

MAY

2020

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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS

01 MAY - 07 MAY



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1. The Cauvery Water Management Authority was constituted to address dispute over water sharing among how many states?

[A] One

[B] Two

[C] Three

[D] Four ☒

✓ The Government of India constituted the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) in the year 2018, to address the dispute over sharing of Cauvery river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

✓ Recently, the CWMA, which was earlier under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, has been officially brought under the Jal Shakti Ministry. Along with CWMA, Godavari River Management Board & Krishna River Management Board are also brought under the Department of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

2. As of 2020, which state has provided employment to highest number of labourers, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Chhattisgarh ☒

[D] Uttar Pradesh

✓ According to an official statement, Chhattisgarh has topped the list of states in providing employment to unskilled labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

✓ Out of the total 77.85 lakh labourers employed under MNREGA across the country, 18.51 lakh labourers are from Chhattisgarh, which is about 24% of the labourers. Rajasthan comes second with 14% of the total number of labourers, and Uttar Pradesh is ranked third with 12% of the total number of labourers.

3. T. S. Tirumurti, who was seen in news recently, has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to which global organisation?

[A] World Health Organisation

[B] United Nations ☒

[C] Food and Agricultural Organisation

[D] International Labour Organisation

✓ Veteran Indian Foreign Service Officer T. S. Tirumurti has been appointed as the next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. The officer is currently serving as the Secretary (economic relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

✓ He replaces Sayyad Akbaruddin, who is superannuating this month. Prior to this appointment, Tirumurti has held several prime engagements and positions in India's external affairs.

4. The Task Force on NIP recently submitted their report to the Union Finance Minister. What does 'I' stand for, in NIP?

[A] Investment

[B] Infrastructure ☒

[C] Industrial

[D] Independent

✓ The Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) submitted its Final Report for FY 2019–25 to the Union Finance Minister. The summary report was released in December last year.

✓ The National Infrastructure Pipeline was announced during the 2019–20 budget. The exercise aims to invest Rs. 100 lakh crore on infrastructure of the country over the next five years. The Final Report of NIP Task Force projects total infrastructure investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during the period FY 2020–25.

5. According to the Open Budget Survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), what is the rank of India, in terms of budget transparency and accountability?

[A] 53 ☒

[B] 68

[C] 82

[D] 102

✓ Open Budget Survey, which was conducted by the International Budget Partnership has been recently released. It rates the level of budget transparency on a scale of 0–100. New Zealand tops the list with a score 87.

- ✓ In the list, India has been ranked at 53rd position among 117 nations, in terms of budget transparency and accountability. The survey provided a score of 49 out of 100 for the Union Budget process of India whereas the global average is 45.

- ✓ The survey report argues that the Union Government should publish a Pre-Budget Statement, which can be scrutinised by the legislators and the public.

6. "Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai" has been granted the Geographical Indication tag. In which district Kovilpatti is located?

- [A] Tirunelveli [B] Thoothukudi ☒
- [C] Tenkasi [D] Ramanathapuram

- ✓ The popular candy of Tamilnadu, Kovilpatti kadalai mittai has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Deputy Registrar of Geographical Indications announced the news.

- ✓ The 'kadalai mittai' is manufactured using peanuts held together with jaggery syrup in Kovilpatti and adjacent areas of Thoothukudi district. As the candy has a long shelf life, it has a huge export potential and the GI tag will attract many national and international audience.

7. 'Bank of Schemes, Ideas, Innovation and Research portal' has been launched by which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Health and Family welfare
- [B] Ministry of MSME ☒
- [C] Ministry of Human Resource Development
- [D] Ministry of Science and Technology

- ✓ Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently launched Bank of Schemes, Ideas, Innovation and Research portal on MSMEs, through the Video conferencing. The Portal enables the Centre, State and UT governments to access all related schemes.

- ✓ The portal also has features to upload Ideas, Innovations & Researches in the sector. The ideas crowdsourced are evaluated and rated by experts. The portal would be handled and updated by professionals.

