

# Week 2 Current Affairs Update

8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## EVENTS

### NATIONAL

#### ART & CULTURE

#### 5 OIL & GAS PSUS TO REDEVELOP BADRINATH DHAM



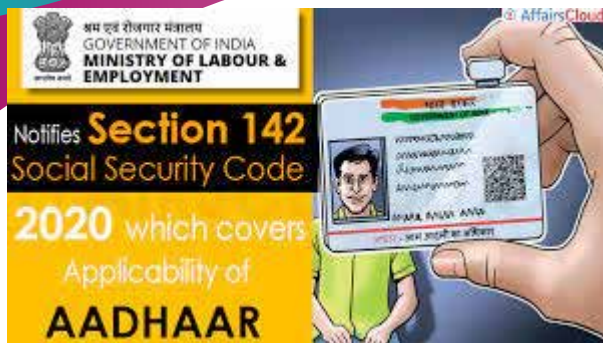
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021

India's major Oil and Gas PSUs signed MoU with Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust to redevelop Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a 'Spiritual Smart Hill Town'.

#### Key Points:

- The 5 Oil and Gas PSUs who are part of this MoU are: Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and GAIL.
- All the 5 Oil and Gas PSUs will contribute Rs 99.60 crore in the 1st phase for the implementation of the redevelopment project.
- The first phase will include tasks like river embankment work, building all-terrain vehicular path, constructing bridges, redeveloping existing bridges, establishing Gurukul facilities with accommodation, creating toilet and drinking water facilities, installing streetlights and mural paintings.
- The complete redevelopment work is said to be completed in 3 years and is part of GOI's initiative to boost the tourism sector in India.

### SECTION 142 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CODE – 2020



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 has been notified by the Ministry of Labour & Employment covering applicability of Aadhar.

#### Key Points:

- The notification of section will enable the Ministry to collect Aadhaar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes.
- The National Database for unorganised workers (NDUW) is at an advanced stage of development by the National Informatics Centre.
- The portal is aimed at collection of data for unorganised workers including migrant workers for the purpose of giving benefits of the various schemes of the Government.
- An inter-state migrant worker can register himself on the portal on the basis of submission of Aadhar alone.

## POLICIES & SCHEMES

### MUKHYAMANTRI COVID UPCHAR YOJANA – MADHYA PRADESH



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The government of Madhya Pradesh launched the ‘Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana’.

### **Key Points:**

- The scheme aims to grant free treatment for COVID-19 to the economically weak section of the state.
- The scheme is based on three sections:
- Section 1: Under this, the hospitals which are managed by medical colleges of the state, district hospitals, civil hospitals and community healthcare centres will provide free treatment for COVID-19 to the poor families of the state
- Section 2: Around 20% of ICU and HDU, isolation beds will be reserved for poor families suffering from COVID-19 free of cost.
- Section 3: Around 20% of beds will be reserved for free treatment at hospitals accredited under the Ayushman scheme for the economically weaker section of state.

### **SWAMIH COMPLETES ITS FIRST RESIDENTIAL PROJECT**



**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs handed over possession to homebuyers as the Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Fund completes its first residential project.

### **Key Points:**

- The residential project – Rivali Park, located in suburban Mumbai, was the first housing project in India to have received funding under the SWAMIH Fund.
- The SWAMIH Fund was launched in 2019.
- Rivali Park Wintergreens is the first investment by the Fund and is also the first project to get completed.
- The SWAMIH Investment Fund is one of the largest private equity teams in India.
- The Fund is targeting to complete an aggregate of 1,16,600 homes.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### ‘CONNECTED COMMERCE: CREATING A ROADMAP FOR A DIGITALLY INCLUSIVE BHARAT’



**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The NITI Aayog in collaboration with Mastercard has released the report titled ‘Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat’.

