## Week 3 Current Affairs Update

16<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **EVENTS**

## **NATIONAL**

#### **POLICIES & SCHEMES**

# ASSISTANCE TO DISABLED PERSONS FOR PURCHASING/FITTING OF AIDS/APPLIANCES (ADIP) SCHEME



**Date:** 16th June 2020

First ever distribution of assistive aids & devices to divyangjan through virtual platform under ADIP Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in Firozpur, Punjab.

- This is the first camp being organized by the ALIMCO under DEPwD after opening of lockdown with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by the Government of India.
- Its objective is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.
- The scheme is implemented through implementing agencies such as NGOs, National Institutes under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and ALIMCO (a PSU that manufactures artificial limbs).

#### MULTI LOCATION CLAIM SETTLEMENT FACILITY BY EPFO



**Date:** 17th June 2020

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched the Multi-Location Claim Settlement Facility.

## **Key Points:**

- Multi-Location Claim Settlement Facility has been launched to expedite member claims such as provident fund, pension, partial withdrawal and transfer claims.
- The new facility will allow EPFO offices to settle online claims from its any regional office, across the country.
- Thus the new facility will be replacing the old one with a system of geographical jurisdiction for the claim process.
- Because of this new facility, there will be no delay in settlement of the claim process and has proven to be beneficial in the lockdown situation of COVID-19.

## **TRADE & COMMERCE**

# INDIAN GAS EXCHANGE- ONLINE DELIVERY BASED GAS TRADING PLATFORM



**Date:** 17th June 2020

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched India's first online delivery based natural gas trading platform named as Indian Gas Exchange (IGX).

## **Key Points:**

- It has been launched with an aim to provide a clean, affordable, sustainable and equitable supply of energy to every citizen.
- Headquarter of IGX is New Delhi and the Director will be Rajiv Srivastava.
- Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) will provide seamless trading experience to the customer as it is a fully automated web-based interface.
- It is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), India's energy market platform.
- IGX is India's vision on mega investments on LNG terminals, gas pipelines and City gas distribution infrastructure.

#### **BANKING**

## INDIA'S FIRST 'PAY AS YOU FLY' INSURANCE FOR DRONES



Date: 18th June 2020

India's first 'pay as you fly' insurance for drones is launched by HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company in partnership with UK based tech firm TropoGo Limited for drone owners of India.

- The policy is launched for the commercial drone owners and operators in order to cover the property damage and body injuries which may happen during activities like surveying drones, mapping, monitoring, disaster relief initiatives, festival events etc. to the drones.
- Policyholders under this will be able to claim insurance up to Rs 10 Lakh on TropoGo mobile app and they can opt for 4 hours, one day or one month cover to insure themselves against third party liabilities.
- Third-party insurance liability claim is mandatory for drone operations in India.

#### HEALTHCARE

## **INDIA'S FIRST MOBILE LAB FOR COVID-19**



**Date:** 19th June 2020

Union minister Harsh Vardhan launched a mobile laboratory for coronavirus testing which can be deployed in rural areas and help in promoting last-mile testing.

## **Key Points:**

- The mobile lab, also called I-Lab or Infectious Diseases Diagnostics Lab, can run 50 RT-PCR and about 200 ELISA tests in a day.
- This mobile testing facility will be deployed through the DBDBT testing hubs to remote regions of the country for coronavirus testing.
- I-Lab is able to conduct COVID and Non-COVID tests as well.

## **REPORTS & INDICES**

## INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL REPORT ON CLIMATE CRISIS



Ambitions

**Date:** 20th June 2020

India has released its first-ever national report on the climate crisis titled 'Assessment of climate change over the Indian region'.

