



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 2020



www.winmeen.com

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.

1. The recently released book titled "Chronicles of Change Champions" is a compilation of initiatives taken under which scheme?

[A] Swachh Bharat Mission [B] Poshan Maa Abhiyan

[C] Beti Bachao Beti Padhao ☒ [D] Sugamya Bharat

✓ Union Minister of Women & Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani released a book titled "Chronicles of Change Champions". It is a compilation of 25 innovative initiatives taken at the State and District levels under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

✓ The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. It is a tri-ministerial initiative of the Union ministries of Women & Child Development, Human Resource Development and Health & Family Welfare.

2. 'SCORES' is a mobile application of which regulatory body of India?

[A] Real Estate Regulatory Authority

[B] Reserve Bank of India

[C] Securities Exchange Board of India ☒

[D] National Housing Bank

✓ Markets regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently launched a mobile application for assisting investors to enter grievances in SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES) portal. The app has all the features of SCORES web portal for grievance redressal, which is already functioning.

✓ The app, 'SEBI SCORES', which is to be available on both iOS and Android platforms, will encourage investors to lodge their complaints on SCORES instead of sending physical letters.

3. TIME Magazine has named which Indian woman as the 'Woman of the year 1947' in its recent recreated list of world's 100 powerful women?

[A] Amrit Kaur ☒

[B] Sarojini Naidu

[C] Indira Gandhi

[D] Savitribhai Phule

✓ TIME magazine has recently released a list of world's 100 powerful women who defined the last century, in its new project. Freedom fighter Amrit Kaur has been named by the magazine as 'Woman of the Year' for 1947 and Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for 1976.

✓ Amrit Kaur became the first woman to join the Cabinet, when she served as Health Minister for 10 years. She founded the Indian Council for Child Welfare, strived for women's education, right to vote, divorce and against child marriage.

4. What is the interest rate on deposits as announced by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the current financial year (2019-20)?

[A] 8.9% [B] 8.65% [C] 8.5% ☒ [D] 8.2%

✓ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Thursday lowered the interest rate on deposits to 8.50% for the current financial year 2019-20.

✓ The interest rate, which is the lowest rate fixed in seven years, was reduced from the previous rate of 8.65% in 2018-19. The Central Board of Trustees, which is the apex decision-making body of the EPFO, fixes the interest rate.

5. Which airport of Maharashtra has been renamed as 'Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport'?

[A] Aurangabad Airport ☒ [B] Kolhapur Airport

[C] Pune International Airport [D] Akola Airport

✓ The state Government of Maharashtra has recently renamed the Aurangabad Airport of the state as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport.

✓ The airport has been renamed after Sambhaji, the son of the great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji. The airport is owned by the Airports Authority of India.

6. Which Indian institute has developed an AI-powered drone to counter unregulated unmanned drones?

[A] IISc

[B] CSIR

[C] IIT, Madras ☒

[D] DRDO Laboratory

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered drone to counter the unregulated unmanned drones, also called as "rogue drones". This system would assist the armed forces and security services in ensuring safety at critical locations.

- ✓ The newly developed drones can hack into the GPS system of the unregulated drones, thereby directing it to change its flight path or make it land safely.

7. Which is India's fifth largest private sector bank, that is under crisis?

- [A] IndusInd Bank [B] YES Bank ☒
[C] IDFC First Bank [D] Bandhan Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently unveiled a draft scheme of revival YES Bank, which has been put under the control of RBI. RBI also announced that State Bank of India is to make investment in YES Bank and participate in the reconstruction scheme.
- ✓ The financial position of YES Bank saw a gradual decline as it could not raise the required capital. RBI has imposed moratorium on the Bank and has capped withdrawals at Rs 50,000 per account. The existing Board was superseded and former SBI CFO Prashant Kumar was appointed as administrator for YES Bank.

8. According to the recent estimates published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which economy is most affected by the coronavirus outbreak?

- [A] United States [B] Taiwan Province of China
[C] European Union ☒ [D] Japan

- ✓ As per the recent estimates published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the most affected economy due to the coronavirus outbreak is the European Union (\$15.6 billion) followed by the United States (\$5.8 billion) and Japan (\$5.2 billion).
- ✓ The trade impact of the outbreak for India is estimated to be about USD 348 million and it is among the top 15 economies most affected.

- ✓ It also revealed that the manufacturing-slowdown in China due to the outbreak is disrupting world trade and could cause a \$50 billion USD decrease in global exports.

9. Daren Tang of Singapore has been nominated as the new Director General of which global organisation?

- [A] World Intellectual Property Organization ☒
[B] World Customs Organisation
[C] International Labour Organisation
[D] World Health Organisation

- ✓ The Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has recently nominated Daren Tang from Singapore for the post of Director General. The WIPO General Assembly will confirm the Coordination Committee's nomination.
- ✓ Tang is currently serving as the Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. The current Director General Francis Gurry's term ends this Sept.

10. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India after Sudhir Bhargava?

- [A] Bimal Jalan [B] Bimal Julka ☒
[C] Kasturi Rangan [D] Gopala Swami

- ✓ Information Commissioner Bimal Julka has been recently appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Bimal Julka as the CIC at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The previous Chief Sudhir Bhargava retired on Jan.11 and since then the Chief Information Commission was functioning without head.
- ✓ It also has strength of six information commissioners against the sanctioned 11 personnel.

1. 'Chapchar Kut' is a popular festival of which Indian State / UT?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Assam

[C] Mizoram ☒

[D] Arunachal Pradesh

✓ 'Chapchar Kut' is a popular and the biggest festival celebrated across the state of Mizoram. It is celebrated to welcome the spring season.

✓ The festival is celebrated by all the people of the state with many cultural events associated with it. People participate in dance and musical events including the traditional bamboo dance – Cheraw.

2. As per the recent study by the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), the 'Endophytic Actinobacteria' could reduce chemical inputs in which plant?

[A] Sugar cane

[B] Tea ☒

[C] Cotton

[D] Coffee

✓ Researchers at Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) Guwahati have found that the endophytic Actinobacteria have antifungal growth-promoting activities. They have also discovered that application of endophytic Actinobacteria could reduce chemical inputs in Tea plantation crop.

✓ IASST is an autonomous institute under Department of Science and Technology. This discovery would help decrease the pesticide content and increase our exports to many countries.

3. Bipasha Chakrabarti was recently appointed as the Communications Director of which technological company's Indian arm?

[A] Amazon

[B] Facebook ☒

[C] Google

[D] Microsoft

✓ Former Executive of CISCO, Bipasha Chakrabarti has been recently appointed as the new communications head of Facebook India.

✓ Under her new role as the Communications Director at Facebook India, Bipasha would lead the corporate communications and public relations in India. She will

handle the communications sector for both Facebook and Instagram in the country.

4. 'Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)' is associated with research in which field?

[A] Agriculture

[B] Genetics ☒

[C] Environment

[D] Energy

✓ A genetic research project named 'GenomeIndia: Cataloguing the Genetic Variation in Indians' has been recently sanctioned by Department of Biotechnology to 20 institutions for a period of 3 years.

✓ Under the project, the 'Whole Genome Sequencing' which analyses 10,000 individuals representing the country's diverse population is to be carried out. The resultant information can enable future human genetics research and helps in developing precise diagnostics for major diseases.

5. In context of the recent Supreme Court ruling on the right of an organisation to receive foreign contributions, what does FCRA stand for?

[A] Foreign Currency (Regulation) Act

[B] Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act ☒

[C] Foreign Currency (Rights) Act

[D] Foreign Contribution (Rights) Act

✓ The Supreme Court recently ruled that an organisation supporting public causes by legitimate means of opposition like 'bandh' and 'hartal' cannot be deprived of its legitimate right of receiving foreign funds.

✓ But the organisations which are used for channelling the foreign funds by political parties shall come under the purview of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). The act was enacted in 2010 to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution.

6. Who is the Chairperson of the recently reconstituted National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)?

[A] Home Minister ☒

[B] Defence Minister

[C] Environment Minister [D] Finance Minister

- ✓ The government has recently reconstituted the 'National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)' with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as its chairperson.
- ✓ NPDRR's vice-chairpersons include the minister of state in-charge of disaster management in the Home Ministry and the vice-chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar are some of its members.

7. Union Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a discussion on "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce", in association with which global organisation?

- [A] World Bank ☒ [B] UN Women
[C] United Nations [D] ILO

- ✓ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a discussion on "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce", in association with World Bank in New Delhi.
- ✓ Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the programme along with Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director India, World Bank.
- ✓ As a part of events to celebrate International Women's Day 2020, this programme is organised to honour the achievements of women in business, public, private and social organisations.

8. What is the theme of the campaign conducted by the Indian Railways to celebrate International Women's Day?

- [A] Travel safely [B] Each for Equal ☒
[C] We are with you [D] He and She

- ✓ The Indian Railways is conducting a ten day long campaign from March 1 to 10 to celebrate the International Women's Day (March 8).

- ✓ The theme of the campaign is 'Each for Equal', representing the gender equality. The Indian Railways is also focussing on #SheInspiresUs, which highlights the inspiring stories of women achievers.

- ✓ Under this campaign, the steps taken to provide exclusive facilities to women passengers and to empower the women employees working in Indian Railways.

9. Which state / UT has recently launched a school health education plan called 'Student Health Card'?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Jammu & Kashmir ☒
[C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Rajasthan

- ✓ The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu recently launched the 'Student Health Card' in Jammu. This scheme is a part of the government's comprehensive school health education plan which ensures better healthcare for school children.

- ✓ Under this scheme, all government schools will maintain health records of enrolled students including immunisation record and developmental delays.

10. Agartala and Ghojadanga were recently designated as the authorised land immigration check posts. In which state, Ghojadanga is located?

- [A] Nagaland [B] West Bengal ☒
[C] Assam [D] Meghalaya

- ✓ The capital of Tripura, Agartala and Ghojadanga of West Bengal, which are located along the Indo-Bangladesh border, have been recently designated by the government as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India, with valid travel documents.

- ✓ As per the recent Home Ministry notification, senior immigration officers have also been appointed for Agartala and Ghojadanga under the Bureau of Immigration. The designation is made under the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950.

1. Which state has recently launched a digital literacy programme titled 'I am also digital'?

[A] Odisha

[B] Kerala ☒

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Bihar

- ✓ The state of Kerala is set to launch a huge digital literacy campaign called 'I am also digital' which aims at making the benefits of the state reach the common citizens.
- ✓ This campaign is initiated by the Kerala Literacy Mission and the Kerala State IT Mission under the Department of Information Technology.
- ✓ The drive would be mainly launched as a people-participatory model to educate the society about digital technology. The project will be pilot-launched in Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation.

2. The renovated Animal Transport Memorial was recently inaugurated by the Indian Army in which city?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Mumbai

[C] Nagpur

[D] Bengaluru ☒

- ✓ The Director-General of Supply and Transport Corps of the Indian Army recently unveiled the renovated Animal Memorial at Bengaluru.
- ✓ The memorial indicates the contributions and service of mules and horses of the Indian Army, especially during the war in the Himalayas.
- ✓ This animal transport memorial has been extended by two walls, which highlight the role played by the animals in the Indian Army. It was also announced that 26 September each year has been nominated as the Animal Transport (AT) Remembrance Day.

3. The book titled 'Adventures of a Daredevil Democrat', which was recently published, narrates the story of which Former Chief Minister?

[A] Selvi J Jayalalitha

[B] M Karunanidhi

[C] Biju Patnaik ☒

[D] C. Achutha Menon

- ✓ A first of its kind comic book on the life and works of former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik was recently released by the present Chief Minister and the former's son Naveen Patnaik.

- ✓ Senior political leaders of many parties attended the book release event. The state is celebrating the former Chief Minister's 104th birth anniversary. The Odisha state celebrates his birthday 5 March as the Panchayat Raj Divas.

