

**MAY**

**2020**

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# **FOURTH WEEK**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**22 MAY - 31 MAY**



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1. Which country's cabinet has approved their new political map that included Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura?

[A] China

[B] Nepal ☒

[C] Afghanistan

[D] Thailand

- ✓ The Cabinet of Nepal has recently approved their new political map including Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura under its territory.
- ✓ Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali announced that the official map of Nepal will be released by the Ministry of Land Management soon. The announcement has been made amid a border dispute between India and Nepal. Both the countries claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory.

2. Which Indian state has launched the 'Charan Paduka' campaign to assist migrant labourers?

[A] Punjab

[B] Chhattisgarh

[C] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[D] Uttarakhand

- ✓ The state of Madhya Pradesh has recently launched a new initiative, the first in the country named Charan Paduka campaign. The campaign seeks to assist the migrant labourers who are walking barefoot by providing footwear to them.
- ✓ It was started from a Police station at Indore and is being implemented with the help of civilians, across the state. This scheme has been launched amid several accidents of the state involving migrants.

3. How many cities of the country were given the '5 star garbage free' tag, under the garbage free star rating for the cities?

[A] 4

[B] 6 ☒

[C] 10

[D] 15

- ✓ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the results of garbage-free star rating for the cities.
- ✓ The top '5 star garbage-free' tag was given to six cities including Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur, Madhya

Pradesh's Indore, Gujarat's Rajkot and Surat, Karnataka's Mysore and Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai.

- ✓ As many as 141 cities were rated based on their garbage management. 65 cities were given three-star while 70 were given one-star.

4. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania which were recently making news, are the countries of which continent?

[A] Africa

[B] South America

[C] Europe ☒

[D] Australia

- ✓ Three Baltic countries in the northern Europe: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania initiated the re-connection measure named as 'travel bubble'. The European Union countries started this to make their economies back to form, after the post COVID-19 lockdowns.
- ✓ They are also less populated and comparatively less affected by COVID-19. The travel bubble would allow members of the group to renew trade ties with each other and restart travel and tourism sector.

5. Who has been conferred with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award for his contribution to Indian hydrography?

[A] R K S Bhaduraria

[B] Vinay Badhwar ☒

[C] Ashok Kumar

[D] Krishnaswamy Natarajan

- ✓ The National Hydrographer to the government of India, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, has been conferred with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award. The award has been given for his significant contribution to Indian hydrography and across the Indian Ocean region.
- ✓ The award is presented to the personalities who contribute in raising the standards of hydrography, cartography and navigation around the world. It was first presented in 2006 by the UK Ministry of Defence-sponsored UKHO (UK Hydrographic Office).

6. As per the notification of the Jammu & Kashmir administration, what is the minimum duration of residence in the UT, to be eligible for domicile status?

[A] 10 years

[B] 15 years ☒

[C] 18 years

[D] 20 years

- ✓ The Jammu & Kashmir government notified Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020. There shall be a timeline of 15 days for issuance of the certificate after which the applicant can approach an Appellate Authority.
- ✓ According to that, all people who have resided in the UT for 15 years, or have studied for 7 years and appeared in class 10th or 12th examination there and their children, Children of Government officials who have served in the UT for 10 years are eligible.
- ✓ Now, West Pakistan Refugees, sanitation workers and children of women married outside Jammu and Kashmir shall also be eligible for Domicile Certificate.

7. The Indian Railways' most powerful 12,000 hp electric locomotive has been manufactured by which company?

[A] General Electric

[B] Alstom ☒

[C] Siemens

[D] Bombardier

- ✓ The Indian Railways has recently operationalised its first 12,000 hp electric locomotive, between Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Station to Shivpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ It has been manufactured French rail transport firm Alstom, at the Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd. (MELPL), in Bihar. MELPL is a joint venture between the French firm Alstom and the Indian Railways. With this, India became the sixth country in the world to produce indigenous high horsepower locomotive.

8. Who has been appointed as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA)?

[A] Dilip Oommen ☒

[B] Sajjan Jindal

[C] C S Verma

[D] Lakshmi Mittal

- ✓ Veteran in Indian Steel Industry, CEO of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India, Dilip Oommen took over as the President of the Indian Steel Association (ISA).
- ✓ Earlier, T V Narendran the Managing director of Tata Steel, resigned from the post of President of ISA. An

extraordinary board meeting decided the unanimous appointment of Dilip as the President for the next 2 yrs.

9. Where is the headquarters of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) located?

[A] Geneva

[B] Paris

[C] Jerusalem

[D] Amman ☒

- ✓ The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) is an UN agency which aims to support the relief and development of Palestinian refugees. It is headquartered at Amman, Jordan.
- ✓ Recently, India has given USD 2 million in aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency amidst the coronavirus crisis. The funds are provided to support the agency's core programmes and services, especially education and health. India had also increased its annual contribution to the UNRWA from USD 1.25 million in 2016 to USD 5 million in 2019.

10. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, is the head of which international organisation?

[A] United Nations

[B] Food and Agricultural Organisation

[C] World Health Organization ☒

[D] World Trade Organisation

- ✓ The Director General of World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has recently announced that WHO will initiate an independent review on its handling of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ More than 120 countries including India supported the resolution drafted by the European Union calling for a review.

1. What is the name of the mobile application launched by the HRD Ministry, which provides mock tests for exams like JEE and NEET?

[A] National Mock Test App

[B] National Test Abhyas ☒

[C] National Test Kendra

[D] National Pariksha Kendra

✓ Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a new mobile application named the 'National Test Abhyas'.

✓ The application enables the students to take up high quality mock tests for the upcoming exams that come under the National Testing Agency's purview including JEE Main & NEET. It has been developed by the National Testing Agency. The tests can be downloaded without any fee.

2. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)?

[A] Govinda Rajulu Chintala ☒ [B] Ajay Tyagi

[C] Subash Chandra Khuntia [D] Santhosh Kumar

✓ The government has recently appointed Govinda Rajulu Chintala as Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

✓ The appointments committee of the union cabinet cleared the appointment for Chintala, for the next two years till his superannuation in July 2022. The committee has also cleared the appointment of Shaji KV as the Deputy Managing Director at NABARD for 5 yrs.

3. What is the name of first agri-futures index of India, to be launched by the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)?

[A] AGRIDEX ☒

[B] AGROINDEX

[C] NCAGRINDEX

[D] AGRIFUTURE

✓ National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) is an online multi-commodity exchange, headquartered at Mumbai, India. NCDEX was recently in news as the exchange announced that it will launch the country's first agri-futures index, NCDEX AGRIDEX.

✓ The exchange said it has already begun the mock trading in agri-index futures contracts. AGRIDEX represents a basket of 10 agricultural commodities on the NCDEX and will serve as a benchmark for India's strong agricultural sector.

4. What is the theme of 'World Bee Day 2020'?

[A] Bee Engaged ☒

[B] Bee Energetic

[C] Bees for SDGs

[D] Bees in Supply chain

✓ The World Bee Day is celebrated every year on May 20 to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.

✓ It provides an opportunity for governments, organizations, civil society and concerned citizens everywhere to promote actions that will protect and enhance pollinators and their habitats, improve their abundance and diversity, and support the sustainable development of beekeeping.

5. The Ayushman Bharat Scheme has recently crossed which milestone number, in regards with beneficiaries?

[A] 50 lakh

[B] 75 lakh

[C] 1 Crore ☒

[D] 100 Crore

✓ As per the recent announcement by the National Health Authority (NHA), the number of people who have benefitted under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme has crossed the 1 crore mark.

✓ The flagship health insurance programme named Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY) was launched on September 23, 2018 in Ranchi. The scheme which is implemented by NHA, aims to provide Rs 5 lakh secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation cover to up to 10 Crore poor and vulnerable families.

6. Who is set to take charge as the chairman of the World Health Organization Executive Board from 2020?

- [A] K. K. Shailaja [B] Harsh Vardhan ☒  
[C] Preeti Sudan [D] Rupa Sharma

✓ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan is set to take charge as the chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board. Harsh Vardhan would succeed the current chairman of WHO Executive Board, Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan.

✓ The Executive Board of WHO comprises 34 executives related to the field of health, each representing a member country. The Chairman's post is held by rotation among the regional groups.

7. The Central Government has announced a scheme to completely solarise which famous temple?

- [A] Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, Tamil Nadu  
[B] Thanjavur Peruvudaiyar Temple, Tamil Nadu  
[C] Puri Jagannath Temple, Odisha  
[D] Konark Sun Temple, Odisha ☒

✓ Union Government has recently launched a scheme for complete solarization of Konark Sun Temple and Konark town in Odisha. It will be implemented by the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency.

✓ The project outlay of Rs. 25 crore will be provided by the Centre. As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the scheme aims to set up 10 MW grid connected solar project and solar applications like solar trees and solar drinking water kiosks, to implement the scheme.

8. What is the name of the social security scheme for senior citizens that has been extended to 3 more yrs?

- [A] Pradhan Mantri Atal Pension Yojana  
[B] Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana ☒  
[C] Pradhan Mantri Vaya Samriddhi Yojana  
[D] Pradhan Mantri Senior Citizen Yojana

✓ The Union Cabinet has extended Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a pension scheme for the senior citizens (who are above 60 years), for a period of three years till March 2023.

