

CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2020



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1. Which Indian state became the first to operationalise rail coaches converted into isolation units for COVID-19?

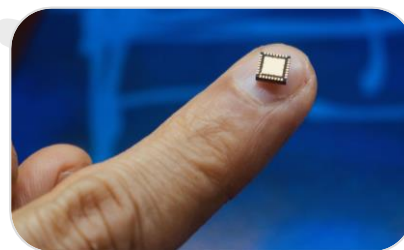
- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Uttar Pradesh ☒
- [D] Gujarat



- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh Government has started using rail coaches as isolation units for COVID-19 suspected patients. COVID coaches are deployed at Mau junction in Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh, in a first in the country. Indian Railways is ready to offer as many as 5,231 isolation coaches to the states and the respective zonal railways have converted the coaches as quarantine facilities. After Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh have also been using rail coaches.

2. What is 'Dhruva' that has been developed by researchers and students of IIT-Bombay?

- [A] Personal Protective Equipment
- [B] COVID-19 Test Kit
- [C] Receiver chip for NAVIC ☒
- [D] Microprocessor



- ✓ The students and researchers of IIT-Bombay has recently developed a homegrown receiver chip – Dhruva. The chip can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country. It will receive signals from NAVIC group of navigation satellites of India, as well as the US Global Positioning System-based satellites to determine a person's location precisely.

3. Which country has successfully launched the last satellite of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)?

- [A] Japan
- [B] South Korea
- [C] China ☒
- [D] North Korea



- ✓ China has successfully launched the last satellite of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), onboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket. This BDS system is claimed to be a competitor to the popular Global Positioning System (GPS) of the United States. The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Southwest China. It is the 55th in the family of BeiDou, which means "Big Dipper" in Chinese language.

4. When is the United Nations Public Service Day celebrated?

[A] June 23 ☒

[B] June 24

[C] June 25

[D] June 26



UNITED NATIONS

- ✓ Every year the United Nations Public Service day is observed on June 23 to honour people engaged in public service, around the world. On 20 December 2002, the United General Assembly designated 23 June as UN Public Service Day. The United Nations also established the UN Public Service Awards programme in 2003, to recognise the UN Public Service Day and to encourage youngsters to take up their career in public sector.

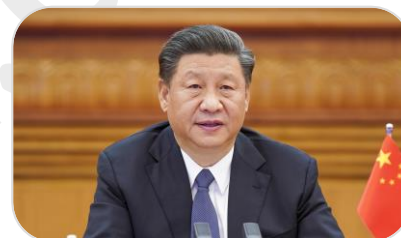
5. Which country, also the world's second largest arms producer, is set to join the UN Arms Trade Treaty?

[A] India

[B] United States

[C] China ☒

[D] Germany



- ✓ China recently announced that it will join the United Nations (UN) Arms Trade Treaty. China's top legislative body voted to adopt a decision on joining the treaty. Under the treaty, the member countries ought to keep records of international transfers of weapons. The members should also prohibit cross-border shipments that could be used in human rights violations. Earlier, the United States had rejected to join in the treaty, which has been designed to control the flow of weapons into conflict zones.

6. Which is the first country in Europe to successfully conduct its national elections, amidst COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] France

[B] Serbia ☒

[C] Germany

[D] Italy



- ✓ Serbia is the first country in Europe to successfully conduct its national election in Europe during the coronavirus epidemic. The voting, which had been initially planned for April, was postponed because of the pandemic. However, the turnout appeared lower compared to previous elections due to the fear of coronavirus. The ruling governing conservative party led by President Aleksandar Vucic is set to obtain a landslide victory.

7. Which Indian state is set to launch a welfare scheme for poor named 'Indira Rasoi Yojna'?

[A] Chhattisgarh

[B] Rajasthan ☒

[C] Punjab

[D] Maharashtra



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot has recently announced that Rajasthan will soon launch the 'Indira Rasoi Yojna'. The scheme seeks to provide pure and nutritious food on concessional rates to the needy people residing in the state, twice a day. For implementing the Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme), the state is to spend Rs 100 crore every year. Local NGOs will be engaged to implement the scheme.

8. When is the 'World Olympic Day' celebrated across the world?

[A] June 23 ☒

[B] June 24

[C] June 25

[D] June 26



- ✓ World Olympic Day or the International Olympic Day is celebrated across the world on June 23. It was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894. The objective of celebrating the Olympic Day was to promote participation in sports and games across the globe, regardless of age, gender, or other abilities. This year, the world's largest 24 hour digital-first Olympic workout is organised, to celebrate the day virtually. The campaign is named 'Stay Healthy, Stay Strong and Stay Active with the #Olympicday Workout On 23 June'.

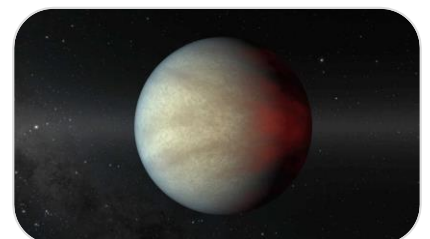
9. As per a recent study, the researchers detected an exoplanet named 'HIP 67522 b'. What is it otherwise called?

[A] Hot Jupiter ☒

[B] Super-Earth

[C] Mini-Neptune

[D] Ice giant



- ✓ According to the new study published in the Astronomical Journal, the researchers have detected the exoplanet HIP 67522 b. The exoplanet appears to be the youngest hot Jupiter ever found. It also orbits around a well-studied star that is about 17 million years old. This means that the hot Jupiter is only a few million years younger probably. As most known hot Jupiters are more than a billion years old, this is likely the youngest hot Jupiter.

10. What is the name of the platform launched by the HRD Minister, for higher educational institutions?

[A] DHRUV 2.0

[B] YUKTI 2.0 ☒

[C] SHAKTI 2.0

[D] EKTA 2.0



- ✓ Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has recently launched an initiative named 'YUKTI 2.0'. YUKTI stands for 'Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation'. Earlier, the Minister launched the YUKTI portal on April 11, 2020. The 2.0 portal will serve as an online depository for innovative ideas and help students, teachers and researchers in higher educational institutions.
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1. As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), what is the rank of India as the world's largest economy, in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) for 2017?

[A] Three ☒

[B] Four

[C] Five

[D] Six



- ✓ The National Statistical Office (NSO) has recently announced that India has retained its position as the 3rd largest economy after China and the US in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) for 2017.
- ✓ The government quoted the World Bank data and said that India accounted for 6.7 percent (USD 8,051 billion out of the total of USD 119,547 billion) of global GDP in terms of PPP. India is also third-largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global actual individual consumption and global gross capital formation.

2. Which country has suspended H-1B, H-2B, J, and L non-immigrant Visa programs?

[A] China

[B] United States ☒

[C] Russia

[D] Germany



- ✓ The United States President Donald Trump has recently suspended H-1B, H-2B, J, L and other temporary work permits. The suspension will be effective till December 31, as per the recent announcement from the White House. The President announced that the entry of additional workers through these temporary Visa programs presents a threat to employment opportunities for Americans affected by the economic damages caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Which country hosted the virtual Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral foreign ministers' meeting?

[A] China

[B] India

[C] Russia ☒

[D] United States



- ✓ Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov hosted the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral foreign ministers' meeting. It has been attended by the Union External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

- ✓ This is the first time the foreign Ministers of India and China are virtually meeting through video conference after the recent standoff between their troops at Ladakh. On June 24, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attends the Victory parade in Russia.

4. What is the theme of 'International Widows Day' 2020?

[A] Invisible Women, Invisible Problems ☒

[B] Inheritance rights to widows

[C] Social support to all

[D] Widows in Developing Countries



- ✓ The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day since 2011. The theme of 'International Widows Day' 2020 is 'Invisible Women, Invisible Problems'. The day highlights the necessity to provide them access to Inheritance rights, pension and social protection, decent work and equal pay. UN also urges governments to ensure the rights of widows as per international laws including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Which country's super computer has become the fastest in the world?

[A] India

[B] United States

[C] Japan ☒

[D] Germany



- ✓ The Japanese supercomputer, Fugaku has been recently named the fastest super computer in the Top500 list, which ranks the most powerful benchmarked supercomputers in the world. It is powered by chipsets from Advanced RISC Machines (ARM). This marks the first time an ARM based supercomputer to ever top the list. It also marks the first time Japan has taken the top place since 2011. It is followed by IBM's Summit supercomputer and IBM's Sierra supercomputer.

6. Which paramilitary force has been named the nodal agency of the new 10000-bed Covid Care Centre, New Delhi?

[A] Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

[B] Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

[C] Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) ☒

[D] National Security Guard (NSG)



- ✓ **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has been named the nodal agency of the new 10000-bed Covid Care Centre at Chattarpur, New Delhi. The Home Ministry had nominated ITBP as nodal agency to provide a team of doctors and other medical professionals to this centre. 2000 bed facility is to be made operationalised this week. It will be further expanded to over 10000 beds. This would be the largest single Covid Care Centre in the country.**

7. Kushinagar Airport that has been declared as an International Airport, is located in which Indian state?

- [A] Chhattisgarh
- [B] Uttar Pradesh ☒
- [C] Punjab
- [D] Maharashtra



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval to declare Kushinagar airport as an international airport. The airport is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Kushinagar is a Buddhist cultural site and its declaration as international airport will improve connectivity to several other Buddhist sites including Sravasti, Kapilvastu and Lumbini. As the place is near the international border, it'd improve tourism & economic development of the region.**

8. As per the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which is the first country to control Desert Locust through Drones?

- [A] China
- [B] India ☒
- [C] Bangladesh
- [D] Nepal



- ✓ **As per the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, India is the first country in the world which is controlling Desert Locust through Drones. Under Make in India initiative, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), Agriculture Ministry has indigenously developed a vehicle mounted Ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control.**
- ✓ **After Ministry of Civil Aviation approved conditional exemption for Drone operations for locust control, trials were conducted in Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh).**

9. Two Bridges named 'Devika' and 'Puneja' were recently inaugurated in which Indian state/UT?

[A] Himachal Pradesh

[B] Jammu & Kashmir ☒

[C] Arunachal Pradesh

[D] Assam



- ✓ Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh has recently inaugurated two important Bridges Devika and Puneja in Jammu and Kashmir, virtually. The 10-meter-long Devika Bridge inaugurated in Udhampur district, was constructed in about one-year time span by the Border Roads Organisation. The cost of construction of the bridge is Rs 75 lakhs. Another bridge named Puneja has also been inaugurated at a cost of Rs 4 Crore in Doda District.

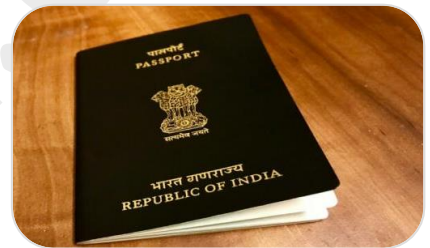
10. When is 'Passport Seva Divas' celebrated in India every year?

[A] June 24 ☒

[B] June 25

[C] June 26

[D] June 27



- ✓ Every year 'Passport Seva Divas' is celebrated on 24 June in India, to commemorate the enactment of the Passports Act on 24 June, 1967. This year, the Ministry of External Affairs celebrated Passport Seva Divas on 24 June, 2020, by organising a special virtual event. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar noted that more than 1.22 crore passports were issued during 2019 in India and abroad. Passport Seva Puraskars were announced for the best performing Passport Offices and their personnel.
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1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved additional investment of USD 121.27 million for the Shwe oil and gas project in which country?

- [A] Nepal
- [B] Myanmar ☒
- [C] Thailand
- [D] Bangladesh



- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has recently approved additional investment of USD 121.27 million for the Shwe oil and gas project in Myanmar. ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), is to invest in the oil and gas project, for development of Block A1 and A3 blocks. OVL had acquired a stake in the Shwe Project in 2002 and has invested USD 722 million in the project till March 31, 2019.

2. What is the corpus of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), approved to be set up?

- [A] Rs. 5000 crore
- [B] Rs. 10000 crore
- [C] Rs. 15000 crore ☒
- [D] Rs. 20000 crore



- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF). The corpus of the fund is Rs. 15000 crore and would incentivise the investments in establishment of infrastructure for dairy and meat processing. The eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme are Farmer Producer Organizations, MSMEs, Private Companies among others. The Government will provide 3% interest subvention to eligible beneficiaries.

3. Where the world's first Yoga University outside India inaugurated?

- [A] Japan
- [B] Singapore
- [C] United States of America ☒
- [D] Malaysia



- ✓ The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, United States. It has been named 'The Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU)'. The University has been jointly

launched during a virtual event held at the Consulate General of India in New York, as part of the 6th International Yoga Day celebrations.

- ✓ The first Chairman of the University is Indian yoga guru Dr. H R Nagendra. It would offer programmes that combine scientific and research approaches to the Indian practice of yoga.

4. A Product Application & Development Centre (PADC) setup by Indian Oil has been inaugurated in which Indian state?

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



- ✓ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated a Product Application & Development Centre (PADC) setup by Indian Oil, jointly with the Chief Minister of Odisha at Paradip, Odisha. The Centre has been set up at Paradip with a capital expenditure of Rs 43 crores. It has been equipped with latest polymer testing and processing equipment. PADC, Paradip is also recognized as a research centre by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology.

5. Researchers from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology have used gravels to trace the paleoclimatic history of which river?

- [A] Indus ☒
- [B] Sutlej
- [C] Chenab
- [D] Beas



- ✓ Researchers from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun have traced the paleoclimatic history of the Indus River in Ladakh Himalaya, by using geometric data from overlapping gravels of channel fills. WIHG is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology. The researchers have studied the discharge when the river experienced an increase in land elevation, due to the deposition of sediment and incision. Their study has been published in the journal titled Geomorphology.

6. What is the name of the nodal national entity set up under the Department of Space, to regulate Indian industry in space sector?

[A] N-ISRO

[B] IN-SPACe ☒

[C] Bharat ISRO

[D] New Space



- ✓ **Union cabinet approved a new body under the Department of Space is named 'IN-SPACe', which is the acronym for Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre. The Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation announced that IN-SPACe will be the nodal national body to promote and regulate all space-related activities of private industries. The new entity will have its own chairman and board and will function autonomously. IN-SPACe will be established in three to six months.**

7. Who is set to become first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233 year history?

[A] Clare Connor ☒

[B] Rachael Heyhoe Flint

[C] Betty Wilson

[D] Cathryn Fitzpatrick



- ✓ **Former England captain and present Managing Director of women's cricket England Cricket Board, Clare Connor is set to become the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233-year history. The current President of MCC, Sri Lanka's veteran cricketer Kumar Sangakkara named Clare Connor as the next Chief, during Annual General Meeting. Sangakkara is to step down from the top position next year. Clare Connor was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in 2009.**

8. 'Haritha Haram programme' is the initiative of which Indian state?