#### **Key Points:**

- The report highlights challenges faced to accelerate digital financial inclusion in India.
- The report also highlights recommendations and measures to grant digital services to 1.3 billion citizens of India.
- The report has suggested strengthening the payment infrastructure which will create the trust of citizens in digital transactions. It provides a perspective on how a connected commerce platform will help businesses to grow.
- It has suggested improving payment infrastructure to promote a level playing field for NBFCs and banks. It has also suggested digitizing the registration and compliance processes and granting a diversified solution for credit sources which will enable growth in MSMEs.

## TRANSPORT

### AERIAL PASSENGER ROPEWAY SYSTEM BETWEEN DEHRADUN AND MUSSOORIE



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the transfer of land of Indo-Tibetan Border Police, ITBP to Government of Uttarakhand for development of Aerial Passenger Ropeway System between Dehradun and Mussoorie.

**Key Points:**

- The proposed Ropeway is a mono-cable ropeway of 5.5 Km length between Purkul Gaon, Dehradun and Library, Mussoorie being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 285 crore.
- It will have a carrying capacity of 1,000 persons per hour per direction.
- This will considerably reduce the traffic flow on the road route from Dehradun to Mussoorie.
- It will also be a huge attraction for tourists which in turn will provide a boost to the tourism industry.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**INDIA – UK MOU ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP**



**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**Key Points:**

- The MoU aim to (1) Liberalising issuance of visas promoting mobility of students, researchers and skilled professionals; (2) Strengthen cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.
- This MoU can support the innovation ecosystem in both countries by facilitating free flow of talent.

- The Ministry of External Affairs would closely monitor the effective implementation of the MoU through the Joint Working Group mechanism.

## GLOBAL INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Union Cabinet has given retrospective approval to the signing of MoU between the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom on Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).

### Key Points:

- Through this MoU, India and the UK agree to launch the GIP.
- GIP will support Indian innovators to scale up their innovations in third countries thereby helping them explore new markets and become self-sustainable.
- It will also foster the innovative ecosystem in India.
- GIP innovations will focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related sectors thereby assisting recipient countries achieve their SDGs.
- The innovations shall take place through seed funding, grants, investments and technical assistance.

## INDIA-EU LEADERS MEETING



**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The India-EU Leaders Meeting was held virtually.

### Key Points:

- The Indian side was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Heads of State of all the 27 EU Member States also participated in the meeting.

- The dignitaries agreed to resume negotiations for a balanced and comprehensive free trade deal and investment agreement.
- They discussed foreign policy, security, COVID-19, climate, environment, trade, connectivity, and technology.
- The dignitaries launched an ambitious and comprehensive Connectivity Partnership between India-EU, which will enable to boost cooperation in enhancing digital, energy, and transport, and people-to-people connectivity.

## 4TH INDIA -SWISS FINANCIAL DIALOGUE



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The 4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held in a virtual manner.

### Key Points:

- The Indian side was represented by Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs.
- The dignitaries discussed aspects like investments, International Financial Services Centre Authority, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and cross border financial services.
- They also discussed the topics related to G20, IMF, and tax challenges and assured to grant support to digitize the economies.

## REPORTS & INDICES

### 2021 RANKING OF GLOBAL RETAIL POWER HOUSES



**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The 2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses was released by Deloitte.

### **Key Points:**

- As per the ranking, Reliance Retail Ltd is ranked as the 2nd fastest-growing retailer in the world.
- Reliance Retail Ltd is ranked at 53rd position in the list of Global Powers of Retailing, which is an improvement from 56th earlier.
- Walmart Inc, the US giant has retained its top position as the world's top retailer.
- The 2nd and 3rd position is marked by Amazon.com Inc and Costco Wholesale Corporation respectively.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

### **ARCTIC SCIENCE MINISTERIAL (ASM3)**



**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

India is participating in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) – It is the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region.

### **Key Points:**

- It is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia.
- The first two meetings—ASM1 and ASM2—were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018, respectively.
- ASM3 is jointly organised by: Iceland and Japan.
- The meeting is designed to provide opportunities to various stakeholders to enhance collective understanding of the Arctic region, emphasize and engage in constant monitoring, and strengthen observations.
- Theme: ‘Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic’.

