

Week 4 Current Affairs Update

24th - 31st May 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

FIVE INITIATIVES TO CONSERVE THE BIODIVERSITY



Date: 24th May 2020

On the occasion of International day for Biological Diversity, Government of India launched the key initiatives to conserve biodiversity.

Key Points:

- Initiative No 1. Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme: In this initiative 20 Postgraduate students will be trained for natural resource management and biodiversity conservation and to support National Biodiversity Authority (NB(a)) projects for a period of one year.
- Initiative No 2. UNEP Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species: This initiative was launched with the theme 'Not all animals migrate by choice'.
- Initiative No 3. World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties: This was launched to involve the young generation in conservation around the impact of humanity footprints in biodiversity.
- Initiative No 4. Awareness Campaign: An awareness campaign was launched to highlight the vital role of nature in providing ecological services to human beings.
- Initiative No 5. Webinar: A webinar Series on Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was launched.

HEALTHCARE

‘KHUDOL’ INITIATIVE OF MANIPUR

KHUDOL initiative in Manipur



Date: 25th May 2020

‘Khudol’ (Gift) initiative of Manipur has been marked as the top 10 global initiatives in combating COVID-19 by the United Nations.

Key Points:

- This was listed by Jayathma Wickramanayake of Srilanka, who is UN Secretary- General’s Envoy on Youth.
- Khudol initiative is co-founded with an NGO called Ya_All.
- The initiative aims to provide food supplies and health services for the people suffering from HIV, to the daily wage earners, LGBTQI+ community, children and adolescents.
- Until now, this initiative has reached to 2000 families and around 1000 health kits and 6500 sanitary napkins to the needy ones and has offered many more support.

DEFENCE

‘NAVRAKSHAK’— BY INDIAN NAVY



Date: 26th May 2020

Indian Navy has come forward to combat COVID-19 by developing a PPE kit named as ‘NavRakshak’.

Key Points:

- It is made from an innovative fabric material in order to provide comfort to the healthcare workers dealing and combating COVID-19 in the hot and humid condition for more than 12 hours.
- 'NavRakshak' PPE kit has two main features mainly optimal protective-ness and optimal breathability. These two features are due to the usage of advanced quality non-woven fabric of specific Grams per Square Meter (GSM) with stitching techniques.
- It is developed by Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Arnab Ghosh from Naval Medical Specialist of Innovation Cell, Institute of Naval Medicine in Mumbai.

LAW & JUSTICE

INDIAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER



Date: 26th May 2020

Former Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri inaugurated Indian Dispute Resolution Center (IDR(c)) in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- IDRC is first of its kind Institutional Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center which will provide an offline and e-ADR facility through e-Arbitration, e-Mediation and e-Conciliation software portal.
- The software will provide e-filing of claim petitions, e-payments, and issuance of e-notice to the party, online payment of registration and administrative fees. The software will also carry out virtual hearing processes on certified VC platforms.
- The e-ADR also has a digital signature and document updating support and submission of important documents will take place on IDRC cloud server with 24x7 access to stakeholders and lawyers.
- The arbitration panel includes former Supreme Court judges, judges of HC and district courts and former bureaucrats etc.

RURAL & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CHARDHAM PROJECT



Date: 27th May 2020

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 440-meter long tunnel under the Chamba town on Rishikesh- Dharasu road (NH-94) in Uttarakhand.

Key Points:

- The construction of the tunnel is part of the Chardham Connectivity Project in Chamba.
- The Chardham project is aimed to boost the connectivity of holy towns like Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Yamunotri.
- The tunnel under this project was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari via a video conference.
- The tunnel is being constructed under the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna using Austrian technology.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

PM VAYA VANDANA YOJANA PENSION SCHEME



Date: 27th May 2020

Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched PM Vaya Vandana Yojana Pension Scheme (PMVVY) (Modified-2020).

Key Points:

- It is a social security scheme for senior citizens above 60 years of age.
- The plan starts from May 26 for the period of three financial years i.e. up to 31st March 2023.
- LIC is solely authorized to operate this scheme that offers a total payout not exceeding Rs 15 Lakhs.
- The scheme works as Non-Linked, Non-Participating pension scheme subsidized by the centre
- The tenure period for the policy is 10 years.
- A senior citizen can withdraw a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month depending on the amount invested in the scheme.

ROZGAR SETU YOJANA: MADHYA PRADESH



रोजगार सेतु

Date: 30th May 2020

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has launched the Rozgar Setu Yojana.

Key Points:

- It has been launched to support and provide employment and employment based skills to migrant workers who have returned to the state in the COVID-19 situation.
- The yojana also aims to fulfill the industries need of manpower in this pandemic situation
- The state government has also launched 'MP Rojgar Setu Portal' for unemployed workers in order to carry out the registration process.

MUKHYAMANTRI SWAROZGAR YOJANA –UTTARAKHAND



Date: 31st May 2020

Government of Uttarakhand has launched Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana for the migrants returning to the state during the lockdown situation caused due to novel coronavirus.

