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FOURTH WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS

22 APRIL - 30 APRIL



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1. 'National ICH List', which was seen in news recently, has been launched by which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Defence

[B] Ministry of Coal

[C] Ministry of Culture ☒

[D] Ministry of Finance

✓ With an aim to create awareness about intangible cultural heritage elements from different Indian states, the Union Minister for Culture (I/C) Prahlad Singh Patel has recently launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.

✓ The Minister launched the list in New Delhi and also highlighted that our country comprises of several Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) traditions. As many as thirteen traditions were recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

2. Matterhorn Mountain is situated in which continent?

[A] Asia

[B] Europe ☒

[C] North America

[D] Australia

✓ The Matterhorn Mountain is a famous mountain located in the Alps range with a height of 4478 meters. It is one of the highest summits of the Alps and spans between two European countries Switzerland and Italy.

✓ The summit was seen in news recently, as a famous Swiss light artist Gerry Hofstetter lit up the mountain with the Indian flag to express their solidarity for India, in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The summit has been illuminated with the flags of various countries for nearly 3 weeks, as a part of nightly series.

3. The campaign called 'Team Mask Force' has been launched by which sports federation of India?

[A] Hockey India

[B] Board of Control for Cricket in India ☒

[C] Badminton Association of India

[D] All India Tennis Association

✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has launched an awareness campaign called 'Team Mask

Force' on the importance of wearing masks in public places. BCCI has earlier tweeted about the launch of the campaign and urged the people to download the Aarogya Setu mobile application.

✓ It has also released a video featuring famous Indian cricketers including Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj, advising the people about using masks.

4. The 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, which has been postponed recently, was originally scheduled to be held in which country?

[A] Azerbaijan

[B] China ☒

[C] Brazil

[D] France

✓ The 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO was initially scheduled to be held from June 29 to July 9, in the Chinese city of Fuzhou, the capital of the country's Fujian province.

✓ As per the recent announcement of the Education Ministry of China, the 44th session has been postponed to a later date. This unanimous decision has been made in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. The date of the postponed session has not yet been announced.

5. Which is the second largest organ of the human body, which is also related to a special day celebrated on April 19, every year?

[A] Skin

[B] Liver ☒

[C] Intestine

[D] Lungs

✓ World liver day is observed on every 19 April every year across the world, to spread awareness about liver related diseases. The liver is the second largest organ of the human body and an important part of the digestive system. It is second only to the skin, the largest organ.

✓ In 2018, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, which aims to prevent and control viral hepatitis in India.

6. What is the name of the nation-wide database of health-care workers and volunteers, recently created by the Centre?

- [A] Bharat Warriors [B] COVID Warriors ☒
 [C] Health Warriors [D] COVID Fighters

- ✓ The Government of India has recently launched a nationwide database of healthcare professionals and volunteers named 'COVID warriors'. The database is aimed at efficiently managing the available human resources to tackle the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The state and district wise availability of human resources along with the contact details of the nodal officers are made available in the database, which can be accessed by all states and Union territories.

7. United Nations celebrates Language Days to celebrate Multilingualism. April 20 is celebrated as the day of which language?

- [A] Arabic [B] Chinese ☒
 [C] English [D] French

- ✓ The United Nation has six official languages namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. It celebrates special days for all the languages to celebrate multilingualism and promote the usage of all languages in the organisation.
- ✓ Chinese was established as an official language of the UN in 1946. April 20 is celebrated as the Chinese Day. The date of the Chinese day is selected to honour and pay tribute to Cangjie, who is claimed to be the inventor of Chinese characters. The people of China celebrate the day of Guyu to commemorate Cangjie.

8. Which is the first Indian state to geotag its community kitchens and community shelters created for tackling COVID-19?

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

- ✓ The state of Uttar Pradesh has claimed to be the first in the country to geotag its community kitchens and community shelters across the state.
- ✓ The state has geotagged its 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters, it has set up across 75 districts

of the state. The establishments were created in partnership with the civil society and various non-governmental organisations.

- ✓ The state also partnered with Google, to integrate the locations in the Google Maps.

9. Which country has directed the global technology giants Google and Facebook to pay the media outlets for news content?

- [A] United States [B] Canada
 [C] Australia ☒ [D] Germany

- ✓ The Australian Government is set to ask the global technology giants Google and Facebook to pay the media outlets for news content they produce in Australia, as announced by the country's Treasurer.
- ✓ The competition regulator of the country, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is expected to release the stipulation formally. This decision has been taken now as the advertising revenues have been collapsed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

10. In context with the recent draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, what does ECEA stand for?

- [A] Electricity cum Enforcement Agency
 [B] Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority ☒
 [C] Engineering cum Electricity Authority
 [D] Engineering cum Enforcement Authority

- ✓ The Union Power Ministry has proposed the draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to set up an Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority (ECEA) with power of a civil court.
- ✓ It is proposed to settle disputes related to power purchase agreement between power generation companies and Distribution companies. This is the fourth draft bill being proposed since 2014. A National Renewable Energy Policy has also been proposed in the draft bill, to promote power generation from renewable sources.