## **Key Points:**

• As per the report prepared by the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), the average temperature of India has risen by 0.7 degree Celsius in 1901-2018. This has resulted due to the emission of greenhouse gases and it is project-

- ed to rise by 2.7 degree Celsius by 2099 in case if essential care is taken on climate change and in the worst case it will rise to 4.4 degree Celsius.
- The monsoon in Northern India has reduced by 6% between 1951-2015 because of polluting aerosol 'brown cloud'.
- As compared to the April-June heatwaves between 1976-2005, they are to become four times more by 2099.
- Also, the sea level near Mumbai is rising at a rate of 3cm per decade and on the Bengal coast, it is 5cm per decade.

#### **MOUS & AGREEMENTS**

# MOU BETWEEN MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS AND SIDBI



Date: 20th June 2020

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) for PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SAVNidhi Scheme).

- The PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi Scheme aims to provide Special Micro-Credit Facility for Street Vendors.
- The scheme will be implemented by SIDBI under the guidance of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the management of credit guarantee to the lending institutions through CGTMSE (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises).
- SIDBI will be providing Project Management Unit (PMU) which will consist of experts from training and capacity building, banking, NBFC, MFI sectors which will ensure effective implementation of the project and its management.
- SIDBI will also leverage the network of lending institutions for the implementation of the scheme. The lending institutions include Scheduled Commercial Banks, MBFCs, RRBs, SFBs etc.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### INDIA JOINS GPAI



**Date:** 16th June 2020

India has joined as a founding member and has launched a Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI or Gee-Pay).

## **Key Points:**

- GPAI is an initiative which aims to create development and increase usage of AI across the whole world.
- GPAI is the first of its kind initiative which focuses and understands revolving opportunities of Artificial Intelligence.
- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will help to bridge the gap between theory and practice of AI by supporting and conducting various research approach in practical manners
- India after joining GPAI, will promote global development in AI and will leverage its usage in digital technology.
- Hosting organisation for GPAI will be the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and two centers of expertise from Montreal and Paris.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT



**Date:** 17th June 2020

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17th June every year.

## **Key Points:**

- This day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1995, after the day when the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was drafted.
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- Theme for 2020: Food. Feed.Fibre. the links between consumption and land.

#### **SPACE**

#### NASA'S GATEWAY LUNAR ORBIT OUTPOST



**Date:** 18th June 2020

NASA recently finalised the contract for the initial crew module of the agency's Gateway lunar orbiting outpost.

- The contract, which is worth \$187 million has been awarded to Orbital Science Corporation of Dulles, Virginia, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Space.
- NASA has issued this contract to design the habitation and logistics (HALO) support for the Gateway, which is a part of NASA's Artemis program that aims to send the first woman and the next man to the Moon by 2024.
- The HALO refers to the pressurised living quarters where astronauts will spend their time while visiting the Gateway.
- These quarters will be about the size of a small apartment and will provide augmented life support in tandem with NASA's Orion spacecraft.

## LAW & JUSTICE

### **US U**IGHUR RIGHTS BILL



**Date:** 18th June 2020

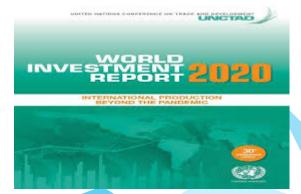
US President Donald Trump has signed legislation calling for sanctions over the repression of China's Uighur Muslims.

## **Key Points:**

- The Bill calls for sanctions against those responsible for repression of Uighurs and other Muslim groups in China's Xinjiang province, where the United Nations estimates that more than a million Muslims have been detained in camps.
- It singles out the region's Communist Party secretary, Chen Quanguo, as responsible for "gross human rights violations" against them.
- The Bill also calls on U.S. firms operating in the Xinjiang region to ensure their products do not include parts using forced labour.
- The United Nations estimates that more than a million Muslims have been detained in camps in the Xinjiang region. The U.S. State Department has accused Chinese officials of subjecting Muslims to torture, abuse "and trying to basically erase their culture and their religion."
- Uighurs are a Muslim minority community concentrated in the country's northwestern Xinjiang province.

## **REPORTS & INDICES**

#### **WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2020**



Date: 18th June 2020

United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN's trade body has released 'World Investment Report 2020'.

