

MAY

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SECOND WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1. What is the name of the operation launched by the Indian Navy, to repatriate the Indian citizens stranded in other countries?

[A] Samudra Setu ☒

[B] Welcome Back

[C] Navy Setu

[D] Samudra Shakti

✓ Indian Navy has launched Operation named 'Samudra Setu', which means Sea Bridge in English, with an objective of repatriating Indian citizens who are stranded in other countries.

✓ As a part of Phase-1 under the operation, Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar have departed to Malé in Maldives for evacuation of Indian citizens. The list of persons who are to be evacuated is prepared by the Indian Mission in Maldives. About a 1000 nationals are to be transported back to India following social distancing norms.

2. GARUD (Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones) portal, which was seen in news recently, was launched by which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Defence

[B] Ministry of Home Affairs

[C] Ministry of Civil Aviation ☒

[D] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

✓ The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation along with Directorate General of Civil Aviation has launched a portal named GARUD (Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones).

✓ The portal has been launched with an aim of providing fast-track exemptions to government agencies for drone operations associated with COVID-19 response. However, Ministry also warned about penal action & cancellation of exemption if the provisions are violated.

3. Who has received the Department of Science and Technology's Young Career Award in Nano Science and Technology for the year 2020?

[A] Saurabh Lodha ☒

[B] Dar Yasin

[C] Mukhtar Khan

[D] Channi Anand

✓ Professor at the Electrical Engineering Department, IIT Bombay, Mr. Saurabh Lodha has received the Young Career Award in Nano Science and Technology for the year 2020 instituted by the Department of Science and Technology.

✓ He has been selected for the prestigious award for contributing in development of logic transistor technologies beyond the conventional silicon transistors and development of nano electronic devices based on two-dimensional 'Van der Waals' materials.

4. What is the name of the campaign launched by NITI Aayog to ensure well-being of senior citizens during COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan ☒

[B] Take care of Elders

[C] Dada and Dadi Bachao Abhiyan

[D] Suraksha Samridhi Abhiyan

✓ NITI Aayog in collaboration with Mumbai-based Piramal Foundation has launched a campaign 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan'. The campaign focusses on ensuring well-being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

✓ This is expected to cover as many as 29 lakh senior citizens in 25 aspirational districts named by NITI Aayog. This project is currently piloted in seven states and will create awareness about the health and lifestyle of elder people.

5. 'Toman' is the newly proposed currency of which country?

[A] Venezuela

[B] Iran ☒

[C] Bolivia

[D] Marshall Islands

✓ As per the recent reports, the Parliament of Iran has passed a bill to allow the Government to change the national currency from Rial to Toman.

- ✓ Since 2017, the value of Iranian currency fell after heavy U.S. sanctions, which led to huge inflation and resultant street protests across the country. Now under the bill, the govt will slash 4 zeroes from its currency 'Rial'.

6. Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras has started to accept orders for medicines on WhatsApp. **PMBJK** functions under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
[B] Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
[C] Chemicals and Fertilizers ☒
[D] Health and Family Welfare

- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) which functions under the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have started accepting the orders for medicines on WhatsApp and e-mail.

- ✓ The prescriptions uploaded online are delivered at the doorsteps of the users. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched with an aim of providing quality generic medicines to the people at affordable rates. At present there are over 6300 PMBJKs operating in 726 districts across the country.

7. As per the recent judgement of the Supreme Court, which category of banks may also be included under SARFAESI Act?

- [A] Regional Rural Banks [B] Cooperative Banks ☒
[C] Small Finance Banks [D] Local Area Banks

- ✓ The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 allow banks & financial institutions to auction properties, when borrowers fail to repay their loans.

- ✓ Recently as per the judgement of the Supreme Court, the cooperative banks that are involved in the banking activities are considered as a 'banking company'. Hence the SARFAESI act may be modified to include the procedure of loan recovery by cooperative banks.

8. 'Long March 5B' rocket is the flagship launch vehicle of which country?

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

- ✓ 'Long March 5B' is the flagship launch vehicle of China and it is a variant of the standard Long March 5 rocket, which had its inaugural flight in 2016. The rocket launched a prototype crewed spacecraft from the Hainan Island. This new generation spacecraft entered its predetermined orbit 488 seconds after the launch.

- ✓ This success is expected to let China proceed with a mission to send an orbiter and rover to Mars.

