

Daily News Decode

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National Road Safety Month



- National Road Safety Month will be inaugurated today to disseminate awareness regarding road safety and reduce road accidents in India. The inaugural function will be held in New Delhi

- Activities planned during the Month include launch of a film on Road safety, flagging off of a National Championship Safe Speed Challenge from Wagah border to Kanyakumari and giving away of awards for Road Safety.
- State Governments, PSUs, and Insurance companies will also participate in awareness-creating activities, with seminars, walkathons, poster-making competitions etc.

Britain invites PM to attend G7 Summit to be held in June 2021



- The G7, made up of the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US and the EU, is the only forum where the world's most influential and open societies and advanced economies are brought together for close-knit discussions.

- Prime Minister Johnson will use the first in-person G7 summit in almost two years to ask leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to seize the opportunity to build back better from coronavirus, uniting to make the future fairer, greener and more prosperous.
- Terming India as 'pharmacy of the world', the UK lauded the efforts regarding the production of coronavirus vaccine

India is the pharmacy to the world



- In 1969, Indian pharmaceuticals had a 5 per cent share of the market in India, and global pharma had a 95 per cent share. By 2020, it was the reverse, with Indian pharma having an almost 85 per cent share and global, 15 per cent

- India supplies affordable and low-cost generic drugs to millions of people across the globe and operates a significant number of United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and World Health Organization (WHO) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)-compliant plants.

5 Reasons Why India Is the 'Pharmacy' of the Developing World

- I. Millions of people around the world rely on affordable medicines made in India to stay alive, making the country the 'pharmacy' of the developing world
- II. Access to affordable HIV treatment from India is one of the greatest success stories in medicine
- III. India is one of the biggest suppliers of low-cost vaccines in the world
- IV. India prevents 'evergreening' and makes affordable generics possible.
- V. Sky high prices of patented drugs in the US vs low cost Indian generics

Source: Better India

Kisan Suvidha



- Launched in July 2015, Kisan Suvidha is India's first mobile application to bring Agricultural Produce Marketing committee (APMC), farmers and agents on one platform/online.
- The app benefits the farmers, commodity merchants and APMCs. Farmers can see the live auction of any commodity & APMC, price variations- maximum, minimum and average price of any commodity for any day/ month/ year.
- They no longer have to be physically present at APMC till the auction and weight measurement is done, through SMS facility provided to the app users, farmers receive auction price and total amount to collect from the agents.
- The agent can track his activity like commodities sold and bought by him, minimum, maximum & average price of all commodities. The agents can easily see the details of Gate Pass, auctions, cess collection.
- The APMC agent can extract information about goods damages, total village wise commodity and revenue generates.

- On the same app, commodity merchants can analyse the ups and downs of all the APMC in the state, get information of total cess paid by him.
- Government bodies can view the total stock of any commodity at an APMC and review village/ taluk/ district wise production.
- The app helps keep the ecosystem transparent as APMC agents can easily download excel files, view automated results, thus, controlling the black market and hoarding, saving time and keeping all records away from any kind of physical damage.

Indian Railways - new high-speed Vistadome tourist coaches



- The newly developed vistadome tourist coaches, which completed the 180 kmph trial, will have a larger viewing area including roof top glass along with 44 number of seats for passengers that can rotate up to 180 degrees.

- It has been provided with a Wi-Fi-based passenger information system. In a first, the vistadome coach has been built on the Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) platform,
- The new vistadome coaches are that they are equipped with air-spring suspension in secondary stage for better ride comfort, observatory lounge with a larger window at one end, large glass windows as well as glass roof that boast electrically controlled opalescence, and transparent roof for the passengers to get a panoramic view of their train journey
- The coach also has a mobile charging socket for each passenger below the seat armrest. Besides, it also has an entertainment system integrated with digital display screens as well as speakers for music

“Pension Payment Order” (PPO) promises ease of living for senior citizens



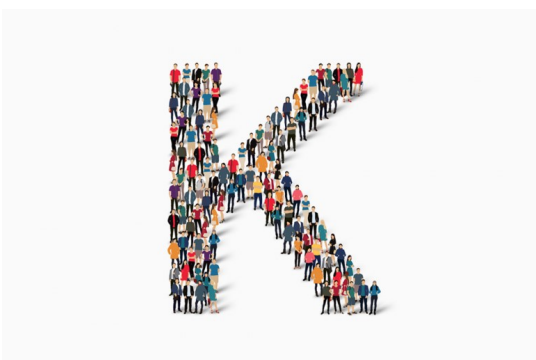
- For the benefit of the pensioners, the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has started a service to make available the PPO directly from the Digilocker
- The pensioner has to get oneself registered at the Digilocker website or app and then use it to download the Pension Payment Order by PPO number online.
- Pension Payment Order (PPO) is a unique number or a code provided to the pensioners of employees’ pension scheme (EPS) to help them to get a pension after retirement. PPO and is allotted by the EPFO to every employee who retires from any organisation. In case you have forgotten your PPO No, you can get it by using your bank account number. To know how click on the link below:

Polluted Haryana drains among reasons for high Yamuna ammonia levels: Experts



- An inspection done by experts from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in December 2018 largely attributed the high levels of ammonia in the Yamuna river reaching Delhi to pollution from drains in Haryana.
- Experts from CPCB and NEERI were asked by the YMC in December 2018 to identify sources of high ammonia levels in the river between Haryana's Hathnikund and Delhi's Wazirabad barrage.
- Among the observations made by the inspection team was that water quality of the river begins to deteriorate after Yamuna Nagar and Panipat, down stream of the Hathnikund barrage.

K-Shaped Recovery



- A K-shaped recovery is one in which the performance of different parts of the economy diverges like the arms of the letter "K."
- Economic performance of different sectors, industries, and groups within an economy always differ to some extent, but in a K-shaped recovery some parts of the economy may see strong growth while others continue to decline.
- Unlike other letter-shaped descriptors, which focus on large aggregates, a K-shaped recovery is described in terms of data broken out across different parts of the economy.
- The meaning of a K-shaped recovery really depends on the choice of how to disaggregate data across the economy.
- The macro implications of a K-shaped recovery:
 - Upper-income households have benefitted from higher savings for two quarters
 - Households at the bottom have experienced a permanent loss of income in the forms of jobs and wage cuts; this will be a recurring drag on demand, if the labour market does not heal faster
 - To the extent that COVID has triggered an effective income transfer from the poor to the rich, this will be demand-impeding because the poor have a higher marginal propensity to consume (i.e. they tend to spend (instead of saving) a much higher proportion of their income
 - If COVID-19 reduces competition or increases the inequality of incomes and opportunities, it could impinge on trend growth in developing economies by hurting productivity and tightening political economy constraints.

5G



- 5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. 5G mainly works in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum — all of which have their own uses as well as limitations

- On par with the global players, India had, in 2018, planned to start 5G services as soon as possible, with an aim to capitalise on the better network speeds and strength that the technology promised.
- All the three private telecom players, Reliance Jio Info comm, Bharti Airtel and Vi, have been urging the DoT to layout a clear road map of spectrum allocation and 5G-frequency bands, so that they would be able to plan the roll out of their services accordingly
- The high-band spectrum offers the highest speed of all the three bands, but has extremely limited coverage and signal penetration strength.
- Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G has been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (giga bits per second), while, in most cases, the maximum internet data speed in 4G has been recorded at 1 Gbps.

China's economy grew 2.3% in 2020, slowest pace in over 4 decades



- China's economy expanded 2.3% in 2020 compared to a year earlier, its slowest pace in over four decades, official data showed.
- The country's GDP climbed 6.5% in the fourth quarter over a year earlier, propelled by stronger-than-expected growth output, the statistics bureau said.
- The GDP grew 4.9% in the third quarter. Economists expect China's GDP to expand 8.2% in 2021.

Seropositivity for COVID-19 found to be lesser in smokers, vegetarians: CSIR



Smokers and vegetarians were found to have lower seropositivity indicating that they may be at a lesser risk of getting infected by coronavirus, according to a pan-India serosurvey conducted by the CSIR. The survey also found that those with blood group 'O' may be less susceptible to the infection. The CSIR took samples of 10,427 adults for the study.

Egypt unveils 3,000-year-old coffins in latest archaeological discovery



- Egypt has unveiled a new archaeological discovery at the Saqqara necropolis south of Cairo, including 54 wooden coffins, many of which can be traced back 3,000 years to the New Kingdom period.
- Painted in bright colours, many of these coffins are still intact.
- The funerary temple of Queen Neit was also discovered near the pyramid of her husband, King Teti.
- The coffins, or sarcophagi, include the first dating back to the New Kingdom to be found at Saqqara, a UNESCO world heritage site that is home to the Step Pyramid, the tourism and antiquities ministry said in a statement
- Carved in human form and painted in bright colours, many of them are still intact.
- Ancient games, statues, and masks were also found.
- "All these discoveries will rewrite the history of Saqqara and the New Kingdom

‘Explore crowdfunding to help two children with rare disease’



- Crowdfunding is the use of small amounts of capital from a large number of individuals to finance a new business venture
- Crowdfunding makes use of the easy accessibility of vast networks of people through social media and crowdfunding websites to bring investors and entrepreneurs together, with the potential to increase entrepreneurship by expanding the pool of investors beyond the traditional circle of owners, relatives and venture capitalists.