### **BRICS EMPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP (EWG) MEET**





**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The 1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting was hosted by India in a virtual format.

**Key Points:**

- BRICS EWG Meeting was chaired by Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.
- The representatives from BRICS nations were present at the meeting along with the representatives from International Labour Organisation (ILO) and International Social Security Agency (ISSA).
- The dignitaries discussed Promoting Social Security Agreements amongst BRICS Nations, Formalization of labour markets, women participation in labour force and Gig and platform workers – Role in the labour market.
- The dignitaries also assured to resolve the issues related to Social Security Agreement (SSA) by conducting dialogue and entering into agreements.

## DEFENCE

### NAVIES OF INDIA & INDONESIA CONDUCTED 'PASSEX'



**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted PASSEX (Passage Exercise) in the Southern Arabian Sea.

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy was represented by INS Sharda, which is an offshore patrol vessel and Chetak Helicopter.
- Indonesian Navy was represented by KRI Sultan Hasanudin, which is a 90m corvette.
- The PASSEX was held to strengthen interoperability and understanding friendly relations between both the navies.
- India conducts PASSEX with its friendly nations with an aim to verify that the navies are able to communicate and cooperate during wartime and thus to maintain humanitarian value.

### GOOGLE PAY LAUNCHED INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER FOR ITS US USERS



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Google has started to modify its Google Pay app for its users in the United States.

#### **Key Points:**

- Under the new updated version Google Pay app, the users in the US will be able to transfer funds to the users of Google Pay in India and Singapore.
- The updated version is powered by Google's integration with Western Union and Wise. Google has decided to expand this feature of the updated app to around 80 countries through Wise and to around 200 countries through Western Union by December 2021.
- Wise company is based in London which supports international money transfer in a cheap and easy manner. The Western Union company supports global remittances which are based in Colorado, US.



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# PEOPLE

## NATIONAL

### OBITUARY

#### RAGHUNATH MOHAPATRA



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Rajya Sabha MP and renowned Sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra passed away. He was 78.

#### Key Points:

- Mohapatra was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in July 2018, for Arts, Culture, and Heritage by the President of India.
- He was nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs as a Member of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in 2000.
- He was awarded Padma Shri in 1975 and also received the third-highest civilian award India, Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- For his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture, awarded the second-highest civilian award of India, Padma Vibhushan in 2013.

#### K R GOURI



**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Kerala's veteran politician & Founding Member of CPI, KR Gouri Amma passes away. She was 102.

### Key Points:

- She joined the Communist party in 1948.
- She was the first Revenue Minister in the first communist ministry of the state in 1957.
- She played a leading role in fighting for the rights of unprivileged sections and labourers.
- Gouri Amma fought against the Travancore Divan Ramaswamy Aiyar in the Punnapra Vayalar struggle.
- She had contested 17 elections in her life. And had won 13 of them. She held ministerial posts in six governments.

## APPOINTMENTS

### HIMANTA BISWA SARMA



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Why in news: Sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam.

### Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam.
- He replaced incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal.
- The BJP party won a second straight term in the 2021 assembly polls in the state.
- The party won 60 seats in the 126-member Assam assembly.

## INTERNATIONAL

### AWARDS & HONOURS

### DR TAHERA QUTBUDDIN

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Why in news: First person of Indian origin to win Arab World Nobel Prize.

**Key Points:**

- Mumbai born, Dr Tahera Qutbuddin, a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago, recently became the first person of Indian origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.
- The award is considered to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world.
- She won the award for her latest book, “Arabic Oration – Art and Function” published by Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019.
- In the book, she puts forth a comprehensive theory of Arabic literature in its foundational oral period dating the seventh and eighth centuries AD.

**JACINDA ARDEN**



**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Why in news: Topped the ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine.

