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FOURTH WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



JUNE 2020

From 22 June to 30 June

1. Government has issued advisory for import and possession of exotic live species under which agreement?
- [A] CITES ☒ [B] UNFCCC
- [C] CBD [D] CMS
- ✓ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. India is also a signatory to CITES.
- ✓ It seeks to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The Environment ministry has issued rules for dealing with the import of exotic species and for assessing scale of possession within the country, as per the CITES agreement. Exotic live species are defined as plants and animals that are moved from their original habitat to a new one by human intervention.
2. Which Indian-American has won the prestigious World Food Prize 2020?
- [A] Dr Rattan Lal ☒ [B] A.K. Patra
- [C] Pradip Dey [D] R. S. Chaudhary
- ✓ Indian-American soil scientist Dr Rattan Lal has won the prestigious World Food Prize. It is considered to be equivalent to a Nobel Prize in agriculture. Dr Rattan Lal has been awarded for his contribution in assisting small farmers to improve their soil's health. He has promoted soil saving techniques which has benefitted the livelihoods of more than 500 million small farmers.
3. When is the 'World Day against Child Labour' celebrated?
- [A] June 12 ☒ [B] June 13
- [C] June 14 [D] June 15
- ✓ The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year on June 12 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. This year (2020), the theme of the World Day against Child Labour is 'COVID-19: Protect children from child labour, now more than ever'.
- ✓ The day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people to highlight the plight of child labourers and the measures to help them.
4. Which country's railways is the first to successfully run Double stack container train in electric zone?
- [A] China [B] India ☒
- [C] South Korea [D] Israel
- ✓ Indian Railways has recently created a new benchmark as it has successfully operated first Double Stack Container Train in electric zone. The train has been run in high rise Over Head Equipment (OHE) electrified sections, as per the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ✓ This is the 1st of its kind initiative and will also promote the mission of Green India. This operation has been commenced from Palanpur & Botad stations in Gujarat.
5. Which organisation has become the first construction sector organisation to completely operate in digital platform?
- [A] National Highway Authority of India ☒
- [B] Indian Oil Corporation
- [C] NTPC Limited
- [D] REC Limited
- ✓ The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has become the first construction sector organisation to go fully digital. NHAI has launched 'Data Lake and Project Management Software', a cloud based and artificial intelligence powered big data analytics platform. With this launch, the entire project workflow of NHAI has been transformed to that based on online portal.
6. Which Union Ministry has launched an internship programme called 'Sahakar Mitra'?
- [A] Ministry of Agriculture ☒
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[D] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- ✓ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has recently launched an Internship programme named 'Sahakar Mitra'.

- ✓ The scheme seeks to provide paid internship to youth and to ensure availability of loans to young co-operators. Each intern will get financial aid for the four months internship period. As a paid intern, the young professionals get practical exposure from the working of National Cooperative Development Corporation and cooperatives.

7. Which Indian state has launched a scheme called 'Panchvati Yojna', to develop parks and gardens in rural areas?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh ☒ [B] Uttarakhand
[C] Arunachal Pradesh [D] Sikkim

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur has recently launched a new scheme called 'Panchvati Yojna'. Under the scheme that is being implemented by the rural development department parks and gardens would be developed for senior citizens of rural areas in the state.
- ✓ The main aim of the scheme is provide an opportunity to the elder people to spend their leisure time in a clean environment with Ayurvedic and medicinal plants.

8. SAUNI Yojana was launched by which Indian state that aims to provide adequate drinking water?

- [A] Gujarat ☒ [B] Karnataka
[C] Telangana [D] Chhattisgarh

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Gujarat has recently announced that the Phase-2 of the Saurashtra-Narmada Avataran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana will be completed before 15th of August.
- ✓ The scheme was launched with an aim of providing adequate drinking water to the state and meet the drinking water and irrigation requirements of Saurashtra and Kutch regions from Narmada River.

- ✓ It is also expected to fill 115 water reservoirs of arid Saurashtra and Kutch region. The first phase of SAUNI Yojana was launched in the year 2016.

9. The recent increase in Custom duty on which product import is expected to benefit agarbatti manufacturers?

- [A] Bamboo ☒ [B] Charcoal
[C] Sandalwood Oil [D] Coal

- ✓ The Central Government's decision to increase import duty on bamboo sticks from 10% to 25% will open up new avenues of self-employment in the country.
- ✓ Welcoming the decision in a statement issued today, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has said that, in the next 8-10 months, at least 1 lakh new jobs will be created in the Agarbatti industry, a major activity under the village industry sector in India, according to industry players.

10. Which Union Ministry has extended delivery period for capital acquisition contracts with Indian vendors by 4 months?

- [A] Ministry of MSME
[B] Ministry of Defence ☒
[C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
[D] Ministry of Finance

- ✓ The Union Defence Ministry has recently extended the delivery period for all existing capital acquisition contracts with Indian vendors by four months.
- ✓ As per the Defence Minister, 'force majeure shall be applicable for a period of four months i.e. 25th March 2020 to 24th July 2020'. This step has been taken because of supply chain crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Who heads the working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India, to review private bank shareholding norms?