[A] Andhra Pradesh

[B] Kerala

[C] Telangana ☒

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ **Haritha Haram is a tree-planting program implemented by Telangana to increase the amount of tree cover in the state. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has recently launched the**

sixth phase of Haritha Haram programme. He also inaugurated the Narsapur Urban Forest Park and examined the Forest revival programme being implemented in Narsapur forest area.

9. Which state was ranked first in eradicating Tuberculosis, in the Annual TB Report 2020?

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



- ✓ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan released the Annual Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2020, through video conferencing. Gujarat was ranked the top performing state in eradicating Tuberculosis, in the category of large states with more than 50 lakh populations. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. In the category of small states, Nagaland and Tripura have been awarded the best performing states.

10. What is the name of the mobile App developed by the Indian Red Cross Society, to provide easy access to blood?

- [A] eBloodServices ☒
- [B] Blood Bharat
- [C] Blood Bank
- [D] Bharat Blood



- ✓ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, who is also the Chairman of Indian Red Cross Society, launched the 'eBloodServices' mobile application through a video conference. The application of Indian Red Cross Society has been developed by the E-Raktkosh team launched under the Digital India scheme. Through this app, up to four units of blood can be requested. The E-Raktkosh dashboard is used to display the requisite units and it also ensures assured delivery within the specified time.

1. Which organisation has launched a new initiative to explore sandalwood and bamboo tree plantation?

[A] Khadi and Village Industries Commission ☒

[B] National Institute of Agricultural Marketing

[C] Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium

[D] Indian Council of Agricultural Research



- ✓ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a first of its kind initiative to explore sandalwood and bamboo tree plantation. The statutory body that functions under the MSME Ministry has begun a drive with plantation of 500 saplings each of sandalwood and bamboo at its Nashik training centre. The plantation process aims at monetization of the property. KVIC has procured sandalwood saplings from Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Uttar Pradesh and Bamboo saplings from Assam.

2. United States' Space agency NASA is to rename its headquarters after which American engineer?

[A] Mary W. Jackson ☒

[B] Mark Moore

[C] Robert Curry

[D] Michael Thomson



- ✓ United States' Space agency NASA has recently announced that its headquarters located in Washington DC would be renamed after Mary W. Jackson. She is the agency's first African American female engineer. As per the website of NASA, Mary W. Jackson might have been the only black female aeronautical engineer in the agency. She served NASA for more than two decades and authored or co-authored 12 technical papers before she retired in 1985.

3. Which international organisation has launched the "Alliance for Poverty Eradication", amid COVID-19 pandemic?

[A] G20

[B] United Nations ☒

[C] World Bank

[D] World Economic Forum



- ✓ The United Nations has launched the "Alliance for Poverty Eradication". India has recently become a founding member of the Alliance. The President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande announced the alliance in an informal meeting. He will formally launch

the 'Alliance for Poverty Eradication' on June 30, which aims to provide a platform for member states to boost global economy after the effects of COVID-19 pandemic.

4. What is the theme of the "Day of the Seafarer", celebrated by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)?

[A] Seafarers are Key Workers ☒

[B] Importance of Seafarers

[C] Role of Seafarers in Economy

[D] Support Seafarers



- ✓ Every year, 25 June is celebrated as the "Day of the Seafarer", to recognise the contribution of seafarers in international trade and the global economy. The Day of the Seafarer was first celebrated in 2011 after it was designated by a resolution in the Conference of Parties to the International Convention (STCW), held in Philippines, in 2010. The theme of the Day of the Seafarer is 'Seafarers are Key Workers'.

5. Which state has launched a mega employment scheme to provide jobs to 1.25 crore migrant workers?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[C] Odisha

[D] Bihar



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan, a campaign to provide employment to 1.25 crore workers in Uttar Pradesh. The campaign aims to cover migrant workers who returned and other employees in the state, who lost their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic. It will be undertaken as part of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan that was launched for 116 districts in six states across the country.

6. When is 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' observed?

[A] June 26 ☒

[B] June 27

[C] June 28

[D] June 29



- ✓ The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on 26th June to raise awareness about the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society. The 2020 theme of the day is, "Better Knowledge for Better Care".

7. Which Indian state has launched 'Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar' scheme?

- [A] Chhattisgarh
[B] Tripura ☒
[C] Punjab
[D] Maharashtra



- ✓ The state government of Tripura has recently launched a new scheme called 'Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar' scheme. The scheme aims to combat infant & maternal mortality and malnutrition, by providing nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women. The government also announced that pregnant women would be tested four times in nearby Primary Health Centers (PHC) and be given a nutrition kit after each test.

8. What is the name of the new campaign launched by the NITI Aayog, to help people follow norms to contain the spread of COVID-19?

- [A] Navigating the New Normal ☒
[B] Conquering COVID-19
[C] India's New Normal
[D] India wins COVID-19



- ✓ Government thinktank NITI Aayog has launched a behaviour change campaign named 'Navigating the New Normal'. The campaign aims to help people follow norms to contain the spread of Covid-19 across the country. The campaign has been developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, chaired by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. It focusses on safe practises to be followed including wearing masks.

9. Which international sports organisation has launched an online tool 'Road to Tokyo'?

- [A] World Athletics ☒
[B] World Archery Federation
[C] International Table Tennis Federation
[D] International Weightlifting Federation



- ✓ Monaco based World Athletics has launched 'Road to Tokyo', an online tool to track the qualification process for next year's Olympic Games. The Tokyo Olympics were postponed in March and is scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021. The qualification system is adapted to fit in the new dates of the games. The online tool will provide a real time view of each event during the Tokyo 2020 qualification period which ends on June 29, 2021.

10. Which Union Ministry has launched "Nasha Mukht Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020–21)"?

[A] Ministry of Human Resources and Development

[B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ☒

[C] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

[D] Ministry of Women and Child Development



- ✓ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched "Nasha Mukht Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020–21)". The action plan has been launched for 272 Most Affected Districts, on the occasion of "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". The Minister of State of Social Justice also released the Logo and Tagline for National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction and awareness videos for Drug Abuse Prevention.
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1. Which Oil and Gas company has launched a new technology called 'Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS)'?

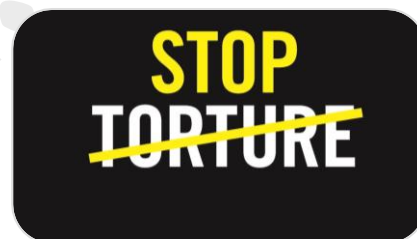
- [A] Indian Oil Corporation ☒
- [B] Bharat Petroleum Corporation
- [C] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- [D] GAIL Limited



- ✓ **Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) at Chandigarh. Indian Oil Corporation has signed an agreement with a mobility firm to set up infrastructure for Electric vehicle through Battery Swapping model across Indian Oil Retail outlets. Using the technology, the charging time would be upgraded, thereby increasing the operational hours.**

2. When is 'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture' observed by UN?

- [A] June 26 ☒
- [B] June 27
- [C] June 28
- [D] June 29



- ✓ **The 'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture' is observed by the United Nations, on June 26 every year. In the year 1997, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June as the UN International Day in support of victims of torture. The day is observed with an objective of total eradication of torture. On 26 June 1987, the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, came into effect.**

3. Which Indian state has launched an initiative called "At One Click", to aid MSMEs and Textile Industries?

- [A] Gujarat ☒
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ **The Chief Minister of Gujarat has launched a new initiative called "At One Click", to aid MSMEs and Textile Industries. An aid of Rs 1,369 crore for micro small and medium enterprises and textile industries was launched during the session. "At One Click" is an online cash aid initiative aims to cover 13,000 MSMEs in Gujarat, by providing financial assistance directly in their bank accounts.**

4. Which country is set to host the 2023 Women's FIFA World Cup?

[A] Brazil

[B] Australia & New Zealand ☒

[C] Japan

[D] Argentina



- ✓ The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 will be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, as per the recent announcement from FIFA. The President Gianni Infantino announced the results of the votes taken during its meeting held via videoconference. The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 will be the first edition to feature 32 teams and it will also be the first to be hosted by Australia and New Zealand and across two confederations.

5. What is the name of the tree planting campaign recently launched by Union Culture Ministry?

[A] One Person One Tree

[B] Sankalp Parva ☒

[C] Green Nation Mission

[D] Samriddhi Parva



- ✓ The Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel announced a tree planting campaign called Sankalp Parva. The Minister said that the campaign follows the Prime Minister's announcement to plant five trees either in Office campus or any other place, to improve the environment of the country. The Ministry has decided to celebrate Sankalp Parva from 28th June to 12 July 2020. All its offices, attached institutions would also participate in this campaign.

6. When is Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day celebrated every year?

[A] June 26

[B] June 27 ☒

[C] June 28

[D] June 29



- ✓ The Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day is celebrated every year on June 27, across the world. The United Nations General Assembly declared the day to raise public awareness of the contribution of MSMEs to sustainable development and the global economy. The agencies of UN including UNCTAD, UNIDO among others organised a webinar on the theme of "MSMEs: first responders to societal needs".

7. Which international organisation released the report titled “Money laundering and illegal wildlife trade”?

- [A] UNCTAD
- [B] UNIDO
- [C] FATF ☒
- [D] World Bank



- ✓ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has released its first report on “Money laundering and illegal wildlife trade”. In the first global report, illegal wildlife trade has been described as a ‘global threat’, which also has links with other organised crimes like slavery, drug trafficking and arms trade. As per the report, the illegal trade is estimated to generate revenues of up to USD 23 billion a year. It also highlighted that legislative changes were necessary to apply the laws to illegal wildlife trade-linked offences.

8. As per the consolidated guidelines released by the MSME Ministry, the MSMEs would be known by which name?

- [A] Udyog
- [B] Udyam ☒
- [C] Upakram
- [D] Sangatan



- ✓ Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a consolidated notification in the form of guidelines for classification and registration of MSMEs. As per the new guidelines, an MSME will be known as Udyam, as this word is closer to the meaning of ‘Enterprise’. Accordingly, the registration process will henceforth be known as Udyam Registration. The Udyam Registration can be filed online based on self-declaration, only on the basis of Aadhaar number, via a paperless process.

9. Which Indian institution developed an intensive care unit (ICU) grade ventilator under the name of ‘Project Praana’?

- [A] Indian Institute of Science (IISc) ☒
- [B] AIIMS
- [C] IIT– Delhi
- [D] IIT– Guwahati



- ✓ A team of engineers at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) had developed an intensive care unit (ICU) grade ventilator under the name of 'Project Praana'. Recently, the team has successfully completed the prototyping of the ventilator, which is now in the process of being commercialised. The affordable ventilator uses only components made in India or components which are easily available in the domestic markets. The team developed the ventilator in a record 35 days.

10. National Productivity Council (NPC) is an autonomous organisation functioning under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Human Resources and Development
[B] Ministry of Commerce & Industry ☒
[C] Ministry of MSME
[D] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship



- ✓ National Productivity Council is a national level autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, to promote productivity culture in India. Recently, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal chaired the 49th Governing Council Meeting of National Productivity Council. It is noteworthy that this meeting was held after 15 years.
-

1. Who is the Chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission?

- [A] A K Sikri
[B] N K Singh ☒
[C] Rajiv Kumar
[D] Ranjan Gogoi



- ✓ **Economist and former Indian Administrative Service officer N K Singh is the Chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission. Recently, the Finance Commission has decided to form a group to develop a mechanism to incentivise states for carrying out the agricultural reforms that were announced as part of the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package. The group consists of Finance Commission member Ramesh Chand, Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal and Agriculture, Research and Education Secretary T Mahapatra.**

2. How many countries are members of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), which has held its virtual annual summit?

- [A] Eight
[B] Ten ☒
[C] Twelve
[D] Fifteen



- ✓ **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) leaders have met during the recent annual summit held via video conference. ASEAN is a regional association with 10 member countries (Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Brunei, Laos). The Chair of ASEAN in 2020 is Vietnam, which hosted the virtual summit due to travel restrictions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.**

3. Which Union Ministry launched the Pradhan Mantri FME Scheme, to generate investments of Rs 35,000 crore?

- [A] Ministry of MSME
[B] Ministry of Food Processing Industries ☒
[C] Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare
[D] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

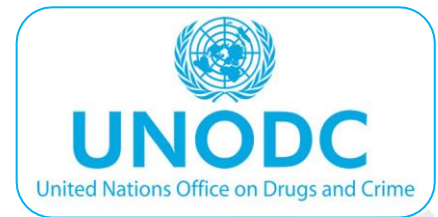


- ✓ **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal has launched the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme. The scheme has been launched as a part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan". It is claimed to generate a total investment**

of Rs 35,000 crore and generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment. The scheme would benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training and better exposure.

4. Where is the Headquarters of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) located?

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



- ✓ **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a United Nations office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, headquartered at Vienna, Austria. According to the latest UNODC World Drug Report, about 26.9 crore people used drugs in 2018, which was 30% more than the 2009 count. The largest share of drug users comprised of adolescents and young adults. Overall opioid users in India is estimated to have increased five times, as compared to those in 2004.**

5. A community centre called “Sanskritik Sadbhav Mandap” is being constructed in which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
[B] Uttar Pradesh ☒
[C] Maharashtra
[D] Bihar



- ✓ **Minister of Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has laid the foundation stone for “Sanskritik Sadbhav Mandap” at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. The centre is being constructed with the cost of Rs 92 crore by Union Minority Affairs Ministry under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram (PMJKV). This community centre will be utilized for various socio-economic-cultural activities, skill development training and relief activities.**

6. Which Indian state has launched the world’s largest convalescent plasma therapy project for treating COVID-19, named PLATINA?

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



- ✓ **The state government of Maharashtra has launched the world’s largest convalescent plasma therapy project named PLATINA, for treating COVID-19.**

- ✓ This is expected to save at least 500 lives of critically-ill COVID-19 patients in the state. The trial will be carried out in government medical colleges and BMC medical colleges. All critical patients will receive two doses of 200 ml of convalescent plasma under the project, free of cost.