1. A strategic bridge over River Subansiri, that was recently revamped and inaugurated, is located in which Indian State / UT?
- [A] Assam [B] Sikkim
- [C] Arunachal Pradesh ☒ [D] Himachal Pradesh
- ✓ A strategic bridge over River Subansiri in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh has been recently revamped and inaugurated by the CM of the state Pema Khandu.
- ✓ The bridge was in rundown condition and transport across the bridge had been restricted. The reconstruction project of the bridge was accomplished by the Border Road Organization under Project ARUNANK.
2. Which state government has collaborated with the healthcare startup MedCords, for delivering online medical service to the people?
- [A] Kerala [B] Odisha
- [C] Rajasthan ☒ [D] Maharashtra
- ✓ The state Government of Rajasthan has collaborated with healthcare startup MedCords for delivering online medical service to the people.
- ✓ The startup is set to provide online medical consultation and delivery of medicines to the people of Rajasthan through its applications named Aayu & Sehat Sathi. The service has covered 7 districts of the state and it will be extended to cover the whole state.
3. Which Indian State or UT has claimed to be the first in the country to be COVID-19 free?
- [A] Sikkim [B] Goa ☒
- [C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Assam
- ✓ As per the recent announcement of the Chief Minister of Goa, it is the first state in the country to become coronavirus free. The state had seven patients who had contracted the coronavirus and all the 7 patients have been discharged.
- ✓ As the repeat samples of the patients were tested negative, they will be quarantined for further observation. After Goa, Manipur has also become a green state, free of coronavirus infections.
4. Which Indian bureaucrat, who is also the chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has been appointed as the Secretary to the Indian President Ramnath Kovind?
- [A] P K Mishra [B] Nripendra Mishra
- [C] Kapil Dev Tripathi ☒ [D] Rajiv Gauba
- ✓ The present Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board and veteran bureaucrat Kapil Dev Tripathi, has been appointed as the Secretary to the Indian President Ramnath Kovind, as per the recent notification of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- ✓ Kapil Dev Tripathi is a retired IAS officer (1980 batch) of Assam–Meghalaya cadre. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment on contract basis, until the tenure of the President.
5. In a recent study by an autonomous institute of DST, the organ of which water species has been used to develop a catalyst in energy conversion devices?
- [A] Crab [B] Fish ☒
- [C] Turtle [D] Prawn
- ✓ The Scientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, have recently discovered that fish gills can be used to develop efficient electro-catalyst used in building energy conversion devices.
- ✓ The devices thus developed are claimed to be more affordable and environment friendly. It is also expected to work better than the commercial Platinum on carbon (Pt/C) catalyst. The study has been published in the American Chemical Society's 'Inorganic Chemistry' journal.

6. What is the limit within which the borrowings made under Ways & Means Advances of the RBI, to be repaid by the state governments?

- [A] 14 days [B] 1 month
[C] 3 months ☒ [D] 6 months

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently notified that it has decided to revise Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the period of April 2020 to September 2020, to Rs 2 lakh crore. The limit has been extended from the previous limit of Rs. 1.2 lakh crore.
- ✓ Ways and Means advances, WMA is a mechanism by which state governments receive short-term funding from the Reserve Bank of India, which is to be repaid in 3 months. The funds are used for balancing temporary mismatches and are usually granted at the repo rate.

7. Finance Minister of India attended the Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of which global financial institution, which also granted an emergency assistance of \$1 billion to India?

- [A] World Bank [B] New Development Bank ☒
[C] ADB [D] AIIB

- ✓ Union Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB).
- ✓ The Finance Minister also appreciated the efforts of NDB in granting an emergency financial assistance of about \$5 billion to BRICS countries including an assistance of \$1 billion to India, for fighting the coronavirus pandemic. The Minister also suggested to upgrade the assistance to \$10 billion.

8. Every year, April 21 is celebrated as Civil Services Day, to commemorate the address of which Indian leader, made among the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947?

- [A] Jawaharlal Nehru [B] B.R.Ambedkar
[C] Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ☒ [D] Rajaji

- ✓ On April 21, 1947 the first Home Minister of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947.
- ✓ While delivering the historical address at the Metcalf House, Delhi, he described the Civil servants as 'Steel frame of India'. To commemorate this occasion, April 21 has been observed as the Civil Services Day every year, across the country.

9. The United Nations designated 21 April as which day, to raise awareness about the role of creativity and innovation?

- [A] World Creativity and Innovation Day ☒
[B] World Creativity Day
[C] World Creators Day
[D] World Innovators Day

- ✓ The UN designated 21 April as World Creativity and Innovation Day, to raise awareness about the role of creativity & innovation in overall human development.
- ✓ As per the Creative Economy report titled "Widening local development pathways", jointly published by UNESCO, UNDP and UNOSSC, Creativity and innovation are the true wealth of nations in the 21st century.

10. The Union Health Minister has launched the official interactive platform called 'COVID INDIA SEVA', in which social media handle?

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

- ✓ The Union Minister of Health Dr. Harsh Vardhan has recently launched the official interactive platform called 'COVID INDIA SEVA', in Twitter.
- ✓ The platform has been launched with an aim of providing realtime solutions to COVID-19 related queries. A team of trained experts will answer the queries of the public in realtime. Without revealing their personal details, all people can receive official information.

1. 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' is a water conservation scheme of which Indian State / UT?

[A] Assam

[B] Sikkim

[C] Gujarat ☒

[D] New Delhi

✓ The 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' was launched by the state government of Gujarat in 2018, with an aim to increase the water storage capacity.

✓ Recently, the CM of Gujarat has approved to implement the third edition of the scheme, to deepen the water bodies of the state before monsoon. The works are to be carried out using community participation & MNREGA.

