

Week 1 Current Affairs Update

1st - 7th May 2021

EVENTS

NATIONAL

BANKING & FINANCE

LIC – 3RD STRONGEST & 10TH MOST VALUABLE INSURANCE BRAND GLOBALLY



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Date: 2nd May 2021

The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has emerged as the 3rd strongest and the 10th most valuable insurance brand globally.

Key Points:

- This was announced by the Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.
- The report was released by Brand Finance, which is the London-based brand valuation consultancy firm.
- As per the report, the most Valuable Global Insurance Brand with 1st rank is Ping An Insurance, China.
- And the Strongest Global Insurance Brand with 1st rank is Poste Italiane, Italy.
- As per the report, LIC's brand value raised by almost 7% i.e. to \$8.65 billion in 2021.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FM INAUGURATED INDIA'S FIRST 3-D PRINTED HOUSE



Date: 1st May 2021

The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated India's first 3D printed house.

Key Points:

- It was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).
- India's first 3D printed house was constructed by Tvasta Manufacturing solutions.
- It is a 600 sq. ft, single-story home that has a functional space comprising a single bedroom, hall, and kitchen.
- All the interior was designed by the firm's indigenous 3-D printing technology.

ECONOMY

TRIFED SIGNED MOU WITH 'THE LINK FUND'



TRIBAL COOPERATIVE
MARKETING DEVELOPMENT
FEDERATION OF
INDIA LIMITED -
TRIFED

Date: 2nd May 2021

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has signed an MoU with 'The LINK Fund' for the project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India' which is meant for tribal community development.

Key Points:

- The project aims to uplift the tribal community by supporting them to increase value addition in their products.
- The MoU will also lead to efficiency in value addition for Minor Forest Produces (MFP), crafts diversification and granting skill training to the tribes.
- Both the entities will also work for women entrepreneurship and women-centred infra development and innovations.
- Under this MoU, 'The LINK Fund' will be assisting TRIFED to plan and implement the project work.

HEALTHCARE

OPERATION 'SAMUDRA SETU-II'



Date: 3rd May 2021

The Indian Navy commenced operation 'Samudra Setu-II' to bring oxygen-filled cryogenic containers to India from abroad nations.

Key Points:

- This operation was launched to help to tackle the medical oxygen crisis being faced by India during the second wave of the pandemic.
- Under this operation, the warships will undertake shipment of liquid Oxygen filled cryogenic containers & associated medical equipment to India to support tackling COVID-19.
- Seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.
- These warships are Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat.

‘CO-JEET’ OPERATION



Date: 6th May 2021

The operation named ‘CO-JEET’ was launched by the Armed Forces to aid COVID-19 efforts.

Key Points:

- The operation is being executed to strengthen the medical system in India and to help GOI to tackle the second wave of the pandemic, thus to save the lives of people.
- The oxygen supplies are being made available to the patients suffering from coronavirus.
- The CO-JEET operation also helps people to maintain their mental well being.
- The 3rd woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces, Lt. Gen. Dr Madhuri Kanitkar is working to execute the CO-JEET Operation.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

‘PARVAT DHARA YOJANA’ – HIMACHAL PRADESH



Date: 4th May 2021

The Himachal Pradesh’s Government has initiated ‘Parvat Dhara Yojana’ to revive, recharge aquifers and conserve the water resources of the state.

Key Points:

- The main motto of this yojana is to increase the water level by retaining it in water bodies for a long period.
- The 'Parvat Dhara Yojana' will be implemented in 10 districts of the state with an outlay of Rs 20 crore.
- The scheme will be implemented by the forest department of the state.
- Under this scheme, irrigation facilities will be provided in sloping fields.

‘AURO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME’



Date: 5th May 2021

The Education Ministry of Tripura launched the 'Auro Scholarship Programme'.