✓ The scheme was initially launched in 2017, to provide a guaranteed monthly payout to senior citizens. The maximum investment limit is Rs 15 lakh and the tenure of the policy is 10 years. Though the scheme assured 8% return last time, this year it would give 7.4% per annum. The interest rate will be modified every year, in line with the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS).

9. The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), that was recently in news is associated with providing credit for which sector?

- [A] Agriculture [B] MSME ☒  
[C] Automobile [D] Service

✓ The Union Cabinet has approved an additional funding of up to Rs 3 lakh crore through the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector.

✓ The Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that are hit hard by the coronavirus crisis will be granted an emergency credit at the rate of 9.25%. 100% guarantee coverage will be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) for eligible MSMEs & MUDRA borrowers, in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line facility.

10. Which Indian state has partnered with SIDBI and launched a start-up fund for providing employment to the migrant workers?

- [A] MP [B] UP ☒ [C] Punjab [D] Bihar

✓ The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath recently launched "Uttar Pradesh Start-up Fund" by partnering with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The state had earlier signed a MoU with SIDBI to speedup the formation of start-ups in the state.

✓ He also handed over the first instalment of Rs 15 crore to SIDBI. The migrant workers will be provided jobs based on their skills and youths of the states will be encouraged to form start-ups.

1. India recently signed an addendum with which country to operationalise 5 new ports of call, to enhance trade and connectivity?

- [A] Sri Lanka [B] Bangladesh ☒  
[C] South Korea [D] Japan

✓ High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh signed an addendum to the 'Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade' with the Shipping Ministry of Bangladesh, in Dhaka. It was signed to operationalise five new ports of call and two more protocol routes to enhance trade and connectivity between the two countries.

✓ The number of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol routes are also being increased from 8 to 10. Among the newly added ports of call, Dhulian, Maia, Kolaghat, Sonamura and Jogigopha are in India while Rajshahi, Sultanganj, Chilmari, Dadkandi & Bahadurabad are in Bangladesh.

2. Carmen Reinhart, who was seen in news recently, is the new Chief economist and Vice president of which global institution?

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

✓ The World Bank has recently named economic expert Carmen Reinhart as its new vice president and chief economist. Carmen, who works as a professor at Harvard University, is also an adviser and contributor to the World Bank debt transparency discussions.

✓ She is a member of the IMF external advisory group working on policy challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. She has published a book titled "This Time is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly" together with economist Kenneth Rogoff.

3. Google, along with which Technology Company has released their collaborative application programming interface (API) for contact tracing?

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

✓ Apple and Google have made the application programming interface (API), developed for contact tracing available to the general public. The APIs will be made available through publicly available software updates and only public health authorities could use the APIs to build contact tracing apps.

✓ As per their announcement, as many as 22 countries have requested and received access to the API so far. They also promised that the API would be destroyed once the pandemic is over and when contact-tracing apps are no longer required.

4. As per the recent data of the Reserve Bank of India, which type of banks made highest credit disbursement for the last three years?

- [A] Public Sector banks [B] Private Sector banks ☒  
[C] Foreign Banks [D] Regional Rural Banks

✓ As per the recent data of the Reserve Bank of India, the Bank credit increased 6.52 % year-on-year to Rs 102.52 trillion and Bank deposits grew 10.64 % to Rs 138.50 trillion in the fortnight ended May 8.

✓ The data also highlighted that Private sector banks made the highest credit expansion and their share in total credit expanded to 35.7 %, 32 % and 30 % in 2019, 2018 and 2017 respectively. The data also revealed that bank credit growth (y-o-y) decelerated for the fourth successive quarter in December 2019.

5. The death anniversary of which former Indian Prime Minister is observed as 'Anti-terrorism Day'?

- [A] Rajiv Gandhi ☒ [B] Indira Gandhi  
[C] Atal Bihari Vajpayee [D] Morarji Desai

✓ The death anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is observed across the country as 'Anti-terrorism Day'. The 28<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi was observed on May 21.

✓ On the same day in 1991, he was assassinated at Sriperumbudur, Chennai during an election campaign. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest ever Prime Minister of India, when he took over as the sixth Prime Minister at the age of 40.

6. Aritz Aduriz, who recently announced his retirement, is associated with which sports?

[A] Football ☒

[B] Basket Ball

[C] F1 Racing

[D] Golf

✓ Aritz Aduriz, belongs to the Athletic Bilbao club, has recently announced his retirement from football. He has taken this decision to retire as he needed a hip replacement to perform as an athlete in the future.

✓ Athletic Club, also commonly known as Athletic Bilbao, is a Spanish professional football club. At present, he is the sixth highest scorer of the club with 172 goals. He was a member of Spain team at the 2016 European Championship.