7. Who has been conferred with the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to statistics?

- [A] D Subba Rao
[B] C Rangarajan ☒
[C] Bimal Jalan
[D] Y V Reddy



- ✓ **Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor C Rangarajan has been conferred with the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to statistics. The award has been given to him on the occasion of Statistics Day, which is celebrated on June 29 every year, to commemorate the birth anniversary of PC Mahalanobis, the 'father of Indian statistics'. C Rangarajan had served as the Chairman of the National Statistical Commission.**

8. The Indian Government has banned 59 Chinese apps, by invoking its power under which act?

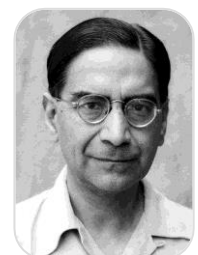
- [A] Information Technology (IT) Act ☒
[B] Right to Information Act
[C] The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act
[D] Export-Quality Control and Inspection Act



- ✓ **The Government of India has banned 59 Chinese mobile apps, including TikTok, UC Browser among others, by invoking its power under Section 69A of Information Technology (IT) Act. As per the statement from the Information Technology Ministry, the applications are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, Defence of India and public order. The Government has arranged talks with some firms including TikTok, after the ban was imposed.**

9. What is the theme of the 'National Statistics Day' 2020, celebrated on June 29?

- [A] Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5 ☒
[B] Honouring P. C. Mahalanobis
[C] Statistics is Life
[D] Indian statistics



- ✓ **National Statistics Day is observed on June 29 every year in India. This year it was celebrated through virtual conference with the theme of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (Ensure**

healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

- ✓ The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation instituted a new award 'Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics', which was conferred upon Former RBI Governor C Rangarajan. 'Prof. P.V. Sukhatme National Award in Statistics 2020' was given to Dr Arvind Pandey and Dr. Akhilesh Chandra Kulshreshtha.

10. Which Union Ministry has developed a new web portal to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) for power projects?

[A] Ministry of Coal

[B] Ministry of Power

[C] Ministry of Defence ☒

[D] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



- ✓ Union Defence Ministry (MoD) has launched a new portal to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) for power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone.
- ✓ The newly developed MoD web portal will facilitate the applicants in submitting their proposals online for seeking MoD Security Clearance for undertaking Power Projects/RSEE activities. The Online System will establish an effective, speedy and transparent mechanism to process these proposals. The Ministry has earlier launched a similar portal for grant of NOC for aerial survey.

1. The World Bank has approved \$250 million loan for affordable housing projects of which state?

[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] West Bengal

[C] Odisha

[D] Kerala



- ✓ The World Bank has approved USD 250 million loan for affordable housing projects of Tamil Nadu. The Government of India, state government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank has signed legal agreements regarding the project.
- ✓ Out of the total loan, \$200 million is approved for First Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme and \$50 million for Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project. It aims to ease regulatory barriers and encourage private sector participation in affordable housing.

2. 'Kholongchhu' is the first joint venture hydroelectric project between India and which country?

[A] Singapore

[B] Bangladesh

[C] Bhutan ☒

[D] Myanmar



- ✓ Kholongchhu is the first joint venture hydroelectric project between India and Bhutan. A concession agreement for project was recently signed virtually. This agreement will commence the construction and related works of the project, which is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025. The 600 MW project is located on the Kholongchhu River in eastern Bhutan. It will be implemented by Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited, a JV company formed between DGPC of Bhutan and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) of India.

3. Who has been named as 'India's Most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century' by Wisden?

[A] Mahendra Singh Dhoni

[B] Virat Kohli

[C] Ravindra Jadeja ☒

[D] R Ashwin



- ✓ Wisden has named Ravindra Jadeja as 'India's Most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century'. He is also named as the second most Valuable Test player in the world. The list is topped by Sri Lanka's legendary cricketer Muthiah Muralitharan.

- ✓ Wisden used CricViz, a detailed analysis tool in cricket to analyse performance of the players and award an 'MVP rating' to each player in world cricket. The 31 year old India's spin-bowling all-rounder has scored an MVP rating of 97.3.

4. A new type of swine flu that is capable of triggering a pandemic has been discovered in which country?

- [A] Japan
[B] China ☒
[C] United States
[D] Vietnam



- ✓ According to a study published in the US science journal PNAS, researchers in China have discovered a new type of swine flu that is capable of triggering a pandemic. The G4 flu is genetically descended from the H1N1 strain that caused a pandemic in 2009. As per the China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, G4 was observed to be highly infectious, replicating in human cells and causing more serious symptoms. More researches are being carried out on ferrets.

5. What is the name of the application launched to provide information to sportspersons, about prohibited substances?

- [A] Sports Check
[B] NADA India ☒
[C] NADA Check
[D] Check and Khel



- ✓ Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has unveiled National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile application to provide information about prohibited substances and their use. This application is expected to provide easily accessible information of NADA, so that the athletes and their coaches would remain cautious about the prohibited drugs and medicines. The app also provides means for easy process of conducting a dope test.

6. Indian Oil and NTPC Ltd partnered to develop a Waste to Energy plant at which Indian state/UT?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] New Delhi ☒

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Kerala



- ✓ A MoU was recently signed between Indian Oil, NTPC Ltd and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), to develop a demonstration Waste-to-energy Plant at Okhla landfill site in Delhi. The plant is to be developed using Gasification technology and it shall process 17500 tons per annum of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) from combustible components of Municipal Waste. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh were present during the virtual event.

7. Asia's first-ever Continuous Galvanized Rebar (CGR) manufacturing facility has been launched in which state?

[A] Rajasthan

[B] Punjab ☒

[C] West Bengal

[D] Chhattisgarh



- ✓ International Zinc Association (IZA) has launched Asia's first-ever Continuous Galvanized Rebar (CGR) manufacturing facility in Punjab. The project would be supported by Hindustan Zinc Limited. It has been launched in collaboration with a private manufacturing company Madhav KRG Group. The new product called Continuously Galvanized Rebars (CGR) are value added rebars for better life and lower maintenance. Rebar is the short form of Reinforced Bar.

8. Which digital platform of the Indian Government won two awards at the prestigious Global Leadership Summit, CogX 2020?

[A] MyGov Corona ☒

[B] Digital India

[C] Fit India

[D] Swachh Bharat Mission



- ✓ An Artificial Intelligence enabled digital platform of the Indian Government named MyGov Corona Helpdesk bagged two awards at the Global Leadership Summit, CogX 2020.

- ✓ The helpdesk bagged two awards under categories namely “Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society” and “People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner”. CogX 2020 is a prestigious Global Festival of AI & Emerging Technology held annually in London.

9. Which Union Ministry is set to launch a cashless scheme for road accident victims with an insurance cap of Rs 2.5 lakh?

- [A] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
[B] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways ☒
[C] Ministry of Women and Child Development
[D] Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is set to launch a cashless scheme for road accident victims. The Ministry is to establish a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund under its aegis, for implementing the scheme. It will have an insurance coverage cap of Rs 2.5 lakh per case and enables all road accident victims of Indian or foreign nationality, to be eligible.**

10. Who is the head of the national level committee set up by the Home Ministry, for reform in criminal law?

- [A] Ranbir Singh ☒
[B] A K Sikri
[C] C Rangarajan
[D] Thaawar Chand Gehlot



- ✓ **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a national level committee for reform in criminal law. The committee is to be headed by Ranbir Singh, who is the Vice Chancellor, National Law University of Delhi. The committee has many veteran legal academicians and it has invited opinions online on the possible reforms in the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act.**
-

1. What is the theme of the 'National Doctors Day' 2020?

[A] Lessen the mortality of COVID-19 ☒

[B] No violence against Doctors

[C] Help those who help us

[D] Honouring B.C.Roy



- ✓ India celebrates National Doctor's Day on July 1 each year, in honour of the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was a veteran physician of the country and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal. Indian Government established the Doctor's Day in the year of 1991. This year, the theme of the day is "Lessen the mortality of COVID-19".

2. Who has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations?

[A] Indra Mani Pandey ☒

[B] Ronen Sen

[C] Vivek Katju

[D] Taranjit Singh Sandhu



- ✓ Veteran diplomat Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva. The Indian Foreign Service officer is currently serving as an additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. He is to succeed the current representative hRajiv K Chander in Geneva. I.M Pandey had served in several places including Cairo, Islamabad and Kabul among others.

3. What is the name of the project announced by Kerala, for rehabilitation of its people returning from abroad?

[A] Welcome Back

[B] Dream Kerala ☒

[C] God's Own Country

[D] Winning Covid



- ✓ The state of Kerala has recently announced a project named "Dream Kerala", for rehabilitation of its people returning from abroad. The project also aims for enhancing works for the overall development of the State. It aims to deploy the skills and knowledge for reviving the economy of the state. Ideas and suggestions from public will be invited and several departments would be jointly coordinating the project.

4. What is the name of the new scheme launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) to strengthen research ecosystem?

[A] Accelerate Vigyan ☒

[B] Bharat Vigyan

[C] Vigyan Padhe

[D] Vigyan Kendra



- ✓ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has launched a new scheme called 'Accelerate Vigyan'. It aims to provide a single exclusive platform for research internships and science workshops across the country. It also aims to encourage high-end scientific research and research careers. Several programmes to identify research potential, training programmes are to be carried out across the country.

5. Which Indian state is to launch a scheme named 'Hamara Ghar–Hamara Vidyalaya'?

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[C] Bihar

[D] Gujarat



- ✓ The state Government of Madhya Pradesh is set to launch a new scheme called 'Hamara Ghar–Hamara Vidyalaya'. It means My Home–My school and the scheme aims to teach the school-going children, in a school-like environment. Under the scheme, the children of the state will learn to read and write and perform yoga, as per the State Education Centre.

6. Which Indian institution has launched the world's first online Bachelor of Science Degree in Data Science and programming?

[A] Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras ☒

[B] Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay

[C] Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

[D] Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati



- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched the world's first online Diploma and Bachelor of Science Degree in Data Science and programming. The course has no age limit and students who have passed class 12 can enrol. The course will be conducted online and its exams will be conducted in an offline mode. The course has three levels including the foundation, diploma and degree and it is divided into six semesters.

7. Which Union Ministry implements the “PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana” scheme?

- [A] Ministry of Rural Development
- [B] Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- [C] Ministry of Food and Public Distribution ☒
- [D] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



- ✓ **The Union Ministry of Food and Public Distribution implements the “PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana” scheme. The Minister for Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan has recently released the details of the 2nd Phase of PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. Under the scheme, 5 kilograms of Wheat or Rice to every family member and 1 kilogram of Chana (Pulse) for each beneficiary family will be provided without price for five more months, till November.**

8. Which Indian American author and oncologist has been named as ‘2020 Great Immigrants’ honouree?

- [A] Siddhartha Mukherjee ☒
- [B] Jhumpa Lahiri
- [C] Fareed Zakaria
- [D] Sanjay Gupta



- ✓ **Pulitzer Prize–winning Indian–American author and oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee has been named as the ‘2020 Great Immigrants’ honourees by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Another Indian American Professor of Economics at Harvard University Raj Chetty also jointly received the honour. They have been honoured for their contribution towards the efforts in containing the COVID–19 crisis.**

9. In which state/UT, a new Urban Forest with indigenous species has been inaugurated by the Union Environment Minister?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] New Delhi ☒
- [D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ **The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has recently inaugurated an urban forest, in the Union Territory of New Delhi. The urban forest is created with as many as 12,000 seedlings of 59 indigenous species.**

- ✓ It is developed at the Office premises of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. This is expected to form into a full-fledged forest by 2021 and will improve the Air Quality Index of the UT.

10. Which Indian state/UT has launched a plantation drive called 'Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao' (Plant Saplings, Save Environment)?

[A] Sikkim

[B] West Bengal

[C] New Delhi ☒

[D] Jharkhand



- ✓ The Union Territory of Delhi has announced that a plantation drive called 'Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao' (Plant Saplings, Save Environment). As per the Environment Ministry, Delhi is to launch a 17 day long plantation drive of 31 lakh saplings, to increase the green cover to 350 sq km by 2021. The aim of the drive is to create awareness about increasing green cover to reduce pollution in the UT. The period of the drive will be observed as "Vrikshaaropan Pakhavaada".
-

1. 'Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince' are the recently discovered species of which creature?

[A] Turtle

[B] Snake

[C] Butterfly ☒

[D] Spider



- ✓ **Lepidopterists, those who specialises in studying moths and butterflies, have recently discovered two new species of butterflies namely Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince in Arunachal Pradesh. The Striped Hairstreak was first recorded in Japan and the Elusive Prince was discovered in Vietnam. As per the Society for Education and Environmental Development (SEED), the discovery of two new species have increased the number of butterfly species of the country to 1327.**

2. Which global organisation has enhanced support to USD 400 million, for India's programme to rejuvenate Ganga River?

[A] International Monetary Fund

[B] World Bank ☒

[C] Asian Development Bank

[D] BRICS Bank



THE WORLD BANK

- ✓ **The World Bank has recently announced that it has enhanced its support for India's flagship program to rejuvenate Ganga River. World Bank would provide a USD 400 million assistance to the program, which will help reduce pollution and strengthen river basin management. The Second National Ganga River Basin Project (SNGRBP) will support the government's Namami Gange program. The loan has a maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period of 5 years.**

3. How many countries are involved in the USMCA agreement that was seen in news recently?

[A] Three ☒

[B] Four

[C] Five

[D] Six



- ✓ **The United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) is set to replace the 25–year–old NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). The renegotiated deal comes into effect from July 1.**

- ✓ USMCA is a trilateral agreement between three countries namely the United States, Mexico and Canada. The deal was originally signed in 2018. It seeks to support the technology sector and include USD 600 million to address environmental problems.

4. What is the name of the online competition launched by the HRD Ministry and Health Ministry, to identify drugs against coronavirus?

- [A] Corona Care Hackathon
- [B] Drug Discovery Hackathon ☒
- [C] Bharat Medico Hackathon
- [D] Aatma Nirbhar Hackathon



- ✓ **Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan have jointly launched the online competition to identify drugs against coronavirus. The competition is named "Drug Discovery Hackathon" 2020. Students, researchers and experts from across the country and the world can participate in the event, to submit their discoveries on potential drugs. While HRD Innovation cell and AICTE will identify potential drug, CSIR will conduct synthesis and laboratory testing.**

5. Which Union Ministry constituted the 'Prerak Dauur Samman' awards?

- [A] Ministry of Culture
- [B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Rural Development



- ✓ **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister has launched toolkit for the sixth edition of the annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2021. MoHUA organises the annual survey for urban India. As part of Swachh Survekshan-2021, the Minister launched a new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman'. The award has a total of five sub-categories which awards top three cities, on the basis of six indicator-wise performance criteria.**

6. Which Indian state holds the top position in marine fish production in 2019, as per the report of CMFRI?

- [A] Tamil Nadu ☒
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Maharashtra



- ✓ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has released its report on the Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019. As per the report, the marine fish production of India recorded a marginal rise of 2.1% in 2019, with 3.56 million tonnes in total landings. It also ranked Tamil Nadu in the first position with 7.75 lakh tonnes. It is followed by Gujarat and Kerala. Gujarat was at the top spot in the recent years.

7. Which special day is celebrated on July 2, to mark the anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS)?

[A] World Sports Journalists Day ☒

[B] World Sports Association Day

[C] World Sportspersons Day

[D] World Coaches Day



- ✓ Every year, July 2 is celebrated as World Sports Journalists Day or International Sports Journalists Day. The day also recognises the importance of sports journalists around the world. It marks the anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) that was established in 1924 during the Paris Olympics. AIPS is the peak professional body representing the international sports media.

