Week 1 Current Affairs Update

1st- 7th July 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

CULTURE

PRESIDENT INAUGURATES DHARMA CHAKRA DAY



Date: 4th July, 2020

Key Points

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Dharma Chakra Day from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The day commemorates Lord Buddha's first sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, Rsipatana in Sarnath
- It is celebrated on Asadha Poornima by Buddhists all over the world as Dharma Chakra Parvattana or "Turning of the Wheel of Dharma" day.
- This day is also observed as Guru Poornima by both Buddhists and Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their gurus.
- Due to Covid-19 pandemic program was conducted virtually.
- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) under the aegis of Ministry of Culture organized this auspicious Day.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLGY

MEITY -AIM LAUNCHES DIGITAL INDIA AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT APP INNOVATION CHALLENGE



Date: 5th July, 2020

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launches Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge
- It was launched in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) Niti Aayog for Indian tech entrepreneurs and Startups.
- The app was lauched with the aim to support and build a strong ecosystem for Indian Apps.
- This will help in building a Digital India and using Digital Technologies for building an AatmaNirbhar Bharat.
- It will run in 2 tracks, Promotion of Existing Apps and Development of New Apps.
- The focus of the Track 1 App Innovation Challenge is to identify the best Indian Apps that are already being used by citizens and have the potential to scale and become world class Apps in their respective categories.
- The AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge was launched in 8 broad categories including Office Productivity & Work from Home, Social Networking, Health & Wellness, Business etc.
- This Innovation Challenge seeks to create an ecosystem where Indian entrepreneurs and Startups are incentivised to ideate, incubate, build, nurture and sustain Tech solutions.

TOURISM

TOURISM MINISTRY ORGANISES "WOMEN OF INDIA -SHIFTING GEARS"



Date: 6th July, 2020

Key Points

- Union Ministry of Tourism organises its 40th webinar titled "Women of India Shifting Gears", under the "Dekho Apna Desh" webinar series.
- The Webinar outlined the thrills of women biking infused with tourism.
- The session was addressed by two Indian women bike enthusiasts Jai Bharathi and Candida Louis.
- Jai Bharathi is an avid motorcyclist, travel enthusiast and Co-founder of MoWo while Candida Louis is a biker, blogger, story teller and Motorcycle tour guide.
- The session touched upon various aspects surrounding safety of women bikers of India, the exploration of the myriad landscape of India on motorcycle.
- It also encouraged more women to bike across the country without inhibitions.
- Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

ENVIRONMENT

WORLD BANK AND THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT ON NAMAMI GANGE



Date: 7th July, 2020

- The World Bank and the Government of India today signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme.
- World Bank provided \$400 million to enhance support for rejuvenating the river Ganga
- Out of this \$400 million operation comprises a loan of \$381 million and a proposed Guarantee of up to \$19 million.
- The Namami Gange program seeks to ensure that the river returns to a pollution-free, ecologically healthy state.

- The new project will extend the Government of India and World Bank's engagement in this critical national programme to make the Ganga a clean, healthy river.
- The Project will help in removing pollution and strengthen the management of the river basin.
- The agreement for the \$381 million loan was signed by Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Acting Country Director (India), on behalf of the World Bank.
- The Guarantee instrument will be processed separately.
- The Ganga Basin provides over one-third of India's surface water, includes the country's largest irrigated area, and is key to India's water and food security.



Nurturing Ambitions

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

INDRA MANI PANDEY



Date: 1st July

Keypoints

- Indra Mani Pandey appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva.
- He is a 1990 batch IFS officer presently working as additional secretary in the External Affairs ministry.
- Indra Mani Pandey also served in Indian missions in Damascus, Cairo, Islamabad, Kabul, Muscat and Geneva.
- He also served as joint secretary in the Disarmament and International Security Affairs division of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He succeeds Rajiv Kumar Chander.