8. Who has been appointed as the next chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)?

- [A] Amitabh Kant [B] Rajiv Kumar ☒
- [C] M S Sahoo [D] Nripendra Mishra

- ✓ Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been recently appointed as the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), for a period of three years. He replaces Kapil Dev Tripathi who has recently named the Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.

- ✓ PESB is a high-powered body constituted by the Government of India, under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, to advise Government on appointments of top management posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

9. What is the objective of 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' scheme launched by the Andhra Pradesh government?

- [A] College Fee reimbursement ☒
- [B] Improving infrastructure of schools
- [C] Free education to school girls
- [D] Mid-day meals in schools

- ✓ Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' scheme, which provides fee reimbursement to as many as 14 lakh college students in the State.

- ✓ The reimbursement amount would be credited directly into the accounts of the mothers of the students in four instalments, from this academic year. The state has released about ₹4,000 crore for the scheme and ₹1,880 crore towards the pending dues. Parents are asked to claim refunds if they had paid fees for 2019-20.

10. Jean-Georges Noverre is associated with which special day, celebrated in the month of April, every year?

- [A] World Health Day
- [B] World Creativity and Innovation Day

[C] World Dance Day ☒

[D] World Book and Copyright Day

- ✓ World Dance day has been celebrated every year on April 29, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the creator of modern ballet type of dance, Jean-Georges Noverre.
 - ✓ The day was created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI). Every year, ITI selects an outstanding dance personality to write a message for the day. This year the Message author is Gregory Vuyani MAQOMA, a dancer from South Africa.
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1. What is the name of the programme on health and risk communication focussing on COVID-19, launched by National Council for Science and Technology Communication?

[A] YATRA

[B] YASH ☒

[C] YAGNA

[D] VARUN

✓ National Council for Science & Technology Communication which functions under the Department of Science & Technology has launched a programme on health and risk communication named 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)'.

✓ The programme aims at promoting response on health and inculcate scientific temper & health consciousness among the general public. The programme also plans to involve academic, research, media and voluntary organizations in developing solutions to equip the society to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. 'Project Monitoring Unit' which was recently launched by the Government, is associated with which industry?

[A] Chemical Industry

[B] Food Processing Industry

[C] Coal Industry ☒

[D] Automobile Industry

✓ The Centre has recently launched a 'Project Monitoring Unit' (PMU) to help obtain various clearances required from the Centre and state government authorities for operationalisation of coal mines, as announced by the Ministry of Coal.

✓ This decision is expected to enable the allocatees of coal mines to obtain timely approvals for operationalising the mines, thereby promoting the ease of doing business in India. This is also expected to improve the production of coal in the country.

3. The Reserve Bank of India recently extended the benefits under its SLF-MF scheme. What does MF stand for, in the scheme?

[A] Micro Finance

[B] Mutual Funds ☒

[C] Micro Funds

[D] Multiple Finance

✓ The Reserve Bank of India launched Rs 50,000 crore scheme which enables banks to extend liquidity support to Mutual Funds, called Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds SLF-MF scheme. This was introduced at the backdrop of the shutting down of six debt funds of Franklin Templeton Mutual Funds.

✓ Recently, the RBI extended the benefits of the scheme to all banks, irrespective of whether they avail funding from the Reserve Bank or deploy their own resources.

4. Which country announced to provide \$3 million assistance to India, through its 'Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL)' project?

[A] United Kingdom

[B] United States of America ☒

[C] Germany

[D] Japan

✓ Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) is a collaborative project between the aid agency of US, USAID and New Delhi based company IPE Global.

✓ US announced that it will provide an assistance of \$3 million to India, in addition to the earlier assistance of \$5.9 million, for tackling the spread of COVID-19. Through the PAHAL project, USAID will support the National Health Authority to assist health facilities enrolled under PMJAY by mobilising resources.

