

Week 3 Current Affairs Update

16th - 23th May 2021

EVENTS

NATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

‘DEFENCE NATIONAL OPD’ ON E-SANJEEVANI PORTAL



Date: 16th May 2021

The ‘Defence National OPD’ was launched on the e-Sanjeevani portal.

Key points:

- It was basically launched as ‘Ex Defence OPD in a phased manner in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- The ‘Defence National OPD’ will grant free online medical consultation to the people. It will also provide an online prescription of medicines.
- The doctors will answer the queries of patients through this ‘Defence National OPD’.
- The e-Sanjeevani portal is a part of India's flagship telemedicine platform which was developed by the C-DAC, Mohali.

WHITE FUNGUS



Date: 21st May 2021

Rising cases of 'white fungus' or 'candidiasis' have been detected recently in India.

Key Points:

- This infection can be caused due to low immunity or if people come in contact with things that contain these moulds like water, etc.
- Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative.
- The infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
- It is a fungal infection caused by a type of fungus called Candida.
- White fungus can affect not just the lungs but also other parts of the body including nails, skin, stomach, kidney, brain, private parts and mouth.
- However, it is regarded as just a normal fungal infection.

ECONOMY

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR GOLD EXCHANGE IN INDIA



Date: 17th May 2021

The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has floated a consultation paper on the proposed framework for Gold Exchange in India.

Key Points:

- The Gold exchange proposal was announced by the Finance Minister.
- SEBI is entrusted with the task of regulating the proposed exchange which includes vaulting, assaying the gold quality and delivery standards.
- The existing stock exchanges may deal in 'electronic gold receipt' (EGR) through a separate segment.
- SEBI has also suggested a new exchange exclusively for EGR that would have advantages such as better liquidity and single-price reference.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

CORONA MUKT PIND ABHIYAN – PUNJAB



Date: 18th May 2021

The government of Punjab launched the unique 'Covid Fateh programme', as part of the 'Corona Mukh Pind Abhiyaan'.

Key Points:

- The Abhiyan was launched to limit the spread of coronavirus in the rural areas of the state amid the second wave of the pandemic.
- Under this scheme, the health and rural development department will work to spread awareness about precautions to be taken during pandemics among the village community.
- The scheme will be guided by community health officers, panchayats, school teachers, Anganwadi and ASHA workers, village police officers, youth volunteers on a large scale.
- The associated members will spread awareness among the villagers on the dangers of COVID-19.

TELANGANA HEALTH DEPARTMENT SIGNED AN MOU WITH NHA



Date: 20th May 2021

The Telangana Health department signed an MoU with National Health Authority (NHA).

Key Points:

- The MoU was signed to implement Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the state.
- The guidelines to implement the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the state will be made by Aarogyasri Health Care Trust.
- The Aarogyasri Health Care Trust will ensure that patients are treated in empanelled hospitals across the State under the converged scheme of Ayushman Bharat – Arogyasri.

AGRICULTURE

INDIA'S 1ST AGRICULTURE EXPORT FACILITATION CENTRE IN PUNE



Date: 18th May 2021

The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in partnership with NABARD has launched India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre in Pune, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- This facilitation centre will be the one-stop-shop destination for the exporters associated with Agri and allied sectors.
- The centre will guide exporters in various areas like pesticide residue management, global gap certification, preference of potential importing countries their product choice, parameters to enhance the quality, the preconditions, orchard management for export-oriented production, harvesting time and methods, production technology, greenhouse production, post-harvest management, packaging, the procedure to be followed at the airport, seaport and unloading at importing countries.
- The awareness programs, training programs and workshops will be organised by the centre. To give a hands-on to the exporters, the centre will also organise visits to export houses.

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI MANDATED PPIS INTEROPERABILITY BY MARCH 2022



Date: 21st May 2021

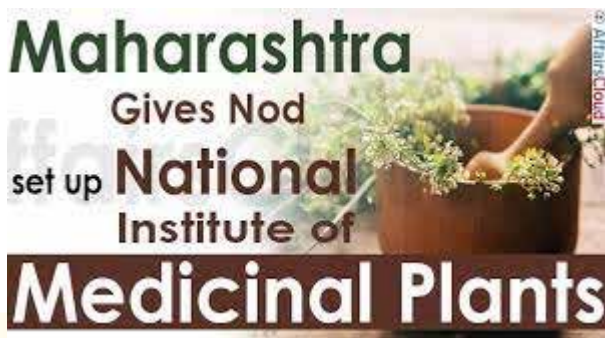
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated pre-paid instrument (PPIs) operators to enable full interoperability to PPI cards and PPI e-wallets for those customers who have fulfilled the KYC norms.