9. Who are the beneficiaries of YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme of Andhra Pradesh government?

- [A] Fishermen Families ☒
[B] School-going children of fishermen
[C] Women in Fishermen families
[D] Individual Fishermen

- ✓ The State government of Andhra Pradesh has launched a scheme called YSR Matsyakara Bharosa amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the scheme, the government will provide a financial assistance of ₹10,000 to each fisherman family.

- ✓ This would help the fishermen community during the lockdown period and during the marine ban period. The monetary relief of fishermen venturing into the sea has also been raised from ₹4,000 to ₹10,000 per head.

10. Who has been reappointed as the chairperson of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee?

- [A] Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury ☒
[B] Mallikarjun Kharge
[C] Anurag Thakur
[D] Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

- ✓ Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has been reappointed for another year as the chairperson of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee along with the existing 30 members.

 - ✓ The committee was first formulated as a result of Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms in the year 1921. After 1950, the committee became a parliamentary committee which functioned under the control of the Lok Sabha Speaker along with a non-official chairperson. Since 1967, the chairperson of the committee is selected from the opposition party.
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1. Jharkhand banned the manufacture, sale and storage of 11 brands of pan masala for a year, to curb which harmful chemical present in them?
- [A] Magnesium carbonate ☒ [B] Magnesium chloride
- [C] Magnesium oxide [D] Sodium carbonate
- ✓ The state government of Jharkhand has recently banned manufacture, sale and storage of 11 brands of pan masala for a year. This step has been taken to curb the harmful chemical Magnesium carbonate, present in pan masala.
- ✓ The chemical is carcinogenic and harmful to the heart and banned for usage, as per the Food Safety Act, 2006 regulations. Earlier, Maharashtra and Bihar also had imposed a ban on pan masala.
2. Which international rating agency has projected zero economic growth for India in the year 2020–21?
- [A] S&P [B] Moody's Investor Service ☒
- [C] CRISIL [D] Fitch Ratings
- ✓ Moody's Investors Service has recently projected India's growth at zero percent for the current fiscal 2020–21. Last month the ratings agency estimated that the Indian economy would grow at 0.2%.
- ✓ It had also provided a 'Baa2' rating for India, which represents moderate credit risk. It also said that India would regain its growth rate at 6.6% in the 2021–22 fiscal.
3. The India International Exchange Limited (India INX) is a subsidiary of which Indian stock exchange?
- [A] National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)
- [B] Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) ☒
- [C] Calcutta Stock Exchange
- [D] United Stock Exchange of India
- ✓ Recently the Union Finance Minister launched INR–USD futures and options contracts on the two international exchanges — BSE's India INX and NSE's NSE–IFSC, at GIFT city, Gandhinagar.
- ✓ This decision of allowing rupee derivatives will bring the rupee trading to our country, which are presently dominated by global exchanges.
4. The Union Defence Ministry has signed a contract with which power firm of India for infrastructure modernisation of airfields?
- [A] PowerGrid Corporation [B] TATA Power ☒
- [C] JSW Energy [D] Adani Power
- ✓ The Union Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Mumbai based power company TATA Power for infrastructure modernisation of 37 airfields.
- ✓ The airfields of the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard and the Navy are to be modernised at a cost of around Rs 1,200 crore. This is the 2nd phase of the Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure programme while during the 1st phase the airfields of the IAF were upgraded. This project would facilitate the operations of aircrafts in poor weather conditions.
5. Which Indian state supplies the majority of jute bags used in packaging, across the country?
- [A] Assam [B] West Bengal ☒
- [C] Kerala [D] Odisha
- ✓ West Bengal supplies about 95 per cent of the jute bags used across the country, mainly in packaging of food–grains. As the lock–down has stopped the production of jute bags in the state, the Food Corporation of India faces a shortage of bags.
- ✓ Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan announced that the government has allowed packaging of food–grains in used gunny sacks and plastic bags during the ongoing procurement season. A task force has been constituted by the Ministry to assess the shortage of jute bags.

6. Where is the headquarters of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) located?

[A] Rome

[B] Geneva

[C] Grand-Saconnex ☒

[D]

New York

- ✓ International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice regarding migration to governments and migrants. It is headquartered at Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland.

- ✓ Recently, the Director-General of the UN migration agency Antonio Vitorino said in a notification that thousands of migrants have been stranded all over the world and they face an increased risk of COVID-19 infection. The agency also advised the governments to allow health care available to all migrants.

