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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1. Ritesh Agarwal, who was named as the world's second youngest billionaire, is the founder of which Indian start up company?

[A] Zomato

[B] OYO Hotels ☒

[C] Swiggy

[D] Byjus

✓ As per the recently released Hurun Global Rich List 2020, Ritesh Agarwal– the founder of Oyo Hotels, has been named as the world's second youngest billionaire. His wealth was estimated at \$1.1 billion, at the age of 24.

✓ In the global list, Kylie Jenner, the cosmetics star was only ahead of the Indian entrepreneur at the age of 22. Ritesh is also the richest self-made Indian billionaire aged under 40. He is followed by founders of Zerodha, Flipkart and Byjus.

2. Which state recently passed resolution to conduct a caste based census in the state?

[A] Kerala

[B] Bihar ☒

[C] West Bengal

[D] Odisha

✓ The Bihar Legislative Assembly recently passed a resolution to conduct a caste based census in the state. The Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar proposed a caste based census in the Assembly and it was passed unanimously.

✓ The Speaker of the state assembly announced that the proposal has been passed and the resolution would be sent to the central government.

3. The Diamond Princess cruise ship, which witnessed the largest coronavirus outbreak, is quarantined in which country?

[A] Australia

[B] China

[C] South Korea

[D] Japan ☒

✓ After several passengers and crew members were diagnosed with the coronavirus infection, the Diamond Princess Cruise ship has been quarantined in the Port of Yokohama, Japan.

✓ Recently, a special Air India flight departed to Tokyo and brought back 119 Indian nationals (113 crew members and 6 passengers) who were onboard the Diamond Princess Cruise ship.

✓ It also evacuated 5 foreign nationals, who are all quarantined at the facility of Indian Army at Haryana.

4. CARO 2020, which was in news recently, is associated with which field?

[A] Coronavirus outbreak

[B] Regulations for companies ☒

[C] Automobile conference

[D] Clinical conference

✓ The Union Ministry of Corporate affairs recently notified the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 (CARO 2020).

✓ As per the notification, all listed companies should mandatorily disclose all whistle-blower complaints to the auditor and the complaints should be mentioned in the audit reports.

✓ This mandate would be applicable to all audits from the financial year starting from April 2019.

5. 'The International Conference on Standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Medicines' was held in which city?

[A] Lucknow

[B] Kanpur

[C] New Delhi ☒

[D] Varanasi

✓ The two-day International Conference on Standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of Medicine – ICoSDiTAUS-2020 recently concluded in New Delhi.

✓ The "New Delhi Declaration on Collection and Classification of Traditional Medicine (TM) Diagnostic Data" was adopted in the conference. As many as 16 countries participated in the conference.

✓ This is the biggest ever international event dedicated to standardisation of diagnosis and terminologies.

6. As of 2020, how many languages in India are given the status of 'Classical language'?

- [A] 4 [B] 6 ☒ [C] 8 [D] 10

- ✓ Six languages in India namely Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia have been given the status of classical language.
- ✓ Recently, both houses of the Maharashtra legislature unanimously passed resolutions, requesting the Centre to provide 'Classical language' status to Marathi.
- ✓ Languages declared as classical have benefits like setting up centres for their study and provide international awards for their scholars.

7. Which association recently collaborated with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to launch artificial intelligence (AI) based module for Indian school students?

- [A] NASSCOM ☒ [B] FICCI
[C] CII [D] T-Hub

- ✓ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) recently collaborated with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to launch an artificial intelligence (AI) based module for Indian school students.
- ✓ The AI Base Module is to be implemented in nearly 5,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and is expected to reach as many as 2.5 million students.
- ✓ The module with activities and videos on AI concepts is to be introduced from 27 February.

8. What is the theme of the 'National Science Day' 2020?

- [A] Children in Science [B] Youth in Science
[C] Women in Science ☒ [D] AI in Science

- ✓ National Science Day is celebrated across the country on February 28 each year, to commemorate the discovery of the great Indian physician C V Raman – the Raman's effect.

