

# **GS SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

# **PIB**

**FORTNIGHTLY  
COMPILATION**

**1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2020**

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**1 J&K SETS UP PMRU OF NPPA**

- Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory has become 12th State where the Price Monitoring & Resource Unit (PMRU) has been set up by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
- PMRUs have already been set up by NPPA in 11 States, including, Kerala, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Mizoram.

**What is PMRU?**

- The PMRU, a registered society, shall function under the direct control and supervision of State Drug Controller of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The unit shall be funded by NPPA for its recurring and non-recurring expenses.
- The PMRU shall help NPPA and State Drug Controller in ensuring availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- It is also expected to organise seminars, training programs and other information, education and communication (IEC) activities in the areas of availability and affordability of medicines for all.
- PMRU will also collect samples of medicines, collect and analyse data and make reports with respect to availability and over-pricing of medicines for taking action under the provisions of Drug Price Control Order (DPCO).
- This assumes added significance as PMRU, J&K will assist NPPA and Governments in checking overpricing and identifying causes & addressing local issues of shortages/hoarding in the current situation when country is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2 JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN ADANI GREEN ENERGY LIMITED AND TOTAL S.A. TO GENERATE SOLAR ENERGY**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves formation of Joint Venture between Adani Green Energy Limited and Total S.A. in the business of power generation through solar energy in India.
- The proposed combination envisages Adani Green Energy Limited transferring certain of its subsidiaries to a newly incorporated company (JV).
- Subsequently, Total S.A. would directly or indirectly acquire 50% of the equity share capital of the JV.
- Total S.A. is the ultimate parent entity of the Total Group.
  - Total Group is an international integrated energy producer with operations in every sector of the oil and gas industry.
  - Total Group is also involved in renewable energy and power generation sectors in India.
- The Target Companies are active in the business of power generation through solar energy in India.

**3 JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANISATION (ADAPTATION OF STATE LAWS) ORDER, 2020**

- Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an order for adaptation and modification of State Laws specific to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, to further facilitate the application of Central Laws to the newly formed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020 provides a new definition of domicile in the union territory.
- The new definition allows all Indian citizens to apply for government jobs in J&K if they fulfil certain conditions (listed later).

### Who can be domiciled or employed in J&K?

- The new rule only reserves non-gazetted class four jobs for Jammu & Kashmir natives. It also lists certain conditions one should fulfil to qualify as a domicile applicant — applicants should have resided in J&K for 15 years, or studied in the state for seven years and appeared in either the Class 10 or the Class 12 examination there.
- Children of central government officers (Army, paramilitary forces, IAS, IPS), and employees of public sector undertakings and banks, central universities etc who have served in Jammu & Kashmir for 10 years will also be eligible to apply for gazetted and non-gazetted government jobs. These included those who work outside the state.
- Migrants registered by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner need not fulfil the aforementioned requirements and will automatically be eligible for a domicile certificate.

## 4

### GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW FEATURES OF E-NAM PLATFORM

The government launched new features of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Platform to strengthen agriculture marketing by farmers which will reduce their need to physically come to wholesale mandis for selling their harvested produce, at a time when there is critical need to decongest mandis to effectively fight against COVID-19.

### What is e-NAM?

- e-NAM was launched in 2016 as a pan-India electronic trade portal linking APMCs across the States.
- The portal provides for contactless remote bidding and mobile-based any time payment for which traders do not need to either visit mandis or banks for the same.
- This helps improve social distancing and safety in the APMC markets to fight against COVID-19.

### The new feature:

- e-NAM is well poised to play a critical role during the period of Covid-19 to decongest mandis while helping the farmers at same time.
- For this purpose following "Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWRs) module have been launched for enhancing the effectiveness of e-NAM.
  - Warehouse (Registered with WDRA) trading module with payment feature is launched today to enable small & marginal famers to directly trade their stored produce from selected WDRA registered warehouses which are declared deemed market by the State.
  - Farmers will be able to place their produce in WDRA accredited warehouses.
  - Already States of Telangana (14 warehouses) & Andhra Pradesh (23 warehouses) declared designated warehouses in the State as deemed market.