4. Who is the chairperson of the high-level panel recently set up to prepare an investigation manual for Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)?

[A] N K Singh

[B] U K Sinha

[C] Injeti Srinivas ☒

[D] Tapan Ray

- ✓ The government has recently constituted a 12-membered high-level panel recently set up to prepare an investigation manual for Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

- ✓ As per the recent order issued by the corporate affairs ministry, Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas would chair the panel. The committee will devise a comprehensive manual for performing effective investigations and probes against white-collar crimes.

5. Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawanna Kanth and Mohana Singh Jitarwal, who recently received the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' award, are associated with which profession?

[A] Sportspersons

[B] Fighter Pilots ☒

[C] Army Officers

[D] Naval Captains

- ✓ On the occasion of International Women's day, President Ram Nath Kovind recently presented the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' to IAF's first women fighter pilots, Mohana Jitarwal, Avani Chaturvedi and Bhawana Kanth, among the 15 total wardees.

- ✓ After the Government of India decided to open fighter stream in the Air force for women on an experimental basis, these three young women were inducted into the IAF's fighter squadron. They were also the first to be

inducted into the squadron and conduct a solo flight in MIG-21 in the year 2018.

6. Which city was the venue of 'Conference on Empowering Women Entrepreneurs', organised by the MSME Ministry?

- [A] Cochin [B] Chennai
[C] Hyderabad [D] New Delhi ☒

✓ The three-day conference called 'Conference on Empowering Women Entrepreneurs' has been organised by the Union Ministry of MSME in collaboration with various industry bodies like FICCI-flo, CII and India SME Forum, in New Delhi.

✓ Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the conference and a panel discussion on 'Creating a conducive business Eco System for Empowering Women Entrepreneurs'. It was participated by more than 300 women entrepreneurs from all parts of the country.

7. Women Scientist Scheme C (KIRAN IPR) and Vigyan Jyoti are the schemes of which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Women and Child Development
[B] Ministry of Science and Technology ☒
[C] Ministry of Human Resource Development
[D] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

✓ Union Minister for Science and Technology, Harsh Vardhan launched a new Helpline no 011-26565285, which aims at assisting women students, researchers, entrepreneurs and scientists to get their queries answered related to schemes of Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).

✓ Women Scientist Scheme C (KIRAN IPR) and the newly launched Vigyan Jyoti scheme are the schemes of Ministry of Science and Technology.

✓ Under the Vigyan Jyoti scheme, selected women are assisted to attend science camps at IITs, NITs, and other leading institutions.

8. Hans Raj Bhardwaj, who passed away recently, was a former union Minister of which portfolio?

- [A] Defence [B] Law and Justice ☒
[C] Finance [D] External Affairs

✓ Hans Raj Bhardwaj who was an Indian Politician belonging to Indian National Congress, recently passed away. He was the Union minister for Law and justice for five years the minister of state for nine years.

✓ Hans Raj Bhardwaj introduced the concept of rural courts (Gram Nyayalayas) in India. He had also served as the Governor of Karnataka and Kerala.

9. Who is the first Indian cricketer to play in 150 Ranji Trophy matches?

- [A] Dinesh Karthik [B] Parthiv Patel
[C] Wassim Jaffer ☒ [D] Irfan Pathan

✓ Wassim Jaffer, former India Opener is the first Indian cricketer to play in 150 Ranji Trophy matches. He is also the highest run-scorer in the history of Ranji Trophy.

✓ Jaffer was in news recently, as he has announced his retirement from all forms of the game. He has totally scored 19,410 runs with an average of 50.67. In his first-class cricket career, Jaffer scored 57 centuries and 91 half-centuries with his highest score of 314.

10. Which Indian sportsperson was named the 'Changemaker of the year' at the Business Line Changemaker Awards?

- [A] P V Sindhu [B] Mary Kom
[C] Dutee Chand ☒ [D] Hima Dhas

✓ During the Business Line Changemaker Awards 2020 at New Delhi, Indian athlete Dutee Chand was awarded Changemaker of the year jointly with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) for bringing extensive change in society. Dutee Chand is India's fastest female sprinter with the national record of 11.22 seconds in 100m dash. At present, she is training to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

1. "Cova Punjab" mobile app launched by the Punjab government is aimed to spread awareness on which disease?

[A] Foot and Mouth Disease

[B] Corona virus ☒

[C] Swine Flu

[D] Malaria

✓ The Punjab state government recently launched a mobile application called "Cova Punjab" to spread awareness about the precautions to be taken against coronavirus.

✓ The application has been developed by the Department of Government Reforms and Public Grievances in association with the Health and Family Welfare Department. The mobile application has options to check for symptoms provided by the government.

✓ The application also suggests the nearest hospital and will spread awareness by sharing travel and preventive care advisories

2. Lt Gen KJS Dhillon has been recently appointed as the Director General of which organisation?

[A] Intelligence Bureau

[B] Defence Intelligence Agency ☒

[C] Central Bureau of Investigation

[D] Research and Analysis Wing

✓ Lt.Gen KJS Dhillon has been appointed as the Director General of the tri-services organisation Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Intelligence) under the Chief of Defence Staff.

✓ He was a former 15th Corps Commander and with his recent appointment, he will replace Lt.Gen AS Bedi. The new role as DG, DIA will require handling the intelligence inputs from all the three services along with various other agencies.

3. 'Shaadi Bhagya Scheme', which was making news recently, was a scheme of which state?

[A] Bihar

[B] Odisha

[C] Karnataka ☒

[D] Maharashtra

✓ The state government in Karnataka recently stopped the Shaadi Bhagya Scheme that was launched by the previous government in the state in 2013.

✓ Under the scheme, a financial assistance of Rs 50,000 was given to Muslim brides for marriage expenses when they submit their Aadhar and BPL cards. The previous coalition government had allocated Rs.60 crore budget for the scheme.

4. Which country recently joined as the 16th member in the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project of the Ministry of External Affairs of India?

[A] Senegal

[B] The Gambia ☒

[C] Ghana

[D] Zambia

✓ Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIS) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gambia for the participation of the country in the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project of the Union External Ministry of India.

✓ The Gambia is the 16th country to participate in the e-Network Project thus far. TCIL is the implementing agency for the e-VBAB Network Project, which aims to provide tele-medicine and tele-education services to African nations.

5. The tombs of Taramati and Premamati are located in which Indian State / UT?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Telangana ☒

[D] Maharashtra

✓ The Qutb Shahi Tombs were in news recently, as the United States Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster announced the completion of a US-funded restoration project of the tombs of Taramati and Premamati within the Qutb Shahi Tombs complex.

✓ They are 17th century tombs located in Telangana's capital city of Hyderabad. In Feb.2019, the Ambassador had partnered with Aga Khan Foundation and

announced a \$103,000 grant through the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

- ✓ In 2014, the tombs received a similar grant for mapping and documenting the place's structures.

6. What is the theme of International Women's Day, 2020?

[A] Think equal, build smart, innovate for change

[B] I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights ☒

[C] Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives

[D] Role of Women in addressing climate change

- ✓ International Women's Day is observed annually across the world on March 8.
- ✓ This year (2020), the theme of the Women's day is 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'. The theme is on the lines with UN Women's new multi-generational campaign, 'Generation Equality'.
- ✓ It marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The campaign theme of the day is 'Each for Equal'.

7. Ankita Raina is associated with which sports?

[A] Badminton

[B] Tennis ☒

[C] Squash

[D] Table-Tennis

- ✓ Ankita Raina, was seen in news as she delivered an outstanding game in the ongoing Federation Cup Tennis tournament, which led India to progress to the World play-offs. In the ongoing Federation Cup Tennis, India registered three consecutive wins in a row, after their first loss to China. Sania Mirza represented India in the doubles.

8. Who is the only Indian player to feature in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup team of the tournament?

[A] Harmanpreet Kaur

[B] Shafali Verma

[C] Poonam Yadav ☒

[D] Smriti Mandana

- ✓ As per the recent announcement of the International Cricket Council, Indian bowler Poonam Yadav is the only Indian player to feature in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup team of the tournament.
- ✓ Poonam Yadav secured ten wickets in the tournament, including four wickets in the opening match of the tournament against the host Australia.
- ✓ Another Indian player Shafali Verma has been selected as the 12th member of the team. She scored 163 runs in the tournament and reached the top spot in ICC T20 rankings.

9. Which state is to set up an exclusive department for Self Help Group called "Mission Shakti"?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Kerala

[C] Odisha ☒

[D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik recently announced that Odisha will be the first state to have an exclusive department for Self Help Group called "Mission Shakti".
- ✓ In addition to this exclusive department, the state government has also introduced an independent Nutrition Budget focusing on the nutritional enhancement of all mothers and children of the state, recently.

10. 'NIGHA', a mobile application to curb election malpractices, is an initiative of which Indian state?

[A] Punjab

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Gujarat

[D] Andhra Pradesh ☒

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh government has recently launched a mobile application which aims at curbing the malpractices occurring during the election. Through the application, any person can file complaints about the corruption or malpractices during the campaign in the upcoming civil polls. With the photos, audio or video files sent by the people, suitable actions will be taken by the government.

1. Which Indian public sector bank waived the minimum balance requirement for all savings bank (SB) accounts?

- [A] Punjab National Bank [B] State Bank of India ☒
[C] Canara Bank [D] Union Bank of India

- ✓ The Largest lender of India, State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced that the penalty charges for non-maintenance of average monthly balance (AMB) for all its savings bank accounts are to be waived.
- ✓ At present, the customers shall have to maintain average monthly balance of ₹3000, ₹2000 and ₹1000 in metro, semi urban and rural areas respectively.
- ✓ The Bank levies a penalty of ₹5 to ₹15 plus taxes when average monthly balance is not maintained. Now the penalty has been waived for all its 44.51 Crore savings bank account holders. The bank also lowered interest rate on all SB accounts to 3%.

2. World Economic Forum (WEF) released its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders. How many Indians are included in the list?

- [A] 2 [B] 5 ☒ [C] 10 [D] 14

- ✓ World Economic Forum (WEF) released its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders. As per the report, these young global leaders from 52 countries under the age of forty are working in their respective fields to change the world and are called 'change-makers'.
- ✓ Five Indians are named in the coveted list including Byju Classes' founder Byju Raveendran, Zomato's co-founder Gaurav Gupta, Tara Singh Vachani (CEO of Antara Senior Living), Vinati Mutreja (Managing Director and CEO, Vinati Organics Limited), and Swapan Mehra (CEO, IORA Ecological Solutions).

3. According to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which country is the largest exporter of arms during the past five years?

- [A] United States ☒ [B] Russia
[C] France [D] China

- ✓ According to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the largest exporter of arms during the past five years (2015 – 2019) was the United States, whose exports grew by 23% and share in global arms exports grew to 36%.

- ✓ Half of US arms exports are reported to have gone to the Middle East. It is followed by Russia, France, Germany and China in the next places.

- ✓ Arms transfers from Russia, decreased by 18%, largely due to a drop in sales to India. From 2015 to 2019, international arms exports grew by 5.5% from the previous 5 years.

4. Which global organisation has launched the, "COVID Action Platform" to convene the business community to support for COVID-19?

- [A] World Bank
[B] World Economic Forum ☒
[C] International Monetary Fund
[D] United Nations

- ✓ The World Economic Forum recently launched a new platform with the support of the World Health Organisation to convene the global business community for a collective support for the COVID-19 outbreak.

- ✓ The newly formed platform is called, "COVID Action Platform" and is open to all businesses and industry groups and other stakeholders including the governments around the globe.

- ✓ This first of its kind platform will integrate the efforts of all the entities in tackling the outbreak together.

5. S.S.Deswal has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of which Indian para-military force?

- [A] Central Reserve Police Force
[B] Central Industrial Security Force
[C] National Security Guard
[D] Border Security Force ☒

- ✓ The incumbent Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police S S Deswal has been given the additional charge of the DG Border Security Force (BSF).