5. Which state was formed along with Maharashtra, as a result of the Bombay Reorganization Act, which came into effect on May 1, 1960?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Gujarat ☒

[C] Karnataka

[D] Goa

✓ The Bombay Reorganization Act, which came into effect on May 1, 1960, divided the then Bombay province into two separate states namely Maharashtra and Gujarat, on the basis of language.

✓ People who were speaking Marathi and Konkani became a part of Maharashtra while those speaking Gujarati and Kutchi became a part of Gujarat. Hence May 1 is celebrated as the statehood day of Maharashtra and Gujarat every year.

6. Who has recently assumed charge as the next Economic Affairs Secretary, after superannuation of Atanu Chakraborty?

- [A] Rajesh Verma [B] Tarun Bajaj ☒
[C] Preeti Sudan [D] Arvind Kumar Sharma

- ✓ The present Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office and 1988 batch IAS officer, Tarun Bajaj recently assumed charge as the next Economic Affairs Secretary.
- ✓ He is replacing Atanu Chakraborty who superannuated on April 30. Before having appointed in the Prime Minister's Office, he served as the Joint Secretary in Economic Affairs Department, in charge of multilateral funding agencies division. He had also served as the Director in Department of Financial Services.

7. According to the recent survey conducted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, which state recorded the highest unemployment rate in April 2020?

- [A] Tamil Nadu ☒ [B] Telangana
[C] Bihar [D] Punjab

- ✓ As per the recent survey conducted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the unemployment rate of India increased 14.8% points, to 23.5% in Apr 2020.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest unemployment rate in April 2020, among large states at 49.8%, up from 6.3% in March 2020. Jharkhand and Bihar follow Tamil Nadu in higher unemployment rate while the lowest rate was found in Punjab, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana.

8. Which is the 1st state to bring its migrant labourers, after lockdown, through the Special Shramik Trains run by Ministry of Railways?

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

- ✓ The Indian Railways has launched the Special Shramik Trains to bring back stranded labourers and students stuck in different states across the country to their home states.

- ✓ Jharkhand becomes the first state to bring its migrant labourers back home through the first train run from Telangana to Ranchi. Recently, another special train carrying 1,200 migrant workers from Kerala left to Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

9. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has granted permission for holding elections to the Legislative Council in which state, amid the COVID-19 pandemic?

- [A] Jharkhand [B] Maharashtra ☒
[C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Jammu & Kashmir

- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently granted permission for holding elections to the Legislative Council in Maharashtra. CM Uddhav Thackeray is not a member of either house of the State Legislature and he should be elected to the Council before May 27.
- ✓ The ECI granted permission to hold the elections before the deadline of May 27. The election process for these 9 seats was withheld in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. Thangjam Dhabali Singh of Manipur has been conferred the 'Order of Rising Sun'. Which country constituted the award?

- [A] United Kingdom [B] Japan ☒
[C] Saudi Arabia [D] Germany

- ✓ Thangjam Dhabali Singh, a doctor from Manipur and founder of the Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF), was conferred the 'Order of Rising Sun – Gold and Silver Rays' by Japan.
- ✓ He was selected for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries. The award was constituted by Japanese Emperor Meiji in 1875. It is awarded to persons who contribute in promotion of Japanese culture, environmental preservation & international relations.

1. What is the name of the mobile application launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to connect farmers to supply chain?

- [A] Kisan Rath [B] Kisan Sabha ☒
[C] Kisan Suraksha [D] Kisan Samridhhi

- ✓ The Central Road Research Institute, a New Delhi based laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has recently launched a mobile application named 'Kisan Sabha' to connect farmers to supply chain, amidst the nation wide lockdown.
- ✓ The application aims to provide logistics support to the farmers so that they can directly connect with the institutional buyers. This linkage with the freight transportation Management System would minimize middlemen and increase the profit of farmers

2. As on May 2020, how many states have been integrated with the 'One nation, One ration card' scheme?

- [A] 5 [B] 8 [C] 10 [D] 17 ☒

- ✓ The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan recently announced that five more states viz. Bihar, UP, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh & Daman & Diu have been integrated with the 'One nation, One ration card' scheme.
- ✓ Under the scheme, eligible cardholders can avail food grains from any fairprice shop under NFSA. On January 1, 2020, there were 12 states on the integrated Public Distribution system. With the addition of 5 new states, the total count of states integrated in the scheme becomes 17, as of May 2020.