Key Points:

- This scheme aims to provide employment opportunities to the youth especially entrepreneurs returning to the state, to the skilled and non-skilled artisans, handicrafts and unemployed youths.
- The credit facility under this scheme will be offered through nationalized banks, scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks.
- Under this scheme, money margin will be provided as a grant by the MSME department.

‘K-FON’ – KERALA’S FREE INTERNET PROJECT



Date: 31st May 2020

The state government of Kerala has announced a free internet project called K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network).

Key Points:

- The project aims to provide free internet access to the economically weak section of the state.
- This project will be commissioned in December 2020.
- The cost of the project is Rs 1,500 crore and Kerala is the first state to offer the internet as a fundamental right to its citizens.
- Various companies like BEL, Railtel, SRIT and LS cables are going to work for this project.
- Piyush Goyal stated that there is a huge opportunity to increase production in the auto component sector, furniture and IT related services.
- He also assured grant support to increase export from India.

ENERGY

HYDROELECTRIC AND MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS IN MADHYA PRADESH



Date: 28th May 2020

Power Finance Corporation has signed an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Limited (NBPCL) to fund to develop Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Projects in Madhya Pradesh

Key Points:

- The MoU of Rs 22,000 crore has been signed between two organisations.
- 225 MW Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose projects are to be built in Madhya Pradesh.
- 12 major multipurpose projects will be built with the help of this fund which includes Basaniya multipurpose project Dindori, Chinki Boras multipurpose project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara, Dundhi project Chhindwara Hoshangabad.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

ARMY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE 2020



Date: 28th May 2020

Army Commanders Conference 2020 has commenced in New Delhi. The first phase was scheduled from 27th to 29th May 2020 and the second phase will be conducted in the last week of June 2020.

Key Points:

- In this apex Biannual event, the leadership of Indian Army will be deliberated in terms of various aspects like operational, administrative issues pertaining to logistics and human resources.
- Current security and administrative challenges will be discussed in the conference and the reformative ways will be find out for the future of India
- The issue of border with China in Ladakh is also likely to be discussed in the conference.
- The conference is headed by Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane.

22ND MEETING OF FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FSDC)



Date: 30th May 2020

22nd Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSD(c)) was conducted and was chaired by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

Key Points:

- The meeting was conducted to review the global and domestic macroeconomic situation, financial stability and vulnerabilities issues, issues being faced by banks and financial institutions, NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs.
- The meeting also discussed the capital flow issues, resource mobilization and market volatility.
- The heads of various financial organisations like IRDAI, PFRDA, and SEBI were present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the RBI Governor secretary of various ministries.
- They also discussed the economic reforms made in the country to combat the lockdown situation arisen due to pandemic COVID-19.

ECONOMY

INDIA'S GDP TO BE 4.2% IN 2019-20



Date: 30th May 2020

National Statistical Office has released the data describing that economic growth for India has slowed to an 11 year low of 4.2% for FY 2019-2020.

Key Points:

- The GDP was 6.1% in 2018-2019, whereas for 2019-2020 it is marked to be 4.2% and has been marked as the slowest GDP in the 11 years
- The GDP for the fourth quarter is estimated to be 3.1%
- The reduction has also lead to per capita income which is unable to cross Rs 1 lakh mark
- The bank's deposits has also reduced to minus 53%

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HIL INDIA TO PROVIDE LOCUST CONTROL PESTICIDE TO IRAN



Date: 26th May 2020

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has made an announcement that Hindustan Insecticides Limited India or HIL India is going to produce and supply 25 tons of pesticide to Iran to control locust.

Key Points:

- HIL will be supplying 25 MT Malathion Technical for supply to locust control programme to Iran under the government to government arrangement.
- Also recently HIL has signed an agreement with the ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare to supply Malathion Technical to Rajasthan and Gujrat for the locust control programme.

RURAL & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ADB AND GOI SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE ROADS IN MAHARASHTRA



Date: 29th May 2020

Government of India has signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank to improve 11 state highways and 2 district roads in Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- A loan agreement of USD 177 million has been signed.
- The project will improve connectivity to national highways, agricultural areas will connect rural and urban areas.
- The loan amount will be also used to provide training to staff of Maharashtra Public Works Department so that they can construct roads and infrastructure in the state by following climate change standards in order to retain the environment and will adapt to disaster relief features.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

BRICS HEADS OF TAX AUTHORITIES MEETING



Date: 30th May 2020

Meeting of the Heads of Tax Authorities of BRICS Nations was held on 29th May 2020.

Key Points:

- The Tax heads of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participated.
- India was represented by Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Finance Secretary, GOI.
- Currently Russia holds the BRICS Presidency and hence the meet was hosted by the Federal Tax Service of Russia.
- The members in the meeting discussed the response of BRICS Tax authorities to the pandemic COVID-19 and also explored combating ways for the same.



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Nurturing Ambitions

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

R SREELEKHA



Date: 28th May 2020

Why in news: Become the first woman Director General of Police in Kerala.

Key Points:

- Kerala Police will get its first woman Director General when R.Sreelekha assumes office as the new head of the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services on June 1.
- Presently an Additional Director General of Police, she currently heads the Jail Department.
- An 1988 batch IPS officer, she became the first woman Superintendent of Police in 1991 and since then, has had a glittering career.

INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

CARMEN REINHART



Date: 24th May 2020

Why in news: Appointed as new Vice President and Chief Economist for the World Bank.

Key Points:

- World Bank Group has appointed Carmen Reinhart as its new Vice President and Chief Economist.
- She was a Senior Policy Advisor and Deputy Director at the IMF and Vice President and Chief Economist of the investment bank Bear Stearns.
- Carmen Reinhart has been ranked among the top Economists worldwide based on publications and scholarly citations.
- She has been listed among Bloomberg Markets Most Influential 50 in Finance, Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers, and Thomson Reuters' The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds.

MARCOS TROYJO & ANIL KISHORA



Date: 28th May 2020

Why in news: Elected as next President and vice-president of New Development Bank respectively.

Key Points:

- Marcos Troyjo has been elected as the new president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- He is a former deputy economy minister of Brazil and will replace India's KV Kamath.
- The elections for the post were held in a special meeting of the bank's board of governors on May 27.
- The Union Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman also attended NDB's board of governors meeting through the video conference.
- India's Anil Kishora will be the bank's new vice-president and Chief Risk Officer.



ISSUES

NATIONAL

LAW & JUSTICE

MIGRANT CRISIS DUE TO LOCKDOWN



Date: 26th May 2020

Key Highlights:

- The Supreme court has ordered the Centre and the States to immediately provide transport, food and shelter free of cost to the stranded migrant workers.
- The Court took suo motu cognisance of media reports and representations from senior lawyers to step in to protect the fundamental rights of the migrant workers.
- The Court said there have been “inadequacies and certain lapses” on the part of the Central and State governments in dealing with the migrant workers’ crisis during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Soon after the lockdown was imposed, migrants by the thousands, who had lost their jobs, started walking back home because no public transport was available. Many were stopped at state borders and sent to shelters. Others continued to walk along train tracks or on highways.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA-CHINA BORDER FLARE-UP



Date: 25th May 2020

Key Highlights:

- The India-China border has been witnessing tensions over the past month, with incidents reported in at least four different locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- These include: the Pangong lake in Ladakh, the Galway valley and Demchok.
- The face-offs mainly occur in areas along the LAC because LAC has never been demarcated.
- Differing perceptions are particularly acute in around two dozen spots across the Western (Ladakh), Middle (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), Sikkim, and Eastern (Arunachal Pradesh) sectors of the India-China border.
- Face-off occurred when patrols encountered each other in the contested zones between overlapping claim lines.

KALAPANI DISPUTE



Date: 25th May 2020

Key Highlights:

- On May 8, India inaugurated the Darchula-Lipulekh pass link road, cutting across the disputed Kalapani area which is used by Indian pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar.
- Nepal hit back by summoning the Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, to convey a formal protest.
- Kalapani is located in the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Shares a border on the north with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Nepal in the east and south. It is wedged in between Limpiadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani.
- The area is the largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas.
- The area is in India's control but Nepal claims the region because of historical and cartographic reasons.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSING PLATFORM



Date: 24th May 2020

Key Features:

Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati has developed an Electrochemical Sensing Platform.

The platform will detect the carcinogenic or mutagenic compound NDMA (N – nitrosomethylamine) and NDEA (N-nitrosodietthanolamine) which is found in food items like cured meat, few cheeses and low fat milk.

The invention resulted by developing a modified electrode by immobilizing carbon nanoparticles which are termed as carbon dots in DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

‘LUMOS’ A DECONTAMINATION DEVICE



Date: 30th May 2020

Key Features:

- Kochi based startup named Devaditek Innovations Private Limited has developed a multi-purpose decontamination device called ‘Lumos’.

- ‘Lumos’ is used to sanitize items from masks to vegetables. It is based on Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) technology.
- It has been designed with high power lamps, consumes less power, ozone functionality and zero consumable which provides 100% disinfection rate in a short period of time.
- Devaditek Innovations Private Limited will also be collaborating with Collegiate Congress under the United Nation’s Master plan Initiative to distribute ‘Lumos’ to overseas customers.

INTERNATIONAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

VAMS SAFEGUARD



Date: 27th May 2020

Key Features:

- VAMS (Visitor Authentication and Management System) Global , which is a startup in Mumbai has developed the world’s first contactless Visitor Management Software called VAMS SafeGuard which checks body temperature, scans faces with mask compliance and monitors social distancing in the premises.
- It is based on Artificial Intelligence and with the help of AI, the software takes the entry of visitors by following the testing standards for COVID-19.
- It is incorporated with embedded face and palm recognition sensors and thus provides hands-free user authentication for all its features like attendance time recording, visitor management, contractor module along with orders.



Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

24th- 31st May 2020 (WEEK 4)

- In May-June 2020, India witnessed a face-off with China in which of the following states/UTs?**
 - Ladakh
 - Uttarakhand
 - Sikkim
 - Arunachal Pradesh
- Kalapani area dispute is between India and which other country?**
 - China
 - Bangladesh
 - Myanmar
 - Nepal
- In May 2020, The Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of migrants issue arising out of covid-19 lockdown. The Suo Motu power has been warranted to the court under _____ of the constitution.**
 - Article 21
 - Article 32
 - Article 124
 - Article 131
- What is the name of the world's first contactless Visitor Management Software?**
 - VAMS Safe Recognizer
 - VAMS Visitor Software
 - VAMS Visitor Recorder
 - VAMS Safeguard
- Recently, which institute developed an Electrochemical Sensing Platform to detect NDMA and NDEA found in food items?**
 - Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru, Karnataka
 - Indian Institute of Food Technology, Tamil Nadu
 - CFTRI, Mumbai
 - Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati
- What is the name of a multi-purpose decontamination device developed by Kochi based startup named as Devaditek Innovations Private Limited to sanitize items from masks to vegetables?**
 - DIPL Sanitizer
 - Cimos
 - Lumos
 - Germos
- AYURAKSHA programme has been launched for the police personnel in which state/UT?**
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Delhi
 - Chandigarh
- Name the programme launched in May 2020 by the National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCST(c) and Department of Science & Technology (DST), for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is**
 - YASH
 - ATULYA
 - AYURAKSHA
 - JEEVAN
- To connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management systems, Kisan Sabha App has been developed by which of the following organizations?**
 - CSIR-CRRI
 - NITI Aayog in collaboration with e-NAM
 - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Which is the first state in India to grant a free health insurance scheme to all citizens amidst of COVID-19?**
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Gujrat
 - Punjab
 - Maharashtra
- Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has decided to launch which national e-commerce marketplace?**
 - Bharatmarket
 - Swadeshimarket
 - Indiamarket
 - e-Market India
- Recently, who has become the new Prime Minister of Iraq?**
 - Muhyiddin Yassin
 - Hassan Rouhan
 - Mustafa Al Kadhimi
 - Anastase Murekezi
- Recently, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardee Parathlete Deepa Malik has announced her retirement to head India's Paralympic Committee. She plays which of the following games?**
 - Badminton
 - Cycling
 - Shooting
 - Shot Put
- Name the Indian-origin girl who named NASA's pioneering Mars Helicopter 'Ingenuity' which will be the first aircraft to fly to another planet?**
 - Gunjan Verma
 - Vaneeza Rupani
 - Shruti Seth
 - Sunita Singh
- To study river management strategies across the globe 'Ideathon' was the webinar conducted in May 2020 by**
 - Ministry for Jal Shakti
 - NITI Aayog
 - The 'Rally for Rivers' campaign of Isha Foundation.
 - National Green Tribunal
- To focus and uplift the MSME sector which is affected during lockdown amidst COVID-19, Government of India in May 2020 has announced a policy named**
 - Agro MSME Policy
 - Entrepreneur Development Policy
 - MSME Sector Reform Policy
 - None of the above

17. Which state launched “Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rozgar Guarantee Yojna”?
- (a) Assam (b) Mizoram
(c) Manipur (d) Himachal Pradesh
18. To provide health-related tips and information about Ayurvedic medicine on novel coronavirus infection, which state government launched Ayush Kavach mobile app?
- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Kerala
19. Which of the following organisations launched the ‘Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan’ campaign?
- (a) LIC
(b) NITI Aayog
(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(d) RBI
20. As per the GRID 2020 report by IDMC, which country topped the highest displacement of the people in 2019?
- (a) Germany (b) UK
(c) Japan (d) India
21. Recently which organization granted \$3 million funds for PAHAL project to India, for mitigating the spread of COVID-19?
- (a) WHO (b) UNDP
(c) USAID (d) IMF
22. The virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) 2020 was conducted in May 2020 under the presidency of
- (a) Algeria (b) Sri Lanka
(c) Zambia (d) Azerbaijan
23. What is the name of Russia’s first satellite which will monitor the Arctic climate?
- (a) Arktika M (b) Arctic R
(c) Kobalt (d) Spektr R
24. Name the operation launched by Indian Navy to evacuate the people stuck outside the country due to COVID-19?
- (a) Operation Samudra Setu
(b) Operation Evacuate
(c) Operation Sea
(d) Vande Bharat Mission
25. Which states/UTs retained the topped spot in terms of Internet penetration as per ‘Digital in India’ report released recently by Nielsen and IAMAI?
- (a) Maharashtra (b) Karnataka
(c) Delhi (d) Telangana
26. Which organization recently approved the loan of \$500 million to India to combat COVID-19 under “COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project”?
- (a) Asian Development Bank
(b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(c) International Monetary Fund
(d) World Health Organization
27. Uttar Pradesh government launched the ‘PravasiRahatMitra’ app for returning migrant workers of the state in collaboration with which of the following organizations?
- (a) ADB (b) UNESCO
(c) WHO (d) UNDP
28. What is the name of the mission launched by the government of India to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations in the COVID-19 pandemic situation?
- (a) Mission Saral (b) Mission Sagar
(c) Mission Support (d) Vande Bharat Mission
29. As per the data released by the Registrar General of India in May 2020, which state has the best Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) value?
- (a) Maharashtra (b) Gujrat
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Kerala
30. Which of the following organisations has developed BiPAP Non-Invasive ‘Swasth Vayu’ Ventilator in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients?
- (a) DRDO
(b) Bharat Biotech
(c) IIT-Kharagpur
(d) CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
31. Which among the following startups has/ have received the award for the Startup India Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge recently?
- (a) EmerTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
(b) White Gold Technologies LLP, Mumbai
(c) MooFarm, Gurugram, Haryana
(d) All of these
32. The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched the _____ initiative to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level with the help of two tech startups Safejobs and Seekify.
- (a) Arogya Stores
(b) Swadeshi Mart
(c) Suraksha Stores
(d) Suvidha Mart
33. Recently, which state has launched FIR AapkeDwar Yojana?
- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Rajasthan (d) Manipur
34. Recently, CHAMPION portal has been launched by which ministry?
- (a) Ministry of MSME
(b) Ministry of Health
(c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(d) Ministry of Finance
35. In May 2020, which organization organized a virtual conference between India and Bangladesh to boost the trade between the two countries?
- (a) ASSOCHAM (b) FICCI
(c) NASSCOM (d) SEBI

- 36. What was the theme for the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting held in May 2020?**
- Combating COVID-19
 - Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 Response
 - Commonwealth response on COVID-19
 - Tackling and finding solution on COVID-19
- 37. What is the rank of India in Energy transition index released by WEF?**
- 72nd
 - 73rd
 - 74th
 - 75th
- 38. Name the initiative launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to provide solar power to West Asia and Southeast Asia.**
- Solar Energy: Best Energy resource
 - One Sun to all
 - Sharing of Solar Power
 - One Sun One World One Grid
- 39. What is the name of the recently launched national level open online coaching and education programme on sports?**
- e-Sports Pathshala
 - Sports by e-learning
 - India e-sports program
 - Khelo India e-Pathshala
- 40. Karnataka Listening Dashboard for COVID-19 which is an analytics driven platform to Karnataka has been developed by**
- Ministry of Health
 - Indian Navy
 - NASSCOM
 - CSIR
- 41. Name the 'AI-based national program for youths' recently launched by the Ministry of Electronics & IT.**
- AI: Future for Youth
 - Learning Artificial Intelligence
 - Responsible AI for Youth
 - Artificial Intelligence for Digital India
- 42. Recently, the union government has extended the Kisan Credit Card facility to which of the following?**
- Pisciculture
 - Horticulture
 - Dairy farmers
 - Bamboo farmers
- 43. RBI has announced 'Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) of Rs 500 crore. What is the initial contribution made by RBI in the allocated fund?**
- Rs 250 crore
 - Rs 300 crore
 - Rs 350 crore
 - Rs 400 crore
- 44. 'TULIP Program' – an Urban Learning Internship Program has been launched in partnership with HRD Ministry; Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and which of the following organizations?**
- CBSE
 - Delhi University
 - UGC
 - AICTE
- 45. The Environment Ministry has launched which of the following schemes on the occasion of World Environment Day 2020?**
- Rural Forest scheme
 - reForestation drive
 - Urban Forest scheme
 - rePlantation drive
- 46. Which country topped in the 'Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020' report by Startup Blink?**
- United States
 - India
 - United Kingdom
 - Israel
- 47. In June 2020, which country has become the 4th country to host a deep space ground station after the US, Spain and Australia?**
- India
 - China
 - South Africa
 - Russia
- 48. With which country India recently signed an MoU for the co-operation in the areas of Environment?**
- Brazil
 - Myanmar
 - Bhutan
 - South Africa
- 49. Which of the following countries hosted the Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020?**
- United States
 - Israel
 - India
 - United Kingdom
- 50. With whom Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has partnered to launch Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative?**
- USAID
 - World Energy Forum
 - UNDP
 - World Bank
- 51. Recently, ISRO has signed MoU to achieve cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SS(a) and Astrophysic with which of the following organisations?**
- University of Texas
 - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
 - ARIES, Nainital
 - BARC
- 52. Which organisation has developed ARPIT evacuation system for COVID-19 patients?**
- Indian Air Force
 - DRDO
 - Indian Navy
 - NASA
- 53. Name the Flagship Programme recently launched by CBIC which makes use of technology for faster custom clearance of imported goods?**
- e-Customs
 - Quick Customs
 - Turant Customs
 - Tech Customs
- 54. In June 2020, Government of India allotted Rs _____ crore to state governments under 'Per drop more crop'?**
- Rs 7000 crore
 - Rs 4000 crore
 - Rs 2000 crore
 - Rs 9000 crore
- 55. Recently, a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) complex has been built in which of the following places?**
- Kochi
 - Mumbai
 - Port Blair
 - Visakhapatnam

56. Sahakar Mitra Scheme funded by NCDC has been launched by which ministry?
- (a) Ministry of Home
 - (b) Ministry of Road Transport
 - (c) Ministry of Agriculture
 - (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development
57. Which organisation constituted a Joint Science Communication Forum to facilitate interaction, co-operation and co-ordination among various public sector science communication institutions and agencies?
- (a) CSIR
 - (b) IIT Delhi
 - (c) Department of Science and Technology
 - (d) Ministry of Science and Technology
58. Which of the following construction sector organisations has become the first one to become fully digital?
- (a) Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd
 - (b) National Project Construction Corporation Ltd
 - (c) National Highway Authority of India
 - (d) Hindustan Prefab Ltd
59. What is the name of the web-based solution launched by the Government of India to provide availability of critical healthcare supply commodities on a real-time basis?
- (a) Arogyasetu
 - (b) Arogyaseva
 - (c) Arogyamarg
 - (d) Aarogyapath
60. In June 2020, India signed MoU with Denmark to boost the following sector?
- (a) Infrastructure sector
 - (b) Education Sector
 - (c) Power Sector
 - (d) Solid Waste Management Sector
61. What rank has India got in the Environment Performance Index 2020?
- (a) 168th
 - (b) 145th
 - (c) 175th
 - (d) 124th
62. Which country topped in the Environment Performance Index 2020?
- (a) United Kingdom
 - (b) Saudi Arabia
 - (c) Denmark
 - (d) Australia
63. Which tech giant has signed a declaration of the United Nations Global Compact (UNG(c) initiative to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions and energy conservation?
- (a) Infosys
 - (b) Wipro
 - (c) TCS
 - (d) Tech Mahindra
64. As per the Global Economic Prospects by the World Bank, India's growth to contract by ____% for the financial year 2020-21?
- (a) 4.2%
 - (b) 4%
 - (c) 3.2%
 - (d) 3.5%
65. In June 2020, which of the following financial organisations has given a loan amount of Rs 1950 crore to West Bengal?
- (a) European Central Bank
 - (b) OECD
 - (c) International Monetary Fund
 - (d) World Bank
66. Which of the following universities/institutes topped the QS World University Ranking 2021?
- (a) Stanford University
 - (b) Oxford University
 - (c) Harvard University
 - (d) Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT)
67. Which of the following universities/institutes topped the 2020 Nature Index?
- (a) Stanford University
 - (b) Chinese Academy of Sciences
 - (c) Harvard University
 - (d) Max Planck Society, Germany
68. I-FLOWS'- A flood warning system has been launched in which state?
- (a) Gujrat
 - (b) Kerala
 - (c) Maharashtra
 - (d) Goa

Answers and Explanation

- (a)** The India-China border has been witnessing tensions over the past month, with incidents reported in at least four different locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). These include: the Pangong lake in Ladakh, the Galway valley and Demchok.
- (d)** Kalapani is located in the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district which shares a border on the north with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Nepal in the east and south. The area is in India's control but Nepal claims the region because of historical and cartographic reasons.
- (b)** Suo Motu or "on its own" cognisance is taken by the courts of India based on reports in media, PILs, letters etc where the court deems that there is grave negligence on the part of government/ private authorities. This power has been warranted to courts under Article 32 (Supreme Court) Article 226 (High Courts) of the Indian Constitution.
- (d)** VAMS (Visitor Authentication and Management System) Global, which is a startup in Mumbai has developed the world's first contactless Visitor Management Software called VAMS Safeguard which checks body temperature, scans faces with mask compliance and monitors social distancing in the premises.
- (d)** Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati has developed an Electrochemical Sensing Platform. The platform will detect the carcinogenic or mutagenic compound NDMA (N-nitrosomethylamine) and NDEA (N-nitrosodiethanolamine) which is found in food items like cured meat, few cheeses and low fat milk.
- (c)** Kochi based startup named Devaditek Innovations Private Limited has developed a multi-purpose decontamination device called 'Lumos'. 'Lumos' is used to sanitize items from masks to vegetables. It is based on Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) technology.
- (c)** The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AII(a) and Delhi Police organized AYURAKSHA programme for Delhi Police personnel. The programme was titled as AYURAKSHA "Corona Se Jung- Delhi Police Ke Sang".
- (a)** National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCST(c) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) launched 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)'. YASH programme is a comprehensive and effective science and health communication effort for promoting grass-root level appreciation and response on health and would help to save and shape the lives of people at large and build confidence, inculcate a scientific temper, and promote health consciousness among them.
- (a)** CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi has developed Kisan Sabha App with an aim to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management systems.
- (d)** Maharashtra Government has decided to grant free health insurance scheme to all citizens. The decision was taken amidst the outbreak of Coronavirus. By granting free health insurance schemes to all citizens, Maharashtra Govt has become the first state in India to do this.
- (a)** Bharatmarket
- (c)** Mustafa Al Kadhimi has been chosen as Iraq's new Prime Minister, ending months of political deadlock. He has become Iraq's first proper Prime Minister after Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November 2019 due to massive anti-government protests.
- (d)** Deepa Malik is the first Indian woman to win a medal in the Paralympic Games and won a Silver medal at the 2016 Summer Paralympics in the shot put.
- (a)** Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has decided to launch 'Bharatmarket' which is a national e-commerce marketplace. 'Bharatmarket' will be used for all retail traders in collaboration with several technology partners.
- (a)** Ministry for Jal Shakti
- (a)** Union Minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari announced an Agro MSME Policy that will focus on entrepreneurship development in rural, tribal, agricultural, and forest areas for manufacturing products using local raw material. The Agro MSME policy is launched to focus and uplift the MSME sector which is affected during lockdown amidst COVID-19.
- (d)** The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to launch an employment guarantee scheme called "MukhyaMantri Mantri Shahari Rozgar Guarantee Yojna" with an aim to improve the economy of the state affected by the Coronavirus. The Yojna will provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.
- (b)** Ayush Kavach mobile app has been launched by the state government of Uttar Pradesh. The app provides health-related tips and information about Ayurveda medicine on novel coronavirus infection.
- (b)** NITI Aayog in partnership with Piramal Foundation launched the 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan' campaign to ensure the well-being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (d)** As per the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRI(d) 2020 report, 5 million people were displaced in India in 2019, which is the highest in the world, due to disasters, including cyclones and monsoon floods.
- (c)** An Aid agency of United States-The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced

to provide an additional \$3 million to India, for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The fund will be utilized under Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.

22. (d) Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The aim behind this summit was to enhance the coordination of the member states in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The summit was conducted under the Presidency of Azerbaijan.

23. (a) Russia will be launching its first satellite to monitor the Arctic climate and environment this year. Arktika-M remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth, which will allow improving weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change.

24. (a) Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu to bring back the Indian citizens who are stranded overseas because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This operation is done by the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health, and various other agencies of Central/State government.

25. (c) Delhi retains the top spot in terms of Internet penetration as per 'Digital in India' report released recently by Nielsen and IAMA.

26. (a) An agreement between the Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has been signed for the approval of a loan of \$500 million for the "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project". The loan amount will help India to combat the COVID-19 pandemic situation and strengthen its public health.

27. (d) Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' App for migrant workers of state who are returning from different parts of the country amidst lockdown. The state revenue department in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has developed this app.

28. (b) The government of India launched "Mission Sagar" to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations in the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The mission is inspired by PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

29. (d) Registrar General of India has released Birth rate, Death rate, and IMR data. The data states that India's infant mortality rate (IMR) has improved very marginally from 33 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 32 in 2018. Kerala has received the best IMR value in single digits at 7.

30. (d) CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore has developed a Non-Invasive Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) Ventilator named as 'SwasthVayu'. This ventilator has been developed in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients.

31. (d) Five startup firms have been honoured with the Startup India Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge Award namely, White Gold Technologies LLP, Mumbai; Krushak Mitra Agro Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai; MooFarm, Gurugram, Haryana; EmerTech

Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai; and Adis Technologies, Belagavi, Karnataka.

32. (c) The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched the 'Suraksha Stores initiative to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level with the help of two tech startups Safejobs and Seekify.

33. (a) FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana has been launched by the state government of Madhya Pradesh. Under this Yojana, a person would not be required to visit the police station to lodge an FIR.

34. (a) Ministry of MSME

35. (a) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organized a virtual conference between India and Bangladesh. The conference was addressed by Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jitendra Singh and focussed on the vital role of the North Eastern region in order to boost the trade between the two countries.

36. (b) Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting which was conducted through video conference. The theme of the conference was "Delivering a coordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response."

37. (c) The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2020. This time, India has ranked 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI). In the previous year, it was ranked at 76th position.

38. (d) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched an initiative called 'One Sun One World One Grid'. This initiative is launched to interconnect renewable energy by sharing solar resources with more than 140 countries of West Asia and Southeast Asia.

39. (d) Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with National Sports Federations (NSF) has launched India's first ever sports e-pathshala named as Khelo India e-Pathshala. It is a national level open online coaching and education programme on sports.

40. (c) NASSCOM has delivered an end-to-end coronavirus tracking platform for Karnataka which is named as Karnataka Listening Dashboard for COVID-19. It is an analytics driven platform which will assist Karnataka state in recovering the industrial economy and help them to recover after the reopening stage of the state.

41. (c) Union Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a National program for youth in India called 'Responsible AI for Youth'. The national program will provide a platform to India's youth and will empower them to inculcate AI-based skills and learn AI tools in order to make them digitally strong and ready for the Digital future of the nation.

42. (c) Government of India has come up with a move to launch Kisan Credit Card (KC(c) for Dairy farmers. The Kisan Credit Card (KC(c) will prove beneficial to 1.5 crore dairy farmers who come under the category of milk unions and milk producing companies.