7. 'Safe Harbour Rules' that was in news recently is associated with which Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Shipping

[B] Ministry of Finance ☒

[C] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

[D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

✓ Safe Harbour refers to the conditions under which income-tax authorities will accept the transfer price declared by the assessee without any scrutiny. This feature benefits the tax payers, especially in the services sector.

✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex body under the Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance) has recently notified changes in Safe Harbour Rules (SHR). As per the notification, the rates applicable from AY (Assessment Year) 2017–18 to 2019–20 will continue to apply for AY 2020–21.

8. Who will fix the domestic airfares of India for 3 months, when domestic flights resume after lockdown?

[A] International Civil Aviation Organization

[B] Domestic Air carriers

[C] Union Civil Aviation Ministry of India ☒

[D] Global Air carriers

✓ As per the recent announcement from the Union Aviation Ministry, the domestic airfares of India will be fixed by the Ministry for three months, when domestic flights resume after lockdown.

✓ The government will cap minimum and maximum ticket fares based on route and will ensure that ticket prices are affordable for passengers as well as financially viable for airlines. The Ministry has divided the routes into seven bands based on duration of flights. 40% of the seats in any flight will have to be sold at the midpoint of the lower and upper air fare limits prescribed.

9. Which country recently announced its decision to withdraw from Open Skies treaty?

[A] North Korea

[B] Israel

[C] China

[D] United States ☒

✓ The United States recently announced that the country will withdraw from the major global treaty named Open Skies treaty. The 35 nation treaty allows unarmed surveillance flights over the territories of member countries. US administration also highlighted that Russia has repeatedly violated the terms of the pact.

✓ It is expected that the US will pull out formally in six months, based on the withdrawal terms of the treaty. NATO allies and other countries have asked the US to remain in the treaty.

10. When is the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrated every year?

[A] May 20

[B] May 21 ☒

[C] May 24

[D] May 26

✓ The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed every year on May 21 to bridge the gap between different cultures.

✓ The day is an opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony. This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

1. Which year has marked the first official observance of the International Tea Day?

- [A] 2017 [B] 2018 [C] 2019 [D] 2020 ☒

- ✓ The 1<sup>st</sup> Observance of the International Tea Day under the theme 'Harnessing benefits for all from field to cup' was held on 21 May 2020. The Day brings together the countries where tea cultivation is an important source of jobs and incomes.
- ✓ Last year, the United Nations General Assembly has designated May 21 as International Tea Day on the basis of the proposal moved by India at the FAO Intergovernmental Group. The 1<sup>st</sup> International Tea Day was celebrated virtually and was attended by FAO head, QU Dongyu

2. GFR has been in news for amendments related to procurement of the Govt. What does GFR stand for?

- [A] Global Financial Rules
- [B] General Financial Rules ☒
- [C] Government Financial Rules
- [D] Government Fiscal Rules

- ✓ The Union Government has notified amendments to General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, to make goods and services valued less than Rs 200 crore are procured from domestic firms.
- ✓ As announced in the recent economic stimulus package, global procurements will be disallowed up to Rs 200 Crore, which will reduce unfair competition among the domestic suppliers and MSMEs. GFR is amended such that the limit of procurement may be prescribed by the Department of Expenditure from time to time.

3. As per the announcement of the Reserve Bank of India in May 2020, what is the updated repo rate?

- [A] 4.75 % [B] 4.5 % [C] 4.2 % [D] 4.0 % ☒

- ✓ The Governor of Reserve Bank of India delivered his third such address since the nationwide lockdown. He announced a cut in the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4%

and the reverse repo is also simultaneously reduced by 40 bps to 3.35%.

- ✓ Earlier in the month of April, the repo and reverse repo rates were fixed at 4.4% and 3.75% respectively. The Governor also extended moratorium on all term loans by another 3 months till August 31, 2020.

4. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) partnered with which public sector enterprise to set up a joint venture company for renewable energy business?

- [A] NHPC Ltd [B] NTPC Ltd ☒
- [C] Power Grid Corporation [D] NLC Ltd

- ✓ Leading Public Sector Enterprises Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and NTPC Ltd signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU), to set up a joint venture company for the renewable energy business.
- ✓ As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore and set up renewable power projects including offshore wind in India and in other countries. The enterprises will also rollout their expertise in the fields of sustainability, storage, e-mobility and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) compliant projects.

5. Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme belongs to which Indian state?

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

- ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has recently issued an order staying the proposed Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme.
- ✓ The NGT's zonal bench also constituted a committee to study the environmental impact of the Rayalaseema pumping project and Pothireddypadu head regulator canals enhancement works. Telangana government has recently complained to Krishna River Management Board against these projects, after the petition of a resident of Telangana.