- ✓ Raman had received the Nobel Prize for the effect, which he discovered in 1928. This year, the theme of the National Science Day is, 'Women in Science'. The govt also gives National Science Popularization awards on the day.

9. The Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2020) is released by which organisation?

- [A] National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) ☒
[B] Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
[C] Quality Council of India (QCI)
[D] National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- ✓ The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) released NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2020) recently.

- ✓ As per the index, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Tamil Nadu are the 5 best performing states. The index assesses the digitisation of land records and their quality in 33 states and Union Territories.

10. Which Indian payments bank recently crossed a mile-stone of two crore customers?

- [A] Airtel Payments Bank
[B] India Post Payments Bank ☒
[C] Fino Payments Bank [D] Paytm Payments Bank

- ✓ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has recently achieved the milestone of two crore customers. IPPB was launched by the Indian Prime Minister on September 1, 2018, with the main objective of financial inclusion.

- ✓ In September 2019, the payments bank launched the Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AePS) services. And then, it has become the single largest platform in the country to provide interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank.

1. The term 'Delimitation' which was in news recently, is associated with which process?

[A] Fixing limits of Income tax

[B] Fixing limits of Affordable housing

[C] Fixing limits of territorial constituencies ☒

[D] Fixing limits of Chairperson's salary

- ✓ 'Delimitation' literally means the process of fixing limits of territorial constituencies in a country with a legislative body. The government recently cancelled its earlier notifications which postponed delimitation in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh due to security issues.
- ✓ The exercise to re-adjust the division of each state into territorial constituencies for the purpose of Lok Sabha and state assembly elections on the basis of 2001 census figures, is to be carried out in the four states.

2. Which state hiked the MLAs' Local Area Development Fund to Rs.3 Crore per year?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Punjab

[C] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[D] Odisha

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh assembly Speaker recently announced that the state's MLAs' Local Area Development Fund (MLALAD Fund) to Rs.3 Crore per annum. The fund has been increased from the previous limit of Rs. 2 Crore a year.
- ✓ This hike in the limit is expected to accelerate the developmental activities made in the constituencies. In 2018, the state government had increased MLALAD funds from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 2 crore per annum

3. NITI Aayog has selected which Union Territory for first pilot project on Sustainable Developmental Goals?

[A] Jammu and Kashmir ☒

[B] Goa

[C] Lakshadweep

[D] Chandigarh

- ✓ Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir has been selected by the NITI Aayog for first pilot project on Sustainable

Developmental Goals. The newly formed UT will also get an opportunity to work with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- ✓ Under the programme, information would be collected from District Commissioners for providing ranks on certain parameters.

4. As per the second advance estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), what is the projected GDP growth in FY 20?

[A] 4.8%

[B] 5 % ☒

[C] 5.2%

[D] 5.4%

- ✓ The Central Statistics Office (CSO) recently released the GDP growth data for the October–December quarter of 2019 (3rd quarter of FY20).

- ✓ It said the GDP growth was 4.7% in the 3rd quarter, which is a slight improvement over the previous quarter's GDP–4.5%. As per the data, the projections for economic growth in FY20 has been retained at 5% in the second advance estimates.

5. Which Public sector Enterprise is the implementing agency of 'Renewable Energy Management Centre' scheme?

[A] PowerGrid Corporation ☒

[B] NHPC Limited

[C] NTPC Limited

[D] Solar Energy Corporation of India

- ✓ 11 Renewable Energy Management Centres (REMCs) were inaugurated by the Union Power Minister R K Singh, for renewable energy integration. He also inaugurated the Northern Region Renewable Energy Management Centre (NR-REMC).

- ✓ The government had approved the implementation of the Renewable Energy Management Centres – REMCs as a central scheme. Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, PowerGrid was named as the implementing agency.

6. Which Indian city is to host the World Productivity Congress 2020?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Lucknow
[C] Jaipur [D] Bengaluru ☒

- ✓ The 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) is scheduled to be held on May 6–8, 2020 at Bengaluru, after a gap of 45 years.
- ✓ World Confederation of Productivity Science (WCPS) has been organising this conference since 1969. The Congress was held in India in the year 1974, last time. It will promote the development of productivity science through global presentations, speeches and panel discussions.