3. A national e-commerce marketplace 'Bharatmarket', is to be launched by which confederation of India?

- [A] Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
[B] Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) ☒
[C] FICCI
[D] NASSCOM

- ✓ Apex Traders body, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has recently announced that it would launch a national e-commerce marketplace 'Bharatmarket'.

- ✓ The platform aims to connect all retail traders to the market, in collaboration with technology partners, who will provide services in logistics and supply chains from manufacturers to end consumers.

4. During the era of industrialisation, the workers of which country revolted against the exploitative industrialists, which led to the celebration of May Day?

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

- ✓ During the era of industrialisation, the labourers of the United States revolted together against the unjust labour system and the exploitative industrialists.

- ✓ They demanded for fair wages, breaks between the work and paid leaves. The revolt on May 1 1886 led to the celebration of May Day. May Day, also known as International Workers' Day is celebrated across the world on May 1. In India, the 1st May Day was celebrated on May 1, 1923, by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in Chennai.

5. Which special day is celebrated on May 2, and is also celebrated twice a year during autumn and spring?

- [A] International Space awareness Day
[B] International Astronomy Day ☒
[C] International Earth Day
[D] International Nature Day

- ✓ International Astronomy Day is celebrated twice a year, during autumn and spring. The Astronomy Day 2020 is celebrated on May 2 and the next edition of this year on September 26, 2020.

- ✓ The President of the Astronomical Association of Northern California had organised the celebration of first Astronomy Day in 1973. The objective of celebrating this day is to inculcate the awareness about the universe and the field of astronomy.

6. The centenary special edition e-book "Prof. B. B. Lal – India Rediscovered" was recently. Professor B. B. Lal is associated with which field?

- [A] Epidemiology [B] Archaeology ☒
[C] Scientific Research [D] Literature

- ✓ The Union minister of Culture Prahlaad Singh Patel released a centenary special edition e-book "Prof. B. B. Lal-India Rediscovered" on the birthday of B.B.Lal, as a tribute for his contribution in the field of archaeology.
- ✓ Professor B.B Lal, born on May 2, 1961 in Uttar Pradesh, is a renowned archaeologist. On the occasion of his 100th birth year, the e-book has been released by the Ministry of culture in collaboration with Prof B B Lal Centenary Celebration Committee.

7. Who represented India in the Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers meeting held amid the Covid-19 pandemic?

- [A] Nirmala Sitharaman [B] Piyush Goyal
[C] Ravi Shankar Prasad ☒ [D] Prakash Javadekar

- ✓ An Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers meeting was convened recently to discuss the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Union Minister Communications and Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad represented India in the meeting. Digital Ministers of other G20 member also attended the virtual meeting. The G20 Digital Economy Task Force COVID-19 Ministerial Statement was released which ensured global digital measures to tackle the pandemic.

8. What is the new official name of the NASA's Mars Helicopter?

- [A] Intelligence [B] Ingenuity ☒
[C] Brilliance [D] Endeavor

- ✓ In the "Name the Rover" essay contest was conducted by the NASA, the essay of a teenager from Alabama High

school has been selected, which proposed the name for the Mars Helicopter of NASA.

- ✓ 'Ingenuity' is the new official name of the Mars Helicopter, as announced by NASA. Earlier in March, the Mars rover was named as 'Perseverance'. This helicopter will ride to Mars with the Perseverance rover, which would be launched in July or August.

9. The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under Ministry of AYUSH organised a programme called AYURAKSHA, in collaboration with the Police Department of which state/UT?