Key Points:

- The programme is an initiative of the Sri Aurobindo Society and was launched for all the students of the state.
- The 'Auro Scholarship Programme' will grant micro-scholarship to the students which will motivate them to gain better learning practices and solutions.
- The programme will be executed through Auro Scholar App.
- It will grant micro-scholarship to the K-12 students who achieve remarkable performance in a 10 min curriculum-based quiz which will be conducted via the app.
- The parents will receive upto Rs 1000 per month in their bank accounts (Rs 50 per quiz for 20 quizzes in 5 subjects).

ENVIRONMENT

MOORHEN YOGA MAT



Date: 4th May 2021

A biodegradable and compostable yoga mat was recently developed from water hyacinth from the fishing community in Assam.

Key Points:

- The mat is called ‘Moorhen Yoga Mat’
- It will soon be introduced to the world market as a unique product.
- The intervention was triggered through an initiative by North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body under Department of Science & Technology (DST) to involve the entire women community associated with a collective called ‘Simang’ meaning dream, led by the 6 girls to create wealth from water hyacinth plants.
- Water hyacinth is considered as a nuisance since it does not benefit the fishing community and harms their occupation.

ENERGY

PETROLEUM MINISTER INAUGURATED 1ST SUPPLY OF UCO BASED BIODIESEL



Date: 6th May 2021

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off the first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel in a virtual manner.

Key Points:

- It was flagged off under the EOI (Expression of Interests) Scheme from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal.
- This supply will help to develop an ecosystem to collect and convert UCO into biodiesel. This will also increase job opportunities.
- Along with this, India has set a target to attain a 5% blending of biodiesel by 2030.
- The EoIs for “Procurement of Biodiesel produced from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)” was initiated by the Petroleum Ministry.

‘CHECKMATE COVID INITIATIVE’



Date: 6th May 2021

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative'.

Key Points:

- The 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' was launched to help the chess community who are affected by the pandemic.
- It was launched at an online event that observed the presence of the President of FIDE (World Chess Federation), Arkady Dvorkovich, Viswanathan Anand, Koneru Humpy, Sanjay Kapoor and Bharat Singh Chauhan.
- Under this initiative, the chess community affected by COVID-19 will be financially supported and will be provided with treatment from a team of doctors.
- Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand also lauded the initiative and made an appeal to the donors to contribute their worth for the cause.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

UNIQUE DISABILITY ID (UDID)



Date: 7th May 2021

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Government of India has made it mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using UDID portal from 1st June.

Key Points:

- The Central Government notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 under RPwD Act, 2016.
- Rule 18(5) mandates the Central Government to appoint a date making it mandatory for the State/UT authorities to issue certificate of disability through online mode.
- The UDID project has been under implementation since 2016.
- It will ensure complete digitization of certification of disability from 01.06.2021, besides providing a viable mechanism for cross-checking genuineness of the certificate to achieve pan-India validity, and simplifying the process for the benefit of Divyangjan.

INTERNATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

THE GLOBAL FOREST GOALS REPORT 2021: UN REPORT



Date: 1st May 2021

The Global Forest Goals Report 2021 has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. It provides an initial overview of progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

Key Points:

- As per the report, Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.
- More than just a health crisis, Covid-19 is driving losses of lives and livelihoods, extreme poverty, inequality, and food insecurity, and it has put the 'Future We Want' further out of reach.
- It is estimated that world gross product fell by an estimated 4.3% in 2020. It is the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression.

- On the economic front, forest-dependent populations have faced job loss, reduced income, diminished access to markets and information, and for many women and youth, a contraction in seasonal employment.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

G7 DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTERIAL MEETING



Date: 2nd May 2021

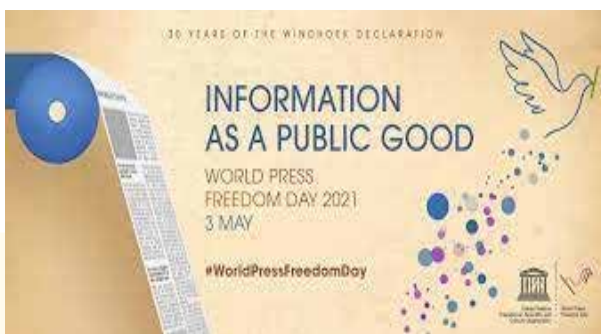
The Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad represented India at G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting.