6. What is the name of the internship programme launched by the Union Environment Minister, associated with biodiversity?



[A] Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme ☒

[B] Biodiversity Samadhan Internship Programme

[C] Biodiversity Samriddhi Internship Programme

[D] Biodiversity Sampoorna Internship Programme

- ✓ Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar has recently launched National Biodiversity Authority – UNDP India's Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme. It is a 1 year internship program for post graduate students interested in biodiversity.

- ✓ He has launched this scheme during the virtual celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity. He also launched several important documents including 'Awareness campaign material on air, pollination and securing our future', 'UNEP Endangered Species Campaign', 'Brochure of Webinar Series on Biodiversity Conservation' and a 'Model Conference of Parties'.

7. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park that was seen in news recently, is located in which state?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Sikkim

[C] Assam ☒

[D] Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ Oil India Limited (OIL) has recently announced that it has received environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, for the extension of drilling and testing of hydrocarbons under the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park of Assam.

- ✓ While several environmental activists raised fears about the impact of the project in an ecologically sensitive park and biosphere reserve, OIL negated the claims. The drilling and testing of hydrocarbons are to be done at seven locations under the park.

8. What is the theme of the 'International Day for Biological Diversity, 2020'?

[A] Biological Diversity for SDGs

[B] Our solutions are in Nature ☒

[C] Strategic Plan on Biodiversity

[D] Ecosystem Restoration Ahead

- ✓ The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to increase understanding and awareness about biodiversity issues on a global scale.

- ✓ The 2020 theme "Our solutions are in Nature" is meant to leverage knowledge and spread awareness of the dependency of our food systems, nutrition, and health on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

9. Which Indian state is set to launch 'Everybody will get employment' scheme?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Uttarakhand

- ✓ The state of Madhya Pradesh is set to launch the 'Everybody will get employment' scheme through video conferencing.

- ✓ The scheme has an objective of distributing MNREGA job cards to the labourers of the state. This scheme will focus on providing employment to migrant labourers. The Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has launched a new scheme called 'Didi Vehicle Service' for rural women for free and safe delivery.

10. Ministry of Electronics & IT has integrated the India Meteorological Department services on which app?

[A] Shashakt

[B] UMANG ☒

[C] Shakti

[D] MyGov

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and IT has recently integrated seven services of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) services on the "UMANG" App.

- ✓ The services are Current Weather, Nowcast, City Forecast, Rainfall Information, Tourism Forecast, Warnings and Cyclone. UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a mobile application launched by the Government of India in 2017 for delivering services online on a single unified platform.

1. 'Special Drawing Rights' is associated with which international institution?

[A] World Bank

[B] International Monetary Fund ☒

[C] World Economic Forum

[D] World Trade Organisation

✓ According to the recent data of the Reserve Bank of India, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.73 billion to USD 487.04 billion in the week to May 15. The increase in reserves was due to a rise in foreign currency assets.

✓ Also, the Special Drawing Rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by USD 2 million to USD 1.42 billion. SDRs are held by IMF member countries and they represent a claim to currency for which SDRs may be exchanged.

2. Which Indian state has launched a revival package for MSMEs called 'ReSTART'?

[A] Odisha

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Kerala

[D] Andhra Pradesh ☒

✓ The Andhra Pradesh Government has rolled out a revival package for the MSMEs of the state called 'ReSTART'. The outlay of the scheme is ₹1,110 crore.

✓ The main features of the package are the payment of all outstanding incentives to MSME units, waiver of 3 months fixed demand charges and working capital loans to MSMEs and better market access. The MSMEs Preferential Market Access Policy will ensure that 25 % of government purchases will be from Micro and small units. A task force for attracting investments has been formed under the Industries Minister.

3. What is the theme of the 'Hunar Haat' initiative, proposed to be launched after the lifting of lockdown?

[A] Go vocal for local

[B] Local to Global ☒

[C] Global Supply Chain

[D] Market Mantra

✓ The flagship initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, 'Hunar Haat' is expected to be launched once the nation-wide lockdown due to COVID-19 is lifted. The initiative organises a skill fare and aims to generate employment for crafts-persons, will be launched in September with a theme of 'Local to Global'.

✓ As per the Minority Affairs Ministry, more than five lakh Indian artisans, craftspeople, culinary experts were provided employment opportunities in the last five years by this fare.

4. As per the Forbes magazine, who is the highest paid female athlete of the world, as of May 2020?

[A] Serena Williams

[B] Naomi Osaka ☒

[C] P V Sindhu

[D] Simone Biles

✓ According to the Forbes magazine, Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka has become the highest paid female athlete in the world.