Key Points:

- The Payment companies associated with PPIs are mandated to enable PPI interoperability by March 2022 by RBI.
- Also, the limit for full-KYC PPI accounts will be from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh. Therefore, due to this, the user of a PPI card or PPI e-wallet can double the amount they store on the pre-loaded payment instrument.
- PPIs are pre-loaded cards or digital wallets which are loaded with funds.
- Interoperability means that regardless of who issues the PPI card or e-wallet, customers will be able to use their PPI card or e-wallet at any payment acceptance point.

INFRASTRUCTURE

MAHARASHTRA TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS



Date: 21st May 2021

The government of Maharashtra approved the building of the National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP).

Key Points:

- In this regard, the state government approved to allocate 50 acres of land in the district of Sindhudurg of the state.
- The land is allocated in the Aadali village of Dodomarg taluka. The authority for the institute will be under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The NIMP will be a one-stop centre responsible to meet the needs of medicinal plants.
- It will also generate employment in a large sector.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

MOU SIGNED FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF TRIBAL SCHOOLS



Date: 21st May 2021

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft have signed MoU on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.

Key Points:

- It aims to skill educators and students in next-generation digital technologies including Artificial Intelligence.
- The MoU shall support digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools, which fall under the Ministry.
- Microsoft will make the AI curriculum available to tribal students in both English and Hindi at all EMRS schools under the Ministry.
- This program will benefit students in terms of readiness, preparedness at various international forums.
- In the first phase, 250 EMRS schools have been adopted by Microsoft out of which 50 EMRS schools will be given intensive training and 500 master trainers would be trained.

RBI TO TRANSFER RS 99,122 CR. SURPLUS TO THE CENTRAL GOV. FOR FY21



Date: 22nd May 2021

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transfer a surplus of Rs 99,122 crore to the central government.

Key Points:

- The decision for the same was taken in the 589th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of RBI.
- At the meeting, the officials reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges and recent policy measures which are to be taken by RBI to mitigate the economy of India which has been affected due to the second wave of the COVID-19.
- The funds are for the accounting period of nine months which ended on 31st March 2021 i.e. for July 2020 to March 2021.
- The Contingency Risk Buffer will be maintained at 5.50%.

DEFENCE

BEML LTD LAUNCHED MMME MK-II FOR THE INDIAN ARMY



Mk-II for Indian Army

Date: 22nd May 2021

The Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML) launched the Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for the Indian Army.

Key Points:

- It is built on BEML TATRA 6X6 and is said to be the Atma Nirbhar product.
- It is developed through DRDO's lab Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers) through Technology of Transfer (ToT).
- The MMME Mk-II will help the Indian Army to mark the minefields at a fast rate with minimum human intervention.
- It can mark or fence at a minimum rate of 1.2km/hr with 15m inter-picket spacing. It is also capable of operating in the plains as well as in deserts.

INTERNATIONAL

SPACE

MARS LANDING BY CHINA



Date: 16th May 2021

China landed a spacecraft on Mars carrying its first Mars rover in a big boost to its space ambitions.

Key Points:

- China had in July 2020, launched its first Mars mission, called Tianwen-1, carrying a lander and rover.
- Tianwen-1 had been in orbit since February.
- Recently, a lander descended successfully on the surface of Mars carrying a rover named Zhurong.
- Only Russia and the U.S.A had previously carried out a successful landing on Mars.
- The rover will provide “first-hand materials for research on the Mars’ space environment, surface topography, and soil structure.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WORLD'S 1ST PRIVATE DIGITAL COURT



Date: 19th May 2021

The World's First Private Digital Court was developed by Jupitice Justice Technologies, which is the Chandigarh based startup.