**Key Points:**

- Fortune Magazine has released the World's 50 Greatest Leaders List 2021.
- The list is topped by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden.
- Also, the CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla has also made an entry in the list. He is the only Indian to be among the top 10 names on the list.
- Adar Poonawalla is at 10th rank position on the list.
- The other leaders in the top 10 rankings are: mRNA pioneers (2nd); Paypal CEO Daniel H Schulman (3rd); NBA Rescuers; Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention’s John Nkengasong; Ping An’s Jessica Tan among others.

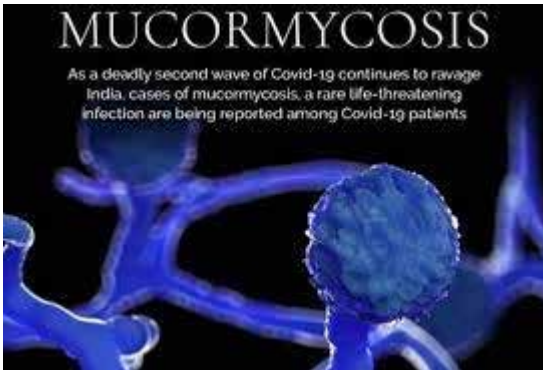


# ISSUES

## NATIONAL

### HEALTHCARE

#### SHORTAGE OF ANTIFUNGAL INJECTION, AMPHOTERICIN B



**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Key Highlights:

- Acute shortage of antifungal injection ‘amphotericin’ and other anti-fungal medicines used to treat mucormycosis, is now adding to difficulties of patients.
- Mucormycosis is a life-threatening infection that follows Covid-19 in roughly 30% diabetics.
- Amphotericin B injection is used to treat serious and potentially life-threatening fungal infections.
- Amphotericin B was isolated from *Streptomyces nodosus* in 1955 and came into medical use in 1958.
- It is on the World Health Organization’s List of Essential Medicines.

#### COVID-19 INFECTIONS BEING REPORTED AMONG PVTGS



**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Key Highlights:

- Covid-19 infections are being reported among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Odisha.
- As many as 21 tribals across eight different PVTGs in the State have so far tested positive, including two from the Bonda tribe.
- Bonda people live in the highlands of Malkangiri.
- Members of Dongria Kondh, another PVTG, have tested positive in Rayagada district.

## INTERNATIONAL

### SPACE

#### RE-ENTRY OF LONG MARCH 5B ROCKET



**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Key Highlights:

- Debris from a Chinese Long March 5B Rocket made uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over the Indian Ocean.
- The Long March 5B rocket had been launched into space on April 29 for putting into orbit a core module of the new Tianhe space station, which is expected to become operational in 2022.
- After the launch of a rocket, its discarded booster stages re-enter the atmosphere soon after liftoff. Then, they harmlessly fall into the ocean as a standard practice.
- However, in this case, a large part of the rocket went into orbit along with the section of the under-construction space station that it was carrying.
- While in orbit, this vehicle kept rubbing against the air at the top of the atmosphere and the resulting friction caused it to start losing altitude.
- This resulted in the Long March 5B rocket's uncontrolled re-entry back to the Earth inevitable.

## POLITY & GOVERNANCE

### SOUTH SUDAN'S PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Key Highlights:

- South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has dissolved Parliament.
- Lawmakers from opposing sides of the country's civil war shall now be appointed under a 2018 peace accord.
- The setting up of a new legislative body was part of an accord signed in September 2018 between Mr. Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar.
- In accordance with the 2018 accord, the new assembly will number 550 lawmakers, the majority — 332 — from Mr. Kiir's governing SPLM party.
- The parliamentarians will be nominated by the different parties.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### CHRISTCHURCH CALL TO ACTION



**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Key Highlights:

- USA will join the Christchurch Call to Action to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online.
- It is a New Zealand-led global campaign to stamp out violent extremism online.