✓ The tennis star, who earned \$37.4 million in the last 12 months from prize money and endorsements. Osaka also created an alltime earnings record by a female athlete in a single year. The record was previously held by another tennis legend Maria Sharapova.

5. 'Micro-comb', that was in news recently, is associated with which field?

[A] Medicine

[B] Internet & Communication ☒

[C] Environment

[D] Nuclear Science

✓ A team of Australian scientists have recorded the world's fastest internet data speed of 44.2 Terabits per second (Tbps) from a single light source. This speed is enough to download 1000 HD movies in a split second.

✓ The researchers used their new device with a single piece of equipment known as a micro-comb, that is made up of hundreds of highquality invisible infrared lasers from a single optical chip. This result can expand the capacity of network connections across the world, especially the developing & underdeveloped countries.

6. When is World Turtle Day celebrated annually, across the world?

- [A] May 21 [B] May 23 ☒  
[C] May 25 [D] May 27

✓ Every year, the World Turtle Day is observed on May 23, across the world. The day is celebrated to sensitise people about turtle and tortoise and their vulnerable habitats. A non profit organization called American Tortoise Rescue, that was established in 1990 leads the World Turtle Day celebration since 2000.

✓ The Al Ain Zoo of Abu Dhabi, which has ten types of turtles celebrated 'World Turtle Day' and called for global action to conserve turtles.

7. As per the recent statement of Bombay High Court amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which right is a part of the right to life?

- [A] Right to healthcare  
[B] Right to a decent burial ☒  
[C] Right to social security  
[D] Right to communicate

✓ The Bombay High Court recently noted that the right to a decent burial is recognized as a facet of the right to life. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the right to a decent burial cannot be denied to any person, as per the High Court. It also highlighted that there was no scientific study by WHO that Corona virus spreads through cadavers.

8. Samsung India partnered with which Technology Company to train offline retailers about digital technologies?

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

✓ Samsung India has collaborated with social media major Facebook to train its offline retailers for adapting digital technologies and using platforms like Instagram and WhatsApp.

✓ The two firms have already trained more than 800 retailers and more training sessions are going to be carried out in future. This will help the Samsung retail partners leverage technology and make them more accessible to their customers for inquiry about smartphones.

9. Ashley Cooper, a veteran sports personality who recently passed away, was associated with which sports?

- [A] Football [B] Basketball  
[C] Tennis ☒ [D] Cricket

✓ Australian tennis legend Ashley Cooper, who won four Grand Slam singles titles in the 1950s, has recently passed away due to illness at the age of 83.

✓ Ashley Cooper won the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Grand slam in the year 1958, and achieved the rare feat of winning 3 Grand Slam championships in a calendar year. He won all 4 of his Grand Slam crowns by beating his fellow countrymen in the final. He was inducted into the Intl., Tennis Hall of Fame in 1991.

10. Khudol that was listed in the UN's top 10 global initiatives to fight against COVID-19, is being implemented in which state?

- [A] MP [B] UP [C] Manipur ☒ [D] Bihar

✓ Khudol initiative has been listed one among the top 10 global initiative for an inclusive fight against the prevailing COVID-19, by the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

✓ Khudol meaning Gift is a crowdfunded initiative of Ya\_All, which is an Imphal-based NGO founded in 2017. The NGO was known for having created the country's first transgender football team.

✓ The project involves providing food and health care to the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV and other vulnerable people. With 100 volunteers, they have covered around 2,000 families and individuals now.

1. As per the Status Paper on Government Debt, what is the amount of Central Government Debt as a % of GDP, at 2018–19 year end?
- [A] 67.1 % [B] 57.1 %
- [C] 45.7% ☒ [D] 35.7%
- ✓ The Union Government publishes the annual Status Paper on Government Debt that provides a detailed account of the overall debt position of the country.
- ✓ As per the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the paper recently released, Central Government Debt stood at 45.7 % of GDP at 2018–19 yearend. It is a marginal decline against the previous year debt of 45.8 %. 94.1 % of total Central Government debt was domestic debt and Sovereign external debt was 2.7 % of GDP at the yearend.
2. What is the theme of 'World Metrology Day' 2020?
- [A] Precision in Measurement
- [B] Measurements for global trade ☒
- [C] Accuracy Matters
- [D] Measurement for Science
- ✓ The World Metrology Day is observed every year on May 20 to commemorate anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875. The treaty provides the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide that underpins scientific discovery & innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the global environment. The 2020 theme is "Measurements for global trade".
3. Who has been appointed as the World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia?
- [A] Abhijeet Banerjee [B] Abhas Jha ☒
- [C] Amartya Sen [D] Urjit Patel
- ✓ Veteran Indian economist Abhas Jha has been appointed by the World Bank as its Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia. The appointment has been made at a crucial time when the Amphan cyclone has hit West Bengal, Orissa in India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ Abhas Jha will lead and encourage the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change team of the South Asia region. The team will deliver recovery solutions to the affected countries.
4. Where is the Head office of the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre that was recently in news, located?
- [A] Mumbai [B] Chennai
- [C] New Delhi ☒ [D] Ahmedabad
- ✓ Former Supreme Court Judge and the International Judge at Singapore International Commercial Court Justice AK Sikri has recently e-inaugurated the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC).
- ✓ IDRC provides a paperless dispute resolution environment through certain software portals. Its arbitration panel has former judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts and senior advocates, former bureaucrats, chartered accountants among others. The IDRCs are located at strategically commercial places in the country and its head office is in New Delhi.
5. Which Indian state is set to form a Migration commission, to identify the skills of returning migrant workers and provide employment?
- [A] Rajasthan [B] Uttar Pradesh ☒
- [C] West Bengal [D] Bihar
- ✓ The state government of Uttar Pradesh has announced that it will form a Migration commission to identify the skills of returning migrant workers and provide employment to them.
- ✓ The government has also planned to provide insurance and a job security scheme to the returning workers. During the announcement, 23 lakh workers and migrants have returned to the state. The proposed