7. Paul Biya, who recently won the Presidential elections, is the incumbent President of which African country?

- [A] Nigeria [B] Cameroon ☒
[C] Benin [D] Egypt

- ✓ The President of the central African country Cameroon for the last 37 years – Paul Biya recently won in the Presidential elections held in the country, by obtaining complete majority.
- ✓ His party – Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) won 139 out of 167 declared seats. He is the longest serving non-royal ruler of the world.

8. Dr S Shettar, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?

- [A] Scientist [B] Historian ☒
[C] Archaeologist [D] Ornithologist

- ✓ Veteran historian Dr S Shettar recently passed away in Bengaluru, at the age of 85. He taught history in many universities for more than 25 years. Shettar completed his Ph.D from Cambridge University in England.
- ✓ He had held several important positions including Director of the Institute of Indian Art History at

Karnatak University, Dharwad, and Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi.

9. The 'Bundelkhand Expressway', which was in news recently, is proposed to be built across which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Uttar Pradesh ☒
[C] Uttarakhand [D] Bihar

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid foundation stone for the Bundelkhand Expressway at Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This proposed expressway is expected to connect the backward region to the national capital region and it will also support the Bundelkhand Defence industrial corridor. Last year, the State Cabinet of Uttar Pradesh had approved the Bundelkhand Expressway project which would cost around Rs 10,000 crore.

10. The Prime Minister recently launched 10000 FPOs all over the country. What does FPO stand for?

- [A] Farmer Priority Organisations
[B] Farmer Produce Organisations ☒
[C] Farmer Productivity Organisations
[D] Farmer Primary Organisations

- ✓ The Farmer Produce Organisations (FPO) Scheme was initiated by the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✓ The FPOs help in grouping of small, marginal and landless farmers, and provide access to technology, quality seed, fertilizers and pesticides. Recently, PM Modi launched 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations all over the country from Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.

1. What is the name of the recently launched scheme that aims to provide nutritional support to pregnant women and adolescent girls?

[A] Pradhan Mantri Suposhit Yojana

[B] Suposhit Maa Abhiyan ☒

[C] Suposhit Janani Yojana

[D] Suposhit Beti Abhiyan

- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently launched "Suposhit Maa Abhiyan" that aims to provide nutritional support to pregnant women and adolescent girls. The scheme was launched in Kota, Rajasthan which is also the Speaker's parliamentary constituency.
- ✓ Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani also attended the launch programme.

2. Environmental activist Afroz Shah, who was making news recently for co-participating with the Minister of Norway in River clean-up, is from which state?

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] Maharashtra ☒

[C] Bihar

[D] Jharkhand

- ✓ Recently, Norway's Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein, during his 3 day visit to India participated in Mithi river clean-up with the environmental activist Afroz Shah.
- ✓ Afroz Shah is an environmental activist from Mumbai, Maharashtra. He is known for organising the largest beach clean-up drive.
- ✓ He was also awarded the 'UN Champions of the Earth' award for the same, in 2016. He had earlier been to Norway for a beach clean-up programme.

3. What is 'RaIDER-X', which was recently developed by HEMRL, the lab of DRDO and Indian Institute of Science?

[A] Artillery Gun

[B] Explosive Detection Device ☒

[C] Gun-shot Locator

[D] Bullet-proof jacket

- ✓ RaIDER-X is a new explosive detection device, which was recently unveiled at the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020) in Pune.
- ✓ It has been co-developed by the laboratory of DRDO-High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- ✓ It is claimed that the device can detect explosives from a stand-off distance and even bulk explosive in concealed condition. The device can be engineered to detect a number of explosives even with contaminants.

4. The proposed 'Chair of Excellence' at Department of Defence & Strategic Studies, is to be named after which Indian Air Chief Marshal?