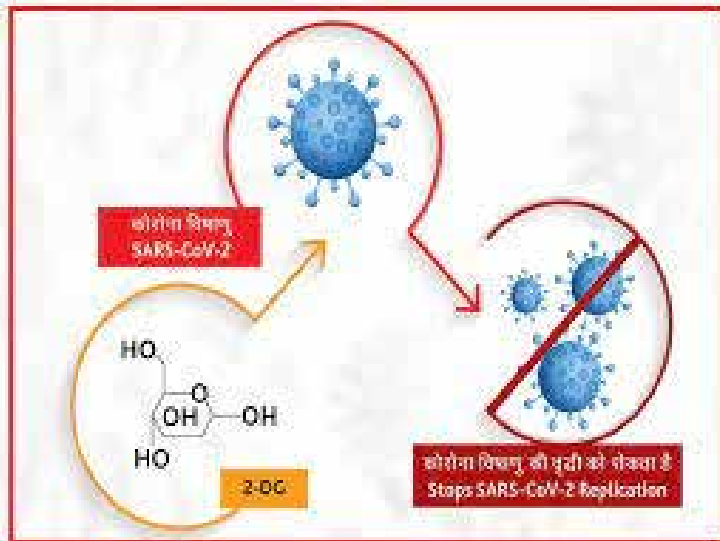


- The Christchurch Call is named after the New Zealand city in which 51 people from the Muslim community were killed in terrorist attacks broadcast live on the Internet on 15 March 2019.
- The Christchurch Call is an action plan that commits governments, international organizations and Internet players to take a series of measures, in particular:
  - developing tools to prevent the downloading of terrorist and violent extremist content;
  - combating the causes of violent extremism; improving transparency in the detection and removal of content; and
  - ensuring that the algorithms designed and used by businesses do not direct users towards violent extremist content, so as to reduce their viral nature.

The logo for 'disha' features the word 'disha' in a large, lowercase, light blue sans-serif font. Below it, the tagline 'Nurturing Ambitions' is written in a smaller, lighter blue sans-serif font. The logo is set against a background of a large, light blue arrow pointing upwards and to the right, which is partially obscured by a white speech bubble shape.

## HEALTHCARE

## 2-DEOXY-D-GLUCOSE



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Key Features:**

- Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved anti-COVID drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose for emergency use.
- It is developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.
- Clinical trial results have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence.
- Higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in COVID patients.
- The drug will be of immense benefit to the people suffering from COVID-19.

### INDIAN RESEARCHERS SEQUENCE PANGOLIN SCALES



**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### **Key Features:**

- Indian Researchers have sequenced 624 pangolin scales, thereby categorising the Indian and Chinese pangolins.
- They characterised the morphological features and investigated genetic variations between the two species by sequencing 624 scales of pangolins and comparing the sequences with all eight pangolin species.
- Based on the size, shape, weight and ridge counts on the scales, the team was able to categorise the two species of Indian and Chinese pangolins.
- Though the Chinese pangolin is distributed mostly in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, the north-eastern part of India is also its home.

### SMOKELESS CREMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPED



**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### **Key Features:**

- IIT Ropar has developed a prototype of a moveable electric cremation system which claims to be using first of its kind technology that involves smokeless cremation despite using wood.

- It uses half of the wood otherwise required for the cremation.
- It is eco-friendly because of the technology that uses the combustion air system.
- It is based on wick-stove technology in which the wick when lighted glows yellow.
- This is converted into smokeless blue flame with the help of a combustion air system installed over the wicks.
- The cremation system or incinerator heats up at 1044 degree Celsius which ensures complete sterilization.

## INTERNATIONAL

### SPACE

#### DOGE-1 MISSION TO THE MOON



**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Key Features:

- SpaceX will launch the 'DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon' in the first quarter of 2022.
- SpaceX's 'DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon' is the 1st ever commercial lunar payload that will be paid entirely in Cryptocurrency Dogecoin.
- The mission will analyze the application of cryptocurrency beyond Earth orbit and will thus set the foundation for interplanetary commerce.
- The mission is led by Canada's Geometric Energy Corporation (GEC).
- Under this mission, SpaceX will carry a 40kg cube satellite which will be dubbed as DOGE-1 as rideshare on Falcon 9 rocket.

