

7TH MAY, 2020



# IASBABA'S CURRENT AFFAIRS PRELIMS (CAP) - TO THE POINT!





# Topics to be covered

1

1. Qutub Minar Complex
2. Vande Bharat & Samudra Setu Mission
3. World Health Organisation
4. Pulitzer Prize
5. INSPIRE scholarships



# Driver damages Qutub Minar complex wall

ASI seeks strict action by police against the accused, who was inebriated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The wall of the Qutub Minar complex in south Delhi was damaged when a car driven by a drunk man crashed into it early on Monday, according to a police complaint filed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

In its complaint to the Mehruli police station, the ASI wrote that a car driven by Arun Chauhan rammed the boundary wall of the complex around 3.30 a.m. An ASI official said about 50 metres of the wall had been broken. The official added that the driver of the car, which burst into flames after



The car rammed the boundary wall around 3.30 a.m. on Monday before bursting into flames. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the collision, was helped out of the vehicle by ASI staff.

The wreckage was still at the site on Tuesday evening.

The ASI has sought strict action against Arun for "damaging government property". The Qutub Minar is a

Centrally-protected monument under the ASI, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. In its complaint, the ASI asked that the driver be instructed to pay a penalty equal to the damages.

A senior Delhi Police officer said that a case has been lodged under sections of the IPC and the Motor Vehicles Act. "The driver has received burn injuries on his face, legs and hands. He is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital," the officer said.

The police have confirmed that the driver was drunk at the time of the incident.



# QUTUB MINAR COMPLEX

3

- ▶ Built in 13<sup>th</sup> C, construction started in 1199
- ▶ Red & buff sandstone
- ▶ UNESCO –World Heritage
- ▶ Other Important monuments:
  - Gateway
  - Qwwat-ul-islam Mosque
  - Iron Pillar
  - Alai Darwaza
  - Tombs
  - Alai Minar

Symbol of Indo-Islamic –Afghan architecture



# Ships on way to the Maldives, UAE

Basic amenities, medical facilities will be arranged during sea passage, says Navy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Navy dispatched two ships, *INS Jalashwa* and *INS Magar*, to Male under Operation "Samudra Setu" to repatriate stranded Indian citizens.

The evacuation operations will start on May 8 as part of Phase 1 efforts, the Navy said on Tuesday.

Defence sources confirmed that *INS Shardul* and *INS Airavat* had set sail to the UAE. Modalities at the port of entry were being finalised and should be in place before the ships reach, a defence source said.

"A total of 1,000 persons



**Rescue operation:** *INS Jalashwa* is accompanying *INS Magar* to the Maldives. •PTI

are planned to be evacuated during the first trip, catering for COVID-related social distancing norms vis-a-vis the carrying capacity and medi-

cal facilities available on board," the Navy said.

The evacuated personnel will disembark in Kochi and entrusted to the care of the

State authorities, the Navy said. *INS Jalashwa* is set to reach Male on May 8 and *INS Magar* on May 10.

*INS Jalashwa* can normally accommodate 1,000 people but will take 800.

The other three amphibious ships are landing ship tanks (LST) and can normally accommodate 500 people each but the capacity will be reduced to 300-350, officials said.

The Navy said the ships had been suitably provisioned for the evacuation and those evacuated would be provided basic amenities and medical facilities during the sea passage.

## India gears up for Vande Bharat, Samudra Setu missions: Everything you need to know

**Vande Bharat Mission:** India will operate 10 flights to the UAE, seven flights each to the US and the UK, five flights to Saudi Arabia, five flights to Singapore and two flights to Qatar to repatriate Indian nationals between May 7 and May 13.

By: **Express Web Desk** | New Delhi |

Updated: May 5, 2020 10:23:06 pm





# VANDE BHARAT & SAMUDRA SETU MISSION

5

- ▶ Vande Bharat
  - Operate total 64 flights
  - One of the largest evacuation exercises since Kuwait airlift
  - Embassies will make list
  - In phased manner
  - Priority to people in distress & need
- ▶ Samudra Setu
  - Launched by Indian Navy
  - To repatriate indian citizens from overseas
  - Phase 1 starts from May 8<sup>th</sup>
  - INS Jalashwa, INS Magar, INS Shardul, INS Airawat



# Trump's lab claim remains speculative: WHO

'We have not received any data or specific evidence from the U.S. government relating to the purported origin of the virus'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
GENEVA

The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that Washington had provided no evidence to support "speculative" claims by the U.S. President, Donald Trump, that the new coronavirus originated in a Chinese lab.

