Week 4 Current Affairs Update
23th- 30th June 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

SOCIAL

PM LAUNCHES GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAAN (GKRA)

Date: 23rd June 2020

GKRA was launched via video conference from village Telihar, Block Beldaur, district Khagaria Bihar in the presence of Chief Ministers (CMs) of five states viz. Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Yogi Adityanth (Uttar Pradesh), Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan), Hemant Soren (Jharkhand) and a minister from Odisha, among others.

OBJECTIVES

TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

To prepare for expansion and development of livelihoods over a longer term.

Key Features :
- It was launched for 67 lac migrant workers for 6 states viz. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.
- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the nodal Ministry for its implementation.
- GKRA, the mission mode campaign of 125 days will cover 116 districts of 6 states.
- Work identified for employment in villages includes rural housing for the poor, Plantations, provision of drinking water through Jal Jeevan mission,

Panchayat Bhavans, community toilets, rural mandis, rural roads, other infrastructure like Cattle Sheds, Anganwadi Bhavans etc.

- Notably, lying of fibre cable and provision of internet are also made a part of the GKRA as it is for the first time that the rural areas are using more internet than the urban areas therefore it is necessary to provide high speed and cheap internet in every rural household to help the youth and children.
- Difference between MGNREGS and GKRA
- MGNREGS ensures 100 days of employment per household in a year whereas GKRA is a one-time scheme of 125 days for providing employment to migrant workers who returned during the lockdown near their villages.

CIL JOINED HANDS WITH NITI AAYOG'S AIM

Atal Innovation Mission partners with Coal India Ltd to boost its Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives

Date: 23rd June 2020

Coal India Limited (CIL) has entered into the partnership with NITI Aayog's flagship initiative Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), to actively support the latter's key innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across India.

Key Features

- The tie up will help the talented youth to develop great innovations that have not developed or fallen short and thus enable them to have Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). This will also create employment at the local level in the coming years.
- According to the program, CIL has agreed for adoption of select ATLs Schools & will conduct teacher training sessions to students.
- AIM has various initiatives such as Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) at school level, Atal Incubation Center (AIC) at institutional levels, Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC) for Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and rural India, Atal New India Challenge (ANIC), Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC), and Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) to encourage innovations in the MSME industry.

SPACE

ISRO RECEIVES PATENT FOR LIQUID COOLING AND HEATING GARMENT FOR ASTRONAUTS

Date: 23rd June 2020

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated a 10,000 crore project-Gaganyaan to send humans to space by 2022, in accordance to which, ISRO has received a patent for its Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG) for astronauts.

Key Features:

- It will protect our astronauts from hot and cold environments with comfort temperatures.
- These are also used in military applications, fire fighting and also for personal cooling and heating purposes in extreme temperature and humidity conditions that exist in the workplace.
- The coolant flow rate is 100ml/minute and the heat transfer fluid rate is 50-1000 ml per minute.
- It is designed for long term use without any impact on the wearer in terms of skin irritation or infection.
- Its outer layer is made of polymeric fabric net and an inner layer of polymeric fabric tricoting, which contacts the skin.
- It is a close fitting long garment and used as a single lightweight comfort inner wear over which the flight suit is worn.

BANKING

KARNATAKA BANK LAUNCHES 'KBL MICRO MITRA' FOR MSMES

Date: 24th June 2020

Key Features:

Karnataka Bank launched a new product 'KBL Micro Mitra' for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

This product will provide financial assistance up to Rs 10 lakhs to the Micro manufacturing and service enterprises for working capital or for investment purposes.

The facility has simplified procedure and competitive rate of interest.

The product will be available across all branches of the bank & will be soon available in digital version.

ECONOMY

WORLD BANK DATA: INDIA RETAINS ITS POSITION AS 3RD- LARGEST ECONOMY ON PPP BASIS FOR 2017

Date: 24th June 2020

As per World Bank Data under the International Comparison Program (ICP), revealed by India's National Statistical Office (NSO) of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India has retained its position as the third-largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) for 2017 as it accounted for 6.7% or $8,051 billion out of world total of $119,547 billion of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
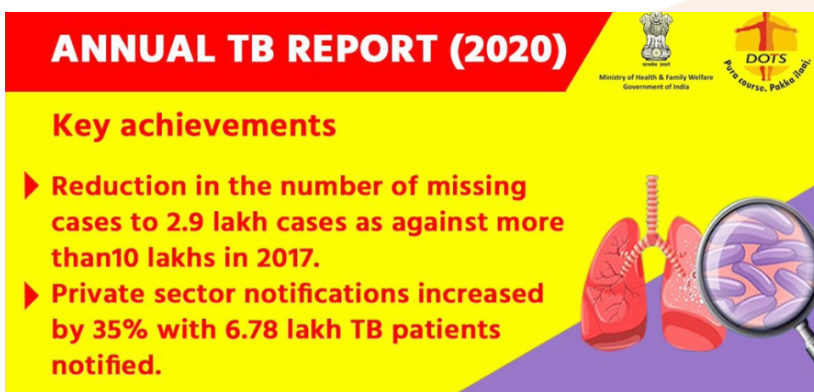
Key Points :
- India has followed China (16.4%) and the United States-US (16.3%).
- India is followed by Japan, Germany, and the Russian Federation at 4th, 5th and 6th position respectively.
- India is the 3rd largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global actual individual consumption (AIC) and global gross capital formation (GCF).
- India is also the second-largest economy accounted for 20.83% in terms of its PPP-based share in regional AIC and regional GCF where China was at 50.76 per cent (first) and Indonesia at 7.49 per cent (third).

- The PPPs of Indian Rupee per US$ at GDP level was 20.65 in 2017 from 15.55 in 2011.
- Overall 19 economies, representing nearly 64% of the global population, contributed three-quarters of global GDP.
- Three of these economies (India, Indonesia, and the Arab Republic of Egypt) were classified as lower-middle-income economies and six (China, the Russian Federation, Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran) were classified as upper-middle-income economies, with the remainder classified as high income economies.

HEALTH

CENTRAL TB DIVISION REPORT2020:14% RISE IN TB PATIENTS IN 2019

Date: 26th June 2020

Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the annual Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2020.

Key Points:
- India is committed to eliminating tuberculosis from the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global target by the WHO i.e. 2030.
- To align with the ambitious goal, the programme has been renamed from the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) to National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- On the basis of the score in State TB Index, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh were the top three best-performing states for tuberculosis control under the category of states with 50 lakh population.
- Tripura and Nagaland were best-performing in the category of states having less than 50 lakh population.
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu were selected as the best performing Union Territories.

- It also revealed that Tobacco consumption is rising among Indian TB patients.
- 8% of TB cases can be attributable to tobacco usage.

DIGITAL

HP PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT WINS 1ST PRIZE UNDER E-PANCHAYAT PURASKARS 2020

Date: 28th June 2020

Himachal Pradesh panchayati raj department wins 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskars 2020 for effective implementation of e-applications, developed by the central government & other applications developed by the state government.

Key Points :
- All 3,226 panchayats of HP were provided with internet facilities to help people access various services online like family registration, registration of birth, death and marriages.
- The e-panchayat puraskar is given to states that have made maximum use of Information Technology to monitor the works of the panchayat.
- The Union ministry of panchayati raj is making efforts to bring transparency, efficiency and accountability in the functioning of gram panchayats through the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMY

INDIA BECAME 12TH LARGEST HOLDER OF US GOVT SECURITIES; JAPAN TOPS

Date: 25th June 2020

In accordance with the data from the United States (US) Treasury Department, India became the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of April, 2020 with holdings of worth $157.4 billion, which has increased marginally by $0.9 billion in comparison to March month's $156.5 billion.

The country with maximum exposure to US government securities is Japan at US$1.266 trillion followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK) at the second and third positions, respectively at the end of April 2020.

Notably, the holding touched a record high of $177.5 billion in February, 2020 which was drastically reduced in March.

Top 5 holders of US Government Securities are Japan (1.266 trillion), China (1.073 trillion), UK (368.5 billion), Ireland (300.2 billion) and Luxembourg (265.5 billion).

EDUCATION

HKUST TOPPED; IIT ROPAR RANKED 62ND & TOPPED AMONG INDIAN INSTITUTES: THE YOUNG UNIVERSITY RANKING 2020

Date: 27th June 2020

The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Young University Rankings 2020 for the universities which are 50 years old or younger.

Key Points

- Two Indian Institutes secured their ranks in the top 100 with IIT Ropar, the best 12 year old institute of India at 62nd rank and IIT Indore at 64th rank.
- The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) (Pune) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar ranked 101-150.
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, IIT-Bhubaneswar, IIT Guwahati and IIT Hyderabad secured 151-200th rank.
- Pondicherry University ranks 201-250th Rank in the list.
- As per the report the top 5 Universities are The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hongkong; Nanyang Technological

University, Singapore; Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University, France; Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), South Korea.

CULTURE MINISTRY CELEBRATING "SANKALP PARVA

Date: 29th June 2020

To enhance the Herbal Wealth of India and to support the clean and healthy environment, Union Ministry of Culture is celebrating two week long Sankalp Parva from 28th June to 22nd July 2020.

Key Points :

- The decision for tree plantation has been taken on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has identified 5 trees representing the herbal heritage of our country. The tree includes Bargad (Ficus benghalensis), Awla (Phyllanthus emblica), Pepal (Ficus religiosa), Ashoka (Saraca asoca) and Bel (Aegle marmelos).
- It is the duty of the organizations to ensure that each employee should plant at least one tree of his/her choice and over and above these five trees, and should take care of the plant during the year.
- If the saplings of the above five trees are not available, people can plant of any other sapling that is available.
- It is to be noted that the monsoon season has started, which is the right time for plantation.

REPORT AND INDICES

INDIA NAMED IN SWITZERLAND'S TOP-3 PARTNERS FOR INFO EXCHANGE: OECD'S GLOBAL FORUM STUDY

Date: 30th June 2020

In accordance with the latest study by OECD's (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes, referring to the period from July 2015 to June 2018, India was named among the top-three countries as EOI (Exchange of Information) partners along with France and Germany. Means, India is getting detailed information on request, from Switzerland about bank accounts and beneficiary ownership of entities established by its residents.

Key Points:

- India is also rated as 'largely compliant' by this OECD's review.
- It has also named Italy, Netherlands and Spain among other significant EOI partners for Switzerland.
- Switzerland has been trying hard to get rid of the perception about its financial institutions being used to hide undeclared wealth by people from various countries.
- To present itself as a clean global financial centre, Switzerland has entered into pacts with more than 100 countries, including India, for automatic exchange of information on tax matters.
- Under the exchange of information on request, important details have been shared related to legal ownership information, information on deceased persons and stolen data with different nations helping the latter to launch prosecution against a large number of alleged tax evaders.

★ ★ ★

SPORTS

K. SANJITA CHANU

DATE: 26th June 2020

WHY IN NEWS: Sports Ministry has confirmed that she will be awarded Arjuna Award for 2018.

Key Highlights:

- Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) has informed that K. Sanjita Chanu will receive the Arjuna Award for 2018.
- She is a two time Commonwealth Games Champion. Chanu won the gold medals at the 2014 Glasgow and the 2018 Gold Coast events in the women's 48 kg and 53 kg weight category respectively.
- She was cleared of doping charges earlier this month by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
- Chanu will be conferred with the Arjuna award as per a 2018 Delhi High Court order.
- During the pendency of the case, she tested positive for a banned substance in May 2018. IWF dropped the doping charge against Sanjita Chanu
- Sports Ministry has also confirmed that K. Sanjita Chanu will be awarded Arjuna Award for 2018.
- Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu (born 1994) is an Indian weightlifter from Manipur.

POLITY

VINI MAHAJAN

DATE: 26th June 2020

WHY IN NEWS: She has been appointed as the first female chief secretary of Punjab.

Key Highlights:

- Punjab has appointed Vini Mahajan, a 1987-batch IAS officer, as the new chief secretary of Punjab. Prior she was serving as the additional chief secretary of investment promotion, industries and commerce, information technology, and governance reforms and public grievances.
- She replaces 1984-batch IAS officer Karan Avtar Singh, who recently had a face-off with Punjab ministers.
- Vini Mahajan is also the First Woman Officer to hold the post of Deputy Commissioner in the state of Punjab. She became the Deputy Commissioner of Ropar district in 1995.

INTERNATIONAL

SCIENCE-TECH

MARY W.JACKSON.

DATE: 26th June 2020

WHY IN NEWS: NASA has named its Washington, D.C., headquarters for her name.

Key Highlights:

- She was the first Black woman engineer at the space agency.
- Jackson was part of a group of very important women who helped NASA succeed in getting American astronauts into space.
- Jackson, who died in 2005, was among those featured in the 2016 film about trailblazing Black women whose work at NASA was integral during the space race.

- The story of success of Mary W.Jackson was shown in the 2016 biographical drama Hidden Figures.

POLITY

LAZARUS CHAKWERA

DATE: 29th June 2020

WHY IN NEWS: He was elected as the new President of Malawi.

Key Highlights:
- On 23rd June 2020, the Presidential Elections of Malawi was conducted after the annulment of the results of the 2019 Presidential Elections by the Constitutional Court of Malawi earlier in the month of February 2020.
- Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of Malawi after winning 2,604,043 votes, which is 59.34 percent of the total valid votes. 2019 Presidential Election winner Peter Mutharika secured 39.92 percent of the total valid votes in the 2020 Presidential Elections.
- The 2019 Presidential Election results of Malawi were highly criticized by the opposition parties of Malawi and called the election as the Tipp-Ex election.

✹ ✹ ✹

INTERNATIONAL

SOCIAL

MILLIONS OF YEMENI CHILDREN IN DANGER OF DEATH BY STARVATION

Date: 25th June, 2020

Key Points :

- Millions of children in Yemen are on the brink of starvation by the end of the year 2020.
- The UNICEF report cited the reason due to lack of international aids as the main funding countries are struggling the Coronavirus pandemic.
- The report has indicated that the number of malnourished children under the age of five could rise by 20% to 2.4 million.
- Yemen has been ravaged by war for over five years between Iran backed Houthi rebels and Saudi-led coalition backed government.
- During this period, tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced due to the violence.
- Yemen's poor health care infrastructure is unprepared to battle the coronavirus pandemic in this situation.
- UNICEF needs nearly $461 million for its humanitarian response, along with $53 million for an effective COVID-19 response.
- Only 39% and 10% of these requirements respectively, have been funded.
- UNICEF has persistently said that Yemen is the worst place in the world to be a child

SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY NEW SWINE FLU STRAIN WITH 'PANDEMIC POTENTIAL' IN CHINA

Date: 29th June, 2020

Key Points :

- A new strain of Swine flu virus with pandemic potential has been identified in China by scientists.
- The recently emerged strain is carried by pigs but can potentially infect humans too.
- The major concerns for the Scientists are that it could mutate further so that it can spread easily from person to person and trigger a global outbreak.
- The newer strain, known as G4 EA H1N1 replicates efficiently in human airways
- The virus has infected some people without causing disease, but health experts fear that could change without warning.
- The H1N1 strain of swine flu is highly transmissible and spread around the world in 2009, killing about 285,000 people
- Since the strain is new the infected persons could have little or no immunity to the virus.
- This comes as a debacle to the world already struggling to cope with global Covid-19 pandemic which already caused 5 lakh deaths and 10 million confirmed cases.
- The scientists advised that several measures including control the virus in pigs, and the close monitoring of swine industry workers must be swiftly implemented.

POLITY

CHINA PASSES CONTROVERSIAL HONG KONG NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

Date: 30th June, 2020

Key Points :

- China passed a national security law for Hong Kong that aims to quell anti-government protests following a year of unrest.
- China's President Xi Jinping has signed the security law putting into effect legislation that will possibly restrict the city's freedoms.
- Lawmakers had voted to adopt the law with bypassing Hong Kong's legislature with this the law would be included in Hong Kong's mini-constitution.
- This security law is highly controversial as China's legislature voted unanimously to adopt the law in a rushed, secretive process.
- Even Hong Kong's chief executive, Carrie Lam hadn't been allowed to see a draft before the law's passage.
- National Security Law criminalizes four types of activity — secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and collusion with foreign entities, with a penalty of up to life in prison.
- The law empowers China to set up a "Committee" to oversee the investigation and prosecution of any violations.
- This committee is subject neither to judicial review nor Hong Kong law

✦ ✦ ✦

HEALTH

HEALTH MINISTRY & RED CROSS LAUNCHES 'EBLOODSERVICES' APP

Date: 25th June, 2020

Key Points :

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched mobile app 'eBloodServices' to order blood

- The mobile app was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with the Indian Red Cross Society.

- Through 'eBloodServices' app, the availability of blood will be easily traced through a phone and will be a great help people that require blood-related services regularly.

- 'eBloodServices' app is for easy access to blood during current pandemic and will also bring 'transparency' in the blood donation program.

- The app is available on both Android and iOS and available in 11 languages.

- The app is developed by the ERaktKosh team of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) under the Digital India initiative.

- The requisite units become visible to blood bank in its 'ERaktKosh dashboard', ensuring fast delivery and will act as a boon for the needy

COVID-19 VACCINE 'COVAXIN' GETS DCGI APPROVAL FOR HUMAN TRIALS

Date: 30th June, 2020

Key Points :

- Pharmaceutical major Bharat Biotech has announced the development of India's 1st vaccine candidate for COVID-19- 'COVAXIN'.
- Bharat Biotech is developing this indigenous vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Virology (NIV).
- The Drug Controller General of India has approved Covaxin for Phase I & II Human clinical trials
- This will be among over a dozen vaccines which are currently being tested across the globe.
- The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in NIV, Pune and transferred to Bharat Biotech.
- The indigenous inactivated vaccine is being developed and manufactured in Bharat Biotech's Bio-Safety Level-III High Containment facility located in Hyderabad.
- Bharat Biotech's earlier helped in development of several vaccines for diseases like Polio, Rabies, Zika. Rotavirus, JE, Chikungunya etc.

DEFENCE

INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED 'MAAREECH' TORPEDO DECOY SYSTEM INDUCTED INTO INDIAN NAVY

Date: 26th June, 2020

Key Points :

- Indian Navy inducted 'Maareech' –the Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System.
- This anti-torpedo decoy system has been developed indigenously by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories, Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) and the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL).
- The induction of this Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability will boost the defence capability of Indian Navy.
- The prototype of the Maareech system was installed onboard a naval platform and had successfully completed all trials and features as per the Naval Staff Qualification Requirements (NSQRs).
- Maareech Advanced Torpedo Defence System (ATDS) is a torpedo detection and countermeasure system that offers a complete solution to detect and locate an incoming torpedo.
- This ATDS countermeasure is intended to protect naval platform against torpedo attack.
- The anti-torpedo system is equipped with SONARs and towed and expendable decoys, is capable of detecting, confusing, diverting and decoying the incoming torpedoes.
- The decoy helps in exhausting the energy of the torpedo by running the later through long and ineffective course and prevents them from homing in to the targeted platform with its advanced counter-measure capabilities.

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) would undertake the production of this decoy system.
- This induction also given a major fillip to the Government's 'Make in India' initiative and the country's resolve to become 'AtmaNirbhar' in niche technology.

SOCIAL

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES 'NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL'

Date: 27th June, 2020

Key Points :
- India's think-tank the NITI Aayog, launched the behaviour change campaign,called 'Navigating the New Normal'
- This was launched as country is witnessing 'Unlock' phase of the global pandemic and COVID-safe behaviours are need of the hour.
- This unique behavioural campaign has two parts. The first is a web portal containing resources informed by behavioural science and the second is a media campaign focussed on the wearing of masks.
- It is developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, constituted by the Government of India.
- The campaign was launched by NITI Aayog in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and WCD
- During the launch the challenges during this phase was also discussed and COVID-appropriate behaviours was emphasised till they become a part of routine.
- Around 92,000 NGOs and civil society organisations working with NITI Aayog also participated in this virtual launch.

IIT-M LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST ONLINE B.SC. DEGREE IN PROGRAMMING AND DATA SCIENCE

Date: 30th June, 2020

Key Points :
- IIT-M launches India's first online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data science
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) launched India's first online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science
- The eligibility is Class XII, with English and maths at the Class X level, and enrolled in any on-campus undergraduate course.
- The course has no age limit and is also open to Graduates and working professionals.
- The course will be imparted online while its assessment including the exams will be done in an offline mode.
- The course comes with multiple entries and exit points and is divided into six semesters.
- The learners can choose from: Certificate, Diploma or Degree.
- After completing class 12, students will have to pursue a foundation course while those who have a college-level degree can directly enroll at the diploma level.
- Students can exit with a certificate after completing a foundation-level course and after a year, one can get a diploma.
- Those who will complete three years the degree will be awarded.
- IIT-M aims to reach a larger number of students through this programme
- There are five national or international space agencies involved in the ISS - from the US, Canada, Japan, Russia and several European countries - and a legal framework sets out that national law applies to any people and possessions in space.

✫ ✫ ✫

Weekly Multiple Choice Questions
23th- 30th June 2020 (WEEK 4)

1. Consider the following statements about the recently passed Hong Kong National Security Law.

I. The law empowers China to set up a "Committee" to oversee the investigation and prosecution of any violations.

II. This committee is subject neither to judicial review nor Hong Kong law.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Only I

(b) Only II

(c) Both I and II

(d) Neither I nor II

2. According to a recent UNICEF report in which of the following countries millions of children are on the brink of starvation

(a) South Sudan   (b) Nigeria

(c) Syria   (d) Yemen

3. Which of the following flu strains with pandemic potential has been recently identified in China?

(a) H1N1   (b) G4 EA H1N1

(c) H1N2   (d) H3N2

4. National Security Law criminalizes .... types of activity?

(a) 1   (b) 2

(c) 3   (d) 4

5. Which of the following rebel forces are active in the Yemen?

(a) Houthi   (b) Taliban

(c) ISIS   (d) Hezbollah

6. Consider the following statements about the recent Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System.

I. It is developed by NSTL and NPOL

II. It is a torpedo detection and countermeasure system that offers a complete solution to detect and locate an incoming torpedo.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Only I   (b) Only II

(c) Both I and II   (d) Neither I nor II

7. Consider the following statements about the first indigenously developed vaccine for Covid-19

I. It is named 'COVAXIN'

II. It is being manufactured by National Institute of Biologicals

III. The DCGI has approved the vaccine for phase- I and II of clinical trials

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(a) Only I and II   (b) Only II and III

(c) Only I and III   (d) I, II and III

8. Which of the following bodies/ministries has launched the behaviour change campaign, called 'Navigating the New Normal' recently?

(a) NITI Aayog

(b) NIMHANS

(c) IBHAS

(d) Central Institute of Psychiatry

9. Which of the following IITs launched India's first online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data science?

(a) IIT-K   (b) IIT-M

(c) IIT-D   (d) IIT-Kgp

10. What is the name given to Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System recently inducted into Indian Navy ?

(a) Naag   (b) Dhanush

(c) Takshek   (d) Maareech

Answers and Explanation

1. **(c)** China passed a national security law for Hong Kong that aims to quell anti-government protests following a year of unrest. This security law is highly controversial as China's legislature voted unanimously to adopt the law in a rushed, secretive process. The law empowers China to set up a "Committee" to oversee the investigation and prosecution of any violations. This committee is subject neither to judicial review nor Hong Kong law

2. **(d)** According to a recent UNICEF report millions of children in Yemen are on the brink of starvation by the end of the year 2020. The report cited the reason due to lack of international aids as the main funding countries are struggling the corona virus pandemic. It has indicated that the number of malnourished children under the age of five could rise by 20% to 2.4 million.

3. **(b)** A new strain of Swine flu virus with pandemic potential has been identified in China by scientists. The recently emerged strain is carried by pigs but can potentially infect humAns.
The newer strain, known as G4 EA H1N1 replicates efficiently in human airways

4. **(d)** National Security Law criminalizes four types of activity — secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and collusion with foreign entities, with a penalty of up to life in prison. The law empowers China to set up a "Committee" to oversee the investigation and prosecution of any violations.

5. **(a)** The Houthi rebels have been fighting the internationally recognised government and its allies in Yemen. More than 5 years of war has pushed the country to the brink of famine and pushed the millions of Yemen towards starvation.

6. **(c)** DRDO laboratories, NSTL and the NPOL developed, 'Maareech' –the Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System. It is an Advanced Torpedo Defence System with a torpedo detection and countermeasure system that offers a complete solution to detect and locate an incoming torpedo.

7. **(c)** Bharat Biotech has announced the development of India's 1st vaccine candidate for COVID-19- 'COVAXIN'. The Drug Controller General of India has approved Covaxin for Phase I & II Human clinical trials.

8. **(a)** NITI Aayog, launched the behaviour change campaign,called 'Navigating the New Normal'. This was launched as country is witnessing 'Unlock' phase of the global pandemic and COVID-safe behaviours are need of the hour.

9. **(b)** Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) launched India's first online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science. The course comes with multiple entries and exit points and is divided into six semesters and the learners can choose from: Certificate, Diploma or Degree. IIT-M aims to reach a larger number of students through this programme.

10. **(d)** Indian Navy recently inducted Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System named 'Maareech'. This is an Advanced Torpedo Defence System (ATDS) equipped with SONARs and towed and expendable decoys, is capable of detecting, confusing, diverting and decoying the incoming torpedoes.