**Benefits of eNWRs integration with e-NAM**

- Depositor can save the Logistics expenses and will have better income.
- Farmers can sell the produce across the Nation to get better Price and at the same time can save himself from hassle of mandi.
- Farmers will be able to place their produce in WDRA accredited warehouses avail the benefit of pledge loan if required.
- Price stabilization by matching supply and demand through time and place utility.

**5****AAROGYASETU: A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE**

The Government of India launched a mobile app developed in public-private partnership to bring the people of India together in a resolute fight against COVID-19.

**What is AarogyaSetu App?**

- The App, called 'AarogyaSetu' joins Digital India for the health and well-being of every Indian.
- It will enable people to assess themselves the risk for their catching the Corona Virus infection.
- It will calculate this based on their interaction with others, using cutting edge Bluetooth technology, algorithms and artificial intelligence.
- The App will help the Government take necessary timely steps for assessing risk of spread of COVID-19 infection, and ensuring isolation where required.
- Available in 11 languages, the App is ready for pan-India use from day-1 and has highly scalable architecture.

This app is a unique example of the nation's young talent coming together and pooling resources and efforts to respond to a global crisis. It is at once a bridge between public and private sectors, digital technology and health services delivery and the potential of young India with a disease-free and healthy future of the nation.

**6****CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY ADVISES ZOOS IN INDIA TO REMAIN ON HIGH ALERT IN VIEW OF COVID 19**

- The Central Zoo Authority under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has advised Zoos in the country to remain on highest alertness, watch animals on 24X7 basis, using CCTV for any abnormal behavior/symptoms, keepers/handlers not to be allowed in the vicinity without safety gear preferably PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), isolate & quarantine sick animals, and have least contact while providing feed to animals.
- Further, zoos are advised to coordinate with designated nodal agencies of the Government responsible for public health response and permit screening, testing and surveillance and diagnostic samples as and when required by the nodal agency.
- Recently, a Tiger housed in the Bronx Zoo, New York have been found COVID positive.

**7****BIOFORTIFIED CARROT VARIETY**

- Madhuban Gajar, a biofortified carrot variety with high  $\beta$ -carotene and iron content has been developed in Junagadh district.

- The Madhuvan Gajar is a highly nutritious carrot variety developed through the selection method with higher  $\beta$ -carotene content (277.75 mg/kg) and iron content (276.7 mg/kg) dry basis and is used for various value-added products like carrot chips, juices, and pickles.
- Among all the varieties tested, beta-carotene and iron content were found to be superior.

## 8 TRIFED TO LAUNCH A DIGITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SELF HELP GROUPS

- To ensure tribal gatherers carry on their work safely, TRIFED has collaborated with UNICEF for developing a digital communication strategy for promoting a digital campaign for Self Help Groups (SHGs) involved in this work, highlighting the importance of Social Distancing.
- UNICEF would provide the necessary support to be circulated to the SHG centers in the form of Digital Multimedia content, Webinars for Virtual trainings (basic orientation on COVID response, key preventive behaviours), Social Media campaigns (on social distancing, home quarantine, etc.) and Vanya Radio.
- The SHGs will create awareness among the community about social distancing and steps to be followed.

## 9 G20 EXTRAORDINARY ENERGY MINISTERS' VIRTUAL MEETING

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, participated in the G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers' virtual Meeting on 10th April 2020.
- The meeting was called by Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as the G20 Presidency, and chaired by Saudi Arabia Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz.
- The meeting was attended by Energy Ministers of G20 countries, guest countries and heads of international organizations including OPEC, IEA and IEF.
- The G20 Energy Ministers' focused on ways and means to ensure stable energy markets, which are affected due to demand reduction as result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing surplus production -related matters.