8. Phobos is the biggest natural satellite of which planet?

[A] Jupiter

[B] Mars ☒

[C] Saturn

[D] Venus



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Mars Orbiter Mission has recently captured the image of Phobos. Phobos is the closest and biggest moon of Mars, which has been captured by the Mars Colour Camera (MCC) onboard the MoM spacecraft. The image was taken when the spacecraft was about 7,200 km from Mars and 4,200 km from Phobos.

9. Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of France?

[A] Jean Castex ☒

[B] Emmanuel Macron

[C] Edouard Philippe

[D] Mikhail Mishustin



- ✓ The President of France Emmanuel Macron has named Jean Castex as the next French Prime Minister. The previous Prime Minister Edouard Philippe had resigned earlier. The President has reshuffled the Government to restart the country's economy. Jean Castex is a 55 year old public servant, who has also coordinated the re-opening strategy in the country.

10. Coal India has partnered with which other PSU to form a Joint Venture Company, to develop green power?

[A] NLC India ☒

[B] GAIL

[C] ONGC

[D] NTPC Ltd



- ✓ Two Central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal, namely the NLC India Ltd and Coal India have signed an agreement to form a Joint Venture Company, to develop green power. The JV company aims to develop solar and thermal power assets of 5000 MW (5 GW) across the country. In the proposed company, both the enterprises will invest in the ratio of 50:50. The expertise of both PSUs would be used for developing power sector.
-

1. What is the name of the first social media super-application, to be launched in India?

- [A] Elyments ☒
- [B] Incorporate
- [C] Homegrown
- [D] Inspire



- ✓ The Vice President of India is set to launch the first social media super-application of the country named 'Elyments'. More than 1000 IT professionals have created the application. The application, that will be available in more than 8 Indian languages, aims to combine the features of popular social media applications and present it on a single unified app. It also has features such as free audio and video calls and chats.

2. Which organisation is set to launch its first ever news magazine program in Sanskrit named 'Sanskrit Saptahiki'?

- [A] Door Darshan News
- [B] All India Radio (AIR) ☒
- [C] DD KISAN
- [D] DD Arunprabha



- ✓ Veteran diplomat Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva. The Indian Foreign Service officer is currently serving as an additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. He is to succeed the current representative hRajiv K Chander in Geneva. I.M Pandey had served in several places including Cairo, Islamabad and Kabul among others.

3. Which Indian state has launched a mobile van 'Dhanvantri Rath' providing essential healthcare services to the people?

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



- ✓ Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has deployed 120 Mobile Medical Vans named 'Dhanvantri Rath' across the city. It is a mobile van that provides non-COVID essential healthcare services to every household of the corporation.

- ✓ Every van has an AYUSH Doctor, a paramedic and nursing staff and a local Medical Officer from the Corporation's Urban Health Centre. It conducts regular out patient consultations.

4. What is the name of the potential COVID-19 vaccine, to be developed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?

- [A] Covidin
- [B] Covaxin ☒
- [C] Coviro
- [D] Covadha



- ✓ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has partnered with Bharat Biotech for development of potential COVID-19 vaccine called Covaxin. The Drugs Controller General of India has granted permission to conduct phase-1 and 2 human clinical trials. Recently, ICMR has announced that it is acting in accordance with the globally accepted standards to develop the vaccine.

5. What is the theme of "International Day of Cooperatives" 2020?

- [A] Co-operatives for Climate Action ☒
- [B] Co-operatives and SDGs
- [C] Co-operatives and their challenges
- [D] Co-operatives across the globe



- ✓ International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year. This year, it is observed on July 4, 2020. The theme of the International Day of Cooperatives 2020 is Cooperatives for Climate Action. The objective of the day is to create awareness about cooperatives and highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement to the development of the world.

6. Who is the author of the book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'?

- [A] Amartya Sen
- [B] Raghuram Rajan
- [C] Urjit Patel ☒
- [D] ShaktiKanta Das



- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has authored a book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'.

- ✓ The book is set to be released by the end of July 2020. The book focusses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that has caused huge distress to the country's banking sector. It also highlights the causes of NPAs and the efforts of Urjit Patel to deal with the issue as the Governor of RBI.

7. What is the rank of India in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index?

- [A] 77
[B] 97
[C] 117 ☒
[D] 137

117

- ✓ The Sustainable Development Report 2020 has been released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung. In this year's edition of the report, Sweden has topped the SDG rankings with a score of 84.7. It is followed by Denmark and Finland. India is placed at 117th rank with a score of 61.9. The countries are ranked based on their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in terms of six broad transformations.

8. Who has authored the book titled 'Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India'?

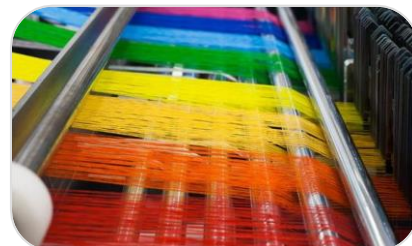
- [A] R C Bhargava ☒
[B] Mohit Burman
[C] Jagdish Khattar
[D] Sunil Duggal



- ✓ Former Chief Executive Officer and present Chairperson of Maruti Suzuki R C Bhargava has authored the book titled 'Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India'. In his book which is set to release, R C Bhargava explains his experience of more than 60 years as an industry leader. He has also given practical solutions to create a globally competitive country.

9. Which Indian state has launched 'Weavers Sammaan Yojana'?

- [A] Maharashtra
[B] Madhya Pradesh
[C] Karnataka ☒
[D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The Chief Minister of the state of Karnataka has launched 'Weavers Sammaan Yojana', to provide annual financial assistance of two thousand rupees to handloom weavers. Around 20000 weavers of the state are to be provided financial aid through Direct Benefit Transfer.

- ✓ For implementing the scheme, the state has allocated Rs 10.96 crore rupees. The state has also proposed to give a one-time financial assistance to workers employed in power looms.

10. Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary that was seen in news recently, is located in which state?

- [A] Sikkim
[B] West Bengal
[C] Assam ☒
[D] Jharkhand



- ✓ The state government of Assam has decided to upgrade the Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary into a national park. Earlier, the National Board of Wild Life (NBWL) under the Environment Ministry had recommended coal mining to be allowed within a portion of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve. After the upgradation of this sanctuary, Assam will have 6 national parks. Dehing Patkai comprises of a variety of unique flora and fauna.

1. Which is the first Indian state to provide LPG connections to all its households?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Himachal Pradesh ☒
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh has recently become the first state in the country to provide LPG connections to all its households. The state has been implementing 'Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana' scheme for implementing this objective. Under the scheme, around 2.76 lakh families in the state have benefitted by receiving LPG connections. The state also implemented Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana to provide free LPG connection to BPL families.**

2. Which Indian state is to launch a financial assistance scheme called 'Balaram Yojana'?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Odisha ☒
- [C] Madhya Pradesh
- [D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ **The state government of Odisha is set to launch a new financial assistance scheme called 'Balaram Yojana'. It is a sequel to the 'KALIA' scheme, which was launched with an aim to provide assistance to small and marginal farmers. Under the new scheme, the state will provide crop loans to 7 lakh landless sharecroppers in the state, through joint liability groups (JLGs) in the next two years.**

3. Rewa Ultra-Mega Solar plant, which is said to be the largest solar plant in Asia, is to be inaugurated in which state?

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



- ✓ **The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Asia's largest solar plant in the state. The 750 MW Rewa Ultra-Mega Solar plant would be inaugurated through video conferencing.**
- ✓ **It is claimed to be the one of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia. The plant is located in the Rewa district of Vindhya region of the state.**

4. India has recently signed five MoUs with which country, to develop its educational infrastructure?

[A] Ghana

[B] Afghanistan ☒

[C] Malawi

[D] Syria



- ✓ India and Afghanistan have recently signed five agreements for developing educational infrastructure in Afghanistan. The MoUs, that were signed under the High impact community development projects (HICDP) programme. It is implemented by India to promote bilateral partnership. The educational infrastructure is to be improved in four Afghan provinces of Nooristan, Badakhshan, Farah and Kapisa.

5. Which country's Railways has set up the world's first solar power plant to directly power Overhead line?

[A] China

[B] India ☒

[C] United States

[D] Singapore



- ✓ Indian Railways has set up a solar power plant, for the first time in the world, which directly provides power to the Railway Overhead Line, in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL). Such a solar power plant has been established at Bina Traction Sub Station, Madhya Pradesh. The 1.7 Megawatt solar power plant can produce around 25 lakh units of energy in a year and save about Rs 1.37 crore per year.

6. Which country has launched a new military surveillance satellite named 'Ofek 16'?

[A] United States

[B] Israel ☒

[C] Germany

[D] UAE



- ✓ Israel has launched a new surveillance satellite named 'Ofek 16', that will provide high-quality surveillance for its military activities. The satellite was launched into space by its indigenously developed Shavit rocket, which was used to launch the previous versions of Ofek satellites. It is an advanced electro-optical surveillance satellite developed by Israel Aerospace Industries.

7. Which country has passed the Expat quota bill, which could force about 8 lakh Indians to leave, when enacted?

[A] United Arab Emirates

[B] Kuwait ☒

[C] Oman

[D] Bahrain



- ✓ The legal and legislative committee of Kuwait's National Assembly has recently approved the draft expat quota bill. If the bill is enacted into a law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait. As per the proposed bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population. Out of the 4.3 million population of Kuwait, there are 3 million expats. Moreover, Indians are the largest expatriate community with 1.45 million.

8. G. Akash, who was seen in news recently, is associated with which sports?

[A] Table Tennis

[B] Chess ☒

[C] Weight Lifting

[D] Javelin Throw



- ✓ A 23 year old chess player from Tamil Nadu, G. Akash has recently become the 66th Grandmaster of India. Akash's Grand Master title was confirmed at the second council meet of International Chess Federation (FIDE) of the year 2020. The Chennai-based player won the National title in the year 2012. His present FIDE rating is 2495.

9. Asia's largest certified tier IV Data centre has been inaugurated in which Indian state?

[A] Maharashtra ☒

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Karnataka

[D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray has virtually inaugurated the Asia's largest certified tier IV data centre, near Mumbai. The Yotta NM1 data centre building is the largest tier IV Data centre in India. It is also claimed to be the second largest in the world. The private data centre is expected to serve the engineering and real estate businesses and boost investments in the state.

10. What is the rank of India, in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index?

[A] 14

[B] 24

[C] 34 ☒

[D] 44



- ✓ The property consultant JLL has released the Global Real Estate Transparency Index recently. India is ranked in the 34th position in the index. The country's real estate market is currently placed in the 'semi-transparent' zone. India's rank has improved one position, due to regulatory reforms, better market data and green initiatives. The United Kingdom (UK) tops the list of 99 countries, followed by the United States and Australia.
-

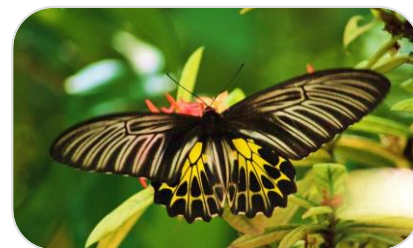
1. 'Golden Birdwing', that was seen in news recently, belongs to which family of species?

[A] Humming Bird

[B] Butterfly ☒

[C] Spider

[D] Snake



- ✓ As per the latest issue of a research newsletter on life forms 'Bionotes', a Himalayan butterfly named 'Golden Birdwing' is declared the largest butterfly of India. Until now, another butterfly named the Southern Birdwing holds the record of the country's largest butterfly for 88 years, after a British military officer and butterfly researcher recorded it in 1932. The female Golden Birdwing has a wingspan of 194 mm, larger than that of the Southern Birdwing.

2. Who has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)?

[A] Injeti Srinivas ☒

[B] C Rangarajan

[C] Narasimhan

[D] D Subba Rao



- ✓ Veteran bureaucrat Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA). The IFSCA was recently established by the Finance ministry to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country. It is headquartered at Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City, Ahmedabad. The former Corporate affairs Secretary will head the IFSCA for three years.

3. Which sports body has adopted a new visual identity, after it has completed 100 years of participation at the Summer Olympics?

[A] Hockey India

[B] All India Football Federation

[C] All India Tennis Association

[D] Indian Olympic Association ☒



- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has adopted a new institutional and a commercial logo, to celebrate its 100 years of participation of Indian athletes at the Summer Olympics.

- ✓ The previous institutional logo was adopted during the period of British rule in India and has been used till present. The new branding and visual identity have been approved by the International Olympic Committee.

4. Which Indian state has launched its own document scanning mobile application named 'Self Scan'?

- [A] Telangana
[B] Kerala
[C] West Bengal ☒
[D] Rajasthan



- ✓ The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has launched the state's own document scanning application named 'Self Scan'. The application has been developed by the state's information technology department. This has been launched amidst the ban imposed by the Centre over 59 Chinese mobile apps. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the state's first Plasma Bank for treatment of COVID-19 positive patients.

5. Which state has the highest count of inbred tigers in the country, as per the National Centre for Biological Sciences?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
[B] Rajasthan ☒
[C] West Bengal
[D] Karnataka



- ✓ As per the recent research report of National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Rajasthan has the highest count of inbred tigers in the country. Inbreeding refers to the process of producing offspring from breeding of individuals or genetically related organisms. Tigers have dispersed from the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to Sarika Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota, and NCBS explained that these tigers are related.

6. As per the World Drug Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which country reported the highest seizure of opium in 2018?

- [A] United States
[B] Iran ☒
[C] Germany
[D] UAE



- ✓ As per the latest World Drug Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the highest seizure of opium in 2018 was reported from Iran. About 644 tonnes of opium was seized in Iran, followed by 27 tonnes in Afghanistan and 19 tonnes in Pakistan. India is placed in the fourth place, with 4 tonnes. Moreover, in the list of heroin seizure India was at the 12th position in the world with 1.3 tonnes, which was also topped by Iran.

7. World Zoonoses Day is celebrated on July 6, to commemorate the work of which biologist?

[A] Louis Pasteur ☒

[B] Edward Jenner

[C] Alexander Fleming

[D] Robert Koch



- ✓ World Zoonoses Day is celebrated on July 6 every year, to commemorate the work of the famous French biologist Louis Pasteur. On the same day in 1885, he successfully administered the first vaccine against the zoonotic disease rabies. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) jointly launched a report on the day titled 'Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission'.

8. As per the Researchers at Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), which element is produced in the Universe, by Sun like stars in their later life?

[A] Hydrogen

[B] Lithium ☒

[C] Carbon

[D] Oxygen



- ✓ As per the recently published study by the scientists from Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Lithium (Li) is produced in the Universe, by Sun like stars in their later life. IIA, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, has published the study in Nature Astronomy. Low mass stars like Sun produce Lithium during their Helium core burning phase, as per the scientists. This is the first time that a clear observational evidence has been provided.

