Food grains shall be provided to non-NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries with ration cards issued by State governments.

Government of India has directed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide the beneficiaries with food grains at 5 Kg/person per month for 3 months at the rates of Rs. 21/Kg for wheat and Rs. 22/Kg for rice. It should be distributed uniformly across the country.

Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The Act covers upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population. The targeted population shall receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population.

States asked to implement Market Intervention Scheme

The Central government has directed all the States and Union Territories to implement the Market Intervention Scheme to ensure good prices for perishable crops.

The Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

i. It is meant to protect the growers of perishable commodities from making distress sales, especially at times when prices fall below the cost of production.
ii. The scheme can be invoked by a State if it is willing to bear half the losses of procurement.
iii. The remaining loss is borne by the Centre, whenever there is a 10% fall in ruling market prices in comparison to the previous normal year.

Gamosas evolve as protective gear amidst COVID-19 pandemic

Gamosas, a decorative cotton towel, are being used as protective gear to fight the coronavirus. The Gamosa/Gamusa is an article of great significance for the people of Assam.
It is a white rectangular piece of cloth.
It has a red border on three sides and red woven motifs on the fourth. Other colors may also be used. Cotton yarn is the most common material used for making/weaving gamosa.
For special occasions, Pat silk is used. It is valued as a gift for visitors, a scarf, anti-dust mask, as a turban.

Chitra Acrylosorb Secretion Solidification system: Superabsorbent material for infected respiratory secretions

i. Scientists at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) have developed a super absorbent material titled Chitra Acrylosorb Secretion Solidification System.

ii. SCTIMST is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

iii. The System is a highly efficient superabsorbent material for absorbing infected respiratory secretions.

iv. It can absorb liquids at least 20 times more than its dry weight.

v. It also contains a decontaminant for in situ (at the site) disinfection.

vi. Containers filled with decontaminant will also immobilize the contaminated fluid by solidifying it (gel-like), thus avoiding spillage. The canister containing the solidified waste can be decomposed by incineration (destruction by burning).

Agricultural Distress

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting rural India especially at a time when agriculture is already in a distress situation.

According to the 2011 census, 3.5 million migrants moved within the last one year due to economic reasons.

The corresponding numbers for the 2001 and 1991 census, were, respectively, 2.2 and 1.4 million.

Majority of the migrant workers send 25 to 50 per cent of their monthly income to their families back home. In Bihar, these remittances accounted for 35.6 per cent of gross state domestic product in 2011-12, up from 11.6 per cent in 2004-05

Walk through Mass sanitizing Tunnel at Ahmedabad station

Ahmedabad railway station becomes the **first station** of Indian Railways to **install a Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel.**

It is set up to ensure the safety of staff and passengers in view of the COVID-19.

The distance can be covered within 10 seconds. The tunnel is fitted with a sensor so that when a passenger approaches the tunnel entrance, it starts fogging automatically with WHO approved sanitizer.

The system runs on the principle of Vaporization process. It converts the sanitizer mixture into vapour which forms a uniform layer over the surface and dries up quickly.