# SINOPHARM COVID-19 VACCINE FOR EMERGENCY USE



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Key Features:

- WHO approved the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. It is the first Chinese jab to receive the WHO's green light.
- The Sinopharm vaccine is an inactivated coronavirus vaccine, like Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech India (BBIL) in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology (NIV).
- Inactivated vaccines take the disease-carrying virus (in this case SARS-CoV-2) and kill it using heat, chemicals or radiation.
- Out of the major vaccines being used in the world, Sinopharm, Covaxin and Sinovac (also developed by China) are the only ones that use inactivated viruses.
- Others such as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are mRNA vaccines.
- Oxford-AstraZeneca, Sputnik and Johnson and Johnson's single-dose vaccines use a viral vector.



# Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

8<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (WEEK 2)

## Level 1

- Who among the following topped the Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders List 2021?**
  - mRNA pioneers
  - Paypal CEO Daniel H Schulman
  - NBA Rescuers
  - New Zealand PM Jacinda Arden
- Rajya Sabha MP Raghunath Mohapatra, who has passed away recently, was a \_\_\_\_\_ by profession**
  - Astronomer
  - Agricultural Scientist
  - Sculptor
  - Journalist
- Recently, who has replaced Sarbananda Sonowal as the Chief Minister of Assam?**
  - Prafulla Kumar Mahanta
  - Himanta Biswa Sarma
  - Atul Bora
  - Kailash Nath Sarma
- KR Gouri Amma, who passed away recently was the senior-most and second longest serving MLA in the Legislative Assembly of which state?**
  - Kerala
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Odisha
  - Andhra Pradesh
- Recently, who has become the first person of Indian origin to win the prestigious Sheikh Zayed Book Award – considered to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world?**
  - Ruskin Bond
  - RK Narayan
  - Khaled Hosseini
  - Tahera Qutbuddin
- Recently, 5 Oil and Gas PSUs of India joined hands to redevelop which of the following places as a 'Spiritual Smart Hill Town'?**
  - Badrinath
  - Kedarnath
  - Uttarkashi
  - Tapovan
- Recently, Section 142 of the Social Security Code has been notified by the Ministry of Labour & Employment for enabling the Ministry to collect Aadhaar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes. This Code came into being in which year?**
  - 2021
  - 2020
  - 2019
  - 2018
- Recently, which state launched 'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana' for the economically weak section of the state?**
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Gujarat
  - Maharashtra
  - Madhya Pradesh
- Recently, which organisation released the report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'?**
  - NITI Aayog
  - RBI
  - Mastercard
  - Both (a) and (c)
- Recently, The Union Cabinet gave its approval for development of the Aerial Passenger Ropeway System between \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - Dehradun and Mussoorie
  - Haridwar and Rishikesh
  - Haridwar and Dehradun
  - Rudraprayag and Kedarnath
- Global Innovation Partnership is launched through MoU between India and which of the following countries?**
  - USA
  - Israel
  - Russia
  - UK
- Which organisation topped in the 2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses released by Deloitte?**
  - Walmart Inc
  - Amazon.com Inc
  - Costco Wholesale Corporation
  - Schwarz Group of Germany
- Who among the following represented India at the India-EU Leaders Meeting which was held in May 2021?**
  - PM Narendra Modi
  - S Jaishankar
  - Piyush Goyal
  - Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- Who among the following represented India in the 4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue which was held virtually in May 2021?**
  - Nirmala Sitharaman
  - Anurag Thakur
  - Ajay Seth
  - Monika Kapil Mohta
- Which nation hosted the 1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting which was held in May 2021?**
  - India
  - Brazil
  - Russia
  - China

## Level 2

1. Which of the following major vaccines being used in the world against COVID-19 are the only ones that use inactivated Virus?

1. Sinopharm
2. Covaxin
3. Sinovac
4. Covishield

Select the correct code:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

2. Recently, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved anti-COVID drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose for emergency use. This drug has been developed by?