- [A] PK Mohanty ☒ [B] R Gandhi
[C] BP Kanungo [D] Rabi N. Mishra

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an internal working group to review the guidelines on ownership and corporate structure of private sector banks. The working group will be headed by PK Mohanty, an Executive Director at RBI.
- ✓ The group will examine the licensing guidelines of banking and regulations on ownership of private sector banks. It will also review the regulations on holding of financial subsidiaries through a non-operative financial holding company.

2. Which state's forest division has estimated 2000 Indian gaurs, in its first population estimation exercise?

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

- ✓ The 1st population estimation exercise of the Indian gaur carried out in the Nilgiris Forest Division, Tamil Nadu in recent years. As per the exercise that was conducted in February more than an estimated 2,000 Indian gaurs are present in the entire division.
- ✓ However, majority of animals were in the conflict-prone areas close to human habitations. Among the 2000 Indian Gaurs, about 794 gaurs were directly sighted over a one week period.

3. As per the National Institute for Space Research, which forest witnessed deforestation of 829 sq km in May 2020?

- [A] Amazon Rainforest ☒ [B] Congo Rainforest
[C] Daintree Rainforest [D] Africa Rainforest

- ✓ Research institute of Brazil, the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) has announced that the Amazon rainforest witnessed deforestation of 829 sq km in May

2020. This is the highest monthly level of deforestation observed in the forest since 2015.

- ✓ The institute also announced that deforestation increased by 91 sq.km compared to the same period last year. The PM of Brazil is advocating for farming and mining in protected areas to improve economy.

4. Who is the ex-officio Chairperson of the PM CARES fund trust?

- [A] Union Finance Minister [B] Prime Minister ☒
[C] Union Home Minister [D] RBI Governor

- ✓ The PM CARES fund has the Prime Minister as its ex-officio Chairperson. It has the Union Ministers of Defence, Home and Finance as its ex-officio trustees. The PM has the power to nominate 3 trustees to the Board.
- ✓ Recently, the trustees of PM CARES fund appointed SARC Associates as the independent auditor of the fund for three years. The Prime Minister's Office will be its head office and two PMO officials will administer the fund on an honorary basis.

5. Who has been appointed as the first female head of NASA's human spaceflight mission?

- [A] Jessica Meir [B] Kathy Lueders ☒
[C] Christina Koch [D] Ann McClain

- ✓ US space agency NASA has selected Kathy Lueders as its first female head of human spaceflight mission. NASA has successfully sent 2 astronauts to the International Space Station on board a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ In its next mission, it aims to land humans on the Moon by 2024. Kathy Lueders, who is currently the Commercial Crew Program Manager, has been named NASA's next associate administrator of the Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate.

6. What is the theme of the 'International Albinism Awareness Day'?

- [A] Made To Shine ☒ [B] Made to Outperform

[C] Albinism Achievers [D] Succeed with Albinism

- ✓ The International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on June 13 to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide. The 2020 theme is "Made to Shine". Albinism is a congenital disorder characterized in humans by the complete or partial absence of pigment in the skin, hair and eyes.

7. Which State / UT has launched Poultry Policy, 2020 and announced subsidy for poultry related activities?

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Jammu & Kashmir ☒

[C] Himachal Pradesh [D] Sikkim

- ✓ The Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has launched J&K Poultry Policy, 2020, to promote establishment of poultry units.
- ✓ It has also announced a dedicated allocation of Rs. 50 crore per annum as subsidy, for establishing of broiler / layer farms and other poultry allied activities. The UT is spending about 900 Crs spent on importing poultry and its products from outside. Access to credit and interest incentive are also provided to commercial poultry farms.

8. What is the name of the healthcare supply chain portal launched by the Union Government?

[A] Bharat Aarogya [B] Aarogyapath ☒

[C] Health is Wealth [D] COVID Care

- ✓ The Union Government has launched a new healthcare supply chain portal called 'Aarogyapath'. The portal has been launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The objective of the portal is to provide realtime availability of critical healthcare supplies for manufacturers, suppliers and customers.
- ✓ As per the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the public platform can help customers in knowing about critical healthcare supplies.

9. What is the theme of 'World Blood Donor day 2020'?

[A] Safe blood saves lives ☒

[B] Encourage Blood donation

[C] Blood Donors are Angels

[D] Resources for Blood collection

- ✓ The World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on June 14 to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors. The 2020 theme "Safe blood saves lives" is a component of achieving universal health coverage.

10. Which Indian security force has launched a robot named 'Captain Arjun' to perform medical screening?

[A] Railway Protection Force ☒

[B] Central Industrial Security Force

[C] Central Reserve Police Force

[D] Border Security Force

- ✓ Railway Protection Force, Pune has launched a robot named 'Captain Arjun', to screen passengers while they board trains. ARJUN stands for Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice.
- ✓ It is equipped with a motion sensor, PTZ (Pan, Tilt and Zoom) camera and a Dome Camera. Captain Arjun also does thermal screening and also has a sensor-based sanitizer and mask dispenser. The robot uses artificial intelligence to track suspicious activity and antisocial activity.