2. Which city, under Smart Cities Mission, has developed a mobile application called 'Saiyam', which aims at tracking home-quarantined people?

[A] Mumbai

[B] Pune ☒

[C] Chennai

[D] Hyderabad

✓ The Pune Municipal Corporation has developed a mobile application called 'Saiyam' under Smart Cities Mission, which aims at tracking home-quarantined people.

✓ The application has been developed to ensure the people follow strict quarantine measures by following their locations through GPS technology. All home quarantined citizens are mandated to install the application and based on their movements, the users are classified into 3 colours namely Red, Yellow & Green.

3. Which bank has recently launched voice-banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant, amid the lock-down due to COVID-19?

[A] HDFC Bank

[B] State Bank of India

[C] ICICI Bank ☒

[D] Yes Bank

✓ Leading Private sector bank of India, ICICI Bank recently launched voice-banking services to its customers by integrating its AI chatbot iPal with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant.

✓ This initiative is aimed at assisting customers avail the banking services amid the nation wide lockdown due to

COVID-19. The customers will have to download the Alexa / Google Assistant and link their ICICI Bank account to it. Queries about their account and products of the bank will be answered by the voice assistant apps.

4. Laisenia Qarase, who recently passed away, was a former Prime Minister of which country?

[A] Chile

[B] Fiji ☒

[C] Argentina

[D] New Zealand

✓ The Former prime minister of Fiji Laisenia Qarase passed away recently at the age of 79, in Suva. Laisenia Qarase served as the 6th Prime Minister of the Oceanian nation Fiji from 2000 to 2006.

✓ He was also the founder of the Soqosoqo Duavata Ni Lewenivanua Party. He was dethroned from power in 2006 and was imprisoned on charges of corruption.

5. What is the name of the mobile application launched by Jharkhand, to deliver essential commodities to people amid lockdown?

[A] COVID Sevak

[B] Jharkhand Sevak

[C] COVID Bazar

[D] Jharkhand Bazar ☒

✓ The Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren has launched a mobile application named Jharkhand Bazar, which aims to deliver essential commodities to the people of the state amidst the lockdown and control the spread of COVID-19 outbreak.

✓ The application has been developed by the Department of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs of the state. The state had earlier launched 'Jharkhand Sahayta App' to assist migrant workers in receiving the financial assistance of Rs.1000 and Rs.2000. It has been used by more than 2 lakh workers, as per the state.

6. What is the theme of the Earth Day 2020, which is also the 50th anniversary of the day?

[A] Golden Earth

[B] Earth Day @ 50

[C] Climate Action ☒

[D] Our Earth; Our Life

- ✓ Every year, April 22 has been celebrated as the Earth Day. The United Nations designates the day as World Mother Earth Day. This year, April 22 is the 50th anniversary of the World Earth Day. The theme of this year's observance is 'Climate Action'.

- ✓ It has been celebrated from the year 1970, when about 20 million Americans participated in a historic environmental protest. This year, several artists participate in the protest under the name #EarthDay2020Halt.

7. Who is the author of the book titled "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster", which won William E. Colby Award?

- [A] Sarah M. Broom [B] Adam Higginbotham ☒
[C] Ravish Kumar [D] Marlon James

- ✓ UK-born veteran author Adam Higginbotham has received the prestigious William E. Colby Award for his famous book titled "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster".

- ✓ The book based on intelligence story has fetched the \$5,000 prize. The book had earlier won the American Library Association's Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The Award is named after William E. Colby, an American intelligence officer and Director of CIA (1920–1996).

8. David Li has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (India operations) of which global technology company?

- [A] Facebook [B] Huawei ☒
[C] Samsung [D] Amazon

- ✓ China based global technology company Huawei has recently named David Li as the Chief Executive Officer of its India operations. David Li is set to replace the previous CEO Jay Chen, who will now look after the Asia Pacific Region operations.

- ✓ David Li had joined Huawei in 2002 and has served in various designations in India including Vice President (Sales). He was last serving as the CEO of Cambodia region.

9. Which country is ranked first for the fourth time in a row, in 'The World Press Freedom Index 2020'?

- [A] Switzerland [B] Singapore
[C] Norway ☒ [D] Sweden

- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index 2020 has been recently released Paris-based non-profit organisation Reporters Sans Frontieres or Reporters without Borders.

- ✓ Norway has been ranked first in the annual index for the 4th time in a row. India has been ranked at 142 out of 180 countries. The analysis said that though there is no murder of journalists in India in 2019, there were constant violations against press freedom in the country.

10. The term, 'West Texas Intermediate' is associated with which sector?

- [A] Export Sanctions
[B] Crude Oil Market ☒
[C] Business Process Outsourcing
[D] H1B VISA

- ✓ West Texas Intermediate (WTI), which is a particular grade of crude oil, is the underlying commodity of oil futures contract of the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX).

- ✓ Brent Crude, Dubai Crude and WTI Crude are the three major benchmarks in the pricing of oils in the global market. As for the first time in history, the price of the May futures contract of WTI crude fell to a negative price of -\$37.63 per barrel. This was due to the low demand of oil amid the COVID-19 crisis.