[A] RKS Bhadauria

[B] Arjan Singh ☒

[C] Norman Browne

[D] Pratap Chandra Lal

- ✓ The Indian Air Force and Savitribai Phule Pune University recently collaborated by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a 'Chair of Excellence' at Department of Defence and Strategic Studies.
- ✓ To commemorate the centenary birth year of the only five-star rank IAF officer Arjan Singh, the chair has been named as 'Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence'.
- ✓ The Chair will facilitate IAF officers to pursue higher studies and Doctoral Research in the area of Defence & Strategic Studies and allied fields.

5. Which state recently ordered the prohibition of online supply of food without hygiene rating from food business operators (FBOs)?

[A] Kerala

[B] Odisha

[C] Punjab ☒

[D] Rajasthan

- ✓ The Punjab Food and Drug Administration (PFDA) recently announced that the state has prohibited the online supply of food without hygiene rating from food business operators (FBOs).

- ✓ The state government has also prohibited the online food supply aggregators (OFSA's) from sourcing the food without rating, from FBOs. It was also announced that the prohibition orders would be effective in the state from April 30, for the period of one year.

6. Muhyiddin Yassin, recently sworn in as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Qatar [B] Malaysia ☒
[C] Iran [D] Saudi Arabia

- ✓ A former deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Muhyiddin Yassin has been recently appointed as the country's new Prime Minister. The appointment was announced by Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.

- ✓ Muhyiddin recently sworn in as the new Prime Minister. He replaced the previous head of the country Mahathir Mohamad, who resigned from his Prime Minister role last week.

7. Which city hosted the 'Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela - 2020', which was organized by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute?

- [A] Lucknow [B] New Delhi ☒
[C] Nagpur [D] Hyderabad

- ✓ Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela-2020 is being organised in New Delhi by ICAR-IARI (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Agricultural Research Institute) from March 1 to 3. The event is being conducted at the ICAR-IARI Mela Grounds, New Delhi.

- ✓ Bharat Bhushan, a 42-year-old farmer from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, has been selected for the 'Innovative Farmer Award' by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Innovative farmers are felicitated during the event.

8. Which Indian University was the winner of the Khelo India University Games 2020?

- [A] Savitribai Phule Pune University
[B] Panjab University ☒

- [C] Madras University [D] Andhra University

- ✓ The inaugural edition of the Khelo India University Games concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on March 1. The Panjab University was crowned as Champions with 17 Gold medals among a total of 46 medals.

- ✓ The second position was bagged by the Savitribai Phule University, Pune with 37 overall medals. Punjabi University was placed in the third place.

- ✓ Famous athlete Dutee Chand set a new National University record in 100 m race and won the gold medal in both the 100m and the 200m races.

9. When is the 'Zero Discrimination Day' observed annually across the world?

- [A] March 1 ☒ [B] March 2
[C] March 3 [D] March 4

- ✓ The 'Zero Discrimination Day' is observed annually across the world on March 1, by UNAIDS. UNAIDS is the leading global forum which aims to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

- ✓ On this day, the UNAIDS is calling to end the discrimination against women and girls and for equal rights, opportunities and treatment. This year, the focus is on 'Zero Discrimination against Women and Girls'.

10. Richard John Pais, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?

- [A] Sports [B] Literature ☒
[C] Politics [D] Business

- ✓ Veteran Konkani writer and dramatist Richard John Pais (51) recently passed away. He has written several short stories, satirical writings and poems in Konkani language.

- ✓ Pais was presented the 'T M A Pai award' for his literary work 'Fathor'. Many of his plays have been presented in Konkani theatres. He had also served as the editorial head of a news portal called Daijiworld.

1. Which tri-state sanctuary has been declared as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) recently?

[A] National Chambal Sanctuary ☒

[B] Gir Wildlife Sanctuary

[C] Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

[D] Corbett National Park

- ✓ As per the recent notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, the National Chambal Sanctuary was declared as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
- ✓ The sanctuary, which is located across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, is home to 75% of gharials, the fresh water gangetic dolphins, fresh water turtles and more than 180 species of migratory birds. The order said that the areas in the Eco – sensitive Zone shall not be used for commercial, residential or industrial activities.