9. Which Indian state celebrates 'Farmers Day' on July 8, to commemorate the birth anniversary of its former Chief Minister?

[A] Andhra Pradesh ☒

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Karnataka

[D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The state of Andhra Pradesh celebrates Farmer's Day on the birth anniversary of its former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. The Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy had announced that every year July 8 will be observed as 'YSR Rythu Dinotsavam' or Farmers Day. The former Andhra Pradesh CM and the father of Jagan Mohan Reddy, was known for his farmer-friendly schemes.

10. Indian Coast Guard has signed an MoU with its counterpart of which country, to boost maritime relations?

- [A] Japan
[B] Indonesia ☒
[C] France
[D] Sri Lanka



- ✓ A MoU has recently been signed between the Indian Coast Guard and Indonesia Coast Guard, to boost maritime relations. This agreement will enhance the partnership between the two countries in the fields of maritime law enforcement, search and rescue and pollution response. The Coast guards of the two countries would be engaged in exchange of information for reducing maritime crimes.
-

1. What is the corpus of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, that has been approved by the Union Cabinet?

- [A] Rs 25000 crore
- [B] Rs 50000 crore
- [C] Rs 1 lakh crore ☒
- [D] Rs 2 lakh crore



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently approved to establish an Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore.**
- ✓ **Under the scheme, loans amounting to Rs 1 lakh crore will be provided to Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), agriculture entrepreneurs, start-ups among others, to improve their infrastructure and logistics facilities. This fund is a part of the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced by Union Government**

2. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (AHRCs) are to be developed for migrants and poor, under which scheme?

- [A] Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban ☒
- [B] Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana
- [C] National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- [D] Swachh Bharat Mission



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet has granted its approval for developing Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (AHRCs) for urban migrants and poor as a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY–U). Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has initiated an Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) sub scheme in May 2020. Nearly three lakh beneficiaries will be covered initially under the ARHC scheme.**

3. The National Medicinal Plants Board works under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- [B] Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- [C] Ministry of AYUSH ☒
- [D] Ministry of MSME



NATIONAL MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARD
Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

- ✓ **The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) was established by the Union Government in the year 2000. It works under the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH).**
- ✓ **Recently, NMPB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, NBPGR, to conserve Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources. The resources would be conserved in the National Gene bank and or at Regional Stations.**

4. What is the theme of the virtual conference 'India Global Week 2020', being organised in the United Kingdom?

- [A] Be The Revival: India and a Better New World ☒
- [B] Atmanirbhar Bharat
- [C] Spiritual Face of India
- [D] India winning COVID–19



- ✓ **A three–day virtual conference named 'India Global Week 2020' is being organised in the United Kingdom. The theme of the conference is "Be the Revival: India and a Better New World". The inaugural address of the first day of the conference was delivered by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The conference is addressed by about 250 international speakers and will have 5000 participants.**

5. Which organisation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), for mutual data exchange?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India
- [B] Securities and Exchange Board of India ☒
- [C] NITI Aayog
- [D] Enforcement Directorate



- ✓ **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), for mutual data exchange. Both the organisations will share the required information available in their respective databases on an automatic and regular basis. Moreover, a Data Exchange Steering Group has been constituted for the initiative, that will review of data exchange status.**

6. Which state has become the first to use Space Technology to safeguard Government Lands?

- [A] Telangana
- [B] Odisha ☒
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Punjab



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Odisha has recently launched a monitoring system named 'BLUIS', and it has become the first state to use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence to safeguard Government Lands. BLUIS stands for Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System, which would monitor changes in government lands in Bhubaneswar by deploying high resolution satellite imagery. BLUIS is a geo-tagged repository, which works both in web and mobile.

7. Which two countries became the 1st in South East Asia, to eliminate measles and rubella diseases?

[A] India and Sri Lanka

[B] Sri Lanka and Maldives ☒

[C] India and Maldives

[D] Bangladesh and Maldives



- ✓ As per the World Health Organisation's new release, the Maldives and Sri Lanka have become the first two countries in the South East Asian Region, to eliminate both measles and rubella. The countries have completely eliminated the diseases ahead of the deadline of 2023. World Health Organisation declares a country to have eliminated measles and rubella, when there is no evidence of transmission of the disease for over three years.

8. The IIT Alumni Council is setting up the world's largest molecular diagnostic lab in which city?

[A] Mumbai ☒

[B] New Delhi

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Hyderabad



- ✓ The IIT Alumni Council is setting up the world's largest molecular diagnostic lab in Mumbai, Maharashtra named 'MegaLab Mumbai'. Recently, the council has partnered with a CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), to conduct research on spread of COVID-19 and patient data analysis. The IIT Alumni Council is the largest association of alumni, students and teachers from all the 23 IITs and partnering technical institutes.

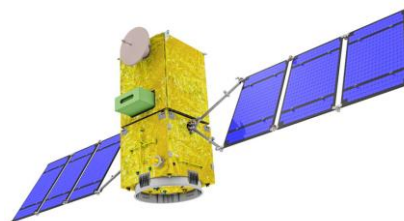
9. Amazonia-1, that is to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is a satellite of which country?

[A] Brazil ☒

[B] Japan

[C] Australia

[D] New Zealand



- ✓ The Indian Space Research and Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch Brazil's Amazonia –1 satellite onboard PSLV. This satellite has been designed, assembled and tested in Brazil and it will be the first Earth Observation satellite. The launch of the PSLV is scheduled to be held next month while the date is to be released by ISRO soon.

10. Which Union Ministry has started the project to reprint 'Mongolian Kanjur' manuscripts?

- [A] Ministry of Culture ☒
- [B] Ministry of Law and Justice
- [C] Ministry of Communication
- [D] Ministry of Science and Technology



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Culture has launched a project of reprinting 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). The National Mission for Manuscripts was launched in 2003 by the Union Government, under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.
- ✓ Recently, the first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur was presented to the President Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of Guru Purnima. Mongolian Kanjur is the most important religious text in Mongolia.

1. Which organisation estimated that the average global temperatures would rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius, in next five years?

[A] Food and Agricultural Organisation

[B] World Meteorological Organization ☒

[C] International Maritime Organisation

[D] International Atomic Energy Agency



- ✓ **As per the recent release from the United Nations' weather agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the average global temperatures would rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius, in the coming 5 years. This rise is above the pre industrial average of the global temperature. As per the research of various scientists, due to manmade greenhouse emissions, the average temperatures around the world is already above 1 degree Celsius than that during 1850–1900.**

2. A commercial communication satellite named 'APStar-6D' was launched from which country, using its flagship Long March rocket?

[A] United States

[B] China ☒

[C] Russia

[D] Israel



- ✓ **A commercial communication satellite named 'APStar-6D' has been recently launched by China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC). It is developed by the China Academy of Space Technology and was launched using the variant of the country's Long March rocket. This new satellite can provide a communication capacity of at least 50Gbps, as per sources.**

3. Which country's research team has won the World Bank's Development Marketplace award?

[A] Bangladesh

[B] Myanmar

[C] India

[D] Cambodia ☒



- ✓ **As per the latest announcement from the World Bank Group and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), a research team of Cambodia has won the 2020 'Development Marketplace: Innovations to Address Gender-Based Violence' award. The award provides fund to the research team to implement a WhatsApp chatline that offers 24×7 support against gender-violence for female entertainment workers in Cambodia.**

4. Solar Energy Corporation of India is a public sector undertaking working under which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Power

[B] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy ☒

[C] Ministry of Coal

[D] Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas



- ✓ **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is a Central Public Sector Undertaking functioning under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched Asia's largest solar plant in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa through video-conferencing. It has been developed by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL), a joint venture company of Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (MPUVN) and SECI.**

5. When is the National Fish Farmers Day observed in India?

[A] July 10 ☒

[B] July 11

[C] July 12

[D] July 13



- ✓ **National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated in India on July 10, every year, to commemorate the two scientists: Dr K H Alikunhi and Dr. H.L. Chaudhury, who had invented 'Induced breeding technology' on this day in 1957. A webinar was conducted by the Department of Fisheries in association with National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries attended the webinar. The Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for fish farmers.**

6. Who is the head of SEBI's revamped Advisory committee on Mutual funds?

[A] Uday Kotak

[B] Narayana Murthy

[C] Usha Thorat ☒

[D] Adi Godrej



- ✓ **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently revamped its advisory committee on mutual funds. As per the recent release of SEBI, the 20-member advisory committee is headed by the former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Usha Thorat.**

- ✓ The panel which was originally created in 2013 had 15 members, headed by Janki Ballabh. The committee advises SEBI on regulation and development of mutual fund industry.

7. Which Indian institution has partnered with NVIDIA, to establish India's first 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre'?

- [A] IIT–Madras
[B] IISc, Bangalore
[C] IIT–Hyderabad ☒
[D] IIT–Kharagpur



- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) has recently partnered with the multinational technology company NVIDIA, to establish India's first 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre'. The centre aims to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption. In this technology centre, more than 200 faculty will carry out research in this field. NVIDIA is a partner to the government of Telangana, in its project to establish Hyderabad among the top 25 global AI innovation hubs.

8. What is the rank of India in the EIU's report on 'Cancer preparedness in Asia–Pacific'?

- [A] Seven
[B] Eight ☒
[C] Nine
[D] Ten

8

- ✓ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has recently launched a report on "Cancer preparedness in Asia–Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control". As per the report, India has been ranked eighth for cancer preparedness among 10 Asia–Pacific countries including Australia, China, Japan among others. Australia tops the Asia–Pacific region, followed by South Korea and Malaysia.

9. Which Indian state has topped market borrowings among states in the country, during 2020–21?

- [A] Maharashtra
[B] Tamil Nadu ☒
[C] Gujarat
[D] Telangana



- ✓ As per the recent data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Tamil Nadu has topped market borrowings among states in the country during 2020–21. Tamil Nadu has raised Rs 30500 crores so

far, which is approximately 17% of the borrowings made through issuing bonds. Maharashtra has raised Rs 25000 crores, which is 14% of the borrowings. The state of Tamil Nadu is expected to sustain a revenue shortfall of Rs 12,000– Rs 13,000 crore in a month, due to the effect of lock-down.

10. Which Union Ministry has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based 'ASEEM' portal?

[A] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship ☒

[B] Ministry of Law and Justice

[C] Ministry of Communication

[D] Ministry of Science and Technology



- ✓ **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched 'Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)' portal. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal will provide a digital platform to the employers to evaluate the availability of skilled workforce, in their hiring process. The portal also helps the workforce to attain industry-relevant skills and search for job opportunities.**
-

winmeen.com

1. Which is the first Arab country, to plan for its Mars orbiter mission?

[A] United Arab Emirates ☒

[B] Kuwait

[C] Qatar

[D] Saudi Arabia



- ✓ **The United Arab Emirates has recently announced its plans to send its first Mars mission and it has become the first Arab country to do so. Until now, only the United States, India, USSR and the European Space Agency have successfully sent their Mars orbiter missions. China is in the process of launching its first Mars rover. The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) is heading the Mars project of the UAE.**

2. Union Shipping Ministry's draft 'Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020' seeks to replace which colonial act?

[A] Lighthouse Act, 1927 ☒

[B] Coasting vessels Act, 1838

[C] Inland Vessels Act, 1917

[D] India Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925



- ✓ **The Union Shipping Ministry has issued a draft 'Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020' and sought suggestions from stakeholders and general public. This draft bill seeks to replace the colonial Lighthouse Act, 1927, which is over nine decades old. The bill seeks to empower the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) with additional power. It also proposes to include global best practices.**

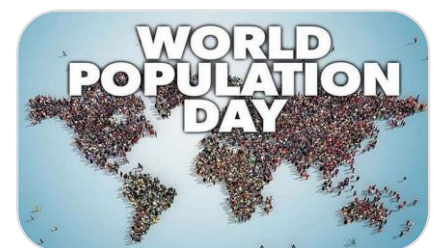
3. When is the 'World Population Day' observed across the world?

[A] July 10

[B] July 11 ☒

[C] July 12

[D] July 13



- ✓ **The 'World Population Day' is observed across the world, on July 11 every year. The day was first celebrated in the year 1990. Inspired by the awareness created by 'Five Billion Day' on the same day in 1987 when the world's population reached 5 billion, UNDP recommended the observance of Population Day on July 11. "Putting the brakes on COVID-19: how to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now" is the theme of the campaign for 2020.**

4. Swabhiman Anchal, a place that was seen in news, is located in which Indian state?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Odisha ☒

[C] Chhattisgarh

[D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ A place called Swabhiman Anchal located in Malkangiri district of Odisha was seen in news recently, as the first bus service was inaugurated there, after independence. The place also known as the cut-off area, was originally covered by water from three sides. The Gurupriya Bridge connects this remote region with the rest of the State. Until this passenger bus service, motor launches and boats were the only modes of communication.

5. What is the rank of Mukesh Ambani in the world's billionaire's list, as per the Hurun Research?

[A] Five ☒

[B] Six

[C] Seven

[D] Eight



- ✓ The head of Reliance Industries Ltd, Mukesh Ambani has moved up to become the fifth richest man in the world, as per the Hurun Research. Last month, the billionaire was at eighth position in the list. Now, he surpassed Warren Buffet and shares 5th rank with Tesla founder Elon Musk and Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. His net-worth rose to USD 78 billion. Earlier, Jio platforms had raised Rs 117,588 crore from global investors.

6. 'India Cycles4Change Challenge' is an initiative of which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

[B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒

[C] Ministry of Power

[D] Ministry of MSME



- ✓ 'India Cycles4Change Challenge' is a new initiative of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under its Smart Cities Mission. The Ministry has recently opened the registration for the Challenge, which was originally launched on June 25, 2020. All cities under the Smart Cities Mission, capital cities of States/UTs and all cities with above 5 lakh population can apply through the newly launched portal and provide quick solutions for promoting cycling.

7. For the first time, Indian Railways transported Andhra Pradesh dry chillies in special Parcel trains to which country?

[A] Bangladesh ☒

[B] Myanmar

[C] Nepal

[D] Laos



- ✓ The Indian Railways has recently transported Andhra Pradesh dry chillies in special Parcel train to Bangladesh. The special train has been operated beyond the country borders, for the first time to Benapole town in Bangladesh. Earlier, farmers and merchants in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh were transporting dry chillies by road to Bangladesh, which was an expensive process.

8. Which tournament has decided to pay USD 12.5 million prize money to players despite its cancellation?

[A] Australian Open

[B] French Open

[C] Wimbledon ☒

[D] U.S Open



- ✓ The officials at Wimbledon club has announced that will pay out USD 12.5 million in prize money to over 600 players despite the tournament's cancellation. The oldest tennis tournament in the world, London-based prestigious Wimbledon championship was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. After consultations with their insurance provider, all the 256 players who would have competed in the main event will be paid equally.