C Rangarajan



Date: 2nd July

Keypoints

- Ex RBI Governor Dr. C. Rangarajan honoured with the Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award in Official Statistics 2020
- The Award was conferred on National Statistics Day
- It was presented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- Dr. Rangarajan had also held various posts including Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM and Chairman, Madras School of Economics.
- He is former President of the Indian Statistical Institute.
- He also headed the committee on poverty named as Rangarajan committee on poverty.

INTERNATIONAL

SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE AND RAJ CHETTY



Date: 1st July

Keypoints

- Indian-Americans Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty found a place among Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants' for their role in combating covid-19 pandemic.
- Siddhartha Mukherjee has been honored for using "his communication skills to educate the public and build awareness about covid-19 through forums and his widely read essays."
- Raj Chetty makes the list for launching "a real-time data tracker to measure the economic impact of the pandemic and assisted decision-makers as they implemented new public policies."
- Siddhanta Mukherjee is an oncologist and the author of several acclaimed books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer'.

- Mukherjee was awarded the Padma Shri, India's third highest civilian honours in 2014
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mukherjee has used his "gifts as a science communicator" to educate the public about the virus through essays, in media interviews, at public forums, as well as through his social media accounts.
- Raj Chetty works as Professor of Economics at Harvard University.
- Raj helped launch a resource to monitor the real-time economic impact of COVID-19 on people, businesses and communities across the USA.
- His tool enables policy makers to make evidence-based decisions that balance vital public health priorities with the economic needs of their communities.

IMRAN KHWAJA



Date: 2nd July

Keypoints

- Imran Hamid Khwaja has been named as the International Cricket Council (ICC) interim chairman
- He will assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson until a successor is elected to the interim position following stepping down of India's Shashank Mahohar as chairman.
- Mr. Khwaja from Singapore had been deputy chairman of the International Cricket Council since 2017
- Mr. Manohar held the post for two tenures



ISSUES

NATIONAL

POLITY

INDIAN GOVERNMENT BANS 59 CHINESE MOBILE APPS OVER SECURITY CONCERN



Date: 1th July, 2020

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), bans 59 Chinese mobile apps.
- The ministry invoked its power under section 69A of the IT Act with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009 for the ban.
- These apps were banned due to their activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.
- Some of these blocked apps include popular ones like TikTok, Shareit, CamScanner, Helo, WeChat, Weibo, UC Browser, DU cleaner etc.
- The Ministry of Information Technology and Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) has received many complaints from various sources about misuse of these mobile apps available for stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorized manner to servers outside India.
- The ban was necessary as compilation of user's data, its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India is a matter of very deep and immediate concern

- It should be noted that all of the blocked apps are Chinese including popular ones such as TikTok, Helo, WeChat, UC Browser, Shareit and CamScanner.
- The ban followed clashes between India and China near Galwan at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

SOCIAL

INDIA ACCOUNTS FOR 45.8 MILLION 'MISSING FEMALES'



Date: 2nd July, 2020

- According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), India accounts for 45.8 million missing females in last 50 years.
- These "missing women" from the population are due to the cumulative effect of postnatal and prenatal sex selection in the past.
- Gender-biased sex selection accounts for about 2/3 of the total missing girls, and post-birth female mortality accounts for about 1/3as per the UNFP report
- China forms the majority of such women globally and accounted for 72.3 million just ahead of India.
- It was reported in 'The State of World Population-2020' released by UNF-PA
- The status of such women more than doubled from 61 million in 1970 to a cumulative 142.6 million in 2020.
- In India an estimated 1 in 9 deaths of females below the age of 5 may be attributed to postnatal sex selection.
- In the period between 2013 and 2017, about 460,000 girls in India were missing' at birth each year.

HEALTH

AFTER COVID-19 AND SWINE FLU CHINAREPORTS BUBONIC PLAGUE



Date: 7th July, 2020

- The world is already struggling with Covid-19 pandemic which originated from China, now there is report of Bubonic plague from the country adding to the woes
- Chinese city of Bayannur alerted for bubonic plague by health authorities.
- The City in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, announced a level III warning of plague prevention and control
- The local health authority announced that the warning period will continue until December 2020.
- The Bayannur health commission warned of the risks of human-to-human infection from the plague and urged people in the city to take precautions.
- The news of bubonic plague came after Chinese researchers issued an early warning over another potential pandemic caused by an influenza virus in pigs.
- Bubonic plague is a bacterial disease that is spread by fleas living on wild rodents such as marmots.
- It is also known as the 'Black Death' and is the reason behind the death of 50 million people in a 14th century outbreak in Europe and about 12 million globally in the 19th century.