## **Key Points:**

- As per the report, India has become the 9th largest recipient of Foreign Direct investment for 2019.
- In 2019, India has received \$51 billion as FDI.
- As compared to 2018, there's been an increase of 20% in FDI.
- As per the report, among South Asian countries, India has topped the list of the largest recipient of Foreign Direct investment for 2019.
- The overall report is topped by the United States with \$246 billion of FDI in 2019 followed by China with \$141 billion of FDI in 2019.

## IMD WORLD COMPETITIVE INDEX 2020



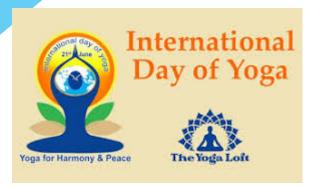
**Date:** 18th June 2020

Switzerland based International Institute for Management and Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Centre (WCC) has released a 32nd World Competitive Index 2020 report.

- As per the report, India has stood at the ranking position of 43rd for this year.
- The report is topped by Singapore followed by Denmark and Switzerland at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.
- In terms of BRICS Nation' ranking, India ranks next to China (20th rank).
- In terms of economic performance, India ranked at 37th position, Government Efficiency at 50th position, Business efficiency at 32nd position and in terms of infrastructure Indian bagged 49th position.

## HEALTHCARE

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**



**Date:** 21st June 2020

The United Nations celebrates International Day of Yoga globally on 21 June every year to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

## **Key Points:**

- India proposed the draft resolution to establish the International Day of Yoga and the proposal was endorsed by a record 175 member states.
- Recognizing its universal appeal, in December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga.
- The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is "Yoga for Health Yoga at Home".



Nurturing Ambitions

## **PEOPLE**

## **NATIONAL**

#### **OBITUARY**

#### **DINU RANDIVE**



**Date:** 17th June 2020

Veterran journalist, freedom fighter from Maharashtra Dinu Randive passed away.

## **Key Points:**

- Randive started his career as the founder-editor of Samyukta Maharashtra Patrika in 1950s. He played a key role in the struggle movement called Samyukta Maharashtra movement to carve out Maharashtra state.
- He then did exemplary reporting on the Goa Freedom Struggle in 1961.
- He was recently conferred with Mumbai Press Club's Red Ink award for Lifetime Achievement.

# APPOINTMENTS

#### URJIT PATEL



**Date:** 20th June 2020

Why in news: Appointed as new Chairman of Economic Think Tank Finance and Policy (NIPFP).

## **Key Points:**

- Former Reserve Bank governor Urjit Patel will take charge as chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).
- Patel will replace Vijay Kelkar, who assumed office in November 2014.
- Hailing from Nairobi, Patel was a Kenyan national until 2013. He acquired Indian citizenship before he was appointed RBI deputy governor in January 2013.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **VOLKAN BOZKIR**



**Date:** 19th June 2020

Why in news: Appointed as the President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly.

- The UN General Assembly elected Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir to be its president for the 75th General Debate in September.
- Bozkir is currently serving as the head of the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.
- He is the first Turkish national to head the General Assembly. He will replace Tijjani Muhammad - Bande of Ghana.



## **ISSUES**

## **NATIONAL**

#### LAW & JUSTICE

#### CONCERNS OVER SUSPENSION OF PCPNDT RULES



**Date:** 16th June 2020

## **Key Highlights:**

- The Supreme Court has asked the government to explain its decision to suspend crucial rules of a parliamentary law against pre-natal sex determination and sex selection till June end, amid the COVID-19 national lockdown. However, the Court has refused to put on hold the notification.
- On April 4, a notification was issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which put on hold the implementation of certain rules of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex-Selection Rules) of 1996 till June 30, 2020.
- The government's notification suspends rules 8, 9(8), and 18A(6) of the PCPNDT Act.
- This move was widely criticised for its future consequences and possibility of spike in sex-selective abortions in the country.
- In the absence of the rules, many fear that it could lead to undocumented misuse by clinic owners as well as parents.

