

Current Affairs=12-04-2020

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Launches web-portal YUKTI in New Delhi

The Union Minister for HRD Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” has launched a web-portal YUKTI in New Delhi on 12 April 2020.

YUKTI stands for Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation.

The unique portal and dashboard aims to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD which have been taken in the wake of COVID-19, to keep the academic community healthy, both physically & mentally.

The portal will establish a two-way communication channel between the MHRD and the institutions (academic or research) so that the Ministry can provide the necessary support system to the institutions.

Government to set up 20 lakh ‘Suraksha’ retail shops to provide daily essentials The government has planned to set up a chain of 20 lakh retail shops called ‘Suraksha Stores’ across India.

These stores will provide daily essentials to citizens while maintaining stringent safety norms in the wake of COVID-19.

The Suraksha Stores initiative will convert the neighborhood Kirana stores into sanitized retail outlets selling daily essentials while adhering to safety norms such as social distancing and sanitization to control the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Ministry of Finance extends deadline for mandatory minimum deposit in PPF, Sukanya Samriddhi Account by 3 Months till June 30

The Ministry of Finance has extended the deadline for mandatory minimum deposit in Public Provident Fund (PPF), Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) and RDs (recurring deposits) for the financial year 2019-20 by three months due to the lockdown amid coronavirus outbreak. Now the account holders can deposit their savings up to June 30, which couldn't be deposited in 2019-20 due to lockdown in the country.

This relaxation will be applicable only for account holders of PPF, Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) and Recurring Deposits (RDs).

In order to keep these accounts active, the subscribers are required to make some specified deposit in a year otherwise penalty is charged over that.

World Bank Projects India’s GDP Growth at 1.5-2.8 pc in 2020-21

The World Bank has estimated India’s economy to grow 1.5 percent to 2.8 percent in the 2020-21 fiscal in its South Asia Economic Focus report, released on 12 April, 2020. This is the worst growth performance to be recorded by India since the 1991 liberalisation, as the coronavirus outbreak severely disrupts the economy.

For 2019-20, India will grow 4.8 percent to 5 percent.



Growth is expected to rebound to 5% in Fiscal 2021-22 as the impact of COVID-19 dissipates.

People's Bank of China now owns 1.01% stake in HDFC

The People's Bank of China (PBOC), which is the Central Bank of China now owns 1.01% stake in the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC).

As per the data submitted by PBOC to BSE, it held 1.75 crore shares of HDFC during the quarter that ended in March 2020. However, PBOC already owned 0.8 percent earlier.

As per norms, businesses are required to disclose shareholding of over 1 percent at the end of every quarter. The disclosure has been made now by PBOC because the ownership has hit the 1 percent regulatory threshold.

Apple and Google collaborate to launch COVID-19 contact-tracing technology

Technology giants, Apple and Google have collaborated to enable the use of Bluetooth technology to help governments and health agencies reduce the spread of Corona Virus.

Contact tracing is a valuable tool to help contain COVID-19 spread. The joint initiative by Apple and Google will contribute to the cause.

They will together launch a comprehensive solution that includes application programming interfaces (APIs) and operating system-level technology to assist in enabling contact tracing.

Maha Prasad Adhikari appointed as Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank

Maha Prasad Adhikari has been appointed as the Governor of the Central bank of Nepal i.e. Nepal Rastra Bank. He has been appointed for a five-year term.

Formula 1 legend Stirling Moss passes away at 90

Former Formula One racer, Stirling Moss, passed away at the age of 90 years. He was from Britain. Stirling Moss featured in 66 Grands Prix from 1951 to 1961. However, referred to as the greatest driver he never won the world championship.

Former Chelsea and England goalkeeper Peter Bonetti Passes Away at 78

An English footballer, Peter Phillip Bonetti, and former goalkeeper for the football clubs Chelsea, the St. Louis Stars, Dundee United and England, has passed away due to long illness. He was 78. He was nicknamed as 'The Cat' because of his safe handling, lightning reflexes and his graceful style.

Centre Announces Eight free 5kg LPG (Cooking Gas) Refills for Pradhan Mantri

Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY) beneficiaries over the period of three months, from April to June 2020, to support them during the Covid-19 outbreaks.