IDIEAS

NATIONAL

SPORTS

NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING AGENCY LAUNCHES 'NADA APP'



Date: 1st July, 2020

- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) launched its first mobile application NADA app
- The app will help athletes to stay updated on banned substances
- The app is aimed at to create a bridge between athletes and the NADA by providing easily accessible information on various aspects of sport.
- It has easily-accessible information related to various aspects of sport including prohibited substances and dope-testing.
- It is an important step towards clean sports and to create awareness and provide relevant, accessible information to the sportspersons about banned medication or substances without relying on others on this matter
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is hopeful that the app acts as a one-stop guide for all anti-doping and medication related information.
- It gives detailed information on commonly-prescribed medicines and can be used by athletes in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) to update their whereabouts.
- It also gives information about decisions from the disciplinary and appeal panels and for Dope Control Officers to record their availability for testing.

BANKING

SWIGGY-ICICI LAUNCHES INSTANT DIGITAL WALLET, 'SWIGGY MONEY'



Date: 2nd July, 2020

Key Points

- Swiggy the Foodtech giant has launched its own digital wallet, 'Swiggy Money'
- It was launched as a 'single-click checkout experience' as industry- first instant digital wallet.
- The digital wallet is powered by ICICI Bank's 'insta wallet service' which is built on a cloud platform with Application Programming Interface (API) integration
- It will allow customers to store money to be used for orders on the platform.
- Swiggy Money users will be able to top-up their wallet using various banking instruments without multiple authentications,
- Swiggy Money has features to ensure seamless and swift transactions on food orders by minimising hassles and improved customer experience.

SOCIAL

HIMACHAL BECOMES FIRST INDIAN STATE HAVING 100% HOUSEHOLD WITH LPG CONNECTIONS



Date: 6th July, 2020

Key Points

- Himachal Pradesh becomes the first state in India where cent per cent households have LPG gas connections
- 1.36 lakh families of the state were benefitted with the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna (PMUY).
- With LPG usage the cumbersome of collecting fuelwood and cooking on traditional stove and subsequent adverse effects on the health will no longer be a worrying factor
- Himachal Government had launched 'Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojna' to cover the left out families of the state, who were not covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna (PMUY).
- As many as 2,76,243 families were provided free gas connections in the state under Grihini Suvidha Yojna.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WEST BENGAL'S DEPT OF IT AND ELECTRONICS LAUNCHES SCANNING APP



Date: 7th July, 2020

- The Department of Information Technology and Electronics, Govt. of West Bengal announced the release of beta version of an android-based mobile scanning app.
- The app named 'SelfScan'is for easy scanning, sharing, storing of documents, anytime, anywhere across the globe.
- The app is developed entirely in-house by the Dept. of Information Technology & Electronics (IT&E), Government of West Bengal.
- The app is expected to benefit the public at large, without sharing user data and bothering them with advertisements especially after the banning of Chinese apps like CamScanner.

- SelfScan is easy to digitize, convert, retrieve, edit, protect and share all kinds of documents, thereby facilitating the process of collaboration
- An absolutely free app with no registration and Incorporates various premium features of other mobile scanning apps.
- With SelfScan user data remains at user device and hence is undeniably remains private.

INTERNATIONAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRAEL LAUNCHES OFEK--16 SPY SATELLITE



Date: 6th July, 2020

- The Israel Aerospace Industries launched a reconnaissance satellite named Ofek--16.
- It was deployed to the low Earth orbit (LEO) using a Shavit-2 rocket.
- The launch of this spy satellite was previously-unannounced
- Ofek- 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth
- With the launch of Ofek- 1 in September 1988, Israel became the eighth country to develop its own orbital launch capability.
- It uses this capability exclusively for military payloads, relying on foreign rockets to carry its civilian and commercial satellites into orbit.
- The Ofek- 16 mission is the eleventh known orbital launch to have been attempted by Israel, and the country's ninth to have reached orbit.
- The launch took place from the Palmachim airbase on Israel's coast, which has been the site of all of Israel's orbital launches.



Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

1st- 7th May 2020 (WEEK 1)

1.	Consider	the	following	statements	about	the
AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge.						

- I. It is launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India
- II. It will run in 2 tracks, Promotion of Existing Apps and Development of New Apps.

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. Consider the following statements with regard Dharma Chakra Day

- I. The day commemorates Lord Buddha's first sermon at sacred Bodhgaya
- II. It is celebrated on Asadha Poornima by Buddhists all over the world.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and III
- (d) None

3. Which of the following ministries organized "Women of India -Shifting Gears" as part of "Dekho Apna Desh" webinar series?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- (d) Union Ministry of Tourism

4. Which of the following signed aloan agreement with Government of India to enhance support for the Namami Gange Programme?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- (c) European Union
- (d) Asian Development Bank

5. The World Bank provided loan ofto enhance support for rejuvenating the river Ganga?

- (a) \$50 million
- (b) \$ 100 million
- (c) \$400 million
- (d) \$1000 million

6. Consider the following statements with respect to Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants'

- I. Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty found a place in the list
- II. The Indian-American duo honoured for their role in combating covid-19 pandemic.

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. Which of the following persons has recently been conferred with Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award in Official Statistics 2020?
 - (a) Dr. Bimal Jalan
- (b) Prof. Raj Chetty
- (c) Siddhanta Mukherjee
- (d) Dr. C. Rangarajan
- 8. Who appointed as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva?
 - (a) Rajiv Kumar Chander
- (b) Indra Mani Pandey
- (c) Syed Akbaruddin
- (d) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- 9. Who assumed as the interim chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC)?
 - (a) Shashank Manohar
- (b) N Srinivasan
- (c) Niranjan Shah
- (d) Imran Khwaja
- 10. What was the number of tenures for which Shashank Manohar served as the Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC)?
 - (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four
- 11. Consider the following statements about the recent ban of mobile apps by Indian Government.
 - I. The ban was imposed by Ministry of Defence
 - II. These apps were banned due to their activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II
- 12. Consider the following statements with regard to 'The State of World Population Report-2020'
 - I. It is released by United Nations Population Fund
 - India accounts for 72.3 million missing females in last 50 years.
 - III. In the period between 2013 and 2017, about 460,000 girls in India were missing' at birth each year.

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
- 13. Which of the following diseases has not recently been reported from China?
 - (a) Covid-19
- (b) Swine flu
- (c) Bubonic Plague
- (d) Bird flu

14. Which of the following mobile apps is not in the category of 'banned' by Indian Government?

- (a) Zoom
- (b) Tik-Tok
- (c) Weibo
- (d) Helo

15. From which Chinese city there is report of Bubonic plague recently?

- (a) Wuhan
- (b) Bayannur
- (c) Suzhou
- (d) Guiyang

16. Consider the following statements about the 'SelfScan' mobile app

- I. It is developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India
- II. The app is for easy scanning, sharing, storing of documents, anytime, anywhere across the globe.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

17. Consider the following statements with regard to recent launch of spy satellite by Israel

- I. The satellite was named Ofek-11
- II. It is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth
- III. The launch took place from the Palmachim airbase.