"We have not received any data or specific evidence from the U.S. government relating to the purported origin of the virus – so from our perspective, this remains speculative," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a virtual briefing.

## COVID-19

Scientists believe the killer virus jumped from animals to humans, emerging in China late last year, possibly from a market in Wuhan selling exotic animals for meat.

Top U.S. epidemiologist Anthony Fauci echoed the WHO's statement in an interview published on Monday by *National Geographic*. "If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, (the scientific evidence) is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated," Mr. Fauci told the magazine. "Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that (this virus) evolved in nature and then jumped species," he said. U.S. President Trump, increasingly critical of the outbreak, claims to have proof it started in a Wuhan laboratory.

### "Enormous evidence"

And U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday said "enormous evidence" backed up that claim, alth-



**Throwing caution to the winds:** A rally in Boston, Massachusetts, on Monday calling for an end to the State government's 'stay-at-home' advisory. The U.S. government has predicted a further surge in fatalities, currently close to 68,700. *AP*

ough the U.S. intelligence community last week said it would continue to study whether the outbreak stemmed from infected animal contact, or a lab accident. China has vehemently denied suggestions the lab was the source. "Like any evidence-based organisation, we would be very willing to receive any information that purports to the origin of the virus," WHO's Mr. Ryan said.

"If that data and evidence is available, then it will be for the U.S. government to decide whether and when it can be shared, but it is difficult for the WHO to operate in an information vacuum in that regard," he added.

WHO expert Maria Van Kerkhove stressed during Monday's briefing that there were some 15,000 full genome sequences of the novel coronavirus available, and "from all of the evidence that

we have seen... this virus is of natural origin."

The global toll topped a quarter of a million on Tuesday, with the U.S. government predicting a further surge in fatalities as an international vaccine drive garnered \$8 billion in pledges. Since the disease first surfaced in China late last year the number of confirmed cases has reached almost 3.6 million while fatalities have topped 2,51,000.

Europe remains the hardest-hit continent with around 1,45,000 deaths while the U.S. has recorded close to 68,700, the biggest single-country toll. The bleak figures were compounded on Monday by an internal government estimate that forecast the COVID-19 infection rate in the U.S. could surge eight-fold to 2,00,000 a day by June 1, and the daily death toll could rise to 3,000.

## U.K. now has Europe's highest toll

REUTERS  
LONDON

The United Kingdom has overtaken Italy to report the highest official death toll from COVID-19 in Europe, figures released on Tuesday showed, increasing pressure on Prime Minister Boris Johnson over his response to the crisis.

Weekly figures from Britain's Office for National Statistics (ONS) added more than 7,000 deaths in England and Wales, raising the total for the United Kingdom to 32,313 as of late April. Only the United States has suffered more deaths than Britain, according to the data so far. Tuesday's figures are based on death certificate mentions of COVID-19, including suspected cases.

Opposition politicians

said the figures proved the government was too slow to provide enough protective equipment to hospitals and introduce mass testing.

"I'd be amazed, if when we look back, we don't think: yep we could have done something differently there," the government's chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, said in response to lawmakers' questions on testing.

### Government's comment

Britain's Health Ministry said the ONS data should be handled with care. "We caution against extrapolating or estimating figures based on historic data as it risks being extremely misleading," it said on Twitter.

Ministers dislike comparisons of the headline

## Hong Kong to lift restrictions

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
HONG KONG

Hong Kong on Tuesday announced plans to ease major social distancing measures, including reopening schools, cinemas, bars and beauty parlours after the Chinese territory largely halted local transmission of the deadly coronavirus. The relaxation, which comes into effect on Friday, will be a boost for a city mired in a deep recession. There have been no new confirmed infections in 10 of the last 16 days and the cases that have been recorded came from people arriving from overseas who are quickly quarantined.

death toll, saying that excess mortality – the number of deaths from all causes that exceed the average for the time of year – is more meaningful.

But early evidence for excess mortality suggests Britain will be one of the hardest-hit on this measure, too. ONS statistician Nick Stripe said excess deaths for the United Kingdom were running about 42,000 higher than average at this point in the year. Only about 80% of these excess deaths have been linked specifically with COVID-19, however. The weekly ONS data also showed the peak in COVID-19 deaths has likely passed, although the week to April 24 was still the second-deadliest since comparable records began in 1993.