1. In context with the recent approval of fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates, which fertilizer has been added under the NBS scheme?
- [A] Ammonium Phosphate ☒ [B] Ammonium Nitrate
- [C] Ammonium Chloride [D] Ammonium Sulphate
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has recently approved the fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers for the year 2020–21.
- ✓ Inclusion of the new complex fertilizer, Ammonium Phosphate has also been approved by the CCEA. Rs. 22,186.55 crore would be spent for releasing subsidy on P&K Fertilizers during 2020–21. Through the Nutrient based Subsidy scheme, Government provides subsidy to the fertiliser company, enabling them to sell to farmers at subsidised rate.
2. What is the name of the program launched by HRD Ministry, which invites people and organisations to contribute resources for e-learning?
- [A] Bharat Vidya [B] Vidya Daan 2.0 ☒
- [C] Vidya Bharathi 2.0 [D] Vidhya Samridhi
- ✓ The Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched VidyaDaan 2.0 program virtually in New Delhi. The scheme is aimed at inviting people & organisations to contribute resources for e-learning, for both school and higher education.
- ✓ During the prevailing COVID–19 crisis, there is a need to integrate the content of e-learning with schools.
3. The recently promulgated ordinance, which seeks to punish the persons committing violence against healthcare professionals fighting Covid–19, amends which act?
- [A] Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 ☒
- [B] Medical Protection Act (MPA)
- [C] Indian Medical Council Act, 1956
- [D] Protection of Healthcare Workers Act, 1982
- ✓ The President of India Ramnath Kovind approved the promulgation of the ordinance which seeks to make the violent acts against healthcare personnel fighting COVID–19 pandemic as cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- ✓ The ordinance amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and provides for compensation for injury or for causing damage or loss to property. The acts of violence are punishable with imprisonment for a term of three months to seven years and with a fine of Rs. 50, 000 to 5, 00,000, depending on the act.
4. The Supreme Court quashed the earlier order of which state, which provided 100% reservation to ST teachers in schools in the scheduled areas?
- [A] Andhra Pradesh ☒ [B] Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Sikkim [D] Odisha
- ✓ A five judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Arun Mishra quashed the earlier order of state Andhra Pradesh, which provided 100% reservation to ST teachers in schools in the scheduled areas. The bench noted that the January 2000 order was arbitrary and not permissible under the constitution.
- ✓ The judges quoted the 1992 Indra Sawhney judgement and the 50% quota associated with the case, while delivering this judgement.
5. 'Apthamitra' is the name of the helpline and a mobile app, launched by which Indian State, in its efforts to tackle COVID–19?
- [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Karnataka ☒
- [C] Odisha [D] Chhattisgarh
- ✓ The state government of Karnataka has recently launched a helpline in the name of "Apthamitra", which aims at providing medical advice and guidance for the needy people. The helpline comprises of both a toll-free number and a mobile application.
- ✓ The helpline could be contacted, if anyone has symptoms of COVID–19. An expert medical team would provide medical advice to the user, based on their symptoms.

6. 'Lockdown Learners' is a series launched by which UN agency, that aims to conduct a mentorship program to Indian students and educators?

[A] UNICEF

[B] UNESCO

[C] UNODC ☒

[D] UNIDO

- ✓ Vienna-based UN office, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has launched a mentorship series named 'Lockdown Learners'.

- ✓ The online dialogues are to be conducted with students and educators in India on the impact of COVID-19 on Sustainable Development Goals, Peace and Law. This program has been launched under the Education for Justice Initiative of UNODC.

7. What is the amount of financial package released by the Centre for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package', to the states/UTs?

[A] Rs.10000 Cr

[B] Rs.15000 Cr ☒

[C] Rs.20000 Cr

[D] Rs.25000 Cr

- ✓ The Union Government has approved Rs. 15,000 crores for 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package' for States / UTs.
- ✓ This package which has been approved to build the health infrastructure, will be provided in three phases — January 2020 to June 2020, July 2020 to March 2021 and April 2021 to March 2024. This fund would be divided on the basis of the number of positive COVID-19 cases and the size of the State / UT. Rs. 7,774 crore is expected to be released for immediate response.

8. Which Indian sportsperson has been named as one of the ambassadors of Badminton World Federation, for its 'I am badminton' campaign?

[A] P Kashyap

[B] Srikanth Kidambi

[C] P V Sindhu ☒

[D] Sai Praneeth

- ✓ World Champion and ace Tennis star of India P V Sindhu has been named as one of the ambassadors for

Badminton World Federation (BWF)'s 'I am badminton' awareness campaign.

- ✓ The campaign is aimed at highlighting the efforts of the Federation towards honesty in the game. The Badminton World Federation formed Integrity Unit five years ago. Several other shuttlers of Canada, China, England & Germany were also named along with Sindhu

9. Which city was named as the World Book Capital for the year 2020, by UNESCO?

[A] Tokyo

[B] Beijing

[C] Kuala Lumpur ☒

[D] Jaipur

- ✓ Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia was named as the World Book Capital for the year 2020 by UNESCO. Every year, April 23 is celebrated as the World Book and Copyright Day across the world.

- ✓ UNESCO along with the international organizations associated with publishers, booksellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for a year.

10. The Border Roads Organisation has constructed a Class-70 all weather permanent bridge on which river?

[A] Ravi ☒

[B] Tangri

[C] Sutlej

[D] Beas

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has planned and constructed a Class-70 all weather permanent bridge on the river Ravi. The bridge is 484 meter long and was built by the 49 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) of Project Chetak.