- [A] Karnataka [B] UP [C] New Delhi ☒ [D] MP

- ✓ The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under Ministry of AYUSH organised a programme called AYURAKSHA, in collaboration with the Police Department of New Delhi.
- ✓ The programme, which was titled AYURAKSHA "Corona Se Jung – Delhi Police Ke Sang", was launched with an aim of fighting COVID-19 using Ayurveda immunity boosting measures, as per the advisory issued by the Ministry of AYUSH. Police officials with co morbid conditions like Diabetes, Stress, and Hypertension will be identified by AIIA.

10. Which Union Ministry organised an IDEathon on 'The future of River Management', to discuss the strategies to river management?

- [A] Ministry of Home Affairs
[B] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
[C] Ministry of Tribal Affairs
[D] Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒

- ✓ The National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Jal Shakti along with the National Institute of Urban Affairs organized an IDEathon on 'The future of River Management'. The international webinar conducted with about 500 participants from different countries and international organizations, discussed about how the COVID-19 crisis can lead to the River Management strategies for the future.

1. Kashmir saffron has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Which country is the largest producer of saffron in the world?

- [A] India [B] Iran ☒
[C] Saudi Arabia [D] Taiwan

- ✓ Iran ranks first in the world, in terms of production of saffron and India is a close competitor. Kashmir saffron has received the Geographical Indication tag recently. It is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron are its longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep red colour and high quantity of crocin, safranal and picrocrocin, among others. It is the only saffron variety in the world that is grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level.

2. 'World Tuna Day' is observed on May 3, 2020. Tuna belongs to which species?

- [A] Bird [B] Fish ☒ [C] Insect [D] Reptile

- ✓ 'World Tuna Day' is observed on May 3, 2020 across the world. Tuna belongs to the species of fish, which is rich in Omega-3. As the fish contains high nutritional values including minerals, proteins and vitamin B12, it is threatened by an overwhelming demand. In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly voted to officially observe the World Tuna Day on May 3, 2020.

3. Chak-Hao, a variety of black rice, that recently bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, is found in which state?

- [A] Assam [B] Sikkim
[C] Manipur ☒ [D] Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ A black rice variety of Manipur called Chak-Hao has recently bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Chak-Hao is an aromatic glutinous rice variety which has been cultivated in Manipur.
- ✓ It is also used traditional medical practitioners. It also has the longest cooking time due to its fibrous bran

layer and higher crude fibre content. The terracotta work of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh a centuries-old traditional art form, also bagged the G.I tag.

4. 'Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna' is the initiative of which state that guarantees employment for at least 120 days to urban-dwellers?

- [A] Haryana [B] Himachal Pradesh ☒
[C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Chhattisgarh

- ✓ The state government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to launch a programme named 'Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna', which aims to guarantee employment for at least 120 days to urban-dwellers.
- ✓ The cabinet also announced that the people who would be employed will also be given training for upgrading their skills. As thousands of workers have now returned to Himachal Pradesh from various other states, their experience in multiple fields would be harnessed to provide employment.

5. Indian Professor Thalappil Pradeep has been selected for 25th Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020. The Nikkei Asia Prize was created and presented by a media corporation, based in which country?

- [A] Thailand [B] Singapore
[C] Japan ☒ [D] Vietnam

- ✓ The Nikkei Asia Prizes are conferred on individuals who have contributed to sustainable development in Asia. The award was created and presented by one of the largest media corporations in Japan, Nikkei.
- ✓ The award is conferred on three categories viz regional growth, science, technology and innovation; and culture. This year the award on Science and Technology has been presented to Thalappil Pradeep, Professor at IIT Madras and a Padma Shri awardee, for developing nanotechnology enabled water filters that can deliver clean water at a cost of 2 paisa per litre in India.

6. What is the theme of the World Press Freedom Day, celebrated across the world on May 3?

- [A] Journalism without borders

[B] Journalism without Fear or Favour ☒

[C] Press needs real Freedom

[D] Press Freedom without Pressure

- ✓ World Press Freedom Day has been celebrated across the world on May 3, every year. UNESCO launched a global campaign on media and social media channels, with the theme, "Journalism without Fear or Favour".