- ✓ This appointment has been approved after the DG BSF Vivek Johri was posted to his parent cadre Madhya Pradesh. He is set to hold the additional charge till the appointment and joining of the successor or until further order, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs notification.

6. Which is the venue of the main national event for the sixth International Day of Yoga, 2020?

- [A] Ranchi [B] Leh ☒
[C] New Delhi [D] Guwahati

- ✓ The main national event for the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2020 will be held on June 21 at Leh in Ladakh. This national event is expected to be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ This is the first time the event is taking place in such a high altitude location like Leh. Last year, the Yoga Day event was organised in Ranchi, Jharkhand and the Prime Minister participated in the programme.
- ✓ The first International Day of Yoga was observed all over the world on June 21, 2015.

7. The Parliament of which country passed a bill to allow the President to contest in Presidential elections after 2024?

- [A] United States [B] United Kingdom
[C] Russia ☒ [D] China

- ✓ The Federation Council, the Upper House of the Russian parliament approved the presidential bill on amending the national Constitution, after the Lower house passed it.
- ✓ The bill changes the powers of the parliament and allows President Vladimir Putin to run for the presidency again in 2024, which may extend his rule to two more terms.

- ✓ The bill will be considered after two-thirds of the regional parliaments back it and after the all-Russia vote. The bill also seeks to give additional powers to the President to fire judges in the country's higher courts and to reject laws passed by Parliament.

8. Which Indian cueist was the runner-up of the National 6-Red Snooker Championship, at which Pankaj Advani won his 34th national title?

- [A] Ishpreet Singh ☒ [B] Aditya Mehta
[C] Yasin Merchant [D] Lucky Vatnani

- ✓ Veteran Indian cueist Pankaj Advani clinched the National 6-Red Snooker Championship with a 7-3 win over Ishpreet Singh. It is the 34th national title overall for Advani.
- ✓ The National 6-Red Snooker Championship was held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. In the summit clash, Pankaj trailed 1-3 in the beginning but defeated the young cueist Ishpreet Singh of Maharashtra to claim his 34th title.

9. World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic. Which disease was previously declared as pandemic by WHO?

- [A] H1N1 influenza ☒ [B] HIV
[C] Swine Flu [D] Spanish Flu

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic. The last time the WHO declared a pandemic was for the H1N1 influenza outbreak in 2009.
- ✓ Pandemic is the term when epidemics are growing in multiple countries and continents at the same time, whereas an endemic describes the outbreak that has grown out of control yet is limited to just one country or location.

10. World Bank signed an \$80 million loan agreement with which Indian state to increase agricultural productivity in its Gram Panchayats?

- [A] Karnataka [B] Odisha
[C] Himachal Pradesh ☒ [D] Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The Government of India, state government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank recently signed an \$80 million loan agreement to improve water management practices and increase agricultural productivity in certain Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh.

 - ✓ 'The Integrated project for source sustainability and climate resilient rain-fed Agriculture' project in Himachal Pradesh will be implemented in 428 Gram Panchayats, which is expected to benefit over 4 lakh smallholder farmers.
-

1. Which Indian state is set to depute 'Arogya Mitra' at Primary health centres to inform people about government's health-related schemes?

- [A] Odisha [B] Andhra Pradesh
[C] Uttar Pradesh ☒ [D] Bihar

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath recently announced that one 'Arogya Mitra' each is to be deputed at all Primary health centres in the state to inform people about health-related schemes of the government.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also 'Kaushal Satrang' programme of the Department of Vocational Education and Skill Development and Department of Labour & Employment Exchange. The programme is aimed at generating employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth of the state.

2. What is the Current Account Deficit (in terms of percentage of GDP) in the April to December of 2019-20, as per the recent notification of the RBI?

- [A] 1% ☒ [B] 2% [C] 3% [D] 5%

- ✓ As per the recent notification of the Reserve Bank of India, Current Account Deficit (CAD) was 0.2% of GDP in December quarter when compared to 0.9% of GDP in the September quarter.
- ✓ It also stated that the CAD narrowed to 1% of GDP in April to December of 2019-20 when compared to 2.6% in April-December of 2018-19. The main reason for the easing was the reduction in the trade deficit which decreased to \$118.9 billion in April-December 2019-20.

3. The Rajya Sabha passed 'The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020', which proposes to commercialise the mining of which mineral?

- [A] Iron [B] Coal ☒
[C] Copper [D] Bauxite

- ✓ The Rajya Sabha passed 'The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020', which proposes amendments to the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation)

Act 1957 and The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. The Lok Sabha had passed this Bill last week and it will come into force after the President's assent.

- ✓ It seeks to allow companies which do not possess any prior coal mining experience in India to participate in coal auctions. It also seeks to remove the 'specified end-use criterion' of the companies.

4. Which Indian institution is to infuse Rs.7250 Cr into Yes Bank as per the reconstruction plan of the Reserve Bank of India?

- [A] LIC India [B] State Bank of India ☒
[C] HDFC Ltd [D] ICICI Ltd

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India drafted a reconstruction plan of Yes Bank recently. As per the plan, the investor bank shall buy 49% stake in Yes Bank.
- ✓ Recently, the State Bank of India announced that the executive committee of its central board approved for purchase of 725 Crore shares in YES Bank at a price of Rs 10 per share subject to all regulatory approvals. The shareholding of SBI will remain within 49 per cent of the paid-up capital of YES Bank

5. The US Congress approved a resolution to restrain US President Donald Trump from attacking which country?

- [A] Iraq [B] Iran ☒
[C] Sudan [D] Libya

- ✓ The US Congress approved a resolution to restrain the US President Donald Trump from attacking Iran. The House of Representatives joined the Senate in support of the resolution.
- ✓ As per the resolution, no military action shall be taken against Iran without an explicit vote from the Congress. Earlier, a rocket fired on a military base north of Baghdad killed an American soldier, a British soldier and a US contractor.
- ✓ In January 2020, Trump ordered a drone strike that killed Iran's military general, Qassem Soleimani, at the Baghdad airport of Iraq.

6. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Shardul carried essential food and relief materials to be handed over to which flood-hit country?

- [A] Mauritius [B] Madagascar ☒
[C] Malaysia [D] Maldives

✓ India recently handed over 600 tonnes of rice and relief material to flood-hit Madagascar. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Shardul carried 600 tonnes of rice, as per directives of Indian Government.

✓ In the month of January this year, the Indian Navy launched 'Operation Vanilla' in support of the national disaster in Madagascar, to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster through INS Airavat.

7. The World Athletics Council imposed a USD 10 million fine on the Athletics Federation of which country, for doping scandals?

- [A] China [B] Russia ☒
[C] USA [D] Australia

✓ World Athletics Council imposed a USD 10 million on the Athletics Federation of Russia (RusAF) for breaching anti-doping rules.

✓ World Athletics has capped the number of Authorised Neutral Athletes (ANA) allowed to compete in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and other specified senior events at 10. However, the number of authorised neutral athletes that can compete in international events is not restricted.

8. What is the name of the indigenous glucometer, which was developed with the assistance from Indian Council of Medical (ICMR)?

- [A] GlucoCheck [B] GluCheck
[C] SugarCheck [D] SuCheck ☒

✓ SuChek is a completely indigenous and affordable glucometer which is suitable for varied climatic conditions. It is validated as per International

standards and has been developed with financial assistance from Indian Council of Medical Research.

✓ An application called 'mDiabetes' has been launched for generating awareness about the non-communicable disease, promoting adherence to treatment and instructing healthy habits among the general public.

9. Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC), which was seen in news, is associated with which organisation?

- [A] Central Bureau of Investigation
[B] National Crime Records Bureau ☒
[C] National Investigation Agency
[D] Narcotics Control Bureau

✓ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 35th Inception Day on March 12, 2020.

✓ The Chief Guest of the occasion, Union Minister of State for Home Shri Nityanand Rai launched Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC).

✓ It is a centre for sharing information on dreadful crime and other issues related to inter-state coordination. The Minister also launched National Cybercrime Training Centre for professional e-Learning services on cyber crime investigation.

10. Which is the first Indian airline to partner with a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for setting up warehousing facility?

- [A] IndiGo [B] SpiceJet ☒
[C] Vistara [D] Jet Airways

✓ Gurgaon based India's air carrier SpiceJet recently announced its partnership with GMR Hyderabad Aviation SEZ Limited (GHASL) for setting up a warehousing, distribution and trading facility.

✓ GAHSL is a fully owned subsidiary of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. The facility is to be set up in the industrial park. This pact is expected to improve the operations of cargo industry in the country.

1. Union Cabinet approved the RoDTEP scheme, which is set to replace MEIS (Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme). What does R stand for, in the new RoDTEP scheme?

[A] Reduction

[B] Remission ☒

[C] Reception

[D] Remuneration

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP). It is a scheme for exporters to reimburse taxes and duties paid, like value added tax, coal cess and electricity duties which are not exempted or refunded under existing mechanism.
- ✓ Last year, the RoDTEP scheme was announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at an estimated cost of Rs 50,000 crore, to incentivise exporters. It will replace the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which will be phased out.

2. As per the recent notification of the Reserve Bank of India, what is the limit for urban cooperative banks to lend to a single borrower?

[A] 15% of tier-I capital ☒

[B] 10% of tier-I capital

[C] 20% of tier-I capital

[D] 25% of tier-I capital

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the single borrower and group exposure limit for urban cooperative banks to 15% and 25% of tier I capital, respectively. This reduction in limit is to mitigate concentration risks arising out of large loans.
- ✓ Existing norms allowed 15% for single borrowers and 40% to group exposures of a bank's total capital (tier I and tier II capital). The banks will have to bring their existing exposures to the new limits by 31 March 2023.

3. The Government has declared face masks and hand sanitizers as essential commodities by placing them under which act?

[A] The Consumer Protection Act, 2019

[B] The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 ☒

[C] The Epidemic Act, 1897

[D] Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016

- ✓ Union Consumer Affairs Ministry announced that the government has declared face masks and hand sanitizers as essential commodities up to June 30, 2020, by amending the schedule of the Essential Commodities Act 1955.
- ✓ This decision will enable the government and States / Union Territories to regulate the production, quality and distribution of masks and hand sanitizers. Hence these commodities would be made available to all common citizens in affordable prices without hoarding and black-marketing.

4. The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines for implementation of Ind AS by Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). What does Ind AS stand for?

[A] Indian Accounting Standards ☒

[B] International Accounting Standards

[C] Indian Asset Standards

[D] International Asset Standards

- ✓ The Reserve Bank on Friday issued regulatory guidelines for implementation of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) when they prepare their financial results from FY20.
- ✓ Indian Accounting Standards is the Accounting standard adopted by companies in India and they are issued under the supervision of Accounting Standards Board. The Ind AS have been formulated to converge our standards with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

5. In the Green Highways Project, what percentage of the total project cost are spent for highway plantation and its maintenance?

[A] 0.5%

[B] 1% ☒

[C] 1.5%

[D] 2%

- ✓ The Cabinet has recently approved building 780-km Green National Highway project at a cost of Rs 7,660

crore. It includes upgradation of various National Highways in four states – Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ The aim of the 'Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy' is to promote greening of Highway corridors with participation of the community. 1% of the total project cost of all highway projects will be kept aside for highway plantation and its maintenance.

6. As per the reconstruction scheme of Yes Bank, what is the bank's new authorised capital?

[A] Rs. 2,200 crores [B] Rs. 4,200 crores

[C] Rs. 6,200 crores ☒ [D] Rs. 8,200 crores

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved a reconstruction plan proposed by the RBI for providing financial assistance to the Yes Bank.
- ✓ Union Finance Minister announced that the authorised capital of Yes Bank has been increased to Rs 6,200 crore. Under the plan, SBI will infuse Rs 7,250 crore in the Yes bank and take 49 % equity.
- ✓ ICICI Bank shall invest Rs 1,000 crore and HDFC will infuse Rs 1,000 crore, while Axis Bank will invest up to Rs 600 crore. Federal Bank and Bandhan Bank will invest Rs.300 crore each.
- ✓ Former non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank Sunil Mehta is appointed as Yes bank's non-executive chairman.