### What is G20?

- The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- It was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
- Among the 19 members and EU, the EU is represented by the European Commission and by the European Central Bank.
- Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 90% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), 2/3rd of the world population, and approximately half of the world land area.

## 10 YUKTI (YOUNG INDIA COMBATING COVID WITH KNOWLEDGE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION)

- The government has launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation).

- It's a unique portal and dashboard to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD.
- The portal intends to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way.
- It will cover the various initiatives and efforts of the institutions in academics, research especially related to CoVID, social initiatives by institutions and the measures taken for the betterment of the total wellbeing of the students.
- The portal will cover both qualitative and quantitative parameters for effective delivery of services to the academic community at large.
- The web platform Yukti will epitomize its name and prove to be a great enabler in taking the research to the ultimate stakeholders, the citizens of our country.

## 11 COLLABCAD

- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and National Informatics Centre (NIC) jointly launched CollabCAD, a collaborative network, computer enabled software system, providing a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product design.
- The aim of this initiative is to provide a great platform to students of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across country to create and modify 3d designs with free flow of creativity and imagination.
- This software would also enable students to create data across the network and concurrently access the same design data for storage and visualization.
- ATLs established across India, provide tinkering spaces to children to hone their innovative ideas and creativity.
- AIM's collaboration with NIC's CollabCAD is a great platform for students to utilize indigenous, state-of-the-art made-in-India software for 3D modeling/slicing to use 3D Printing.
- A customized version of CollabCAD for ATLs with features that are most relevant to school students to materialize their ideas and creativity into physical solutions has been developed to enable designing without constraints and, thus, allowing creativity and innovation to thrive.
- Moreover, in light of the current situation, the ATL program has launched a 'Tinker from Home' campaign to ensure that the children across the country have access to useful easy-to-learn online resources to keep themselves fruitfully occupied.
- The objective of the initiative is to harness the creativity and innovativeness of children by encouraging learning through self-initiation.

## 12 DEKHOAPNADESH

- The Ministry of Tourism has launched its "DekhoApnaDesh" webinar series to provide information on the many destinations and the sheer depth and expanse of the culture and heritage of our Incredible India.
- The first webinar, which was part of a series that shall unfold, touched upon the long history of Delhi as it has unfolded as 8 cities, each one unique in its character and leaving behind traces which makes Delhi the magnificent city that it is today.
- The webinar was titled "City of Cities- Delhi's Personal Diary".

**Background:**

- COVID-19 has had a major impact on all human life and not just in India but globally.
- Tourism as a sector is naturally hugely impacted with no movement happening either domestically or from across the border.
- But owing to technology, it is possible to visit places and destinations virtually and plan our travels for a later date.
- In these unprecedented times, technology is coming handy to maintain human contact and also keep faith that times will be good to be able to travel again soon.

**13****AMENDMENT TO ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT(EIA) NOTIFICATION 2006**

To address unprecedented situation arising from global outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), and to ramp up availability or production of various drugs, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 27th March 2020, has made an amendment to EIA Notification 2006.

**Major Amendments:**

- All projects or activities in respect of bulk drugs and intermediates, manufactured for addressing various ailments, have been re-categorized from the existing Category 'A' to 'B2' category.
- Projects falling under Category B2 are exempted from requirement of collection of Base line data, EIA Studies and public consultation.
- This amendment is applicable to all proposals received up to 30th September 2020. The states have also been issued advisories to expeditiously process such proposals.
- Further, to ensure expeditious disposal of the proposals within given time-line, Ministry has also advised states to use information technology e.g. video conference, considering the fact that in view of the prevailing situation on ground, appraisal of proposals may not be possible through physical meetings.
- Within a period of about two weeks, more than 100 proposals have been received under this category, which are at different levels of decision making by the concerned regulatory authorities in the states.

**Significance of the Amendments:**

- The re-categorization of such proposals has been done to facilitate decentralization of appraisal to State Level so as to fast track the process.
- This step of the Govt is with a view to help in increasing the availability of the important medicines/ drugs in the country within short span of time.

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