2. The Exhibition named “EKAM Fest” is organised by which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of MSME

[B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ☒

[C] Ministry of Textiles

[D] Ministry of Steel

- ✓ A 7-day Exhibition and fair named “EKAM Fest” organized by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment recently began in New Delhi. The EKAM Fest is open for public from 2nd March to 9th March, 2020.
- ✓ More than 82 Differently-abled men and women from 17 States/ UTs have showcased their products at the EKAM Fest event. NHFDC has launched several initiatives in the fest including: NHFDC Swavalamban Kendra, Safe Cabs in Delhi and Indore Safe Drinking Water E Carts.

3. As of March 2020, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has covered how many appliances under the Star Labelling Programme?

[A] 16

[B] 26 ☒

[C] 36

[D] 46

- ✓ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency has formulated the Star Labelling Programme under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- ✓ Recently, on its 19th foundation day, BEE expanded its coverage to 2 more appliances: Deep Freezers and Light Commercial Air Conditioners. The total appliances covered under the programme are 26 now.
- ✓ A database on energy efficiency called ‘Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT)’ was launched by BEE along with World Resources Institute (WRI).

4. What is India’s economic growth rate for 2020–21, as estimated by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?

[A] 4.6%

[B] 4.8%

[C] 5.1% ☒

[D] 5.4%

- ✓ International agency OECD recently lowered India’s GDP growth forecast to 5.1% from the earlier projection of 6.2 % for 2020–21. For the financial year ending March 2019, OECD has projected a growth rate of 4.9%.
- ✓ The main reason for the cut in rates was the concerns about the impact of coronavirus on the domestic and the global economy. However, the economy of India is to improve to 5.6% in the following year (2021–22).

5. The chairman of the LuLu Group, M A Yusuff Ali became the first Indian to receive premium residency of which country?

[A] United Arab Emirates

[B] Qatar

[C] Saudi Arabia ☒

[D] Oman

- ✓ The chairman of the LuLu Group, M A Yusuff Ali recently became the first Indian to receive Saudi Arabia’s premium residency. Abu Dhabi-based Indian retail business-person was also ranked the richest expatriate in the UAE by the Forbes magazine last year.
- ✓ The permit also known as Saudi Green Card, grants expatriates the right to live, work and own business and property in the country without the requirement of a sponsor.

6. The mobile application 'Humsafar', which was in news recently, is associated with which service?

[A] Ride-hailing

[B] Door Delivery of Fuel ☒

[C] Door-Delivery of Medicines

[D] Booking Flight tickets

✓ The Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar recently launched the mobile application named 'Humsafar'.

✓ The app is launched with an objective of delivering fuel at the door-steps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the National capital region. The app will ensure the delivery of fuel to other bulk buyers of diesel in various NCR cities. This step would curb the unsafe practices of transporting fuel in the city.

7. Pekka Lundmark has been selected as the next President and CEO of global consumer Electronics Company?

[A] Samsung

[B] Nokia ☒

[C] Huawei

[D] Motorola

✓ Leading Telecom and consumer electronics company Nokia announced that its board of directors has appointed Pekka Lundmark as the next President and CEO to succeed Rajeev Suri.

✓ Rajeev Suri is to step down from his current role on August 31, 2020 and remain as an advisor to the Nokia board till January 1, 2021. Pekka Lundmark is set to take charge from September 2020.

8. Ramniklal Solanki, an 'Order of the British Empire' awardee, who recently passed away, was associated with which field?

[A] Sports

[B] Business

[C] Journalism ☒

[D] Theatrics

✓ Veteran journalist in Gujarati-language and pioneer of the Asian media in the United Kingdom, Ramniklal Solanki recently passed away.

✓ He served as the London correspondent of the Mumbai-based Janmabhoomi Group of newspapers. He was also the founder-editor of the Garavi Gujarat newsweekly and the Asian Media Group.

✓ He was awarded the royal honours of the United Kingdom, the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1997 and the highest honour – CBE in 2007.