Key Points:

- The meeting was chaired by Oliver Dowden, Secretary of state for digital, culture, media and sports of the United Kingdom.
- The theme for the meeting was: Building Back Better.
- The dignitaries discussed the importance of technology to get faster recovery from the post-COVID-19 era.
- They also assured to enhance cooperation to develop digital technology in various areas.
- They assured to use digital technology for better cause in a safe manner and by developing and following regulatory approach for its usage.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY



Date: 3rd May 2021

3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

Key Points:

- Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.
- World Press Freedom Day commemorates the field of journalism and the struggle faced by journalists who have risked their lives to seek and bring true stories to the world.
- The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is "Information as a Public Good". The theme focuses on the importance of cherishing information as a public good and explores ways to strengthen journalism.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNION CABINET APPROVED MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND UK



Date: 4th May 2021

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the MoU between India and the United Kingdom on information sharing and Custom Cooperation.

Key Points:

- Under this MoU, information sharing will be made available to prevent and investigate customs offences.
- This will also lead to having seamless trading activities between both nations.
- The MoU will provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of both nations.
- The MoU will also lead to developing the proper application of Customs laws and the facilitation of legitimate trade.

1ST IND-FRA-AUS TRILATERAL FOREIGN MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE



Date: 7th May 2021

The 1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue was held recently on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Key Points:

- The Indian delegation was led by Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his French and Australian counterparts Jean-Yves Le Drian and Marise Payne, respectively.
- The dignitaries held a discussion about the Indo-Pacific strategic landscape.
- At the dialogue, the External Affairs Minister of India appreciated and thanked the efforts from France and Australia to tackle the pandemic situation in India.
- They assured to boost cooperation in Indo-Pacific strategic landscape, to have open and rule-based Indo-Pacific ties.
- France and Australia also appreciated India's positive contribution to supply COVID-19 vaccines to various countries globally.

DEFENCE

P-8I PATROL AIRCRAFT



Date: 5th May 2021

The U.S. State Department approved the proposed sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment to India, a deal estimated to cost \$2.42 billion.

Key Points:

- In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council, approved the procurement of the long-range maritime surveillance aircraft manufactured by Boeing.
- The possible sale comes through the Foreign Military Sale route and requires that the U.S. Congress be notified.
- With India having signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) foundational agreement with the U.S., the six aircraft will come fitted with encrypted systems.
- The P-8I is based on the Boeing 737 commercial aircraft and India was its first international customer.



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PEOPLE

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

JUSTICE PC PANT



Date: 1st May 2021

Why in news: Appointed as Acting Chairperson of the NHRC.

Key Points:

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) member Justice (retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant had been appointed as the acting chairperson of the Commission.
- A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed as a member of the NHRC in April 2019.
- The post of a chairperson has been vacant since Justice H.L. Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India, completed his tenure in December 2020.

OBITUARY

‘SHOOTER DADI’ CHANDRO TOMAR



Date: 1st May 2021

‘Shooter Dadi’ Chandro Tomar passed away. He was 89.

Key Points:

- Shooter Chandro Tomar, nicknamed ‘Shooter Dadi’.
- She was Hailing from the Baghpat village in Uttar Pradesh.
- Tomar was already 60-plus when she picked up a gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions, even inspiring a Bollywood movie on her life.
- Her feats ultimately inspired the award-winning Bollywood movie ‘Saand ki Aankh’.
- Shooter Dadi won many awards in the senior citizen category including Stri Shakti Sanman presented by the President of India.

OBITUARY

MANAS BIHARI VERMA



Date: 3rd May 2021

The Indian aeronautical scientist, Manas Bihari Verma Passed away. He was 78.