- 43. (a)** The Reserve Bank of India has launched 'Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)'. The PIDF is set up with an allocation of Rs 500 crore with an initial contribution of Rs 250 crore by RBI which is half-covering of the fund and rest half will be from card issuing banks and card networks operating in India.
- 44. (d)** All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Human Resource Development Ministry and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development have launched a TULIP Program which is an Urban Learning Internship Program. It is launched with an aim to provide internship opportunities to fresh graduates in the urban areas as well as in smart cities.
- 45. (c)** On the occasion of World Environment Day 2020 (5th June), the central government has come up with a scheme titled as 'Nagar Van' or 'Urban Forest' Scheme. Under this scheme, forests in the urban areas of the country will be developed within a span of 5 years.
- 46. (a)** Startup Blink which is a global innovation mapping and research company has released its Startup Ecosystem Ranking Report 2020 titled as 'Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020'. From the report, India is ranked at 23rd position for 2020. The ranking is topped by the United States followed by the United Kingdom.
- 47. (c)** The South African National Space Agency (SANS(a)) has collaborated with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NAS(a)) to support human spaceflight missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond. Now South Africa has thus become the 4th country to host a deep-space ground station after the US, Spain and Australia.
- 48. (c)** India signs MoU with Bhutan to improve the cooperation in the areas of Environment. The MoU will promote a long term cooperation between India and Bhutan to protect the environment and manage natural resources.
- 49. (d)** Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020 was conducted on 4th June 2020 and was hosted by the United Kingdom. United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson led the Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- 50. (a)** Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has partnered with MAITREE Program (Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency) to launch the Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative. MAITREE Program is launched by USAID (US Agency for International Development).
- 51. (c)** The Indian Space Research Organisation has signed a MoU agreement with ARIES (Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Science) for the cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SS(a)) and Astrophysics.
- 52. (a)** The Indian Air Force has designed and inducted Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT) for the purpose of evacuation of critical patients suffering from COVID-19 from high altitude, isolated areas.
- 53. (c)** The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBI(c)) has launched a flagship programme called 'Turant Customs'. 'Turant Customs' is a reformative programme in order to ensure ease of doing business.
- 54. (b)** An annual allotment of Rs 4000 crore has been approved by Government of India to State governments under 'Per drop more crop' component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDM(c)) for FY 2020-21.
- 55. (d)** Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) was inaugurated at Eastern Naval Command (EN(c)) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The complex is built to accommodate newly designed submarines and its rescue systems and store DSRV assets.
- 56. (c)** Union Agricultural and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Sahakar Mitra – a Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP) of NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation). This scheme will provide practical experience of the co-operative and professional world to the youth of India.
- 57. (c)** Joint Science Communication Forum is constituted by DST (Department of Science and Technology). It is constituted to facilitate interaction, co-operation and co-ordination among various public sector science communication institutions and agencies.
- 58. (c)** National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has become the first fully digitalized organisation under the construction sector category. NHAI has propelled the use of cloud-based technology and AI-powered big data analytics platform, which is powered by Data Lake and project management services.
- 59. (d)** The Government of India has launched an Arogya Path which is a web-based solution which provides availability of critical healthcare supply commodities on a real-time basis. The web-based solution is made available by the government of India on CSIR National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal.
- 60. (c)** India has signed a MoU with Denmark in the field of Energy Co-operation in order to develop the power sector. The two countries will boost their power sector on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.
- 61. (a)** India has been ranked at 168th position among 180 countries with a score of 27.6 out of 100 in Environment Performance Index 2020. The list has been topped by Denmark with a score of 82.5.
- 62. (c)** India has ranked at 168th position among 180 countries with a score of 27.6 out of 100 in Environment Performance Index 2020. The list has been topped by Denmark with a score of 82.5.
- 63. (d)** The IT giant Tech Mahindra has signed a declaration of United Nations Global Compact (UNG(c)) initiative to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions and energy conservation using latest technologies like IoT, AI and blockchain. Tech Mahindra has assured to raise the target of renewable energy to 50% by 2025.
- 64. (c)** The World Bank has released its latest edition of Global Economic Prospects (GEP) for the months of June 2020. The Global Economic Prospects describes analytical growth of various countries by considering various parameters. As per the report, India's growth is to contract by 3.2% for the financial year 2020-21.

65. (d) World Bank has granted financial support by providing a loan amount of Rs 1950 crore to West Bengal. The loan amount will help West Bengal to tackle the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to carry out development work in the state.

66. (d) Quacquarelli Symonds (Q(c) World University Ranking for 2021 is released. The ranking is topped by Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT) followed by Stanford University and Harvard University. Only 3 Indian Institutes are included in the top 200 ranking category which are IIT Bombay, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and IIT Delhi.

67. (d) The Nature Index 2020 highlights the ranking of the academic institutions globally. The currently released Nature Index 2020 report analyses the institutions in terms of high quality research in the natural science field based on the research data published by them in top journals from 1st Jan 2019 to 31st Dec 2019. As per the report, the top three institutions are Chinese Academy of Sciences holding 1st rank, followed by Harvard University of USA and Max Planck Society, Germany.

68. (c) A state of the art flood warning system called 'I-FLOWS' has been launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra. 'I-FLOWS' is a state of the art Integrated Flood Warning System.



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