- ✓ The project of the Kasowal Bridge entails a cost of Rs.17.89 crore. It connects the Kasowal enclave of Punjab with the rest of the places of the country.

1. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which was making news recently, is associated with which Union Ministry of India?

[A] Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

[B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[C] Ministry of Finance ☒

[D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- ✓ The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was making news recently, as the Supreme Court of India held that the quantity of the banned drug mixture will determine the punishment than its purity.
- ✓ The Act comes under the Finance Ministry. A 3 judge bench of Justices said that the 2008 verdict was not a good legislation.

2. The country's first COVID-19 sample collection mobile lab has been developed by which state-owned organisation, in collaboration with the ESIC Medical College, Hyderabad?

[A] BHEL

[B] DRDO ☒

[C] HAL

[D] Bharat Electronics Limited

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation has collaborated with the ESIC medical college & hospital, Hyderabad and developed the country's first COVID-19 sample collection mobile lab.
- ✓ The mobile lab has been named "Mobile BSL-3 VRDL Lab" and was inaugurated by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The lab has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and can process over 1000 samples a day. The lab has been developed in a record 15 days and can be positioned at any place.

3. Where is the main campus of the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology located?

[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Gujarat

[D] Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) is a research and educational Institution under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, with its main campus located at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ The institute was seen in news recently, as it has been manufacturing nutrient rich foods with indigenous products for COVID-19 patients who are placed in examination and those who recovered from the disease after treatment at Thanjavur Medical College.

4. 'Khongjom Day' is commemorated in which Indian State, to pay tribute to war heroes of the state?

[A] Sikkim

[B] Manipur ☒

[C] Arunachal Pradesh

[D] Tripura

- ✓ 'Khongjom Day' is commemorated in the state of Manipur every year on April 23, to pay tribute to war heroes of the state, who fought to protect the freedom of the state.
- ✓ The state remembers the military heroes who sacrificed their lives in the Anglo-Manipuri War 1891 against the British. The state government observed 'Khongjom Day' at Khongjom War Memorial Complex, Thoubal district, where the battle was held.

5. 'mCOVID19' is a mobile application launched by which Indian state, to enable the truck drivers to transport essential goods to the state?

[A] Odisha

[B] Mizoram ☒

[C] Assam

[D] West Bengal

- ✓ The state of Mizoram has launched a mobile application named 'mCOVID19', which enables easy transportation of essential goods by the truck drivers to the state from other states. The new application will act as the online license or pass for the truck drivers. The drivers of the interstate-vehicles will be screened at the entry point.
- ✓ On registering with the application, they will be generated a license called mPASS. A SMS with info about the goods and place, will be sent along with an mPASS ID, which will be stored at the entry point.

6. Who is the head of the recently reconstituted National Shipping Board?

- [A] Malini Shankar ☒ [B] Abdulgani Serang
[C] Amar Singh Thakur [D] Anil Devli

✓ As per the notification of the Shipping Ministry, the government has approved reconstitution of the National Shipping Board. It is the highest advisory board on matters associated with Indian shipping. The reconstituted board with 16 members is to be headed by Malini Shankar, former Director General of Shipping.

✓ Other members include representatives from the Ministry, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard, National Union of Seafarers of India, Maritime Union of India representative, Thakur and National Ship Owners' Association.

7. International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative of which international organisation?

- [A] UN Women [B] UNESCO [C] UNICEF [D] ITU ☒

✓ International Girls in ICT Day is the flagship initiative of the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union, ITU. This year, the International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated on 23 April.

✓ The day is celebrated to sensitise people and empower girls to take up their career in Information and Communication Technologies. ITU hosted an online dialogue on "Girls in ICT: Inspiring the Next Generation".

8. Swamitva Scheme, which has been launched by the Prime Minister, is associated with which field?

- [A] COVID-19 testing
[B] Creation of land ownership records ☒
[C] Environmental upgradation
[D] Employment Generation

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the mobile portal called e-Gram Swaraj Portal and Swamitva Scheme on April 24, which is also celebrated as the Panchayati Raj Day. Swamitva Yojana is launched with

an aim of creating a record of property ownership of land in rural areas.

✓ The lands in rural areas are to be mapped using modern technology. The e-Gram Swaraj platform will provide records of projects implemented in every village panchayat under Gram Panchayati Development Plan. General public can create an account in the mobile portal and view the projects.

9. Which country has named its Mars exploration mission, proposed to be launched this year, as 'Tianwen-1'?

- [A] Cuba [B] China ☒ [C] Israel [D] Japan

✓ China has named its Mars exploration mission, proposed to be launched this year as 'Tianwen-1'. It named its first Mars mission on the occasion of the Space Day, which marked the 50th anniversary of the country's first satellite Dong Fang Hong-1.

✓ 'Tianwen' in Chinese means Questions to Heaven, as per a Chinese poet Qu Yuan Aiming. India, U.S., Russia and the European Union have previously launched Mars mission. On the same lines, China's mission aims to complete orbiting, landing & roving in a single mission.

10. Which State / UT has bagged three national awards for outstanding contribution by its Panchayati Raj Institutions in socio-economic development projects?

- [A] Telangana [B] Kerala
[C] Jammu & Kashmir ☒ [D] Punjab

✓ The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has bagged three national awards for outstanding contribution by its Panchayati Raj Institutions in socio-economic development projects.