Key Points:

- He played a key role in the development of the country’s first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) ‘Tejas’.
- He worked as a scientist at the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for 35 years in the aeronautical stream.
- He was given the responsibility for the design of the Tejas aircraft mechanical system, where he led the team responsible for the full-scale engineering development of the Tejas aircraft in the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- Verma had launched “Mobile Science Laboratory” (MSL) vans in 2010 in the rural areas of Bihar to impart knowledge in science to children.
- He retired as Director of ADA in 2005.
- He was conferred with Padma Shri award in March 2018.

AWARDS & HONOURS

MARIA RESSA HONORED



Date: 4nd May 2021

Why in news: Honored with the 2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

Key Points:

- Investigative journalist and media executive Maria Ressa of the Philippines has been named as the 2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- The \$25,000 Prize recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger.
- Ressa was chosen because Over a career spanning more than thirty years, Ressa has worked as CNN's lead investigative reporter for Asia and the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs.
- She has also been involved in many international initiatives to promote press freedom.
- In recent years, she has been the target of online attacks and judicial processes relating to her investigative reporting and status as manager of online outlet Rappler.

APPOINTMENTS

P.V. SINDHU AND MICHELLE LI



Date: 6th May 2021

Why in news: Appointed as an ambassador for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign.

Key Points:

- The Badminton World Federation announced that India shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign.
- Sindhu and Li will be working alongside other athlete ambassadors from around the world to raise awareness on the topic of competition manipulation amongst athletes and encourage.
- The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign since April 2020.
- The IOC's 'Believe in Sport' campaign was launched in 2018 to raise awareness among athletes, coaches and officials of the threat of competition manipulation.



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ISSUES

NATIONAL

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

MARATHA QUOTA UNCONSTITUTIONAL, SAYS SC



Date: 5th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has struck down the Maharashtra law granting reservation to the Maratha community in admissions and government jobs in the state.
- In November 2018, the Maratha community was given the reservation under the Maharashtra State Socially and Educationally Backward Act.
- The special act was sanctioned by Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission and approved in both the assembly and council.
- The Maratha reservation of 12 and 13 per cent (in education and jobs) had increased the overall reservation ceiling to 64 per cent and 65 per cent, respectively.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CHHATTISGARH'S VACCINATION POLICY IS BEING OPPOSED IN COURT



Date: 6th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- Chhattisgarh High Court is hearing intervention applications filed by politicians and lawyers against the state government's vaccination policy.
- As per the policy, the state government will administer the vaccines based on the economic situation of the citizens.
- Under this, vaccination of people between 18-44 years of age would be held in three stages.
- Firstly, the Antyodaya Card holders are to be vaccinated. Followed by the BPL card holders. Then the APL card holders.
- The opposition argue that this sub-classification is beyond the constitutional mandate and is patently in violation of the law of equality and equal opportunity before law.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN



Date: 3rd May 2021

Key Highlights:

- At least 31 people have been killed in Kyrgyzstan in heavy clashes at its disputed border with Tajikistan.
- More than a third of the two countries' border is disputed, with the area surrounding the Vorukh, where recent conflict erupted.
- It is a regular flashpoint over territorial claims and access to water.
- Vorukh is a jamoat (administrative division) in northern Tajikistan.
- It is an enclave surrounded by Kyrgyzstan that forms part of the city of Isfara in the Sughd Region.
- The location of the border of the enclave is disputed by the Tajik and Kyrgyz governments.

