WHO has launched ‘COVID-19 Law Lab’ Initiative worldwide

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India, Israel jointly develop ultra-rapid testing kit for COVID-19

- Indian **(Defence Research and Development Organisation) DRDO** scientists along with Defence Research Wing of Israel have been conjointly working on the COVID testing kit.
- The rapid testing kit will generate the initial result of COVID within 30secs.
- The kit has been developed by integration of many novel technologies, which includes artificial intelligence, based online voice test, breathalyser test, isothermal testing and testing using polyamino acids.
- India and Israel are also the members of the world consortium of scientists working on COVID Vaccine.

Fact: Prime Minister of Israel – **Benjamin Netanyahu**

Capital of Israel – **Jerusalem**

WHO has launched ‘COVID-19 Law Lab’ Initiative worldwide

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched an initiative called **“COVID-19 Law Lab”** – a database of laws that countries had implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This is the first initiative to learn about the world government’s response in the COVID pandemic.
- The lab project is jointly formed by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **WHO**, the Joint **United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS)** and the **O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law** at **Georgetown University**.
- The aim of this lab project is to make sure that laws protect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across the world.

Fact: WHO Director General – **Tedros Adhanom**

Headquarters of WHO - **Geneva, Switzerland**

NATIONAL NEWS

DST launches INR 15 Crore fund to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D

- **“India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme”** has launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** and **Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE)** of the Russian

Federation**.**

- The Department of Science and Technology will fund up to INR 15 Crores to ten Indian SMEs/Start-ups and FASIE will provide similar funding to the Russian projects.
- The aim of this programme is to connect Indian and Russian Science & Technology led SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D.
- This is to strength the ties between the two countries in Technology development and in cross-country technology adaption.
- A dedicated portal **www.indiarussiainnovate.org** has been developed for this purpose.

Fact: Union Minister of Science & technology – **Harsh Vardhan**

World Class State of the Art Honey Testing Lab inaugurated in Gujarat

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory', which was formed by **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** at **Anand in Gujarat**.
- There are other initiatives to promote the bee keeping in the country by the agriculture ministry such as **'Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)'**.
- The **'National Mission for Beekeeping'** is also being implemented through National Bee Board.
- **'Two Days Online Training Programme on Scientific Honey-bee Production'** being conducted by National Dairying Development Board (NDDB).

Indian Navy's largest solar plant inaugurated at the INA, Ezhimala, in Kerala

- The Vice Admiral **Anil Kumar Chawal**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief, Southern Naval Command (SNC), e-inaugurated the **3 MegaWatt (MW) largest Solar Power Plant** at the Indian Naval Academy, **Ezhimala, Kerala**.
- The project is a part of the Indian Government's initiative of **National Solar Mission**, to achieve 100 GigaWatt (GW) of solar Power by 2022.
- The **Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KELTRON)** has executed the projects.

Fact: Motto of Indian Naval Academy – "**Shaping future Naval Leadership"**

Headquarters of KELTRON – **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

ECONOMIC NEWS

World's largest 1st Global Fintech Fest held virtually

- The 1st edition of two days long world's largest **Global Fintech Fest (GFF)** was held virtually.
- The fest was organised by **Payments Council of India (PCI)** and **Fintech Convergence Council (FCC)** at **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- The theme of the fest is **"Fintech: With and Beyond COVID"**.
- The aim of the fest was to bring together the global FinTech and **Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.**
- The key happenings in the fest are as follows:

NPCI launched **UPI AutoPAy** to ease online recurring payments and launched SBM EnKash RuPay Business Card for small business.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has formed a high-level committee to look at financial and regulatory technology.

Nandan Nilekani, non-executive chairperson of Infosys Ltd., launched a new credit protocol infrastructure called the **'Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN) protocol'**.

Amazon Pay collaborated with Acko General Insurance Ltd to offer auto insurance in India

- Amazon Pay, the payments arm of Amazon India has collaborated with Acko General Insurance Ltd to offer auto insurance for both two and four-wheelers in India.
- The key factors of the Insurance plan are as follows:

Quick paperless insurance plan

Instant cash settlements

Select from a list of add-ons where the customers can select from a list of add-ons like zero-depreciation and engine protection.

Additional benefit for amazon prime members

Payment of insurance – customers can pay for the insurance using Amazon Pay balance, UPI, or any saved card.

Fact: Headquarters of Amazon – **Washington, USA**

Founder & CEO – **Jeff Bezos**

Headquarters of Acko General Insurance Ltd – **Mumbai**

ICICI Lombard and PhonePe launched Hospital Daily cash benefit

- ICICI Lombard in partnership with PhonePe has launched **Hospital Daily cash benefit** under its Group Safeguard Insurance policy, a **sachet-based group** insurance product.
- A customized hospitalisation policy that allows PhonePe users to get an assured amount if they are hospitalised due to injury or illnesses.

Fact: Headquarters of PhonePe – **Bengaluru**

Headquarters of ICICI Lombard – **Mumbai**

APPOINTMENTS

Rajesh Bhushan appointed as new Health Secretary

- Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed as the new Health Secretary in the Union Health Ministry.
- He was serving as the OSD in the Health Ministry and he will succeed **Preeti Sudan**.
- He is an IAS officer of 1987 Batch, Bihar Cadre.

OBITUARY

Renowned dancer Amala Shankar passes away

- Eminent dancer and choreographer Amala Shankar passed away in **Kolkata** at the age of 101.
- She was awarded the **Banga Bibhusan** by the West Bengal government in 2011 for her contribution in the field of arts.