- (a) Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)
- (b) Dr Reddy's Laboratories
- (c) Serum Institute of India
- (d) Both (a) & (b)

3. Consider the following statements regarding Pangolins:

1. Pangolins are the world's most trafficked mammal.
2. They are listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 of India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

4. Recently, a smokeless cremation system based on wick-stove technology has been developed by which of the following institutes/organisations?

- (a) IIT Kharagpur
- (b) IIT Ropar
- (c) DRDO
- (d) IISc Bangalore

5. Recently in the news the DOGE-1 Mission belongs to which of the following agencies?

- (a) NASA
- (b) European Space Agency
- (c) Japanese Space Agency
- (d) SpaceX

6. In May 2021, which of the following countries has joined the Christchurch Call to Action to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online?

- (a) USA
- (b) China
- (c) India
- (d) UK

7. Mucormycosis, recently seen in news, is caused by which of the following?

- (a) Fungi
- (b) Bacteria
- (c) Virus
- (d) Protozoa

8. The Bonda community was recently in the news due to Covid-19. It belongs to which of the following states of India?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Odisha

9. Long March 5B Rocket, recently seen in news, was launched by which of the following countries?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Russia
- (c) India
- (d) China

10. In May 2021, the Parliament of which of the following African countries was dissolved by its President?

- (a) Nigeria
- (b) Rwanda
- (c) South Sudan
- (d) Ethiopia

11. Consider the following statements regarding Rivali Park Wintergreens project under the Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Fund:

1. Located in Jaipur, Rajasthan, it is the first investment by the Fund and is also the first project to get completed.
2. The SWAMIH Investment Fund is one of the largest private equity teams in India.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

12. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between which of the following?

- (a) Great Britain
- (b) Northern Ireland
- (c) Ireland
- (d) Both (a) & (b)

13. Recently, which of the following UPI platforms has allowed its users in the USA to transfer money in India and Singapore?

- (a) Amazon pay
- (b) Google pay
- (c) Citi bank
- (d) None of the above

14. In May 2021, India conducted PASSEX with which country in the Southern Arabian Sea?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Indonesia

15. India participated in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) – the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region. ASM 3 is organized by?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Russia
- (c) Iceland
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

# Answers and Explanation

8<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>h</sup> May 2020 (WEEK 2)

## Level 1

- (d)** Fortune Magazine has released the World's 50 Greatest Leaders List 2021. The list is topped by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden. Also, the CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla has also made an entry in the list. He is the only Indian to be among the top 10 names on the list.
- (c)** Eminent sculptor, architect, and Rajya Sabha member Raghunath Mohapatra has passed away. He was 78. For his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture, awarded the second-highest civilian award of India, Padma Vibhushan in 2013.
- (b)** Himanta Biswa Sarma has been named as the new Chief Minister of Assam on May 08, 2021. He will replace incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal. Sarma will take the charge of the office with effect from May 10, 2021.
- (a)** The senior most communist leader of Kerala, KR Gouri Amma, who was the first Revenue Minister in the first communist ministry of the state in 1957, passed away recently. She was 102.
- (d)** Mumbai born, Dr Tahera Qutbuddin, a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago, recently became the first person of Indian origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award. The award is considered to be the Nobel Prize of the Arab world.
- (a)** India's major Oil and Gas PSUs signed MoU with Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust to redevelop Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a 'Spiritual Smart Hill Town'. The 5 Oil and Gas PSUs who are part of this MoU are: Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and GAIL.
- (b)** Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 has been notified by the Ministry of Labour & Employment covering applicability of Aadhar. The notification of section will enable the Ministry to collect Aadhaar details for the database of beneficiaries under various social security schemes.
- (d)** The government of Madhya Pradesh launched the 'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana'.
- (d)** The NITI Aayog in collaboration with Mastercard has released the report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat'. The report highlights challenges faced to accelerate digital financial inclusion in India. The report also highlights recommendations and measures to grant digital services to 1.3 billion citizens of India.
- (a)** The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the transfer of land of Indo-Tibetan Border Police, ITBP to Government of Uttarakhand for development of Aerial Passenger Ropeway System between Dehradun and Mussoorie. The proposed Ropeway is a mono-cable ropeway of 5.5 Km length between Purkul Gaon, Dehradun and Library, Mussoorie being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 285 crore.