7. The government has invoked Epidemic Disease Act to make the health advisories enforceable. When was the act enacted?

[A] 1897 ☒ [B] 1921 [C] 1947 [D] 1987

- ✓ All the states and union territories of India are advised by the government to invoke the provisions of Section 2 of the Epidemic Disease Act 1897.
- ✓ This Section empowers state governments/UTs to take special measures and formulate regulations to control any outbreak. The 123 year old act also includes the detention of people or any vessel that come from

international shores and are probable to spread the epidemic in the country.

- ✓ According to reports, the Act was invoked in 2018 to contain the spread of cholera in a village in Gujarat.

8. The 'BhoomiRashi' Portal, which was sometimes seen in news, comes under which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

[B] Ministry of Home Affairs

[C] Ministry of the Road Transport and Highways ☒

[D] Ministry of Earth Sciences

- ✓ The 'BhoomiRashi' Portal is a land acquisition portal launched in March 2018 by the Ministry of the Road Transport and Highways.
- ✓ It was seen in news as the Ministry announced that the portal has significantly accelerated the process of land acquisition for National Highways, by reducing the processing time to less than two weeks in a majority of cases. The acquisition process is made error-free and more transparent as it has been integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

9. India has appealed against the closure of Ambedkar House memorial. It is located in which country?

[A] France [B] United Kingdom ☒

[C] Russia [D] Japan

- ✓ India has appealed against the closure of Ambedkar House memorial to the United Kingdom government.
- ✓ Recently the UK accepted the proposal and announced that the memorial in north London will remain open to visitors. Earlier, the memorial faced closure due to a breach of planning norms for residential area.
- ✓ Dr. Ambedkar lived in 1921–22 when he was studying at London School of Economics in Camden. The home was bought by the Maharashtra government and it was renovated into a memorial.

10. Jaydev Unadkat is the captain of which regional cricket team that won its maiden Ranji trophy?

[A] Bengal cricket team

[B] Saurashtra cricket team ☒

[C] Mumbai cricket team

[D] Karnataka cricket team

- ✓ The Saurashtra cricket team led by an inspiring skipper Jaydev Unadkat recently won the maiden Ranji trophy of the team.
 - ✓ At the final clash on the fifth and final day at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, the team stopped Bengal cricket team from clinching the trophy.
 - ✓ There were several outstanding performers in the tournament including Arpita Vasavada, who scored a hundred in both semi-final and final, all-rounder Chirag Jani and Sheldon Jackson, who scored over 800 runs for the second successive season.
-

1. The flagship "Ganga Amantran Abhiyan" programme is conducted by which organisation?

[A] National Mission for Clean Ganga ☒

[B] Ganga Flood Control Mission

[C] National Water Development Agency

[D] Central Water Commission

✓ National Mission for Clean Ganga which functions under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation-Ministry of Jal Shakti organised its rafting and kayaking expedition programme called "Ganga Amantran Abhiyan".

✓ The exploratory open-water rafting programme was organised from Devprayag (Uttarakhand) to Gangasagar (West Bengal). The programme which was recently concluded.

2. Chameli Devi Jain Award is an annual award presented to outstanding performers of which field?

[A] Politics

[B] Sports

[C] Journalism ☒

[D] Social Service

✓ Chameli Devi Jain Award is an annual award which has been presented since 1981 for outstanding performers in the field of Journalism. Chameli Devi Jain was a legendary freedom fighter and community reformer.

✓ This year, the award for outstanding woman journalist was presented jointly to the Journalist of 'The Wire'-Arfa Khanum Sherwani and a freelance journalist named Rohini Mohan.

✓ Arfa was chosen for her reporting from Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh while Rohini was awarded for her investigative coverage on the NRC exercise in Assam.

3. Which state cabinet recently passed an ordinance which seeks to recover losses caused by damage to public property from rioters?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[C] Chhattisgarh

[D] Gujarat

✓ The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet recently passed the 'Recovery of Damage to Public Properties Ordinance 2020' for recovery of losses caused by damage to public property during violent protests.

✓ The decision which was taken in a cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath aims to prevent loss of public property in the state.

✓ The damages in the violence shall be recovered from the rioters, as per the ordinance. This comes at the backdrop of several violent protests in the state against Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

4. In context with the new recruitment system to be followed from 2021 for various government jobs, what does CET stand for?

[A] Common Eligibility Test ☒

[B] Common Entrance Test

[C] Central Eligibility Test

[D] Central Entrance Test

✓ As per the recent announcement from Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh, there shall be a common eligibility test (CET) from 2021 for applicants for jobs in railways, banks and lower levels of Central government jobs.

✓ The Central government is to set up an autonomous National Recruitment Agency to conduct this online test. The CET is expected to replace the first level tests conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

5. Sahitya Akademi award winner Puthussery Ramachandran, who passed away recently, was a poet and scholar in which language?

[A] Tamil

[B] Malayalam ☒

[C] Kannada

[D] Telugu

✓ Renowned poet and Malayalam scholar Puthussery Ramachandran recently passed away at the age of 91. He played an instrumental role in making Malayalam

getting recognised as a classical language by the union government in 2013.

- ✓ Ramachandran has won several prestigious awards, including the Sahitya Akademi award, the Ezhuthachchan Puraskaaram in 2015, Kerala Sahitya Akademi award among others. He was also associated with the Communist movement of Kerala.

6. 'Akshay Urja Portal' is an initiative of which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Power

[B] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

[C] Ministry of New & Renewable Energy ☒

[D] Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

- ✓ The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has recently launched its new website to make information about new schemes and projects presented in a better manner to the stakeholders.
- ✓ The newly launched website includes optimized user interface and facilitates better access from various devices including mobile phones. The website has additional portals such as 'Akshay Urja Portal' and 'India Renewable Idea Exchange' (IRIX).

7. According to the Gender Social Norms Index report, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), how many countries have achieved gender equality?

[A] Two [B] Three [C] Five [D] Zero ☒

- ✓ According to the Gender Social Norms Index report, released recently by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), no country in the world has achieved gender equality.
- ✓ The report also revealed that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030 and it would take 257 years to close the gender gap in economic opportunity. Pakistan tops a list of countries of people holding biased views against women.

8. In the video conference held between the leaders of SAARC member countries, which country proposed a "COVID-19 emergency fund"?

[A] Sri Lanka

[B] India ☒

[C] Pakistan

[D] Bangladesh

- ✓ A meeting of the heads of countries of the SAARC alliance was held via video conferencing recently. Last time the leaders had a meeting together in Nov. 2014.
- ✓ During the meeting, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi proposed a "COVID-19 emergency fund" to which India would provide \$10 million as an initial contribution. He offered the services of a rapid response team of doctors armed with testing kits.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also offered online training for health workers in SAARC countries for upgrading skills to tackle COVID-19.

9. Who was appointed as the fourth advisor to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu?

[A] Baseer Ahmed Khan ☒

[B] Muneer Khan

[C] Anandi Venkateswaran

[D] Vijay Kumar

- ✓ The Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, Baseer Ahmed Khan, a 2000-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the fourth advisor to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu.
- ✓ An order regarding the appointment was issued by Deputy Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs. The other three advisors are former CRPF DG Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, who was appointed as the advisor on January this year, IPS officer Farooq Khan and IAS officer K K Sharma.

10. An important personality in Ambedkar's historic conversion to Buddhism passed away recently. What is his name?

[A] Santu Mukherjee

[B] Sadanand Fulzele ☒

[C] H R Bhardwaj

[D] Potturi Venkateswar

- ✓ Sadanand Fulzele (91), the founder secretary of the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti, recently passed away. The federation looks after Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, the site of Babasaheb Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism in 1956.
 - ✓ Fulzele was a follower of Ambedkar's ideologies and was instrumental in building the stupa at the place. Fulzele was also the Deputy Mayor of Nagpur when the leader converted along with over 6 lakh followers.
-

1. Which city of Rajasthan is also called as the 'Marble city of India', that is recently connected with Indore under RCS-UDAN scheme?

[A] Kota [B] Bikaner

[C] Kishangarh ☒ [D] Lalgarh

✓ The city of Kishangarh in Ajmer district of Rajasthan is called the 'Marble city of India'. Recently the Ministry of Civil Aviation flagged off the thrice-weekly flight from Indore to Kishangarh, under the RCS-UDAN scheme.

✓ Star Air has been awarded the Indore-Kishangarh route during the UDAN 3 bidding process. With this route, the Civil Aviation Ministry has operationalised 268 routes under the UDAN scheme.

2. Which European country recently imposed a record 1.1 billion euro fine on Apple Company for its anti-competitive behaviour?

[A] Germany [B] France ☒

[C] Italy [D] Spain

✓ The competition authority of France recently slapped a record 1.1 billion euro (equivalent to \$1.2 billion) fine on US tech major Apple.

✓ The fine was imposed for the firm's anti-competitive behaviour towards its independent retail distributors. The country's authority announced that it found Apple allegedly used its economic power on its independent retail distributors.

3. Which country is set to create a \$4 billion anti-crisis fund to protect its economy from COVID-19 outbreak?

[A] India [B] Russia ☒

[C] United States of America [D] Pakistan

✓ The Prime Minister of Russia recently announced that the country will create a \$4 billion (300-billion rouble) anti-crisis fund with an aim of protecting its economy from the coronavirus attack.

✓ He also announced that Russia may miss its growth targets this year and international markets have been crashed by the impact of the virus.

✓ Huge drop in the price of Russia's main export, Oil has made its economy dip. The country is set to unveil new support measures would include tax breaks for tourism companies and airlines.

4. Which former Chief Justice of India has been nominated to Rajya Sabha?

[A] Ranjan Gogoi ☒

[B] Dipak Misra

[C] Jagdish Singh Khehar

[D] T. S. Thakur

✓ The former Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi has been nominated to Rajya Sabha by the President Ram Nath Kovind, as per the notification of the Home Ministry.

✓ The nomination is done to fill the vacancy arising due to retirement of one of the members. The maximum strength of Rajya Sabha is 250 members out of which 12 are nominated by the President of India. Gogoi was the 46th Chief Justice in India.

5. What is the share of Indian companies in Defence Ministry's contracts for procurement of defence equipment in 2019-20?

[A] 25.03 %

[B] 50.03 %

[C] 75.03 % ☒

[D] 90.03 %

✓ As per the recent information from the Union Defence Ministry, the share of Indian companies in contracts awarded by the Defence Ministry for procurement of defence equipment is 75.03% in 2019-20.

✓ The share has increased from 39.06 per cent in 2015-16 to 75.03% in 2019-20 as the Ministry tries to procure indigenously manufactured equipment to the maximum extent. In the last 5 years 158 contracts were signed with Indian vendors against 100 foreign contracts.

6. Ravinder Singh Dhillon has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of which Public Sector Undertaking?

[A] Power Finance Corporation ☒ [B] CIL

[C] NLC Ltd. [D] NTPC Ltd.

✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Ravinder Singh Dhillon as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited.

✓ It is a 'Navratna' PSU which functions under the aegis of Ministry of Power. Ravinder Singh Dhillon is currently serving as Director (Projects) in the same PSU.

7. The Central bank of which country slashed its benchmark interest rate to almost zero and announced to buy USD 700 billion in bonds?

[A] China [B] India

[C] United States ☒ [D] Japan

✓ The Central bank of the United States—the Federal Reserve has recently cut its benchmark interest rate to almost zero.

✓ The Fed Reserve also announced that it would buy USD 700 billion in bonds to ease the economic activities. The bank also said that it shall maintain this target range until the economy is on track to achieve its maximum employment and price stability goal.