## **POLITY**

## **RESERVATION IN TAMIL NADU**



**Date:** 17th June 2020

## **Key Highlights:**

- The Supreme Court has said that reservation of seats to certain communities was not a Fundamental Right.
- The Court said this while refusing to act on a petition filed by all political parties from Tamil Nadu who sought 50% OBC reservation in the all-India NEET seats surrendered by states.
- All political parties from Tamil Nadu filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. They accused the Centre of violating the "right of the people of Tamil Nadu to have a fair education" by not implementing the 50% quota for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes for the All India Quota seats in medical and dental science courses.
- Court observed: Reservation is not a fundamental right. Hence, Article 32 could not be applied. Therefore, not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any constitutional right.

**INTERNATIONAL** 

#### **SECURITY**

### IAEA MEET OVER IRAN'S N-PROGRAMME



Date: 17th June 2020

## **Key Highlights:**

• The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has expressed "serious concern" about Iran's failure to cooperate with its probe into undeclared nuclear material in the country.

- Iran had failed to give its inspectors access to two sites the agency wanted to visit.
- Iran didn't answer questions about the use of possible undeclared nuclear material in the early 2000s and what had happened to it since.
- There is a big jump in Iran's nuclear-fuel stockpile, far above the levels permitted under the 2015 pact.
- If Iran fails to answer the IAEA's questions, the issue could be sent up to the U.N. Security Council, which has previously imposed sanctions on Iran.



## **IDIEAS**

## **NATIONAL**

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### 'GERMIBAN' DEVICE



**Date:** 16th June 2020

#### **Key Features:**

- The Government of India has launched the 'GermiBAN' device which kills viruses and other germs by sterilizing, sanitizing and disinfecting in large areas.
- It also acts as an air purifier in order to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- The innovation idea behind this 'GermiBAN' device is of NEO Inventronix, Hyderabad.
- It is incubated at Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP), Women Entrepreneur Hub with the support of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and GOI.
- It can disinfect room size of about 800sqft and neutralizes air pollution gases like Nitrogen oxides and Sulphur oxides.
- It has UV lights, Ionizer and Ozonizer and B, C, D components which can kill 99.9% air microorganisms which are harmful to health.

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### 'CAPTAIN ARJUN' AN AI ROBOT



**Date:** 16th June 2020

## **Key Features:**

- An Artificial Intelligence based technology Robot named as 'Captain Arjun' has been launched by Central Railway zone.
- The robot has been launched to intensify surveillance and screening of passengers so that it will keep watch on anti-social elements.
- It is incorporated with a motion sensor, PTZ camera and one dome camera installed on it.
- It also consists of sensor-based sanitizer as well as mask dispenser, thus it will also protect from COVID-19 infections.
- It also carries out thermal screening and temperature recording of passengers and displays the result on the digital display. If the temperature is above the higher value as per prescribed reference value, it will ring an automatic alarm.

## INTERNATIONAL

#### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### FIFTH STATE OF MATTER



Date: 17th June 2020

## **Key Features:**

- NASA scientists on Earth have collaborated with astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) to corral the first ever Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC)- the fifth state of matter- outside of Earth's gravity.
- The matter has been created in one of the coldest places in the universe- the Cold Atom Laboratory— a device on board the International Space Station (ISS).
- There are four natural states of matter: Solids, liquids, gases and plasma. The fifth state is the man-made Bose-Einstein condensates.
- A Bose-Einstein condensate is so named because its existence was posited almost a century ago by Albert Einstein and Indian mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose.
- This exotic material only exists when atoms of certain elements are cooled to temperatures near absolute zero.