9. The Reserve Bank of India is conducting one-year and three-year tenor LTRO to help banks to reduce their lending rates. What does LTRO stand for?

[A] Long Term Reverse Operation

[B] Liquidity Term Repo Operation

[C] Liquidity Term Reverse Operation

[D] Long Term Repo Operation ☒

✓ The Reserve Bank of India is conducting one-year and three-year tenor LTRO to help banks to reduce their lending rates. In the latest bi-monthly policy review, it announced term repurchase agreements (repos) of one-year and three-year tenors for Rs 1 trillion at the policy repo rate. RBI has conducted three LTRO – Long-term repo operation on Feb.17, Feb.24 and March 1.

✓ The fourth operation is scheduled on March 9. In the third LTRO of three-year tenor, RBI has received 66 bids amounting to Rs 1.71 trillion.

10. Which state government recently abolished the policy of granting service extension to its employees after retirement?

[A] Odisha

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Punjab ☒

[D] Uttar Pradesh

✓ The Punjab government recently scrapped the policy of granting optional extension in service to the state government employees after retirement. This decision is taken with an aim to generate employment for the youth of the state. The state government had earlier allowed service extension to all employees up to the age of 60 or 62. Recently, the state made the retiring age of the employees to 58 from 60.

1. Who has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India after Rajiv Kumar?

[A] Tuhin Kant Pandey [B] Ajay Bhushan Pandey ☒

[C] Atanu Chakraborty [D] Raghuram Rajan

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of the current Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary of India. Ajay Bhushan Pandey replaces current Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar, who got superannuated last month.
- ✓ The senior-most bureaucrat among all secretaries in the Finance Ministry is usually designated as the finance secretary. Debasish Panda was recently appointed as the Secretary, Department of financial services.

2. What is the time limit within which the Lokpal shall dispose of a complaint of alleged corruption against public servants?

[A] 21 days [B] 30 days ☒

[C] 45 days [D] 60 days

- ✓ Lokpal is an apex body to inquire into allegations of corruption against public functionaries of central government. The Lokpal shall dispose of any received complaint within 30 days.
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath to Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the first chairperson of Lokpal, in March 2019.
- ✓ Recently, the government has issued a format for filing complaints of alleged corruption against public servants (including the prime minister) with the Lokpal.

3. Mukhyamantri Dal Bhat Yojna (MDBY) is a subsidised food scheme of which state government?

[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Bihar

[C] Jharkhand ☒ [D] West Bengal

- ✓ The state government of Jharkhand recently presented its budget for the financial year 2020–21. It announced a

financial assistance of Rs 5000 to Rs 7000 per annum to unemployed graduate and post-graduate youth.

- ✓ The state government also proposed to provide 100 units free electricity and to set up 100 mohalla clinics across the state. The Mukhyamantri Dal Bhat Yojna (MDBY) was revived to provide a meal at the price of Rs.5 to the poor people of the state.

4. The Week of March 1 to March 7 is celebrated as which commemorative week across the country?

[A] Swachch Bharat Week [B] KISAN week

[C] Janaushadhi Week ☒ [D] Beti Bachao Week

- ✓ Janaushadhi Week is being celebrated across the country from March 1 to March 7 2020 and Jan Aushadi Diwas on March 7. During this week, several activities like health check-up Camp, free doctor consultation and free medicine distribution were organised at various Janaushadhi Kendras.

- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana is an initiative by Department of Pharmaceuticals, under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The scheme aims to provide quality medicines at an affordable price to all people.

5. Which country recently assumes presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of March 2020?

[A] India [B] China ☒

[C] Japan [D] Nepal

- ✓ China has recently taken over as the President of the UN Security Council for the month of March 2020. The Security Council was established by the UN Agreement to maintain international peace and security.

- ✓ The council has 15 members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members for 2 year terms). The 15 members assume presidency every month in a rotation basis.

6. Which state government has announced to provide a financial assistance to the farmers for keeping stray cattle at their homes?