8. Patil Puttappa, who recently passed away, was associated with which field?

[A] Sports [B] Journalism ☒

[C] Business [D] Research

✓ Veteran journalist Patil Puttappa (99) who was fondly known as 'Papu' has passed away recently. He was an ardent follower of Gandhian principles and a Khadi activist.

✓ He had received several prestigious awards including the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, T.S.R. Award, and

'Nadoja'. He had recently been presented the 'Basava Award' by the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

9. Which Indian institution has launched a re-skilling programme for women called 'Career Back 2 Women'?

[A] IIT Madras ☒ [B] IIT Mumbai

[C] IIT Ahmedabad [D] IIT Kharagpur

✓ The IIT Madras has recently launched a re-skilling programme for women called 'Career Back 2 Women'. The programme aims at offering 150 hrs of training to re-skill women who've taken a break from their career.

✓ The certification course comprises of artificial intelligence, machine learning, cyber security data science and big data. This programme is done through the Institute's Digital Skills Academy.

10. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose birth centenary was celebrated recently, was the Founder President of which country?

[A] Nepal [B] Bangladesh ☒

[C] Thailand [D] Afghanistan

✓ Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, also known as Bangabandhu was the Founder President of independent nation of Bangladesh. He led the movement against the Pakistani rulers in the then, East Pakistan, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

✓ His birth centenary was celebrated on March 17, this year in Bangladesh and across the world. The year long celebration has been named as 'Mujib Barsho'.

1. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a book titled, 'Invincible' based on which Former Union Defence Minister?

- [A] Arun Jaitley [B] Manohar Parrikar ☒
[C] George Fernandes [D] Jaswant Singh

- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid tribute to the late Goa Chief Minister and former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar ahead of his death anniversary.
- ✓ He also launched a book titled 'Invincible – A Tribute to Manohar Parrikar'. Manohar Parrikar was the CM of Goa passed away due to an illness and he was succeeded by Pramod Sawant as the next CM. He served as the Defence Minister of India from 2014 to 2017.

2. As per the recent notification from the Reserve Bank of India, 'PA's are to be regulated by the central bank. What does 'PA' stands for?

- [A] Payment Agency [B] Payment Aggregator ☒
[C] Payment Authority [D] Processing Authority

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it will regulate the entire activities of Payment Aggregators (PAs). Payment Aggregators enable the e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from the customers.
- ✓ As per the guidelines on regulation of PAs and Payment gateways, the existing PAs should attain a net-worth of Rs 15 crore by March 31, 2021 and a networth of Rs 25 crore on or before March 31, 2023. Thereafter the net-worth of Rs 25 crore shall be maintained at all times.

3. Who is the author of the recently released book titled 'My Encounters in Parliament'?

- [A] Bhalchandra Mungekar ☒ [B] Hamid Ansari
[C] Sitaram Yechury [D] D Raja

- ✓ Former Vice-President of India Hamid Ansari launched the book authored by Bhalchandra Mungekar, which was titled as "My Encounters in Parliament".

- ✓ The event was attended by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, CPI general secretary D Raja and CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

- ✓ Bhalchandra Mungekar is an Indian economist, Social worker and a former Rajya Sabha member. He is an ardent Ambekarite and an expert in agricultural economics. He has served in several important organisations including the Planning Commission.

4. In context with the recently passed Aircraft (amendment) Bill, 2020, how many regulatory institutions are to be converted into statutory bodies?

- [A] 3 ☒ [B] 4 [C] 5 [D] 6

- ✓ The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha. This bill seeks to amend Aircraft Act, 1934.
- ✓ It aims to convert three existing regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry into statutory bodies. The regulatory institutions, which are mentioned in the bill are DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) and AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau).

5. Which technological firm along with NASSCOM Foundation launched the 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign?

- [A] Google [B] Microsoft ☒
[C] Amazon [D] Apple

- ✓ Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation partnered to launch the 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign.
- ✓ The campaign aims at empowering people with disabilities with the technology required for better access to equal opportunities. The campaign invites applications from students, citizens and social organisations to build customised solutions that address challenges faced by people with disabilities.
- ✓ The ten best solutions will be provided mentoring support by Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation, along with financial grants.

6. Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani has been appointed as the Chairman of Tourism Development Corporation of which state?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Gujarat
[C] Andhra Pradesh ☒ [D] Rajasthan

✓ Former Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ashwani Lohani has been recently appointed as the Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC).

✓ This was announced in the order released by the Chief Secretary of the state and the appointment has been made for 1 year. He had earlier served in several similar positions including the Chairman of the Railway Board and CMD of the India Tourism Development Corp.

7. 'World Cities Summit' is a global biennial conference hosted by which country?

- [A] United Kingdom [B] Japan
[C] Singapore ☒ [D] United Arab Emirates

✓ 'World Cities Summit' is a global biennial conference hosted by Singapore. This year, World Cities Summit 2020 is scheduled to be held from July 5 to 9.

✓ The theme of this year's summit as announced by the Singapore government is 'Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World'. Leaders from several governments and industry experts discuss on challenges in climate change, social shifts and technological disruptions.

8. Adnan al-Zurfi was appointed as the new Prime minister of which country by its President Barham Salih?

- [A] Iran [B] Iraq ☒
[C] Israel [D] Oman

✓ The President of Iraq Barham Salih has appointed Adnan al-Zurfi as the countrys' new Prime Minister. This announcement has been provided amidst the months-long political crisis prevalent in Iraq.

✓ Within 30 days, Al-Zurfi has to form his cabinet which shall be put to a vote of confidence in Iraq's Parliament. Al-Zurfi would replace caretaker Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, who quit in December following wide-spread mass demonstrations against the government.

9. Which Indian state uses robots to spread awareness on COVID-19 among the public?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Telangana
[C] Kerala ☒ [D] Odisha

✓ Kerala has launched an initiative to use robots for creating awareness on COVID-19 among the public.

✓ Two robots have been built by a startup in Kerala called 'Asimov', under the Kerala Startup Mission, an initiative by the state government to promote startup firms. One wears a mask and distributes hand sanitisers, napkins, and masks to people while the other robot responds to queries. They are deployed in Kochi on a pilot basis.

10. The football coach Francisco Garcia, who has recently passed away after contracting coronavirus, belonged to which country?

- [A] United States [B] Spain ☒
[C] South Korea [D] Thailand

✓ Spanish football coach Francisco Garcia has recently passed away after contracting coronavirus, at the age of 21. He is also the youngest victim of the illness in the region.

✓ Garcia was serving as the manager of Atletico Portada Alta's youth team and he was tested positive for COVID-19 last week. During his treatment, it was found out that he was also suffering from leukaemia. All major football competitions like have been suspended due to coronavirus outbreak.

1. Which state announced a ₹20,000 crore economic package to deal with the coronavirus outbreak?
- [A] Maharashtra [B] Kerala ☒
- [C] Uttar Pradesh [D] Telangana
- ✓ The Kerala state government announced a ₹20,000 crore economic package to deal with the coronavirus outbreak. This package includes funds to clear dues which the govt., owes individuals and institutions, providing consumer loans, disbursing welfare pension of 2 months in advance and a health package.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also announced free ration for all of this month, where everyone in the state will be given free food grain up to 10 kg through ration shops.
2. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of 83 Tejas fighter aircrafts, manufactured by which organisation?
- [A] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited ☒
- [B] Bharat Electronics Limited
- [C] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- [D] Ordnance Factory Board
- ✓ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of 83 Tejas fighter aircrafts, which are manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- ✓ The Lite Combat Aircraft Tejas is indigenously designed by Aircraft Development Agency under the Defence Research and Development Organisation. This order of 83 air-crafts is in addition to the previous order of 43 air-crafts approved earlier.
3. Which state government removed reservation in promotions for SC/ST employees?
- [A] Uttarakhand ☒ [B] Bihar
- [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The state government of Uttarakhand issued orders to remove reservation in promotions for SC/ST employees.
- ✓ In the month of Feb.2020, the Supreme Court stated that the govt is not bound to make reservations and claiming reservation in promotions is not a fundamental right. Now Uttarakhand govt., has implemented government order which bans reservation in promotion.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is conducting an OMO for purchase of Rs 10,000 crore worth government securities. What does OMO stand for?
- [A] Open Money Operations
- [B] Open Market Operations ☒
- [C] Overview of Market Operations
- [D] Overview of Money Operations
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is conducting Open Market Operations (OMO) in the form of purchase of Rs 10,000 crore worth government securities.
- ✓ This important step of the central bank has been announced at the backdrop of the increased risks of COVID-19 pandemic. The operation would increase the liquidity in the Indian economy and would help the financial market segments which are affected by the economic risks.
5. Which social media platform launched 'Coronavirus Information Hub' in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and UNDP?
- [A] Twitter [B] WhatsApp ☒
- [C] Instagram [D] Telegram
- ✓ Facebook-owned WhatsApp has recently announced the global launch of "WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub" in partnership with the World Health Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Program.
- ✓ It has also contributed \$1m to the Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), to

enhance the fact-checking network to curb fake news and rumours around coronavirus.

6. Which multi-national bank has announced a USD 6.5 billion package for its member countries to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

[B] African Development Bank

[C] Asian Development Bank ☒

[D] Inter-American Development Bank

✓ Manila-based Asian Development Bank recently announced an initial package of \$6.5 billion (₹48,230 crore) to cater the immediate needs of its developing member countries in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

✓ As per the announcement of the Development bank, out of the total package, \$3.6 billion will be made available to governments for addressing health and economic consequences of the pandemic and \$1.6 billion for micro, small & medium enterprises, domestic & regional trade.

7. Roger Mayweather, who recently passed away, was a World Champion and trainer in which sports?

[A] Weight Lifting

[B] Boxing ☒

[C] Wrestling

[D] Chess

✓ Roger Mayweather (58) who passed away recently was a 2 time world champion turned trainer in boxing. He was also the uncle of the boxing star Floyd Mayweather.

✓ Roger Mayweather had won world titles at super feather-weight and super lite-weight categories. During his 20 year boxing career, he gained 59 triumphs.

8. The 'COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force', unveiled by the Prime Minister of India, is to be headed by which Union minister?

[A] Piyush Goyal

[B] Harsh Vardhan

[C] Nirmala Sitharaman ☒

[D] Rajnath Singh

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his public address, announced the setting up of a COVID-19 economic response task force. The task force is to be headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to measure the economic impact of the pandemic and take appropriate steps.

✓ The Finance Minister is set to meet the Ministers of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, civil aviation, tourism and MSME, for getting feedback and assessing the economic impact of COVID-19.

9. The Defence Ministry signed an 880-crore contract for procurement of 16,479 light machine guns (LMGs) from which country?

[A] United States

[B] Israel ☒

[C] France

[D] Russia

✓ The Defence Ministry has recently signed an 880-crore contract with Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) for procurement of 16,479 light machine guns (LMGs).

✓ According to the contract which was signed with the Israel-based arms industry company, it would provide Negev 7.62 x 51 mm light machine guns to the Indian armed forces. This type of LMG is a combat proven weapon and used by several countries around the globe at present.

10. Which financial institution is set to launch 'Swavalamban Express' Train to promote entrepreneurship?

[A] SIDBI ☒

[B] NABARD

[C] NHB

[D] EXIM

✓ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) said that it will launch Swavalamban Express Train on June 5 this year for budding entrepreneurs.

✓ The Swavalamban Express will travel to 11 cities covering 7,000 km in 15 days. This is a part of its umbrella mission Swavalamban. Under this mission, youths will board the train with an idea and they shall get down with effective business plan after a series of experimental learning.

1. Which SAARC member country pledged \$1 million to SAARC Coronavirus Emergency Fund?

- [A] Afghanistan ☒ [B] Bangladesh
[C] Sri Lanka [D] Pakistan

✓ Afghanistan recently pledged \$1 million contribution to the SAARC Corona Emergency Fund, which was proposed by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India proposed an initial contribution of \$10 million to tackle the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus.