1. When 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' celebrated every year?

[A] June 12

[B] June 13

[C] June 14

[D] June 15 ☒

- ✓ The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed on the 15th of June every year to voice opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on elderly people. As per a study, 15.7% of people aged 60 years and older were subjected to some form of abuse.

2. A 500 year old ancient temple submerged in river has recently reappeared in which state?

[A] Odisha ☒

[B] Chhattisgarh

[C] Bihar

[D] Sikkim

- ✓ A 500 year old ancient temple of Lord Vishnu that was submerged in Odisha's Mahanadi River during 19th century has reappeared after 15 years.

- ✓ The river is said to have been submerged due to change of course of the river. The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage's archaeological survey team visited the village in Nayagarh district and said that the top of the Gopinath Dev temple was visible due to the reduction in the water level of the river.

3. Which country is set to establish an Anti-racism commission?

[A] United States

[B] United Kingdom ☒

[C] Australia

[D] Brazil

- ✓ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that a commission to look at racial equality in the UK will be established.

- ✓ The proposed body would look at all forms of inequality in employment, health outcomes, academics, criminal justice system & all aspects of life. This announcement has been given after protests have been undertaken after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

4. Which country has launched its first nationwide gas trading platform called IGX?

[A] Iraq

[B] Iran

[C] India ☒

[D] Indonesia

- ✓ India has recently launched its first nationwide gas trading platform called Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The 1st online delivery based exchange has been launched by the Indian Energy Exchange, a power trading exchange regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

- ✓ IGX will be incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Indian Energy Exchange. The platform is powered by technology from global exchange GMEX.

5. Which Union Ministry organises 'ADIP' scheme, through the Public sector enterprise ALIMCO?

[A] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare

[B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ☒

[C] Ministry of Home Affairs

[D] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- ✓ Recently, a virtual ADIP Camp for free distribution of assistive aids and devices at Block level for Divyangjans under the ADIP scheme was organized at Firozpur District in Punjab. This is the first camp being organized by the ALIMCO after opening of lockdown with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

- ✓ Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements the 'Assistance to Disabled persons for purchasing / fitting of aids / appliances' (ADIP) scheme through its Public sector enterprise, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO).

6. Which organisation launched 'e-Office' application in over 500 of its offices to improve e-governance?

[A] Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) ☒

[B] Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

[C] Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

[D] Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

- ✓ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched 'e-Office' application in over 500 GST and customs offices. The application has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ✓ This will enable the automation of internal processes of handling files that have been handled manually and help improve e-governance. Over 50000 officers and staff will use this application.

7. Which Indian chess player bagged the second place in the Sharjah World Stars online chess tournament?

- [A] P. Harikrishna ☒ [B] Adhiban
[C] Koneru Humpy [D] Harika Dronavalli

- ✓ Indian chess player P. Harikrishna bagged second place in the Sharjah World Stars online chess tournament. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov won the online tournament by scoring 7.5 / 10 points. Polish Grandmaster Radoslaw Wojtaszek finished third.

8. What is the theme of the "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought"?

- [A] Food.Feed.Fibre: Sustainable production and consumption ☒
[B] Combatting Drought in 2020
[C] Cooperation in combatting Drought
[D] No more desertification

- ✓ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17th of June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.

9. When 'International Day of Family Remittances' celebrated every year?

- [A] June 15 [B] June 16 ☒
[C] June 17 [D] June 18

- ✓ 'International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)' is celebrated on June 16, every year across the world. This year, the International Day is observed with the theme of "Remittances are a lifeline". This day also calls upon governments, private sector companies and the civil society, to maximize the impact of remittances through individuals.

10. As per the report of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), what is the position of India in receiving FDI investments in 2019?

- [A] Five [B] Seven
[C] Nine ☒ [D] Eleven

- ✓ As per the recent report of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India received \$51 billion of foreign investments in 2019. With \$51 billion, India was the world's 9th largest recipient of foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2019. This rank was released in the flagship report of UNCTAD titled 'The World Investment Report 2020' released recently.
- ✓ Last year, India managed to attract 42 billion dollars of FDI with the rank of 12. India's market will continue to attract market-seeking investments, UNCTAD said.

1. What is the campaign of the International Day of Yoga 2020, promoted by the AYUSH Ministry?

[A] Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family ☒

[B] Yoga during COVID-19

[C] Yoga for immunity

[D] Yoga for heart

- ✓ International Day of Yoga is celebrated every year on June 21, across the world. The first such day was celebrated in the year 2015.
- ✓ This year, Union AYUSH Ministry is promoting the practice of Yoga with the campaign 'Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family', through its various initiatives, as a part of the International Yoga Day Celebration on June 21. This year's observance will highlight the health-building and stress-relieving aspects of Yoga.