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

18. Which of the following becomes the first Indian state having 100% Household with LPG connections?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Assam
- (d) Himachal Pradesh
- 19. Which of the following agencies launched the first mobile application for information on banned substances for sportspersons?
 - (a) BCCI
- (b) IOA
- (c) SAI
- (d) NADA

20. From which Chinese city there is report of Bubonic plague recently?

- (a) Wuhan
- (b) Bayannur
- (c) Suzhou
- (d) Guiyang



Answers and Explanation

- 1. (c) The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launches Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge. It was launched in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) Niti Aayog for Indian tech entrepreneurs and Startups. It will run in 2 tracks, Promotion of Existing Apps and Development of New Apps.
- **2. (b)** Dharma Chakra Day or Dharma Chakra Parvattana Day is celebrated on Asadha Poornima by Buddhists all over the world. The day commemorates Lord Buddha's first sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, Rsipatana in Sarnath
- **3. (d)** Union Ministry of Tourism organises its 40th webinar titled "Women of India Shifting Gears", under the "Dekho Apna Desh" webinar series. The Webinar outlined the thrills of women biking infused with tourism.
- **4. (a)** The World Bank and the Government of India today signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme.
- **5. (c)** World Bank provided \$400 million to enhance support for rejuvenating the river Ganga Out of this \$400 million operation comprises a loan of \$381 million and a proposed Guarantee of up to \$19 million.
- **6. (c)** Indian-Americans Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty found a place among Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants' for their role in combating covid-19 pandemic.
- 7. (d) Ex RBI Governor Dr. C. Rangarajan honoured with the Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award in Official Statistics 2020. The Award was conferred on National Statistics Day. It was presented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **8. (b)** Indra Mani Pandey appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva.
- **9. (d)** Imran Hamid Khwaja has been named as the International Cricket Council (ICC) interim chairman. Mr. Khwaja will assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson until a successor is elected to the interim position.
- **10. (b)** Shashank Mahohar stepped down as the chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC). He held the post for two tenures.
- 11. (b) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), bans 59 Chinese mobile apps. The ministry invoked its power under section 69A of the IT Act with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009 for the ban. These apps were banned due to their activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.
- **12. (c)** According to 'The State of World Population-2020' released by UNFPA India accounts for 45.8 million missing

- females in last 50 years. China forms the majority of such women globally and accounted for 72.3 million just ahead of India. In the period between 2013 and 2017, about 460,000 girls in India were missing' at birth each year.
- **13. (d)** After Covid-19 and Swine flu China reports Bubonic Plague. A new strain of Swine flu virus with pandemic potential has been recently identified in China. Now Chinese city of Bayannur alerted for bubonic plague and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, announced a level-III warning of plague prevention and control.
- **14.** (a) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), bans 59 Chinese mobile apps. These apps were banned due to their activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order. Some of these blocked apps include popular ones like TikTok, Shareit, CamScanner, Helo, WeChat, Weibo, UC Browser, DU cleaner etc.
- **15. (b)** Chinese city of Bayannur alerted for bubonic plague by health authorities. The city in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, announced a level III warning of plague prevention and control. The Bayannur health commission warned of the risks of human-to-human infection from the plague and urged people in the city to take precautions.
- **16. (b)** The 'SelfScan' app is developed entirely in-house by the Dept. of Information Technology & Electronics (IT&E), Government of West Bengal. The app is for easy scanning, sharing, storing of documents, anytime, anywhere across the globe. The app is expected to benefit the public at large, without sharing user data and bothering them with advertisements especially after the banning of Chinese apps like CamScanner.
- 17. (b) The Israel Aerospace Industries launched a reconnaissance satellite named Ofek--16. It was deployed to the low Earth orbit (LEO) using a Shavit-2 rocket from the Palmachim airbase on Israel's coast. Ofek- 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth.
- **18. (d)** Himachal becomes first Indian state having 100% Household with LPG connections. Himachal Government had launched 'Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojna' to cover the left out families of the state, who were not covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna (PMUY).
- **19. (d)** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) launched its first mobile application NADA app. The app will help athletes to stay updated on banned substances. The app is aimed at to create a bridge between athletes and the NADA by providing easily accessible information on various aspects of sport.
- **20. (b)** Chinese city of Bayannur alerted for bubonic plague by health authorities. The city in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, announced a level III warning of plague prevention and control. The Bayannur health commission warned of the risks of human-to-human infection from the plague and urged people in the city to take precautions.