, including banking applications, money-transfer services, and cryptocurrency wallets.
- It largely targets financial applications like Paypal Business, Revolut, Barclays, UniCredit, CapitalOne UK, HSBC UK, TransferWise, Coinbase, paysafecard
- The cyber-security agency has suggested certain counter-measures to check the virus infection into Android phones:
- The CeRT-In team has advised not to download and install applications from untrusted s
- The Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-In) is the national technology arm to combat cyber attacks and guard the Indian cyber space.

SPACE

CHINA'S MASSIVE ROCKET CRASH LANDS IN ATLANTIC OCEAN

Date: 14th May 2020

China's Long March 5B (CZ–5B) rocket crash-landed into the Atlantic Ocean.

Key Highlights:

- Earlier the country has successfully launched its most powerful Rocket yet.
- The rocket spent several days in orbit before re-entering Earth's atmosphere and crashing off the west coast of northwest Africa.
- The debris is reportedly the rocket's core and is 30.48 metres, weighing almost 18,000 kgs.
- This is the biggest rocket debris to fall in the Ocean since 1991.
- For China, it's been a tough year as China's Long March 3B, which was carrying an Indonesian communications satellite, failed shortly after launch
- In March, China has lost yet another rocket, called Long March 7A, with a classified Chinese satellite strapped to it.
- The Crash is a major bolt for the country as it had big plans to launch a Mars lander and a lunar mission in coming months.

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HEALTHCARE

ICMR -BHARAT BIOTECH TO MAKE IN INDIA COVID-19 VACCINE

Date: 10th May 2020

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) announced a research collaboration to develop a COVID-19 vaccine.

Key Highlights:
- The ICMR has transferred the virus strain isolated at its pune based laboratory - National Institute of Virology to BBIL.
- The ICMR-NIV will provide continuous support to BBIL for vaccine development.
- Both the agencies will seek fast-track approvals to expedite vaccine development, subsequent animal studies and clinical evaluation of the candidate vaccine.
- These developments seems to be very promising towards successfully developing a vaccine.
- This will be the first fully indigenous Covid-19 vaccine to combat Covid-19 pandemic not in the country but world-wide.

INDIAN LAB DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS TEST KIT FOR COVID-19

Date: 14th May 2020

One of the Indian laboratories developed an indigenous test kit for COVID-19 detection.

Key Highlights:

- Pune based National Institute of Virology developed validated ELISA test kit for COVID-19 antibody detection.
- It is purely an indigenously developed COVID-19 antibody detection.
- This ELISA kit has been found to have sensitivity of 98.7 per cent and specificity of 100 per cent on external validation.
- These test kits can process 90 samples together in two-and-a-half hours.
- These antibody tests are critical for surveillance to understand the proportion of population exposed to infection.
- The first batches of these ELISA kits were produced by the Zydus Cadila.
- The achievement is important not only due to cost involved but most importantly the trust.
- Recently the China based antibody kits were found to be faulty as the China made kits marked those patient negative who have already tested positive for coronavirus by reliable methods like RT-PCR
- This raised the credibility of these Chinese manufactured rapid test kits and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has asked states to hold off the use of the Chinese Kits until the matter is resolved

IT

UP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 'PRAVASI RAHAT MITRA' APP

Date: 11th May 2020

Uttar Pradesh government launches the 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' mobile application.
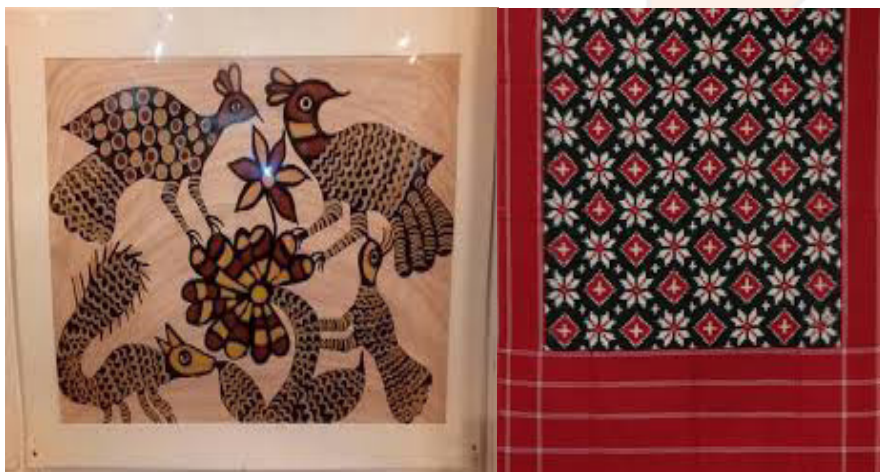
Key Highlights:

- The app is aimed at aiding migrant population coming to Uttar Pradesh from other states to be benefitted from state government's schemes.
- The app will also help in monitoring their health status besides providing jobs and livelihood as per their qualification and skills.

- The data collection of these migrant citizens will be done through the app and it will have full details of the persons staying in the shelter center and those returned from other states
- The basic information such as name, educational qualification, temporary and permanent address, bank account details, Corona-related screening status,ration kits and experience will be taken in the app.
- The 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' app can work online as well as offline.
- The data collection for the app will be done at decentralized level like at shelter site, transit point, residence of the person.
- The data collected through the app will be installed on the state-based Integrated Information Management System (IIMS).
- The app has been developed by the UP state revenue department in collaboration with United Nation Development Program (UNDP).

ART & CULTURE

JHARKHAND PAINTING AND TELANGANA CLOTH GET GI STATUS

Date: 13th May 2020

Sohrai Khovar, the painting style from Jharkhand and the Telia Rumal clothings of Telangana gets the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Key Highlights:
- The Geographical Indication (GI) tag was conferred by the Chennai based Geographical Indications Registry .
- The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women of Jharkhand
- It is made during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area surrounding Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- Telia Rumal cloth of Telangana involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs

- The rumal is mainly designed in three particular colours involving red, black and white.
- The uniqueness of the cloth lies in the fact that it can only be created using the traditional handloom process
- Telia Rumals are offered at the dargah of Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan
- The GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003.

INTERNATIONAL

SPACE

CHINA LAUNCHES MOST POWERFUL ROCKET

Date: 8th May 2020

Key Highlights:
- China launched its most powerful Rocket yet.
- The Long March-5B China's largest carrier rocket was launched into orbit
- The 176-foot-long rocket is designed to shuttle astronauts to low-Earth orbit(LEO).
- The rocket was blasted off from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan.
- The Long March-5B is powered by a pair of hydrogen-fueled YF-77 core stage engines and eight kerosene-fueled booster engines
- The massive rocket can haul up a 55,000-pound payload into orbit with almost 2.4 million pounds of thrust.
- The launch is important as per the perspective that the country has big plans for the moon and Mars.
- China is expected to launch a Mars lander and and a lunar mission in coming months.
- The successful launch of Long March-5B paves a path for China to explore further into solar system.

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