2. What is the target number of Van Dhan Self Help Groups, as per the recent announcement of TRIFED?

[A] 10000

[B] 20000

[C] 30000

[D] 50000 ☒

- ✓ TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) recently organised a webinar titled "Van Dhan: Tribal Start-ups Bloom in India".
- ✓ As per the Managing Director of TRIFED, the target of TRIFED is to expand the current coverage of 8,000 SHGs to 50,000 Van Dhan SHGs. The number of tribal gatherers is also to be made 3 times to 10 lakhs, through the COVID-19 relief plan of the Tribal Affairs Ministry.

3. Which is the first country, where WhatsApp is launching its 'WhatsApp Pay'?

[A] India

[B] Brazil ☒

[C] Japan

[D] South Korea

- ✓ Facebook owned social media major WhatsApp has launched its 'WhatsApp Pay' for the first time in Brazil.

- ✓ Two years ago, WhatsApp began testing the payments service in India, which enables users to send and receive money. However, the plan could not be materialised due to regulatory issues. WhatsApp has designed the payment system with a special 6 digit PIN or fingerprint authorisation to prevent unauthorised transactions.

4. Which Indian financial startup firm has been awarded as technology pioneer by WEF?

[A] ZestMoney ☒

[B] Snapmint

[C] PayU

[D] CC Avenue

- ✓ Two Indian firms namely ZestMoney and Stellapps feature in the new list of Tech Pioneers released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✓ The 100 firms selected as pioneers will be invited to participate at WEF workshops, events and highlevel discussions. Zestmoney offers affordable credit as an alternate to traditional way of finance. Stellapps, is a dairy technology solutions company.

5. In which state, a new species of fish named 'Schizothorax sikusirumensis' has been discovered?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Arunachal Pradesh ☒

[D] Kerala

- ✓ The team of Department of Zoology, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat discovered a new fish species in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Named as 'Schizothorax sikusirumensis', the fish belongs to the genus Schizothorax. The name of the fish species represents the name of the rivers where it was found, the junction of River Siku and Sirum of East Siang District.

6. What is the rank of India in the World Competitiveness Index, 2020?

[A] 37

[B] 41

[C] 43 ☒

[D] 47

- ✓ India is ranked 43rd on the annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). It has retained the same 43rd rank obtained in the previous edition.

- ✓ In the 2020 list that ranks 63 nations, Singapore has retained its top spot. It is followed by Denmark and Switzerland. However, the United States moved down from 3rd to 10th place. While India improved in hightech exports, foreign currency reserves etc, it degraded in areas like exchange rate stability, real GDP growth.

7. Which international financial institution approved a loan of USD 750 million to India to tackle COVID-19?

[A] International Monetary Fund

[B] Asian Infrastructure & Investment Bank ☒

[C] World Bank

[D] BRICS Bank

- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has recently approved an additional \$750 million loan to strengthen India's fight against COVID-19.

- ✓ This loan would be co-financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The funds will be utilised for boosting the businesses in informal sector, providing social security for the deserving and strengthening the health care systems of India.

8. Galwan valley that was seen in news recently, is located in which Indian state / UT?

[A] Jammu and Kashmir

[B] Ladakh ☒

[C] Uttarakhand

[D] Sikkim

- ✓ In a violent conflict that took place in the Galwan Valley located in the Union Territory of Ladakh, as many as 20 Indian soldiers were killed. The US media reported that its intelligent officials quoted about 35 Chinese troops have been killed.

- ✓ The infrastructure projects that India has undertaken recently, a strategic road through the Galwan Valley, connecting the region to an airstrip, has escalated the conflict.

9. Who is the chairperson of the high powered panel, constituted by SEBI that has released its report to improve inquiry and enforcement processes?

[A] P K Mohanty

[B] AR Dave ☒

[C] U K Sinha

[D] N K Singh

- ✓ The high powered panel constituted by SEBI, has released its report to improve inquiry and enforcement processes of the market regulator.

- ✓ The panel has been chaired by a retired judge of the Supreme Court Justice Anil R Dave, has released its comprehensive report to SEBI. The report focusses on reducing timeline for passing final orders, improving recovery processes, quantifying alleged gains while levying penalties and interplay between SEBI norms and provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

10. How many states have been identified by the Sports Ministry for creating Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE), in the first phase?

[A] Five

[B] Seven

[C] Eight ☒

[D] Eleven

- ✓ The Union Sports Ministry is set to establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) under the flagship Khelo India Scheme. One KISCE will be identified in each state and union territory, to create a strong sporting ecosystem in the country.

- ✓ In the first phase, the Ministry has identified the sports facilities in eight states out of the 15 proposals, to be converted to KISCEs. The eight centres will be given a grant and the government will extend a Viability Gap Funding, for upgradation.

1. Which Indian sprinter has been nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award?

- [A] Dutee Chand [B] Hima Das ☒
[C] Muhammad Anas [D] Arokia Rajiv

- ✓ Hima Das, the country's first track athlete to win a global title, has been nominated for the prestigious 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna' by the state government of Assam. Hima Das is a 20 year old athlete from Dhing village in Assam and is one of the youngest nominees for the country's highest sporting honour this year.