[A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Haryana

[C] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[D] Bihar

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath recently announced that the government has decided to provide a financial assistance of Rs 900 per month to those farmers who are ready to keep stray cattle at their houses and provide a shelter to them.

- ✓ The state government of Uttar Pradesh also announced that it has decided to build shelters for stray cattle in the state.

7. Which act is to be amended to provide more powers to the RBI for regulating cooperative banks?

[A] The Reserve Bank of India Act

[B] The Banking Regulation Act ☒

[C] The Co-operative Societies Act

[D] Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act

- ✓ The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ This proposed bill is expected to provide more powers to the RBI for regulating cooperative banks. The bill seeks to strengthen cooperative banks by improving professionalism, access to capital and banking practices through the RBI. The administrative issues will remain to be guided by the Registrar of Cooperative.

8. As per a recent report on Trade-related Illicit Financial Flows, what is the rank of India among 135 countries?

[A] 1

[B] 3 ☒

[C] 5

[D] 7

- ✓ US-based think tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI) recently released a report titled "Trade-related Illicit Financial Flows in 135 Developing Countries: 2008–2017".
- ✓ As per the report, five countries with the largest gaps were China (\$457.7 billion), followed by Mexico, India, Russia and Poland.

- ✓ India has the third-highest trade-related illicit financial flow escaping the government's tax net, with \$83.5 billion (Rs 6.14 trillion), equivalent to 3.05 per cent of GDP).

9. Which Indian is the recipient of the 128th 'Commonwealth Points of Light' Award?

[A] Rajendra Singh

[B] Jadav Payeng ☒

[C] Afroz Shah

[D] Sudharshan Patnaik

- ✓ Environmental activist Jadav Payeng, also called the 'Forest Man', was named as the winner of the 128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award.

- ✓ Payeng is a 57-year-old activist, who had transformed a treeless sandbar along the Brahmaputra River into a vast wildlife shelter. The award recognises people across the 53 Commonwealth nations for their exceptional contributions towards the community.

10. Which country became the first in the world to make public transport free?

[A] Thailand

[B] Luxembourg ☒

[C] Canada

[D] Brazil

- ✓ Luxembourg, a small European country has abolished fares for public transport systems including trains, trams and buses.
- ✓ All standard-class journeys on public transport in the country are now available for free of charge. This decision has been taken to tackle road congestion and pollution, and also to support low earners of the country. This will ensure a better quality of public mobility and a cleaner environment.

1. Which state recently announced to provide credit guarantee of loans for higher education?

- [A] Odisha [B] Haryana ☒
[C] Jharkhand [D] Bihar

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Haryana recently announced during the budget session that the state government is to provide credit guarantee of loans for higher education, so that the students can avail loans without the collateral guarantee required by the banks.
- ✓ The state has also created a separate Foreign Cooperation Department for the welfare of non-resident Indians and employment.

2. Which Engineering College of India has obtained the highest rank in the recent QS World Ranking?

- [A] IIT Kharagpur [B] IIT Madras
[C] IIT Kanpur [D] IIT Mumbai ☒

- ✓ According to the recent QS World Ranking, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Mumbai and Delhi are among the top 50 engineering colleges across the globe.
- ✓ IIT Mumbai has been ranked 44 and IIT Delhi has got the 47th rank. There are only two Indian colleges to feature in the top 50 ranking. As per the QS World Ranking for the subject of arts and humanities, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) of Delhi is at 162nd rank and Delhi University is at 231st rank.

3. After the proposed amalgamation of 10 public sector banks into four, what will be the total number of state-owned banks in India?

- [A] 8 [B] 10 [C] 12 ☒ [D] 14

- ✓ The government approved a scheme for the amalgamation of 10 state-owned banks into four, in the month of March 2020 and announced that the integration will be made effective from April 1, 2020.
- ✓ After this process, India will have 12 Public Sector Banks. Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, and United Bank of India will amalgamate to form India's second largest bank after the State Bank of

India. Other groups are Canara Bank– Syndicate Bank, Union Bank of India–Andhra Bank–Corporation Bank and Indian Bank– Allahabad Bank.