Migration commission will map details of migrants, their skills and will provide training, employment and credit facilities.

**6. What is the theme of the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2020?**

[A] End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now! ☒

[B] Save women from Obstetric Fistula

[C] Medical check-up amidst pandemic

[D] Health care amidst pandemic

✓ The United Nations observes the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula on May 23, since 2013. The day is observed to raise awareness of the issue and mobilize support from across the world.

✓ Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious injuries that can occur during childbirth. This condition makes the affected women easily prone to infections or other health conditions. The women also face social stigma in the society. The theme of this year is 'End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!'

**7. Which state government has tied up with the Indian Postal Department for logistics and doorstep delivery of Litchi and Mango fruits?**

[A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Bihar ☒

[C] Himachal Pradesh [D] Uttar Pradesh

✓ The Horticulture Department of Bihar has partnered with the Postal Department of the Indian Government for online booking and delivery at doorstep facility. The "Shahi Lichi" of Muzaffarpur, Bihar and "Zardalu Mango" of Bhagalpur, Bihar are famous in the country for their unique fragrance and taste.

✓ As the cultivators find it difficult to transport the fruits to the markets for sale, this online booking has been launched. People can place order on the website of the state's horticulture department.

**8. 'Flying Bullets' that was seen in news recently, is associated with which armed force of India?**

[A] Indian Army

[B] Indian Navy

[C] Indian Air Force ☒

[D] Indian Coast Guard

✓ The Indian Air Force is set to operationalize its squadron called the Number-18 – 'Flying Bullets' with a fleet of the LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Tejas.

✓ Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria will launch the squadron at the Sulur base near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Air Force squadron to operate with the modern lite fighter aircraft Tejas, which is a fourth generation supersonic aircraft developed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

**9. When is 'Africa Day' celebrated across the world, every year?**

[A] May 23

[B] May 25 ☒

[C] May 27

[D] May 29

✓ Africa Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity, which was established 57 years ago, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1963 and its successor organization is the African Union, which was established in 2002.

✓ The day highlights and celebrates the vitality and diversity of Africa and to promote African unity. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the day is celebrated virtually. As of now, Africa has 1.5% of the reported cases of COVID-19 in the world and less than 0.1% of the world's deaths.

**10. Which day is celebrated on May 25 every year, that is associated with an endocrine disorder?**

[A] World Diabetes Day

[B] World Thyroid Day ☒

[C] World Osteoporosis Day

[D] Addison's disease Day

✓ Every year, May 25 has been observed as the World Thyroid Day since 2008, across the world. The European Thyroid Association and American Thyroid Association established World Thyroid Day to promote public awareness of thyroid disease. Thyroid is the most common endocrine disorder. Jal Shakti Ministry has said that water plays a crucial role in treating the symptoms of thyroid and helping in weight loss.

1. Where is the Headquarters of World Steel Association located?

- [A] Italy [B] Spain  
[C] Belgium ☒ [D] Switzerland

- ✓ The World Steel Association located also called as worldsteel, is a global trade body for iron and steel industry. It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium. As per the recent report of the association, the crude steel output of India declined over 65 percent to 3.13 million tonnes (MT) during April.
- ✓ During the same month in 2019, the production was 9.02 MT of crude steel. The lockdown has affected the demand and supply of steel in India. As per the report, Global steel output has also declined 13 per cent.