9. Which central PSU has won the prestigious CII–ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category?

[A] SAIL

[B] NTPC Ltd ☒

[C] PFC

[D] ONGC



- ✓ Central Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power NTPC Ltd has won the prestigious CII–ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category. The enterprise also received Commendation for Significant Achievement in category of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

- ✓ The company runs a CSR program called GEM (Girl Empowerment Mission), which is a residential program for school going girls, who are residing near the company's power stations.

10. When is Malala Day celebrated every year?

[A] July 12 ☒

[B] July 13

[C] July 14

[D] July 15



- ✓ The United Nations declared July 12 as 'Malala Day' every year, to honour the 16 year old Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, who was advocating the promotion of education of girls. On the same day in 2013, she delivered an inspiring speech at the United Nations (UN) headquarters on the need for gender equality in education. The Nobel Peace Prize Laureate has recently completed her degree at the Oxford University.

1. Which Indian state has started online registration of crops by an initiative named e-Crop?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Andhra Pradesh ☒

[C] Odisha

[D] Telangana



- ✓ The state of Andhra Pradesh has rolled out an initiative of online registration of crops named e-Crop. The state's Revenue and Agriculture Department officials will jointly register crops online. At village level, village revenue officers and the village agriculture assistants will register the names of the farmers, details of their land, bank account and about his crops cultivated.

2. Who has been named the Chairman of its e-commerce committee of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020–21?

[A] Kunal Bahl ☒

[B] Rohit Bansal

[C] Bhavish Aggarwal

[D] Vijay Shekar Sharma



- ✓ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has recently announced that Kunal Bahl has assumed charge as the Chairman of its e-commerce committee for the year 2020–21. Kunal Bahl is the co-founder & CEO of popular e-Commerce firm Snapdeal. The agenda of the committee is the upcoming e-commerce policy, consumer protection rules and promotion of exports through e-commerce.

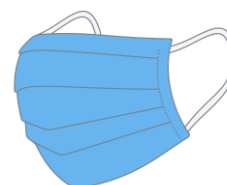
3. Which Indian state is set to launch 'Roko –Toko' campaign for urging people to wear masks?

[A] Maharashtra

[B] Gujarat

[C] Madhya Pradesh ☒

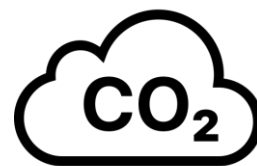
[D] Haryana



- ✓ The state government of Madhya Pradesh is set to launch a 'Roko –Toko' campaign for urging people to wear masks. Roko–Toko in Hindi means stop and campaign and it seeks to nudge people who do not wear masks in public places to practise mask-wearing. The state also runs a scheme called 'Jeevan Shakti Yojana', under which selected organisations will provide masks to people at a price of Rs 20 per piece.

4. What is the target year set by the Indian Railways to achieve net zero carbon emission?

- [A] 2025
[B] 2027
[C] 2030 ☒
[D] 2035



- ✓ The Indian Railways has set the target to achieve net zero carbon emission by the year 2030. In order to achieve the target of becoming a Green Railways, it has accelerated the efforts. Some of its initiatives include Electrification of lines, improving energy efficiency of trains, green certification for stations, fitting bio toilets in coaches and switching to renewable sources of energy. Recently, a 1.7 mega watt plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with BHEL has been installed.

5. What is 'NEOWISE', that was seen in news recently?

- [A] Comet ☒
[B] Asteroid
[C] Star
[D] Exo-planet



- ✓ The comet C/2020 F3 comet also called as NEOWISE was discovered on March 27, this year. It was seen in news recently, as the comet would be visible in the sky. In India, the NEOWISE comet will be visible in the northwest sky which is 20 degrees from the horizon. It is expected to be visible after sunset for around 20 minutes for 20 days from July 14, 2020 and it will fade away in the month of August.

6. Who has been named as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award of the International Academy of Astronautics?

- [A] Dr K Sivan ☒
[B] Dr G Satheesh Reddy
[C] Tessy Thomas
[D] Ritu Karidhal



- ✓ The Chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation, Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan has been named as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award. The award was constituted by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and will be conferred in March 2021 in Paris. It is

named after the aerospace engineer and aerodynamics expert Theodore von Karman. K Sivan is only the third Indian to receive this award after Kasturirangan and U.R. Rao.

7. Which country has dropped India from the Chabahar Project due to delay in funding?

[A] Afghanistan

[B] Iran ☒

[C] Myanmar

[D] Nepal



- ✓ India and Iran partnered to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, four years ago. Recently, Iran decided to proceed without India's assistance and its Transport Minister has inaugurated the track-laying process for the Chabahar–Zahedan line. Recently, China finalised a 25 year–USD 400 billion strategic deal with Iran.

8. Which major Technology Company is set to launch USD 10 billion 'India Digitization Fund'?

[A] Facebook

[B] Google ☒

[C] Amazon

[D] Apple



- ✓ The CEO of Google Sundar Pichai has recently announced the launch USD 10 billion 'India Digitization Fund'. This was announced at the 'Google for India' virtual live-stream event, which focused on accelerating India's digital economy. Through this initiative, Google will invest about Rs 75000 Crores in India over the next 5 to 7 years. The fund will focus on enabling affordable access and information to every Indian.

9. Who has been appointed as India's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh?

[A] Vikram Doraiswami ☒

[B] Akhilesh Mishra

[C] Indra Mani Pandey

[D] Arun K. Chatterjee



- ✓ The Union Government has appointed Vikram Doraiswami as the new high commissioner to Bangladesh. Prior to this appointment, he was the Additional Secretary in charge of International Organisations and Summits at the Foreign Ministry. Another Foreign Service Officer Rudrendra

Tandon was named as the new envoy to Afghanistan. He is currently the Indian envoy to ASEAN at Jakarta.

10. Which state government has launched the 'Operation Muskaan', to trace missing children?

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



- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh** state government officials along with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) launched 'Operation Muskaan' in the state. This week-long drive aims to trace the missing children, prevent child labour and bonded labour, and rescue children engaged in domestic works. Hundreds of children are being rescued in the drive and are united with parents or provided with shelters.
-

1. As per the Health Ministry, what percentage of the country's GDP is to be spent for public health, by 2025?

- [A] 1.5%
- [B] 2.0%
- [C] 2.5% ☒
- [D] 5%



- ✓ The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced during the meeting with the 15th Finance Commission, that the Government is to gradually increase the public health expenditure to 2.5 percent of the country's GDP by 2025. This is the government's target of the National Health Policy 2017. He also confirmed that the primary health expenditure will be made about two-third of the total public health expenditure in the country.

2. Which Indian has won the USIBC (US-India Business Council) Global Leadership Award?

- [A] Uday Kotak
- [B] N Chandrasekaran ☒
- [C] Ratan Tata
- [D] Narayana Murthy



- ✓ The Chairman of Tata Group N Chandrasekaran is selected for the US-India Business Council, USIBC Global Leadership Award this year. Along with him, the CEO of Lockheed Martin, Jim Taiclet will also receive the award. The USIBC Global Leadership Awards are conferred on executives to recognise their leadership and their contribution in promoting trade and business between India and the United States.

3. Which Union Ministry has released a set of guidelines named 'PRAGYATA'?

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



- ✓ Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has recently released a set of guidelines on Digital Education through online medium. It is named 'PRAGYATA', which includes eight steps of digital learning namely Plan – Review – Arrange – Guide – Yak (talk) – Assign – Track – Appreciate. It aimed at addressing teachers, parents, and students on coping with stress during digital learning and recommended screen time for children.

4. The first trans-shipment hub of India, Vallarpadam terminal is being developed in which state?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Kerala ☒

[D] Goa



- ✓ The Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal is locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal is located in the Kochin port, Kerala. It is claimed to be the first trans-shipment port of India. Union Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has recently reviewed the development activities at the Terminal. A terminal at the port, which handles containers, stores them and transfers them to other ships for further movement, is called as Trans-shipment Hub.

5. Which state is to launch a trial to study the efficacy of BCG vaccine in reducing COVID-19 mortality on elder people?

[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] Kerala

[C] Karnataka

[D] Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ The state of Tamil Nadu is set to launch a trial to study the efficacy of the BCG vaccine in reducing mortality due to COVID-19 in the elder people. The trial, which has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), would be taken up by the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai. The BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin) is being administered to new-born for 50 years as a vaccine against tuberculosis.

6. Coir Board is a statutory body functioning under which Union Ministry of India?

[A] Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare

[B] Ministry of MSME ☒

[C] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[D] Ministry of Rural Development



- ✓ Coir Board is a statutory body established by the Government of India under the Coir Industry Act 1953, functioning under Ministry of MSME. Recently, the export of coir and coir products from India in the year 2019-20 touched the highest point at Rs. 2757.90 crore. This is also Rs. 30 crore more than that of the last year, which stood at Rs. 2728.04 crore. Around 9 lakh metric tonnes of coir and coir products were exported.

7. Which regional organisation has launched the Commerce and Industry (CCI) Young Leaders Initiative?

[A] BRICS ☒

[B] ASEAN

[C] G-20

[D] G-7



- ✓ The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) has launched a BRICS CCI Young Leaders Initiative. The Initiative has been launched with an objective to support and empower young leaders and entrepreneurs. It also aims to provide industry exposure and job opportunities across member nations, to the youngsters.

8. India held a virtual 'Business Mission on Food Processing' along with which country?

[A] France

[B] Italy ☒

[C] Germany

[D] Japan



- ✓ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the virtual Digital Indo– Italian Business Mission on Food Processing'. The two–day event comprises of digital conferences, trade fair and B2B (Business to Business) meetings, which are being attended by 23 Italian companies. This Digital Sectorial Business Mission is expected to promote the bilateral trade between India and Italy.

9. In which country is the place 'Pasakha' located, with which a new trade route has been opened from India?

[A] Bangladesh

[B] Bhutan ☒

[C] Myanmar

[D] Nepal



- ✓ India and Bhutan have recently opened a new trade route between Jaigaon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan. Vehicles carrying goods and commodities plied through the alternate trade route between Jaigaon and Ahlay in Pasakha. As per the Indian Embassy in Thimpu, an additional Land Customs station has been opened at Ahllay, Pasakha by the Government of India.

10. Which Indian shipyard is set to build autonomous electric ferries for a Norwegian firm ASKO Maritime AS?

- [A] Cochin Shipyard Limited ☒
- [B] Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- [C] Mazagon Dock Ltd
- [D] Hindustan Shipyard



- ✓ **Cochin Shipyard Limited has signed a contract for construction and supply of two autonomous electric ferries for ASKO Maritime AS, Norway. This firm is a subsidiary of NorgesGruppen ASA, one of the major players in the Norwegian retail market.**
- ✓ **The project is partially funded by the Norwegian government and aimed at emission-free transport of goods. The 67-metre-long vessels will be delivered as a full-electric transport ferry, initially. The Ship yard is also building 23 hybrid electric boats for the Kochi Water Metro.**

1. Which Minister has launched the guidelines of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, (AHIDF)?

- [A] Giriraj Singh ☒
- [B] Narendra Singh Tomar
- [C] Harsimrat Kaur Badal
- [D] Arjun Munda



- ✓ Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Giriraj Singh launched the implementation guidelines for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, AHIDF. The 15000 crore rupees worth fund was approved by the Union Cabinet last month under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan stimulus package. Under the fund, Farmer Producer Organizations, MSMEs, Private Companies and individual entrepreneurs with minimum 10% margin are given 90% loans from scheduled banks, for developing infrastructure for animal husbandry.

2. The International Olympic Committee has postponed the 2022 Dakar Youth Olympics to which year?

- [A] 2023
- [B] 2024
- [C] 2026 ☒
- [D] 2028



- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has postponed the 2022 Dakar Youth Olympics for four years, to 2026. This decision has been taken due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Youth Summer Games, to be held in Senegal's capital, will be the first Olympics to be organised in Africa. The Tokyo Olympics is scheduled to be held in July 2021 and Beijing Winter Olympics in February 2022.

3. Chattogram port, which was seen in news recently, is located in which country?

- [A] Afghanistan
- [B] Bangladesh ☒
- [C] Myanmar
- [D] Thailand



- ✓ Union Shipping Minister has recently flagged off first trial container ship from Kolkata Port to Agartala through the Chattogram port of Bangladesh.

- ✓ This trial run has been done under the Agreement on using Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh. It will provide a shorter route to connect the North East Region of India through Bangladesh.

4. The import of which agricultural equipment has been curbed by the Indian Government by amending its import policy?

- [A] Tractor
[B] Power tiller ☒
[C] Power weeder
[D] Rotary tiller



- ✓ As per the statement released by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the Government has amended the import policy of Power tillers and its components from 'free' to 'restricted'. The importer is required to seek a license from the DGFT for importing the product categorised as 'restricted'. This move is expected to curb the inward shipment of the equipment that comes mainly from China.

5. As per the recommendation of the NITI Aayog, what is the percentage of recycled products to be used in large infrastructure projects?

- [A] 5%
[B] 10%
[C] 25% ☒
[D] 100%

25%

- ✓ NITI Aayog has recommended that the Government of India should use 25 per cent use of recycled products in large infrastructure projects to promote secondary products across India. The chief executive officer of Niti Aayog, Amitabh Kant announced that the recycled products including metals, plastics and paper will promote secondary products that are now hardly found in our country. India levies 2.5 per cent customs duty on the scrap while importing.

6. 'Aarogyasri' is a health care scheme being implemented in which state?

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



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy renamed the flagship Aarogyasri scheme into YSR AarogyaSri scheme in 2019. Recently, the services of the healthcare scheme have been extended to another six districts of the state, to provide affordable health services to all. The new services include cancer and dicoclara implant and other such procedures. In April, the scheme has been extended to COVID-19 treatment.

7. Which agricultural organisation has celebrated its foundation day on July 16?

- [A] Indian Council of Agricultural Research ☒
- [B] Agrinnovate India
- [C] Central Agricultural University
- [D] National Cooperative Development Corporation



- ✓ Indian Council of Agricultural Research, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has recently celebrated its 92nd Foundation Day on July 16. It was established on the same day in the year 1929 and was formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. ICAR also announced the annual awards to various institutions and persons.

8. Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University?

- [A] Malini Shankar ☒
- [B] Sanjeev Ranjan
- [C] Sujeet Kumar
- [D] Leela Nandan



- ✓ Union Shipping Ministry has named the retired IAS officer Malini Shankar, as the Vice-Chancellor of Indian Maritime University. Malini Shankar is also the Chairperson of the National Shipping Board (NSB), the ace advisory agency to the Central government on shipping-related matters. Before being appointed as the VC in the Chennai-based University, she was the Director General of Shipping.