7. When is the "Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War" observed by the United Nations, every year?

[A] 1-2 May

[B] 4-5 May

[C] 8-9 May ☒

[D] 11-12 May

- ✓ On 8 and 9 May every year, the United Nations commemorates the millions who lost their lives during the Second World War. The World War-II led to the formation of the United Nations. The commemoration to pay tribute to all victims is officially called the "Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War". It was created by a General Assembly resolution in 2004.

8. Who was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize, for founding International Red Cross Movement?

[A] Henri Dunant ☒

[B] Sully Prudhomme

[C] Wilhelm Roentgen

[D] Jacobus van't Hoff

- ✓ The first Nobel Peace Prize Henri Dunant of Switzerland for founding the International Red Cross Movement and initiating the Geneva Convention.

- ✓ World Red Cross Day or World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8 every year, which marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant. The International Committee of the Red Cross established by him, works for the welfare of the people across the world.

9. Which state-owned institution has approved the project for developing 'Human monoclonal antibodies (hmAbs)' that can neutralize the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

[A] Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, CSIR ☒

[B] S.N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences

[C] Agharkar Research Institute

[D] Institute of Nano Science and Technology

- ✓ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR through its flagship New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative programme has approved a project towards development of human monoclonal antibodies (hmAbs).

- ✓ The antibodies can neutralize the mutated virus SARS-CoV-2 and could be used for fighting future SARS-CoV infections. The team that is going to develop the therapeutic antibodies comprises of academic institutes and industries.

10. What is the theme of the World Migratory Bird Day 2020 observed on May 9?

[A] Love the Birds

[B] Birds Connect Our World ☒

[C] Birds transcend the Globe

[D] Birds are precious

- ✓ The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on May 9 every year, across the world. The theme of the World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is 'Birds Connect Our World'.

- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about conservation and ecological importance of migratory birds in the global ecosystem. The day was first introduced in the year 2006.

1. CSIR's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) has partnered with which Indian company to commercialise their FELUDA test kit?

- [A] Tech Mahindra [B] Larsen & Toubro
[C] Tata Sons ☒ [D] Wipro

- ✓ Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), a lab of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have entered into a partnership to commercialise the FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay, FELUDA test kit developed by IGIB.
- ✓ Under the agreement, the licensing of KNOW-HOW for rapid and accurate diagnosis of COVID-19 will also be undertaken. The FELUDA kit is affordable, easy to use and not dependant on the expensive Q-PCR machines.

2. World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN's postal agency have released a commemorative postage stamp on the anniversary of the eradication of which disease?

- [A] Malaria [B] Cholera
[C] Smallpox ☒ [D] Measles

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN's postal agency have released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox. The 33rd World Health Assembly issued its official declaration that the world has successfully eradicate small pox, in May 1980.
- ✓ The smallpox eradication campaign of WHO was launched in 1967, to fast-track the global effort in eradicating the disease. The stamp commemorates the roles of world leaders, organisations, rural doctors and health workers.

3. Who has been appointed as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India, who also took over as the Economic Affairs Secretary recently?

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

- ✓ As per the recent notification of the Reserve Bank of India, the government has appointed Economic Affairs

Secretary Tarun Bajaj as a Director on the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with effect from May 5 until further orders.

- ✓ Tarun Bajaj is set to replace the position held by Atanu Chakraborty, who superannuated on April 30. Tarun Bajaj is a 1988 batch IAS officer and has held several crucial positions including Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office and Director in the Department of Financial Services.

4. Among the Road and infrastructure cess and the Special additional excise duty that were recently hiked by the Centre, which one is passed to the states through devolution?

- [A] Road and infrastructure cess
[B] Special additional excise duty ☒
[C] Both of them
[D] None of them

- ✓ In a recent move, the Centre hiked the duties on petrol and diesel steeply and raised it to Rs 10 and Rs 13 per litre, respectively. It was also announced that there will be no change in the retail prices as the hike will be absorbed by the Oil Marketing companies.

- ✓ Among the total hike, the Road and infrastructure cess will go the revenue of the Centre only whereas the special additional excise duty will be passed on to all states through devolution at 42%. This decision has been taken at the backdrop of falling crude oil prices in the global market and lower demand during the lock-down.

5. 'Amar Sona Bangla', the national anthem of Bangladesh, was written by which Indian poet, whose birth anniversary is celebrated on May 5?