4. As per the recent 'Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas Bill 2020', what is the time-limit within which the tax-payers can pay the due tax with waiver?

- [A] March 31, 2020 ☒ [B] May 31, 2020
[C] September 30, 2020 [D] December 31, 2020

- ✓ The Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas Bill 2020 has been recently passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on February 5, 2020.
- ✓ The Bill provides a mechanism for resolution of pending tax disputes in direct tax including income tax and corporation tax. It seeks that taxpayers can settle disputes by paying their due taxes with waiver of interest and penalty by March 31, 2020.

5. 'Pragyan Conclave 2020' is an International Seminar organised by which Armed Force of India?

- [A] Indian Air Force [B] Indian Navy
[C] Indian Army ☒ [D] Indian Coast Guard

- ✓ A two-day Indian Army International Seminar named 'Pragyan Conclave 2020' is being organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). The Seminar commenced on 04 Mar 2020 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The event creates a platform for national and international military experts to discuss on the subject of 'Changing Characteristics of Land Warfare and its Impact on the Military'.

6. Shweta Rawat and Shalini Gupta are associated with which field?

- [A] Sports [B] Journalism
[C] Science ☒ [D] Business

- ✓ Two Scientists – Dr Shweta Rawat from Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), DRDO and Dr. Shalini Gupta, Department of Chemical

Engineering, IIT–Delhi were recently conferred with the 'National Award for Young Women Showing Excellence through Application of Technology for Societal Benefits' by the President of India Ramnath Kovind.

- ✓ Dr.Shweta has developed a female-specific Full Body protector whereas Dr.Shalini has successfully led the development of a technology Septiflo™, for point-of-care diagnosis and treatment of bacterial septicaemia.

7. Which state has recently issued orders to limit the retail price of bottled drinking water?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Uttarakhand
[C] Karnataka [D] Kerala ☒

- ✓ The state government of Kerala has issued an order to cap the retail price of bottled drinking water at Rs 13 per litre against the present price of Rs. 20 a litre. The Price cut was achieved as the bottled water has been made an essential commodity.
- ✓ The civil supplies department issued the order and asked the manufacturers to follow the price limit and to print the new price in all bottles.

8. In context of the recent Cabinet approval on listing of Indian companies overseas, what does 'GDR' stand for?

- [A] Government Deposit Receipts
[B] Global Deposit Receipts
[C] Global Depository Receipts ☒
[D] Government Depository Receipts

- ✓ The Cabinet recently approved a proposal to allow direct listing of Indian companies overseas. Appropriate amendment would be made in the Companies Act, 2013 for the same.
- ✓ Very few Indian companies have Global Depository Receipts (GDR) & only some have American Depository Receipts (ADR) which can be traded in the US.

- ✓ A Depository receipt is a foreign currency denominated instrument, issued by a foreign depository to a domestic institution and it is listed on an international exchange.

9. As per the recent amendment to the 'Foreign direct investment policy on civil aviation', what is the limit for NRIs to purchase equity stake in Air India?

- [A] 26% [B] 49% [C] 75% [D] 100% ☒

- ✓ The Union Cabinet recently approved an amendment to the 'Foreign direct investment policy on civil aviation', which allowed Non-resident Indians (NRIs) to acquire 100% equity stake in Air India under the automatic route.
- ✓ Prior to this amendment, only 49% was available for sale to NRIs in Air India. After the proposed strategic disinvestment of 100% of Air India by the government, the company will be completely privately owned.

10. An integrated sports complex named after its former Chief Minister PA Sangma, is to come up in which Indian state?

- [A] Assam [B] Meghalaya ☒
[C] Tripura [D] Nagaland

- ✓ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma recently laid the foundation stone for an integrated sports complex in Tura district, which is to be named after the former Chief Minister of the state PA Sangma.
- ✓ The 125 crore-project will include a football field and a multi-purpose indoor stadium. The construction of the complex is to be funded jointly by the Centre and the state government. The construction will be completed by 2022 when Meghalaya will host the National Games.