CONGO DECLARES END OF LATEST EBOLA OUTBREAK



Date: 6th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has officially declared the end of the 12th Ebola outbreak.
- Since the outbreak declared in February, 2021, a total of 12 cases have been reported.
- Thanks to the experience of the DRC's response team and health partners, the epidemic has been brought under control in less than three months after its declaration.
- Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

TALIBAN HAS CAPTURED AFGHANISTAN'S SECOND-BIGGEST DAM

Date: 7th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- The Taliban has captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam (Dahla Dam) after months of fierce fighting in its former bastion of Kandahar.
- It provides irrigation to farmers via a network of canals as well as drinking water for the provincial capital.
- It is now under Taliban control.
- The dam's capture comes after clashes erupted in neighbouring Helmand province just days after the U.S. military formally began withdrawing its remaining troops from Afghanistan.
- The Dahla Dam is also known as Arghandab Dam is located in the Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

IDIEAS

NATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

DRONE DELIVERY OF COVID-19 VACCINES



Date: 1st May 2021

Key Features:

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption for drone deployment to the Government of Telangana for Experimental delivery of Covid-19 Vaccines.
- The permission has been granted within Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) Range using drones.
- It is valid for a period of one year or until further orders.
- Earlier this month, similar permission was granted to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for conducting feasibility study of Covid-19 vaccine delivery using drones in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.
- The grant of these permissions is intended to achieve the dual objectives of faster vaccine delivery & improved healthcare access.

HEALTHCARE

CONVERTING NITROGEN PLANTS TO OXYGEN PLANTS



Date: 2nd May 2021

Key Features:

- Considering the requirement of medical oxygen amidst the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Government of India explored the feasibility of conversion of existing nitrogen plants to produce oxygen.
- Potential industries, wherein existing nitrogen plants may be converted for production of oxygen, were identified.
- In the nitrogen plants Carbon Molecular Sieve (CMS) is used whereas Zeolite Molecular Sieve (ZMS) is required for producing oxygen.
- Therefore, by replacing CMS with ZMS and carrying out few other changes such as oxygen analyzer, control panel system, flow valves etc. existing nitrogen plants can be modified to produce oxygen.

HEALTHCARE

‘OXYGEN ON WHEELS’ PROJECT



Date: 3rd May 2021

Key Points:

- The 'Oxygen on Wheels' project was rolled out by Mahindra group chairman Anand Mahindra.
- The project was launched to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals and homes.
- The Mahindra Group aims to support India to tackle the pandemic situation and in this regard it has launched this operation.
- This project will help to reduce the gap between the requirement and shortage of oxygen, especially in Maharashtra.
- The project will be executed by using trucks in local shuttle routes to connect oxygen producers with hospitals and homes.

HEALTHCARE

'IVEJAJ' TABLETS FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT



BAJAJ HEALTHCARE LIMITED

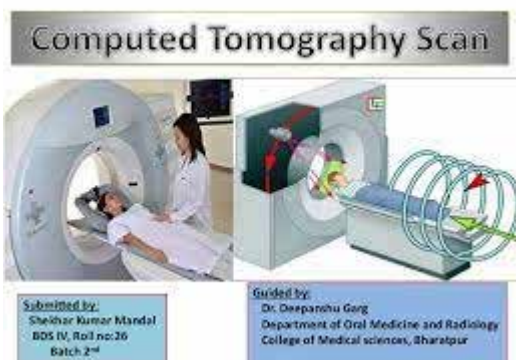
Date: 7th May 2021

Key Features:

- Bajaj Healthcare Limited has announced the launch of 'Ivejaj' (Ivermectin) which is an Anti-Parasitic Drug used in control & offers treatment for Covid-19 patients.
- The company has also received approval from India's drug regulator, DCGI to manufacture and market 'Ivejaj'.
- Bajaj Healthcare Limited has developed the active pharmaceutical ingredient and the formulation for Ivermectin through its R&D team.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN



Date: 7th May 2021

Key Features:

- CT scans have been in news since several Covid positive patients with mild to moderate Covid symptoms, and some with negative RT-PCR reports having Covid symptoms are coming for the test.

- CT scan is also known as computed tomography scan.
- It is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to get detailed images of the body noninvasively for diagnostic purposes.
- CT scanners use a rotating x-ray tube and a row of detectors placed in the gantry to measure X-ray attenuations by different tissues inside the body.
- The multiple X-ray measurements taken from different angles are then processed on a computer using reconstruction algorithms to produce tomographic (cross-sectional) images (virtual “slices”) of a body.