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

7

- ▶ Founded in 1948
- ▶ UN's specialised agency for health
- ▶ HQ-Geneva
- ▶ 194 member states
- ▶ 6 regional offices
- ▶ April 7<sup>th</sup> – World health day
- ▶ Governance structure- World Health Assembly
- ▶ Secretariat
- ▶ WHO- Country office India
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Recent controversy



# 3 Indian photographers win Pulitzer Prize

## AP series on Kashmir unrest awarded

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK

*The New York Times* picked up the most awards as the 2020 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced virtually on Monday owing to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Prize board administrator Dana Canedy declared the winners from her living room via livestream on YouTube rather than at a ceremony at New York's Columbia University.

*The Times* collected three awards, including for Brian M. Rosenthal's investigative report into New York City's taxi industry which revealed predatory loans that took advantage of vulnerable drivers. It also won the international reporting prize for a series of stories on Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

Reuters won the breaking news photography award



An injured Kashmiri girl in an image that was part of the series that won Pulitzer. •AP

for pictures of the Hong Kong protests.

The Associated Press was awarded the feature photography prize for images showing life in Kashmir as India revoked its semi-autonomous status. Three photographers — Mukhtar Khan, Yasin Dar and Channi Anand — were named for the award. "A proud moment for all in our tribe across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond," veteran journalist Yusuf Jameel said.



# PULITZER PRIZE

9

- ▶ Indian photographers awarded- Mukhtar Khan, Yasin Dar, Channi Anand
- ▶ For images showing life in Kashmir currently
- ▶ Awarded for outstanding public Service & achievement in American journalism
- ▶ Estb. In 1917
- ▶ Columbia university & Pulitzer Board
- ▶ Joseph Pulitzer



**DST INSPIRE Faculty develops  
nanomaterials having energy storage  
application & optical sensors for water  
pollution control**

**The SERS can help detect harmful molecules  
present in water at ultra-low concentrations**

Posted On: 06 MAY 2020 6:41PM by PIB Delhi

A recipient of the INSPIRE Faculty Award instituted by the Department of Science & Technology(DST), Govt. of India. Dr. Ashish Kumar Mishra, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, along with his group, has made significant achievements in developing nanomaterials based supercapacitors to achieve high energy density and power density of supercapacitors.

Increasing energy demand due to the growth of human population and technological advancement poses a great challenge for human society. High energy density of supercapacitors suggests that constant current can be withdrawn for longer duration without recharging. Hence automobiles can run longer distances without charging. Supercapacitors can be an alternative for such purposes.



# INSPIRE-SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

11

- ▶ Department of Science & Technology
- ▶ 2008
- ▶ Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research
- ▶ Attract talent to study of science & expanding R&D base
- ▶ 3 components
  - SEATS- Inspire award & internship
  - SHE
  - AORC- INSPIRE fellowship, INSPIRE faculty scheme

Inspire faculty Scheme:

- ▶ Under 32
- ▶ Offers salary & annual research grant
- ▶ Contractual position for 5 yrs.





# MCQs

12

1. Which of the Chronological Order for the construction of the following is correct:

1. Taj Mahal
2. Qutub Minar
3. Fatehpur Sikri
4. Agra fort

Select the correct answer from option given below:

- a) 2, 4, 3, 1
- b) 2, 4, 1, 3
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- d) 2, 3, 4, 1

Ans. D)



2.The 'Vande Bharat Mission' which was currently in news, is related to:

- a) Mission for completion of indigenously built, engineless, semi-high speed train in record time
- b) Operation of flights to evacuate stranded indian citizens abroad
- c) Mission of Indian Navy to send ships for evacuation of Indian citizens overseas
- d) Arranging special trains for inter-state movement of Migrant workers

Ans. B)





3. Consider the following statements:

1. World Health Assembly is the decision making body of WHO
2. The Director-General of WHO is appointed by the World Health Assembly

Which of the above statement/s is/ are correct:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. C)



4. Consider the following:

1. Orange Prize is awarded to a work of published fiction in English by a woman
2. Pulitzer Prize is awarded by Commonwealth Foundation to a citizen of any Commonwealth country for any literary work in English

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. A)



5. Consider the following statements:

1. INSPIRE scheme offers scholarship to Indian researchers to study abroad
2. It is provided by the Ministry of Earth Sciences
3. INSPIRE scheme was started in the year 2008

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct:

- a) 1, 2 & 3
- b) 1 & 2
- c) 1 & 3
- d) 3 only

Ans. D)





Thank You