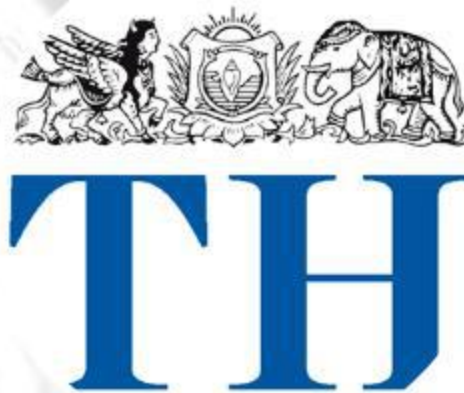


6TH MAY, 2020



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





# Topics to be covered

1

1. World Bank Group
2. UV blaster disinfection tower by DRDO & electrostatic disinfection technology by CSIR
3. Water quality of rivers & related terms
4. Saras collection launched on GeM
5. ArogyaSetu Mitr

INTERNATIONAL

# Trump nominates Indian-American as U.S. rep to IBRD

PTI

WASHINGTON 05 MAY 2020 06:57 IST

UPDATED: 05 MAY 2020 06:57 IST

**Pinto was Special Assistant and Associate Counsel to President George W. Bush during private practice at two international law firms**

U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Ashok Michael Pinto as a representative to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Pinto was on Monday nominated as US Alternate Executive Director of IBRD for a term of two years. If confirmed by the Senate, Pinto would replace Erik Bethel, who has resigned from the post.

Pinto currently serves as Counselor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the United States Department of the Treasury.



# World Bank Group

3

- ▶ 189 members
- ▶ Sustainable solutions for reducing poverty
- ▶ Global economic prospects report, ease of doing business index-(WB)
- ▶ 5 institutions
  1. IBRD
  2. IDA
  3. IFC
  4. MIGA
  5. ICSID



## DRDO develops UV Disinfection Tower

Posted On: 04 MAY 2020 5:13PM by PIB Delhi

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Tower for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas.

The equipment named UV blaster is a UV based area sanitiser designed and developed by Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC), the Delhi based premier laboratory of DRDO with the help of M/s New Age Instruments and Materials Private Limited, Gurugram.

The UV Blaster is useful for high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets in laboratories and offices that are not suitable for disinfection with chemical methods. The product is also effective for areas with large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc.

The UV based area sanitiser may be used by remote operation through laptop/mobile phone using wifi link. The equipment has six lamps each with 43 watts of UV-C power at 254 nm wavelength for 360 degree illumination. For a room of about 12 x 12 feet dimension, the disinfection time is about 10 minutes and 30 minutes for 400 square feet area by positioning the equipment at different places within the room.

This sanitiser switches off on accidental opening of room or human intervention. One more salient safety feature of the product is the key to arm operation.

## Electrostatic Disinfection Technology Transferred for Commercialization

Posted On: 29 APR 2020 12:44PM by PIB Delhi

CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO), Chandigarh, has designed and developed an innovative technology for effective disinfection and sanitization to fight with corona pandemic. CSIR-CSIO has transferred this technology to a Nagpur-based company, Rite Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd., for commercialization and large-scale production. This technology has been found very efficient and effective to stop the spread of coronavirus and pathogens, say CSIR-CSIO scientists.



Electrostatic Disinfection Machine is developed based on the electrostatic principle. It produces uniform and fine spray droplets of disinfectants in the size range of 10-20 micrometre to kill microorganisms and viruses. Due to the small size of droplets, the surface area of spray droplets increases thereby enhancing the interaction with harmful microorganisms and coronavirus. The machine uses very less disinfection material as compared to conventional methods, which helps to save natural resources with negligible increase of chemical waste in the environment.

“Charged droplets emitted from the disinfection machine can cover the directly exposed and obscured surfaces uniformly with increased efficiency and efficacy and the disinfectant reaches to any hidden areas of the target, where there is a maximum possibility to find the viruses. Therefore, it kills or inhibits the growth of pathogens very effectively”, said by Dr. Manoj K. Patel, Senior Scientist and Innovator of the technology.

Technology transfer agreement was signed by Abhijeet Gaan, Director, Rite Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Surender Singh Saini, Head, Business Initiatives & Project Planning at CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh. Technology transfer event was held through video conferencing between both the

parties. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-CSIO, and other departmental heads were also present during the event.