✓ While Panchayat Jamola Lower has been awarded "Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award 2020", Dhangri has been awarded "Nanaji Deshmukh Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar" for improving the socio-economic aspects of the panchayat. Zaloora B has been selected as best performer in "Gram Panchayat Development Plans" awards.

1. What is the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act passed by the Parliament on April 24 1992 related to?
- [A] Right to Education
- [B] Constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions ☒
- [C] Special status to Delhi
- [D] Implementing Tenth Finance Commission recommendation
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister has recently approved the fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers for the year 2020–21.
- ✓ Inclusion of the new complex fertilizer, Ammonium Phosphate has also been approved by the CCEA. Rs. 22,186.55 crore would be spent for releasing subsidy on P&K Fertilizers during 2020–21. Through the Nutrient based Subsidy scheme, Government provides subsidy to the fertiliser company, enabling them to sell to farmers at subsidised rate.
2. An e-office application called 'e-karyalay' has been launched by which Central Armed Police Force, which enables digital movement of files in offices, amid Covid-19 pandemic?
- [A] Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- [B] Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) ☒
- [C] Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- [D] Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- ✓ An e-office application called 'e-karyalay' has been launched by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to prevent coronavirus infection.
- ✓ The e-office application enables digital movement of files in offices, which is similar to the physical and traditional file movement in CISF offices. The app has been developed by the in-house technical team and they have also created the data recovery site.
3. Which is the first academic institute to get ICMR approval for a real-time diagnostic test?
- [A] Indian Institute of Science
- [B] IIT Delhi ☒
- [C] All India Institute of Medical Science
- [D] IIT Ropar
- ✓ The Kusuma School of Biological Sciences of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has developed a COVID-19 test kit and it has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), thereby becoming the first institute to be approved for a realtime kit.
- ✓ The test kit, which is claimed to be more affordable than the other kits available. Commercial production can be easily done as the kit does not require fluorescent probes, as per the researchers.
4. As per the recent announcement from the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, what is the objective of the Rs 1 trillion fund, proposed to be set up by the Government?
- [A] Developing Health infrastructure
- [B] Repaying outstanding debts of MSMEs ☒
- [C] Bail-out package to MSMEs
- [D] Insurance package to MSMEs
- ✓ As per the recent announcement of the Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari, he has devised a scheme to set up Rs \$1 trillion fund, which is to be launched by the Government after the approval of Cabinet.
- ✓ This fund will be utilised for repaying outstanding payments to MSMEs owed by the PSUs, central and state governments and major industries. This is also expected to increase liquidity in the market. As per his statement, the Ministry is also working on fast-tracking GST refunds to help MSMEs.
5. Which state has launched a scheme to provide loans to the women Self Help Groups (SHGs) of the state at zero per cent interest?
- [A] Andhra Pradesh ☒
- [B] Karnataka
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Chhattisgarh

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy recently launched a scheme in Amaravati, which seeks to provide loans to the women Self Help Groups of the state, at zero percent interest.

- ✓ The Chief Minister released about ₹1,400 crore for the scheme, which is expected to benefit nearly 8.78 lakh SHGs. The interest component of ₹20,000 to ₹40,000 will be borne by the state government. At present, the SHGs borrow from banks at interest rate of 7 to 13 percent.

6. Which global leader topped the list of most interactions in their Facebook page, according to a recent study conducted by BCW (Burson Cohn & Wolfe)?

- [A] Boris Johnson [B] Donald Trump ☒
[C] Narendra Modi [D] Jair Bolsonaro

- ✓ According to the report titled "World Leaders on Facebook" released by global communications agency BCW (Burson Cohn & Wolfe), US President Donald Trump topped the rankings for the most interactions in his Facebook page over the past 12 months, with 309 million comments, likes and shares on his Facebook page.

- ✓ Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro with 205 million interactions, followed Trump. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the most popular world leader on Facebook with 44.7 million likes on his page. 721 Facebook pages of the international heads were analysed using the CrowdTangle tool of Facebook.

7. On which date, the World Health Organisation observes the World Malaria Day every year?

- [A] April 22 [B] April 24
[C] April 25 ☒ [D] April 27

- ✓ The World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year by the World Health Organisation (WHO), across the world. This year WHO has partnered with the RBM Partnership to promote "Zero malaria starts with me" campaign.

- ✓ The campaign aims to sensitise malaria politically, mobilize additional resources and encourage people to fast-track malaria prevention and care.

8. What is the theme of the World Immunization Week 2020, which is being celebrated from April 24 to 30, this year?

- [A] Vaccines Work for All ☒
[B] Let's get vaccinated
[C] Leave no one unvaccinated
[D] Reaching all for vaccination

- ✓ The World Immunization Week 2020 is being celebrated from April 24 to 30, this year by the World Health Organisation. The day is celebrated with an aim to promote the use of vaccines for protecting people across the world from diseases. The theme of this year's week is Vaccines Work for All.

- ✓ The theme highlights the importance of vaccines and the persons developing them. WHO also announced that about 20 million children in the world today remain unvaccinated.

9. Who has been appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner of India?

- [A] Nripendra Mishra [B] Sanjay Kothari ☒
[C] P K Mishra [D] Y V Reddy

- ✓ Retired IAS officer and the secretary to the President since 2017 has been appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner of India. The post of the chief of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has remained vacant since June 2019 after the tenure of K V Chowdary was over.