2. Which Tennis championships is scheduled to be held from Aug.31 to Sept.13 this year, without spectators?

- [A] Australian Championship
[B] US Open Championship ☒
[C] Wimbledon Championship
[D] French Open Championship

- ✓ As per the official confirmation, the US Open tennis championships will be held as scheduled in the month of August. The championships will be held without spectators, in Queens, New York from Aug.31 to Sept.13. The New York Governor Andrew Cuomo formally gave approval to the event. Safety procedures & sanitation protocols would be followed.

3. Where is the 4th edition of the Asian Youth Para Games scheduled to be held?

- [A] United Arab Emirates [B] Bahrain ☒
[C] Thailand [D] India

- ✓ The Asian Paralympic Committee recently announced that Bahrain will host the fourth edition of the Asian Youth Para Games from December 1 to 10 next year.

- ✓ This would be the first time that Bahrain is to host a big para sport event, which will take place across several venues in Khalifa Sports City and Isa Sports City of the country. Around 800 athletes under the age of 20 are expected to take part in the event in 9 different sports.

4. As per BP Statistical Review, what is the position of India, in terms of energy consumption in 2019?

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

- ✓ According to the BP Statistical Review released recently, India's energy consumption in 2019 was third largest behind China (141.70 EJ) and US (94.65 EJ).

- ✓ While world energy consumption rose to 583.90 Exa Joules (EJ), India's consumption increased 2.3% to 34.06 EJ. The growth was lower than 5.2% in 2018. It also said that India was second biggest growth driver of primary energy consumption in the world, behind China, in 2019.

5. What is the name of the rural public work scheme, to be launched by the PM, to help migrant workers?

- [A] Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan ☒
[B] Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Abhiyan
[C] Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
[D] Pradhan Mantri Shramik Abhiyan

- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch Rs 50,000 crore employment scheme named 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan' from a village of Bihar. The scheme aims to provide income support to migrant workers who returned to their home states during the coronavirus lockdown.

- ✓ It will primarily focus on six states Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha, where maximum migrant workers have returned. This scheme aims to provide livelihood for 125 days to 25,000 migrant workers of 116 districts.

6. Who has been elected as the President of 75th United Nations General Assembly?

- [A] Gita Gopinath [B] Volkan Bozkir ☒
[C] Masatsugu Asakawa [D] David Malpass

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly has recently elected Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir to be its

president. He is the first Turkish national to head the General Assembly. This decision has been taken ahead of the 75th General Assembly in September.

- ✓ Volkan Bozkir is serving as the head of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. He had also served as Turkey's Minister of European Affairs and Chief Negotiator. He would assume office in September 2020 and hold the post for one year.

7. What is the name of the first mobile COVID-19 testing lab launched by the Health Minister, to promote testing access in rural areas?

- [A] I-LAB ☒ [B] Bharat Lab
[C] CO-LAB [D] GRAM LAB

- ✓ Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has recently launched India's first mobile lab for COVID-19 testing to promote last mile testing access in rural India.
- ✓ The Infectious Disease Diagnostic Lab (I-LAB) has been launched with the support of the Dept of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Tech, under the COVID command strategy. This mobile lab will be deployed in the remote and inaccessible parts of the country. It can perform 25 RT-PCR tests and 300 ELISA tests per day.

8. IM Vijayan, who has been nominated for Padma Shri award, is associated with which sports?

- [A] Cricket [B] Foot ball ☒
[C] Hockey [D] Table-Tennis

- ✓ The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recently recommended former skipper IM Vijayan for the country's 4th highest civilian award, the Padma Shri.
- ✓ Since he made his debut in the early 90s, he had scored 40 goals in 79 matches for India. He was also awarded the prestigious Arjuna award in 2003. Six Indian footballers including Bhaichung Bhutia and Sunil Chhetri have earlier won the Padma Shri award.

9. Who has been reappointed as the Ethics Officer and Ombudsman of Board of Control for Cricket in India?

- [A] D K Jain ☒ [B] Sourav Ganguly
[C] Jay Shah [D] W V Raman

- ✓ Former Supreme Court Judge D K Jain has been reappointed as the Ethics Officer and Ombudsman of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). D K Jain was appointed as the first ever Ombudsman and was later appointed as the Ethics Officer in addition.
- ✓ His term had ended on February 29 this year, but his appointment has been renewed for one more year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ombudsman will be conducting hearings virtually.

10. Vadhavan port is proposed to be built in which Indian state / UT?

- [A] Gujarat [B] Maharashtra ☒
[C] West Bengal [D] Kerala

- ✓ In the month of February, the Cabinet approved to build the Vadhavan port at Palgarh district in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 65544 crores.
- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has said that ports as an industry are allowed in the ecologically sensitive Dahanu taluka area, which includes the Vadhavan in Palgarh district. The port will be developed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) as the lead partner.

