



PLUTUS IAS

Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO-09AAPCA1478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to
Priyagold Building gate, Sector 2, Pocket I, Noida,
Uttar Pradesh 201301, CONTACT NO- 8448440231
CONTENT BY -JITHIN LAL (GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY UPSC)

1. 'COVIRAP'- A Low Cost test developed by IIT Kharagpur gets ICMR Nod.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have approved a low cost covid-19 test called COVIRAP. This diagnostic machine has been developed by IIT Kharagpur. The kit provides close test results similar to RT-PCR. The test gives the results in less than an hour. It does not require an air conditioned laboratory. So, the testing labs can be set up even in an open field.

COVIRAP kit

This testing kit consists of three mixtures to confirm the presence of virus in the body. In the method, first the sample is inserted into the kit. Then it is mixed with master mixers and heated to a certain temperature. The sample can be heated for a second time as well to get the results. This is the unique feature of this test. The heated samples are put on a strip that produces some lines. These strips are then inserted into a cartridge from where an application uses the camera revealing if the patient is covid-19 positive or negative. The test results are displayed on a screen.

Salient Features

This test is up to 93% sensitive and up to 98% specific. The kit costs around Rs. 5000. The cost per test using the kit is around 500 to 600 rupees. The test kit is entirely indigenous, none of its components were imported.

2. INS Kavaratti- commissioned into Indian Navy

The Indian Naval Ship Kavaratti was commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 22, 2020 in Visakhapatnam. The INS Kavaratti is one among the four indigenously built anti-submarine Warfare stealth corvettes under the Kamorta class Corvettes or project 28.

The ship was designed by the Directorate of Naval Design(DND) and has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata. INS Kavaratti has state-of-the-art weapons. It also comprises a sensor suite which is capable of

“detecting and prosecuting” submarines. The ship has a credible self-defence capability and a good endurance for the long-range deployments. The ship has been built by using up to 90 % indigenous content.

Project 28

It was approved in 2003. Under the project, the first ship that was constructed is INS Kamorta whose construction began in 2005 under the project. Under this project, four corvettes were commissioned into the Indian Navy. The four corvettes include- INS Kamorta that was commissioned in 2014, INS Kadmatt commissioned in 2016, INS Kiltan in 2017 and the INS Kavaratti is being commissioned in 2020. All these four Indian Navy ships are named after the islands and archipelago of Lakshadweep.

3.2000 year old Giant Cat Drawing discovered in Peru.

The Peruvian archaeologists have discovered a 37 metre long cat drawing on the famous Nazca lines of Peru. The Nazca lines of Peru is an UNESCO Heritage site.

Highlights

- The Nazca lines consist of several gigantic geoglyphs dating back to more than 2000 years.
- The recently discovered cat Geoglyph is older than 2000 years.
- The cat drawing was 37 metres long.
- It dates back to the Paracas Era of 500 BC to 200 AD.
- The Geoglyphs in the region are still there and being discovered because of the dry climate in the region.
- The region has also uncovered figures of Pelican, monkey, hummingbirds, andean Condor, spiders, Trapezoids, Triangles and spirals.

Nazca lines

Nazca lines are a group of Geoglyphs. These have been made on the ground using elements of landscape including the gravel, stones dirt or lumber. It was discovered in 1927 and declared the UNESCO Heritage site in 1994.

Nazca plate

Nazca plates have been named after the Nazca region. Movement of the plate causes volcanic eruptions in the South American region. The plate is one of the fastest moving tectonic plates on the earth. It is moving at a rate of 3.7 cm per year. The Nazca plate subducts the South American tectonic plate and the subduction of Nazca plate itself have made the Andes mountain range a volcanic range.

Paracas Culture

The Geoglyphs in Peru belong to the Paracas culture. The culture dates back to the period between 800 BCE and 100 BCE. The culture is famous for its extensive knowledge of water management and irrigation system. The people of Paracas era used to mummify the dead body that remains intact for a long time mainly because of dry climate of the region as a result of Peruvian Ocean Current or the Humboldt Current. This current flows along the Western coast of South America.

4. Adoption of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act gets cabinet approval.

The Union Cabinet has approved the adoption of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj act on October 21, 2020.

Key Facts

- The adoption of Panchayati Raj act will establish the three tier of Grass root level democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.
- This is the first time in 73 years after independence that the Grass root level democracy will be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir region. The three-tier system was not in practice in the union territory earlier.

Background

Recently, Article 370 was done away with in the region. With this, the people of Jammu and Kashmir now have the right to elect their local representatives as it is done in the rest of the country. The Government of India has been implementing several reforms and schemes to bring in normalcy in the union territory. The adoption of panchayati raj is one such step.

Panchayati Raj system

It is a rural local self-government that was constitutionalised by the 73rd constitutional amendment act of 1992. The three levels of Panchayati Raj system include:

- gram panchayat at village level,
- Mandal Parishad or block Samiti of Panchayat Samiti at the block level and
- Zilla Parishad at district level.

However, this system has certain exemptions. Areas including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Odisha have been exempted from the operation of Panchayati Raj act. Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram have also been exempted because of socio-economic challenges in these regions.

5. Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and CPA.

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG). They would be working together in capacity building and to strengthen the Accounting, Financial and Audit Knowledge base in Papua New Guinea.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Certified Practising Accountants Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG) have signed MoU to work together in the following sectors:

1. To conduct technical events, seminars and conferences in PNG.
2. To Establish cooperation and collaboration in Corporate Governance, technical research and advice, Forensic accounting, quality assurance, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and other subjects of mutual interests.
3. To share unrestricted information about the accountancy profession in India and PNG.
4. To develop the modules of specific subjects for CPA-PNG Examination.
5. To organise the students and faculty exchange programs.
6. To offer short term professional courses on accounting, finance and audit in PNG.

Significance of MoU

The Indian Chartered Accountants (CA) fraternity will help the local business community and stakeholders on the Financial matters. It would also consolidate the trust and help to build a positive image for Indian Chartered Accountants in Papua New Guinea.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

It is a statutory body. ICAI has been established under “The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949”. It regulates the profession of Chartered Accountants in India.

Certified Practising Accountants Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG)

It is an Accounting Professional Body that has been established under the Accountants Act, 1996. It promotes the interests of the accountancy profession in Papua New Guinea.