9. The first online NISHTHA programme of the HRD Ministry has been launched in which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Andhra Pradesh ☒
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched the first online National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme for key resources persons of Andhra Pradesh. After the scheme was launched in 2019, 33 states and UTs launched the programme in collaboration under Samagra Shiksha. The NCERT provides NISHTHA training programme at the state level.

10. Ossouka Raponda is appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of which African country?

- [A] Gabon ☒
- [B] Zimbabwe
- [C] Nigeria
- [D] Kenya



- ✓ Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of the Central African country, Gabon. The President of Gabon Ali Bongo Ondimba has appointed the 56-year-old, who replaces Julien Nkoghe Bekale, who was appointed the Prime Minister in 2019. Prior to this appointment, she had served as the Budget Minister in 2012 and then in Defence Ministry.

1. Who has been appointed as the Private Secretary to President of India Ram Nath Kovind?

[A] Nripendra Mishra

[B] P. Praveen Siddharth ☒

[C] P K Sinha

[D] Rajiv Gauba



- ✓ **P. Praveen Siddharth, a 2001 batch Indian Revenue Service– Income Tax (IRS–IT) officer, P. Praveen Siddharth, has been appointed Private Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind. He has replaced Vikram Singh, who has recently been appointed as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping. The new Private Secretary is serving as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the President's Secretariat.**

2. Which state is the top investment destination in India in first quarter of 2019–20, as per Projects Today?[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Gujarat

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ **According to a survey by Projects Today, an online database of projects, Tamil Nadu is the top investment destination in India in first quarter of 2019–20. The investment flow in the state amounts to Rs 18,236 crore, which is around 18.63 percent of the total fresh investment. The state has signed as many as 17 agreements in May 2020. It is followed by Maharashtra with investment flow of Rs 11,229 crore.**

3. Who is the Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)?[A] Shiva Kirti Singh ☒

[B] Syed Rafat Alam

[C] Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud

[D] Shyamal Kumar Sen



- ✓ **The Supreme Court of India has extended the tenure of the chairperson and members of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) by three months. The chairperson of TDSAT is former Supreme Court judge Justice Shiva Kirti Singh. His tenure was to end on July 20 this year and the tenure of other members of the tribunal has already ended. TDSAT has recently set aside TRAI's order that blocked Vodafone–Idea's premium tariff plan RedX.**

4. India signed a MoU with which country to develop a strategic petroleum reserve?

[A] Malaysia

[B] United States of America ☒

[C] Afghanistan

[D] Japan



- ✓ India has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States, to store strategic reserves of Petroleum in the US. The countries are also planning to store oil in America's strategic reserve to increase India's oil reserves. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan co-chaired a virtual US-India Strategic Energy Partnership Ministerial with his American counterpart Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette.

5. Which state is set to organise the Sub-Tropical Fruit Expo 2020?

[A] Haryana ☒

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Kerala



- ✓ The Horticultural Department of Haryana is organising a five-day Sub-Tropical Fruit Expo 2020 till July 22. The expo is being organised at the Centre for Sub-Tropical Fruit at Ladwa that is an Indo-Israel project. The cultivation techniques of sub-tropical fruit are explained and streamed live on social media, so that the farmers can learn the technologies under the 'Mera Pani – Meri Virasat' crop diversification scheme.

6. Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) is located in which state?

[A] Sikkim

[B] Assam ☒

[C] Manipur

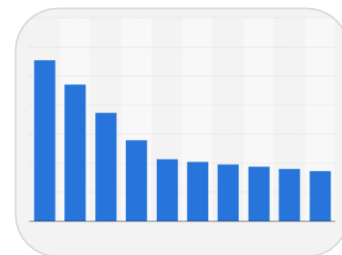
[D] Meghalaya



- ✓ Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) is located in the state of Assam. Assam is witnessing heavy floods, which has affected around 40 lakh people. The Tiger reserve, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage site, remains submerged in water, due to the heavy floods. As many as 86 animals have died, including rhinoceros, deer and wild boar. This year's flood is said to be the sixth worst flood since 1988.

7. What is the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India in 2016–18, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS)?

- [A] 122
- [B] 119
- [C] 117
- [D] 113 ☒



- ✓ The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to 113, in 2016–18. The ratio was 122 in 2015–17 and 130 in 2014–2016. The Office of Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) has recently released a special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016–18. The target of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is to reduce the global MMR to less than 70 per 1 lakh live births.

8. 'Form 26AS', that was seen in news recently, is a document related to which organisation?

- [A] NITI Aayog
- [B] Central Board of Direct Taxes ☒
- [C] Department of Financial Services
- [D] Securities Exchange Board of India



- ✓ Form 26AS is an annual statement, that contains information on various taxes deducted on the tax-filer's income by deductors. Recently, the Income Tax Department of CBDT has introduced a new 'Form 26AS' with an aim to assist Tax payers in filing Income Tax Return quicker. The new form will calculate the correct tax liability and is expected to bring in transparency in tax administration.

9. 'Plasma Donation Campaign' has been organised in which Indian state/UT?

- [A] Puducherry
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] New Delhi ☒
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has flagged off a 'Plasma Donation Campaign' at AIIMS, New Delhi. The campaign programme was co-organized by Delhi Police. As many as 26 police personnel who had recovered from COVID-19 volunteered to donate blood plasma. New Delhi has recently inaugurated the first Plasma bank of the country.

10. Space Exploration Day celebrated on July 20, is otherwise called as which day?

- [A] Sun Day
- [B] Moon Day ☒
- [C] Mars Day
- [D] Earth Day



- ✓ On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin became the first humans to land on the surface of the Moon. To commemorate the historic achievement, it is celebrated as the Space Exploration Day, which is also called as the Moon Day. US President John F. Kennedy had set a goal of 'landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth within a decade.' After Armstrong's feat, the US launched six Apollo missions to the moon from 1969 and 1972.
-

1. What is the expansion of CCPA, which is related to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019?

[A] Commission of Consumer Protection Authority

[B] Central Consumer Protection Authority ☒

[C] Chief Consumer Protection Agency

[D] Chief Consumer Products Agency



- ✓ **The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came in to force from 20 July. The act aims to establish the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA). CCPA will protect and enforce the rights of consumers, as it will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights. The authority can also institute complaints, order recall of unsafe goods and services, and impose penalties for misleading advertisements.**

2. Which state/UT has approved Rs 25 lakhs insurance cover for all its Panchayat Members?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Jammu & Kashmir ☒

[C] Assam

[D] Meghalaya



- ✓ **The Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved insurance cover of ₹25 lakh to all panchayat members in the Union Territory. All elected BDC chairperson, sarpanches, panches and elected members of municipal bodies are covered in the event of death due to militancy.**
- ✓ **Last month, a sarpanch was shot dead by militants in south Kashmir. The UT also made an amendment to grant short-term permits to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on land up to 1 hectare, till September 30, 2021.**

3. Defence Ministry has signed a contract with which company for procurement of Mine ploughs for Indian Army?

[A] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

[B] Bharat Earth Movers Limited ☒

[C] Bharat Electronics Limited

[D] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited



- ✓ **Union Defence Ministry of India has signed a Rs 557-crore contract with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), for procurement of 1,512 mine ploughs for the Indian army's main battle tank T-90. As per the contract, a minimum of 50 per cent indigenous content is mentioned in the contract.**

- ✓ The army has recently deployed the Russian-made T-90 main battle tanks in the Galwan Valley sector of Ladakh.

4. The Business Council between India and which country is the host of 'India Ideas Summit' 2020?

[A] Malaysia

[B] United States of America ☒

[C] Afghanistan

[D] Japan



- ✓ US-India Business Council is set to play host to the 'India Ideas Summit' 2020 on July 22. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will deliver the keynote addresses. Discussions on the future of the U.S.-India Partnership, trade and investment, and the future of work in the COVID-era etc are to be undertaken in the summit. Various business and government leaders are to address the summit, including the External Affairs minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

5. What is the name of the mental health support initiative to be launched by the Union HRD Ministry?

[A] Student Guide

[B] Bharat Padhe

[C] Manodarpn ☒

[D] Man hi Dhan



- ✓ Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal is set to launch mental health support initiative named 'Manodarpn'. The scheme aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is to be implemented under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, as a part of increasing productivity in education sector.

6. As per the research study in Nature Climate Change, which animal might become extinct due to climate change?

[A] Polar Bear ☒

[B] Penguin

[C] Walrus

[D] Arctic Fox



- ✓ As per the research study of the scientists, released in 'Nature Climate Change' scientific journal, Polar bears are pushed to extinction due to climate change. The study estimates that the carnivorous animal could nearly disappear within the span of a human lifetime. In 12 out of the 13 subpopulations analysed, Polar bears are estimated to be destroyed within 80 years.

7. Which is the first state to get approval for using drones to inspect power transmission lines and towers?

- [A] Gujarat
[B] Rajasthan
[C] Maharashtra ☒
[D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Director General of Civil Aviation have permitted Maharashtra to use drones for inspecting power transmission lines and towers. Maharashtra is the first state to be permitted for using drones for surveillance of faulty extra high voltage (EHV) power lines, to reduce the risk of the staff involved. As per the Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (MSETCL), each zone will be given a drone with HD cameras.

8. Which Indian state has launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana'?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
[B] Uttar Pradesh ☒
[C] Uttarakhand
[D] Punjab



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath has recently launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana'. The scheme aims to promote the overall development of the people belonging to scheduled castes in the state. The Chief Minister also provided an assistance of around Rs 17.42 crore to more than 3000 people under the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana'.

9. Sumit Deb has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of which organisation?

- [A] National Mineral Development Corporation ☒
[B] National Aluminium Company
[C] Coal India
[D] NLC India Limited



- ✓ Sumit Deb has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), the iron ore mining company of the country. Sumit Deb is serving as the Director (Personnel) in the NMDC. He succeeds N Baijendra Kumar who is set to superannuate this month-end. After the appointment, Sumit Deb will have tenure till 2023.

10. India has signed agreement with which country for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services'?

- [A] Sri Lanka
- [B] Maldives ☒
- [C] Mauritius
- [D] Bangladesh



- ✓ India and Maldives have recently signed an agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in the capital of Maldives, Male. India is set to grant assistance of around 20 million US dollars to Maldives for this project.
 - ✓ India has been assisting the country in several small and medium projects. This medical service facility will ensure quality emergency care during critical times.
-

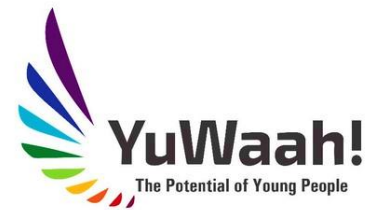
1. Which global organisation launched the alliance named 'YuWaah India' in India?

[A] World Bank

[B] UNICEF ☒

[C] UNESCO

[D] International Monetary Fund



- ✓ **UNICEF launched 'YuWaah' Generation Unlimited in India in the year 2019. It is a multi-stakeholder alliance that aims to impart skill development in adolescent boys and girls. Recently, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs signed a Statement of Intent for partnership with UNICEF India, YuWaah India and United Nations in India. It aims to empower youngsters by providing them access to all socio-economic opportunities.**

2. Which Union Ministry is organising the 'Vriksharopan Abhiyan' programme?

[A] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

[B] Ministry of Coal ☒

[C] Ministry of Power

[D] Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



- ✓ **The 'Vriksharopan Abhiyan' is being organised by the Ministry of Coal. The programme involves all coal and lignite PSUs of the country to promote largescale plantation near mines, offices and other suitable residential areas. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to launch the campaign along with Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi. The event will take place through video conference to inaugurate planting in as many as 130 locations across 10 coal and lignite rich states.**

3. Which state government has signed an MoU with 'AMUL', to boost self-help groups and milk cooperatives?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Haryana

[C] Andhra Pradesh ☒

[D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ **The state government of Andhra Pradesh has signed an MoU with the milk cooperative major AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited). The agreement aims to promote empowerment of women self-help groups and encourage milk cooperatives in government sector. It also provides exposure to world class infrastructure, technology and market access to the local groups.**

4. Which Indian–origin nurse has been conferred with the Singapore President’s Award for COVID–19 Services?

[A] Kala Narayanasamy ☒

[B] Bhasha Mukherjee

[C] Ankit Bharat

[D] Uma Madhusudan



- ✓ **Kala Narayanasamy, a 59–year–old Indian–origin nurse in Singapore has been conferred with the President’s Award for Nurses. She has been awarded for serving on the frontline during the COVID–19 pandemic, particularly for using infection control practices learnt during SARS outbreak in 2003. The 10,000 SGD –award is given to 5 nurses for their services.**

5. Which country has launched a new ‘Jet Zero Council’ to tackle aviation emissions?

[A] United States

[B] United Kingdom ☒

[C] China

[D] Russia



- ✓ **The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has launched a new ‘Jet Zero Council’, to tackle aviation emissions in the country. The council was launched to mark the Prime Minister’s completion of 1 year in his office, as a part of the 350–million–pound plan to fight climate change. The council will bring together the Government, environment sector and aviation industry experts to develop the zero–emission long–haul passenger plane. UK has a target of becoming net zero by 2050.**

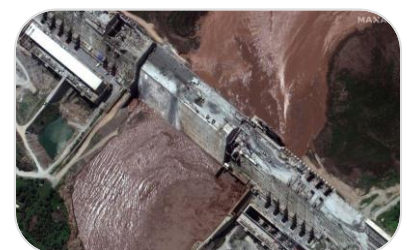
6. ‘Grand Renaissance Dam’ that was seen in news recently, is located in which country?

[A] Nigeria

[B] Sudan

[C] Egypt

[D] Ethiopia ☒



- ✓ **Grand Renaissance Dam is a Hydroelectric power plant being constructed in Ethiopia since 2011. The dam formerly known as the Millennium Dam, is in the Benishangul–Gumuz Region, on the Blue Nile river of Ethiopia. The construction has been in conflict as Sudan and Egypt fear that the hydroelectric dam could lead to water shortage in their countries. But Ethiopia insists that it needs the USD 4 billion dam to generate electricity for its people. Recently, the three countries have accepted to resume talks on the dam.**

7. Who is the winner of the Australian 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award?

[A] Tara June Winch ☒

[B] Tony Birch

[C] Bruce Pascoe

[D] Melissa Lucashenko



- ✓ **The Australian writer Tara June Winch (36) has won the prestigious 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award. She has been awarded the prize for her book titled THE YIELD. The award has been presented since 1957, to the best novel focussing on Australian life. Tara June Winch is a Wiradjuri author who is famous for her novels including Swallow the Air and short story collection After the Carnage.**

8. Which Indian bureaucrat has been appointed honorary advisor to the steering committee for BRICS CCI Young Leaders?

[A] Tina Dabi ☒

[B] Smita Sabharwal

[C] Annies Kanmani Joy

[D] Shantanu Goyal



- ✓ **Young Indian Administrative officer Tina Dabi has been appointed honorary advisor to the steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Young Leaders. The topper of the 2016 civil services examination has been appointed in the honorary role for the session 2020 to 2023. She is currently serving as sub-divisional officer (SDO) in the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan and was hailed for her outstanding efforts to contain Covid-19. Sahil Seth, Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Customs has also been selected for the post.**

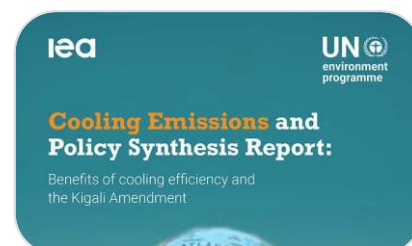
9. As per the 'Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis Report' by the UNEP and IEA, what is the estimated number of cooling machines in the world by 2050?

[A] 1.4 million

[B] 1.4 billion

[C] 14 billion ☒

[D] 140 billion



- ✓ **Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has flagged off a 'Plasma Donation Campaign' at AIIMS, New Delhi. The campaign programme was co-organized by Delhi Police. As many as 26 police**

personnel who had recovered from COVID-19 volunteered to donate blood plasma. New Delhi has recently inaugurated the first Plasma bank of the country.

10. Which is the first domestic air-carrier of India, to operate to the United States?

[A] IndiGo

[B] SpiceJet ☒

[C] Vistara

[D] GoAir



- ✓ Gurugram-based Indian air carrier SpiceJet has been designated as Indian scheduled carrier to operate between India and the United States. SpiceJet is the first air-carrier to operate to the US after Air India. This approval has been given in terms of the Air Services Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America. It has also been selected to operate to the United Kingdom.
-

1. Which company has been approved to acquire the Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd?

- [A] Adani Ports SEZL ☒
- [B] Container Corporation of India
- [C] AllCargo Logistics
- [D] Transport Corporation of India



- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. Along with the equity shareholding, the management control of the total share capital of Krishnapatnam Port company will be acquired, as per the statement of CCI.

2. What is the name of the unified mentoring platform launched by the Union MSME Minister?

- [A] Restart India ☒
- [B] Udyog India
- [C] Come Back MSME
- [D] Reskill India



- ✓ Union Minister for micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector Nitin Gadkari launched a mentoring platform named 'RestartIndia'. The platform has been conceptualised by Muthoot Fincorp and INKtalks. Restart India is a single platform which provides information on various schemes being implemented by the government. It also helps the businesspersons to connect with experts from various sectors.

3. When is National Broadcasting Day celebrated in India?

- [A] July 23 ☒
- [B] July 24
- [C] July 25
- [D] July 26



- ✓ National Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India on July 23 every year. On the same day in the year 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in the country was carried out from the Bombay Station. The first broadcast was done by a private organisation called the Indian Broadcasting Company. At present, Prasar Bharati is the National public service broadcasting agency. It comprises of Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio.

4. 'Operation Legend', that was seen in news recently, is associated with which country?

[A] Malaysia

[B] United States of America ☒

[C] Afghanistan

[D] Japan



- ✓ **United States President Donald Trump has announced a program named 'Operation Legend' in the country. The plan aims at sending federal agents to more U.S. cities including Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, to take firm action on violent crimes. The federal law enforcement agents will be deployed to assist local police in combatting crimes.**

5. Who has been appointed as the new Health Secretary of India succeeding Preeti Sudan?

[A] Rajesh Bhushan ☒

[B] Sushil Kumar

[C] Ram Kumar Mishra

[D] Anil Kumar Jain



- ✓ **1987 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed as the new Health secretary, after July 31 this year. As per the recent Personnel Ministry order, Rajesh Bhushan, the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Health and Family Welfare will succeed the present Secretary Preeti Sudan.**
- ✓ **Sushil Kumar has been appointed secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Ram Kumar Mishra has been named Women and Child Development secretary.**

6. 'ASTHROS' mission, that was seen in news recently, is associated with the Space Agency of which country?

[A] France

[B] Russia

[C] United States of America ☒

[D] India



- ✓ **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that it has started to work on a new mission named 'ASTHROS'. It stands for Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Sub millimeter-wavelengths (ASTHROS). The mission aims to**

send a telescope on a football stadium-sized balloon into the stratosphere to observe far-infrared light, that is invisible from the Earth. It is proposed to be launched in 2023 from Antarctica.

7. Which financial institution of India has released 'Financial Stability Report'?

- [A] Securities Exchange Board of India
 [B] Reserve Bank of India ☒
 [C] Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
 [D] State Bank of India



- ✓ **Reserve Bank of India releases a bi annual report called the financial stability report (FSR). The latest edition was released recently. RBI has estimated that the gross non performing asset (GNPA) ratio of all banks may increase from 8.5% in March 2020 to 12.5% by March 2021. GNPA ratio of public sector banks will increase to 15.2% in March 2021. The main reason for this dip is the slowdown in the economy due to the Covid-19 induced lock-down.**

8. 'Honey Testing Laboratory' of National Dairy Development Board was inaugurated in which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
 [B] Gujarat ☒
 [C] Uttarakhand
 [D] Punjab



- ✓ **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has virtually inaugurated a world-class Honey Testing Laboratory. The state of Art laboratory has been established by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) with support of National Bee Board (NBB), in Anand, Gujarat. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare has approved the National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for a period of 2 years.**

9. When is Income Tax Day is celebrated in India?

- [A] July 23
 [B] July 24 ☒
 [C] July 25
 [D] July 26



- ✓ **Income Tax Day is celebrated on July 24 by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and all field offices. On the same day in the year 1860, Income tax was originally introduced in India by Sir**

James Wilson, to compensate for the losses incurred during the first war of independence. This is the 160th anniversary of Income Tax Day.

10. National Intelligence Grid “NATGRID” is an attached office under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- [C] Ministry of External Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Defence



- ✓ **National Intelligence Grid “NATGRID” is an attached office under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It aims to allow investigation and law enforcement agencies to access real-time information. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is to partner with the NATGRID to share the financial details of any entity with 10 agencies including the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and the NIA. This information sharing mechanism is done under the NATGRID platform.**

1. India is set to hand-over 10 broad-gauge diesel locomotives to which country?

[A] Sri Lanka

[B] Bangladesh ☒

[C] Myanmar

[D] Laos



- ✓ As per the recent statement from the Indian Railways, they will hand over as many as 10 broad-gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh. Bangladesh had earlier sent a proposal to India in for procurement, as 72% of its present locomotives are at the verge of crossing their economic life. The country will deploy them for both intra-country and inter-country rail transport.

2. Which organisation has collaborated with IIT Delhi under the 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?

[A] TRIFED ☒

[B] NAFED

[C] UPSC

[D] AICTE



- ✓ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' (UBA) programme. The scheme aims to connect higher education institutions with villages for economic and social betterment of rural areas. A MoU was signed between TRIFED, IIT Delhi and Vijnana Bharati for the implementation. Under 'Van Dhan' programme, tribal entrepreneurs will be provided guidance from academic and research institutions.

3. Which state has unveiled Surveillance Quadcopters and an Anti-depredation Quick Response vehicle, for surveillance in forest areas?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Assam ☒

[D] Arunachal Pradesh



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal has unveiled three Special Surveillance Quadcopters and an Anti-degradation Quick Response Vehicle, for surveillance in forest areas. These vehicles will be deployed to strengthen surveillance and reduce man-animal conflict by the Forest Department. The surveillance drone will be used to identify poaching in the national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and other reserve forests.

4. India has conducted the 'Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting' with which country?

- [A] United States
- [B] United Kingdom ☒
- [C] Japan
- [D] Russia



- ✓ India and the United Kingdom has organised the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Elizabeth Truss. Both the countries confirmed their shared commitment to a Free Trade Agreement.

5. Which global organisation has launched a new initiative named 'COVID-19 Law Lab'?

- [A] World Health Organisation ☒
- [B] World Trade Organisation
- [C] Food and Agricultural Organisation
- [D] UNICEF



- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently launched a new initiative named 'COVID-19 Law Lab', to ensure that laws are adhered to protect health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is a joint project of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

6. Who is the head of the committee for Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code, set up by the Reserve Bank of India?

- [A] D.B. Phatak ☒
- [B] Narasimhan
- [C] Y V Reddy
- [D] D K Mohanty



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has released the 'Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code'. The Committee was constituted by RBI in December 2019 under the Chairmanship of Prof. D.B. Phatak, to review the present system of QR Codes in India in digital payments. The report asked the Government to provide incentive schemes to popularise QR code transactions among consumers. It also recommended phasing out proprietary and closed loop QR codes.

7. India is set to renew the 'Agreement on Scientific cooperation' for the next five years with which global association?

- [A] ASEAN
- [B] BIMSTEC
- [C] European Union ☒
- [D] G20



- ✓ India and the European Union are set to renew the Agreement on Scientific cooperation for the next five years, 2020–2025. This was announced at the virtual 15th India–EU Summit, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen led the EU. The mentioned Agreement was initially signed in 2001 and has been renewed two times in 2007 and 2015.

8. The Gwalior–Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh is to be converted into arable land with support from which international institution?

- [A] World Bank ☒
- [B] Asian Development Bank
- [C] Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- [D] New Development Bank



- ✓ The Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced that the Union Government is to collaborate with the World Bank, to convert the Gwalior–Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into arable land. This has been decided in the virtual meeting with the World Bank representative. As per the statement, more than 3 lakh hectares of rugged land that remains not cultivable can be improved. As a result, the region's agricultural development, environmental protection and employment opportunities can be improved.

9. Which Indian state/UT is to play host to the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games in 2021?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Haryana ☒
- [C] Goa
- [D] West Bengal



- ✓ Haryana will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, in Panchkula. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju

announced that unlike the usual schedule of January, the tournament has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be participated by all states with over 10000 sportspersons.

10. Which Asian country has banned all wildlife imports amidst Coronavirus spread?

[A] China

[B] Vietnam ☒

[C] Philippines

[D] Malaysia



- ✓ **The Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc has recently signed an order that bans all imports of wildlife either dead or alive including eggs and larvae. The order also includes tougher penalties for crimes involving the trade in wildlife. Amidst the coronavirus spread, this ban has been imposed in Vietnam, which is a popular destination for endangered wildlife products used in medicine or cuisine.**
-

1. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is to set up its own Cotton Warehouse in which country?

- [A] Sri Lanka
- [B] Vietnam ☒
- [C] Myanmar
- [D] Laos



- ✓ The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is to set up its own Cotton warehouse in Vietnam, to boost Exports. A government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding is also being prepared to export 1.52 million bales of cotton to Bangladesh. CCI holds surplus stocks of cotton before the next harvest season and this plan has been made.

2. As per the UN World Wildlife Crime Report, which two countries were the main suppliers of illegal tiger products in the world?

- [A] India and China
- [B] India and Thailand ☒
- [C] China and Thailand
- [D] India and Indonesia



- ✓ According to the recently released United Nations World Wildlife Crime Report, India and Thailand supplied highest illegal tiger products in the world. It also highlighted that the biggest destination of the tiger parts was China, followed by Thailand and Vietnam. The most valuable body part of the tigers is their bones which are used to treat bone and ligament injuries in humans.

3. Which organisation released a report titled 'Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020)'?

- [A] World Food Programme
- [B] Food and Agriculture Organization ☒
- [C] International Fund for Agricultural Development
- [D] World Wide Fund for Nature



- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a specialised agency of the United States has recently released a report titled 'Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020)'. The report examines the status of 236 countries in the period 1990–2020. The report highlighted that the forest area has declined all across the world in the past three decades. The rate of forest loss in 2015–2020 declined to an estimated 10 million hectares, down from 12 million hectares in 2010–2015. The report also revealed that the world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, which is the size of Libya.

4. Which district has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by NITI Aayog for the February–June 2020 period?

- [A] Nawada
- [B] Moga
- [C] Bijapur ☒
- [D] Bahraich



- ✓ Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by Niti Aayog for the February–June 2020 period. Ri–Bhoi district in Meghalaya and Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh have been placed at the second and third positions respectively. This delta ranking considers incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas including Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.

5. Union Minister Sadananda Gowda launched four schemes including a production–linked incentive (PLI) scheme and industry park scheme, for manufacturing which products?

- [A] Bulk drugs and medical devices ☒
- [B] Textile
- [C] Automobile
- [D] Steel



- ✓ The government has released guidelines for four schemes to boost domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices. Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda launched and issued guidelines for the schemes, which aim to reduce imports in pharmaceutical raw materials like drug intermediates, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and medical devices.

6. What is the name of the new Mobile application of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)?

- [A] BIS Score
- [B] BIS Care ☒
- [C] BIS Standard
- [D] BIS Utkarsh



- ✓ Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan has launched the Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App 'BIS–Care'. He also launched Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Training portals of e–BIS for consumers.

- ✓ Using the bi-lingual app, consumers can check the authenticity of the ISI-marked and hallmarked products. Consumers can also lodge complaints using this app. Earlier, BIS was directed to frame quality norms for 371 items by March 2021 to curb non-essential imports.

7. Which country's 300-year-old historic temple has been reconstructed with the Indian assistance?

- [A] Sri Lanka
[B] Bangladesh ☒
[C] Myanmar
[D] Thailand



- ✓ The Sree Sree JoyKali Matar temple, one of the oldest temples in Bangladesh, has been reconstructed with the Indian assistance of Taka 97 lakh. The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has inaugurated the reconstructed temple at Natore. The MoU for the process was signed in the year 2016. The Indian assistance was given under its High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP). Several other community projects are also being carried out under this fund.

8. Which country is to play host to the 2023 International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup?

- [A] England
[B] India ☒
[C] South Africa
[D] Australia



- ✓ The 2023 International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup is to be organised in India. ICC has recently launched a 50 over World Cup Super League. This Qualification league will determine the seven teams in the World Cup. As India is the host, it will automatically qualify to the game. The league will start with a series between England and Ireland, scheduled on July 30.

9. The birth anniversary of which Indian personality has been celebrated as 'World Students' Day'?

- [A] RadhaKrishnan
[B] A P J Abdul Kalam ☒
[C] Homi J Bhabha
[D] Vikram Sarabhai



- ✓ The birth anniversary of 11th President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, October 15 has been recognised by the United Nations to be celebrated as World Students' Day. Recently, the country remembered the Missile Man of India on his fifth death anniversary, on July 27. While addressing students at Indian Institute of Management Shillong, the former President died of cardiac arrest.

10. Which organisation has launched an innovation contest named 'Dare to Dream 2.0'?

- [A] Indian Space Research Organisation
[B] Defence Research and Development Organisation ☒
[C] NITI Aayog
[D] Indian Institute of Science



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently launched an innovation contest named Dare to Dream 2.0. It was announced by the Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh, on the fifth death anniversary of the former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The contest encourages individuals and start-ups to use advanced technologies for innovation in Aerospace and Defence sectors in the country.
-