1. On which date, the 2020 edition of World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed recently?
- [A] June 18 ☒ [B] June 19
[C] June 20 [D] June 21
- ✓ The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year on 18th of June to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. It also reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors of sustainable development.
2. Which country is named the President of the UN Security Council for August 2021?
- [A] United States [B] China
[C] India ☒ [D] Norway
- ✓ India, which has been elected as a non permanent member of the Security Council recently, will serve as its president for the month of August, 2021. Non permanent members of the 15 nation UNSC for a 2 year term beginning January 1, 2021.
- ✓ Tunisia will begin 2021 as the President of the Council in January. It will be followed by each of the members in turn for one month, as per the English alphabetical order of the name of member states.
3. Who has become the first Indian to participate in the \$150,000 Chessable Masters tournament?
- [A] B. Adhiban [B] P. Harikrishna ☒
[C] Praggnanandhaa [D] Sasi Kiran
- ✓ Indian Grandmaster P. Harikrishna is the first Indian to participate in the in the million dollar Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour that continues with the \$150,000 Chessable Masters.
- ✓ The Chessable Masters is a 12 player tournament which is to be played by the top six players of the world, on the classical ranking list, including Norway's Magnus Carlsen, China's Ding Liren and USA's Fabiano Caruana. The field has been divided into two groups of 6 players each.
4. As per the 'Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children 2020', what is the percentage of countries which enforce laws to protect minors?
- [A] 87% [B] 67% [C] 47% ☒ [D] 27%
- ✓ The 'Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children 2020' was launched by the World Health Organisation, the UNICEF, the UNESCO, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children & End Violence Partnership.
- ✓ As per the report, half of the world's children, about a billion are affected by physical, sexual or psychological violence, suffering injuries and death. Though nearly 88% of the countries have laws to protect minors, only 47% of them strongly enforce the laws.
5. Which agency of the United Nations releases the report titled 'Annual report on displacement'?
- [A] International Labour Organization
[B] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ☒
[C] World Tourism Organization
[D] World Health Organization
- ✓ The UN Agency for refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has released its Annual report on displacement. As per the report, nearly 80 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2019 globally.
- ✓ The main reason for displacement has been war, violence, persecution and other emergencies. This count is almost double the total figure of the past decade. The report also revealed that an additional 11 million people were newly displaced in 2019 alone.
6. Which Union Ministry is to conduct a special session titled 'Bharat: A Cultural Treasure', to mark International Yoga Day?
- [A] Culture [B] Tourism ☒
[C] External Affairs [D] Home Affairs

- ✓ Ministry of Tourism is organised a weeklong celebration of International day of Yoga from 15th June, 2020. It has also launched social media activities focussed on Yoga under the central theme "Yoga @ home and Yoga with family".

- ✓ The Tourism Ministry also conducted a special session titled 'Bharat: A Cultural Treasure' under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar. Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel attended the session along with celebrity participants.

7. Which institution has developed affordable diagnostic kits called 'Viral Transport Media' kits for COVID-19?

- [A] IISc, Bengaluru [B] IIT, Madras
[C] IIT, Guwahati ☒ [D] AIIMS

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, in association with Guwahati Medical College & Hospital and a private firm has developed low cost diagnostic kits for COVID-19.

- ✓ VTM kits have two transport media for collecting swabs. The institution has also developed RT-PCR kits, and RNA isolation kits.

8. 'SATYABHAMA' portal, aims to promote Research and Development in which sector?

- [A] Climate Change [B] Mining ☒
[C] Virology [D] Epidemiology

- ✓ Union Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi has recently launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal.

- ✓ The portal has been launched for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines. It has been designed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division. The portal aims to promote Research and Development in Mining and Mineral sector.

9. On which date, the 2020 edition of World Sickle Cell Day is observed?

- [A] June 19 ☒ [B] June 20
[C] June 21 [D] June 22

- ✓ The World Sickle Cell Day is observed every year on 19th of June to raise public awareness about the sickle cell disease and its treatment methods.

- ✓ Sickle cell disease is an inherited form of anaemia in which red blood cells are not able to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body. Govt has organised several campaigns for the proper treatment and cure of those suffering from the disease. This year is the 40th year of observance of the day by the Sickle Cell Society.

10. What is 'Swift J1818.0-1607', that was seen in news recently?

- [A] Neutron Star ☒ [B] Black Hole
[C] White Dwarf [D] Nebula

- ✓ Recently, a team of astronomers at NASA and European Space Agency ESA have discovered a neutron star called 'Swift J1818.0-1607'. The neutron star has been estimated to be about 240 years old.

- ✓ It was first discovered in March 2020, when it released a massive burst of X-rays. Neutron stars are the smallest and densest stars. According to NASA, Swift J1818.0-1607 contains twice the mass of The Sun.

1. Quantum communications satellite – Micius that was seen in news recently, was launched by which country?

[A] United States

[B] China ☒

[C] Russia

[D] Israel

✓ The World's first Quantum communications satellite, Micius was launched by China in the year 2016. It has pioneered in the field of quantum encryption. The satellite was seen in news recently, as it sends particles of light to Earth to establish the world's most secure communication link.

✓ This is considered to be a milestone in the research, as long range secure communication can be obtained without the help of traditional communication satellites. Secure long distance links such will be the foundation of the future global network called the quantum internet.