✓ After the announcement, Nepal and Bhutan committed nearly \$1 million & \$100,000 respectively to the SAARC Corona Emergency Fund. Maldives pledged \$0.2 million to the fund.

2. The Government of India launched the 'MyGov Corona Helpdesk' to contain the spread of misinformation on coronavirus on which social media platform?

- [A] Facebook [B] Twitter
[C] WhatsApp ☒ [D] Instagram

✓ In order to curb the spread of misinformation and fake news on coronavirus and to reduce the panic among the citizens regarding the COVID-19, the Government of India has launched an official chatbot on the social media platform WhatsApp.

✓ This Chatbot is named 'MyGov Corona Helpdesk' and is avail to all WhatsApp users. User can save the number (9013151515) announced and start using the chatbot.

3. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled an updated manual DPP-2020. What does DPP stand for?

- [A] Direct Procurement Procedure
[B] Direct Promotion Proposal
[C] Defence Procurement Procedure ☒
[D] Defence Promotion Proposal

✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled an updated manual DPP-2020 (Defence Procurement Procedure-2020).

✓ For the last 18 years, this DPP is the procurement manual that has been used for governing the purchase of weapons and equipment from the defence capital budget. The 2020 draft version aims to promote more indigenous content in defence equipment which are manufactured in India.

4. According to the World Happiness Report 2020, which is the happiest country in the world?

- [A] United States [B] Norway
[C] Finland ☒ [D] Switzerland

✓ The World Happiness Report is published by the United Nation's Sustainable Development Solutions Network. This year, the report has ranked Finland as the happiest country for the third time in a row.

✓ People in 156 countries were asked to evaluate their own levels of happiness while measures like GDP, social support, personal freedom and levels of corruption were also considered to arrive at a score. This year, the rankings are based on data collected in 2017-2019. India is ranked 144 in the list of 156 countries.

5. Satyarup Siddhanta, who was sometimes seen in news recently, is associated with which field?

- [A] Space Research [B] Mountaineering ☒
[C] Sports [D] Business

✓ Bengaluru based mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta was seen in news recently as he has been nominated for the Limca Book of World Records for becoming the first Indian to climb the highest volcanoes of all 7 continents.

✓ He had also been named in the Guinness Book of World Records. He achieved the feat in 2019 and the acknowledgement came recently. He scaled the highest volcano of Antarctica – Mt Sidley as he completes his 7 summits and Volcanic 7 summits. He also holds a world record for being the world's youngest to summit the highest mountains of each continent.

6. What is the name of the initiative launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) to promote entrepreneurship among tribal people?

- [A] Tech for Tribals ☒ [B] Tribal Leader
[C] Start your business [D] Tribal Entrepreneur

✓ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has launched an initiative called 'Tech for Tribals' in partnership with Institutes of National Importance to promote entrepreneurship among tribal people.

✓ The initiative, which is supported by Ministry of MSME, aims to impart entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers who are enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana. The programme will be conducted for 30 days.

7. 'RAISE 2020', which was seen in news, is the first global Artificial Intelligence Summit of which country?

- [A] France [B] United States
[C] India ☒ [D] United Arab Emirates

✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is to organise the first Global AI Summit in India (RAISE 2020). This was in news recently, as the AI summit was postponed to October 5–6, 2020 due to the rising number of cases of COVID-19.

✓ It was initially scheduled to be held in the month of April. The summit is to be attended by academics, AI start-ups and big tech firms.

8. Former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi and Ananth Narayan have been appointed on the board of which Indian bank?

- [A] State Bank of India [B] Punjab National Bank
[C] Yes Bank ☒ [D] Bank of Baroda

✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi and former banker Ananth Narayan on the board of Yes Bank.

✓ They have been appointed as Additional directors on the board for two years. Ananth Narayan was serving as the regional head of financial markets in the Standard Chartered Bank. Prashant Kumar has been appointed Chief Executive of Yes Bank.

9. On which date, the World Poetry Day is celebrated across the world annually?

- [A] March 15 [B] March 19
[C] March 21 ☒ [D] March 23

✓ World Poetry Day is celebrated on March 21 every year across the world. During the UNESCO's session held in Paris, in 1999, it was decided that 21 March shall be celebrated as World Poetry Day.

✓ One of the prime objectives of the Poetry Day is to support linguistic diversity through poetry and to provide opportunity to the endangered languages to be heard within their communities.

10. When is the International Day of Happiness celebrated all over the world?

- [A] March 20 ☒ [B] March 21
[C] March 22 [D] March 23

✓ The International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20 all over the world. The General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness in 2012.

✓ The resolution to the United Nations was initiated by Bhutan, the country which adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.

1. What is the theme of the 'International Day of Forests 2020'?

- [A] Forests and Biodiversity ☒ [B] Forests and Humans
[C] Sustainable Forests [D] Forests save us

- ✓ The UN General Assembly declared 21 March as the International Day of Forests in 2012. UN Forum on Forests and the Food & Agriculture Organization are the main organisers of the Forest Day.
- ✓ The Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of all types of forests. The theme for 2020 is, "Forests and Biodiversity".

2. Which state government approved distilleries to manufacture and supply sanitisers temporarily, amidst the coronavirus outbreak?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Maharashtra
[C] Punjab ☒ [D] Kerala

- ✓ The Punjab govt granted permission to distilleries to manufacture and supply sanitisers in wake of the rise in coronavirus cases in the state.
- ✓ Punjab Food and Drug administration Commissioner recently announced that the permission for a period of 10 days and has been granted purely on a temporary basis. The manufacturers shall supply the sanitisers to government institutions in the state of Punjab only.

3. What is the theme of the 'World Down Syndrome Day 2020'?

- [A] Leaving no one behind [B] We decide ☒
[C] We and You [D] together we can

- ✓ World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on March 21 every year, across the world. The United Nations General Assembly declared the day in the year 2011. Down syndrome occurs when a person has an extra partial or whole copy of chromosome 21.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise public awareness of Down syndrome. On World Down Syndrome Day 2020, the

forum–Down Syndrome International focuses on the theme "We Decide".

4. Which country successfully conducted a test-flight of a hypersonic missile after Russia?

- [A] United States ☒ [B] France
[C] South Korea [D] Israel

- ✓ The United States announced that it has successfully tested a hypersonic missile on March 20, 2020. This is a follow-up exercise of the first joint US Army and Navy flight experiment conducted in 2017.
- ✓ The hypersonic missile can travel faster than the current nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles. They travel at low altitudes and switch direction in flight. It is harder to track and intercept them.

5. The Border Roads Organisation opened a 360 feet long suspension bridge over which river?

- [A] Teesta ☒ [B] Dibang
[C] Manas [D] Lohit

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation opened a 360 feet long suspension bridge over the Teesta River near Chungthang town in North Sikkim.
- ✓ Under Project Swastik the project of construction of the bridge commenced in October 2019 and completed it in January 2020. The bridge is expected to promote tourism in the state. It also enables the movement of logistics for the Armed Forces easier.

6. Union Cabinet has approved EMC 2.0 Scheme. The scheme is associated with which field?

- [A] Ease of Doing Business
[B] Electronics Manufacturing ☒
[C] Electricity Generation
[D] Election Management

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has recently approved financial assistance to the

Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC2.0) Scheme.

- ✓ The scheme aims at developing world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters.
- ✓ The scheme seeks to set up Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centers (CFCs). The total outlay of the EMC 2.0 Scheme is Rs.3, 762.25 cr.

7. P.K. Banerjee, who recently passed away, was a legendary personality associated with which sports?

- [A] Cricket [B] Football ☒
[C] Hockey [D] Boxing

- ✓ Legendary India footballer P.K. Banerjee (83) recently passed away. He was a member of the 1962 Asian Games gold medal winning India football team.
- ✓ The veteran football player scored 65 international goals in a total of 84 appearances for the national team. The international governing body of Football game, FIFA awarded him the Centennial Order of Merit in 2004.

8. Which state recently announced that the sanitary personnel employed by urban and rural civic bodies shall be called 'cleanliness workers'?

- [A] Tamil Nadu ☒ [B] Kerala
[C] Karnataka [D] Maharashtra

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K Palaniswami announced in the Assembly that 64,583 sanitary personnel employed by urban and rural civic bodies in the State shall be called 'cleanliness workers'.
- ✓ This announcement was made to honour their work in maintaining public health. The state government is already implementing several welfare measures for the workers including building residences, periodic health check-ups, employment camps and skill development for their children.

9. When is, 'World Sparrow Day' celebrated every year?

- [A] March 15 [B] March 19
[C] March 20 ☒ [D] March 23

- ✓ The World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20 to highlight the declining population of the bird due to modern infrastructure, pollution by micro-wave towers and pesticides and lesser green spaces.
- ✓ It is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organizations across the world.

10. Which space agency is set to send astronauts to the International Space Station for the first time in May 2020?

- [A] NASA [B] ISRO
[C] SpaceX ☒ [D] European Space Agency

- ✓ America-based Private space agency owned by Elon Musk, SpaceX will send astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) for the first time in May.
- ✓ This was announced by NASA, which also revealed that the first crewed launch from the United States to the ISS platform since 2011 is to be sent through SpaceX.
- ✓ The space company will launch a Falcon 9 rocket to transport NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the station.

1. Who is the head of the high level committee of medical experts constituted by the Government of India for prevention & control of COVID-19?

- [A] Dr V K Paul ☒ [B] Amitabh Kant
[C] Rajiv Kumar [D] Harsh Vardhan

- ✓ The Government of India has recently constituted a high-level committee of medical experts for prevention & control of COVID-19. The committee is headed by Dr V K Paul, a member of the India think tank NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The 21 member high level technical committee comprises of noted public health experts to suggest measures on the prevention and control actions. Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan and Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are the Co – Chairpersons of the committee.

2. What is the theme of the 'World Water Day' observed annually across the world?

- [A] Sustainable Water [B] Water & Climate Change ☒
[C] Clean Water for All [D] Water and Women

- ✓ World Water Day is observed every year on March 22, across the world since the year 1993. The theme of the World Water Day this year is 'Water & Climate Change'.
- ✓ In 1992, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Water Day from the year 1993. The Day focuses on the importance of freshwater and creates awareness of the people who still live without access to safe water.

3. Lok Sabha has passed the Finance Bill by voice vote. Which article of the Indian constitution defines the Money bill, an important type of Finance Bill?

- [A] Article 102 [B] Article 110 ☒
[C] Article 119 [D] Article 126

- ✓ As per the Lok Sabha's Rules of Procedure, A Finance Bill is a bill introduced every year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government for the following financial year. It also includes a bill to give effect to supplementary financial proposals for any period.

- ✓ Recently the Lok Sabha has passed the Finance Bill by voice vote without discussion. An important type of Finance Bill is called Money Bill, which is defined by the Article 110 of Indian constitution.

4. Which state commemorates the Martyr's Day on March 23 as the 'Youth Empowerment Day'?

- [A] Odisha [B] Punjab ☒
[C] Rajasthan [D] Gujarat

- ✓ On 23 March 1931, young Indian freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged to death at Lahore in today's Pakistan.
- ✓ This day is observed as Martyr's Day throughout the nation. The state government of Punjab has been commemorating the Martyrs Day, which falls on March 23, as the 'Youth Empowerment Day'. January 30, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is also observed as Martyr's day in India.

5. Which SAARC member country has committed 5 Million US dollars to COVID-19 SAARC emergency fund?

- [A] Maldives [B] Afghanistan
[C] Sri Lanka ☒ [D] Bhutan

- ✓ Recently, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has pledged 5 Million US dollars to the COVID-19 SAARC Emergency fund, which was proposed by PM Narendra Modi. This Emergency Fund will as a security blanket for the SAARC countries, which can be used by the countries for dealing with issues related to COVID-19.

6. The Birth Anniversary of one of the founders of Congress Socialist Party was recently observed on March 23. What is the name of the leader?