- ✓ The name of Kothari was recommended by a high-level selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The process was claimed as unconstitutional by opposition parties as Sanjay Kothari was not an applicant not been shortlisted.

10. Which industry has been recently declared as a public utility service for six months, by the Government?

- [A] Banking ☒ [B] Pharmaceutical

[C] Textile

[D] Automobile

- ✓ In its latest circular, the labour and employment ministry has notified that the banking industry is classified as a public utility service for six months with effect from April 21.
 - ✓ The Department of Financial services also notified about the classification of the labour ministry. This declaration has been made under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. After being placed under this act, the people working in banking sector would not be able to participate in any strike during the said period.
-

1. Rohtang pass is located in which Indian State / UT?

- [A] Jammu & Kashmir [B] Ladakh
[C] Himachal Pradesh ☒ [D] Punjab

✓ The Rohtang pass, is located at an altitude of 13,500 ft on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas. The pass which is strategically located to link Kullu valley with the Lahaul and Spiti valleys in Himachal Pradesh, has been opened to the general public by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

✓ The BRO completed the snow-clearance process and opened the pass ahead of the target time. This will enable better transportation of essential supplies and relief materials to the remote areas.

2. 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana', a scheme to encourage urban women to make masks, is an initiative of which state?

- [A] Maharashtra [B] Madhya Pradesh ☒
[C] Odisha [D] Chhattisgarh

✓ The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has launched a new scheme called 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana', which aims to encourage urban women to make masks and provide them a financial assistance to sustain their livelihood.

✓ The urban women of the state who are interested in joining this scheme will have to register themselves through the call centres. Then, as per the orders they receive they can start making cotton masks and submit to nodal officers. A payment of Rs.11 per mask will be credited to their bank account.

3. Which country abolished the prevalent corporal punishment of flogging (beating with whips)?

- [A] Oman [B] Saudi Arabia ☒
[C] Iran [D] Kuwait

✓ Saudi Arabia has abolished flogging, which means beating with whips, as a punishment, as per the order of the Supreme Court. Hereafter, the judges will pronounce fines, jail sentences or community services as punishments.

✓ Recently, a blogger named Raif Badawi was sentenced to 7 years in prison and 600 lashes and then resented to 10 years and 1,000 lashes. He later won the European Parliament's Sakharov human rights prize.

4. Preeti Sudan is the Secretary of which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
[B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ☒
[C] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare
[D] Ministry of Consumer Affairs

✓ Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan was seen in news recently because she has been given a three-month extension after the Central Government made a major top-level bureaucratic reshuffle. Ms.Preeti Sudan who is at present the Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, was due to superannuate on April 30.

✓ The reshuffling has been done amidst the coronavirus pandemic. About 23 senior IAS officers have been appointed as secretaries in different central government departments.

5. Which state promulgated an ordinance to make blocking burial or cremation of victims of notified disease, a criminal offence?

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

✓ The state of Tamil Nadu promulgated an ordinance which made blocking the dignified burial or cremation of victims of notified disease, a criminal offence.

✓ As per the official release, the people involving in such acts will face a minimum jail term of one year to a maximum three-year imprisonment, under section 74 of 'The Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939'. This decision has been taken at the backdrop of agitations against the burial of two doctors who died of Covid-19.

6. What is the theme of the World Intellectual Property Day 2020, celebrated on April 26?

[A] Innovate for SDGs

[B] Innovate for a Green Future ☒

[C] IP is the new right

[D] Support Intellectual Property

- ✓ The World Intellectual Property Day is observed every year on April 26 to highlight the role of intellectual property rights, such as patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and copyright, in spurring innovation and creativity. The theme is "Innovate for a Green Future".

7. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed on April 26. In which country is the Chernobyl power plant located?

[A] Japan

[B] Ukraine ☒

[C] Philippines

[D] Brazil

- ✓ On April 26, 1986, the nuclear accident took place in the Chernobyl power plant in the Pripyat city of Ukraine. It is one of the worst nuclear disasters that has ever taken place in the world.
- ✓ In the year 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 26th April as International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. In the year 2009, UN launched the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN), to support the programmes in developing the affected places.

8. As per the annual report of SIPRI, which country is the highest military spender in the world?

[A] China

[B] India

[C] United States of America ☒

[D] Russia

- ✓ According to the recent annual report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the United States continue to be the highest military spender in the world in 2019 with \$732 bn.

- ✓ This is the 1st time two Asian countries China and India occupied the top 3 positions. The military expenditure of China reached \$261 billion in 2019, which is a 5.1% increase from the previous year. India's expenditure rose by 6.8% to reach 71.1 billion.

9. Pitch Black is a multilateral air combat training exercise is hosted by the Air Force of which country?

[A] Japan

[B] Australia ☒

[C] United States of America

[D] France

- ✓ Pitch Black is a biennial air-combat training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force.
- ✓ The exercise was recently in news as Australia has informed India recently that the training exercise Pitch Black 2020, which was scheduled from July 27 to Aug.14 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next edition of the exercise is scheduled in the year 2022.

10. Which industry has recorded the highest exports during the period April 2020 – January 2021, in India?

[A] Chemical industry ☒

[B] Pharmaceutical industry

[C] Automobile industry

[D] Textile industry

- ✓ The chemical exports of India increased by 7.43 percent to 2.68 lakh crore rupees during April-January period of the last fiscal. The chemical industry became the top exporting sector of the country for the first time.
- ✓ The export of chemicals in the said period constitutes 14.35 percent of the total exports. This was announced by the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

1. Which IT firm of India has launched an online self-certification course for frontline health workers, named 'Corona Warriors'?