- [A] Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
[B] Rabindranath Tagore ☒
[C] Aurobindo Ghosh
[D] Munshi Premchand

- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore, also called as the 'Gurudev' wrote the 'Amar Sona Bangla' song during the first partition of Bengal, announced by Lord Curzon in 1905. The song later led to the uprising of the freedom movement of the present Bangladesh and became their national anthem.
- ✓ Tagore is the only known person who had composed national anthems for two countries, including Jana Gana Mana of India. His 159th birth anniversary was observed on May 5. National Gallery of Modern Art organised a virtual tour to commemorate the birth anniversary of Tagore.

6. As per the recent report of the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), which areas of the country comprised of the highest number of Internet users?

- [A] Metropolitan Areas [B] Urban Areas
[C] Semi-urban Areas [D] Rural Areas ☒

- ✓ According to the 'Digital in India' report recently released by the Internet & Mobile Association of India, there were more Internet users in rural areas when compared to those in urban areas for the first time.
- ✓ As of last November, out of the total 504 million active internet users, there were 227 million active internet users in rural areas while there were 205 million in urban areas. But the time spent on internet is higher among the urban people. The report also highlighted that there was an increase of 21% in female internet users, higher than that of male users (9%).

7. Based on the recommendation of which committee, the Defence Ministry approved the abolition of 9304 posts in the Military Engineering Service?

- [A] Lt Gen Shekatkar ☒ [B] Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar
[C] Lt Gen PC Thimmaya [D] Lt Gen CB Ponnappa

- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the Military Engineering Service. MES is a government Defence infrastructure development agency.
- ✓ As per the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, headed by Lieutenant General Shekatkar, and

the proposal of the Engineer-in-Chief of MES, the posts in the basic and industrial workforce have been scrapped, which will improve the combat capability and trim the defence expenditure.

8. Which state government has raised the retirement age of government employees to 59 from 58?

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

- ✓ The state government of Tamil Nadu has recently raised the retirement age of State Government employees to 59 from 58. The Government order comes to force with immediate effect, as per the notification released.
- ✓ This order will also apply to all teachers in government and government-aided schools and colleges, and employees working in State public sector undertakings.

9. Project CARD, that was seen in news recently, is associated with the launching of which product?

- [A] Temporary PDS card
[B] COVID-19 Testing kit ☒
[C] Temporary AADHAR card
[D] Face Masks for Doctors

- ✓ NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology have launched the Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics (CARD) project. The project aims to scale up India's capacity to make coronavirus testing kits.
- ✓ The primary goal is to manufacture at least 10 million rapid antibody tests for COVID-19 by July. It also aims to expand RT-PCR test kits in India. The announcement has come after quality issues faced with Chinese-made antibody testing kits.

10. What is the name of the application launched by the AYUSH Ministry as a part of the launch of clinical research on Ayurveda interventions?

- [A] AYUSH Raksha [B] AYUSH Sanjivani ☒
[C] AYUSH Suraksha [D] AYUSH Shakti

- ✓ Union Health Minister along with the Union AYUSH Minister launched the clinical research studies on Ayurveda interventions as an add-on to the standard care in tackling COVID-19.
 - ✓ This will be a joint initiative of Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Science & Technology through CSIR.
 - ✓ They also launched the Ayush Sanjivani application developed by the AYUSH Ministry, with an aim of generating data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH recommendations among the public and record their impact in prevention of COVID-19.
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1. The provisions of which act is relaxed by the states to increase the working hours of labourers?

- [A] Companies Act [B] Factories Act ☒
[C] Epidemic Diseases Act [D] Trade Unions Act

- ✓ Several states in India including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Goa have relaxed the provision of the Factories Act, 1948 and increased the working hours of labourers, after facing a shortage of workers following the lockdown.
- ✓ Recently, Odisha and Maharashtra labour departments exempted their industries from four sections of the Factories Act, 1948, related to working hours of the staff, till June 30. Uttar Pradesh suspended key labour laws for three years through an ordinance. With the approved exemption, employers can allow labourers to work in two shifts of 12 hours each.

2. 'Mission Sagar' the outreach initiative launched by India covers how many countries?

- [A] Two [B] Four
[C] Five ☒ [D] Seven

- ✓ India launched an outreach initiative named 'Mission Sagar', to assist Island nations in the Indian Ocean in tackling the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for the 5 island nations: Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to deliver Food, Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines, related to COVID-19.