- [A] Dr Ram Manohar Lohia ☒ [B] Narendra Dev
[C] Jayaprakash Narayan [D] Minoo Masani

- ✓ The birth anniversary of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, was recently observed on March 23. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to the leader.

- ✓ Ram Manohar Lohia was born on 23 March 1910 and was one of the founders of the Congress Socialist Party. He was also the editor of the Congress Socialist journal. He had also as the secretary of the Foreign Department of the All India Congress Committee (A.I.C.C).

7. Which Indian city has deployed drones to sanitize its region against the coronavirus outbreak by sprinkling chemicals?

- [A] Chennai [B] Cochin
[C] Indore ☒ [D] Nagpur

- ✓ The city of Indore of Madhya Pradesh has become the first city in the country to deploy drones to sanitize city areas against the coronavirus outbreak by sprinkling chemicals. The Municipal Corporation of Indore has hired two drones for sprinkling sanitising chemicals.
- ✓ Public places like vegetables markets and streets of the city are being disinfected by spraying. The chemicals are selected such that they are not harmful to the people.

8. What is the theme of the World Meteorological Day 2020, celebrated across the world?

- [A] Climate and Water ☒
[B] The Sun, the Earth and the Weather
[C] Every Drop Counts
[D] Climate Change

- ✓ World Meteorological Day is celebrated on 23rd March of every year, which commemorates the inception of the Convention which established the World Meteorological Organization on the same day in 1950.
- ✓ Since 1961, the Geneva headquartered World Meteorological Organization has been celebrating World Meteorological Day with a unique theme. "Climate and Water" is the theme of this year's World Meteorological Day.

9. SDMC recently launched a website for information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a Disaster Management agency of which bloc?

- [A] BIMSTEC [B] SAARC ☒
[C] ASEAN [D] OPEC

- ✓ The SAARC Disaster Management Centre has recently launched a website for information related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.
- ✓ The website shows the number of coronavirus cases in the SAARC member states with live updates on the count of active cases. This initiative was earlier proposed by PM Narendra Modi, during the recent video conference with the leaders SAARC member nations.

10. Which is the first country to withdraw from Tokyo Olympics over coronavirus fears?

- [A] Italy [B] Canada ☒
[C] Germany [D] India

- ✓ Canada became the first major country to pull out of the Tokyo Olympics over coronavirus fears. Australia has also directed its athletes to prepare for the 2021 games, as it could not be held this year.
- ✓ Earlier, the PM of Japan Shinzo Abe has announced for the first time that the Olympic Games might get postponed. The International Olympic Committee is expected to decide about the schedule of the games soon, which had been planned to commence from July 24 this year.

1. What is the theme of the World Tuberculosis Day, 2020?

- [A] Let's win it [B] It's Time ☒
[C] Leaving no one behind [D] Health for All

- ✓ Every year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) commemorates World TB Day on March 24, to raise awareness among the general public about the disease.
- ✓ On the same day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB. This year, the theme of the World TB Day is "It's Time", which highlights the importance of time.

2. Which drug is recommended by the National Task Force constituted by Indian Council of Medical Research for high-risk cases infected by coronavirus?

- [A] Hydroxy-chloroquine ☒ [B] Chloroquine
[C] Sulfasalazine [D] Azathioprine

- ✓ The national task force for COVID-19 constituted by Indian Council for Medical Research has recommended hydroxy-chloroquine as a preventive drug for high-risk cases, who are infected by coronavirus.
- ✓ The medication should be given to the asymptomatic healthcare workers, who are under high risk by serving the infected patients. The protocol recommended by the National Task Force is approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DGI) for use in emergency situations.

3. Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis are the recipients of which prestigious award?

- [A] Booker Prize [B] Abel Prize ☒
[C] Pulitzer Prize [D] Golden Globe

- ✓ Hillel Furstenberg of Israel and Russian-American Gregory Margulis are the recipients of the prestigious Abel Prize for the year 2020, one of the highest awards in the field of Mathematics.
- ✓ The two mathematicians were selected for introducing the use of methods from probability and dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics.

4. Which Indian film director won the IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020 at the '8th India International Film Tourism Conclave'?

- [A] Aditya Dhar [B] Zoya Akhtar ☒
[C] Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra [D] Ayan Mukerji

- ✓ Bollywood film director Zoya Akhtar was presented the IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020, at the Asia's largest film tourism event, 8th India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC), held recently in Mumbai.
- ✓ The Director was selected for her outstanding contribution to the world tourism through her films which were shot in Spain and Turkey.

5. Sumant Kathpalia was recently appointed as the Chief Executive of which bank?

- [A] ICICI Bank [B] HDFC Bank
[C] IndusInd Bank ☒ [D] Kotak Mahindra Bank

- ✓ Indian private sector lender IndusInd Bank recently announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as the Chief executive.
- ✓ Sumant Kathpalia is currently serving as the head of Consumer banking business of the bank. He is to replace the incumbent Chief Executive Romesh Sobti and to take charge from 24 March, 2020 for three years.

6. What is the rank of India in the Heritage Foundation Index of Economic Freedom 2020?

- [A] 87 [B] 95 [C] 103 [D] 120 ☒

- ✓ America based Heritage Foundation released its Index of Economic Freedom last week. Singapore emerged as the top nation in the index and overtook Hong Kong as the world's most independent and free economy.
- ✓ Singapore achieved this feat for the first time since 1995, the report was first published. Hong Kong has ever been placed at the top since then. India is ranked in 120th position in the report and It improved its score by 1.3 points from 2019 to score 56.5 in 2020

7. Which Indian author won the 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award of PEN America?

- [A] Ruchika Tomar ☒ [B] Madhuri Vijay
[C] Arundhati Roy [D] Jhumpa Lahiri

✓ Debut novelist Ruchika Tomar has been selected as the winner of the 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel 'A Prayer for Travelers'. PEN America was founded in 1922, in New York City.

✓ The prize is backed by the Hemingway family and the Ernest Hemingway Foundation. The PEN/Hemingway Award includes a \$25,000 prize, which is proposed to allow significant time and resources to pursue a subsequent work of fiction.

8. Which Indian bank has launched a prepaid card called 'Enkasu', which can be used both online and offline?

- [A] City Union Bank
[B] Karur Vysya Bank ☒
[C] Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank
[D] Tamil Nadu Grama Bank

✓ Tamil Nadu based Karur Vysya Bank has launched a prepaid card called 'Enkasu', which can be used both online and offline, in Karur district of the state. The card aims to reduce the usage of cash in the district of Karur.

✓ The cardholder can make tap & go payments for all small purchases to merchants for a minimum of Re. 1/-. The card can be recharged through their mobile App 'DLite', UPI, NEFT or through any of their branches. The cards are given to both customers and non-customers after KYC verification.

9. The first COVID-19 dedicated hospital of India is set up in which city?

- [A] Mumbai ☒ [B] Pune
[C] Theni [D] Chennai

✓ Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital along with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), has set up a dedicated COVID-19 centre at Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai. The 100 bedded hospital will serve patients, who are checked positive for COVID-19.

✓ It is fully funded by Reliance Foundation. It also includes a negative pressure room which prevents cross - contamination and controls infection.

10. A ₹148 crore project of Electric Vehicle Park and ₹500 crore project of Data Centre Park are the recent initiatives of which state/UT?

- [A] Tamil Nadu ☒ [B] West Bengal
[C] Puducherry [D] New Delhi

✓ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has proposed two schemes including ₹148 crore project of Electric Vehicle Park and ₹500 crore project of Data Centre Park.

✓ The projects are aimed at attracting new investments into Tamil Nadu. As per his announcement in the Assembly, the electric vehicle park will be set up at Manalur SIPCOT Industrial Estate near Chennai and the data centre park over a 150 acre near Sriperumbudur.

✓ He also announced that a start-up and innovation city with all infrastructure facilities will be established near Chennai, at a cost of ₹350 crore to attract innovative and knowledge based firms.

1. 'Mo Jeeban (My Life)' is an initiative of which Indian state to advice people to stay indoors amid the COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Odisha ☒

[C] Telangana

[D] Bihar

✓ Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik launched 'Mo Jeeban' programme and advised people to take a pledge for staying indoors to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

✓ The Chief Minister asked people to take oaths of staying indoors and send him those videos. He also asked the people to paste a sticker on the gate of their houses to show their determination to follow this direction.

2. 'Mayiladuthurai' has been created as the 38th district of which Indian state?

[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] Kerala

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Himachal Pradesh

✓ The CM of Tamil Nadu recently announced the creation of a new district 'Mayiladuthurai', for administrative convenience, by bifurcating Nagapattinam district.

✓ This is the 38th district of the state. Nagapattinam district is in the Cauvery delta region of Tamil Nadu. Last year, the Tamil Nadu government announced five new districts. Amid coronavirus pandemic, the Chief Minister announced Rs 1,000 cash assistance for ration card holders to compensate for livelihood loss.

3. Whose death anniversary is celebrated as the 'International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims'?

[A] Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero ☒ [B] Rutilio

[C] Mandela

[D] Lincoln

✓ The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed every year on 24 March, by the United Nations.

✓ This day pays tribute to Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero of El-Salvador, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Óscar Romero was actively involved in criticising violations of the human rights. He also condemned the practices of social injustice and assassinations. He was declared 'Saint' by Pope Francis in 2018.

4. 'Clara', an Artificial Intelligence (AI) bot, which helps to self-check COVID-19, is introduced by which country?

[A] United States ☒

[B] China

[C] Russia

[D] Italy

✓ The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) bot, called 'Clara' to assist people in finding the potential symptoms of COVID-19.

✓ The CDC has collaborated with CDC Foundation and Healthcare Bot service of Microsoft Azure to develop the self-checking bot Clara. It is currently available only in the United States on the CDC website. It provides information about the disease, suggests the course of action and helps to handle the illness at home.

5. As per the recent announcement from the Ministry of Finance to support economy, what is the deadline of filing income-tax return for the year 2018-19?

[A] April 30, 2020

[B] May 31, 2020

[C] June 30, 2020 ☒

[D] August 31, 2020

✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently announced various relief measures amid lock-down of the country due to coronavirus scare.

✓ As per the measures, the deadline for filing belated income tax return (ITR) for the financial year 2018-19 and for filing Goods and Services Tax returns for March, April and May has been extended to June 30, 2020.

✓ She also announced waiver of minimum balance maintenance charge and ATM withdrawal charge for next three months. Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme has been extended from April 1 to June 30.

6. The 2024 Summer Olympics is scheduled to be held in which city?

[A] Beijing

[B] Paris ☒

[C] London

[D] Los Angeles

✓ During the International Olympic Committee's session in Peru, Paris was selected as the host of 2024 Summer Olympics. It also simultaneously selected Los Angeles to host the games in 2028.

✓ Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which was scheduled for July 24–Aug.9, has been postponed and would be held before the summer of 2021, as per the recent announcement from the IOC. Paris Olympics organisers notified that this delay will not affect the 2024 games.

7. Sameer Aggarwal has been appointed as the Chief Executive officer of the Indian arm of which company?

[A] Amazon

[B] Walmart ☒

[C] Apple

[D] Samsung

✓ The Indian arm of then US based retailer Walmart recently announced the appointment of Sameer Aggarwal as the CEO of its Best Price Modern Wholesale stores in India. Sameer Aggarwal is promoted as CEO and will replace Krish Iyer, who is to retire from the top post. Krish Iyer will continue to serve as the advisor to Best Price, Walmart India.

✓ Sameer had joined Walmart as executive Vice president in 2018 and was made the Deputy CEO in January 2020.

8. Which country, that holds the presidency of G20 bloc, is to chair an emergency virtual summit of G20 leaders?

[A] Germany

[B] Saudi Arabia ☒

[C] Italy

[D] France

✓ The King of Saudi Arabia Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is set to chair an emergency virtual summit of G20 leaders, to accelerate the response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

✓ At present, Saudi Arabia holds the G20 presidency and it called for the Virtual Leaders' summit to be held on March 26. This is the 1st meeting of the G20 leaders after the world has been affected by the outbreak COVID-19.