2. Which Indian Army officer is selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019)?

- [A] Major Suman Gawani ☒ [B] Major Anoop Mishra  
[C] Major Abhinandan [D] Major M M Naravane

- ✓ An Indian Army officer, Major Suman Gawani, has been selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019). This is the first time in history that an Indian is awarded the mentioned award that was created in 2016.
- ✓ The officer has served with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). She has been selected for her outstanding contribution towards peacekeeping efforts in the UNMISS. Indian major will receive the award during an online ceremony, along with Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo.

3. Which major multi Industry Company announced that it would acquire spices major Sunrise foods?

- [A] ITC ☒ [B] Hindustan Unilever  
[C] Dabur [D] Marico

- ✓ Leading Indian multi industry company ITC has recently entered into an agreement to acquire a 100%

stake in the spices manufacturing company Sunrise Foods. The deal size is estimated to be about Rs. 2000 Cr.

- ✓ Kolkata based Sunrise Foods made a turnover of around Rs. 600 crore last year and it has an extensive market presence across east India.

4. Which Indian technology company announced a strategic partnership with Avaloq, to provide wealth management services?

- [A] Wipro [B] Infosys ☒  
[C] HCL [D] Tech Mahindra

- ✓ Indian Technology major Infosys announced a strategic partnership with Switzerland –based software company Avaloq, to provide wealth management services through digital platforms. Avaloq is a wealth management software and digital technology provider.
- ✓ As per the agreement, Infosys will be a strategic implementation partner for Avaloq's wealth management suite of solutions. This partnership will focus on providing industry based wealth management solutions to their clients.

5. AR500C, that was seen in news recently, is the first unmanned helicopter drone of which country?

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

- ✓ The first unmanned helicopter drone of China, named AR500C was seen in news as the helicopter made its first successful flight recently. It has been designed to fly in plateau areas and capable of firing and conducting investigation from a high altitude.
- ✓ The unmanned helicopter is expected to be deployed along the country's borders with India, to safe-guard the southwestern borders in Tibet.

6. What is Malathion Technical that was seen in news recently?

- [A] Insecticide ☒ [B] Anti-malarial Drug  
[C] Non-Alcohol based sanitiser [D] Anti-TB Drug

- ✓ HIL (India), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers is to fast track the production & supply of pesticides for farming community. HIL has signed an agreement with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for the supply of Malathion Technical to Rajasthan and Gujarat for Locust Control Programme.
- ✓ It is an insecticide used in agriculture and public health pest control programs. HIL had manufactured and supplied nearly 67 MT of Malathion Technical till last week.

7. Chamba tunnel, which was seen in news recently, was inaugurated in which state / UT?

- [A] Uttarakhand ☒ [B] Jammu & Kashmir  
[C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Sikkim

- ✓ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari recently inaugurated the Chamba Tunnel in Uttarakhand through video conference. The tunnel will be operationalised this October. The tunnel has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Chardham Pariyojana scheme of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ It is a 12,000 crore project, to facilitate connectivity to Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Badrinath. The 440 m long tunnel has been created under Chamba town on Rishikesh–Dharasu road.

8. CSIR–IIIM (Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine) partnered with which company to develop a new RT – LAMP based COVID–19 diagnostic kit?

- [A] Tata Group [B] Reliance Industries ☒  
[C] TVS Motors [D] Larsen & Toubro

- ✓ CSIR–IIIM (Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine), Jammu a premier institute under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has partnered with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), to develop a new RT–LAMP based COVID–19 diagnostic kit.
- ✓ The RT–LAMP (Reverse Transcriptase–Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification) kit is a nucleic acid based test conducted from nasal / throat swab sample from patients. It is a rapid, affordable and accurate test. The

components are easily available and can be completely manufactured in India.

9. Which Indian state is set to declare 'Lac farming' as an agricultural activity?

- [A] Bihar [B] West Bengal  
[C] Chhattisgarh ☒ [D] Odisha

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh recently approved the proposal of the state forest department to declare 'Lac farming' as an agricultural activity. It is to be approved in the cabinet soon. Lac is the sticky secretion of several species of lac insects.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh is one of the leading producers of lac in the country. This step will increase the productivity and credit availability of farmers cultivating lac.

10. Which Indian–American has won the 'Inventor of the Year award' from the New York Intellectual Property Law Association?

- [A] Shiva Ayyadurai [B] Rajiv Joshi ☒  
[C] Thomas Zacharia [D] Madhu Sudan

- ✓ Indian American Scientist Rajiv Joshi has been awarded the prestigious Inventor of the Year award by the New York Intellectual Property Law Association. He is an alumnus of IIT Mumbai.
- ✓ As per the Press Trust of India, he has more than 250 patented inventions in the US and is currently working at IBM Thomson Watson Research Center in New York. He has been selected for the award for his contribution in electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities.