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**What is important,**

**we cover!**

1. **With reference to 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme, consider the following statements:-**

1. The scheme will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice.
2. Inter-state portability of ration card is key feature of this Scheme.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only  
(B) 2 only  
(C) 1 and 2 both  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Easy access**  
Under the 'One nation, one ration card' system, beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from a ration shop in any part of the country

**Ration card-Aadhaar linkage must to access the portability scheme**

**The scheme will be rolled out across the country on: July 1, 2020**

**States providing portability of PDS entitlements:**

- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura
- A person will only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3/kg and wheat at ₹2/kg
- Even if a beneficiary moves to a State where grains are given for free, he/she will not be able to access those benefits

A migrant will be allowed to buy a maximum of 50% of the family quota. This is to ensure that the individual, after shifting to another place, does not buy the entire family quota in one go

- ❖ The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to consider the feasibility of temporarily adopting the 'one nation, one ration card' scheme during the ongoing coronavirus lockdown period to enable the migrant workers and economically weaker sections (EWS) get subsidised foodgrain.
- ❖ The scheme announced by Central Government is about to **start in June, 2020.**

**One Nation One Ration Card**

- ✦ The scheme will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access **PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice.**
- ✦ **Inter-state portability** of ration card is key feature of this Scheme.

2. **The first virtual Climate Dialogue, was the eleventh session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue, which has been hosted by**

- (A) Germany  
(B) Italy  
(C) Sweden  
(D) Australia

- ❖ Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has represented India in the **first virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue**. He stressed on the issue of climate finance.
- ❖ The first virtual Climate Dialogue, was the **eleventh session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue** which has been hosted by **Germany since 2010** to provide a forum for informal high-level political discussions, focusing both on international climate negotiations and the advancement of climate action.
- ❖ The dialogue saw participation from Ministers and representatives of about **30 countries.**



3. Consider the following statements in context of 'Aadhaar'-

1. Aadhaar number is a 10-digit random number issued by the UIDAI.
2. Demographic and biometric information are required during the Aadhaar enrolment process.
3. UIDAI has permitted Common Service Centre to offer Aadhaar updation facility.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 2 only  
(B) 1 and 3 only  
(C) 2 and 3 only  
(D) 1, 2 and 3

- ❖ IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that to make **Aadhaar updating easier for citizens, Unique Identification Authority of India, UIDAI has permitted Common Service Centre, CSCs**, which are designated banking correspondents of banks, to offer Aadhaar services. He said, around 20,000 such CSCs will now be able to offer this service to citizens.
- ❖ **Aadhaar number is a 12-digit random number** issued by the UIDAI ("Authority") to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority. Any individual, irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident of India, may voluntarily enrol to obtain Aadhaar number.

- ❖ Person willing to enrol has to provide **minimal demographic and biometric information during the enrolment process** which is totally free of cost. An individual needs to enrol for Aadhaar only once and after de-duplication only one Aadhaar shall be generated, as the uniqueness is achieved through the process of demographic and biometric de-duplication.

Demographic information	Name, Date of Birth (verified) or Age (declared), Gender, Address, Mobile Number (optional) and Email ID (optional), in case of Introducer-based enrolment- Introducer name and Introducer's Aadhaar number, in case of Head of Family based enrolment- Name of Head of Family, Relationship and Head of Family's Aadhaar number; in case of enrolment of child- Enrolment ID or Aadhaar number of any one parent, Proof of Relationship (PoR) document
Biometric information	Ten Fingerprints, Two Iris Scans, and Facial Photograph

4. Justice Dipankar Datta took oath as the new Chief Justice of the-

- (A) Bombay High Court  
(B) Calcutta High Court  
(C) Madras High Court  
(D) Guwahati High Court

- ❖ Justice Dipankar Datta took oath as the new Chief Justice of the **Bombay High Court**.
- ❖ Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of office to him at Raj Bhavan.
- ❖ Datta succeeds justice Bhushan Dhamadhikari who retired as chief justice.

5. Numaligarh Refinery Limited is located in which state?

- (A) Maharashtra  
(B) Gujarat  
(C) Kerala  
(D) Assam



- ❖ In **Assam**, the Numaligarh Refinery Limited, NRL has started economic activities with all proper precautions. Managing Director the NRL, S K Baruah said that projects worth 2 thousand crore rupees have started in the state.
  - ❖ Numaligarh Refinery Limited is a **public sector oil company in Assam**. It's under the admin control of **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**, Govt. of India.
6. **'Jeevan Amrit Yojana' is related to which state?**
- (A) Haryana
  - (B) Punjab
  - (C) Madhya Pradesh
  - (D) Uttar Pradesh
- ❖ In **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Jeevan Amrit Yojana, a unique scheme **to boost immunity system of citizens** of the state. Under this scheme, the State Government will distribute packet of **special Trikut Churna** prepared by the AYUSH Department free of cost to the citizens.
  - ❖ Under Jeevan Amrit yojna, packets of **50 grams each of the kadha** have been prepared by Madhya Pradesh Laghu Vanopaj Sangh in collaboration with the **Department of AYUSH**. This kadha made of peepal, ginger and black pepper is being distributed free of cost to one crore people in rural and urban areas of the state.
7. **'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' Scheme is recently in news in context of which state's affairs?**
- (A) Telangana
  - (B) Andhra Pradesh
  - (C) Karnataka
  - (D) Kerala
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister, Y. S.Jaganmohan Reddy has launched the 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' Scheme at Tedepalli, in Guntur District in AP. Under this scheme over **Rs. 4 Thousand Crores of funds** have been released along with Rs. 1880 crore towards pending amount left by the earlier government.
  - ❖ Under this scheme, **fee reimbursement will be credited directly to mothers' accounts** instead of college accounts in the coming academic year 2020-21.
  - ❖ Through this Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme, the AP State Government is going to provide Fee Reimbursement for **ITI, B.Tech, B. Pharmacy, MBA, MCA, and B.Ed Courses**. An amount of INR 15,000 to INR 20,000 will be offered for the eligible candidates through the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme.
8. **Hayagriva Madhava Temple is located at-**
- (A) Sualkuchi
  - (B) Ranthali
  - (C) Hajo
  - (D) Sarthebari

- ❖ As Ministry of Tourism, Government of India continues with the initiative of organising a series of Webinars under the overall theme of **'Dekho Apna Desh', its 8<sup>th</sup> webinar** in this series on “North East India-Experience the Exclusive villages” with focus on Assam & Meghalaya highlighting the lesser known villages was presented on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- ❖ **Hajo** - Hajo is 25 km from the city of Guwahati and is famous as a Pilgrimage Centre for the **Hindus, Buddhists & Muslims** with the revered **Temple Hayagriva Madhava Temple** & the famed Mosque, Powa Mecca located here.
- ❖ It is believed that **Lord Buddha is believed to have attained Nirvana at The Hayagriva Madhava temple**. This temple has a pond which has provided a safe haven to black soft shell turtle. No one harms them as they consider them as incarnations of Lord Vishnu.

#### 9. Lingayats are followers of-

- (A) Basavanna
- (B) Bhadrabahu
- (C) Siddha Bahubali
- (D) Tyagaraja

- ❖ The twelfth century witnessed the emergence of a new movement in Karnataka, led by a **Brahmana named Basavanna (1106-68)** who was initially a Jaina and a minister in the court of a **Chalukya king**. His followers were known as **Virashaivas (heroes of Shiva) or Lingayats (wearers of the linga)**.

- ❖ His practical approach and act of establishment of 'Kalyana Rajya' (Welfare state) brought a new status and position for all the citizens of the society, irrespective of class, caste creed and sex. Thus the main aim of **Vachana (poetry) movement, led by Basaveshwara was welfare of all**. He proclaimed this as-“Sakala jeevatmarige lesu”(welfare of all).
- ❖ Basaveshwara was born in Bagevadi (of undivided Bijapur district in Karnataka) during 1131 AD. His father was **Madarasa and Madalambike was his mother**. They belonged to Brahmin community. As a religious tradition, he was initiated with the holy thread 'janivara' in Upanayana, (thread ceremony) at the early age of eight years. Basavanna revolted against this tradition, cut threw his janivara, left home and went to Kudalasangama from where he was educated in all respects.
- ❖ He scripted his practical experiences in a novel form of literature called **-Vachana (poetry)**. This innovative literary form is the main contribution of “Sharanas” through which they expressed their revolutionary and reformist ideology in a very simple Kannada language.
- ❖ Basaveshwara gave two important and innovative concepts called **“Sthavara” and “Jangama”**, the meaning of which is “Static” and “Dynamic”- respectively. Both of these concepts are the main foundation stones of the revolutionary ideology of

Basavanna. By ridiculing the physical structure of temple and God; which are perishable, Basavanna gave a new dimension to the human body and soul (inner spirit), by which the self respect of all human beings was boosted.

- ❖ Basaveshwara gave two more very important socio-economic principles. They are- **“Kayaka” (Work-Divine work) and “Dasoha” (Distribution-Equal distribution)**. According to this, every individual of the society should take up the job of his choice and perform it with all sincerity. There is no discrimination in vocations. All members of the society are labourers (Kayakajeevighalu).
- ❖ Basaveshwara is the **first Kannadiga in whose honour a commemorative coin has been minted in recognition of his social reforms.**
- ❖ On 14 November 2015 The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the **statue of Basaveshwara along the bank of the river Thames at Lambeth in London.**

**10. Chernobyl is associated with which of the following disasters?**

- (A) Tsunami
- (B) Earthquake
- (C) Volcanic Eruption
- (D) Nuclear Disaster

- ❖ The catastrophic Chernobyl nuclear accident in **Ukraine**, then part of the Soviet Union, marked its 34th anniversary on April 26, 2020.

- ❖ On April 26, 1986, a sudden surge of power during a reactor systems test destroyed Unit 4 of the **nuclear power station at Chernobyl**, some 110 kilometers (68.3 miles) from Ukraine’s capital, Kiev.

**11. RailMadad is a-**

- (A) Grievance redressal portal of Indian Railways
- (B) IRCTC Train Tickets booking app
- (C) a chatbot to assist its users in clarifying their queries
- (D) app related to construction, maintenance and up-gradation of railway assets

- ❖ Rail Madad Helpline 139 has answered over two lakh 30 thousand queries on one-on-one basis in first four weeks of the lockdown.
- ❖ RailMadad is the single portal **for grievances, inquiry and assistance of all categories of railway customers.**
- ❖ More than 90 per cent of the queries were responded on one-to-one basis, mostly in the local language of the caller, over telephone.

**WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY?**  
It involves transfusing plasma retrieved from the blood of people who have recovered from Covid-19 into people suffering from the disease

**How does it work?**  
As people fight the Covid-19 virus, they produce antibodies that attack the virus. These antibodies are secreted by immune cells known as B lymphocytes, found in plasma or liquid part of blood, which helps the blood clot when needed and supports immunity

**How many patients can be treated with plasma from a donor?**  
One person's donation of plasma can help two people. Scientists say that a patient needs only one transfusion to get enough antibodies to fight the virus

**Is it a new treatment?**  
No, it isn't. The idea of using one person's plasma to help another has been used during the outbreak of SARS, also caused by a coronavirus

**How many states in India are using it?**  
None. Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala and Gujarat, among others, have sought approval from the regulatory bodies for clinical trials

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12. **King George Medical University is recently become the first government hospital in the country to successfully launch the plasma therapy treatment for the COVID-19 patients. It is located in which state?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Goa
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

❖ The King George Medical University in **Uttar Pradesh** has become the first government hospital in the country to successfully launch the plasma therapy treatment for the COVID-19 patients.

13. **'Bounce Back Loan Scheme' is recently in news in context of which country?**

- (A) USA
- (B) Japan
- (C) China
- (D) UK

❖ **United Kingdom's** Finance Minister Rishi Sunak has unveiled a 100 per cent state-backed 'Bounce Back Loan Scheme' **for the small businesses to help them tide through the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.**

❖ The new fast-track finance scheme, would help bolster the existing package of support available to crisis-hit UK businesses.

❖ Under the scheme, qualifying small businesses can **apply online to borrow between 2,000 pounds and 50,000 pounds as interest-free loans for the first 12 months.**

14. **US President Donald Trump has nominated senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as America's next envoy to which organisation?**

- (A) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
- (B) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (C) Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- (D) International Monetary Fund

❖ US President Donald Trump has nominated senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as America's next envoy to the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD.**

❖ Manisha Singh is currently Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department.

#### **OECD**

- ✦ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation with **36 member countries.**
- ✦ Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- ✦ Founded: **30 September 1961**

15. **Which country has recently ended the death penalty for crimes committed by minors?**

- (A) Saudi Arabia
- (B) United Arab Emirates,
- (C) Qatar
- (D) Oman



- ❖ **Saudi Arabia** has recently ended the death penalty for crimes committed by minors.
- ❖ The individual will receive a prison sentence of **no longer than 10 years in a juvenile detention facility**

16. **Umbare Aanganwadi initiative is related to which state?**

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Punjab
- (D) Odisha

- ❖ In **Gujarat**, Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) has taken a unique initiative called Umbare Aanganwadi, i.e **doorstep Aanganwadi to reach out to children during the lockdown.**
- ❖ The ICDS Department has launched a TV programme called Umbare Aanganwadi which is telecast every alternate day through Vande Gujarat channel as well as Jio TV. Same is also telecast on You Tube.
- ❖ The regular theme based modules of Aanganwadi are being taught in an interactive the way in the programme which children can watch with their parents.

17. **Exercise Pitch Black 2020 has been recently cancelled due to the COVID-19. This exercise is hosted by the Air Force of which country?**

- (A) USA
- (B) Japan
- (C) Australia
- (D) China

- ❖ **Australia** has informed India that their premier multilateral air combat training exercise **Pitch Black 2020 scheduled from July 27 to August 14** has been **cancelled** due to the COVID-19 situation.
- ❖ Exercise Pitch Black is a **biennial warfare exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).**

18. **Web-based COVID-19 dashboard 'PRACRITI' is related with-**

- (A) IIT Bombay
- (B) IIT Madras
- (C) IIT Delhi
- (D) IIT Kanpur

- ❖ **IIT Delhi** researchers have developed a web-based dashboard for predicting the spread of COVID-19 in India. **The mobile-friendly dashboard, named as PRACRITI (PRediction and Assessment of CoRona Infections and Transmission in India.**
- ❖ It gives detailed **state-wise and district-wise predictions** of COVID-19 cases in India. The projections are given for a three-week period, which is updated on a weekly basis.
- ❖ A key parameter of interest on COVID-19 is **the basic reproduction number R0 and its countrywide variability. R0 refers to the number of people to whom the disease spreads from a single infected person.** For instance, if an active COVID-19 patient infects two uninfected persons, the R0 is two. Hence, reduction of R0 is the key in controlling and mitigating the COVID-19 in India.





- ❖ **PRACRITI provides the RO values of each district and state in India** based on the data available from sources such as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt. of India; National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and World Health Organisation (WHO).

**19. Every year, World Penguin Day is celebrated on-**

- (A) April 21
- (B) April 22
- (C) April 23
- (D) April 25

- ❖ Every year, **April 25** is celebrated as World Penguin Day to mark the **annual northern migration of Adelle penguins**—one of the 18 penguin species—that **are native to Antarctica**.
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about these flightless aquatic birds that are mostly found in the southern hemisphere with only one species (Galápagos penguin) dwelling north of the equator.

**20. An application called 'e-karyalay' (electronic office) is related to -**

- (A) BSF
- (B) CISF
- (C) CRPF
- (D) ITBP

- ❖ An e-office application, that enables movement of files and documents without physical touch, has been launched for usage in the 1.62 lakh personnel-strong **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** to prevent coronavirus infection.

- ❖ The application called '**e-karyalay' (electronic office) has been designed by the in-house technical team of the force.**
- ❖ A data recovery site has also been established to maintain round-the-clock services of e-karyalay.

**CISF**

- ✦ The CISF is the **national civil aviation security force** with **63 airports** under its cover and it also guards the **Delhi Metro** and other vital infrastructure in the aerospace and **nuclear domain**.

**21. Which Serial/TV series has recently created the world record of Highest Viewed Entertainment Programme Globally in one day?**

- (A) Ramayan
- (B) The Big Bang Theory
- (C) Game of Thrones
- (D) The Passage

- ❖ **Ramayan** has created the world record of Highest Viewed Entertainment Programme Globally. Prasar Bharati said in a tweet that **77 million people watched** the show in one day on the 16th of this month. The television series is being retelecast on Doordarshan National from the 28th of March.

**22. Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune has recently developed a microwave steriliser to disintegrate COVID-19. What is the name of this microwave steriliser?**

- (A) ATAL
- (B) AAGAZ
- (C) ATULYA
- (D) MICRO CARE



- ❖ Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune has developed a microwave steriliser named as **ATULYA** to disintegrate COVID-19. The virus gets disintegrated by differential **heating in the range of 56 degree to 60 degree Celsius** temperatures.
- ❖ Depending upon size and shape of various objects, time of sterilisation is from **30 seconds to one minute**. The approximate weight of the system is **three kilogrammes** and it can be used for **non-metallic objects only**.

**23. Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor recently passed away. He received the National Film Award as a child artist for which film?**

- (A) Shri 420
- (B) Mera Naam Joker
- (C) Awaara
- (D) Sangam

- ❖ Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor passed away in Mumbai.
- ❖ Rishi Kapoor was the most romantic face of Bollywood. He made his first screen appearance as a child artist in his father Raj Kapoor's film **'Shri 420', where he appeared in the song "Pyaar hua ekraar hua."**
- ❖ He received the **National Film Award as a child artist for 'Mera Naam Joker'**.
- ❖ But it was in 1973, with the blockbuster **'Bobby,'** again directed by his father, that he made his debut as a romantic hero.
- ❖ He continued to be a favourite romantic hero for almost three

decades. His notable films as a romantic hero includes **'Laila Majnu', 'Rafoo Chakkar', 'Karz', 'Chandni', 'Heena' and 'Saagar'**. He was honoured with the **Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008**.

- ❖ He won the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor in 2011 for his performance in **'Do Dooni Chaar'** and for his role in **'Kapoor & Sons'**, he won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor in 2017.

**24. Who has been recently appointed as the next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations?**

- (A) T. S. Tirumurti
- (B) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (C) Asoke Kumar Mukerji
- (D) Syed Akbaruddin

- ❖ **T. S. Tirumurti** has been appointed as the next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.

- ❖ Tirumurti is an IFS officer of 1985 batch. He is **CURRENTLY** the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. **He replaces Sayyad Akbaruddin.**

**25. Renowned actor Irrfan Khan recently passed away. For which film, he won National Film Award for Best Actor?**

- (A) Maqbool
- (B) Paan Singh Tomar
- (C) Life In A Metro
- (D) Piku



- ❖ Renowned actor Irrfan Khan passed away in a Mumbai.
- ❖ Irrfan Khan made his Bollywood debut with **Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay in 1988.**
- ❖ His lead role in **Paan Singh Tomar** (2012), as the eponymous real-life athlete turned dacoit, **won him the National Film Award for Best Actor.**
- ❖ He was noticed with films like **Maqbool, Life in a Metro, Paan Singh Tomar and Piku.** He has also been associated with many international films like **Slumdog Millionaire, A Mighty Heart, Jurassic World and The Amazing Spider-Man.** His most notable international film is Ang Lee's **Life of Pi** which was a huge commercial success.

**26. Suresh N Patel is recently in news in context of-**

- (A) He took oath as the Vigilance Commissioner
  - (B) He is appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.
  - (C) He is appointed as a President of ICMR
  - (D) He is appointed as New Chief Information Commissioner
- ❖ Mr Suresh N Patel recently took oath as the **Vigilance Commissioner.** The oath was administered by Central Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari by video conferencing in New Delhi.

**27. Ayuraksha- 'Corona se jung - Delhi Police ke sang' is a joint initiative recently launched by Delhi Police with the help of which organisation/institute?**

- (A) DRDO
- (B) AIIMS
- (C) All India Institute of Ayurveda
- (D) Delhi University

- ❖ Delhi police Commissioner S N Shrivastava recently launched **Ayuraksha- 'Corona se Jung - Delhi Police ke sang', a joint initiative by Delhi Police and All India Institute of Ayurveda, Ministry of AYUSH.**

- ❖ The Ayurveda institute will maintain the health of front line COVID warriors like Delhi Police personnel through **Ayurveda Immunity boosting measures.** It will be implemented in a phase wise manner. The distribution will take place for nearly 80 thousand personnel of Delhi Police across 15 districts.

**28. Chuni Goswami, who passed away recently, was associated with which sport?**

- (A) Badminton (B) Cricket
  - (C) Golf (D) Football
- ❖ Legendary **Footballer** Chuni Goswami died in Kolkata.
  - ❖ Chuni Goswami was the **captain of gold medal winning Indian football team of Jakarta Asiad held in 1962.** He was awarded Arjun, Padmasree and several others prestigious awards for his outstanding contributions in the field of Sports.



❖ He received Mohonbagan Ratna awards in 2005. The West Bengal Government conferred him the highest civilian award Banga Bibhusan in 2013. Chuni Goswami was captain of Bengal Ranji Cricket team. He was also Sheriff of Kolkata.

**29. LIGO has recently detected a merger of two unequal-mass black holes. LIGO stands for-**

- (A) Light Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory
- (B) Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory
- (C) Laser Inter Gravitational-Wave Observatory
- (D) Light Inter Gravitational-Wave Observatory

❖ For the first time since it started functioning, the gravitational wave observatories at **LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory)** scientific collaboration have detected a merger of **two unequal-mass black holes**.

❖ The event, dubbed **GW190412**, was detected nearly a year ago, and this is almost five years after the first ever detection of gravitational wave signals by these powerful detectors. Subsequent analysis of the signal coming from the violent merger showed that it involved two black holes of unequal

masses coalescing, one of which was some 30 times the mass of the Sun and the other which had a mass nearly 8 times the solar mass. **The actual merger took place at a distance of 2.5 billion light years away.**

❖ While the mass of the black hole bends the space-time close to it, the spin or angular momentum of this inscrutable object drags the nearby space-time, causing it to swirl around, along with it. Hence both these properties are important to estimate.

**30. Tianwen-1, will be the first Mars exploration mission of which country?**

- (A) Japan
- (B) China
- (C) France
- (D) Israel

❖ **China** National Space Administration (CNSA) unveiled the name of its **first Mars exploration mission. The Mars mission has been named Tianwen-1.**

❖ The unmanned exploration mission to Mars is expected to be launched this year.

❖ The name comes from “**Tianwen**”, or “**Questions to Heaven**”, a poem written by **Qu Yuan** who lived more than two millennia ago.

❖ China successfully launched its **first satellite, the Dongfanghong-1, in 1970.**

❖ In 2003, it became the **third country to put a man in space with its own rocket after the former Soviet Union and the United States.**



**31. First state which is created on the linguistic basis is-**

- (A) Andhra Pradesh
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Tamilnadu
- (D) Haryana

- ❖ The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 defined **boundaries for the states within India on the basis of languages.**
- ❖ The state of Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed as a result of linguistic movement according to the **Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960 enacted by the Parliament of India on 25 April 1960.** The act came into effect on 1 May 1960
- ❖ In October 1953, the Government of India was forced to create the **first linguistic state, known as Andhra state,** by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the Madras state. This followed a prolonged popular agitation and the death of **Potti Sriramulu,** a Congress person of standing, after a 56-day hunger strike for the cause.

**32. Which one among the following is not associated with state re-organisation?**

- (A) Dhar Commission
- (B) JVP Committee
- (C) Fazl Ali Commission
- (D) Punchi Commission

- ❖ On May 1, Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated their statehood day.
- ❖ Following commissions were established for the reorganisation of Indian states;

- ❖ **DHAR COMMISSION** -In **June 1948,** the Government of India appointed the Linguistic Provinces Commission under the chairmanship of **S K Dhar** to examine the **feasibility of states on the basis of language.** The commission submitted its report in **December 1948** and recommended the reorganisation of **states on the basis of administrative convenience rather than linguistic factor.**

- ❖ **JVP COMMITTEE**- It consisted of **Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya** and hence, was popularly known as JVP Committee. It submitted its report in **April 1949** and **formally rejected language as the basis for reorganisation of states.**

- ❖ **FAZL ALI COMMISSION**- Government of India to appoint (in **December 1953**) a three-member States Reorganisation Commission under the chairmanship of **Fazl Ali.** Its other two members were **K M Panikkar and H N Kunzru.** It submitted its report in **September 1955** and **broadly accepted language as the basis of reorganisation of states.** But, it **rejected the theory of 'one language-one state'.**

- ❖ It identified four major factors that can be taken into account in any scheme of reorganisation of states:

- **Preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of the country.**
- **Linguistic and cultural homogeneity.**
- **Financial, economic and administrative considerations.**
- **Planning**



❖ **PUNCHHI COMMISSION-** The Second commission on **Centre-State Relations** was set-up by the Government of India in **April 2007** under the Chairmanship of **Madan Mohan Punchhi**, former Chief Justice of India. It was required to look into the issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the sea-changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

State Reorganisation	
State	Formation
Andhra Pradesh	1953
Maharashtra & Gujrat	1960
Nagaland	1963
Haryana	1966
Himachal Pradesh	1971
Meghalaya	1972
Manipur & Tripura	1972
Sikkim	1975
Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh	1987
Goa	1987
Chhatisgarh	1 Nov., 2000
Uttarakhand	9 Nov., 2000
Jharkhand	15 Nov., 2000
Telangana	2 June, 2014

**33. Who recently assumed charge as Secretary of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises?**

- (A) Arvind Kumar Sharma
- (B) Giridhar Aramane
- (C) Shobhana Narasimhan
- (D) Ajay Tirkey

❖ **Shri Arvind Kumar Sharma** (IAS) recently assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

❖ Prior to this appointment, Shri Sharma was serving as Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (PMO). He is 1988 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre.

**34. Who recently assumed charge as Secretary of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways?**

- (A) Arvind Kumar Sharma
- (B) Giridhar Aramane
- (C) Shobhana Narasimhan
- (D) Ajay Tirkey

❖ **Shri. Giridhar Aramane** recently assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

❖ Shri Aramane was earlier serving as Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. He has also been a Jt Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during 2012-14.

❖ He is 1988 batch IAS officer of AP cadre.

**35. Who has been recently elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences from India?**

- (A) Amitabh Joshi
- (B) Anuranjan Anand
- (C) Shobhana Narasimhan
- (D) Swapan Pati

❖ Professor **Shobhana Narasimhan** from the Theoretical Sciences Unit (TSU) at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)**, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, has been elected as **an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.**



- ❖ The American Academy of Arts and Sciences honours scholars and leaders who have distinguished themselves in the sciences, arts, humanities and public life. **The list of previous International Honorary Members includes Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Nelson Mandela.**
- ❖ Prof Narasimhan heads the **Computational Nanoscience group** at JNCASR. She has done significant work on the rational design of nanomaterials, examining how the lowering of dimensionality and reduction of size affect material properties. **Her work is relevant for a number of different applications, such as nanocatalysts for clean energy applications, and magnetic materials for memory storage.**
- ❖ Prof. Narasimhan has also been very active in the **promotion of women in STEM in India and abroad.** She was a member of the Working Group for Women in Physics of IUPAP. Since 2013, she has been co-organizing Career Development Workshops for Women in Physics at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy, and the ICTP-EAIFR in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ❖ She became a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India in 2011 and also received the **Stree Shakti Samman Science Award in 2010** and the Kalpana Chawla Woman Scientist Award of the Government of Karnataka in 2010.

**36. Kisan Sabha App is developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI). Which one among the following is not aim of this App?**

- (A) To connect farmers to supply chain
- (B) To provide the most economical and timely logistics support to the farmers
- (C) Increase their profit margins by minimizing interference of middlemen
- (D) To sale farmers crop at e-NAM Platform

- ❖ **Kisan Sabha App developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system** was remotely launched by DG, ICAR and Secretary DARE, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra.
- ❖ The portal connects the farmers, transporters, Service providers (like pesticides/ fertilizer/ dealers, cold store and warehouse owner), mandi dealers, customers (like big retail outlets, online stores, institutional buyers) and other related entities for timely and effective solution.
- ❖ The portal acts as a **single stop for every entity related to agriculture**, be they a farmer who needs better price for the crops or mandi dealer who wants to connect to more farmers or truckers who invariably go empty from the mandis.



- ❖ Kisan Sabha also works for **people in agriculture services sector such as dealers of fertilizers/ pesticides, who can reach out to more farmers for their services.**
- ❖ It would also prove to be useful for those associated with **cold store(s) or godown(s). Kisan Sabha also provides a platform for people who want to buy directly from the farmers.**
- ❖ Kisan Sabha has **6 major modules** taking care of Farmers/Mandi Dealers/Transporters/Mandi Board Members/ Service Providers/Consumers.
- ❖ Kisan Sabha aims to provide the most **economical and timely logistics support** to the farmers and **increase their profit margins by minimizing** interference of middlemen and directly connecting with the institutional buyers. It will also help in providing best market rates of crops by comparing nearest mandis, booking of freight vehicle at cheapest cost thereby giving maximum benefit to the farmers.

**37. Who recently assumed charge as Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development?**

- (A) Arvind Kumar Sharma
- (B) Giridhar Aramane
- (C) Shobhana Narasimhan
- (D) Ajay Tirkey

- ❖ **Shri Ajay Tirkey** recently assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) in New Delhi. He is 1987 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. He succeeds Shri Rabindra Panwar who retired on superannuation.

- ❖ Before assuming the charge of Secretary, Shri Ajay Tirkey was holding the post of Special Secretary in the same Ministry. He worked as Joint Secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in the year 2017 before joining as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women & Child Development. He has also been on deputation to the Ministry of Defence as Director and Joint Secretary from 2004 to 2009.

**38. With reference to cultural history of India, Consider the following famous painting work-**

1. Arjuna and Subhadra
2. Lady in the moon light
3. Shakuntala
4. Bharat Mata

**Which one among the above is/are Raja Ravi Varma's work?**

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- ❖ National Gallery of Modern Art is recently paid tribute to celebrated painter and artist **Raja Ravi Varma** on his 172nd Birth Anniversary through a virtual tour. **29th April is the birth anniversary of the famed Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906).**
- ❖ He is remembered for giving Indians **their western, classical representations of Hindu gods and goddesses.**
- ❖ Varma worked on **both portrait and landscape paintings**, and is considered among the **first Indian artists to use oil paints.**





- ❖ He continues to be regarded as the **most important representative of the Europeanised school of painting in India.**
- ❖ **Famous works:** Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha, Lady in The Moon Light, Arjuna and Subhadra, Shakuntala etc.
- ❖ In 1904, the British colonial government awarded Varma with the **Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal.**
- ❖ In 2013, **a crater on the planet Mercury was named in his honour.**
- ❖ **Bharat Mata is a notable work of Abanindranath Tagore.**

**39. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:**

<b>List-I (Tropical cyclone)</b>	<b>List-II (Location)</b>
a. Cyclones	1. USA
b. Hurricanes	2. East Asia
c. Typhoons	3. Australia
d. Willy-willies	4. India

**Code:**

- |     | <b>a</b> | <b>b</b> | <b>c</b> | <b>d</b> |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (A) | 4        | 2        | 1        | 3        |
| (B) | 4        | 1        | 2        | 3        |
| (C) | 3        | 1        | 2        | 4        |
| (D) | 3        | 2        | 1        | 4        |

- ❖ Worldwide there are six regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) mandated for issuing advisories and naming of tropical cyclones. India Meteorological Department is one of the six RSMCs to provide tropical cyclone and storm surge advisories to 13 member

countries under WMO/ESCAP Panel including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. RSMC, **New Delhi is also mandated to name the Tropical Cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean (NIO) including the Bay of Bengal (BoB) and the Arabian Sea (AS).**

- ❖ New list of tropical cyclone names is recently adopted by WMO/ESCAP Panel Member Countries in April 2020 for naming of tropical cyclones over North Indian Ocean including Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Cyclones are given many names in different regions of the world – They are known as **typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean; hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean; tornados in the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.; willy-willies in north-western Australia and tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean.**

**40. Sana Mir is related to which sport?**

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| (A) Cricket | (B) Badminton |
| (C) Hockey  | (D) Chess     |

- ❖ Sana Mir, the former **Pakistan captain** and world No.1, has announced her decision to retire from **international cricket.**
- ❖ Mir has represented Pakistan in 226 internationals since her debut in 2005, and was captain in 137 of them.
- ❖ The off-spinner is her **country's leading ODI wicket-taker with 151 wickets** in 120 ODIs at an average of 24.27, while her 89

women's T20I wickets from 106 matches are only behind Nida Dar's 98. This puts her **joint-fourth on the list of all-time ODI bowlers** in the women's game along with West Indies' Anisa Mohammed, after India's Jhulan Goswami (225 wickets), Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick (180) and Ellyse Perry (152).

- ❖ Mir is also **Pakistan's third-highest run-scorer in ODIs** (1,630), and is among a select group of players to have the double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets in ODIs. **She has the rare achievement of having played 100 T20Is.**

**41. International Labour Day is observed on-**

- (A) 1 May                      (B) 2 May  
(C) 3 May                      (D) 4 May

- ❖ To honour the struggles and gains made by workers and labourers, the **first day of May is observed as International Labour Day.**
- ❖ The day is also called **May Day or International Workers' Day.**
- ❖ The theme of Labour Day 2019 was **"Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement"**.
- ❖ On 1 May, 1886, labour unions in the US decided to go on a strike demanding that workers should not be made to work for more than 8 hours a day. Just three days after the strike began, a blast occurred in Chicago's Haymarket Square leaving many dead.
- ❖ To honor those who died in the blast, the International Socialist Conference declared 1 May as a day designated for labourers.

- ❖ **In India, the first Labour Day was observed on 1 May, 1923,** in present day Chennai. The day was celebrated by **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.**

- ❖ **The red flag, which symbolises Labour Day, was used for the first time in India.** Prominent communist leader **Malayapuram Singaravelu Chettiar** raised the flag and arranged meetings to celebrate the occasion.

**42. Which company has become one of the first non-bank companies to obtain RBI nod for entering into co-branding arrangements for Prepaid Instruments?**

- (A) Transcorp International Ltd  
(B) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited  
(C) Muthoot Finance  
(D) Sundaram Finance

- ❖ **Transcorp International Ltd** has received RBI nod for entering into co-branding arrangements for **Prepaid Instruments that can be used in over 35 lakh stores and online gateways.** With this, Transcorp has become one of the **first non-bank companies to obtain this authorization from RBI**

- ❖ **anscorp will be launching API based co-branded partnerships for Digital, Physical and Contactless cards with select marquee clients on its own BINs** These cards can be used by partners, financial institutions and corporate houses to facilitate their core business activities while allowing safe transactions to serve their existing and new customers even if they do not have a bank account.



43. The first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon was recently released by-

- (A) United States Geological Survey
- (B) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- (C) Lunar Planetary Institute
- (D) All of the above

❖ The first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon was released **virtually by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the Lunar Planetary Institute on April 22, 2020.**

❖ The map is a **'seamless, globally consistent, 1:5,000,000-scale geologic map'**.

❖ Called the **'Unified Geologic Map of the Moon'**, it will serve as a blueprint for future human missions and a source of research and analysis for the educators and the general public interested in lunar geology.

❖ The moon the closest cosmic body to Earth through which space discovery can be attempted and documented has always piqued the interest of humanity.

❖ The final map consists of **43 geologic units across the entire lunar surface**, broken down into groups based on characteristics like materials of craters, basins, terra, plains and volcanic units.

44. Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management - Kerala (IIITM-K) has recently developed an AI Semantic search engine. What is the name of this search engine?

- (A) Vilokana
- (B) Viraz
- (C) SeGine
- (D) PRACRITI

❖ Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management - Kerala (IIITM-K) has developed an **AI Semantic search engine** to enable researchers to get deeper insights into scientific studies, especially when they need to find an early solution to the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a large set of complex scientific information. Named **'www.vilokana.in', which in Sanskrit means 'finding out',.**

❖ The search engine is developed by a team led by **A.P. James**, Professor at Centre for Artificial General Intelligence and Neuromorphic Systems (neuro GI), IIITM-K, as part of the open science initiative of the research centre.

45. Mathias Boe is related to which sports?

- (A) Badminton
- (B) Chess
- (C) Table Tanis
- (D) Football

❖ **Denmark's** ace doubles exponent Mathias Boe, a silver medallist at the 2012 London Olympics and 2013 World Championships, announced retirement from **international Badminton.**

46. HCARD is developed by Durgapur-based CSIR lab, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute. What is HCARD?

- (A) A Ventilator
- (B) Robotic Device
- (C) Anti-microbial Coated Mask
- (D) Sanitizer



- ❖ **The robotic device HCARD**, in short for **Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device**, can help frontline healthcare workers in maintaining physical distance from those infected by coronavirus.
- ❖ HCARD is developed by **Durgapur-based CSIR lab, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute**. The device is equipped with various state-of-the-art technologies and works both in **automatic as well as manual modes of navigation**.
- ❖ This robot can be controlled and monitored by a nursing booth with a control station having such features as navigation, drawer activation for providing medicines and food to patients, sample collection

**47. According to recently released the Open Budget Survey, India has been placed at which position in terms of budget transparency and accountability?**

- (A) 117th                      (B) 97th  
(C) 67th                        (D) 53rd

- ❖ India has been placed at **53rd position among 117 nations** in terms of budget transparency and accountability, according to the Open Budget Survey.
- ❖ The survey, **conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP)**, has provided India's Union Budget process a transparency score of **49 out of 100**, which is higher than the global average of 45.
- ❖ **New Zealand tops the chart with a score 87.**
- ❖ South Africa (87), Mexico (82) and Brazil (81) are among the top six countries providing extensive information to public for scrutiny.

- ❖ The survey, covering 117 countries, rates the level of budget transparency across countries on a **scale of 0-100**, based on several normative, internationally comparable indicators.
- ❖ It evaluates for each country, the availability of eight key budget documents of the Central or Federal Government, and assesses whether these are made public, in a timely manner, and provide comprehensive information.

#### **International Budget Partnership**

- ✦ **The Open Budget Survey is part of the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Initiative**, a global research and advocacy program to promote public access to budget information and the adoption of accountable budget systems.
- ✦ Headquarters : **Washington, D.C., United States**
- ✦ Founded: **1997**

**48. Which country recently classified Hezbollah as terrorist organisation?**

- (A) USA  
(B) UK  
(C) France  
(D) Germany

- ❖ **Germany has banned Iran-backed Hezbollah** activity on its soil and designated it a terrorist organisation. Israel and the United States had been pushing Germany to ban the organisation.



- ❖ This group already **designated a terrorist organisation by the United States.**

#### Hezbollah

- ✦ It is a **Shia Islamist political party** and militant group based in **Lebanon.**
- ✦ Founded: **1985**

**49. Chak-Hao, scented glutinous rice popularly known as Black Rice got GI (Geographical Indications) recently. It is related to which state?**

- (A) Manipur
- (B) Sikkim
- (C) Meghalaya
- (D) Tripura

- ❖ Recently, **Chak-Hao, the black rice of Manipur and the Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) terracotta have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**

- ❖ **Chak-Hao, scented glutinous rice popularly known as Black Rice which is cultivated in Manipur** since centuries and popular to people apart from the State has got GI (Geographical Indications) registration.

- ❖ Geographical Indications Registry of Ministry of Commerce and Industries has announced in its website that the product, Chak-Hao of Manipur is registered under GI certificate number 364 which application was filled by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC).

- ❖ It is normally eaten during community feasts and is served as **Chak-Hao kheer.**

- ❖ Chak-Hao has also been used by **traditional medical practitioners as part of traditional medicine.**

#### Geographical Indications

- ✦ GI status is an indication that identifies goods as produced from a **particular area, which has special quality or reputation** attributable to its geographical origin and GI branded goods possess a recall value amongst consumers.
- ✦ GIs are covered as an element of **IPRs under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.**

**50. With reference to “Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF)”, consider the following statements-**

1. The Reserve Bank of India recently announced a Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) of 50,000 crore rupees with a view to easing liquidity pressures on Mutual Funds.
2. Under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF), the RBI shall conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** recently announced a **Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) of 50,000 crore rupees** with a view to **easing liquidity pressures on Mutual Funds.**



- ❖ Under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF), the RBI shall **conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.**
- ❖ The SLF-MF is **on-tap and open-ended** and banks can submit their bids to avail funding on any day from Monday to Friday (excluding holidays).
- ❖ The scheme is available from **27th April till 11th of May or up to utilization of the allocated amount, whichever is earlier.**
- ❖ The Reserve Bank will review the timeline and amount, depending upon market conditions.
- ❖ **This comes in the wake up of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund shut six of its open-ended debt funds, effective April 23.**
- ❖ According to RBI, banks can use funds availed under the SLF-MF exclusively for meeting the liquidity requirements of MFs by (1) extending loans(2) undertaking outright purchase of and/or repos against the collateral of investment grade corporate bonds, commercial papers (CPs), debentures and certificates of Deposit (CDs) held by MFs. **This means if mutual funds are unable to sell their bonds in the market, they can use this facility to meet redemption requests from investors.**

**51. The famous Kovilpatti kadalai mittai has been granted the Geographical (A) Indication (GI) tag. It is related to which state?**

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Andhra Pradesh
- (D) Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The famous **Kovilpatti kadalai mittai** has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is a **candy made of peanuts held together with glistening syrup, and topped with wisps of grated coconut dyed pink, green and yellow.**
- ❖ Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is produced by using **both groundnuts and jaggery (organic jaggery), in carefully selected quantities from selected specific locations in Tamil Nadu.**
- ❖ In Kovilpatti, it is sold as single rectangular chunks, or rather cuboids, sealed in packets.
- ❖ It is made using all natural ingredients such as the traditional and special 'vellam' (jaggery) and groundnuts and **water from the river Thamirabarani** is used in the production, which enhances the taste naturally.
- ❖ Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is manufactured in Kovilpatti and adjacent towns and villages in Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ This product has a **long shelf life** and has a huge export potential.



**52. Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in which state?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Maharashtra

❖ The 13th session of Ministry of Tourism's Dekho ApnaDesh webinar on 1st May 2020, titled, 'Destination- Sariska Tiger reserve' was a presentation and virtual tour of wildlife adventure, safari experience for the traveller within the **Sariska Tiger Reserve' in Alwar district, Rajasthan.**

❖ The sanctuary is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries. Some of the highlights are the ruins of the **Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.** The way to the temples is rough but the architecture and the Khajuraho-like carvings will simply leave the visitor in awe of the place. **Neelkanth Mahadeva, houses the ruins of over 300 Hindu and Jain temples constructed between the 8th and 12th Centuries.**

❖ **Chand Baoli (step well) at Abhaneri is enormous with 3500 steep steps built by the Nikhumbha dynasty is one of the largest stepwells in the world.** Alwar is a city dotted with heritage buildings, Forts, tombs and palaces. Some of the important sights not to be missed are **Bala Qila, Vijai Mandir Lake Palaces, Fateh jung ki Gumbad, Moti Doongri etc.**

**53. Which of the following items is/are associated with the mulberry plant?**

- 1. Silk
- 2. Cocoon
- 3. Pashmina
- 4. Hemp

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

**(A) 1 and 2 only**

(B) 1, 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 4 only

(D) 2 only

❖ As Ministry of Tourism, Government of India continues with the initiative of organising a series of Webinars under the overall theme of 'Dekho Apna Desh', its 8th webinar in this series on "North East India- Experience the Exclusive villages" with focus on Assam & Meghalaya highlighting the lesser known villages was presented on 24th April 2020.

❖ **Sualkuchi** – situated on the Northern banks of the **Brahmaputra** about 35 km from Guwahati, Sualkuchi is a block of Kamrup district. **It is one of the World's largest weaving villages where 74% of the households are engaged in weaving exquisite silk fabrics ranging from the golden Muga to the ivory white Pat and the light beige Eri or Endi silk is famous for its centuries old heritage of weaving.** People here support the concept of **Ahimsa Silk breeding** where silk is obtained without killing the silk worms. It is a noble step towards creating an Eco friendly environment.



### **Silk production in India**

- ✦ **Assam silk** denotes the three major types of indigenous wild silks produced in Assam—**golden muga, white pat and warm eri silk**. The Assam silk industry, now centered in Sualkuchi, is a labor-intensive industry.
- ✦ There are **five major types of silk of commercial importance, obtained from different species of silkworms**. These are **Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga and Eri**.
- ✦ **Except mulberry, other non-mulberry varieties of silks are wild silks, known as vanya silks**.
- ✦ **India has the unique distinction of producing all these commercial varieties of silk**.
- ✦ Mulberries are used in pies, tarts, wines, cordials, and herbal teas. The fruit of the black mulberry (native to southwest Asia) and the red mulberry (native to eastern North America) have distinct flavors likened to '**fireworks in the mouth**'.

Prof Lal was born on 2nd may 1921 in village Baidora, District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ Prof. B. B. Lal was conferred upon **Padma Bhushan** in the year of 2000. He was the **Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1968 to 1972** and has served as Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. Prof Lal also served on various UNESCO committees. In a career spanning over five decades Prof Lal made immense contribution to the field of archaeology. **Prof Lal was trained by Sir Mortimer Wheeler at Taxila in 1944** and later joined Archaeological Survey of India.
- ❖ **Prof. Lal excavated several important landmark sites including Hastinapura (U.P.), Sisupalgarh (Orissa), Purana Qila (Delhi), Kalibangan (Rajasthan)**. From 1975-76 onwards, Prof. Lal investigated sites like Ayodhya, Bharadvaja Ashrama, Sringaverapura, Nandigrama and Chitrakoota under the Archaeology of Ramayana Sites. Prof. Lal has authored 20 books and over 150 research articles on various national and international journals.

**54. Professor B. B. Lal is associated with-**

- (A) Archaeology
- (B) Anthropology
- (C) Sociology
- (D) Psychology

- ❖ On the occasion of centenary year of **great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal**, Union Culture Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel released an e-book "**Prof. B. B. Lal -India Rediscovered**" in New Delhi.

**55. Who was Jamini Roy?**

- (A) Famous Indian Painter
- (B) Famous Indian Sculpture
- (C) Famous Indian Writer
- (D) Famous Musician of Ancient India

- ❖ National Gallery of Modern Art pays tribute to the pioneering artist Jamini Roy on his 133rd Birth Anniversary year through virtual tour.



- ❖ Jamini Roy (1887 – 1972) was an **Indian painter**. Jamini Roy was deeply **inspired by the Bengal folk tradition**. His images and ideas as in this painting of '**Pujarinis**' are **direct, singularly stylised**, and conceived in emphatic flat spaces and strong lines.
- ❖ He was one of the **most famous pupils of Abanindranath Tagore**.
- ❖ He was honoured with the State award of Padma Bhushan in 1955.
- ❖ In 1955, he was made the **first Fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi**, the highest honour in the fine arts conferred by the Lalit Kala Akademi, India's National Academy of Art, Government of India.
- ❖ In 1976, the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India declared his works among the "Nine Masters" whose work, to be henceforth considered "to be art treasures, having regard to their artistic and aesthetic value".

**56. Ministry of Culture's Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces (DMCS) digitally launched the short film to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations of Satyajit Ray. What is the title of this film?**

- (A) A Ray of Genius
- (B) Apu Trilogy
- (C) Song of the Road
- (D) Ray's Cinema

- ❖ Ministry of Culture's Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces (DMCS) digitally launched the short film '**A Ray of Genius**' to mark the

**beginning of the centenary celebrations of Satyajit Ray.**

- ❖ Satyajit Ray (1921 – 1992) was an **Indian filmmaker, screenwriter, music composer, graphic artist, lyricist and author, widely regarded as one of the greatest filmmakers of all time.**
- ❖ Ray directed 36 films, including feature films, documentaries and shorts. Ray's first film, **Pather Panchali (1955), along with Aparajito (1956) and Apur Sansar (1959), form The Apu Trilogy.**
- ❖ The Government of India honored him with the **Bharat Ratna, its highest civilian award, in 1992.**
- ❖ The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him an **Honorary Academy Award. Ray is the first and the only Indian, yet, to receive the honor. He became the first Indian to receive an Honorary Oscars. He received the Award for Lifetime Achievement.**

**57. Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' programme is related to-**

- (A) National Council for Science & Technology Communication
- (B) National Council of Educational Research and Training
- (C) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
- (D) National Council for Teacher Education



❖ **National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST)** has launched a programme on health and risk communication **‘Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)’ with focus on COVID-19.**

❖ The programme is aimed at **minimizing risks at all levels with the help of public communication and outreach activities, promoting public understanding of common minimum science for community care and health safety measures** like personal sanitation and hygiene, physical distancing, maintaining desired collective behaviour and so on. It also includes information dissemination mechanisms to reduce the fear of risks and build confidence with necessary understanding for adopting sustainable healthy lifestyles and nurturing scientific culture among masses and societies.

**58. In which part of Himalayas do we find the Karewa formation?**

- (A) North-eastern Himalayas
- (B) Eastern Himalayas
- (C) Himachal-Uttarakhand Himalayas
- (D) Kashmir Himalayas

❖ **Kashmir saffron, which is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir, has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.** The spice is grown in

some regions of **Kashmir, including Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar.**

❖ The application was filed by the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and facilitated by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, and Saffron Research Station, Dussu (Pampore).

❖ Kashmir saffron is a **very precious and costly product. Iran is the largest producer of saffron and India is a close competitor.**

❖ Kashmir saffron is renowned globally as a spice. It rejuvenates health and is used in cosmetics and for medicinal purposes. It has been associated with traditional Kashmiri cuisine and represents the rich cultural heritage of the region. **The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron are its longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing, and high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness).**

❖ It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL (above mean sea level), which adds to its uniqueness and differentiates it from other saffron varieties available the world over.



59. Every year, World Tuna Day is observed on-

- (A) 1 May (B) 2 May  
(C) 1 April (D) 2 April

❖ World Tuna Day is observed on **May 2 every year**. The United Nations (UN) established the World Tuna Day to raise awareness about the **tuna fish and its importance to humans and earth**.

❖ World Tuna Day was observed for the **first time in the year 2017**.

60. Which type of saffron is not associated with Kashmir?

- (A) Lachha Saffron  
(B) Mongra Saffron  
(C) Guchhi Saffron  
(D) Pashmina Saffron

❖ Kashmir saffron, of Jammu and Kashmir, has been recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

❖ The saffron available in Kashmir is of three types — **'Lachha Saffron'**, with stigmas just separated from the flowers and dried without further processing; **'Mongra Saffron'**, in which stigmas are detached from the flower, dried in the sun and processed traditionally; and **'Guchhi Saffron'**, which is the same as Lachha, except that the latter's dried stigmas are packed loosely in air-tight containers while the former has stigmas joined together in a bundle tied with a cloth thread.

❖ Saffron cultivation is believed to have been introduced in Kashmir by Central Asian immigrants around 1st Century BCE. **In ancient Sanskrit literature, saffron is referred to as 'bahukam'**.

61. Traders' body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has recently announced to launch a national e-commerce marketplace. What will be the name of this national e-commerce marketplace?

- (A) Bharat Market  
(B) India Market  
(C) Bharat e-Marketplace  
(D) India e-Marketplace

❖ The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has announced that it will be launching **'Bharat Market'**, a new national e-commerce marketplace, for all the retail traders. The trader's body will be launching the portal in collaboration with several technology partners.

❖ The marketplace will integrate capabilities of various technology companies to **provide end-to-end services in the logistics and supply chains from manufacturers to end consumers**, including deliveries at home.

❖ The 'Bharat market' e-commerce portal will include participation from **retailers across the nation**. It aims to bring at least 95 percent of the retail traders onboard, who would exclusively run the portal.

62. The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS) has conducted a survey on Research and Development Statistics and Indicators 2019-20. According to report, India is placed on what ranks in scientific publication globally.

- (A) Third (B) Fourth  
(C) First (D) Second



- ❖ The National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS) has conducted a survey on Research and Development Statistics and Indicators 2019-20.
  - ❖ The report says that **India ranks 3rd globally in the scientific publication. The first two ranks were occupied by USA and China.**
- 63. “CHDCOVID” mobile app is related to which State/UT?**  
(A) Chhattisgarh  
(B) New Delhi  
(C) Chandigarh  
(D) Rajasthan
- ❖ Punjab Governor and Administrator of **UT Chandigarh** V.P Singh Badnore recently inaugurated a newly developed **android based mobile app named “CHDCOVID”**.
  - ❖ Developed in-house by **the Society for Promotion of IT in Chandigarh (SPIC)**, it will be a **single point platform which will provide all information related to COVID-19 in Chandigarh.**
  - ❖ The people can access all the guidelines, orders and notifications issued by Administration and Government of India by downloading this app.
- 64. International Astronomy Day is celebrated twice a year - one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Second International Astronomy Day of the year will be celebrated on-**  
(A) September 26  
(B) June 23  
(C) June 21  
(D) December 25
- ❖ International Astronomy Day is celebrated **twice a year - one in autumn and another in spring.** The Astronomy Day 2020 is celebrated on **May 2**. The world will celebrate the next Astronomy Day on **September 26**.
  - ❖ **In 1973, Doug Berger**, president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, had organised the celebration of first Astronomy Day.
- 65. World Health Organization has recently said that there is no evidence that the BCG protects people against infection with COVID-19 virus. BCG stands for-**  
(A) Beta Calmette–Guerin  
(B) Beta Chrome–Guerin  
(C) Beta Calmette–Ground  
(D) Bacillus Calmette–Guerin
- ❖ World Health Organization has said that there is no evidence that the BCG protects people against infection with COVID-19 virus.
  - ❖ It has said that two clinical trials addressing this question are underway, and WHO will evaluate the evidence when it is available.
  - ❖ **Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine is a vaccine primarily used against tuberculosis (TB).** In countries where tuberculosis or leprosy is common, one dose is recommended in healthy babies as close to the time of birth as possible.
  - ❖ **The BCG vaccine was first used medically in 1921. It is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, the safest and most effective medicines needed in a health system.**



**66. USAID recently announced \$3 million to support India's COVID-19 efforts through PAHAL Project. PAHAL stands for-**

- (A) Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity
- (B) Partner of Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity
- (C) Partnerships for Advanced Healthcare Access and Longevity
- (D) Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Live

❖ **The US will provide an additional \$3 million to India, through its aid agency USAID, for mitigating the spread of Covid-19.**

❖ In coordination with the Indian government, USAID is providing these funds to the **Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.**

❖ Through the PAHAL project, USAID will support the National Health Authority in establishing a financing facility that can mobilise resources from the private sector to assist over 20,000 health facilities enrolled under the health scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

❖ Besides, **six SUV-sized high-speed testing machines**, which are in high demand, are being sourced from Roche in USA.

**67. World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on-**

- (A) May 1                      (B) May 2
- (C) May 3                      (D) May 4

❖ World Press Freedom Day popularly known as World Press Day is organised and promoted by the United Nations, observed annually on **May 3.**

❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding the importance of freedom of the press.

❖ The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020, "**Journalism without Fear or Favour**" and the **sub-themes for this year are:**

- Safety of Women and Men Journalists and Media Workers
- Independent and Professional Journalism free from Political and Commercial Influence
- Gender Equality in All Aspect of the Media

**68. In partnership with the Tech Mahindra, Tata Group and Swasth recently launched an initiative that will offer free COVID-19 related consultation. What is the name of this Initiative?**

- (A) Arogya Setu Mitr
- (B) Corona Fighters
- (C) Sahyog Mitr
- (D) Paramarsh Mitr

❖ In partnership with the **Tech Mahindra, Tata Group and Swasth the Arogya Setu Mitr was launched.** It will **offer free online consultation** to COVID-19 with the data provided by the three private sector firms and government entities. **The Arogya Setu Mitr is to perform as an individual site. It cannot access data from the application Arogya Setu.** It was initiated with the advice of Niti Aayog and principal and scientific advisor of the Prime Minister.



- ❖ The initiative includes free tele-consultation to those who have COVID-19 like symptoms. **It will also provide ancillary services at market rates.** This includes home collection of samples, medicine delivery, etc.

**69. Windhoek Declaration is related to-**

- (A) Climate Change
- (B) Biodiversity
- (C) Freedom of Press
- (D) Child Rights

- ❖ May 3 marks the anniversary of Windhoek Declaration.
- ❖ Windhoek Declaration is a statement of **press freedom principles by African newspaper journalists in 1991.** The Declaration was produced at a UNESCO seminar, "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press," held in **Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991.**
- ❖ The date of the Declaration's adoption, **May 3, has subsequently been declared as World Press Freedom Day.**

**70. Which institute recently has developed a portable device 'eCovSens'?**

- (A) National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
- (B) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- (C) IIT Delhi
- (D) IIT Bombay

- ❖ Researchers from **Hyderabad-based National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB)** have developed a portable device 'eCovSens' that could possibly be

used as a **diagnostic tool for detection of COVID-19 antigens from saliva samples of suspected coronavirus patients within 30 seconds.**

- ❖ The biosensor device has the potential to directly detect a specific protein of the SARS-CoV-2, even when the proteins are present in low concentrations in the human saliva.

**71. Which country is the host of World Press Freedom Conference 2020?**

- (A) Netherlands (B) Belgium
- (C) Austria (D) Australia

- ❖ Since **1993**, the World Press Freedom Conference is organized annually. The conference provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics and the broader public to discuss emerging challenges to **press freedom and journalists' safety** and to work together on identifying solutions.
- ❖ **The Netherlands is the host for 2020. UNESCO planned to hold the conference from April 22 to 24 at the World Forum in The Hague.** But due to Covid-19 a global pandemic the conference is now scheduled for October 18 to 20 at the same venue.
- ❖ **The conference will be a joint celebration of World Press Freedom Day (May 3) and the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (November 2).**



72. Consider the following statements related to the Virashaiva tradition in Karnataka:

1. The Virashaiva movement was led by a Brahmana named Basavanna, a minister in the court of the Kalachuri ruler in the twelfth century.
2. The Virashaivas encouraged practices, approved by the Dharmashastras, like post-puberty marriages and remarriage of widows.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct ?

- (A) 1 only  
(B) 2 only  
(C) Both 1 and 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to Lord Basaveshwara and greeted the people on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi, the Birth anniversary of Lord Basaveshwara, in a video message.
- ❖ **The twelfth century witnessed the emergence of a new movement in Karnataka, led by a Brahmana named Basavanna (1106-68) who was initially a Jaina and a minister in the court of a Chalukya king.** His followers were known as Virashaivas (heroes of Shiva) or Lingayats (wearers of the linga).
- ❖ **They worship Shiva in his manifestation as a linga,** and men usually wear a small linga in a silver case on a loop strung over the left shoulder. Those who are revered include the jangama or wandering monks. Lingayats believe that on death the devotee will be united with Shiva and will not return to this world. Therefore **they do not practise funerary rites such as cremation, prescribed in the Dharmashastras. Instead, they ceremonially bury their dead.**

- ❖ The Lingayats challenged the idea of caste and the “pollution” attributed to certain groups by Brahmanas. They also questioned the theory of rebirth. These won them followers amongst those who were marginalised within the Brahmanical social order. **The Lingayats also encouraged certain practices disapproved in the Dharmashastras, such as post-puberty marriage and the remarriage of widows.**

73. Arktika-M satellite, is recently in news, in context of affairs of which country?

- (A) India (B) Russia  
(C) Japan (D) Canada

- ❖ **Russia will launch first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring Arctic climate** this year at the end of the year
- ❖ The satellite will be launched by **Soyuz -2,1b** carrier rocket with frigate booster. The remote sensing Arktika-M will monitor **the meteorological conditions in the polar region.**

74. International Firefighters' Day is observed annually on

- (A) May 2 (B) May 4  
(C) May 5 (D) May 6

- ❖ International Firefighters' Day is observed annually on **May 4** to remember those firefighter's who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all.
- ❖ Firefighters' Day was born after 5 firefighters' died tragically in 1999 during a bushfire at Linton in Victoria, Australia when they were on a rescue mission.



**75. Which one among the following is not a work of Ruskin Bond?**

- (A) The Blue Umbrella
- (B) A Flight of Pigeons
- (C) Susanna's Seven Husbands
- (D) The Guide

❖ Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has praised the initiative of All India Radio to broadcast author Ruskin Bond reading some of his celebrated stories.

❖ **Ruskin Bond (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent.**The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. **He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra, his novel in English.** He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

❖ **Notable work-** The Room on the Roof, Ghost Stories from the Raj, A Season of Ghosts, and A Face in the Dark and other Hauntings, The Blue Umbrella, Funny Side Up, A Flight of Pigeons ,Lone Fox Dancing,The Lamp is Lit and Susanna's Seven Husbands.

❖ Ruskin Bond made his maiden big screen appearance with a cameo in Vishal Bhardwaj's film **7 Khoon Maaf in 2011, based on his short story Susanna's Seven Husbands.**

❖ **The Guide is a 1958 novel written in English by the Indian author R. K. Narayan.**The novel brought **R.K.Narayan the 1960 Sahitya Akademi Award for English, by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.**

❖ The film Guide was released in 1965, based on the novel. It was directed by Vijay Anand. It starred Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehman.

**76. The Non-Aligned Movement was established in 1961 in-**

- (A) Lusaka
- (B) Colombo
- (C) Belgrade
- (D) Cairo

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi would participated in the virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held recently to enhance coordination of the member states in their fight against the coronavirus pandemic. PM Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to give the NAM summit in 2016 a skip. He did not attend the 2019 summit as well.

❖ The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a **forum of 120 developing world** states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. **After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.**

❖ Drawing on the principles agreed at the **Bandung Conference in 1955**, the NAM was established in **1961 in Belgrade, SR Serbia, Yugoslavia through an initiative of the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser and the Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.** This led to the first Conference of Heads of State or Governments of Non-Aligned Countries.





77. Which one among the following is the highest civilian award for contribution in promoting unity and integrity of India?

- (A) Bharat Ratna
- (B) Sardar Patel National Unity Award
- (C) Indira Gandhi Peace Prize
- (D) Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration

❖ Government has extended the invitation of nominations for Sardar Patel National Unity Award till 30th June.

❖ The Centre has instituted **Sardar Patel National Unity Award as the highest civilian award in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, for contribution in promoting unity and integrity of India.**

❖ The award seeks to recognize the notable and inspiring contribution made by individuals or institutions or organizations in this field and reinforces the value of strong and united India.

78. “The Saras Collection” initiative is related to-

- (A) Amul Dairy
- (B) Khadi and Village Industries Commission
- (C) Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal
- (D) Food Corporation of India

❖ Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched **the Saras collection on Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal in New Delhi.** The Saras collection showcases **daily utility products made by rural self-help groups.** It aims to provide market in rural areas with access to Central and State Government buyers.

❖ Under the initiative, sellers from Self Help Group will be able to list their products in **five product categories.** These five categories are **handicrafts, handloom and textiles, office accessories, grocery and pantry and personal care and hygiene.**

❖ In the first phase, 913 Self Help Groups from 11 States have already registered as sellers and 442 products have been listed. GeM will provide dashboards for functionaries at the national, state, district and block level to provide them real time information about the product, value and volume of the orders.

❖ The platform will **reduce human interventions in procurement and enables transparency, cost savings, inclusiveness and efficiency.** In order to facilitate the Self Help Groups in uploading of their products, GeM portal assist the sellers in product catalogue management, order fulfilment and bid participation.

79. Which organisation has recently developed an Ultra Violet Disinfection Tower for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas?

- (A) DRDO
- (B) ISRO
- (C) ICMR
- (D) AIIMS

❖ **Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO has developed an Ultra Violet Disinfection Tower for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection**



**prone areas.** Defence Ministry said, the equipment named UV blaster is an Ultra violet based area sanitiser designed and developed by **Laser Science and Technology Centre.**

- ❖ The **UV Blaster** is useful for high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets in laboratories and offices that are not suitable for disinfection with chemical methods. The product is also effective for areas with large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories and offices.
- ❖ The equipment has six lamps each with **43 watts of UV-C power.** For a room of about 12 x 12 feet dimension, the disinfection time is about 10 minutes and 30 minutes for 400 square feet area by positioning the equipment at different places within the room.

**80. Surakshit Dada-Dadi and Nana-Nani Abhiyan is related to-**

- (A) ICMR
- (B) NITI Aayog
- (C) Bihar Government
- (D) AIIMS Delhi

- ❖ Government think tank **Niti Aayog** in association with Piramal Foundation -- the philanthropic arm of the **Piramal Group** launched a campaign "Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan" **focussed on ensuring wellbeing of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- ❖ The campaign will reach over 2.9 million senior citizens in **25**

**Aspirational Districts across Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & UP;** focusing on behaviour change, access to services, early detection & tracking of COVID19 symptoms.

- ❖ Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan" is aimed at creating awareness about various aspects of senior citizens" health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioral changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

**81. 'Nigah' Programme is related to which state?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Himachal Pradesh
- (D) Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to launch a new programme 'Nigah', in order **to sensitize and educate the family members of the people coming to the state from various parts of the country.**

- ❖ Under 'Nigah' programme a team of ASHA , health and Anganwadi workers would sensitize the family members of persons arriving from other States regarding the importance of social distancing ,so that they could be saved from any possible infection.

**82. Who among the following is not a winner of Pulitzer Prize 2020?**

- (A) Yasin Dar
- (B) Mukhtar Khan
- (C) Channi Anand
- (D) Ravish Kumar



- ❖ **Three photojournalists from Jammu & Kashmir have won Pulitzer Prize 2020 in feature photography. Yasin Dar, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand** who won the top honours have been working with Associated Press (AP).
  - ❖ Pulitzer Prize was **established in 1917** and has been awarded for the achievements in **magazine, newspaper, online journalism, musical composition, and literature**. The award was established by the provisions in the will of **Joseph Pulitzer**, he made his fortune as a newspaper publisher. **The award is administered by Columbia University**.
  - ❖ Pulitzer prize is awarded **yearly in 21 categories**.
- 83. 'Ayush Kavach-Covid' App is recently in news in context of which state?**
- (A) Uttar Pradesh
  - (B) Madhya Pradesh
  - (C) Himachal Pradesh
  - (D) Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Ayush Kavach-Covid' app to **help people get health remedies which can be useful in fight against COVID-19**. The app has been **developed by AYUSH ministry**.
  - ❖ The 'Ayush Kavach-Covid' App will provide s for measures to **boost immunity based on natural resources**.The app is designed to tell users how commonly available kitchen ingredients such as tulsi, clove and cinnamon can be used to enhance the body's immunity to fight against COVID-19.It also offers users the opportunity to seek advice from experts.
- 84. "Lost at Home" Report is recently in news in context of which organisation?**
- (A) UNESCO
  - (B) Amnesty International
  - (C) World Economic Forum
  - (D) UNICEF
- ❖ According to "Lost at Home" Report, recently released by **UNICEF**, At the end of 2019, an estimated **46 million people were internally displaced by conflict and violence. More than four in 10, or 19 million, were children**.
  - ❖ There were 12 million new displacements of children in 2019, 3.8 million of them were caused by conflict and violence, and 8.2 million by disasters linked mostly to weather-related events like flooding and storms, according to the report.
- 85. Atal Tunnel is located in which state?**
- (A) Sikkim
  - (B) Arunachal Pradesh
  - (C) Himachal Pradesh
  - (D) Punjab
- ❖ Proactive measures are being taken by Border Roads Organisation, BRO to complete the work on strategic **Atal Tunnel in the Pir Panjal ranges of Himachal Pradesh**, which is at the crucial stage of construction.
  - ❖ The **8.8-kilometre-long** Atal tunnel under **Rohtang Pass** is the **world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres**. It has a fireproof emergency tunnel built into the main tunnel itself. **Rohtang Pass (elevation 3,978 m) is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh**.

❖ Atal Tunnel is being constructed since **Manali-Sarchu-Leh** road remains closed for six months every year due to Rohtang Pass being completely snow bound between November and May.

❖ The tunnel **will connect Manali to Lahaul Valley throughout the year and will reduce the road length of Manali-Rohtang Pass Sarchu-Leh road by 46 kilometres.**

❖ It will also aid forward connectivity of security forces, providing a major strategic advantage.

**86. Operation Samudra Setu is related to-**

- (A) Indian Coast Guard
- (B) Indian Navy
- (C) National Security Guard
- (D) Indian Army

❖ **Indian Navy** has launched Operation Samudra Setu - meaning Sea Bridge, as a part of **national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.**

❖ **Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar** are presently enroute to Malè in Maldives to commence evacuation operations as part of Phase-1.



**87. GARUD portal is related to which Ministry?**

- (A) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (B) Ministry of External Affairs
- (C) Ministry of Shipping
- (D) Ministry of Home Affairs

❖ **Civil Aviation Ministry** and DGCA have launched the **GARUD (Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones) portal** for providing fast track conditional exemptions to government agencies for **COVID-19 related drone operations.**

**88. CRISPR (CaS9) is a-**

- (A) Gene Editing Tool
- (B) New Satellite of Jupiter
- (C) Virus responsible for Corona
- (D) Malware

❖ **The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), constituent lab Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) and Tata Sons** have signed an agreement for licensing of **KNOW-HOW** for rapid and accurate diagnosis of **COVID-19.**



- ❖ The license shall include transfer of the knowledge for scaling up the **KNOW-HOW in the form of a kit** that can be deployed for COVID-19 testing on ground as early as end of this month.
- ❖ A completely indigenous scientific invention, **FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay, FELUDA for COVID-19 has been designed for mitigating the ongoing COVID-19 situation and cater to mass testing.**
- ❖ This innovative **CRISPR 'Feluda' test uses cutting edge CRISPR technology** for detection of genomic sequence of novel coronavirus. **CRISPR (CaS9) is a Gene editing tool.**
- ❖ The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is a premier organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- **Birsa Harit Gram Yojana (plantation scheme)**-under the Birsa Harit Gram Yojana, fruit-bearing saplings would be planted on the two sides of roads, both government and private land, and villagers could earn from fruits with an annual income of Rs 50,000 after about three years of plantation.
- **Veer Shahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Yojana (sports scheme)** -The plan of the sports scheme was to construct playgrounds at panchayat level to promote sports and provide reservation in jobs under the sports quota.
- **Nilamber-Pitamber Jal Samridhi Yojana (water scheme)**-The water scheme aims to increase five lakh crore litres of groundwater table and making efforts of cultivation in wastelands.

89. **Birsa Harit Gram Yojana (plantation scheme) is related to which state?**

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Jharkhand
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The **Jharkhand government** has launched three schemes to generate 25 crore man-days for MGNREGA to enable the workers earn wages as well as bring in a long-term plan to provide steady income to the poor households.
- ❖ Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the "**Birsa Harit Gram Yojana**" (plantation scheme), "**Nilamber-Pitamber Jal Samridhi Yojana**" (water scheme) and "**Veer Shahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Yojana** (sports scheme) with an aim to develop rural Jharkhand.

90. **US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Ashok Michael Pinto as a representative to the -**

- (A) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- (B) International Monetary Fund
- (C) Asian Development Bank
- (D) United Nations Development Programme

- ❖ US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Ashok Michael Pinto as a representative to the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.** Pinto was nominated as US Alternate



Executive Director of IBRD for a term of two years.

- ❖ Pinto currently serves as Counselor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the United States Department of the Treasury.



### International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- ★ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is an international financial institution, **established in 1944 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States**, that is the **lending arm of World Bank Group**.

### 91. Consider the following statements in context of Vande Bharat Mission:

1. It aims to bring back Indian nationals stranded abroad amid the Covid-19 lockdown.
2. The government will operate **more than 100 flights, under this mission.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ 'Vande Bharat Mission' will see the operation of **64 flights** from May 7 to May 13 to bring back around 15,000 Indian nationals stranded abroad amid the Covid-19 lockdown. Once completed, it may turn out to be the **largest evacuation operation ever since the 1990 airlift of 1.7 lakh people from Kuwait.**

- ❖ The national carrier **Air India** and its subsidiary **Air India Express** will operate 64 flights for seven days to carry out the evacuation.

- ❖ The **passengers** will also have to **sign an undertaking** to go into **14-day quarantine** on arrival in India.

### 92. Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana is related to which state?

- (A) West Bengal
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Tripura

- ❖ In **Tripura**, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has launched an online portal **scholarships.gov.in** under '**Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana**' at the **state secretariat.**

- ❖ Mr. Deb while launching the online portal said under the Yojana, the state government will **provide Rs. 5,000 to 14,608 youths who are in final year in colleges or Universities as a grant for Smart Phones.**

### 93. The Delhi government launched a Twitter handle to ensure the dissemination of "authentic information" about the disease. What is the name of this Twitter handle?

- (A) @DelhiVsCorona
- (B) @DelhiFightsBack
- (C) @DelhiCoronaFree
- (D) @DelhiCoCare

- ❖ The Delhi government launched the **Twitter handle '@DelhiVsCorona'** to ensure the dissemination of "authentic information" about the disease.

- ❖ Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had also set up a team of representatives to monitor this handle to **ensure "speedy solutions".**



❖ The Twitter handle @DelhiVsCorona will be a **one-stop solution for all the COVID-19-related queries and complaints**

**94. Mustafa Al Kadhimi is recently in news, in context of affairs of which country?**

- (A) Iran
- (B) Iraq
- (C) Syria
- (D) Cuba

❖ **Iraq's** Parliament chose an American-backed former Intelligence Chief, Mustafa al-Kadhimi as the new Prime Minister.

**95. Tarun Bajaj is recently in news in context of affairs of-**

- (A) SBI                      (B) SEBI
- (C) CBI                      (D) RBI

❖ The government has appointed Economic Affairs Secretary **Tarun Bajaj as a director on the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Bajaj replaces Atanu Chakraborty, who retired on April 30.**

❖ Bajaj, a 1988 batch IAS officer, was the Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office. He joined the Prime Minister's Office in 2015.

**96. Buddha's teachings were compiled as Tipitaka—literally meaning three baskets to hold different types of texts. Which of the following texts is/are correctly matched according to the subject matter?**

	<b>Pitika</b>	<b>subject</b>
<b>1</b>	Vinaya Pitaka	Buddha's teachings
<b>2</b>	Sutta Pitaka	Rules and regulations of the monastic order
<b>3</b>	Abhidhamma Pitaka	Philosophical matters

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (A) 3 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

❖ **Buddha Purnima** is a Buddhist festival that is celebrated commemorating the **birth of the Gautama Buddha.** It falls on a full moon day in the month of **Vaisakh** (April/May) according to the Hindu calendar. **This year Buddha Purnima will be celebrated on May 7.**

❖ **In Theravada Buddhism, it is also observed as the day when Buddha, born as Prince Siddhartha Gautama (c. 563-483 BCE) attained Nirvana (salvation) under the Mahabodhi tree at Bodh Gaya, Bihar, as well as his death anniversary.**

❖ **Tripitaka:** Pitaka literally means 'basket' and it was called so, because the original texts were written on palm-leaves and kept in baskets. Tripitaka refers to three commentaries, these are :

1. **Sutta Pitaka** – It contains the sayings of Buddha.
2. **Vinaya Pitaka** – It contains the monastic code, the most important is Patimoksha
3. **Abhidhamma Pitaka** – It consists of the religious and metaphysical discourses of Buddha

97. Who is popularly known as 'Gurudev'?

- (A) Acharya Vinoba Bhave
- (B) Baba Amte
- (C) Rabindranath Tagore
- (D) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

GAUTAM BUDDHA	
▪	Buddhism was founded by Gautama Buddha (born as Siddhartha Gautama).
▪	He was born in 563 B.C. in a Sakya Kshatriya family in Kapilavastu.
▪	His father headed the republican clan of Sakyas and mother was a Kosalan princess.
▪	He was married to princess Yashodhara and had a son named Rahul.
▪	He left his family (Mahabhinishkramana) at the age of 29 in the quest to solve the misery in the world.
▪	After wandering for several years, he finally achieved enlightenment (nirvana) at Bodhi Gaya under a pipal tree.
▪	He was given the title of Buddha or Tathagata or Sakyamuni.
▪	He delivered his first sermon (Dhammachakraparivartan) at Sarnath in Banaras.
▪	He passed away (Mahaparinirvana) at the age of 80 in 483 B.C. at Kusinagar.

❖ National Gallery of Modern Art will organise the Virtual Tour titled "**Gurudev – Journey of the Maestro through his visual vocabulary**" from 7th May 2020 to commemorate the 159th birth anniversary of **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore**. The NGMA takes pride in the 102 artworks created by versatile genius.

❖ **Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)** is popularly known as 'Gurudev'.

❖ In 1913, he became the **first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel 'Geetanjali'**. He became the **first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature**. He was the **first non-white person to win a Nobel Prize**.

❖ Tagore is said to have composed over 2000 songs and his songs and music are called '**Rabindrasangeet**' with its own distinct lyrical and fluid style.

❖ He was **knighted by the British government in 1915**. But he later renounced it protesting against the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**.

❖ He also wrote the **National Anthems of India and Bangladesh**.

❖ His **notable works** include Gitanjali, Ghare-Baire, Gora, Manasi, Balaka, Sonar Tori, He is also remembered for his song '**Ekla Chalo Re**'.

❖ He was also called the '**Bard of Bengal**'.

❖ In 1918, he founded the **Vishwabharati University at Santiniketan**.

98. Which one among the following institutes is associated with antimicrobial and washable face mask 'NSafe'?

- (A) IIT-Delhi
- (B) IIT-Bombay
- (C) IIT-Madras
- (D) IIT-Kanpur

❖ An **IIT-Delhi start-up 'Nanosafe Solutions'** has launched an antimicrobial and washable face mask '**NSafe**'. The said mask is **reusable up to 50 launderings**, thus greatly cutting down the cost of use.





- ❖ NSafe' mask is a **triple-layered** product consisting of **inner hydrophilic layer for comfort, middle layer having antimicrobial activity and outer most layer having water and oil repellent behaviour.**
- ❖ NSafe mask has 99.2% bacterial filtration efficiency [at 3 microns] along with breathability and splash resistance

**99. TOMAN currency is recently in news in context of which country?**

- (A) Iraq
- (B) Iran
- (C) Saudi Arabia
- (D) Israel

- ❖ The **Iranian Parliament** authorised the replacement of the national currency, the rial with another **basic unit of currency called the toman.**
- ❖ The Iranian parliament has agreed to **cross four zeros out from the banknotes**, making it easier for people to transact.
- ❖ Over the next two to five years, Iranian rials will be taken out of circulation and replaced with the **toman - one toman will be equal to 10,000 rials.**
- ❖ Iran's move is to offset the fallout from inflation fueled by U.S. sanctions.

**100. Who was India's first Sikh President?**

- (A) V V Giri
- (B) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
- (C) Pratibha Devisingh Patil
- (D) Giani Zail Singh

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind paid tributes to former President **Giani Zail Singh on his 104th birth anniversary (5 May 1916).**

- ❖ He was the **seventh President** of India serving from 1982 to 1987. **He was India's first Sikh President.**
- ❖ His presidency was marked by **Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi, and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.**
- ❖ He also served as the Secretary-General of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1983 to 1986.

**101. GIFT International Financial Services Centre is located at-**

- (A) Gandhinagar
- (B) Jaipur
- (C) Mumbai
- (D) Bhopal

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman launched **INR-USD (Rupee-Dollar) Futures and Options contracts on the two International Exchanges, BSE's India INX and NSE's NSE-IFSC, at GIFT International Financial Services Centre in Gandhinagar recently through video conference.**
- ❖ This will be available 22 hours across all time zones for all global participants from GIFT IFSC.
- ❖ This would bring larger global participation in India through IFSC and connect India's IFSC globally.

**102. Phil Mickelson is related to which sport?**

- (A) Chess
- (B) Golf
- (C) Badminton
- (D) Cricket



❖ 'The Match: Champions for Charity' featuring Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning will be held on May 24. The four stars will make a charitable donation of \$10 million to benefit COVID-19 relief.

❖ **Philip Alfred Mickelson, nicknamed Lefty, is an American professional golfer.**

**103. Which State has recently become the first state in the country to provide the facility of beds with ventilators in hospitals of each and every district of state?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Haryana
- (D) Kerala

❖ **Uttar Pradesh** has become the first state in the country to provide the facility of beds with ventilators in hospitals of each and every district of state. Now, all 75 districts of state can provide higher level of care to the patients of COVID-19.

❖ Uttar Pradesh has **24 testing labs** for COVID-19 now and around 1,300 beds with ventilator to fight with this disease.

❖ State government has constituted **Village Supervision Committee** or Gram Nigrani Samiti in every village to curb the spread of Corona.

**104. Rushikulya rookery is located in which state?**

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Goa

❖ Mass hatching of **Olive Ridley turtles began at Odisha's Rushikulya rookery, a major nesting site of these marine turtles.**

❖ Olive Ridley turtle eggs incubate on their own in the heat of the beach sand.

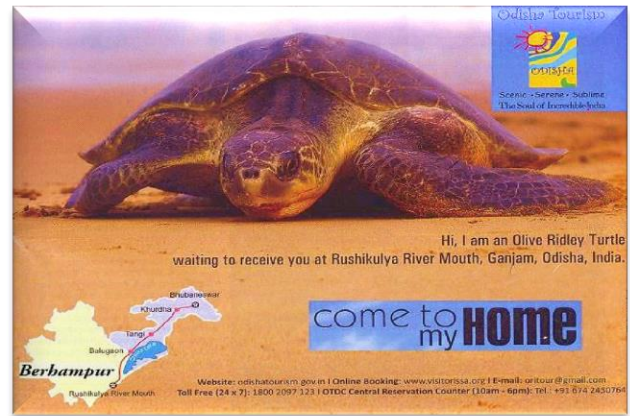
❖ The Olive ridley turtles are the **smallest and most abundant** of all sea turtles found in the world, inhabiting **warm waters** of the **Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans**. These turtles, along with their cousin the Kemp's ridley turtle, are best known for their **unique mass nesting called Arribada**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs. The species is recognized as **Vulnerable by the IUCN Red list.**

❖ The coast of **Orissa** in India is the **largest mass nesting site** for the Olive-ridley, followed by the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica. **Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are main Olive Ridley Nesting sites in Odisha.** Of these sites, Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is largest rookery (mass nesting site) of Olive Ridley turtles. Odisha is home to 50% of the total world's population of Olive Ridelys and about 90% of Indian population of sea turtles. Recently, Odisha forest department added another olive ridley mass nesting site **Bahuda Rookery at beach on Bahuda river mouth in Ganjam district.**

- ❖ International trade in these turtles and their products is banned under **CITES Appendix I**.
- ❖ To reduce accidental killing in India, the Orissa government has made it mandatory for trawls to use **Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)**, a net specially designed with an exit cover which allows the turtles to escape while retaining the catch.
- ❖ In India, it is protected under **Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

**105. Which gas is responsible for the recently occurred Visakhapatnam Gas Leakage tragedy?**

- (A) Methyl isocyanate
- (B) Styrene gas
- (C) Mustard Gas
- (D) Syngas
- ❖ A gas leak, reminiscent of the 1984 Bhopal tragedy, has affected thousands of residents in five villages in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The source of the leak was a **styrene plant owned by South Korean electronics giant LG, located at RRV Puram near Gopalapatnam, about 15 kms from the coast city.**
- ❖ **What is styrene?**
  - It is a **flammable liquid** that is used in the manufacturing of polystyrene plastics, fiberglass, rubber, and latex.
  - It is also found in vehicle exhaust, cigarette smoke, and in natural foods like fruits and vegetables.



**106. World War II was a global war that lasted from**

- (A) 1939 to 1945
- (B) 1937 to 1945
- (C) 1939 to 1947
- (D) 1939 to 1943

- ❖ World War II was a global war that lasted from **1939 to 1945**. Europe, U.S. recently marked 75 years since end of Second World War.



**107. "Nirbhaya Squad" is recently in news. It is an integral part of -**

- (A) Delhi police
- (B) Chandigarh police
- (C) Mumbai police
- (D) Jaipur police



- ❖ The all-women 'Nirbhaya Squad' of the **Jaipur police** is playing an important role in COVID-19 containment zones in the Jaipur during the ongoing lockdown.
- ❖ The **bike-borne squad was formed last year with women personnel trained in martial arts for warding off any threat faced by women.**
- ❖ For the past one and a half months, this team of 200 women police personnel has been carrying out flag march in COVID-19 hit areas of wall city of Jaipur.
- ❖ This team is also helping in distributing ration to the needy and supporting medical teams.
- ❖ Nirbhaya Squad's Nodal Officer Sunita Meena told that important tasks like **identifying pregnant women and assisting them** and distributing sanitary napkins to needy women are also being done by the team.

**108. The Resistance Front is recently in news, is a-**

- (A) New organisation of Corona Warriors
  - (B) New name of India's Mission to help Nepal during COVID-19
  - (C) New name of terror groups in Kashmir
  - (D) New communist party formed in West Bengal
- ❖ The Resistance Front', which is owning up terror attacks in Kashmir, is an **offshoot of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Toiba and is also associated with other terror outfits such as Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed.**

- ❖ Various Indian security agencies operating in Kashmir feel that the 'The Resistance Front' was formed **due to the pressure on Pakistan from the FATF to cut down on the funding of the terrorist groups.**
- ❖ According to a report in 'Economic Times', the word Resistance has been used by Islamabad and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to put in place a **new strategy for supporting terrorism against India.** The report stated Pakistan's plan is to rebrand the terrorists operating under the umbrella of JeM, LeT and Hizbul **as "non-religious" rebellion.**
- ❖ The security agencies are also of the view that Islamabad wants to project the terror activities in Kashmir as a resistance movement run by the Kashmiris in the Valley.

**109. Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses is located at-**

- (A) Panaji
  - (B) New Delhi
  - (C) Jaipur
  - (D) Dehradun
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently presided over 165th and **first ever virtual Executive Council, EC meeting of Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, MP-IDSA in New Delhi.**
- ❖ The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, is India's foremost **think tank for advanced research in international relations, especially defence, strategic and security issues,** and providing training to civilian, military and paramilitary officers of the Indian government.



- ❖ **Formerly it is known as Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA).**
- ❖ **Founded: 11 November 1965**
- ❖ **Director General of MP-IDSA-  
Sujan R Chinoy**

**110. Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that reduces the production of-**

- (A) Proteins
- (B) Lipids
- (C) Haemoglobin
- (D) Hormones

- ❖ **Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that reduces the production of haemoglobin,** the protein molecule in red blood cells (RBCs) that carries oxygen. The disorder results in **excessive destruction of red blood cells,** which may **lead to anaemia.** Thalassemia most commonly affects children of Mediterranean, African, and Asian descent.

**111. Padma Bridge rail link project is recently in news in context of the affairs of which country?**

- (A) Nepal
- (B) Bhutan
- (C) Bangladesh
- (D) Sri Lanka

- ❖ In **Bangladesh,** eight workers of the Padma Bridge rail link project were injured in a firing by the private security personnel of the company in Munshiganj's Louhajang. The workers under the China Railway Engineering Company were demanding payment of dues from the contractor.

- ❖ The rail-road multi-purpose Padma Bridge is the **longest bridge in Bangladesh.** The 6.2 kilometre-long bridge connecting South-West of Bangladesh to North and Eastern parts is being implemented by Chinese companies at an estimated cost of 3.8 billion US dollars.

**112. World Thalassaemia Day is observed on -**

- (A) 8 May
- (B) 8 March
- (C) 18 May
- (D) 18 March

- ❖ It is observed on **8 May** to raise awareness about thalassaemia disease, its preventive measures and to avoid transmission among the people throughout the world.
- ❖ World Thalassaemia Day **theme 2020** is **"The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients"**.

**113. World Red Cross Day is celebrated on -**

- (A) 8 March
- (B) 18 March
- (C) 8 June
- (D) 8 May

- ❖ World Red Cross Day is observed on **8th May every year** to celebrate the good work that the Red Cross Movement does around the world.
- ❖ The objective is also to pay tribute to the volunteers for their unprecedented contribution to the people in need.



❖ This day also marks the **birth anniversary of Henri Dunant, the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross.**

**114. Which organisation has recently extended Dia Mirza's term as its National Goodwill Ambassador for another two years till the end of 2022?**

- (A) United Nations Environment Programme
- (B) United Nations Development Programme
- (C) People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
- (D) World Wide Fund for Nature

❖ The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** recently extended environmentalist and actor-producer Dia Mirza's term as its National Goodwill Ambassador for another two years till the end of 2022.

❖ One of Dia's big campaigns during her first tenure as the ambassador was **#BeatPlasticPollution** that helped in highlighting the issue at the highest levels and led to a clarion call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to **make India Single Use Plastics free by 2022.**

#### **United Nations Environment Programme**

- ✦ The United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for coordinating the UN's environmental activities and assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
- ✦ UNEP was founded in **June 1972** by Canadian businessman and philanthropist **Maurice Strong**, its first director,
- ✦ Headquarters: **Nairobi, Kenya**

**115. Which one among the following institutes has not been elected for the prestigious Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme 2020?**

- (A) National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli
- (B) University of Delhi
- (C) Banaras Hindu University
- (D) Panjab University Chandigarh

❖ **The Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme has been designed for improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country.**

Under the scheme, announced in the 2018 -19 Budget, each Institute will get around **20 PMRF scholars who are eligible to get a fellowship of 70,000 rupees per month for the first two years, 75,000 rupees per month for the 3rd year and 80,000 rupees per month in the 4th and 5th year.** Apart from this, a research grant of two lakh rupees per year will be provided to each of the fellows for a period of five years.

❖ National Institute of Technology, Trichy and six Central Universities have been selected for the prestigious Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme this year.

❖ **The PMRF granting institutes are:**

- IISc, Bengaluru
- All IISERs
- All IITs
- Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Banaras Hindu University
- University of Hyderabad
- Aligarh Muslim University
- Jamia Millia Islamia
- University of Delhi
- National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli



**116. Long March 5B rocket is recently in news in context of affairs of which country?**

- (A) France (B) Japan  
(C) China (D) Israel

- ❖ **China** has recently launched a new rocket along with a **prototype deep-space spacecraft**. A Long March 5B rocket took off from the Wenchang launch site on the southern island of Hainan.
- ❖ The rocket is a massive vehicle with **four strap-on boosters** that provide extra thrust at liftoff. Aboard the Long March 5 was a special prototype spacecraft that is somewhat akin to the deep-space Orion capsule NASA has been developing to people to the Moon and beyond.

**117. Indian Railways Institute for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering is located at-**

- (A) Jamalpur  
(B) Lucknow  
(C) Vadodara  
(D) Surat

- ❖ Ministry of Railways recently clarified that it has no plans to shift Indian **Railways Institute for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (IRIMEE) from Jamalpur** to Lucknow.
- ❖ The Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, **was founded in 1888** as a technical school and commenced training Mechanical Officers for Indian Railways in 1927. **It is the oldest of the five Centralised Training Institutes for training officers for Indian Railways.**
- ❖ IRIMEE is located at **Jamalpur in the Munger district of Bihar**, on the Patna-Bhagalpur rail route.

**118. The Bengal tiger is found primarily in-**

- (A) Gir National Park  
(B) Sundarbans Mangrove Forest  
(C) Manas Tiger Reserve  
(D) Bandipur National Park

- ❖ The number of Royal Bengal Tigers in **West Bengal's Sundarbans** has risen to 96, up by eight, according to the latest census. As per the 2018-19 census, the number of tigers in Sundarbans was 88
- ❖ Spread over 4,262 sq km, the Sundarbans has mangrove cover in 2,125 sq km in India alone.
- ❖ It's a part of the **world's largest riverine delta, formed by Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers**. The whole tract of forest reaches about 100-130 km inland from the confluence.
- ❖ It is the **27th Ramsar Site in India**.
- ❖ The Indian Sundarban constitutes over **60% of the country's total mangrove forest area**.
- ❖ The Indian Sundarban, also a **UNESCO world heritage site, is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger**. It is also home to a large number of "rare and globally threatened species, such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin (Batagur baska), the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (Orcaella brevirostris), and the vulnerable fishing cat (Prionailurus viverrinus).

**119. Lipulekh Pass is located in which state?**

- (A) Uttarakhand  
(B) Sikkim  
(C) Arunachal Pradesh  
(D) Nagaland



- ❖ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has complemented the efforts of the Border Roads Organisation for achieving the completion of road connectivity from **Dharchula to Lipulekh famously known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route.**
- ❖ The Darchula - Lipulekh road is an extension of Pithoragarh-Tawaghat-Ghatiabagarh road.
- ❖ It originates from Ghatiabagarh and terminates at Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to Kailash Mansarovar.
- ❖ Lipulekh (elevation 5,200 m or 17,060 ft) is a **Himalayan pass on the border between Nepal and the Tibet region of China.** Nepal owns the southern side of the pass, called Kalapani territory, which is controlled by India. The pass is near the Chinese trading town of Taklakot (Purang) in Tibet.
- ❖ This pass links the **Byans valley of Uttarakhand, India with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China**, and forms the last territorial point in Indian territory. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a Hinduism pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar, traverses this pass. Lipulekh pass is connected to Chang Lobochohela, near the old trading town of Purang (Taklakot), in Tibet.
- ❖ **The pass was the first Indian border post to be opened for trade with China in 1992.** This was followed by the opening of Shipki La, Himachal Pradesh in 1994 and Nathu La, Sikkim in 2006. Presently, Lipulekh Pass is open for cross-border trade every year from June through September.

**120. Consider the following statements in reference with 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App:**

1. It will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
2. It is developed by Ministry of AYUSH solely.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health & Family Welfare Minister launched the '**AYUSH Sanjivani' App** and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation recently.
- ❖ It will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
- ❖ It is developed by **Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** and shall reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.

**121. National Technology Day is celebrated on**

- (A) May 11
- (B) February 28
- (C) March 2
- (D) July 14

- ❖ National Technology Day will be celebrated on **May 11** by the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The day, which was **first observed on May 11, 1999**, aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists and engineers.





- ❖ May 11 is also the day when India conducted its **first successful test in Pokhran**. On **May 11, 1998**, India **successfully fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at an Army test range in Rajasthan's Pokhran**.
- ❖ The day also marks the **flight of indigenously developed Hansa-3**. It was developed jointly by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) lab.
- ❖ May 11, 1988, the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) completed the **final test fire of the surface-to-air Trishul missile**.
- ❖ Technology Development Board will organize a digital conference on '**Rebooting the Economy through Science, Technology, and Research Translations (RESTART)**' to celebrate this day.

**122. Headquarters of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is located at-**

- (A) Beijing
  - (B) Gurugram
  - (C) Manila
  - (D) Jakarta
- 
- ❖ India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, **AIIB recently signed a 500 million dollar "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project"** in New Delhi to strengthen its public health preparedness.
  - ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a multilateral development bank that aims **to support the**

**building of infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region**. The bank currently has **78 members as well as 24 prospective members from around the world**.

- ❖ The bank was **proposed by China in 2013** and the initiative was launched at a ceremony in **Beijing in October 2014**.
- ❖ The bank started operation after the agreement entered into force on 25 December 2015, after ratifications were received from 10 member states holding a total number of 50% of the initial subscriptions of the Authorized Capital Stock.
- ❖ **Headquarters: Beijing, China**

**123. India's first indigenous antibody test for COVID-19, 'COVID Kavach Elisa', has been developed by-**

- (A) AIIMS, Delhi
  - (B) DRDO Laboratory, Hyderabad
  - (C) National Institute of Virology, Pune
  - (D) Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute
- 
- ❖ India's **first indigenous antibody test** for COVID-19, '**COVID Kavach Elisa**', has been developed by the **Pune-based National Institute of Virology**. The serological test will detect the **Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody, and will be used for surveillance purposes in hotspots**.
  - ❖ The kit has displayed high sensitivity and accuracy in the validation tests at different sites.



- ❖ The test will have the advantage of testing **90 samples together in two-and-a-half hours.**
- ❖ There are also minimal bio-safety and bio-security requirements as compared to the real-time RT-PCR test.

**ICMR-National Institute of Virology**

- ✦ The ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), **Pune** is the **apex laboratory of the country with state-of-art infrastructure and expertise for research in virology.**

**124. “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project” is related to-**

- (A) Asian Development Bank
  - (B) New Development Bank
  - (C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
  - (D) World Bank
- ❖ India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, AIIB recently signed a **500 million dollar “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project”** in New Delhi to strengthen its public health preparedness.
  - ❖ This is the **first ever health sector support from the Bank to India.**
  - ❖ This new support will cover **all States and Union Territories** across the country.
  - ❖ The project will also enhance the resilience of India’s health system to provide core public health prevention and patient care to better manage COVID-19 and future disease outbreaks. It

will help strengthen country's Integrated Disease Surveillance Program, revamp infectious disease hospitals and medical college hospitals.

**125. Battle of Haldighati was fought in which year?**

- (A) 1556
- (B) 1566
- (C) 1576
- (D) 1586

- ❖ It was fought on **18 June 1576** between the forces **Maharana Pratap; and the Mughal emperor Akbar's forces, led by Man Singh I of Amber.** The **Mughals were the victors** but failed to capture Pratap, who escaped.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Maharana Partap on his birth anniversary.
- ❖ Pratap Singh popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was a king of Mewar, a region in the present day state of Rajasthan.
- ❖ **He was the eldest son of Udai Singh II (founder of city of Udaipur).**

**126. World Migratory Bird Day observed on -**

- (A) May 7
- (B) May 19
- (C) May 29
- (D) May 9

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day observed on **May 9** every year is celebrated to raise awareness about conservation and ecological importance of such birds in the global ecosystem.
- ❖ The **theme** of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is **“Birds Connect Our World”**. This year's theme was chosen in order to highlight the importance of conservation and restoration of ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems that support the movement of these birds.

- ❖ The day was **first introduced in 2006** after the Secretariat of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Secretariat of Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) came up with a proposal.

**127. Who formed the Servants of India Society?**

- (A) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (B) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (C) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (D) Surendranath Banerjee

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently paid tributes to Freedom Fighter and social reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.
- ❖ **Servants of India Society was formed by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in Pune (Maharashtra) in 1905** to further the expansion of education in India. The Society organised mobile libraries, founded schools, and provided night classes for factory workers.
- ❖ In his autobiography, **Gandhi calls Gokhale his mentor and guide.**
- ❖ Gokhale became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1889. He was the leader of the **moderate faction of the Congress party.**
- ❖ He was **elected president of the Benares Session of Indian National Congress in 1905.**
- ❖ He played a **leading role in bringing about Morley-Minto Reforms.**

- ❖ In 1899, Gokhale was elected to the Bombay Legislative Council and in **1901 he was elected to the Imperial Council of the Governor-General of India.**
- ❖ **In 1908, he founded the 'Ranade Institute of Economics'.**
- ❖ He launched the English weekly newspaper named **The Hitavad (The people's paper) in 1911.**

**128. Global Energy Review: 2020 report is recently released by-**

- (A) International Energy Agency
  - (B) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
  - (C) International Atomic Energy Agency
  - (D) International Renewable Energy Agency
- ❖ Recently, **the International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report namely, Global Energy Review:2020** which also includes the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on global energy demand and CO2 emissions.
  - ❖ The countries in full lockdown are experiencing an **average decline of 25% in energy demand per week**, while in those with a partial lockdown; the fall in energy demand is about 18% per week.
  - ❖ Global energy demand declined by 3.8% in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter of 2019.
  - ❖ **India, which is one of the IEA association countries,** has experienced a reduction in its energy demands by 30% as a result of the nation-wide lockdown.



### International Energy Agency

- ✦ The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an **autonomous organisation** which works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy.
- ✦ It was established in the wake of **1973 (set up in 1974)** oil crisis after the OPEC cartel had shocked the world with a steep increase in oil prices.
- ✦ It is **headquartered in Paris, France.**
- ✦ **World Energy Outlook report is released by IEA annually.**
- ✦ **India** became an associate member of the International Energy Agency in **2017.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ Recently, the Supreme Court held that **Co-operative banks established under a State law and multi-State level co-operative societies come within the ambit of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act of 2002.**
- ❖ **Banks utilize Sarfaesi Act as an effective tool for bad loans (Non-Performing Asset) recovery.**
- ❖ The Sarfaesi Act is **effective only against secured loans** where banks can enforce the underlying security.
- ❖ Major feature of Sarfaesi is that it promotes the **setting up of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) and asset securitization companies (SCs) to deal with NPAs accumulated with the banks and financial institutions.**

129. **Mother's day is celebrated on the second Sunday of which month?**

- (A) March
- (B) May
- (C) July
- (D) September

- ❖ Mother's Day is celebrated on the **second Sunday of May** and dedicated to the special bond between the mother and the child, which is one of the most amazing relationships on this planet.
- ❖ Mother's Day of 2020 is celebrated in many parts of the world on **10th of May.**

130. **Consider the following statements:**

1. Banks utilize Sarfaesi Act as an effective tool for bad loans (Non-Performing Asset) recovery.
2. Co-operative banks established under a State law come within the ambit of Sarfaesi Act of 2002.

131. **Smallpox is an extremely contagious disease, which is caused by –**

- (A) Virus
- (B) Bacteria
- (C) Fungus
- (D) Protozoa

- ❖ Smallpox is an extremely contagious disease, which is caused by the **deadly virus called Variola.**



❖ **In 1980**, this syndrome was declared as completely eradicated after the global immunization campaign led by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the help of the smallpox vaccine. **The first effective vaccine to be discovered was the smallpox one as it was developed in 1796 by Edward Jenner.**

❖ World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN's postal agency have recently released a commemorative postage stamp on the **40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox.** In May 1980, the 33rd World Health Assembly issued its official declaration that the world and all peoples have won freedom from smallpox.

❖ **WHO's smallpox eradication campaign was launched in 1967**

**132. Defence Minister recently approved abolition of 9,304 posts in Military Engineering Service. It is based on the recommendation of which committee?**

- (A) Shekatar Committee
- (B) Abid Hussain Committee
- (C) Bhurelal Committee
- (D) Lodha committee

❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the **abolition of 9,304 posts in the Military Engineering Service.**

❖ The posts were abolished based on the recommendation of **Shekatar Committee.**

❖ It is in line with the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, headed by **Lieutenant General Shekatkar,**

**which had recommended measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the Armed Forces.**

**133. Pranavayu programme, is recently in news is related to which city?**

- (A) Chennai
- (B) Hyderabad
- (C) Amaravati
- (D) Bengaluru

❖ **Pranavayu programme** launched by the City Corporation in **Bengaluru** has been creating awareness through advertisements in media about the need to carry out **self-examination** for early detection of any ailment that could aggravate the situation if contracted with the viral infection.

❖ Pranavayu awareness programme is an attempt to help people with **low oxygen level in their blood to get themselves checked early before their ailments become fatal.**

**134. Which one among the following countries is not part of recently launched India's Mission Sagar?**

- (A) Maldives
- (B) Mauritius
- (C) Seychelles
- (D) Myanmar

❖ India launched Mission Sagar as part of the government's outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed **for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros,** to provide Food Items, COVID



related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams embarked.

- ❖ Also, as part of Mission Sagar, Indian Naval Ship Kesari would enter the Port of Male in the Republic of Maldives, to provide them 600 tons of food provisions.
- ❖ This deployment as **'Mission Sagar'** is in line with India's role as the first responder in the region and builds on the excellent relations existing between these countries to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant difficulties, added the MoD.

#### **SAGAR**

- ✦ The deployment is in consonance with the Prime Ministers' vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region 'SAGAR'** promulgated in March 2015.
- ✦ SAGAR highlights the importance accorded by India to **relations with her neighbouring countries and further strengthens the existing bond.**
- ✦ The operation is being progressed in close coordination with **the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs**, and other agencies of the Government of India.

**135. Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Engineering and Technology of Dharwad in North Karnataka has recently developed a Ventilator. What is the name of this ventilator?**

- (A) CORKar Ventilator
- (B) Dharmasthala Ventilator
- (C) Janatha Ventilator
- (D) Dharm Ventilator

- ❖ Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Engineering and Technology of Dharwad in North Karnataka has developed a **Janatha Ventilator** that can be assembled by any skilled worker and can run without electricity.
- ❖ It is so simple and easy to assemble.

**136. Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS) is recently developed by-**

- (A) AIIMS, Delhi
- (B) ICMR
- (C) DRDO
- (D) ISRO

- ❖ **Hyderabad based Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** lab has developed automated Ultraviolet systems to sanitise electronic gadgets, papers and currency notes. Defence Ministry said, the device - **Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)** has been **designed to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leafs, challans, passbooks, paper and envelopes. Bundles of currency notes can be sanitised using DRUVS.**

- ❖ The DRUVS is having **contactless operation** which is very important to contain the spread of virus. **It provides 360 degree exposure of Ultra Violet** to the objects placed inside the cabinet. Once the sanitisation is done, the system goes in sleep mode hence the operator need not wait or stand near the device.



**137. 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' App is related to which state?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Bihar
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

❖ In **Uttar Pradesh**, the State Government has launched the **'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' App for migrant workers of state who are returning from different parts of country amidst lockdown.**

❖ The multipurpose App is aimed at providing benefits of government schemes to the migrant workers and it will also help in monitoring their health besides providing jobs and livelihood, related to their skills.

❖ The app will have full details of the persons staying in the shelter homes and also of those migrants who have reached their homes directly from other states.

❖ The basic information of the person such as **name, educational qualification, temporary and permanent address, bank account details, Corona-related screening status and experience will be taken in the app.**

**138. Which country recently won the inaugural \$180,000 FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup?**

- (A) USA
- (B) China
- (C) Japan
- (D) India

❖ **China** won the inaugural \$180,000 FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup following a 2-2 draw against USA.

❖ China won \$48,000, USA \$36,000 and others received \$24,000 each.

❖ **India was at fifth position.**

**139. River Nila is second longest river of which state?**

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Goa
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Kerala

❖ Ministry of Tourism, Government of India's **17th session of Dekho Apna Desh webinar on 9th April 2020, titled 'Exploring River Nila'** was about showcasing meaningful travel experiences for travelers that are offered by relatively unvisited places.

❖ **Bharathappuzha, also known as the Nila, is a river in India in the state of Kerala.** With a length of 209 km, it is the **second longest river in Kerala, after Periyar** although the total length of Bharathappuzha is **250 km of which 41 km runs along Tamil Nadu from where it originates.**

❖ It is also referred to as **"Peraar" in ancient scripts and documents.**

❖ in Chittur, **Bharathappuzha is known as "Sokanasini"**

❖ **Malampuzha dam** is the largest among the reservoirs built across Bharathappuzha and its tributaries.

❖ Bharathappuzha is the lifeline of Kerala's cultural map. **Kerala Kalamandalam, which is a major center for learning Indian performing arts like Kathakali, Koodiyattam and Ottamthullal, is situated at Cheruthuruty on the banks of this river—in Thrissur district.**



**140. Which state recently launched country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana'?**

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Haryana
- (C) Uttar Pradesh
- (D) Madhya Pradesh

❖ **Madhya Pradesh** Home Minister Dr Narottam Mishra launched country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal.

❖ Madhya Pradesh is the **first state in the country to implement such an innovative scheme.**

❖ 'FIR Aapke Dwar' scheme has been started as a pilot project in 23 Police Stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters. **People would not be required to visit police station to lodge an FIR.**

❖ The Minister also launched helpline '**Dial 112**' on the occasion, to facilitate immediate availability of ambulance, police and fire fighting services wherever needed.

**141. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank recently launched the Central University of Odisha Helpline to relieve distress of student community. What is the name of this helpline?**

- (A) Bharosa
- (B) Vishwas
- (C) VidyaDaan
- (D) Haunsala

❖ Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank recently launched the **Central University of Odisha Helpline 'Bharosa' to relieve distress of student community during the difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic.**

❖ The Helpline Number 080 46 80 10 10 was launched through a virtual platform in New Delhi. The helpline aims at providing Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services to all University Students of Odisha.

**142. Sandesh Jhingan is related to which sport?**

- (A) Football
- (B) Badminton
- (C) table tennis
- (D) Chess

❖ The **All India Football Federation** has homed in on **national team central defender Sandesh Jhingan and women's team striker N. Bala Devi as its nominations for the Arjuna award**, rewarding them for their consistency in recent years.

**143. Zoji La pass is located in which state/UT?**

- (A) Jammu and Kashmir
- (B) Ladakh
- (C) Sikkim
- (D) Arunachal Pradesh

❖ Zoji La is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in the Indian union territory of **Ladakh**. Located in the Drass, the pass **connects the Kashmir Valley to its west with the Drass and Suru valleys to its northeast and the Indus valley further east.**

❖ During the ongoing lockdown, Indo- Tibetan Border Police, ITBP has ensured a safe passage for over 900 trucks carrying essential supplies, from the icy heights of Zoji La to the frozen slopes of Kargil in past 21 days. The land route through Zoji La pass serves as a lifeline for the nearly 1.5 lakh residents of Kargil.





- ❖ The convoys move through Gumri, Meena Marg and Dras through Fotu La pass and Namika La pass in extreme cold climatic conditions, with temperatures dipping up to minus 10 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The Leh based North West Frontier of ITBP has played a pivotal role in the process with active support of the Ladakh administration.

**144. Manmeet Singh, who passed away recently, was related to which sport?**

- (A) Cricket
- (B) Football
- (C) Badminton
- (D) Table tennis

- ❖ Former men's **National table tennis champion** Manmeet Singh, 58, passed away in Montreal.
- ❖ Manmeet was suffering from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALC), a neurodegenerative disease.
- ❖ He was **National junior champion, National men's doubles champion** (with schoolmate and close friend Vinay Chopra), before winning the National singles title beating S. Sriram in Hyderabad in 1989.

**145. Consider the following pairs**

	<b>Year of Gandhi Peace Prize Award</b>	<b>Awardees of Gandhi Peace Prize Award</b>
1	2015	Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari
2	2016	Akshaya Patra Foundation
3	2017	Sulabh International
4	2018	Ekal Abhiyan Trust

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 4 only

- ❖ Union Government has extended last date for the receipt of nominations for the Gandhi Peace Prize-2020 up to 15th of June. Ministry of Culture invites nominations for awarding Gandhi Peace Prize every year.
- ❖ **Gandhi Peace Prize Awards is for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence was instituted in the year 1995.** The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation.

S.No	Year of Award	Name of the Awardees
1	2015	Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari
2	2016	Akshaya Patra Foundation
3	2016	Sulabh International
4	2017	Ekal Abhiyan Trust
5	2018	Shri Yohei Sasakawa

**146. Telia Rumal is recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It is related to which state?**

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Bihar
- (C) Telangana
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ **Telangana's** Telia Rumal is recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.
- ❖ The application for Telia Rumal was made by the Consortium of Puttapaka Handloom Cluster-IHDS.



- ❖ Telia Rumal cloth involves intricate **handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white,**
- ❖ Telia Rumal can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Rumal would be lost.
- ❖ The officers working in the court of the Nizam would wear the **Chituki Telia Rumal as a symbolic representation of status.** Telia Rumals are offered at the dargah of Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan, with some devotees offering 50 or even 100 cloths. Telia Rumals were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad; and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.

**147. CSIR - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has recently developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator. CSIR - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) is located at-**

- (A) Bangalore
- (B) Hyderabad
- (C) Chandigarh
- (D) Dehradun

- ❖ **CSIR - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore,** a constituent of lab of CSIR has developed a **Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator 'Swasth Vayu'** in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients. **BiPAP Non-Invasive ventilator is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control**

**system** with a built-in biocompatible **"3D printed manifold & coupler"** with **HEPA filter (Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter).** These unique features help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread. The system has been certified for safety and performance by NABL accredited agencies.

- ❖ The major advantage of this machine is that it is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components. This is ideal for treating COVID -19 patients in Wards, Make shift Hospitals, dispensaries and home in current Indian COVID 19 scenario.

**148. Sohrai Khovar painting is recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It is related to which state?**

- (A) Jharkhand
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ **Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting** is recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai. The application for the painting was made by Sohrai Kala Mahila Vikas Sahyog Samiti Limited

- ❖ The Sohrai Khovar painting is a **traditional and ritualistic mural art** being practised by **local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local,** naturally available soils of different colours in the area of **Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.**

❖ Traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses, they are now seen on other surfaces, too. **The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography.**

149. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced an economic stimulus package for ₹20 lakh crore (estimated at 10% of the GDP). These economic reforms will lead to-

(A) New India  
 (B) Make In India  
 (C) Atmanirbhar Bharat  
 (D) Atulya Bharat

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a special economic package worth over **20 lakh crore rupees and 10% of India's GDP** in view of the coronavirus pandemic. It is clearly defined leap towards economic reforms that will lead to **Atmanirbhar Bharat, or a self-reliant, resilient India.**

❖ This amount includes packages already announced at the beginning of the lockdown, incorporating a slew of measures from the RBI and the payouts under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

❖ India's self-reliance would be based on **5 pillars - Economy, Infrastructure, System, Demography and Demand.**

❖ The Prime Minister emphasized that self-reliance was essential for India's global competitiveness. He said that

reforms over the past 6 years have to be taken forward to build a self-reliant India. we needed to adopt the mantra of **"local" and work towards its progress.**

❖ The package would provide relief to almost every segment of the population.



150. In 2012, the World Health Assembly identified six nutrition targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition to be met by-

(A) 2020 (B) 2025  
 (C) 2030 (D) 2035

❖ In 2012, the World Health Assembly identified six nutrition targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition to be **met by 2025.** These require governments to reduce stunting by **40% in children under five and prevalence of anaemia by 50% among women in the age group of 19-49, ensure 30% reduction in low-birth weight and no increase in childhood overweight, increase the rate**



**of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months up to at least 50% and reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.**

- ❖ India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025, according to the **Global Nutrition Report 2020**.
- ❖ It also identified the country as one with the highest rates of domestic inequalities in malnutrition.
- ❖ According to the Global Nutrition Report 2020, India will miss targets for all four nutritional indicators for which there is data available — **stunting among under-five children, anaemia among women of reproductive age, childhood overweight and exclusive breastfeeding**.
- ❖ India is identified as among the three worst countries, along with Nigeria and Indonesia, for steep within-country disparities on stunting, where the levels varied four-fold across communities.

**151. Every Year, International Nurses Day observed on-**

- (A) 11<sup>th</sup> May
- (B) 12<sup>th</sup> May
- (C) 13<sup>th</sup> May
- (D) 14<sup>th</sup> May

- ❖ Every year International Nurses Day is celebrated on **12 May** to commemorate the **anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday**. This day also celebrates the contribution done by the nurses to society around the world. On this day the
- ❖ International Council of Nurses organisation produces an International Nurses kit to

educate and assist health workers globally with a different theme every year.

- ❖ The **theme** for 2020 is: **Nursing the World to Health**.

**152. Suraksha Store initiative is related to-**

- (A) Department of Consumer Affairs
- (B) Department of Agriculture and Co-operation
- (C) Department of Fertilizers
- (D) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

- ❖ The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has partnered with tech startups **Safejob and Seekify** to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level. The Suraksha Store initiative is designed for the health and safety of the citizens during and after the lockdown.
- ❖ The primary objective of this project is **to educate Kirana store owners across the country about the Covid-19 safety guidelines and protocols** required to be followed while running their businesses.
- ❖ **The protocols were decided by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and included norms around social distancing and hygiene at all retail outlets. The objective was to allow consumers to use the Aarogya Setu app to find a Suraksha Store near them and shop, companies mentioned.



153. Who is known as “The Lady with the Lamp”?

- (A) Marie Curie
- (B) Sister Nivedita
- (C) Florence Nightingale
- (D) Mother Teresa

- ❖ Florence Nightingale was a **British nurse, statistician, and social reformer** who is also considered as a foundational philosopher of modern nursing.
- ❖ She was born in **Florence, Italy**, on May 12, 1820. **The year 2020 marks a bicentenary year of her birth.**
- ❖ During the **Crimean War**, she and a team of nurses improved the unsanitary conditions at a British base hospital, greatly reducing the death count. Her writings sparked worldwide health care reform.
- ❖ She was known for her night rounds to aid the wounded, establishing her image as the '**Lady with the Lamp**'.

154. GetCETgo online portal is related to which state?

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Kerala
- (C) Manipur
- (D) Tamil Nadu

- ❖ **Karnataka Higher Education department** had started GetCETgo online portal, mobile app and youtube channel to **impart coaching for CET and NEET.**
- ❖ The portal has been helpful to students aspiring to get entry into professional courses for the next academic year.
- ❖ The platform is also helpful to students in small towns and rural areas as the lectures can be downloaded. A helpline is also provided for students to seek clarification.

155. CHAMPIONS portal is related to which ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (C) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

- ❖ In a major initiative Union Ministry of **MSME** has launched CHAMPIONS portal [www.Champions.gov.in](http://www.Champions.gov.in), a **Technology driven Control Room-Cum-Management Information System.** The system utilising modern ICT tools is aimed at **assisting Indian MSMEs march into big league as National and Global CHAMPIONS.**
- ❖ The CHAMPIONS stands here for **Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.** Accordingly, the name of the system is CHAMPIONS.
- ❖ As the name suggests, the portal is basically for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding. It is a real one-stop-shop solution of MSME Ministry.
- ❖ CHAMPIONS Portal's trial is launched on 9th May, 2020.
- ❖ It is a technology packed control room-cum-management information system. In addition to ICT tools including telephone, internet and video conference, the system is enabled by Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics and Machine Learning.



It is also fully integrated on real time basis with GOI's main grievances portal CPGRAMS and MSME Ministry's own other web based mechanisms. The entire ICT architecture is created in house with the help of NIC in no cost. Similarly, the physical infrastructure is created in one of ministry's dumping rooms in a record time.

- ❖ As part of the system a network of control rooms is created in a **Hub & Spoke Model**. The Hub is situated in New Delhi in the Secretary MSME's office. The spokes will be in the States in various offices and institutions of Ministry. As of now, 66 state level control rooms are created as part of the system.

**156. Both Houses of Parliament of India held their first sittings after Independence on -**

- (A) May 13, 1952
- (B) December 9, 1945
- (C) March 21, 1951
- (D) July 26, 1950

- ❖ To mark the 68th anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu along with Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, visited the historic Central Hall of Parliament and chambers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ **On May 13, 1952**, both Houses of Parliament held their first sittings after Independence.

**157. 'Atal Pension Yojana' was launched in which Year?**

- (A) 2015
- (B) 2016
- (C) 2017
- (D) 2018

- ❖ The flagship social security scheme of Government of India 'Atal Pension Yojana' (APY) has **completed five years** of successful implementation.

Launched on **9th May 2015** by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with an objective of **delivering old age income security particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector and Government providing guarantee of minimum pension after 60 years of age**, the scheme even after garnering 2.23 crores workers under the ambit of pension still remains unequivocally relevant for addressing the challenges of rapidly increasing aging population of India. Apart from remarkable enrolments, the scheme has been implemented comprehensively across the country covering **all states and Union Territories with male to female subscription ratio of 57:43**.

- ❖ APY can be subscribed by **any Indian citizen in the age group of 18-40 years** having a bank account and its uniqueness is attributable to three distinctive benefits. First, it provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from **Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age**, Secondly the amount of pension is guaranteed **for lifetime to spouse on death of the subscriber** and lastly, in the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, **entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee**.
- ❖ APY is administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

**158. Pangong Tso Lake is located in-**

- (A) Ladakh
- (B) Sikkim
- (C) Arunachal Pradesh
- (D) Manipur



- ❖ A series of clashes between Indian and Chinese army personnel are reported near Pangong Tso Lake recently.
- ❖ Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, landlocked lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the **Ladakh, Himalayas**.
- ❖ The 135 km-long lake sprawls over 604 sq km in the shape of a boomerang, and is 6 km wide at its broadest point.
- ❖ The western end of Pangong Tso lies 54 km to the southeast of Leh.
- ❖ **The brackish water lake freezes over in winter, and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.**

**159. Who recently assumed charge as new Secretary of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy?**

- (A) Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi
- (B) Anand Kumar
- (C) D.K. Pandey
- (D) Raj Kumar Singh

- ❖ Shri **Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi** (IAS) recently assumed charge as new Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. Shri Chaturvedi is a 1987 Batch IAS officer and belongs to Jharkhand cadre and succeeded Shri Anand Kumar in the Ministry who earlier took charge Secretary, Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ Prior to this appointment, Shri. Chaturvedi was serving as Additional Chief Secretary and Additional Secretary (Climate Change Department) of the Ministry of Climate Change Department, Environment & Forest, Government of Jharkhand.

**160. In which state, Postal department has recently made a record of reaching maximum number of persons in a single day to provide cash at their doorstep?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Postal department in **Uttar Pradesh** has made a record of reaching maximum number of persons in a single day to provide cash at their doorstep.
- ❖ The UP circle of Postal department made transaction of **30 crore rupees to 2.74 persons in state through Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)**.
- ❖ This is the **cash transaction for highest number of persons in a day**.

**161. Which one among the following is not located in Odisha?**

- (A) Chilika lake
- (B) Simlipal National Park
- (C) Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary
- (D) Betla National Park

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on **12th May 2020**, titled, '**Odisha-India's Best kept secret**' took the participants on a virtual journey into Odisha. The webinar was 18th webinar under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series.
- ❖ The virtual journey covered places like **Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Udaipur Beach, Manglajodi - unique**



wetland, Satpada, Chilika lake known for sighting of unique irrawady dolphins, **Simlipal National Park**, **Debrigarh National Park** – Ecotourism site at **Hirakud reservoir, waterfall, Silent Valley – Gorge, Daringbadi nature Camp, Mahanadi Gorge, Bhetnoi, Beach Locations**, Tribal heritage, arts and crafts, textiles, dance forms, festivals, cuisine.

- ❖ The objective of Ministry of Tourism’s webinar series is to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India – including the lesser known destinations and lesser known facets of popular destinations.
- ❖ **Betla National Park is a national park located on the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Palamu district of Jharkhand, India.**

**162. Commonwealth of Nations established in-**

- (A) 1936
- (B) 1946
- (C) 1949
- (D) 1953

- ❖ Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the **32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers’ Meeting through Video Conference**
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was- Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response.

**Commonwealth of Nations**

- ✦ The Commonwealth of Nations, at one time known as **British Commonwealth**, is an organisation of **fifty three states** that were principally below the colonial rule of British Government. They came into existence with the proclamation of sovereignty of the state from the colonial rule of British Empire and were later given self-governance.
- ✦ Composition: intergovernmental organisation of 53 member states that are **mostly former territories of the British Empire**.
- ✦ It operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states.
- ✦ Established in **1949 by the London Declaration**.
- ✦ **Structure:** Head of the Commonwealth — **Queen Elizabeth II** is the Head of the Commonwealth. The **position is symbolic**.

**163. Who among the following Presidents was issued the proclamation of emergency in 1975?**

- (A) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
- (B) Giani Zail Singh
- (C) Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
- (D) V. V. Giri

- ❖ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, paid homage to Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, former President of India on his Birth Anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 13, 2020).





- ❖ Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was the **fifth President** of India from 1974 to 1977 and also the **2nd President of India to die in office on 11 February 1977.**
- ❖ Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was born on 13 May 1905 at the Hauz Qazi area of Old Delhi, India.
- ❖ His father, Col. Zalnur Ali Ahmed, was an immigrant Muslim from Assam and the **first indigenous person from northeast India to have an M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) degree.**
- ❖ In 1942 he was arrested during the Quit India Movement
- ❖ Ahmed was chosen for the presidency by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1974, and on 20 August 1974, he **became the second Muslim to be elected President of India.**
- ❖ **He is known to have issued the proclamation of emergency**

**164. Headquarters of World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is located at-**

- (A) Rome (B) Bonn  
(C) Geneva (D) Madrid

- ❖ International tourism could decline by 60-80 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the revenue loss of USD 910 billion to USD 1.2 trillion and placing millions of livelihoods at risk, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has said.
- ❖ The global international agency said that the pandemic has caused a **22 per cent fall in international tourist arrivals during the first quarter of 2020.**

### **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**

- ✦ The World Tourism Organization is the United Nations specialized agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- ✦ Headquarters location: **Madrid, Spain**
- ✦ Founded: **1 November 1974**

**165. V. Vidyavathi is recently appointed as Director General of-**

- (A) Archaeological Survey of India  
(B) Geological Survey of India  
(C) Forest Survey of India  
(D) Zoological Survey of India

- ❖ The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** got a new Director General with the appointment of IAS officer V. Vidyavathi
- ❖ Ms. Vidyavathi is a 1991 batch Karnataka cadre officer, according to the order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- ❖ She will be serving in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

**166. Name the first testing machine that has been procured by the Government for testing of COVID-19 cases?**

- (A) COBAS 6800 testing machine  
(B) SAMARTH 1600 testing machine  
(C) CORWAR 1400 testing machine  
(D) HELPCOR 5100 testing machine

- ❖ Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare visited the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and dedicated the **COBAS 6800 testing machine to the nation.**



- ❖ This is the **first such testing machine that has been procured by the Government for testing of COVID-19 cases** and is **installed at the National Centre for Disease Control.**
- ❖ COBAS 6800 is a **fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19** in the service of nation. COBAS 6800 will provide quality, high-volume testing with a high throughput of test around **1200 samples in 24 hours.** It will largely increase the testing capacity with reduction in pendency.

**167. Vasudha Mishra is recently appointed as the new secretary of-**

- (A) SSC
- (B) UPSC
- (C) UGC
- (D) Home Ministry

- ❖ The government has also appointed Vasudha Mishra of the Telangana cadre as the **new UPSC secretary** after Rakesh Gupta retired from the post earlier this year.

**168. e-Governance platform, SAMARTH (Enterprises Resource Planning) ERP is related to which Ministry?**

- (A) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (D) Ministry of Women and Child Development

- ❖ **SAMARTH, is an Open Standard Open Source Architecture, Secure, Scalable and Evolutionary Process Automation Engine for Universities and Higher Educational Institutions.** It caters to faculty, students and staff at a University/Higher Educational Institutions. Now, the ERP, SAMARTH, has been implemented at **National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra,** a participating unit under the **World Bank supported Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP).** The objective of this initiative is to automate the processes of the Institute.

- ❖ **HRD** has developed an e-Governance platform, SAMARTH (Enterprises Resource Planning) ERP, under **National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT).**

**169. Who is recently appointed as the chairman of CBSE?**

- (A) Manoj Ahuja
- (B) Shiv Das Meena
- (C) Rajendra Kumar
- (D) Vasudha Mishra

- ❖ The Centre has also appointed senior IAS officer **Manoj Ahuja** as the CBSE chairman.
- ❖ He has succeeded IAS Anita Karwal for the position.
- ❖ Manoj Ahuja is a 1990 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre civil servant.



**170. HOPE (Helping Out People Everywhere) portal is related to which state?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Haryana
- (D) Uttarakhand

- ❖ **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a portal aimed at creating employment avenues for the trained youth as well as offering them skill development opportunities to increase their employability.
- ❖ The portal, 'HOPE' - Helping Out People Everywhere, has already begun collecting data on the **youths staying in the state as well as migrant youths who have returned recently from outside.**
- ❖ The portal will not only provide a platform to the youths for job hunting and skill development through its database but will also help potential employers find human resources as per their requirements.

**171. Who is recently appointed as Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board?**

- (A) Shiv Das Meena
- (B) Manoj Ahuja
- (C) Anita Karwal
- (D) Vasudha Mishra

- ❖ **Shiv Das Meena** IAS officer Tamil Nadu 1989 batch, who is presently posted as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India has been appointed as Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

**172. Sambal Yojana is related to which state?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Odisha

- ❖ The **Madhya Pradesh** government has re-launched the ambitious **Sambal Yojana aimed to strengthen the lives of the poor and the SC and ST communities by providing them social security cover, right from birth to death.**
- ❖ CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan transferred Rs 41.33 crores into the accounts of the beneficiaries of Sambal Yojana at one click
- ❖ The objective of this innovative scheme - from birth to death - is to provide social security to the poor and the beneficiaries of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Under the scheme, **Rs 4,000 will be given to pregnant women before delivery and Rs 12,000 post-delivery.** Nutritious food will be given and the education of children will be free. Besides, **free books, uniforms, mid-day meals are available till Class VIII.**
- ❖ Under this scheme, there is a provision to provide assistance of **Rs 2 lakh to the beneficiaries mainly on general and untimely death, Rs 4 lakh on accidental death, Rs 2 lakh on permanent disability and Rs one lakh in partial permanent disability.** After the death of the beneficiary, there is a provision to provide assistance for last rites **of Rs 50,000 and assistance for upgrading small businesses to the family.**



**173. Who is recently appointed as the Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation?**

- (A) Manoj Ahuja
- (B) Anita Karwal
- (C) Rajendra Kumar
- (D) Shiv Das Meena

❖ **Rajendra Kumar**, presently in the cadre, has been appointed as Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Ministry of Labour & Employment in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. He is a 1992 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre

**174. Matir Smristi' scheme is related to which state?**

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Assam
- (C) Tripura
- (D) West Bengal

❖ The **West Bengal** government launched Matir Smristi' scheme to **utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in six districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture.**

❖ There is, at least 50,000 acre of barren land in Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore districts, which cannot produce anything naturally nor can the farmers cultivate on the strip.

**175. Which one among the following is not part of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)?**

- (A) Tripura State Rifles
- (B) Central Reserve Police Force
- (C) Border Security Force
- (D) Assam Rifles

❖ A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to people to use locally made products, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that **all canteens of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) would only sell swadeshi or products made in India.**

❖ The CAPF comprises forces such as the **Central Reserve Police Force, the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Services Selection Board, the Central Industrial Security Force, the National Security Guard and the Assam Rifles.**

❖ The central purchase committee of the Central Police Canteen system is headed by an Additional Director General-rank officer.

❖ The facility was initiated as a **welfare venture by the MHA in 2007.** The beneficiaries are serving and retired CAPF personnel and their families.

❖ Presently, there are 119 master canteens that also double as warehouses and more than 1,700 subsidiary canteens that function as retail outlets.

**176. Roberto Azevedo is recently in news in context of the affairs of-**

- (A) WHO
- (B) WTO
- (C) ILO
- (D) UNICEF

❖ In an unprecedented move, the **Head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Roberto Azevedo has decided to resign**, a year before his term expires. Mr Azevedo, a former diplomat from Brazil, said, he will step down on August 31st, cutting short a seven-year tenure marked in recent years by intense pressure from US President Donald Trump.

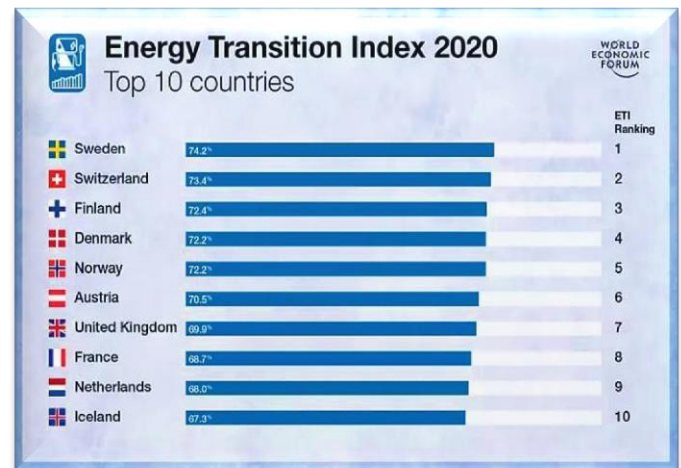
177. What is India's Position in global 'Energy Transition Index' 2020?

- (A) 79<sup>th</sup> (B) 75<sup>th</sup>  
(C) 74<sup>th</sup> (D) 20<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ India has moved up two positions to rank **74<sup>th</sup> on a global 'Energy Transition Index'** with improvements on all key parameters of economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability.
- ❖ It is released by **Geneva-based international organisation World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- ❖ **Sweden has topped** the Energy Transition Index (ETI) for the third consecutive year and is followed by **Switzerland and Finland in the top three**.
- ❖ Surprisingly, **France (ranked 8<sup>th</sup>) and the UK (7<sup>th</sup>) are the only G20 countries in the top ten**.
- ❖ The index benchmarks **115 economies** on the current performance of their energy systems across economic development and growth, environmental sustainability, and energy security and access indicators- and their readiness for transition to secure, sustainable, affordable, and inclusive energy systems.
- ❖ The report said the scores for the **US (32<sup>th</sup>), Canada (28<sup>th</sup>), Brazil (47<sup>th</sup>) and Australia (36<sup>th</sup>)** were either stagnant or declining.

178. Betty Wright, who passed away recently, was a-

- (A) Politician  
(B) Sports Personality  
(C) Writer  
(D) Singer



- ❖ **Iconic soul and R&B singer Betty Wright** has died after a battle with cancer.
- ❖ Wright, whose real name was Bessie Regina Norris, was born in 1953.
- ❖ She went on to win **her first Grammy Award for Best Song, "Where is the Love?"**

179. State Of The World's Nursing Report 2020 is recently in news. Which organisation released this report?

- (A) World Health Organization  
(B) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
(C) UNICEF  
(D) International Labour Organization

STATE OF THE WORLD'S NURSING REPORT 2020

- ❖ During the **'Year of the Nurse and Midwife,'** WHO has released the **first ever State of the world's nursing report**. It has been developed by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in partnership with the International Council of Nurses and the global Nursing Now campaign.
- ❖ According to report, **Nursing is the largest occupational group in the health sector**, accounting for approximately 59% of the health professions. The global shortage of nurses is

estimated to be 5.9 million nurses in 2018. The report calls for creating at least 6 million new nursing jobs by 2030, primarily in low- and middle-income countries. The countries accounting for the largest shortages (in numerical terms) in 2018 included Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan.

**180. Anjum Moudgil is related to which sport?**

- (A) Badminton
- (B) Wrestling
- (C) Shooting
- (D) Cricket

❖ The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) recommended World Championship silver medallist **Anjum Moudgil, for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, coach Jaspal Rana for the Dronacharya and proposed the names of Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma and Elavenil Valarivan,** all multiple gold medallists in World Cups last season, for the Arjuna Award.

❖ **Anjum Moudgil is an Indian sport shooter. She is from Chandigarh and represents Punjab.**

**181. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 is released by –**

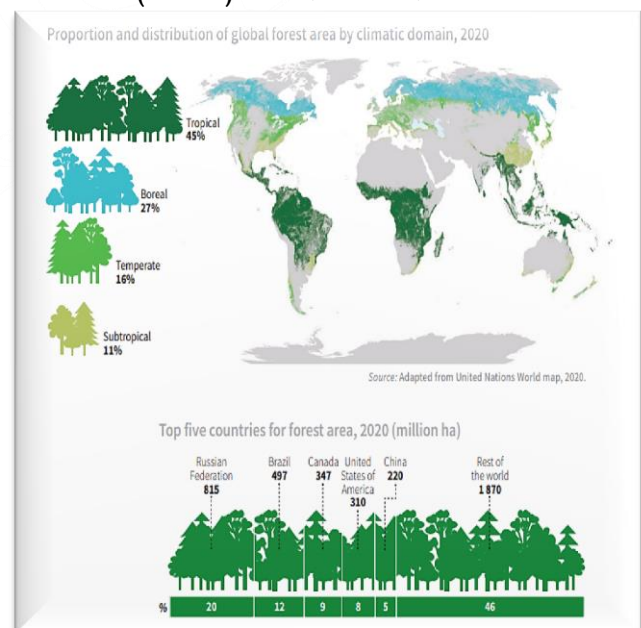
- (A) World Food Programme
- (B) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (C) United Nations Environment Programme
- (D) Food and Agriculture Organization

❖ **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020** has been released by the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).**

❖ The FRA 2020 has examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.

❖ According to the report

- **Forest area has declined** all across the world in the past three decades. The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.
- **The rate of forest loss has also declined** due to the growth of sustainable management. The rate of forest loss in 2015–2020 declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 million hectares (mha) in 2010–2015.



➤ **The area of naturally regenerating forests worldwide decreased** since 1990, but the area of planted forests increased by 123 mha.

**182. According to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, which continent had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020?**

- (A) Asia
- (B) Europe
- (C) Africa
- (D) South America

❖ Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

❖ **Africa had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 mha, followed by South America, at 2.6 mha.**

**183. According to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, which continent had the highest net gain of forest area in 2010–2020?**

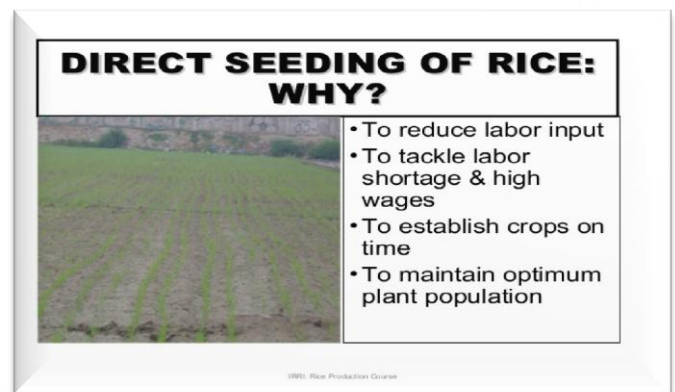
- (A) Asia
- (B) Europe
- (C) Africa
- (D) South America

❖ Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

❖ **Asia had the highest net gain of forest area in 2010–2020, followed by Oceania and Europe.**

**184. Which statement is wrong in context of 'direct seeding of rice' (DSR)?**

- (A) There is no nursery preparation or transplantation.
- (B) The seeds are directly drilled into the field
- (C) It will reduce the labour input.
- (D) Farmers of Punjab and Haryana are discouraged to adopt DSR during covid-19 lockdown.



**'Direct seeding of rice' (DSR)**

❖ The two granary states of **Punjab and Haryana** could face a shortage of an estimated 10 lakh labourers, mainly seasonal migrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, to undertake transplantation of paddy in the upcoming kharif season. With lockdown relaxations not extending to trains to ferry these labourers who usually arrive by early June, farmers are now being encouraged to adopt 'direct seeding of rice' (DSR) in place of conventional transplanting.

❖ In DSR, there is **no nursery preparation or transplantation**. The seeds are instead **directly drilled into the field** by a



tractor-powered machine. The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana has developed a **'Lucky Seed Drill'** that can both sow seeds and simultaneously spray herbicides to control weeds. This machine is different from the more popular **'Happy Seeder'**, used to directly sow wheat on combine-harvested paddy fields containing leftover stubble and loose straw.

**185. Which Airport has been voted as the World's Best Airport by international air travellers, according to a latest list by Skytrax?**

- (A) Singapore Changi Airport
- (B) Tokyo Haneda Airport
- (C) Hamad International Airport Doha
- (D) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

❖ The list of world's best airports is dominated by Asia with **four among the top 100 being in India**. For the eighth consecutive year, **Singapore's Changi Airport has been voted as the World's Best Airport** by international air travellers, according to a latest list by Skytrax, the organiser of World Airport Awards.

❖ **The World's Top 3 Airports of 2020 are:**

- Singapore Changi Airport
- Tokyo Haneda Airport
- Hamad International Airport Doha

**186. Which Airport has been awarded as the best regional airport in India by international air travellers, according to a latest list by Skytrax?**

- (A) Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport
- (B) Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- (C) Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport
- (D) Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

❖ The four Indian airports in list of world's top 100

airport	rank
Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport	50
Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport	52
Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport	68
Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	72

❖ **Bengaluru airport has also been awarded as the best regional airport in India.**

**187. Centre has set up a new body recently called 'Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF)', under the aegis of-**

- (A) NABARD
- (B) APEDA
- (C) SIDBI
- (D) TRIFED

**Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF)**

❖ To give further impetus to rice exports, the Centre has set up a new body – **Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF), under the aegis of the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (Apeda).**





- ❖ The new body will comprise representatives from **the rice industry, exporters, officials from Apeda, Commerce Ministry, Agriculture Ministry and Directors of Agriculture from major rice producing states such as West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.**
- ❖ EPF will monitor, identify and anticipate developments pertaining to production and exports and recommend necessary policy measures. It will be in touch with rice producers, exporters and other relevant stakeholders and hear their problems, and facilitate, support and provide solutions to them.
- ❖ **Rice, both basmati and non-basmati variety, is the largest commodity in India's agri-export basket.**
- ❖ **India, the second largest producer of rice in the world**

**188. Which country has recently become the first European country to proclaim an end to the coronavirus epidemic at home?**

- (A) Slovenia
- (B) Slovakia
- (C) Serbia
- (D) Senegal

- ❖ **Slovenia** has become the first European country to proclaim an end to the coronavirus epidemic at home. The government on 15 May, 2020, announced that the COVID-19 spread is under control and there is no longer a need for extraordinary health measures.

- ❖ The government says, EU residents are free to cross into Slovenia from Austria, Italy and Hungary at predetermined checkpoints, meanwhile most **non-EU nationals will have to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.**

#### **Slovenia**

- ✦ Slovenia, a country in **Central Europe**, is known for its mountains, ski resorts and lakes.
- ✦ **Capital: Ljubljana**

**189. Arrange the following states in accordance to their formation as a state-**

1. Gujarat
2. Nagaland
3. Meghalaya
4. Sikkim

**Select the answer by using following code-**

- (A) 2-1-3-4
- (B) 2-1-4-3
- (C) 1-2-3-4
- (D) 1-2-4-3

- ❖ The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 defined boundaries for the states within India on the basis of languages.
- ❖ The state of Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed as a result of linguistic movement according to **the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960 enacted by the Parliament of India on 25 April 1960. The act came into effect on 1 May 1960**
- ❖ In October 1953, the Government of India was forced to create the **first linguistic state, known as Andhra state**, by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the Madras state. This followed a prolonged



popular agitation and the death of **Potti Sriramulu**, a Congress person of standing, after a 56-day hunger strike for the cause.

- ❖ **Sikkim celebrated its 45th statehood day with great fanfare 16 th May, 2020.** It marks the day in 1975 when Sikkim transitioned to become the **22nd state of the country** from being a monarchy earlier and **Kazi Lhendup Dorjee became its first chief minister.**

**190. National Dengue Day is observed on**

- (A) 16 May
- (B) 18 May
- (C) 20 May
- (D) 22 May

- ❖ National Dengue Day is observed on **16 May** in India to create awareness about dengue, how is it caused preventive measures and methods to control the disease in the country.

#### **Dengue**

- ✦ Dengue is a **viral disease**, transmitted by the infective bite of a particular **mosquito known as Aedes Aegypti.** It is very common after rainy season.
- ✦ It is highly contagious and spreads from **one person to another through mosquito bites.** It is widespread in **tropical and sub-tropical regions.**

**191. Which river is known as 'sorrow of Bengal'?**

- (A) Damodar River
- (B) Kosi River
- (C) Betwa River
- (D) Hooghly River

- ❖ **Government of India, West Bengal Government and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank signed a loan agreement to improve irrigation services and flood management in Damodar Valley Command Area in West Bengal.**

- ❖ Damodar River flows through **West Bengal and Jharkhand.** Due to frequent and immense flood damages, it is also called **sorrow of Bengal.**

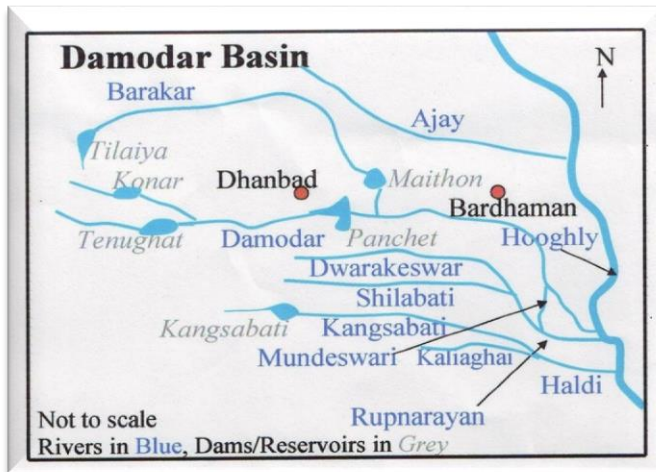
#### **State Reorganisation**

<b>State</b>	<b>Formation</b>
Andhra Pradesh	1953
Maharashtra & Gujrat	1960
Nagaland	1963
Haryana	1966
Himachal Pradesh	1971
Meghalaya	1972
Manipur & Tripura	1972
Sikkim	1975
Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh	1987
Goa	1987
Chhatisgarh	1 Nov., 2000
Uttarakhand	9 Nov., 2000
Jharkhand	15 Nov., 2000
Telangana	2 June, 2014

- ❖ **Source: Palamau hills, Jharkhand.**

- ❖ **Tributaries/subtributaries:**

Konar, Barakar, Haharo, Bokaro, Ghari, Jamunia, Khadia, Guaia and Bhera.



192. **Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana is related to which state?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Chhattisgarh
- (D) Bihar

- ❖ **Chhattisgarh** government will launch its ambitious **Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana on May 21 (death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi)**. The scheme is aimed at **stimulating the rural economy in the state**, amid the slowdown caused by by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the state government will **inject Rs 5100 crore into the state's rural economy** by directly transferring the grant amount through Direct Benefit Transfer into the accounts of farmers. The state had made the provision for the scheme in the Budget 2020-21.
- ❖ The farmers would be paid **Rs 10,000 per acre for paddy, corn and sugarcane crops**, based on the registered and procured area for the kharif season. The scheme will benefit over 1.87 million farmers. The state government also plans to provide a fixed amount per acre based on the registered and notified areas for pulses and oilseed crops.

193. **EventBot is recently in news. What is EventBot?**

- (A) A Trojan virus
- (B) An indoor Disinfection Sprayer
- (C) A new Laser technology
- (D) Covid-19 Testing kit

- ❖ CERT-In has issued a caution, saying **Trojan virus named EventBot is spreading, which steals personal financial information.**
- ❖ **Trojan is malware that cheats a victim to stealthily attack its computer or phone-operating system.**

#### CERT-In

- ✦ Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** is **nodal agency to raise security awareness among Indian cyber community** and to provide technical assistance and advise them to help them recover from computer security incidents.

194. **Yakshagana is a traditional Indian theatre form of which state?**

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Manipur
- (C) Rajasthan
- (D) Karnataka

- ❖ It is a traditional Indian theatre form of **Karnataka** based on mythological stories and Puranas. Most popular episodes are from **Mahabharata and Ramayana.**
- ❖ It combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.



- ❖ **Yaksha means Demi-God, and gana means song.**
- ❖ It is believed to be originated during Bhakti movement in between **11th and 15th century.**

**195. World Telecommunication Day is observed every year on-**

- (A) 1 May
- (B) 17 May
- (C) 17 March
- (D) 1 March

- ❖ World Telecommunication Day is observed every year on **17 May**. This day is observed to raise awareness about the use of technology and the importance it plays in the current scenario. It marks the **founding of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** when the **first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris on 17 May, 1865**. It is also known as **World Telecommunication and International Society Day**. Since 1969, it has been celebrating annually.

- ❖ The **theme** of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2020 is **“Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”**.

**196. World Hypertension Day is observed every year on-**

- (A) 4 April
- (B) 23 January
- (C) 16 June
- (D) 17 May

- ❖ World Hypertension Day day is celebrated by World Hypertension League (WHL) on **17 May** annually. The day promotes awareness about hypertension and to encourage people to prevent and control this silent killer epidemic.

**197. UN observed which year as International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies?**

- (A) 2011
- (B) 2013
- (C) 2015
- (D) 2017

- ❖ **In 2015**, to raise global awareness of the achievements of light science and its applications, the **UN observed the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015 (IYL 2015)**.

- ❖ The United Nations marks the International Day of Light (IDL) — an annual initiative held globally to raise awareness on the critical role played by light-based technologies in everyday life — on **May 16**. The IDL highlights the contribution of such technologies in various avenues such as science, technology, art, and culture, thus helping achieve the **UNESCO goals of education, equality, and peace**.

- ❖ The day selected, **May 16**, marks the anniversary of the **first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman**.

**198. The term 'Goldilocks Zone' is often seen in the news in the context of**

- (A) the limits of habitable zone above the surface of the Earth
- (B) regions inside the Earth where shale gas is available
- (C) search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
- (D) search for meteorites containing precious metals

❖ The scientists from **New Zealand have discovered the "Super Earth"**. It revolves around a star about **10 percent the mass of the Sun**, and is therefore able to orbit closer to its parent star than Earth to the Sun while still taking far longer to do so. The super-Earth orbits at a distance from its parent star equal to that of a point between **Venus and Earth, and the Sun, yet still has a 617-day year**. It potentially holds the conditions to sustain human life.

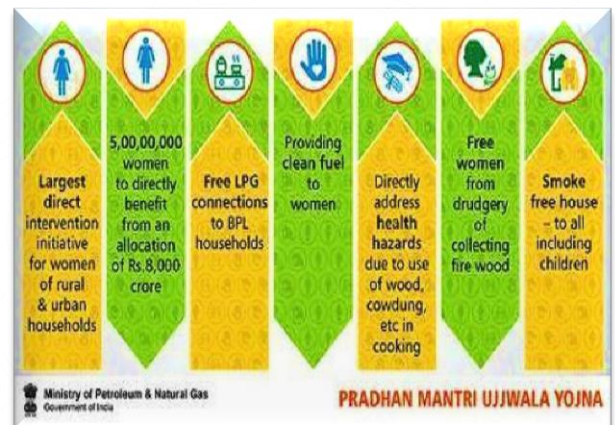
**Goldilocks zone:**

- ✦ It is a **habitable zone**, also called the "Goldilocks zone", is the **area around a star where it is not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to exist** on the surface of surrounding planets.
- ✦ **Our Earth is in the Sun's Goldilocks zone**, If Earth were where the dwarf planet Pluto is, all its water would freeze and if Earth were where Mercury is, all its water would boil off.
- ✦ Life on Earth started in water, and **water is a necessary ingredient for life**. When scientists search for the possibility of alien life, any rocky exoplanet in the habitable zone of its star is an exciting find.

**199. The term "tour of duty" is recently in news in the context of the affairs of-**

- (A) Indian Navy
- (B) Indian Army
- (C) Indian Air Force
- (D) Delhi Police

- ❖ **Indian Army** is considering to allow common citizens to join the 1.3- million-strong force for a **three-year tenure to serve the nation under the 'Tour of Duty (ToD) or 'Three Years Short Service' scheme**.
- ❖ It will be a **voluntary engagement**.
- ❖ The Army's plan is to attract the best talent into the force and bring the civil society closer to



the force by giving them an opportunity to experience military life.

- ❖ Initially, **100 officers and 1,000 men are being considered for recruitment as part of test bedding of the project**.
- ❖ The proposal is a shift from the concept of permanent service/job in the Armed Forces, towards 'internship'/temporary experience for three years.
- ❖ For this, it proposes that the individual's earnings for the three-year period could be made tax-free, and he/she could be given preference in public sector jobs as well as post-graduate courses.



- ❖ “Tour of Duty (ToD)” tenure is for **both officers and jawans.**
- ❖ It will bring in savings from salaries and pensions, and “decrease the frustration” of officers who are released after 10-14 years of short service, when they are in their mid-30s.
- ❖ There are immense financial benefits to the organisation due to **reduction in pay and gratuity payouts.**

**200. Cyclone Amphan is related to-**

- (A) Bay of Bengal
- (B) Arabian Sea
- (C) Persian Gulf
- (D) Red Sea

- ❖ Cyclone storm Amphan over **central parts of South Bay of Bengal** intensified into an **extremely severe cyclonic storm**, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said.
- ❖ With the cyclonic storm intensifying in the last few hours, there is likelihood of heavy rainfall coupled with high-velocity winds in coastal districts of **Odisha and parts of West Bengal.**
- ❖ The **Severe Cyclonic Storm** is a storm that has winds at the rate of **89-117 km/hr.** They are called the severe based on the scale of Indian Meteorological Department.

**201. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is related to which Ministry?**

- (A) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- (B) Ministry of Steel
- (C) Ministry of Rural Development
- (D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- ❖ Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently interacted with over 1500 **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries**, and gas distributors across the country through webinar. PMUY has just **completed four years** of its successful journey, which has led to momentous improvement in the lives of over 8 crore poor and deprived families.

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.**

- ❖ Under the scheme, an **adult woman belonging to a poor family** not having LPG connection in her household, is an eligible beneficiary under the expanded scheme.

**202. Charan Paduka campaign is recently in news in context of which state?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Punjab

- ❖ In **Madhya Pradesh**, in a **first of its kind of initiative**, Charan Paduka (चरण पादुका) campaign has been started for the **migrant labourers passing through the state.**

- ❖ Under this campaign, the migrant labourers going barefoot are being **providing shoes and slippers to reduce their pain.** The most notable thing is that this campaign is being conducted by the police at most places.



- ❖ The Charan Paduka campaign started from the **Rau Police Station of Indore.**

**203. Park Hyun-kyung is related to which sport?**

- (A) Badminton
- (B) Table tennis
- (C) Golf
- (D) Football

- ❖ Park Hyun-kyung won the **world's first big-purse post-coronavirus golf tournament** in Yangju on 17 May, 2020. **The Korean LPGA Championship** — featuring three of the world's top 10 women players — was marked by a ban on spectators and tight safety measures.

**204. World's AIDS Vaccine Day is observed every year on-**

- (A) 18 May                      (B) 12 May
- (C) 18 June                      (D) 8 May

- ❖ World's AIDS Vaccine Day or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day is observed every year on **18 May**. This day marks the efforts of thousands of researchers, scientists, health professionals who have contributed to the process of finding safe and effective AIDS medicine. It is also an opportunity to **educate communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.**

**205. International Museum Day is observed on**

- (A) 18 May                      (B) 24 June
- (C) 13 July                      (D) 6 August

- ❖ International Museum Day is observed on **18 May** every year to raise awareness about the museum and their role in society. **The International Council of Museums (ICOM) created International Museum Day in 1977.** The organisation suggested a proper theme every year which may include globalisation, bridging cultural gaps and care for the environment.

- ❖ **The theme of International Museum Day 2020 is- 'Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion'.**

**206. Who was the first unopposed elected president of India?**

- (A) Rajendra Prasad
- (B) S Radhakrishnan
- (C) Dr. Zakir Hussain
- (D) Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

- ❖ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, paid homage to Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, former President of India, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 19, 2020, on his Birth Anniversary.

- ❖ Reddy was the **sixth President** of India and the **first to be elected unopposed and the youngest to occupy Rashtrapati Bhavan.**

- ❖ When the Andhra Province was separated from Madras and **T. Prakasam became the Chief Minister of Andhra, Sanjeeva Reddy was appointed Deputy Chief Minister.**

- ❖ When the new state of Andhra Pradesh was constituted **Sanjeeva Reddy became its first Chief Minister** and served in that capacity from 1956 to 1959. He again became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1962 for one year.



- ❖ Reddy authored a book, **Without Fear or Favour: Reminiscences and Reflections of a President**, published in 1989.

**207. Valley of Flowers National Park is located in which state?**

- (A) Sikkim
- (B) Arunachal Pradesh
- (C) Karnataka
- (D) Uttarakhand

- ❖ Valley of Flowers National Park is an Indian national park, located in North **Chamoli, in the state of Uttarakhand and is known for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and the variety of flora.**

- ❖ At 3352 to 3658 meters above sea level, the gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of **Nanda Devi National Park** to the east.

- ❖ Both parks are encompassed in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (223,674 ha) which is further surrounded by a buffer zone (5,148.57 km<sup>2</sup>). **Nanda Devi National Park Reserve is in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.**

- ❖ The 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on 16th May 2020 titled “Uttarakhand Simply Heaven” highlighted the potential of tourism in Uttarakhand’s two regions namely **Kedar Khand (Garhwal Region) and Manu Khand (Kumaon Region)** and touched upon the popular destination like **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkhund Sahib** and the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Valley of Flowers.**

**208. Oldest national park of India is located in which state?**

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Uttarakhand

- ❖ The 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on 16th May 2020 titled “Uttarakhand Simply Heaven” highlighted the potential of tourism in Uttarakhand’s two regions namely Kedar Khand (Garhwal Region) and Manu Khand (Kumaon Region) and touched upon the popular destination like Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkhund Sahib and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Valley of Flowers

**Jim Corbett National Park**

- ✦ **Oldest national park of the country-** Jim Corbett National Park, **Rajaji Tiger Reserve and UNESCO site of Nanda Devi National Park-exploring the rich diversity of floral and fauna of Himalayan Region are located in Uttarakhand.**

- ✦ On 8th August, 1936, **India’s first national park was established as Hailey National Park**, named after the then Governor of the United Provinces, British India, Sir Malcolm Hailey.

- ✦ In 1936 that it came into fruition assisted by hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett.

- ✦ It is also **Asia’s first national park.**

- ✦ When the Government of India launched **Project Tiger in 1971, the park became a part of this project.**





**209. Which one among the following is not located in the Uttarakhand?**

- (A) Badrinath
- (B) Kedarnath
- (C) Rajaji Tiger Reserve
- (D) Pin Valley National Park

❖ The 20th session of the Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on 16th May 2020 titled “Uttarakhand Simply Heaven” highlighted the potential of tourism in Uttarakhand’s two regions namely Kedar Khand (Garhwal Region) and Manu Khand (Kumaon Region) and touched upon the popular destination like Gangotri, **Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkhund Sahib** and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Valley of Flowers**.

❖ Oldest national park of the country- **Jim Corbett National Park, Rajaji Tiger Reserve and UNESCO site of Nanda Devi National Park**-exploring the rich diversity of floral and fauna of Himalayan Region are located in Uttarakhand.

❖ **Pin Valley National Park is a National park of India located within the Lahaul and Spiti district, in the state of Himachal Pradesh.**

**210. Troglomyces twitteri is a newly discovered species of-**

- (A) Frog
- (B) Snake
- (C) Monkey
- (D) Parasitic fungus

❖ A **new parasitic fungus** was discovered by a Denmark biologist called “**Troglomyces twitteri**”. The fungus has been named after Twitter as it was discovered in Twitter.

❖ Troglomyces twitteri belongs to an order called **Laboulbeniales** — tiny fungal parasites that attack insects and millipedes. **look like tiny larvae**. These fungi live on the outside of host organisms; in this case, on the reproductive organs of millipedes.

**211. PM eVidya programm is related to-**

- (A) Skill development
- (B) Employment generation
- (C) Digital education
- (D) Woman Empowerment

❖ In order to **promote digital education in the country and make e- learning feasible for students and teachers**, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 17 May, 2020, launched **PM eVidya programme**.

❖ One of the main components of the new programme is the ‘**One Class One Channel**’ initiative where classes will be conducted on dedicated channels in the television.

❖ With this scheme, students and teachers will get multimode access to digital education. Over 100 universities will be permitted to start courses by May 30.

❖ **DIKSHA that will give ‘one nation, one digital platform’** for school education in states and union territories: **It will provide e- content and QR coded energised textbooks for all grades.**



**212. “i-Feel you”, an intelligent bracelet which will help users respect social distancing rules, is developed by which country?**

- (A) Germany
- (B) Italy
- (C) USA
- (D) China

❖ The **Genoa-based Italian Institute of Technology (IIT)** has developed “i-Feel you”, an **intelligent bracelet which will help users respect social distancing rules**. The bracelet has been developed as the measures for safeguarding people against the Coronavirus pandemic.

❖ It can measure social distance in a much more precise manner than a mobile application (app) **and it does not track geolocation hence has little effect on privacy**.

❖ This bracelet **uses a radio signal only when another bracelet is approaching; it does not use GPS** (Global Positioning System) and therefore does not keep track of user locations. It just reminds us when needed that we are not observing social distancing rules.

**213. The International Cricket Council (ICC) cricket committee recently has recommended the prohibition of saliva to shine the ball. It is headed by-**

- (A) Anil Kumble
- (B) Javagal Srinath
- (C) Sourav Ganguly
- (D) Kapil Dev

❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) cricket committee - headed by **Anil Kumble** has recommended the prohibition of saliva to shine the ball.

❖ The practice meant for swing bowling is now primarily held as health risk due to the threats of COVID-19 and protect the safety of players and match officials.

❖ The committee also proposed the appointment of **non-neutral match officials for all international matches**.

❖ However, the ICC Cricket Committee saw no harm in the use of sweat to shine the ball. Instead use of artificial substance to shine the ball is being considered. Apart from this, the committee also recommended increasing the use of DRS review per innings from two to three.

**214. Bundesliga football league is related to which country?**

- (A) UK
- (B) Germany
- (C) Italy
- (D) Spain

❖ **Germany’s Bundesliga primary football league has become the world’s first major sports competition to resume its season post nationwide lockdown** imposed to contain coronavirus pandemic. The European Football League’s remaining matches from the 2019-20 season kickstarted from May 16, 2020.

❖ The Bundesliga games began with empty stadium though the stadium had the capacity to hold more than 80,000 players.



- ❖ The players are being tested twice a week. The teams participating in the games were kept under quarantine. The teams entered the ground at different times.

**215. Rajesh Goel has recently appointed as director general (DG) of-**

- (A) NABARD
- (B) NALCO
- (C) NAREDCO
- (D) FCI

❖ **Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) has appointed Rajesh Goel as director general (DG) of the association.**

- ❖ Earlier, Goel was serving as the chairman and managing director, Hindustan Prefab Ltd.
- ❖ Rajesh Goel is a professional with over 37 years of experience in leading PSUs under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

**216. 'Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme' is related to-**

- (A) IMF
- (B) World Bank
- (C) Asian Development Bank
- (D) New Development Bank

❖ **World Bank has approved one billion US dollar 'Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme' to support India.** Total commitment from the Bank towards emergency COVID-19 response in India is two billion US dollars. This new support

will be funded in two phases - an immediate allocation of 750 million US dollars for fiscal year 2020 and a 250 million US dollar second tranche that will be made available for fiscal year 2021.

- ❖ The programme will deepen the social protection package, whereby additional cash and in-kind benefits based on local needs will be given. The fund will be extended through State Governments and portable social protection delivery systems.

**217. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is implemented by which Ministry?**

- (A) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- (B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- (C) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (D) Ministry of Rural Development

❖ The Central Sector Scheme - **SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) was approved by the cabinet in May 2017** for the period of 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. **The scheme has now been renamed as the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)".**

- ❖ The government will also launch a 20,000 crore rupees Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for the **development of marine and**



**inland fisheries.** Of this, 11,000 crore rupees will be earmarked for activities in marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture while 9,000 crore rupees for infrastructure creation such as fishing harbours, cold chain and markets. This will provide employment to over 55 lakh persons and double exports to one lakh crore rupees.

- ❖ **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana is implemented by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**

**218. Operation Greens is related to-**

- (A) All fruits and vegetables
- (B) increase the forest cover
- (C) protect the wildlife of the country
- (D) conserve the natural resources

- ❖ The government extended **Operation Greens from tomato, onion and potato to all fruits and vegetables** by providing an additional fund of 500 crore rupees. This money would go into providing subsidy on transportation from surplus to deficient markets as well as on storages including cold storages.
- ❖ Operation Greens is **initially launched to stabilize the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP)** crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** has launched the scheme. **NAFED** will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation measures.

**219. 'SUKOON' - COVID-19 Beat the Stress" initiative is related to which state/UT?**

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Chandigarh
- (C) New Delhi
- (D) Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ In order to spread awareness about **psychological impact of lockdown** and measures to be adopted to overcome them, Department of Information and Public Relations, **J&K has started an initiative 'SUKOON' - COVID-19 Beat the Stress".**
- ❖ This initiative is in line with the growing concern that COVID-19 pandemic and the prolonged lockdown has resulted in tremendous stress among various sections of the society.

**220. The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed on**

- (A) 16 May
- (B) 23 March
- (C) 16 June
- (D) 23 July

- ❖ The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed on **16 May.**
- ❖ The International Day of Living Together in Peace was officially recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2017 and was celebrated for the first time on 16 May, 2018.
- ❖ The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony. The Day invites countries to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development.



**221. Benjamin Netanyahu recently became the Prime Minister of which country?**

- (A) Brazil (B) Italy  
(C) Spain (D) Israel

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated **Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** for forming his fifth government in Israel. **He is the longest-serving Prime Minister in Israeli history.**

**222. A Jaipur based company 'Club First' have made India's first service robot. What is the name of this robot?**

- (A) R-BOT (B) Sona 1.5  
(C) CLUB 2020 (D) IF-ROB 14

- ❖ A Jaipur based company **Club First**" has made robots which will be used for doing jobs such as sanitizing hospitals and delivering food in restaurants. 'Club First' have made **India's first service robots and named it as Sona 1.5 and Sona .5** which is a **fully autonomous self-navigator robot** with **multi floor access All service robots** work on same technology.

- ❖ Their designs have been differentiated depending upon their weights.  
❖ The company is also making firefighting robot.

**223. Mongla and Payara ports are recently in news. These ports are located in which country?**

- (A) Sri Lanka  
(B) Saudi Arabia  
(C) Bangladesh  
(D) Indonesia

- ❖ The Met department of **Bangladesh** has asked **Mongla and Payara ports to hoist the highest level of danger signal 10** which signifies 'Great Danger' even as super cyclone Amphan moved to around 400 kms from these ports.

- ❖ Bangladesh is likely to be affected by the Cyclone Amphan. **It is the first super cyclone to hit the region in more than 20 year the after the 1999 cyclone.**

- ❖ **The Port of Mongla is the second busiest seaport of Bangladesh.**

- ❖ The Port of Payra is a small seaport in southern Bangladesh. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 2013. The port was officially inaugurated in **2016. It is located on the Ramnabad Channel near the Bay of Bengal.**

**224. "RAIL BOT" (R-BOT) is recently in news. What is "RAIL BOT" (R-BOT)?**

- (A) Robotic device  
(B) New Locomotive  
(C) New Portal of Railway for Migrants  
(D) New WiFi portal of Railway at Railway stations

- ❖ South Central Railway (SCR) Zone of Indian Railways has developed a **robotic device** equipped to effectively manage patient care in hospitals.

- ❖ The **robotic device, christened "RAIL BOT" (R-BOT) has been developed by Hem Singh Banoth**, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division, SCR and his team.

- ❖ R-BOT can be operated by using Android mobile app and **radio**



**frequency (RF) remote control.**

R-BOT is being used to provide medicines, medical accessories, and to serve food to the patients, taking away the need for human contact in such activities. As a result, doctors, nurses and other support medical staff are better placed to stay away from the risks of contacting infections.

- ❖ The robot also performs as **two-way audio and video communication** with a **recording facility**, helping in smooth interaction between patients and doctors.
- ❖ It uses **infra-red technology** with **emergency night lamp & night vision** to enable communication even in complete darkness.
- ❖ Moving at a speed of **1kmph and load-carrying capacity of 80 kg**, the R-Bot is capable of **continuously functioning for six hours on a single charge of the battery.**

**225. Consider the following statements in context of National Migrant Information System (NMIS):**

1. It is developed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
2. It will help in capturing the information on movement of migrants and for better inter-State co-ordination.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ Recently, the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has developed an **online dashboard** called 'National Migrant Information System (NMIS)'.
- ❖ the portal will maintain a central repository and help the sending as well as receiving State and district to ask for and give their acceptance in an online format seamlessly. This system will help in speedy communication between States without creating additional work at the level of the field officers.
- ❖ The Centre has asked the States to use online portal National Migrant Information System (NMIS) **for capturing the information on movement of migrants and for better inter-State co-ordination.**
- ❖ It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID response work. Through this system, States can upload batch file of individual data on the portal.
- ❖ The key data pertaining to the persons migrating has been standardized for uploading such as **name, age, mobile number, originating and destination district, and date of travel which States are already collecting.**

**226. Alexander Dalrymple Award of UK is related to –**

- (A) Hydrography
- (B) Geomorphology
- (C) Defence
- (D) Climate Change



- ❖ **Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar**, the **National Hydrographer to the government of India**, has been honoured with the **2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the wider Indian Ocean region. He also leads the Indian Naval Hydrographic Office's own regional Capacity Building programmes.
- ❖ The award, **first presented by the UK** Ministry of Defence-sponsored UKHO in 2006, is **named after the first Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple.**
- ❖ Recipients of the award are selected by the Executive Committee of the UKHO for their efforts in raising the standards of **hydrography, cartography and navigation around the world.**

**227. Shekatkar Committee is related to-**

- (A) formulation of food policy in the long term
  - (B) formulation of formulate policies regarding army pay scales
  - (C) restructure railways
  - (D) creating border infrastructure
- ❖ Union Government has implemented Lt. General **D B Shekatkar Committee's recommendations related to creating border infrastructure.** These were related to **speeding up road construction leading to socio-economic development in the border areas.**

- ❖ On the matter related to creating border infrastructure, the Centre has implemented recommendation to **outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of Border Roads Organization.** It has been made **mandatory to adopt Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than 100 crore rupees.**
- ❖ The other recommendation relating to introduction of modern construction plants, equipment and machinery has been implemented by delegating enhanced procurement powers from 7.5 crore rupees to 100 crore rupees to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements.
- ❖ With the empowerment of field officers through enhanced delegation of financial and administrative powers, there has been significant improvement in faster financial closure of works.
- ❖ The land acquisition and all statutory clearances like forest and environmental clearance are also made part of **approval of Detailed Project Report.**
- ❖ Further, with the adoption of EPC mode of execution, it is mandatory to award work only when 90 per cent of the statutory clearances have been obtained, implementing the recommendation of the committee regarding obtaining prior clearances before the commencement of the project.



**228. Which one among the following cities is not rated 5 Star in the new list of garbage free cities announced by the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs?**

- (A) Indore
- (B) Surat
- (C) Navi Mumbai
- (D) Dehradun

- ❖ **Navi Mumbai** has been rated 5 star in the new list of garbage free cities announced by the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Puri. **Surat, Rajkot, Indore, Mysore and Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh have also been rated 5 star garbage free cities.** Navi Mumbai has consistently figured among the list of clean cities in India. It was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the 2019 edition of the Swachh Sarvekshan.
- ❖ The **Star Rating Protocol was launched by the Ministry in January 2018** to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.
- ❖ The Ministry, therefore, devised the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities - a comprehensive framework where each ward in every city must achieve a certain standard across 24 different components of solid waste management (SWM) and is graded based on overall marks received.
- ❖ The Star Rating Protocol has been devised in a holistic manner including components such as cleanliness of drains and water bodies, plastic waste

management, managing construction & demolition waste, etc. which are critical drivers for achieving garbage free cities. While the key thrust of this protocol is on Solid Waste Management, it also takes care of ensuring certain minimum standards of sanitation through a set of prerequisites defined in the framework.

- ❖ Accordingly as per the 2020 survey, **6 cities have been graded 5 star, 65 Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star.**
- ❖ **5 Star Cities**

ULB Name	State
Ambikapur	Chhattisgarh
Rajkot	Gujarat
Surat	Gujarat
Mysore	Karnataka
Indore	Madhya Pradesh
Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra

**229. The 'National Test Abhyas' mobile app is developed by-**

- (A) IIT Delhi
- (B) UPSC
- (C) UGC
- (D) National Testing Agency

- ❖ Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a new mobile app named - **the**





**'National Test Abhyas'. The App has been developed by National Testing Agency-NTA to enable candidates to take mock tests for upcoming exams such as JEE Main and NEET under the NTA's purview.**

- ❖ The app has been launched to facilitate candidates' access to high **quality mock tests** as there was a demand for making up the loss to students due to closure of educational institutions and NTA's Test-Practice Centers due to the lockdown. Students across the country can use the App to access high quality tests, **free of cost**, in a bid to be fully prepared for the upcoming JEE, NEET and other competitive exams. The tests can be easily downloaded.

**230. H.A.C.K is the State's first cyber security-specific accelerator of which state?**

- (A) Kerala
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Karnataka
- (D) Haryana

- ❖ **Karnataka** launches first accelerator for cyber security start-ups
- ❖ Karnataka's centre of excellence in cyber security (CySecK) has launched an accelerator programme for cyber security start-ups.
- ❖ Branded as **H.A.C.K, it is the State's first cyber security-specific accelerator**
- ❖ The programme has 21 start-ups on board across three cohorts: 10x cohort, 0-1 cohort and virtual cohort,

- ❖ This programme will support mature Indian start-ups to accelerate their growth through government and market connections, and nascent start-ups to mature through an innovative incubation ecosystem and marquee mentorship.

**Karnataka's centre of excellence in cyber security (CySecK)**

- ✦ CySecK is housed on the **campus of Indian Institute of Science**, which is the anchor institute.
- ✦ **Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology** is the implementation agency.
- ✦ CySecK was set up by Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society of the Department of IT.

**231. Which temple is called as the "Black Pagoda"?**

- (A) Konark Sun Temple
- (B) Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri
- (C) Lingaraja Temple
- (D) Brihadishvara Temple

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has taken up the **Complete Solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha.**
- ❖ Konark Sun Temple, located in the East Odisha near the sacred city of Puri.
- ❖ Built in **13<sup>th</sup> century by King Narasimhadeva I (AD 1238-1264)**. Its scale, refinement and conception represent the strength and stability of the Ganga Empire as well as the value systems of the historic milieu.



- ❖ The temple is designed in the shape of a **colossal chariot. It is dedicated to the sun God.** In this sense, it is directly and materially linked to **Brahmanism and tantric belief systems.**
- ❖ It marks the highest point of achievement of **Kalinga architecture** depicting the grace, the joy and the rhythm of life all its wondrous variety.
- ❖ **It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984.**
- ❖ This temple was called the "**Black Pagoda**" in **European sailor accounts as early as 1676 because its great tower appeared black.**

**232. "Artemis Accord" is recently in news. It will deal with-**

- (A) Economic Impact caused by Covid-19
- (B) Climate Impact during covid-19 Lockdown phase
- (C) Responsible Space Exploration
- (D) Restructuring of WHO

- ❖ NASA recently unveiled "**artemis accords**" for **responsible space exploration.**
- ❖ Artemis Accord are a series of bilateral agreements between NASA and its international partners that want to cooperate on Artemis program
- ❖ **Artemis is NASA's moon mission under which it will land the first woman and the next man on Moon by 2024.**
- ❖ It has been established to create common set of principles to govern the civil exploration and use of outer space at times when numerous countries and private sector

players conducting missions and operations in cislunar space.

- ❖ The agreement includes various norms such as transparency, peaceful exploration, Interoperability of systems, Registration of Space Objects, Orbital Debris & Spacecraft Disposal etc.
- ❖ Accord is based on the **Outer Space Treaty of 1967** that was created to ensure fairness and peaceful relationships at a time when humans were first exploring the final frontier.
- ❖ **France, Japan, Australia and Canada have already shown their support. India has not clarified its stand yet.**

**233. Which one among the following is not located in Madhya Pradesh?**

- (A) Kanha national park
- (B) Bandhavgarh national park
- (C) Bhimbetka rock shelters
- (D) Hemis National Park

- ❖ The Dekho Apna Desh Webinar of Tourism held on 19.05.2020 showcased the Tradition, Culture and Tourism **of Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh – 'The Heart of Incredible India.'**
- ❖ Bhopal, the Capital city of Madhya Pradesh also called as **City of Lakes** with the two main Lakes Upper Lake and Lower Lake is famous for its Heritage sites, antique Jewellery, Fabric, Food and much more.
- ❖ Minto Hall, which is one of the example of the architectural marvel in Bhopal constructed by **NawabSultan Jahan Begum.**



- ❖ Apart from Bhopal, the other important Tourist attractions in Madhya Pradesh are **Sanchi, Vidisha, Khajuraho, Mandu, Bhimbetka, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Chanderi and the national parks Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna and Pench etc.**
- ❖ **The biggest national park in India is the Hemis National Park, located in Jammu and Kashmir.**

**234. Mount Harriet National Park is located in-**

- (A) Jammu and Kashmir
- (B) Sikkim
- (C) Arunachal Pradesh
- (D) Andaman and Nicobar

- ❖ **Pinanga andamanensis** is a critically endangered **rare palm, endemic to South Andaman Island.**
- ❖ Its entire population naturally occurs only in a tiny, evergreen forest pocket in **South Andaman's Mount Harriet National Park.**

**235. Every year World Bee Day is celebrated on**

- (A) March 20
- (B) July 20
- (C) June 20
- (D) May 20

- ❖ To raise awareness about the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, every year, World Bee Day 2020 is celebrated on **May 20.**
- ❖ World Bee Day aims at significantly contributing to solving problems related to the global food supply chain and eliminates hunger in developing countries.

- ❖ World Bee Day 2020 **theme** is **"Save the Bees"**. The theme of World Bee Day 2020 stresses the protection of bees and other pollinators. It also aimed at protecting the natural habitat of pollinators.
- ❖ **On May 20, the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Jansa was born in 1734 in Slovenia** hence every year this year is celebrated as World Bee Day. Approved by the United Nations, the **First World Bee Day was celebrated on May 20, 2018.**

**236. Sun goes through a cycle of activity that peak & trough with a Solar Maximum and a Solar Minimum. This cycle lasts-**

- (A) 55 Years
- (B) 86 Years
- (C) 11 Years
- (D) 64 Years

**Solar Minimum**

- ❖ It is being reported that Sun has gone into Solar Minimum phase.
- ❖ Sun goes through **11 -year cycles of activity that peak & trough with a Solar Maximum and a Solar Minimum.**
- ❖ At **Solar Maximum**, Sun's surface is peppered with sun spots, solar flares and clouds of electrified gas are thrown into space.
- ❖ At **Solar Minimum**, Sun can go without sun spots or other signs of activity for days at a time. This may cause health risks to astronauts travelling through space as the sun's magnetic field weakens and provides less shielding from these cosmic rays.



**237. The first 12000 HP made in India Locomotive is manufactured by Madhepura Electric Loco Factory. Madhepura Electric Loco Factory is located in which state?**

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Bihar

❖ The Indian Railways operationalised its most powerful 'Made in India locomotive - a 12000 HP engine, becoming only the sixth country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horsepower locomotive indigenously.

❖ The first 12000 HP made in India Locomotive, manufactured by **Madhepura Electric Loco Factory situated in Bihar**, was put into operation by Indian Railways from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn Station.

❖ The loco is named **WAG12 with Number 60027**.

❖ It is the **first time, high horsepower locomotive has been operationalised on broad gauge track in the world**

❖ The Madhepura factory is the **largest integrated Green Field facility** built to the highest standards of quality and safety with a production capacity of 120 locomotives and spread across a massive 250 acres.

**238. Diamer-Basha Dam is recently in news in the context of affairs of which country?**

- (A) India-Bangladesh
- (B) China-Pakistan
- (C) Pakistan-Iran
- (D) India- Nepal

❖ **China and Pakistan** signed an accord to construct this Dam in **Gilgit-Baltistan region**.

❖ It is to be constructed on the **River Indus** with a capacity of 4,500 MW.

❖ India had objected to the construction of the dam repeatedly as it falls into the Indian territory of northern Gilgit-Baltistan region. Also, **it can cause water shortage in Ladakh**.

**239. Headquarters of United Nations Relief and Works Agency is located in which country?**

- (A) Israel
- (B) Japan
- (C) Jordan
- (D) Australia

❖ The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is an UN agency created in **December 1949 to support the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees**.

❖ **Headquarters : Amman, Jordan**

❖ **India has given USD 2 million in aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency** working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees in support of its core programmes and services, including education and health, amidst the coronavirus crisis.

❖ India had increased its annual contribution to the UNRWA from USD 1.25 million in 2016 to USD 5 million in 2019. It pledged another USD 5 million for 2020 which opens its way to become a member of the agency's advisory commission

❖ **The UNRWA definition of refugee covers Palestinians who fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1948 War**.

240. The term “Smiling Buddha” signifies-

- (A) A Chinese art form of sculpture
- (B) India’s first nuclear test
- (C) Form of Buddha who will appear on Earth in the future
- (D) Sculptures of Buddha made in Gandhara Style

- ❖ India is observing the **46th anniversary of its first nuclear test in Rajasthan's Pokhran on May 18, 1974 codenamed the 'Smiling Buddha'**.
- ❖ It was the first confirmed nuclear test by a nation that was not a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.
- ❖ After the 1974 tests, explosions of nuclear devices were conducted by India on **May, 1998, codenamed 'Operation Shakti'**.

241. “Kalapani territories” is recently in news in context of affairs of-

- (A) India-Bhutan
- (B) India-China
- (C) India-Bangladesh
- (D) India-Nepal

- ❖ The new map of Nepal incorporates **Limpiadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani, territories claimed by Nepal.**
- ❖ According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of **Uttarakhand.**
- ❖ **Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It is**

situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route. The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.



242. Ankit Shishodia is related to which sport?

- (A) Badminton
- (B) Powerlifting
- (C) Boxing
- (D) Football

- ❖ The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has provisionally **suspended two powerlifters -- Savita Kumari and Ankit Shishodia** - for violating anti-doping rules.
- ❖ NADA has been conducting anti-doping awareness workshops, educational and awareness seminars about the prohibited drugs/substances and methods in sports across the country for sportspersons, young athletes, coaches and support staff.



**243. Madhubani Painting is related to which state?**

- (A) Punjab (B) Gujarat  
(C) Bihar (D) Goa

❖ Madhubani Painting is also referred to as **Mithila Art (as it flourishes in Mithila region of Bihar)** and is characterized by line drawings filled in by **bright colours and contrasts or patterns.**

❖ It uses tribal motifs and paintings are done with mineral pigments prepared by artists.

❖ **Themes:** Hindu deities, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings etc.

❖ Floral, animal and bird motifs, geometrical designs are used to fill up all the gaps.

**244. Which Bank recently became the first Indian lender to allow video KYC?**

- (A) Kotak Mahindra Bank  
(B) Punjab National Bank  
(C) State Bank of India  
(D) ICICI Bank

❖ **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has introduced video-KYC facility for customers opening savings account on Kotak 811 - the banks digital banking platform. **The private lender is the first Indian bank to offer video based "zero-contact" onboarding service.**

❖ The initiative is presently being launched on a pilot basis for savings accounts.

❖ **With Video KYC, verification of documents, signature is completed via a video call with representative from the bank without any physical interface.**

❖ **In January 2020, the Reserve Bank of India amended the Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and introduced the video-based KYC option to onboard customers.** Kotak is the first bank to integrate the Video KYC process

**245. What is the theme of World Bee Day 2020?**

- (A) Save the Bees  
(B) Bee Engaged  
(C) Bees and Planet  
(D) Bees Protection

❖ To raise awareness about the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, every year, **World Bee Day 2020 is celebrated on May 20.**

❖ World Bee Day aims at significantly contributing to solving problems related to the global food supply chain and eliminates hunger in developing countries.

❖ **World Bee Day 2020 theme is "Save the Bees".** The theme of World Bee Day 2020 stresses the protection of bees and other pollinators. It also aimed at protecting the natural habitat of pollinators.

❖ **On May 20, the pioneer of beekeeping Anton Jansa was born in 1734 in Slovenia** hence every year this year is celebrated as World Bee Day. Approved by the United Nations, the First World Bee Day was celebrated on May 20, 2018.

**246. Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME) is a-**

- (A) Central scheme
- (B) State Scheme
- (C) Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- (D) Private Scheme



❖ **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme - "Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)" for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore.**

❖ **The Scheme would be monitored at Centre by an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee (IMEC) under the Chairmanship of Minister, FPI. It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Expenditure is shared by Government of India and States at 60:40.**

**247. Every year World Metrology Day is celebrated on -**

- (A) May 12
- (B) May 22
- (C) May 20
- (D) May 23

❖ **World Metrology Day** is celebrated on **May 20** every year. The day is the celebration of the **signature of the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875**, by representatives of seventeen nations.

❖ The Convention sets the framework for global collaboration in the field of science and especially in **measurement and its industrial, commercial and societal applications**. As per research, the original aim of the Metre Convention was - the **world-wide uniformity of measurement**.

❖ The World Metrology Day project is realised **jointly by the BIPM and the OIML**.

❖ the **theme** for World Metrology Day 2020 is **Measurements for Global Trade**. This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in facilitating fair global trade.

**248. Tsai Ing-wen recently sworn as a president of -**

- (A) Taiwan
- (B) Hong Kong
- (C) Singapore
- (D) Malaysia

❖ **Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen was sworn in for a second term.**

❖ The **first woman** to be elected to the office, Tsai is the **seventh president** of the Republic of China under the 1947 Constitution and the **second president from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)**; part of Taiwan's Pan-Green Coalition.

- ❖ She is also the **first president to be of both Hakka and aboriginal descent**, the **first unmarried president**, the **first to have never held an elected executive post before presidency** and the **first to be popularly elected without having previously served as the Mayor of Taipei**.

**249. International Tea Day is observed annually on-**

- (A) May 21                      (B) March 21  
(C) May 2                        (D) March 2

- ❖ International Tea Day is observed annually on **May 21**, according to the United Nations.
- ❖ The International Tea Day aims to raise awareness of the long history and the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world.

**250. Moeketsi Majoro has recently been sworn in as prime minister of which country?**

- (A) Botswana  
(B) Namibia  
(C) Lesotho  
(D) Zambia

- ❖ **Moeketsi Majoro has been sworn in as Lesotho's** prime minister following the resignation of his embattled predecessor, Thomas Thabane.

- ❖ Lesotho, a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom encircled by South Africa

- ❖ **Capital: Maseru**

**251. WAG12 is recently in news. What is it?**

- (A) A new species of Bee  
(B) First 12000 HP made in India Locomotive  
(C) New vaccine for Covid-19  
(D) New satellite launched by China

- ❖ The Indian Railways operationalised its most powerful '**Made in India locomotive - a 12000 HP engine**, becoming **only the sixth country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horsepower locomotive indigenously**.

- ❖ The first 12000 HP made in India Locomotive, manufactured by **Madhepura Electric Loco Factory situated in Bihar**, was put into operation by Indian Railways from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn Station.

- ❖ **The loco is named WAG12 with Number 60027**.

- ❖ **It is the first time, high horsepower locomotive has been operationalised on broad gauge track in the world**

- ❖ The Madhepura factory is **the largest integrated Green Field facility** built to the highest standards of quality and safety with a production capacity of 120 locomotives and spread across a massive 250 acres.

**252. Who recently appointed as the new President of Indian Steel Association (ISA)?**

- (A) Dilip Oommen  
(B) Govinda Rajulu Chintala  
(C) NS Vishwanathan  
(D) MK Jain

- ❖ Indian Steel Association (ISA) appointed **Dilip Oommen** as its new President with immediate effect.

- ❖ Dilip Oommen, CEO, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India has taken over as President of ISA.





**253. Didi Vehicle Service is recently in news, is related to which state?**

- (A) Jharkhand
- (B) West Bengal
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Haryana

❖ In the tribal-dominated Jhabua district of **Madhya Pradesh**, the women of Rural Livelihood Mission have started **Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery. This vehicle service is completely free.**

❖ Women of Rural Livelihood Mission have started this service for 29 villages of 10 Gram Panchayats of Petlavad development block of Jhabua.

**254. Who has recently appointed as chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development?**

- (A) Dilip Oommen
- (B) Govinda Rajulu Chintala
- (C) NS Vishwanathan
- (D) MK Jain

❖ The government has appointed **Govinda Rajulu Chintala** as chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

❖ Chintala is currently chief general manager at Nabard.

❖ It also cleared the appointment of Shaji KV, currently general manager at Canara Bank, as deputy managing director at Nabard for five years.

**255. "Tatpar" programme is recently in news, is related to which city?**

- (A) Jaipur
- (B) Chandigarh
- (C) Dehradun
- (D) Ranchi

❖ "Tatpar" programme was launched by the **Ranchi district** administration. Under the programme, **officials collect information about those walking on national highways or on any other road to provide them transport facilities.**

❖ They were given masks and food packets.

❖ The administration also launched a helpline - 1950 for the migrant workers to facilitate arranging of buses.

**256. Which one among the following events was not occurred during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi as a Prime Minister of India?**

- (A) Bhopal Gas Tragedy
- (B) Bofors scandal
- (C) Shah Bano case
- (D) LPG Reforms of 1991

❖ On **May 21, 1991** former prime minister and stalwart Congress leader **Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated** during an election campaign. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary.

❖ Rajiv Ratna Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay, to former **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and freedom fighter,**

**politician Feroze Gandhi.** He served as the sixth prime minister of the country, **from 1984 to 1989, and was also the youngest ever to hold the office.**

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi's period in office, **Bhopal disaster, Bofors scandal and Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum case** were prominent events.
- ❖ **India's Prime Minister, when the New Economic Policy (NEP) ie.LPG Reforms was introduced was P V Narasimha Rao and the Finance Minister was Dr. Manmohan Singh.**

**257. Mee Annapurna programme is related to-**

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Kerala
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Gujarat

- ❖ Mee Annapurna, an inclusive programme has been launched for the **welfare of farmers and Bhoomiputras in Maharashtra.** The initiative was announced by **Integrated Risk Insurance, an IRDA Licensed insurance intermediary.**
- ❖ It will integrate three critical aspects of livelihood and comprehensive engagement. It involves three commandments - Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement.

**258. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is located in which state?**

- (A) Assam
- (B) Tripura
- (C) Sikkim
- (D) Bihar

- ❖ **Exploration major Oil India Limited (OIL) has negated fears that its drilling project under Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park would spell doom for its flora and fauna, including the only population of feral horses in India.**

- ❖ OIL had on May 19 announced that it has received environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at seven locations under the 765 sq km park straddling eastern Assam's Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.

- ❖ **Dibru-Saikhowa is an island bounded by the Brahmaputra, Lohit and the Dibru rivers.**

**259. Treaty of Sugauli is recently in news in context of affairs of-**

- (A) India-China
- (B) India-Japan
- (C) India-Pakistan
- (D) India-Nepal
- ❖ The new map of Nepal incorporates Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani, territories claimed by Nepal.
- ❖ According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ **Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route. The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.**
- ❖ **The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-**



**Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India. The discrepancy in locating the source of the river led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps supporting their own claims.**

**260. World Turtle Day is celebrated on -**

- (A) May 20                      (B) May 23  
(C) May 27                      (D) May 29

- ❖ World Turtle Day is celebrated on **May 23** in order to bring attention and increase knowledge and our respect for turtles and tortoises.
- ❖ The day is also celebrated to encourage human actions that will help the turtles survive and thrive in their natural habitat.

**261. Who recently has been elected as Chair of the Executive Board of World Health Organization for the year 2020-21?**

- (A) Dr. Harsh Vardhan  
(B) Patty Hadju  
(C) Chrystia Freeland  
(D) Chen Zhu

- ❖ The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** has been elected as Chair of the Executive Board of **World Health Organization for the year 2020-21**. This took place during the 147th session of the Executive Board, in a meeting that was virtually held. **He has replaced Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan.**
- ❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan has also been a member of several prestigious

committees of WHO like Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and the Global Technical Consultative Group (TCG) on Polio Eradication. He has also served as an Advisor to the WHO.

- ❖ The Executive Board of WHO is composed of **34 technically qualified members elected for three-year term**. The main functions of the Board are to implement the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, and advise and facilitate its work.

**262. International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated on-**

- (A) 5 June  
(B) 2 February  
(C) 23 March  
(D) 22 May

- ❖ The United Nations has proclaimed **May 22** The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- ❖ The **theme** of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 22 May 2020 is "**Our solutions are in nature**"

**263. Which year was / is nicknamed "SUPER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY"?**

- (A) 2017  
(B) 2018  
(C) 2010  
(D) 2020



- ❖ **Global advocacy groups have nicknamed 2020 a “super year” for activism and actions.** It highlights 21 SDG targets that are expiring in 1 year. The SDGs of Climate, Ocean, Gender, life below water and land, means of implementation will be given special focus upon.
  - Gender Equality (SDG 5)
  - Climate Action (SDG 13)
  - Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)
  - Life Below Water and on Land (SDGs 14 and 15)
  - Means of Implementation (SDG 17)

**264. “Aichi Targets” mentioned in news in the context of**

- (A) Climate Change
- (B) Desertification
- (C) Biodiversity protection
- (D) Ozone depleting substances

- ❖ “Aichi Targets” mentioned in news in the context of **Biodiversity protection**
- ❖ The ‘Aichi Target’ adopted by the Convention on **Biological Diversity (CBD) at its Nagoya conference.** In the COP-10 meeting, the parties agreed that previous biodiversity protection targets are not achieved, So we need to do come up with new plans and targets The short term plan provides a set of 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets.
- ❖ The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity with 20 global Aichi targets adopted **in 2010 ends in 2020** and all the countries together are in the process of preparation of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

**265. Consider the following statements:**

1. Prime Minister of India launched the UMANG App in 2017 to bring major government services on a single mobile app.
2. IMD Weather Services brought on the “UMANG App”.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 2 both
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ❖ **The UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app,** powered by a robust back-end platform providing access to high impact services of various organizations (Central and State). **Prime Minister of India** launched the **UMANG App** in 2017 to bring major government services on a single mobile app, with a larger goal to make the government accessible on the mobile phone of our citizens. About 660 services from 127 departments & 25 states and about 180 utility bill payment services are live and more are in pipeline. UMANG user base has crossed 2.1 Crore including Android, iOS, Web and KaiOS. Citizens can also access their Digilocker from UMANG and give their feedback after availing any service through Rapid Assessment System (RAS) which has been integrated with UMANG.



❖ **To further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, MeitY has brought the India Meteorological Department (IMD) services on the “UMANG App”.**

**266. What will be the theme of “Hunar Haat” that will restart from September 2020?**

- (A) Local to Global
- (B) Vocal to Global
- (C) Kaushal Ka Kam
- (D) Make in India

❖ After a gap of about 5 months due to the Corona pandemic, “Hunar Haat”, which has become “Empowerment Exchange” of artisans and craftsmen from across the country, will restart from **September 2020 with the theme of “Local to Global”** and comparatively larger participation of artisans.

❖ Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that “Hunar Haat”, which has provided employment and employment opportunities to more than 5 lakh Indian artisans, craftsmen, culinary experts and other people associated with them in the last 5 years, have become popular among the people. “Hunar Haat”, which provides market and opportunity to master artisans and craftsmen from remote areas of the country, has become a credible brand of rare exquisite indigenous handmade products.

❖ **There will be a special “Jaan Bhi, Jahaan Bhi” pavilion to create health awareness among the people with the theme of “Say no to panic, yes to precautions”.**

❖ **The Minority Affairs Ministry has organised** more than 2 dozen “Hunar Haat” so far across the country where lakhs of artisans, craftsmen have been provided employment and employment opportunities through these “Hunar Haat”.

**267. Katkari is one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, is belonged to which state?**

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Haryana
- (C) Manipur
- (D) Maharashtra

❖ **The Katkari are an Indian Tribe mostly belonging to the state of Maharashtra.**

❖ **Katkari is one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**, as per the classification by Ministry of Home Affairs.

❖ There are certain tribal communities who use a pre-agricultural level of technology, face stagnant or declining population growth, and are equipped with only an extremely low level of literacy and a subsistence level of economy. 75 such groups of tribals in 18 States and one Union Territory have been identified and categorized as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.

❖ Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana provides working capital for SHGs working for Katkari people.



### **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)**

- ✦ Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a **retail marketing led value addition plan for Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**, meant for forest-based tribes to optimize the tribal income, locally. Under the program, MFP-based tribal groups / enterprises of around 300 members are formed for collection, value addition, packaging & marketing of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs).
- ✦ **TRIFED** will support the VDVKS through providing them with model business plans, processing plans & tentative list of equipment for carrying out the value addition work of MFPs.

### **268. Which one among the following products belonged to Bihar does not have GI tag?**

- (A) Bhagalpuri Zardalu
- (B) Magahi Paan
- (C) Shahi Litchi
- (D) Khola Chilli

- ❖ The Department of Posts, Government of India and Department of Horticulture, Government of **Bihar have joined hands to supply "Shahi Lichi" & "Zardalu Mango"** to the people at doorstep. Bihar Postal Circle has made an agreement with Department of Horticulture, Government of Bihar for logistics of Shahi Lichi from Muzaffarpur and Zardalu Mango from Bhagalpur and its delivery to the door step of the people.

- ❖ **Few Agricultural Products from Bihar having GI Tag are- Bhagalpuri Zardalu, Katarni Rice, Magahi Paan, Shahi Litchi and Silao Khaja etc.**

- ❖ **Khola Chilli has GI tag. But it is related to Goa.**

### **269. Eid-ul-Fitr is an important festival of-**

- (A) Hinduism
- (B) Jainism
- (C) Islam
- (D) Buddhism

- ❖ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted the nation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. **Eid al-Fitr, also called the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.** It is believed that Prophet **Muhammad got the first revelation of the Holy Quran in this month.**

### **270. Open Skies Treaty (OST) came into effect in-**

- (A) 1991
- (B) 1995
- (C) 2002
- (D) 2006

- ❖ **U.S has given notice to exit OST citing repeated Russian violations of its terms.** OST allows each state-party to carry out short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights over the others territories to collect data on military forces and activities.

- ❖ **OST came into effect in 2002.** Currently there are **34 states** that are party to treaty. **India is not a member.**

❖ **Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC)**, comprised of representatives of all states-parties, is responsible for the implementation of the Open Skies Treaty.

**271. Khudol (gift) initiative is recently in news in context of which state?**

- (A) Punjab (B) Kerala  
(C) Bihar (D) Manipur

❖ **Khudol (gift) initiative is recently in news in context of Manipur**

❖ It is a crowdfunded initiative of **Ya\_AII, an Imphal-based NGO** that had created **India's first transgender football team.**

❖ It entails ensuring food, health and hygiene of **LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.**

❖ **United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth** has listed **Khudol among top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**272. Belt and Road Initiative often seen in newspapers in context of-**

- (A) India (B) Japan  
(C) Australia (D) China

**DEBT CONCERNS WITH BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI)**

- A recent report found that economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic has led several countries from Asia and Africa to seek delay or waive debt repayments for BRI.
- For BRI, China has given financial assistance to countries like grants, interest-free loans, preferential loans etc.

**CHINA'S PROPOSED NEW SILK ROADS**

**About BRI**

- BRI, announced in 2013, is made up of a "belt" of overland routes and a maritime "road", which aims to connect Asia, Europe and Africa by networks of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, infrastructure projects etc.
- It aims to improve regional integration and increasing trade and economic growth.
- It covers over 70 countries, accounting for about 65% of world's population and around one-third of world's GDP.
- India has boycotted BRI, as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (part of BRI) passes through Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and also it raised concerns over debt trap, environmental concerns, and transparency in assessment of project costs etc.
- Blue Dot Network, jointly launched by US, Japan and Australia is considered as an alternative to BRI.

**273. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is a disputed dam between-**

- (A) Egypt and Ethiopia  
(B) Egypt and Jordan  
(C) Egypt and Israel  
(D) Egypt and Libya

❖ **Egypt and Ethiopia** are having disputes over this dam.

❖ GERD (formerly known as the **Millennium Dam**) is hydropower project nearing completion on **Blue Nile River in Ethiopia.** When completed it will be largest dam in Africa.

❖ **White Nile River and Blue Nile River are two major tributaries of the Nile.** The Blue Nile supplies about 80% of the water in the Nile during the rainy season.

**274. Wadi Rum desert is located in which country?**

- (A) Israel (B) Jordan  
(C) Egypt (D) Ethiopia



- ❖ It is a desert that lies in far south of **Jordan**. It is also called **valley of Moon**.
- ❖ Wadi Rum is set on a **high plateau at western edge of Arabian Desert**.
- ❖ Wadi means a bed or valley of a stream that is usually dry except during rainy season.

**275. Antarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna (ANITA) is recently in news in context of-**

- (A) ISRO                      (B) XASA  
(C) NASA                      (D) ESA

- ❖ ANITA instrument is a radio telescope to **detect ultra-high energy cosmic-ray neutrinos from a scientific balloon flying over the continent of Antarctica**.
- ❖ A neutrino is a subatomic particle that is very similar to an electron, but has no electrical charge and a very small mass. They are one of the most abundant particles in the universe.
- ❖ **ANITA is the first NASA observatory for neutrinos of any kind.**

**276. Which state recently became the first state to grant industry status to sports?**

- (A) Mizoram  
(B) Punjab  
(C) Manipur  
(D) Kerala

- ❖ **Mizoram** became the first state to grant industry status to sports.
- ❖ It is expected to increase investments in sports, generating employment and increasing value.

**277. Which state has recently become the first state to release a unique report highlighting its conservation efforts to save over 1,100 rare plants from extinction?**

- (A) Sikkim  
(B) Arunachal Pradesh  
(C) Uttarakhand  
(D) Himachal Pradesh

❖ **Uttarakhand has become the first state to release a unique report highlighting its conservation efforts to save over 1,100 rare plants from extinction.**

- ❖ Herbs like 'Ashwagandha', 'Giloy', 'Kalmegh' and 'Chitrak', which are presently part of scientists' research to find a possible cure to coronavirus, are included in this conservation programme executed by whistleblower forest service officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi.
- ❖ As many as 1,145 plant species have been conserved out of which **46 species are endemic to Uttarakhand and 68 species are rare, endangered or threatened, under red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** or under state biodiversity board, under this project by the research wing of the state forest department.

**278. Who has recently inaugurated the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC)?**

- (A) Justice A K Sikri  
(B) Justice Ranjan Gogoi  
(C) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde  
(D) Justice Dipak Misra





- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge **Justice A K Sikri** has inaugurated the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC), which provides a **paperless dispute resolution environment**.
- ❖ The e-inauguration of IDRC took place, the official said, adding that the centre offers offline as well as **e-alternate dispute resolution (ADR)** facility through its state-of-the-art e-arbitration, e-mediation and e-conciliation software portal.
- ❖ It provides a completely paperless dispute resolution environment. Its arbitration panel has former judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts apart from senior advocates, former bureaucrats, chartered accountants, architects, corporate leaders among others.
- ❖ **The IDRCs are located at strategic commercial places in the country with its head office in Connaught Place in New Delhi.**

**279. India has recently become the world's second largest supplier of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Which country is the current world leader in both the manufacture and export of PPEs?**

- (A) USA                      (B) Japan  
(C) China                    (D) France

- ❖ **India has now become the world's second largest supplier of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in just 60 days.**

- ❖ Over 600 companies in India are certified to produce PPE and the country today manufactures 4.5 lakh pieces of PPE a day. India is now well-positioned to seize a share of the global market, which will be \$60 billion by 2025, according to a report on 'Personal Protective Equipment in India: A ₹7,000-crore industry in the making', produced by Invest India, a company set up by the Indian government for investment facilitation.

- ❖ **PPE includes goggles, face-shields, masks (surgical and N-95), gloves (surgical and examination), coveralls and gowns, head cover and shoe cover.** There are three broad customer categories for these products—industrial (for workers), healthcare (for doctors, nurses and attendants) and general consumers.

- ❖ **China is the current world leader in both the manufacture and export of PPEs.** The US and the Asia Pacific are the biggest markets that Indian manufacturers are eyeing. These two regions have a combined market share of 61 per cent (33 per cent + 28 per cent) of PPEs. Europe has an additional share of 22 per cent.

**280. Balbir Singh Sr who passed away recently was related to which sport?**

- (A) Football                (B) Cricket  
(C) Hockey                 (D) Badminton

- ❖ On 25th May 2020, **Legendary hockey Player**, three-time Olympic gold medalist and the best centre-forward, Balbir Singh Sr passed away at the age of 96 at the Fortis Hospital, Chandigarh.



- ❖ He was a **three-time Olympic gold medallist**, having played a key role in India's wins in **London (1948), Helsinki (1952) (as vice captain), and Melbourne (1956) (as captain)** Olympics. He is regarded as one of the greatest hockey players of all time.
- ❖ His Olympic record for most goals scored by an individual in an Olympic men's hockey final remains unbeaten. Singh set this **record when he scored five goals in India's 6-1 victory over the Netherlands in the gold medal game of the 1952 Olympic Games.**
- ❖ Singh was the manager and chief coach of the Indian team for the 1975 Men's Hockey World Cup, which India won, and the 1971 Men's Hockey World Cup, where India earned a bronze medal. During the London Olympics in 2012, Singh was honoured in the Olympic Museum exhibition, "The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games" held at the Royal Opera House. The exhibition told the story of the Olympic Games from its creation in 776BC through to the London 2012 Olympic Games. **He was one of the 16 iconic Olympians chosen whose example "tells of human strength and endeavour, of passion, determination, hard work and achievement and demonstrates the values of the Olympic Movement".**

**281. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru died on-**

- (A) 27 May 1964
- (B) 23 May 1964
- (C) 27 May 1962
- (D) 23 May 1962

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to **India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** on his death anniversary. Pandit Nehru died on **27 May 1964** of a heart attack. He was the Prime Minister of the country till his death and is the **longest-serving prime minister till date.**
- ❖ He became the **first prime minister of independent India.** On **14 November 1889**, Jawaharlal Nehru was born in Allahabad. Nehru's parents were **Motilal Nehru and Swaruprani Thussu.**
- ❖ He became the General Secretary of the **All India Congress Committee in September 1923.** He was the party president in the **Lahore session in 1929 when the declaration of complete independence as the goal of the freedom movement was passed.**
- ❖ **He became the president of the All India States Peoples Conference in 1935.**
- ❖ **Nehru headed the interim government of India in 1946.** After India achieved independence on 15 August 1947, Nehru became the prime minister. As prime minister, he delivered his now-famous address to the nation, **'Tryst with Destiny'**.
- ❖ From 1957, his birth anniversary is celebrated as **'Children's Day' in India.**

**282. Kheer Bhawani Mela is related to-**

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Bihar
- (C) Punjab
- (D) Jammu and Kashmir



- ❖ In the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, the Annual Kheer Bhawani Mela on 30th May this year in **Tulmulla village of Ganderbal district has been cancelled by the Dharmarth Trust of Jammu and Kashmir because of outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic.**
- ❖ Annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulmulla Ganderbal which falls on the auspicious day of "**Zeshta Ashtami**" witnesses lakhs of hindu pilgrims from across the country largely the Kashmiri Pandit Community, who throng the famous **Ragyna Devi Temple in Tulmulla Ganderbal popularly known as "Mata Kheer Bhawani", to seek the blessings of the Goddess.**
- ❖ **Kheer Bhawani Mela is one of the biggest religious functions of Kashmiri Pandit Community.** It is believed and rather has been seen that the colour of the water in the spring around the Kheer Bhawani Temple changes its colour with the change in the circumstances of the Kashmir valley.

**283. 'Everybody will get employment' scheme is recently in news in context of which state?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Haryana
- (D) Kerala

- ❖ In **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the

'Everybody will get employment' scheme through video conferencing. **Under this scheme, MNREGA job cards will be distributed to the labourers.**

- ❖ State government is committed to provide employment to migrant labourers and those labourers who have gone out of the state in search of employment, in their village and gram Panchayat area itself.

**284. International Missing Children's Day (IMCD) is celebrated on-**

- (A) May 27 (B) March 27
- (C) May 25 (D) March 25

- ❖ **May 25** is International Missing Children Day, a day that is marked around the world to remember children who are missing and those who have been found.
- ❖ **In 2001, 25 May was first formally recognized as International Missing Children's Day (IMCD)**, thanks to a joint effort on the part of ICMEC, Missing Children Europe and the European Commission.

**285. World Thyroid Day is observed on-**

- (A) May 27 (B) March 27
- (C) May 25 (D) March 25

- ❖ World Thyroid Day is observed on **May 25**. In Leipzig, Germany in 2007, a decision was made to celebrate every 25th day of May as the World Thyroid Day.



❖ **Thyroid disease refers to any and all dysfunctions that can occur in the thyroid gland.**

❖ Lending its weight to the cause, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has highlighted the role of water for Thyroid related ailments.

**286. Jamie Hampton is related to which sport?**

- (A) Tennis (B) Badminton  
(C) Boxing (D) Chess

❖ Former World Top 25 and **US tennis star Jamie Hampton** has announced her retirement from professional tennis. On July 29, 2013, she reached her highest singles ranking of world no. 24.

**287. PPE kit, "NavRakshak" is related to-**

- (A) Indian Army  
(B) Delhi Police  
(C) Indian Navy  
(D) Indian Air Force

❖ The **Indian Navy's indigenously-made PPE kit, "NavRakshak"**, made for enhancing comforts of the health workers under Indian conditions, is helping fight the war against Covid-19 in a better and effective manner.

❖ The "NavRakshak" with an **innovative "breathable" fabric material**, has brought new hopes to the medical world and healthcare professionals from whose perspective it has been designed.

❖ Navrakshak - which translates to a "**novel protector**", has two distinctive factors; optimal protectiveness and optimal breathability.

❖ NavRakshak uses a **non-woven advanced quality fabric of specific GSM with a certain stitching technique.**

**288. A Mumbai based start-up has come up with world's first contactless Visitor Management Software. What is the name of it?**

- (A) VAMS SafeGuard  
(B) NavRakshak  
(C) Ruhdaar  
(D) Rudra

❖ A Mumbai based start-up has come up with world's first contactless Visitor Management Software with temperature scanner and mask detection.

❖ **VAMS SafeGuard** as is it called scans body temperature, read faces with a mask on while monitoring social distancing on the premise. The software uses 'AT to allow entry of visitors, only who are only complying to all COVID protection measures.

**289. Who recently became the first Indian to receive UN Military Gender Advocate award?**

- (A) Major Suman Gawani  
(B) Priya Jhingan  
(C) Mitali Madhumita  
(D) Lieutenant General Punita Arora

❖ **Major Suman Gawani**, an Indian Army officer and woman peacekeeper who has served with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**, has been selected for the prestigious **United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019).**



- ❖ She has been awarded for her outstanding contribution to peacekeeping efforts in the UNMISS
- ❖ This is the **first time that an Indian peacekeeper is being given the UN Military Gender Advocate award.**
- ❖ **Created in 2016**, the award honours the dedication and effort of individual military peacekeepers in promoting the UN principles on Women, Peace and Security in peace operations as nominated by Heads and Force Commanders of peace operations.
- ❖ **Along with her, Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo** will receive the award by United Nations Secretary-General Guterres on **May 29, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.**

**290. Which one among the following is not part of Char Dham project?**

- (A) Badrinath
- (B) Kedarnath
- (C) Gangotri
- (D) Dwarka

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the breakthrough event of Chamba Tunnel under Chardham Pariyojana through video conference mode. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) achieved this major milestone by digging up a 440 m long Tunnel below the busy Chamba town on Rishikesh-Dharasu road Highway (NH 94).

- ❖ The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways **connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of; Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri** at an estimated cost of Rs.12,000 crores.
- ❖ The highway will be called **Char Dham Mahamarg (Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called as Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana** (Char Dham Highway Development Project).

**291. Ajit Jogi, who passed away recently, was the first Chief Minister of which state?**

- (A) Chhattisgarh
- (B) Madhya Pradesh
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Jharkhand

- ❖ **Ajit Jogi - the first chief minister of Chhattisgarh**, passed away after prolonged illness in Raipur. He left the government service in 1985 and became a Member of Parliament (MP) in Rajya Sabha in 1986. Jogi remained a member of the Upper House till 1998.
- ❖ The leader from Chhattisgarh was first spotted by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi when he was a district collector in Indore from 1981-85.
- ❖ He formed a political party of his own - **Janta Congress Chhattisgarh** - which debuted in the 2018 assembly elections where it had an alliance with Mayawati led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).



**292. The term 'AGNEEPRASTHA' is recently in news. What is it?**

- (A) New NCR Territory
- (B) A Missile Park
- (C) A newly developed Ventilator by ICMR
- (D) New Ayurvedic medicine for COVID-19

❖ **The Missile Park 'AGNEEPRASTHA'** once

completed will be dedicated to all the Officers, Sailors and Support Staff of **INS Kalinga**, who have served in this premier op-support Base of the ENC since its establishment in **1981**. The Park also commemorates the award of the prestigious Unit Citation to **INS Kalinga** for the year 2018-19.

❖ 'AGNEEPRASTHA' aims to capture glimpses of Missile History of **INS Kalinga** since 1981 till date. The Missile Park has been set up with a replica of missiles and Ground Support Equipment (GSE) that showcase the evolution of missiles handled by the unit. The exhibits have been created from scrap / obsolete inventory which have been reconditioned in-house. The main attraction is **P-70 'Ametist'**, an underwater launched anti-ship missile from the arsenal of the **old 'Chakra' (Charlie-1 submarine) which was in service with IN during 1988-91**.

❖ 'AGNEEPRASTHA' will also provide a one-stop arena for motivation and stimulation of inquisitive minds regarding the missiles and related technologies, from school children to Naval personnel and their families. It is also intended to encourage a feeling of ownership and pride in the role

of the Unit, and highlight the necessity of contribution of all personnel irrespective of rank/trade towards the overarching objective of ordnance availability, reliability and delivery on target, each and every time.

**293. National Career Service (NCS) project is related to which Ministry?**

- (A) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (C) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (D) Ministry of Finance

❖ The **Ministry of Labour and Employment under its National Career Service (NCS) project** has now started offering free online "Career Skills Training" in partnership with TCS ION for its registered job-seekers. This course on soft skills assists the learners in enhancing personality development with modules on corporate etiquette, improving inter personal skills, making impactful presentation including other necessary soft skills demanded by the industry today. The training module is available in Hindi and English on the NCS portal.

❖ National Career Service is a **Five Year Mission Mode Project launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 20th July, 2015**. The project is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment. National Career Service (NCS) is a one-stop



solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India. It works towards bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance, agencies providing training and career counselling.

**294. Dzukou valley situated between-**

- (A) Manipur and Assam
- (B) Manipur and Tripura
- (C) Manipur and Nagaland
- (D) Manipur and Mizoram

❖ To showcase the Northeast Region of India which is a largely unexplored destination for both domestic and foreign travellers, the Ministry of **Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh webinar "NORTHEAST INDIA FOR THE IMMERSIVE TRAVELLER"** on 28th May 2020 offered an attractive virtual tour to four north-eastern states namely Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Sikkim. DekhoApnaDeshseries is also meant to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat SreshthaBharat through virtual tours of different parts of the country and it is promoting the same even during the tough circumstances arising due to Covid19.

❖ Some of the wonders and experiences that North East India offers to travellers which were show cased in this session of webinar included **Dzukou valley situated between Manipur and Nagaland which is the crater base of an extinct volcano and most famous**

**Dzukoulily is found only in this region. The Hornbill festival annually celebrated from 1st of December to 10th of December in Kohima has become a big attraction** for both domestic and foreign tourists leading to the development of tourist amenities in Nagaland.

**295. Minimum Support Price (MSP) are announced by the Government of India on the basis of the recommendations of the-**

- (A) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
- (B) Competition Commission of India
- (C) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- (D) Food Corporation of India

❖ Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a **form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.** The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the **basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).**

❖ Ministry of Tribal Affairs has announced Inclusion of **23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items** and stipulation of their Minimum Support Price (MSP) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)



through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain of MFP".

- ❖ This decision enhancing the coverage from 50 to 73 items comes in view of the exceptional and very difficult circumstances currently prevailing in the country on account of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the potential of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs scheme to offer the much needed support to the tribal MFP gatherers.
- ❖ **The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.**

**296. Who was the founder of Abhinav Bharat Society?**

- (A) Bhagat Singh
- (B) Chandra Shekhar Azad
- (C) Ram Prasad Bismil
- (D) Veer Savarkar

- ❖ On 28 May, The Birth Anniversary of Veer Savarkar, PM of India paid Tribute to the Freedom fighter, Veer Damodar Savarkar. Veer Savarkar was a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, writer, social reformer and formulator of the Hindutva philosophy.
- ❖ VD Savarkar or Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was born **on May 28, 1883** in Bhagur, a village near Nashik in Maharashtra.
- ❖ **Savarkar was associated with the India House and founded student societies like Abhinav Bharat Society and the Free India Society.**

- ❖ He was sentenced to 50 years and was sent to the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1911. He was released in 1921.
- ❖ In 1908, brought out an authentic informative researched work on The Great Indian Revolt, which the British termed as **“Sepoy Mutiny” of 1857. The book was called “The Indian War of Independence 1857”.**
- ❖ In Ratnagiri jail Savarkar wrote the book **‘Hindutva: who is hindu?’**
- ❖ Vinayak Savarkar was a **president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.**

**297. Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) works under which ministry?**

- (A) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- (B) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (C) Ministry of Coal
- (D) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

- ❖ **Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) has been renamed as Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET),** a premier national institution under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India.
- ❖ The changed name has been registered under the **Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1975)**





❖ The primary objective of CIPET has been contributing towards the growth of the plastics industry through a combined program of education and research. The Institute has evolved through the years, creating closer ties with industries with the intent to create innovative plastic based solutions which are resource efficient and marketable.

**298. Number of digits in a PAN card are-**

- (A) 9 (B) 10  
(C) 11 (D) 12

❖ Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman formally launched the **facility for instant allotment of PAN (on near to real time basis)** .

❖ This facility is now available for those PAN applicants who possess a valid Aadhaar number and have a mobile number registered with Aadhaar. The allotment process is paperless and an electronic PAN (e-PAN) is issued to the applicants free of cost.

❖ PAN, which stands for Permanent Account Number, is a unique number. **A PAN card is a card issued under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and it contains a unique 10-digit alphanumeric code. This code is computer-generated and is unique to the holder of the card.**

**299. To upgrade 450 kilometers (km) of state highways and major district roads in which state, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India recently signed a \$177 million loan?**

- (A) Maharashtra (B) Gujarat  
(C) Punjab (D) Haryana

❖ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India signed a **\$177 million loan to upgrade 450 kilometers (km)** of state highways and major district roads in the state of **Maharashtra.**

**Asian Development Bank**

✦ ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. **Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.**

✦ Headquarters- **Manila, Philippines**

**300. Labour Bureau was established in-**

- (A) 1946 (B) 1952  
(C) 1957 (D) 1969

❖ In an attempt to supply updated latest statistics related to labour welfare, Shri Snatosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Labour and Employment (I/C), inaugurated the **twitter handle @LabourDG for Labour Bureau.**

- ❖ Labour Bureau is an attached Office of **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- ❖ Labour Bureau has a mandate of compilation & maintenance of **Index Numbers**, conducting surveys for collection of statistics in the field of Labour and collection, compilation and dissemination of Administrative Labour Statistics. **Labour Bureau is engaged in Labour Force Surveys & Enterprise Surveys which primarily provide estimates of indicators related to Labour Force.**
- ❖ **Labour Bureau was established in 1946.** The two main wings of the Labour Bureau are at **Chandigarh and at Shimla.** It has **five Regional Offices**, one each at **Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Kolkata, Guwahati and Chennai** with a **Sub-Regional Office in Mumbai.**
- ❖ **Headed by Director General**, an Additional Secretary level Officer from the Indian Economic Service (IES), with a team of professionals from the Indian Economic Service and Indian Statistical Service.



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