2. The Kodumanal excavation, that has revealed the belief of afterlife in megalithic culture, is carried out in which Indian state?

[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] Kerala

[C] Karnataka

[D] Andhra Pradesh

✓ The State Department of Archaeology Team of the Kodumanal excavation has identified 250 cairn circles at the village in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

✓ The team has recently found around 10 pots and bowls placed outside 3 chambered burial cists. It is expected to be of the head of the community. Pots filled with grains were placed outside the chambers as it was believed that the deceased will get a new life after death. This has revealed about the burial rituals and the belief of afterlife in megalithic culture.

3. When is the 'International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict' observed?

[A] June 19 ☒

[B] June 20

[C] June 21

[D] June 22

✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed every year on June 19 to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict

related sexual violence, to honor the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.

✓ The date was chosen to commemorate the adoption on June 19, 2008 of UN Security Council resolution '1820' (2008).

4. Who is the head of the panel constituted by the Renewable Energy Ministry, to attract investments into the sector?

[A] Amitesh Kumar Sinha ☒

[B] Ruchin Gupta

[C] Raj Kumar Singh

[D] Kailash Choudhary

✓ The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set up a Project Development Cell (PDC) to attract more investments into the sector.

✓ It is to be headed by the Joint secretary of MNRE, Amitesh Kumar Sinha, and will help meet the country's 175 GW target for green energy. The PDC aims to create projects that have all prior approvals for investors to adopt them.

5. Which Union Ministry has organised a webinar titled 'National Sickle Cell Conclave'?

[A] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[B] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

[C] Ministry of Tribal Affairs ☒

[D] Ministry of Science and Technology

✓ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with FICCI and two private healthcare institutes organised a webinar titled 'National Sickle Cell Conclave', to mark World Sickle Cell Day.

✓ Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda addressed the webinar and announced that the government has launched a new portal with registration facility, information about the disease and various government initiatives undertaken.

- ✓ The Ministry has initiated 'Action Research' project for helping SCD patients. A report titled 'Stepping out of the shadows – Combating Sickle Cell Disease in India' was released.

6. What is 'NavRakshak'?

- [A] Light Combat Aircraft [B] Fighter Jet
[C] PPE ☒ [D] COVID-19 Drug

- ✓ The manufacturing know how of a PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Suit being named 'NavRakshak' has been licensed by National Research Development Corporation to 5 five MSMEs. The manufacturers are expected to mass produce more than 10 million PPEs per year, to meet the demand of quality PPE kits across the country.
- ✓ This know-how has been developed at the Mumbai-based Innovation Cell of the Institute of Naval Medicine. Intellectual property rights are also to be obtained.

7. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)?

- [A] Raghuram Rajan [B] Urjit Patel ☒
[C] U K Sinha [D] M S Sahoo

- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as Chairman of the economic think tank, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). Urjit Patel will be the Chairperson of NIPFP for a 4 year term from June 22, 2020.
- ✓ He will replace Vijay Laxman Kelkar, who had been the Chairman of the institute since 2014. Urjit Patel served as the Deputy Governor of RBI in 2013 and Governor of RBI from 2016 to 2018.

8. What is the theme of the World Refugee Day 2020?

- [A] Every Action Counts ☒
[B] Everyone on earth matters
[C] Anti-racism wins
[D] Rights of Refugees

- ✓ World Refugee Day is observed annually on June 20, to create awareness of the situation of refugees across the world. The theme of this year's observance is "Every Action Counts".

- ✓ On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly decided that June 20 would be celebrated as World Refugee Day. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol protect the refugees, who are present throughout the world.

9. Which Indian-American scientist has been appointed as the head of U.S National Science Foundation?

- [A] Sethuraman Panchanathan ☒ [B] Katina Michael
[C] K Subbarao [D] Chitta Baral

- ✓ The United States Senate has named that veteran Indian – American scientist Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- ✓ NSF is a top American body that promotes fundamental research in non-medical fields of science and engineering. The 58 year old Scientist is the Chief Research and Innovation Officer at Arizona State University, at present. He is to replace France Cordova as the 15th Director of the NSF. He is also the second Indian-American ever to be nominated for the position.

10. Which Union Minister of India is to attend the Russian Victory Parade on June 24, at Moscow?

- [A] Minister of External Affairs
[B] Minister of Defence ☒
[C] Minister of Commerce and Industry
[D] Minister of Home Affairs

- ✓ Union Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh is to attend the Russian Victory Parade on June 24, to be held at Russia's capital Moscow. The Victory Parade is organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the victory of Russia in the Second World War. Earlier, it was announced that a Tri-Service 75 Member Indian Military Contingent has reached Moscow to participate in the Victory Parade, along with other invited troops.

1. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with which Public sector enterprise to support its Innovation and Entrepreneurship initiatives?