3. What is 'Covid Kavach Elisa'?

- [A] Personal Protective Equipment [B] Mask
[C] Testing Kit ☒ [D] Disinfectant

- ✓ Pune based National Institute of Virology under the Indian Council of Medical Research has successfully developed the first indigenous antibody detection kit for COVID-19 named 'Covid Kavach Elisa'.

- ✓ Technically, it is an anti-SARS-CoV-2 human IgG ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test kit for detecting coronavirus. As per the Union Health Ministry, the kit can test up to 90 samples together in 2.5 hours.

4. Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS) is developed by which organisation?

- [A] DRDO ☒ [B] BHEL
[C] HAL [D] BEL

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation laboratory based at Hyderabad, Research Centre Imarat (RCI), has developed an automated sanitisation cabinet called Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS).
- ✓ The sanitiser uses the UV-C type of light to sanitise currencies, electronic gadgets & paper. The significant feature of the sanitiser is its contactless operation, which will help in containing the spread of infection.

5. Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) is an organisation under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Defence
[B] Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
[C] Ministry of Law and Justice
[D] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- ✓ Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) was established under Ministry of Home Affairs in 1970, as a thinktank with the objective of modernization of police force. Recently BPRD released a 40 page manual titled 'Fake News and Disinformation: How to Spot and Investigate' to help investigators and police officers to identify fake news aimed at spreading communal hatred among the people.

6. Hari Shankar Vasudevan, who passed away recently was associated with which profession?

- [A] Sportsperson [B] Historian ☒
[C] Healthcare Worker [D] Politician

- ✓ Veteran Indian scholar and historian Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away recently after contracting COVID-19. Professor Hari Vasudevan was working as a UGC Emeritus Professor in the Department of History and China Centre of Calcutta University after his superannuation.

- ✓ He was an important personality in the field of Russian & Central Asian history. He also served as the Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, institution under Ministry of Culture Govt of India.

7. Where is the headquarters of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) located?

- [A] Paris [B] Madrid ☒
[C] New York [D] Geneva

- ✓ The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of sustainable and universally accessible tourism. Its headquarters is located at Madrid, Spain.
- ✓ As per the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer report, International tourism could decline by 60–80% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which might result in the revenue loss of USD 910 billion to 1.2 trillion. It also said that the crisis has caused 22% fall in international tourist arrivals during the first quarter of 2020.

8. Which day is celebrated in India on May 11, to mark the achievement of its nuclear tests made at Pokhran in 1998?

- [A] National Nuclear Power Day
[B] National Technology Day ☒
[C] National Nuclear Weapon Day
[D] Pokhran Day

- ✓ May 11 is celebrated as National Technology Day in India every year, to mark the day on which India conducted its nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan in the year 1998. India conducted its 1st nuclear test, code named "Smiling Buddha" in 1974. In 1998, under the code

name Operation Shakti, the next nuclear mission was carried out.

- ✓ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam led the scientific team which carried out the nuclear weapon tests on May 11. At present, India is among eight countries in the world that own a nuclear weapons program.

9. The Suraksha Store initiative has been launched by which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Home Affairs
[B] Ministry of Consumer Affairs ☒
[C] Ministry of Finance
[D] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

- ✓ The Suraksha Store initiative has been launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- ✓ The aim of this scheme to educate Kirana store owners across the country about safety guidelines and sanitation measures to be followed while running their businesses. Recently the Dept., of Consumer Affairs has partnered with tech startups Safejob and Seekify to leverage technology in implementing this scheme.

10. 'Pranavayu' is a respiratory health awareness programme launched in which Indian city?

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

- ✓ The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the city corporation of Bengaluru has launched 'Pranavayu programme' to create awareness about self examination of respiratory health for the city dwellers.
- ✓ The programme aims at educating people with low oxygen level in their blood to check themselves at an early stage. Under the programme, several ads are published in media about self examination.

1. As per the new guidelines issued regarding the Aarogya Setu app, what is the maximum number of days the data can be stored?

[A] 120

[B] 180 ☒

[C] 210

[D] 365

- ✓ The Government of India has recently issued a set of guidelines to be followed for data processing of Aarogya Setu app users. As per the new rules, the storage of data beyond 180 days is prohibited and users can seek deletion of their data from the government's records within 30 days of request.

- ✓ The new norms allow collection of only demographic, contact, self assessment and location data of infected persons and their contacts. Any violation of these directions may lead to penalties under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

2. Which Indian state has launched the new initiative 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana'?

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] Punjab

[C] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[D] Maharashtra

- ✓ The government of Madhya Pradesh has launched a new scheme called 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal. The scheme has been launched on a pilot basis in 23 Police stations across the state.

- ✓ Under the scheme, people need not visit Police stations to lodge an FIR, rather they can use the number 100. The Dial 100 vehicle would have trained Head Constables to lodge FIR.

3. What is the name of the helpline launched by the Union HRD Minister for the students of Central University of Odisha?

[A] Suraksha

[B] Bharosa ☒

[C] Shakti

[D] Raksha

- ✓ The Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank recently launched the Central University of Odisha Helpline 'Bharosa', through a virtual platform in New Delhi.

- ✓ The helpline has been launched with an aim of assisting the student community during the difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic. The Helpline Number 080 46 80 10 10, aims at redressing grievances and providing services to all the students of the University.

4. How many markets are to be integrated with e-NAM platform before May 15, as per the target of Agriculture Ministry?

[A] 1000 ☒

[B] 2000

[C] 4000

[D] 8000

- ✓ The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently launched integration of 117 additional wholesale mandis with the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) platform.

- ✓ After the integration, the total number of online mandis became 962, across the country against the target of 1000 mandis before May 15. In the e-NAM platform, distant bidding facility for wholesale produce in APMC mandis without physical presence of buyer or trader and e-payment facility are provided.

5. Who is the first Indian to win the Fed Cup Heart Award for Asia / Oceania zone?

[A] Leander Paes

[B] Sania Mirza ☒

[C] Rohan Bopanna

[D] Prajnesh Gunneswaran

- ✓ Tennis star Sania Mirza became the first Indian to win the Fed Cup Heart Award for Asia / Oceania zone. She secured more than 10,000 votes out of the total 16,985.

- ✓ The Fed Cup Heart Award is an International Tennis Federation (ITF) initiative that was established in 2009 to recognise the Fed Cup players for their distinction, courage and commitment.

6. Which Indian sportsperson is set to take charge as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India?

[A] Devendra Jhajharia

[B] Deepa Malik ☒

[C] Mariyappan Thangavelu

[D] Varun Singh Bhati

- ✓ India's first and only woman Paralympics silver medallist, Deepa Malik is set to take charge as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India. She had earlier announced her retirement from active sports.

- ✓ She is the only woman para-athlete to have been given the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. She is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Arjuna Award. Deepa Malik won her silver medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Paralympics in shot put. She has won 58 national and 23 international medals.

7. What is the theme of the International Nurses Day 2020?

[A] Nursing the World to Health ☒

[B] Honour the Nurses

[C] Nurses are Warriors

[D] Nursing the Globe

- ✓ Every year the International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12. It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. 2020 also marks the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has declared 2020 as the 'Year of the Nurse and the Midwife'. This year, the theme of the International Nurses Day is "Nursing the World to Health".

8. Which Union Ministry has launched, Management Information System named CHAMPIONS portal?

[A] Ministry of Human Resources and Development

[B] Ministry of MSME ☒

[C] Ministry of Science and Technology

[D] Ministry of Home Affairs

- ✓ Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry has launched CHAMPIONS portal www.champions.gov.in.

- ✓ It is a control room – management information system aimed at assisting Indian MSMEs and solving their grievances.

- ✓ The 'CHAMPIONS' stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength. It uses advanced technology like AI, Machine Learning and integrated with the Centre's CPGRAMS grievance portal.

9. Sero-survey, that is proposed to be conducted by ICMR, involves the predominant testing of which sample?

[A] Nasal swab

[B] Throat swab

[C] Blood ☒

[D] Urine

- ✓ The Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR and National Centre for Disease Control proposed to launch a population-based sero-survey at district level. This operation is to be done in collaboration with key stakeholders and State Health Departments.

- ✓ It involves testing the blood serum predominantly. All population groups including outpatient attendees, pregnant women and health care workers will be tested.

10. What is "Airlens Minus Corona", that was seen in news recently?

[A] Air purifier

[B] Disinfectant Robot ☒

[C] Special Mask

[D] Sanitiser

- ✓ A team of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Stanford alumni have developed a technology named "Airlens Minus Corona". It has received certification from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

- ✓ It is an 'intelligent robot' machine that can travel to hospitals and other crowded public places and disinfect surfaces with a water-based technology. Unlike the alcohol-based or UV-based method, the technology works on the basis of 'Water Electro Activation' technique. Charged or ionised water droplets will kill the virus by destroying its proteins.