The logo for 'disha' features a large, light blue lowercase word 'disha' with a stylized orange and yellow arrow pointing upwards and to the right, positioned above the 'i'. Below the word 'disha' is the tagline 'Nurturing Ambitions' in a smaller, light blue font.

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Nurturing Ambitions

Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

1st- 7st May 2020 (WEEK 1)

Level 1

1. Recently, shuttler PV Sindhu and Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign. Michelle Li belongs to which of the following countries?
(a) Canada (b) China
(c) Singapore (d) UK
2. Recently, who among the following has been appointed as the acting Chairperson of the NHRC?
(a) SA Bobde (b) AK Sikri
(c) PK Mishra (d) PC Pant
3. Chandro Tomar, who passed away recently, was known as the world's oldest player in which sports event?
(a) Fencing (b) Swimming
(c) Gymnastics (d) Shooting
4. What was the profession of Manas Bihari Verma, who passed away recently?
(a) Geologist (b) Economist
(c) Agricultural scientist (d) Aeronautical scientist
5. Who is the winner of the 2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize?
(a) Cheche Lazaro (b) Rodrigo Duterte
(c) Maria Ressa (d) Mike Enriquez
6. As per Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) emerged as the ___ strongest and the ___ most valuable insurance brand globally?
(a) 2nd and 12th
(b) 3rd and 10th
(c) 7th and 4th
(d) 10th and 5th
7. Recently, at which institute was India's first 3D printed house virtually inaugurated by the Union Finance Minister?
(a) IIT Roorkee
(b) IIT Guwahati
(c) IIIT Lucknow
(d) IIT Madras
8. Recently, with which organisation TRIFED signed MoU for implementing a project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India'?
(a) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
(b) 'The LINK Fund'
(c) The Giving Pledge
(d) Art of Living
9. How many Indian Naval ships have been deployed under the Operation 'Samudra Setu II' to bring medical oxygen cylinders and associated medical equipment from various countries to India?
(a) 9 (b) 5
(c) 11 (d) 7
10. Recently, which of the following states/UTs has initiated 'Parvat Dhara Yojana'?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) Jammu and Kashmir
(d) Himachal Pradesh
11. Recently, which state launched the 'Auro Scholarship Programme'?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) West Bengal (d) Tripura
12. Recently, who among the following flagged off the first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel?
(a) Dharmendra Pradhan
(b) Rajnath Singh
(c) D.V. Sadananda Gowda
(d) Ravi Shankar Prasad
13. What is the name of an initiative launched by the All India Chess Federation (AICF) to help the chess community who are affected by the pandemic?
(a) 'Fight Corona Initiative'
(b) 'Checkmate COVID-19'
(c) 'Checkmate Covid Initiative'
(d) None of the above
14. Which of the following organisations has launched the 'CO-JEET' Operation?
(a) Armed Forces
(b) DRDO
(c) AIIMS Delhi
(d) Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited
15. Recently, the Central Government has made it mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificates of disability through online mode only using UDID portal from 1st June 2021 under the provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. The Act was passed in which year?
(a) 2016 (b) 2018
(c) 2014 (d) 2019

16. Who among the following represented India at G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting?

- (a) Ravi Shankar Prasad
- (b) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) S. Jaishankar

Level 2

1. CT scans have been in the news due to Covid-19 diagnostic purposes. Consider the following statements regarding it:

1. It is also known as 'computed tomography scan'.
2. It is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to get detailed images of the body noninvasively for diagnostic purposes.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption for drone deployment to the Government of _____ for Experimental delivery of Covid-19 Vaccines.

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Maharashtra

3. Recently, which organisation rolled out the 'Oxygen on Wheels' project?

- (a) Mahindra group
- (b) Ola
- (c) Uber
- (d) Oyo

4. Which organisation developed 'Ivejaj' (Ivermectin) which is an Anti-Parasitic Drug used in control & offers treatment for Covid-19 patients?