# UV Disinfection tower technology by DRDO & Electrostatic Disinfection Technology by CSIR

1. Fro chemical free disinfection  
For high tech surfaces  
Can be operated through mobile & laptop remotely  
6 lamps present, each of 43 watts  
UV light of wavelength 254 nm
2. Central Scientific Instrument Organisation – Chandigarh  
Based on ES principal  
Uses specialised solution combined with air  
Positively charged mist is sprayed





# 'Water availability good but states will now find it difficult to spend on projects'

JAL SHAKTI Minister **GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT** speaks to **LIZ MATHEW** on the water availability in the country amid the lockdown and how the COVID-19 outbreak will hit water-related projects

**How do you see the water situation in the country now?**

Although water is a state subject and the states are managing it primarily, out of the 5500 plus reservoirs, 138 are being monitored by the Centre. Those have the capacity of 66 per cent of the total capacity. Fortunately, this year, as on April 30, we have the capacity of 56 per cent more water and if I compare last 10 years' average, water availability is 46 per cent more... This gives us an idea that in the reservoirs across the country, we would have a good amount of water to cater to our domestic and drinking needs and agricultural demands. Secondly, in the Himalayan system, snow on the peaks is unprecedentedly high. Never in the last 50 years, peaks had this amount of snow at this time. So the water from the melting of the snow will also come in high quantities, especially in Bhakra, Nagarjuna etc as well as in Ganga and Yamuna... we are in a better position this year and hopefully we

won't face a situation like what we faced in Chennai this year.

**The National Infrastructure Pipeline task force's report put fresh water as one of the vital challenges for the 2025 infrastructure vision. How do you see the situation now?**

Now water has become more significant. In any case, it is the lifeline of all development and the centre of policy planning in agrarian countries like ours. In the post-COVID-19 era, the situation in the world is going to change... India will have more opportunities. Our water resources and its sustainability is very critical. We have that in mind.

**You are heading the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide functional tap water connection to every household in the country by 2024 which is closely linked to the housing for all programme. Do you see such missions getting affected by the coronavirus situation?**

There is no idea of reviewing targets now. The targets we have fixed for this financial year, we will see that we are on our targets. No doubt the COVID-19 situation has had an impact on everything. To deal with the situation, during this lockdown, we



THE EXPRESS  
**INTERVIEW**

WITH  
**GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT**  
JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

have requested all the states... I have spoken to all the state ministers and we have had video conferences with the water resources ministers, drinking water ministers, officials, engineers etc to complete DPR and project planning with the available data so that we can begin work immediately after the lockdown. The government has already relaxed the restrictions on construction on water-related ac-

tivities. We have spoken to the states to initiate work... and work on low-hanging fruits to see that water is stored and reserved.

**Are you concerned about the expenditure cuts in the wake of the current crisis?**

Certainly, I am not so concerned about the government of India even though the crisis will affect its resources and expenditure. I am more concerned about the states. The states are going to face a difficult situation. In Jal Jeevan mission, barring the Himalayan states and the Northeastern states or the UTs, all states, are working on projects on a 50:50 quotient. For states to spare such budgetary allocation in the next three years in this condition looks very difficult to me... I think the states should fix their priorities and water should be at the top.

**One positive impact highlighted by most environmentalists is how the COVID-19 crisis helped the earth clean itself. How far would it help your mission on clean water?**

Undoubtedly it has helped. Pollution levels have dipped as industrial effluents have come down... I have already asked my

departments to study the change in the quality of the water in Ganga and Yamuna from the first day of lockdown. We are compiling all the studies and analysing... it's not just because of the lockdown. It's also because of the Namami Gange Project. Also, the rainfall during the lockdown has increased the water flow in Yamuna. With less farming activities, water quantity has increased from an average 300 cusecs this time to 3000 cusec. This is how nature heals itself. It's a point of introspection for all of us.

**There has been much discussion on the Bhilwara model in Rajasthan's fight against COVID-19? What's your view on it?**

In Bhilwara, it was all initiated by a doctor's family. When they started having symptoms, they reported it to district administration and they worked well. If somebody has been applauded, it's the public. They behaved responsibly and followed all instructions... But the state government became complacent. They could not address similar situations in Jaipur and Jodhpur. Why have they failed in these places?