**11. (d)** The Union Cabinet has given retrospective approval to the signing of MoU between the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom on Global Innovation Partnership (GIP). Through this MoU, India and the UK agree to launch the GIP.

**12. (a)** The 2021 Ranking of Global Retail Power Houses was released by Deloitte. As per the ranking, Reliance Retail Ltd is ranked as the 2nd fastest-growing retailer in the world. Walmart Inc, the US giant has retained its top position as the world's top retailer. The 2nd and 3rd position is marked by Amazon.com Inc and Costco Wholesale Corporation respectively.

**13. (a)** The India-EU Leaders Meeting was held virtually. The Indian side was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Heads of State of all the 27 EU Member States also participated in the meeting.

**14. (c)** The 4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held in a virtual manner. The Indian side was represented by Ajay Seth, Secretary Economic Affairs.

**15. (a)** The 1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting was hosted by India in a virtual format. BRICS EWG Meeting was chaired by Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.

## Level 2

- (d)** Inactivated vaccines take the disease-carrying virus (in this case SARS-CoV-2) and kill it using heat, chemicals or radiation. Out of the major vaccines being used in the world, Sinopharm, Covaxin and Sinovac (also developed by China) are the only ones that use inactivated viruses.
- (d)** Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved anti-COVID drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose for emergency use. It is developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.
- (c)** Pangolins, despite being listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 continue to be the world's most trafficked mammal. The primary demand for its scales in the making of traditional East Asian medicines has led to an estimated illegal trade worth \$2.5 billion every year.
- (b)** IIT Ropar has developed a prototype of a moveable electric cremation system which claims to be using first of its kind technology that involves smokeless cremation despite using wood. It is eco-friendly because of the technology that uses the combustion air system.
- (d)** SpaceX will launch the 'DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon' in the first quarter of 2022. SpaceX's 'DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon' is the 1st ever commercial lunar payload that will be paid entirely in Cryptocurrency Dogecoin.



6. (a) USA will join the Christchurch Call to Action to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online. It is a New Zealand-led global campaign to stamp out violent extremism online.

7. (a) Acute shortage of antifungal injection 'amphotericin' and other anti-fungal medicines used to treat mucormycosis, is now adding to difficulties of patients. Mucormycosis is a life-threatening infection that follows Covid-19 in roughly 30% diabetics.

8. (d) Covid-19 infections are being reported among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Odisha. As many as 21 tribals across eight different PVTGs in the State have so far tested positive, including two from the Bonda tribe. Bonda people live in the highlands of Malkangiri.

9. (d) Debris from a Chinese Long March 5B Rocket made uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated over the Indian Ocean. The Long March 5B rocket had been launched into space on April 29 for putting into orbit a core module of the new Tianhe space station, which is expected to become operational in 2022.

10. (c) South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has dissolved Parliament. Lawmakers from opposing sides of the country's civil war shall now be appointed under a 2018 peace accord.

11. (b) The residential project – Rivali Park, located in suburban Mumbai, was the first housing project in India to

have received funding under the SWAMIH Fund. Rivali Park Wintergreens is the first investment by the Fund and is also the first project to get completed. The SWAMIH Investment Fund is one of the largest private equity teams in India.

12. (d) The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The MoU aims to (1) Liberalising issuance of visas promoting mobility of students, researchers and skilled professionals; (2) Strengthen cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.

13. (b) Google has started to modify its Google Pay app for its users in the United States. Under the new updated version Google Pay app, the users in the US will be able to transfer funds to the users of Google Pay in India and Singapore.

14. (d) The Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted PASSEX (Passage Exercise) in the Southern Arabian Sea. Indian Navy was represented by INS Sharda, which is an offshore patrol vessel and Chetak Helicopter.

15. (d) India is participating in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) – It is the global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region. It is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia. ASM3 is jointly organised by: Iceland and Japan.

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