- (a) Syncom Healthcare
- (b) Eris Lifesciences
- (c) Bajaj Healthcare Limited
- (d) Parabolic Drugs Ltd.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Dahla Dam:

1. It is Afghanistan's second-biggest dam.
2. Recently, it was captured by the Taliban.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Recently, A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has struck down the Maharashtra law granting reservation to the Maratha community in admissions and government jobs in the state. The Act which had increased the overall reservation ceiling upto 65 per cent in the state was passed in which year?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2019

7. The vaccination policy of which of the following states was recently in the news due to the sub-classification of beneficiaries on their economic situation?

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan

8. Vorukh, recently seen in the news, is a disputed area between which of the following two countries?

- (a) Russia and Kazakhstan
- (b) Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
- (c) Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- (d) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

9. Recently, which of the following African countries has declared the end of the 12th Ebola outbreak that was witnessed in early 2021?

- (a) Algeria
- (b) Democratic Republic of the Congo
- (c) Sudan
- (d) Nigeria

10. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Moorhen Yoga Mat':

1. It is a biodegradable and compostable yoga mat developed by the fishing community of Odisha.
2. It is developed from water hyacinth which is considered as a nuisance for the fishing community because it harms their occupation.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. The Global Forest Goals Report 2021 has been released by which of the following organisations?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- (c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- (d) Greenpeace International

12. Every year the World Press Freedom Day is observed on which of the following dates?

- (a) 3rd May
- (b) 16th April
- (c) 9th June
- (d) 27th April

13. In April 2021, India signed MoU with which nation to cooperate in information sharing and thus prevent custom offences and develop custom cooperation?

- (a) Italy
- (b) United States
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Bangladesh

14. India is procuring six P-8I patrol aircraft from which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia
- (b) USA
- (c) France
- (d) Israel

15. Who among the following represented India at the 1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue, which was held in May 2021?

- (a) Piyush Goyal
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) S Jaishankar
- (d) Prakash Javadekar

Answers and Explanation

1st- 7th May 2020 (WEEK 1)

Level 1

1. (a) The Badminton World Federation announced that India shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign. The IOC's 'Believe in Sport' campaign was launched in 2018 to raise awareness among athletes, coaches and officials of the threat of competition manipulation.

2. (d) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) member Justice (retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant had been appointed as the acting chairperson of the Commission. He will replace Justice H.L. Dattu.

3. (d) Shooter Chandro Tomar, who was nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi', has passed away recently. She was 89. Tomar was already 60-plus when she picked up a gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions, even inspiring a Bollywood movie on her life.

4. (d) The Indian aeronautical scientist, Manas Bihari Verma, who played an instrumental role in the development of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) – Tejas, has passed away. He was 78.

5. (c) Investigative journalist and media executive Maria Ressa of the Philippines has been named as the winner of 2021 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. The award carries a prize money of \$25,000. Presently Ressa is the CEO of the Rappler, a Philippine online news website.

6. (b) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has emerged as the 3rd strongest and the 10th most valuable insurance brand globally. This was announced by the Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021. The report was released by Brand Finance, which is the London-based brand valuation consultancy firm.

7. (d) The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated India's first 3D printed house. It was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). India's first 3D printed house was constructed by Tvasta Manufacturing solutions.

8. (b) The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) has signed an MoU with 'The LINK Fund' for the project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods For Tribal Households in India' which is meant for tribal community development. The project aims to uplift the tribal community by supporting them to increase value addition in their products.

9. (d) As a part of operation 'Samudra Setu II', seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries. These warships are Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Triakand, Jalashwa and Airavat.

10. (d) The Himachal Pradesh's Government has initiated 'Parvat Dhara Yojana' to revive, recharge aquifers and conserve the water resources of the state. The main motto of this yojana is to increase the water level by retaining it in water bodies for a long period.

11. (d) The Education Ministry of Tripura launched the 'Auro Scholarship Programme'. The programme is an initiative of the

Sri Aurobindo Society and was launched for all the students of the state. The 'Auro Scholarship Programme' will grant micro-scholarship to the students which will motivate them to gain better learning practices and solutions.

12. (a) Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off the first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel in a virtual manner. It was flagged off under the EOI (Expression of Interests) Scheme from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal.

13. (c) The All India Chess Federation (AICF) launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative'. The 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' was launched to help the chess community who are affected by the pandemic. Under this initiative, the chess community affected by COVID-19 will be financially supported and will be provided with treatment from a team of doctors.

14. (a) The operation named 'CO-JEET' was launched by the Armed Forces to aid COVID-19 efforts. The operation is being executed to strengthen the medical system in India and to help GOI to tackle the second wave of the pandemic, thus to save the lives of people.

15. (a) The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Government of India has made it mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using UDID portal from 1st June. The Central Government notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 under RPwD Act, 2016.

16. (a) The Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad represented India at G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting. The theme for the meeting was: Building Back Better. The dignitaries discussed the importance of technology to get faster recovery from the post-COVID-19 era.

Level 2

1. (c) CT scans have been in news since several Covid positive patients with mild to moderate Covid symptoms, and some with negative RT-PCR reports having Covid symptoms are coming for the test. CT scan is also known as computed tomography scan. It is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to get detailed images of the body noninvasively for diagnostic purposes.

2. (c) Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption for drone deployment to the Government of Telangana for Experimental delivery of Covid-19 Vaccines. The permission has been granted within Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) Range using drones.

3. (a) The 'Oxygen on Wheels' project was rolled out by Mahindra group chairman Anand Mahindra. The project was launched to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals and homes.

4. (c) Bajaj Healthcare Limited has announced the launch of 'Ivejaj' (Ivermectin) which is an Anti-Parasitic Drug used in

control & offers treatment for Covid-19 patients. The company has also received approval from India's drug regulator, DCGI to manufacture and market 'Ivejaj'.

5. (c) The Taliban has captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam (Dahla Dam) after months of fierce fighting in its former bastion of Kandahar. It is now under Taliban control. The Dahla Dam is also known as Arghandab Dam is located in the Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

6. (c) A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has struck down the Maharashtra law granting reservation to the Maratha community in admissions and government jobs in the state. In November 2018, the Maratha community was given the reservation under the Maharashtra State Socially and Educationally Backward Act which increased the overall reservation ceiling up to 65 in the state.

7. (a) Chhattisgarh High Court is hearing intervention applications filed by politicians and lawyers against the state government's vaccination policy. As per the policy, the state government will administer the vaccines based on the economic situation of the citizens.

8. (c) At least 31 people have been killed in Kyrgyzstan in heavy clashes at its disputed border with Tajikistan. More than a third of the two countries' border is disputed, with the area surrounding the Vorukh, where recent conflict erupted. It is a regular flashpoint over territorial claims and access to water.

9. (b) The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has officially declared the end of the 12th Ebola outbreak. Since the outbreak declared in February, 2021, a total of 12 cases have been reported.

10. (b) A biodegradable and compostable yoga mat was recently developed from water hyacinth from the fishing community in

Assam. The mat is called 'Moorhen Yoga Mat'. Water hyacinth is considered as a nuisance since it does not benefit the fishing community and harms their occupation.

11. (a) The Global Forest Goals Report 2021 has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. It provides an initial overview of progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

12. (a) 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day. Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is "Information as a Public Good".

13. (c) The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the MoU between India and the United Kingdom on information sharing and Custom Cooperation. Under this MoU, information sharing will be made available to prevent and investigate customs offences.

14. (b) The U.S. State Department approved the proposed sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment to India, a deal estimated to cost \$2.42 billion. The P-8I is based on the Boeing 737 commercial aircraft and India was its first international customer.

15. (c) The 1st India-France-Australia Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue was held recently on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Indian delegation was led by Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his French and Australian counterparts Jean-Yves Le Drian and Marise Payne, respectively.

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Nurturing Ambitions