9. MACS 4028 is a recently developed, biofortified high-protein variety of which crop?

[A] Paddy

[B] Wheat ☒

[C] Maize

[D] Finger Millet

✓ Scientists at Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, which is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, have developed a biofortified high-protein wheat variety MACS 4028.

✓ The development of the crop was published in the Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding. It is a semi-dwarf variety which exhibits a higher yielding ability of 19.3 quintals per hectare. It is claimed to be resistant to several pests & diseases unlike the normal wheat.

10. According to a recent study, the glaciers of which India state are losing mass faster than other parts of the Himalayas?

[A] Uttarakhand

[B] Sikkim ☒

[C] Arunachal Pradesh

[D] Assam

✓ The Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun have recently found that glaciers in Sikkim are melting at a higher magnitude than other Himalayan regions.

✓ The Institute is an autonomous research institute for the study of Geology of the Himalayas, under the Department of Science and Technology.

✓ The study, which has been published in Science of the Total Environment, revealed that glaciers in Sikkim have deglaciated at a higher magnitude from 1991 to 2015. They also revealed that small-sized glaciers in Sikkim are disappearing and larger glaciers are thinning due to climate change.

1. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on which date?

[A] March 23

[B] March 25 ☒

[C] March 27

[D] March 29

- ✓ International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on March 25 every year, across the world. The day honours those who suffered and died due to brutal slavery system. It also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.

- ✓ The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is also observed on March 25. It marks the anniversary of the abduction of a former journalist named Alec Collett, who worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

2. As per the announcement from the CRISIL rating agency, what is their estimate on growth rate of India for 2020–21?

[A] 4.5%

[B] 3.5% ☒

[C] 3%

[D] 2.5%

- ✓ The CRISIL rating agency recently announced its estimate on growth rate of India for 2020–21 as 3.5 %. The agency had earlier projected the growth rate of India to be 5.2 % for the next financial year.
- ✓ The recent pandemic outbreak in India and the resulting 21 day consequent lockdown are the main reasons for the agency to slash the growth rate. It also announced that the dip in growth will be concentrated in the 1st half of the next fiscal whereas the 2nd half would see a mild recovery.

3. What is the current Cash Reserve Ratio, as per the recent announcement from the Reserve Bank of India?

[A] 4%

[B] 3.75%

[C] 3.5%

[D] 3% ☒

- ✓ The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India recently made an announcement after the Monetary Policy committee (MPC) meeting, to tackle the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

- ✓ RBI had advanced the MPC meeting due on March 31–April 3 to March 24–27. It has announced that the Cash Reserve Ratio has been decreased 100 bps to 3 % and the repo rate has been decreased to 4.4 %.

- ✓ All commercial banks are permitted to allow a 3-month moratorium on repayment of term loan EMIs.

4. The Ministry of Health through a special amendment has categorised hydroxychloroquine (HCQS) under which schedule of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules?

[A] Schedule G1

[B] Schedule H1 ☒

[C] Schedule J1

[D] Schedule K1

- ✓ Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, those drugs classified under Schedule H1 should not be sold over the counter. The schedule was introduced in the year 2013.
- ✓ Earlier, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommended the drug for front line medical workers and high risk-people who were in contact with the coronavirus infected patient. As common people rushed to buy this medicine in large numbers, there were reports of hoarding and shortage of this medicine.

5. Which ratings agency has decreased India's growth in 2020 to 2.5%, as per its Global Macro Outlook 2020–21 report?

[A] CRISIL

[B] S&P

[C] Moody's Investors Service ☒

[D] ICRA

- ✓ Ratings Agency Moody's Investors Service has slashed India's 2020 growth forecast to 2.5% within three weeks of its previous downgrade to 5.3%.
- ✓ According to the Global Macro Outlook 2020–21 recently released by Moody's, the 21-day lockdown announced by the Indian Prime Minister will result in a sharp loss in incomes. Earlier it had reduced the growth rate to 5.3% from 5.4%.

6. In the relief package announced by the centre, the women self-help groups (SHGs) will be given collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh under which scheme?

[A] Deen Dayal National Livelihood Mission ☒

[B] MUDRA Scheme

[C] Gram Swaraj Yojana

[D] Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

- ✓ The Union Finance Minister has recently announced a relief package for the poor & vulnerable people amid the 21 day lockdown of the country announced by the PM.
- ✓ Among the relief measures, women self-help groups (SHGs) will be provided collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh earlier, under the Deen Dayal National Livelihood Mission. This step is expected to impact 7 crore members through 63 lakh SHGs.

7. In the G20's 1st virtual summit, what is the stimulus package the member countries pledged to infuse into the global economy?

[A] \$1 trillion

[B] \$2 trillion

[C] \$5 trillion ☒

[D] \$10 trillion

- ✓ The G20's 1st ever virtual summit, chaired by Saudi Arabia, was recently held through video conferencing. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi also attended the virtual meeting.
- ✓ Leaders of the G20 major economies pledged to restore global growth and infuse over \$5 trillion into the global economy. The countries also vowed to take necessary steps to minimize the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Which organisation has launched a campaign called 'StayHomeIndiaWithBooks', to encourage people to stay home amid the COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] National Book Trust ☒

[B] National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

[C] National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

[D] Press Trust of India

- ✓ National Book Trust of the Union Human Resource Development Ministry has launched a campaign called

'StayHomeIndiaWithBooks', to encourage people to stay home amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ✓ As a part of this initiative, NBT is making its select and best selling books available for free download. More than 100 books are made available in PDF format and can be downloaded from the website of NBT.

9. What is the name of the mobile application launched by the Indian government to track the risk of coronavirus infection?

[A] Corona Suraksha

[B] Corona Kavach ☒

[C] Corona Raksh

[D] Corona Sevak

- ✓ The Government of India has launched a mobile application to track the risk of coronavirus infection called 'Corona Kavach'.
- ✓ The application is jointly developed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It uses the person's location to assess if they are in the high risk geographical zone. It is now available in beta version in the Google Play Store.

10. What is the daily wage per person in MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme, after the relief package of the government?

[A] Rs. 182

[B] Rs. 192

[C] Rs. 202 ☒

[D] Rs. 242

- ✓ The Central Government recently unveiled a Rs. 1.7 lakh crore worth fiscal stimulus to help people tackle the lock down amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ Among various measures announced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, it was notified that the MGNREGA wages will rise to Rs 202 per day per person from the earlier daily wage of Rs 182. This step is expected to benefit 136.2 million families.

1. 'Operation Namaste' is the initiative of which Indian armed force to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the country?

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

✓ As per the recent announcement of the Army Chief General MM Naravane, the Indian Army has launched its anti-COVID-19 operations in the code-name of Operation Namaste.

✓ Under the operation, Indian Army has established eight quarantine facilities across the country, so far. It has also established command wise helplines to help the Army personnel. The Army Chief General asked the families of the Army personnel and veterans to approach the nearest Army camp in case of problems.

2. Which technological firm launched a COVID-19 chatbot on its messaging platform in partnership with the Union Health Ministry and MyGov?

- [A] Google [B] Facebook ☒
[C] Microsoft [D] Telegram

✓ Technology major Facebook recently launched a COVID-19 chatbot on its messaging platform, FB Messenger.

✓ The chatbot has been launched in partnership with the Union Health Ministry of India and MyGov, to create awareness around the pandemic in the country. This helpdesk chatbot will provide reliable information about the disease and demystify the rumours and fake news related to the pandemic.

3. A Ramachandran, who recently passed away in Kerala, was associated with which profession?

- [A] Politician [B] Scientist ☒
[C] Sportsperson [D] Musician

✓ Renowned Scientist in the field of Fisheries and Ocean studies, Dr A Ramachandran passed away in Kerala, at the age of 61. He was serving as the Vice Chancellor of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies.

✓ He had also served as an expert member in several national and international fisheries organisations. He led the first ever International Blue Economy Congress in the country.

4. Which state has set up inter-departmental committees named "Team-11", to fight the coronavirus spread?

- [A] Odisha [B] Uttar Pradesh ☒
[C] Maharashtra [D] Gujarat

✓ The CM of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath has set up "Team-11" which comprises of inter-departmental committees headed by bureaucrats to fight the COVID-19 virus spread.

✓ The committees are set up to examine and suggest measures on the multi-lateral effects of the virus outbreak in the state including medical care to victims, supply of essentials and tackle jobless workers.

5. Beni Prasad Verma, who recently passed away, was a founding member of which political party?

- [A] Samajwadi Party ☒ [B] Bahujan Samaj Party
[C] Rashtriya Janata Dal [D] Rashtriya Lok Dal

✓ One of the Founding members of the Samajwadi Party, Beni Prasad Verma (80) passed away recently. He had served as the Union Telecom Minister from 1996 to 1998 in the cabinet of then Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda.

✓ He has also been the Union Steel Minister. He was closely associated with the party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav.

6. The Indian Government sold its 66.67% stake in Kamarajar Port Ltd for Rs 2,383 crore. The port is located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu ☒ [B] Andhra Pradesh
[C] Kerala [D] Karnataka

✓ The 12th major port of India, Kamarajar Port is located on the Coromandel Coast about 24 km north of Chennai Port, in the state of Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ It was seen in news recently as the Indian Government raises Rs. 2,383 crores by strategically selling its 66.67% stake in Kamarajar Port Ltd to Chennai Port Trust.

- ✓ The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management manages the strategic disinvestments and share sale of the Government in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

7. Which country has launched a military communication satellite called Lockheed Martin Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite?

- [A] France [B] Israel
[C] United States ☒ [D] South Korea

- ✓ The United States Space Force launched a military communication satellite called Lockheed Martin Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite.
- ✓ The satellite was launched aboard an Atlas V551 rocket, from Cape Canaveral in Florida. This is the 6th and final in the Lockheed Martin AEHF constellation. This ultra-secure satellite is launched amid the heavy losses the country is facing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

8. The Government of India sold its stake in THDC India Ltd and NEEPCO (North Eastern Electric Power Corp) to which Indian public sector undertaking?

- [A] NTPC Ltd ☒
[B] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
[C] Power Grid Corporation of India
[D] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

- ✓ The Indian government has sold its entire 74.49% stake in THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) for Rs 7,500 crore and its 100% in NEEPCO for Rs 4,000 crore to NTPC Ltd through the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- ✓ By the strategic disinvestment of its shares in THDCIL, NEEPCO and Kamarajar Port, the government has raised Rs 13,883 crore.

- ✓ The total disinvestment figures for the current financial year has reached Rs 48,883 crore, which is lower than the Revised Estimates of Rs 65,000 crore.

9. Japanese government funding agency JICA has signed Rs 15,295 crore loan agreements with India, for projects in which sector?

- [A] Railway Infrastructure ☒ [B] Rural Development
[C] Disaster Management [D] Roadways

- ✓ Japanese government funding agency JICA has signed Rs 15,295 crore loan agreements with India, for three mega rail infrastructure projects.
- ✓ By these agreements, Rs 8,553 crore of the loan is proposed to be used for phase-1 of the Dedicated Freight Corridor, Rs 4,262 crore for Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Project (II) and Rs 2,480 crore for the Mumbai Metro Line 3 Project (III).

10. As per the recent report of SBI Research's Ecowrap, what will be the economic growth of India in 2020-21?

- [A] 3.6% [B] 3.2% [C] 3.0% [D] 2.6% ☒

- ✓ According to a recent report by SBI Research's Ecowrap, the economic growth of India is estimated to fall to 2.6 % in 2020-21. The dip in the growth estimate is mainly due to the lockdown amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ The organisation also revised its GDP growth of the country for 2019-20 to 4.5% from its earlier estimate of 5%.