- [A] Steel Authority of India [B] Coal India Ltd ☒
[C] GAIL Limited [D] NTPC Limited

- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with Coal India Ltd (CIL) to boost its Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives. During a virtual e-summit held between AIM and CIL, a Statement of Intent of strategic partnership between them was signed and exchanged.
- ✓ Under the collaboration, several programs will be conducted by them to promote innovation ecosystem through the initiatives of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

2. Which Union Ministry celebrates International Yoga Day 2020 with a campaign titled 'Namaste Yoga'?

- [A] Ministry of AYUSH
[B] Ministry of Culture ☒
[C] Ministry of External Affairs
[D] Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- ✓ Ministry of Culture is celebrating International Yoga Day 2020 by organising a campaign titled 'Namaste Yoga' from 19th to 21st June, 2020.
- ✓ Union Minister of State for Culture Prahlad Singh Patel urged everyone to join him for a 'Surya Namaskar'. He also asked them to post their 'Surya Namaskar' videos on social media platforms to create health awareness among all citizens.

3. When is the International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice observed?

- [A] June 19 [B] June 20
[C] June 21 ☒ [D] June 22

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly designated June 21 as the 'International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice'. It considered that the celebration of solstice

represents the unity of the cultural heritage across the world.

- ✓ Solstice is an event that occurs when the path of the sun stands still at a northern or southern limit before reversing direction. There are two solstices that occur annually namely the Summer Solstice around June 21 and Winter Solstice around December 21.

4. Mount Merapi is located in which country?

- [A] Philippines [B] Indonesia ☒
[C] Vietnam [D] Australia

- ✓ Mount Merapi is the most volatile volcano located in the country of Indonesia. It was seen in news, as the mountain spewed ash and hot gas into the sky. The mountain has a height of 2,968 meter and it is one of the most active of 500 Indonesian volcanoes.

- ✓ It has been generating dark hot clouds since last year. The last major eruption of the mountain happened in 2010, which killed 353 people.

5. Which Indian state is set to launch a new initiative for school students named 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho'?

- [A] Odisha [B] Tripura ☒
[C] Assam [D] Sikkim

- ✓ The state government of Tripura is launching an initiative named 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho', to promote learning process of school students.
- ✓ The proposed scheme is to be started from June 25, for students up to class 8. As per the state's guidelines, assignments will be sent to students on mobile phones every morning, and feedback on their performance is to be collected in the afternoon. In the state, as many as five lakh students study in 4,733 government schools.

6. Which institution is to launch "Decarbonising Transport in India", in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF)?

- [A] NITI Aayog ☒
[B] World Wide Fund for Nature – India

[C] Indian Council of Forestry Research Education

[D] Indian Institute of Forest Management

- ✓ Indian Government's think tank NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF) will launch the "Decarbonising Transport in India" project on 24 June. The project seeks to promote low-carbon transport system for India.

- ✓ Since 2008, India has been a member of ITF, which is an intergovernmental organisation for transport policy. The project is part of the "Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies" (DTEE) family of projects. India, Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco are the present participants of DTEE.

7. Which Metro station of India is to have the first She-Man station of North India with special facilities for transgenders?

[A] Delhi Metro [B] Noida Metro ☒

[C] Kolkata Metro [D] Gurgaon Metro

- ✓ The Noida Metro Rail Corporation has announced its plan to convert Sector 50 metro station into a 'she-man' metro station.
- ✓ Once implemented, this would be the first She-Man station of North India with special facilities for employment opportunities to the transgenders. This station will be on the lines of the Pink Metro stations. Though the 'She-Man' station will be open for all passengers, it will cater especially to the transgender passengers.

8. The corporation of which state has launched 'Mission Zero' plan to combat 'COVID-19'?

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Maharashtra ☒

[C] New Delhi [D] Gujarat

- ✓ The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) of Maharashtra launched 'Mission Zero' rapid action plan to combat COVID-19.

- ✓ Under the action plan, as many as fifty dispensary vans will cover various parts of Mumbai for 2-3 weeks to carry out a preliminary examination of patients.

- ✓ As per the data of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Maharashtra stands at the top spot with maximum number of people affected by COVID-19 in the country.

9. Which Indian state is set to become the first state to launch an employment guarantee scheme for urban poor?

[A] West Bengal [B] Jharkhand ☒

[C] Chhattisgarh [D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ Jharkhand is set to become the first state to launch an employment guarantee scheme for urban poor on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act. The scheme named 'Mukhyamantri Shramik Yojna' will guarantee 100 days of work in a financial year for urban unskilled labourers.

- ✓ Under the scheme, if the person doesn't get work within 15 days of request, unemployment allowance would be given. An urban employment guarantee council would be formed, headed by the Chief Minister and Urban development minister as the vice president.

10. What is the theme of the 'World Hydrography Day 2020'?

[A] Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies ☒

[B] Work and Contribution of Hydrographers

[C] Opportunity to highlight Hydrography

[D] Celebrating Hydrographic data

- ✓ The International Hydrographic Organization and its international members celebrate World Hydrography Day every year on June 21.

- ✓ The day highlights the importance of hydrography and its relevance in the modern world. The autonomous technologies include aerial, surface and underwater survey drones as well as autonomous ships.