## **Weekly Multiple Choice Questions**

## 16<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (WEEK 3)

1. The headquarter of India's first online delivery based	11. What is the theme of International Yoga Day 2020?
natural gas trading platform named as Indian Gas Exchange	(a) Yoga a way of life
(IGX) is located at	(b) Yoga for Health-Yoga at Home
(a) Lucknow (b) New Delhi	(c) Connect the Youth
(c) Mumbai (d) Ahmedabad	(d) Yoga for life
2. Recently which of the following organisations has launched a Multi-Location Claim Settlement Facility?	12. Name the device launched by the Union government
(a) ESIC (b) RBI	which kills viruses and other germs by sterilizing, sanitizing
(c) CBIC (d) EPFO	and disinfecting in large areas.  (a) GermiCombat  (b) GermiGO
3. Which insurance company in India has launched India's	(c) GermiKlean (d) GermiBAN
first-ever insurance policy for drone owners and operators?	13. Bose-Einstein condensate (BE(c) — the fifth state
(a) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company	of matter is named after Albert Einstein and which of the
(b) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company	following Indian scientists?
(c) Max Life Insurance	(a) Jagdish Chandra Bose (b) Satyendra Nath Bose
(d) TATA AIG Insurance	(c) Debendra Mohan Bose (d) None of the above
4. Union health ministry launched a mobile laboratory	14. Which of the following railway zones has launched
for coronavirus testing. The mobile lab is also called	'Captain Arjun' AI-based robots to intensify surveillance and screening of passengers?
(a) LabOnGo (b) GoLab	(a) Northern Railway (b) South Central Railway
(c) I-Lab (d) LabOnWheels	(c) Central Railway (d) North Eastern Railway
5. Which ministry has prepared 'India's first climate	
national report on the climate crisis' released recently?	rules of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic
(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Techniques (Prohibition of Sex-Selection Rules). The PC-
(b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	PNDT Act came into being in which year?
(c) Ministry Earth Sciences	(a) 1975 (b) 1984
(d) None of the above	(c) 1996 (d) 2004
6. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has signed an MoU with whom to build PM SAVNidhi Scheme?	16. Recently, The Supreme Court observed that 'reservation is not a Fundamental Right' on a petition filed by the political parties from which state?
(a) Industrial Investment Bank of India	(a) Rajasthan (b) Maharashtra
(b) SEBI	(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
(c) SIDBI	17. The Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy
(d) NABARD	Agency (IAE(a) is situated at?
7. Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)	(a) Vienna, Austria (b) Geneva, Switzerland
will be hosted by which of the following organisations?	(c) The Hague, Netherlands (d) Paris, France
(a) OPEC (b) OECD (c) NATO (d) ASEAN	18. Who has been elected as the President of the 75th
<ul><li>(c) NATO</li><li>(d) ASEAN</li><li>8. India ranked at which position, in terms of FDI in 2019</li></ul>	Session of the UN General Assembly?
as per 'World Investment Report 2020' by UNCTAD?	(a) Kubatbek Boronov
(a) 12th (b) 9th	(b) Tijjani Muhammad - Bande
(c) 14th (d) 16th	(c) Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziyev
9. Which country topped the IMD World Competitive	(d) Volkan Bozkir
Index 2020?	19. Recently, who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Economic Think Tank Finance and Policy (NIPFP)?
(a) United States (b) Switzerland	(a) Vijay Kelkar (b) Urjit Patel
(c) Singapore (d) Denmark	(c) Viral Acharya (d) Usha Thorat
10. Recently, which space agency has finalised the design	20. Dinu Randive, a renowned journalist and freedom
of the Habitation and Logistics Outpost (HALO) for its	fighter, recently passed away. He was from which state?