- ✓ World Press Freedom Conference has been organised annually since 1983. This year, Netherlands would host the conference from 18-20 October, in The Hague. It was originally scheduled to be held in April 2020.

7. What is the name of the Lokpal member and former Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court, who recently passed away?

[A] K. S. Nissar Ahmed [B] Mathew Anikuzhikattil

[C] Kundanika Kapadia [D] Ajay Kumar Tripathi ☒

- ✓ One of the 4 Judicial Members of the Lokpal and former Chief justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court, Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi (62) passed away recently. He had contracted coronavirus last month.

- ✓ He was appointed as the member of the anti corruption ombudsman Lokpal last year. He has served as the Additional Judge of the Patna High Court and later its' Chief Justice.

8. Jineth Bedoya Lima has been named as the laureate of the 2020 UNESCO / Guillermo Cano Prize. What is the award associated with?

[A] Architecture [B] Culture

[C] Journalism ☒ [D] Science

- ✓ The annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person or institution which has contributed to the promotion of press freedom. It was constituted in 1997 and named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated. The award is conferred on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, on 3 May.

- ✓ This year, Colombian investigative journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima has been named as the laureate of the 2020 UNESCO / Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. Her works focus on armed conflict in the country and sexual violence against women.

9. The first instance of African swine fever has been reported in which Indian state?

[A] Bihar [B] Jharkhand

[C] Assam ☒ [D] Manipur

- ✓ The first instance of African swine fever has been reported in the country in the state of Assam, where the disease has killed about 2500 pigs. The state government will not cull or discard the animals immediately though the Centre has permitted for the same.

- ✓ It was also announced that swine fever does not spread from animals to humans and an alternative option to prevent the disease is being worked out. Assam has about 21 lakh domestic pigs and leads the pork market in the northeast.

10. Which plant species was removed from the 'Tree' category, through the amendment made in the Indian Forest Act, 1927?

[A] Rubber Fig [B] Prosopis juliflora

[C] Bamboo ☒ [D] Plantain tree

- ✓ The 1927 Indian Forest Act was amended and the Indian Forest (Amendment) Act 2017 was passed by the Indian government, which removed Bamboo from the category of 'Tree' and felled or extracted bamboo that is found in or brought from a forest, would not be considered as 'timber'.

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for the Development of the North Eastern Region, Jitendra Singh addressed a bamboo conclave through video conference. He highlighted that bamboo is vital to develop post COVID-19 economy of our country. The Home Ministry allowed the functioning of bamboo related activities amidst the lockdown from April 16.

1. An Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Tower named 'UV Blaster' has been developed in India by which state owned organisation?

[A] HAL

[B] DRDO ☒

[C] BHEL

[D] BEL

- ✓ New Delhi-based Laser Science and Technology Centre, a laboratory of the Defence Research & Development Organization, has developed an ultra violet disinfection tower named 'UV Blaster' in collaboration with a private firm based in Gurgaon.
- ✓ This equipment is used for disinfection of surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets in laboratories, which could not be disinfected with traditional chemical methods. This could also be installed in places where large number of people gather including malls, hotels and offices.

2. Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand, the photographers at Associated Press (AP) were recently in news for receiving which award?

[A] Pulitzer Prize for Photography ☒

[B] Deutsche Welle Press Freedom award

[C] Nikkei Asia Prizes

[D] UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

- ✓ Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand, the photographers of New York based American not for profit news agency Associated Press (AP), have been named as the winners of Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.
- ✓ Pulitzer Prize is a prestigious award in the field of journalism in the US. They have been selected for their outstanding photography of protests, curfews and clashes in Kashmir, after the Article 370 was revoked. This is the 54th Pulitzer Prize for the Associated Press. Last year the agency had won the Pulitzer Prize in stories, photos and video category.