FULL INTERVIEW ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Delhi: No effluents, Yamuna water is much cleaner

The Indian Express had reported last week that the water quality of the river had seemingly improved in Delhi due to a higher share of freshwater being released into it, and a pause on the flow of industrial effluents due to the COVID-19 lockdown across the country.

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FULL INTERVIEW ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



# Water Quality of rivers-Related terms

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- ▶ Biochemical Oxygen Demand
- ▶ Chemical Oxygen Demand
- ▶ Dissolved Oxygen
- ▶ Eutrophication & Dead zones



**Union Minister for Rural Development and  
Panchayati Raj Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches  
“The Saras Collection” on the Government e-  
Marketplace (GeM) portal**

**The Saras Collection showcases daily utility products  
made by rural self-help groups (SHGs) and aims to  
provide SHGs in rural areas with market access to  
Government buyers**

**In the first phase, 913 SHGs from 11 States have  
already registered as sellers and 442 products have  
been on-boarded**

Posted On: 04 MAY 2020 2:57PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, launched “The Saras Collection” on the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi today. A unique initiative of GeM and the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, the Saras Collection showcases daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs) and aims to provide SHGs in rural areas with market access to Central and State Government buyers.



# SARAS collection launched on GeM portal

9

- ▶ Saras collection launched by Min. of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj
- ▶ Joint effort- Min., GeM, Day-NRLM
- ▶ Product listing in 5 categories
- ▶ GeM

**HELP** US  
*To*  
**HELP** YOU

# GOVT LAUNCHES "AAROGYA SETU APP"

A BLUETOOTH-BASED COVID-19 TRACKER



The app will **alert** users if they **come in proximity** to an infected person



**Inform** users about best practices & **relevant medical advisories**



The App is **privacy-first by design** & available in Android & iOS



The App has highly scalable architecture & is **available in 11 languages**



# Apple, Google ban use of location tracking in contact tracing apps

**REUTERS**

LONDON, MAY 4

APPLE INC and Alphabet Inc's Google Monday said they would ban the use of location tracking in apps that use a new contact tracing system the two are building to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Apple and Google, whose operating systems power 99% of smart phones, said last month

they would work together to create a system for notifying people who have been near others who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Both companies said that privacy and preventing governments from using the system to compile data on citizens was a primary goal. The system uses bluetooth signals from phones to detect encounters and does not use or store GPS location data.

But the developers of coron-

avirus-related apps in several US states told *Reuters* last month that it was vital that they be allowed to use GPS location data in conjunction with the new contact tracing system in order to track how outbreaks move and identify hotspots.

The decision will require public health authorities who want to use GPS location data to rely on unstable workarounds to detect encounters using Bluetooth sensors.



# AROGYASETU app and Arogya setu mitr portal

12

- ▶ Developed by Ministry of Electronics & IT under guidance of NIC
- ▶ Public private partnership
- ▶ Arogya setu mitr portal feature to be on app
- ▶ Free COVID-19 related consultation
- ▶ Cannot access data from app
- ▶ Privacy issue with app



# MCQs

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Which one of the following issues the 'Global Economic Prospects' report periodically:

- a) The Asian Development Bank
- b) The European Bank for Reconstruction & Development
- c) The US federal reserve bank
- d) The World Bank

Ans: D





Consider the following statements about Electrostatic force & Electromagnetic force:

14

1. Electrostatic force is the force between charges which are not moving relative to each other
2. Electromagnetic force is the force between charges and the magnetic field where they may be moving
3. Electromagnetic force can be created without an electric field
4. Electromagnetic forces include electrostatic force

Which of the above is correct

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

Ans: d)



Biochemical Oxygen Demand is an standard criterion for:

- a) Measuring Oxygen levels in blood
- b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
- c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystem
- d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions

Ans: c)



‘The SARAS collection’ which was recently in news is related to:

- a) Public procurement
- b) Bird watching
- c) Stamp archives
- d) GI tag

Ans: a)





Consider the following statements about ArogyaSetu App:

1. It has been developed by Ministry of Electronics & IT under guidance of NIC
2. The app allows third party like hospitals to readily use data from the app to enhance the quality of medical care given to COVID-19 patients

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

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 & 2

Ans: a)



Thank You