- [A] Wipro [B] Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) ☒
[C] Infosys [D] HCL Technologies

- ✓ A unit of the top IT firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), TCS iON, has recently launched a free online self-certification course for frontline health workers, named 'Corona Warriors'.
- ✓ The health workers who are dealing with COVID-19 patients will be offered profession-specific modules. The digital course is available in English and it is offered through TCS iON Digital Learning Hub. The software venture of TCS, Digitate has also announced a platform called 'ignio Cognitive Procurement' to assist enterprises in decision making of purchases.

2. Which rating agency recently estimated that the total loss for India due to lock-down would be Rs 10 lakh crore or Rs 7,000 per person, in 2020-21?

- [A] CRISIL ☒ [B] Ind-Ra
[C] S&P [D] Fitch Solutions

- ✓ The CRISIL rating agency has recently released a report, which slashed the GDP forecast of India to nearly half from its previous estimate to 1.8 percent for 2020-21.
- ✓ The agency also estimated that the total losses to be faced by the country would be Rs 10 lakh crore or Rs 7,000 per person due to the impact of the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19. The agency also asked the government to increase the stimulus response and support.

3. Which Indian has featured in the top 20 global leaders of 'Medicine Maker Power List 2020'?

- [A] Pankaj Patel [B] Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw ☒
[C] Ajay Piramal [D] Dilip Shanghvi

- ✓ Bio-con Founder cum Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has recently been named in the 'Medicine Maker Power List 2020'. The list celebrates 60 leaders across

the world, who had significantly contributed and innovated in the field of biopharmaceuticals.

- ✓ Kiran Mazumdar has been ranked in the prestigious list for 6 years in a row, since 2015. Recently, she has received EY's 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award.

4. Where is the headquarters of Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) located?

- [A] United Kingdom [B] United States
[C] France ☒ [D] Germany

- ✓ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation which aims to stimulate economic progress and world trade. It is headquartered at Paris, France and has 36 member countries.
- ✓ Recently, the President of the United States has nominated veteran Indo-American diplomat Manisha Singh as America's next envoy to OECD. The diplomat had previously served in several significant positions which includes her present role as the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs.

5. On which date, the 2020 World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed recently?

- A] April 28 ☒ B] April 30
C] April 29 D] April 27

- ✓ The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed every year on 28th of April by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote safe, healthy and decent work. The day marks the need and awareness of a safe and healthy environment at the workplace. This year theme is, "Stop the Pandemic: Safety and Health at Work can Save Lives".

6. Which global company's Single Radio Access Network (SRAN) solution is to be implemented across India, in context with its recent partnership with Bharti Airtel?

- [A] Motorola [B] Nokia ☒
[C] Xiaomi [D] Huawei

- ✓ Global Telecom giant Nokia has recently partnered with the leading telecom services company Bharti Airtel in India, to enhance network capacity.

- ✓ As per the multi-year agreement claimed to be worth about \$1 billion, the Single Radio Access Network (SRAN) solution of Nokia is to be deployed across nine circles in India. This partnership would help Airtel in enhancing its 4G network capacity and introduction of 5G connectivity in the future.

7. Basava Jayanthi, the birth anniversary of Lord Basaveshwara, is prominently celebrated in which Indian state?

[A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Karnataka ☒

[C] Maharashtra [D] Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ Basava Jayanthi, the birth anniversary of the 12th century poet, philosopher and social reformer, Lord Basaveshwara, is prominently celebrated in the state of Karnataka. Also called as Basavanna, he was the founding saint of the Lingayat sect.
- ✓ He was also known for establishing a spiritual democracy called 'Anubhava Mantapa' in the 12th century. The era starting from his birth-year is also called as the Basava era in the state.

8. Shipping ministry has announced Rs 50 lakh compensation for employees at Major Ports. How many major ports are situated in India?

[A] Eight [B] Thirteen ☒

[C] Twelve [D] Fifteen

- ✓ The Ministry of Shipping in its recent statement has announced a compensation of Rs 50 lakh for people employed with major ports in the country.
- ✓ Under the plan, direct employees as well as contractual labourers are covered. In case they lose their lives to COVID-19, the government will pay an ex-gratia compensation to the dependent members or legal heirs of the port employees.

9. What is 'VITAL', which was making news recently, in context with the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] Testing Kit

[B] Ventilator ☒

[C] PPE

[D] X-ray Device

- ✓ A new high-pressure ventilator named VITAL (Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally) has been developed by the engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
- ✓ VITAL has been designed to treat patients with milder symptoms so that the traditional ventilators may be used for critical patients. The device has passed a critical test & waiting for the approval from FDA.

10. 'In the face of a pandemic: Ensuring Safety and Health at Work' is a report released by which global organisation?

[A] World Economic Forum

[B] International Labour Organisation ☒

[C] World Bank

[D] United Nations

- ✓ International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recently released a report titled 'In the face of a pandemic: Ensuring Safety and Health at Work'. The report has been released on the occasion of World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28.
- ✓ The report highlights the occupational safety and health risks which are arising due to the spread of COVID-19. It also asked the governments to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplaces across the world.