3. What is the theme of the online Contact Group Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in May 2020?

[A] Global Economy

[B] United against COVID-19 ☒

[C] Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World

[D] Upholding the Bandung Principles

- ✓ The online Contact Group Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) 2020 was recently held, to discuss the response to the prevalent COVID-19 crisis.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi participated in the online Summit, which was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of Republic of Azerbaijan. The theme of the Contact Group Summit was "United against COVID-19". The event also commemorated the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.

4. Which steel company has withdrawn its membership from the apex steel industry body, Indian Steel Association (ISA)?

[A] JSW Steel

[B] Tata Steel ☒

[C] ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel

[D] Jindal Steel Ltd

- ✓ One of the country's leading steel manufacturers Tata Steel has recently withdrawn its membership from the Indian Steel Association (ISA). The CEO and Managing Director of Tata Steel T V Narendran, who had been the President of ISA, also stepped down from the position.
- ✓ Other members of the association of steel industry are JSW Steel, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel Ltd.

5. The 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games which has been rescheduled to 2023, was previously planned to be held in which country?

[A] Cambodia

[B] Trinidad and Tobago ☒

[C] Guyana

[D] Jamaica

- ✓ The 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games is the 7th edition of the games and was scheduled to be held from 1-7 August 2021 in the Caribbean country Trinidad and Tobago.

- ✓ Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the Games has been postponed to the year 2023, as the Tokyo Olympics had also been postponed to 2021. The decision has been taken to avoid any possible clash between the two world games.

6. Which country has successfully isolated the 'monoclonal neutralising antibody', which is considered as an important step in treatment of COVID-19?

[A] United States [B] China

[C] Israel ☒ [D] Italy

- ✓ Israel recently announced that it has isolated a key coronavirus antibody called "monoclonal neutralising antibody" at its main biological research laboratory, Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR), as per the Defence Minister of Israel.

- ✓ This step has been claimed as the significant step in the possible treatment process of COVID-19. The isolated antibody can neutralise the coronavirus inside the body of the carriers. This is the 1st instance where monoclonal antibody (derived from one cell), is isolated, whereas in other parts, polygonal antibody is isolated.

7. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been awarded a commemorative World War II medal by which country?

[A] Germany [B] Russia ☒

[C] Japan [D] South Korea

- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin has awarded Kim Jong Un a commemorative World War II medal marking the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

- ✓ As per the notification of the Russian embassy, the medal was awarded to the Prime Minister of North Korea to recognise his role in preserving the memory of Soviet soldiers who laid down their lives in the territory of North Korea.

8. Which day is observed on the first Tuesday of May across the world?

[A] World Jazz Day [B] World Dance Day

[C] World Asthma Day ☒ [D] World Innovation Day

- ✓ The World Asthma Day is celebrated every year on first Tuesday of May to increase awareness about asthma and aims to improve the lives of people with asthma across the world.

- ✓ Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs which causes breathing problems. Asthma usually appears through symptoms like coughing, tightness in the chest, breathlessness. The 2020 theme is "Enough Asthma Deaths".

9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of the CKP Cooperative Bank Ltd. Where is the bank headquartered at?

[A] Chennai [B] Chandigarh

[C] Mumbai ☒ [D] Varanasi

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently cancelled the licence of the CKP Cooperative Bank Ltd. It is headquartered at Mumbai and has branches across Mumbai and Thane districts.

- ✓ As the financial position had weakened and it was unable to repay its depositors, this step has been taken by the country's central bank. RBI also announced that there is no plan for revival or proposal for merger with another bank at the time of announcement.

10. Which country is set to launch a remote-sensing satellite named Arktika-M, to monitor Arctic climate and environment?

[A] China [B] Russia ☒

[C] Germany [D] United States

- ✓ As per the recent announcement from a Russian aerospace company, Russia is set to launch the first Arktika-M satellite to monitor Arctic climate and environment. The first edition of the satellite has been developed and it has been prepared for launch this year while the second satellite would be launched in 2023.

- ✓ The satellite Arktika-M is expected to monitor the meteorological conditions of the polar region of the earth and assist in accurate weather forecasting.