(a) Odisha

(c) Maharashtra

(b) West Bengal

(d) Andhra Pradesh

**Gateway Lunar Orbiting Outpost?** 

(b) SpaceX

(d) ESA

(a) NASA

(c) ISRO

## **Answers and Explanation**

- 1. (b) Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched India's first online delivery based natural gas trading platform named as Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). Headquarter of IGX is New Delhi and the Director will be Rajiv Srivastava.
- **2. (d)** The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched the Multi-Location Claim Settlement Facility. The facility has been launched to expedite member claims such as provident fund, pension, partial withdrawal and transfer claims.
- **3.** (a) India's first 'pay as you fly' insurance for drones is launched by HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company in partnership with UK based tech firm TropoGo Limited for drone owners of India. The policy is launched for the commercial drone owners and operators in order to cover the property damage and body injuries etc.
- **4. (c)** Union minister Harsh Vardhan launched a mobile laboratory for coronavirus testing which can be deployed in rural areas and help in promoting last-mile testing. The mobile lab, also called I-Lab or Infectious Diseases Diagnostics Lab, can run 50 RT-PCR and about 200 ELISA tests in a day.
- **5. (c)** India has released its first-ever national report on the climate crisis titled 'Assessment of climate change over the Indian region'. As per the report prepared by the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), the average temperature of India has risen by 0.7 degree Celsius in 1901-2018.
- **6. (c)** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHU(a) has signed an MoU with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of Indi(a) for PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SAVNidhi Scheme). The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi Scheme aims to provide Special Micro-Credit Facility for Street Vendors.
- 7. (b) India has joined as a founding member and has launched a Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI or Gee-Pay). GPAI is an initiative which aims to create development and increase usage of AI across the whole world. Hosting organisation for GPAI will be the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OEC(d) and two centers of expertise from Montreal and Paris.
- **8. (b)** United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN's trade body has released 'World Investment Report 2020'. As per the report, India has become the 9th largest recipient of Foreign Direct investment for 2019.
- **9. (c)** Switzerland based International Institute for Management and Development's (IM(d) World Competitiveness Centre (WC(c) has released a 32nd World Competitive Index 2020 report. As per the report, India has stood at the ranking position of 43rd for this year. The report is topped by Singapore followed by Denmark and Switzerland.
- **10.** (a) Recently, NASA has finalised the contract to design the Habitation and Logistics Outpost (HALO) for its Gateway Lunar Orbiting Outpost. The Habitation and Logistics (HALO) support for the Gateway, is a part of NASA's Artemis program

- that aims to send the first woman and the next man to the Moon by 2024.
- **11. (b)** The theme of International Yoga Day 2020 is "Yoga for Health-Yoga at Home".
- **12. (d)** The Government of India has launched the 'GermiBAN' device which kills viruses and other germs by sterilizing, sanitizing and disinfecting in large areas. It also acts as an air purifier in order to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- 13. (b) NASA scientists on Earth have collaborated with astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) to corral the first ever Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC)- the fifth state of matter- outside of Earth's gravity. A Bose-Einstein condensate is so named because its existence was posited almost a century ago by Albert Einstein and Indian mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose.
- 14. (c) An Artificial Intelligence based technology Robot named as 'Captain Arjun' has been launched by Central Railway zone. The robot has been launched to intensify surveillance and screening of passengers so that it will keep watch on anti-social elements.
- **15. (c)** The Supreme Court has asked the government to explain its decision to suspend crucial rules of a parliamentary law against pre-natal sex determination and sex selection till June end. On April 4, a notification was issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which put on hold the implementation of certain rules of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex-Selection Rules) of 1996.
- **16. (c)** The Supreme Court has said that reservation of seats to certain communities was not a Fundamental Right. The Court said this while refusing to act on a petition filed by all political parties from Tamil Nadu who sought 50% OBC reservation in the all-India NEET seats surrendered by states.
- 17. (a) Recently,the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAE(a) has expressed "serious concern" about Iran's failure to cooperate with its probe into undeclared nuclear material in the country. IAEA is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. Its headquarters is in Vienna, Austria.
- **18. (d)** The UN General Assembly elected Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir to be its president for the 75th General Debate in September. He is the first Turkish national to head the General Assembly. He will replace Tijjani Muhammad Bande of Ghana.
- **19. (b)** Former Reserve Bank governor Urjit Patel will take charge as chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). Patel will replace Vijay Kelkar, who assumed office in November 2014.
- **20. (c)** Senior journalist and freedom fighter from Maharashtra, Dinu Randive has passed away. Randive played a key role in the struggle movement called Samyukta Maharashtra movement to carve out Maharashtra state.