Key Points:

- The World's First Private Digital Court is powered by Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain technologies.
- It will resolve disputes under the private justice system through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.
- The parties will be involved in this system and their disputes will be resolved without the help of an administering control body.
- The platform will also allow registering the complaint from any parts of the world at any time.
- All the activities like case filing, documentation, present arguments will take place in an online manner.
- Through this platform, the MSMEs will also be able to resolve their cross-border disputes without any jurisdiction barrier.

HEALTHCARE

NEW STORAGE CONDITIONS FOR PFIZER-BIONTECH VACCINE



Date: 20th May 2021

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has recommended a change to the approved storage conditions of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Key Points:

- With the new recommendations, an unopened thawed vial of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine can be stored between 2-8 degrees Celsius for up to a month, which means that it can be stored in a regular refrigerator once it has been taken out of the deep freeze.
- Before this, an unopened thawed vaccine vial could be kept in a regular refrigerator for a period of only up to five days.
- mRNA vaccines need to be stored at much lower temperatures than some other kind of COVID-19 vaccines because RNA is much less stable than DNA.

DEFENCE

‘UNITED LAUNCH ALLIANCE’ LAUNCHED ATLAS V ROCKET



Date: 20th May 2021

The United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station of Florida.

Key Points:

- The rocket carried SBRIS (Space-Based Infrared System) Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite.
- Its purpose is to provide missile warning, missile battlespace and defence characterization. Its weight is 4850kilograms.
- The SBRIS is a Space Tracking and Surveillance System which meets Infrared Space Surveillance of the United States Space Force System.
- The Atlas is a two-stage rocket that is fueled with rocket grade kerosene and liquid oxygen in its first stage and hydrogen and liquid oxygen in the second stage.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

SUMMIT ON FINANCING OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES 2021



Date: 21st May 2021

The Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021 was held in Paris, France and also held in a virtual format via video conference.

Key Points:

- The summit was hosted by France.
- India was represented by the Minister of the State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan.
- The summit was held to plan financial resources to retrieve the African Economy which is severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The summit observed participation from countries like Congo, Portugal, Spain, Egypt etc. The officers from IMF, WTO, United Nations and World Bank participated in the summit.
- President of France, Emmanuel Macron, agreed to work towards persuading rich nations by Oct 2021 to reallocate \$100 billion in IMF's special reserves, particularly for African nations.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA AND OMAN RENEW MOUS ON MILITARY COOPERATION AND MARITIME ISSUES



Date: 22nd May 2021

India and Oman have renewed their MoUs for Military Cooperation and Maritime issues.

Key Points:

- These MoU were signed by both nations in 2018.
- The MoU for military cooperation was signed by the Secretary-General of Oman's defence ministry Dr Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi and Indian Ambassador Munu Mahawar.
- The MoU on cooperation on maritime issues was signed at the maritime security centre by Commander of Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi and India's Ambassador to Oman, Munu Mahawar.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

7TH MEET OF BRICS ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP (BAWG)



Date: 23rd May 2021

The 7th meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) was hosted by India in a virtual manner.

Key Points:

- The meet was hosted from Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, Maharashtra in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The meet observed the participation of scientific researchers from BRICS Nations
- The meet was held under the science, technology, and innovation track of the BRICS-2021 calendar.
- Head of the International Cooperation Division of DST, S K Varshney presented India's perspectives during the meeting.
- The member nations also presented their country report which highlighted the research activities and infrastructure created by them.



PEOPLE

NATIONAL

AWARDS & HONOURS

RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK

Date: 16th May 2021

Why in news: Has been awarded the International Invincible Gold Medal 2021.

Key Points:

- The Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with the “International Invincible Gold Medal” for 2021.
- Dr. Nishank has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
- He will receive the award by the global Maharishi Organization and its Universities, on the occasion of Guru Purnima on 24 July 2021.

OBITUARY

MS NARASIMHAN

Date: 16th May 2021

Famous mathematician Professor MS Narasimhan passed away. He was 88.

Key Points:

- Professor Narasimhan, along with C. S. Seshadri, both were known for their proof of the Narasimhan–Seshadri theorem.
- His contributions are in the areas of Algebraic Geometry, Differential Geometry, Representation Theory of Lie groups and Partial Differential Equations.
- He is a recipient of the Bhatnagar Prize in 1975, the Third World Academy Award for Mathematics in 1987 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society, London.
- He was also awarded CV Raman Birth Centenary Award of Indian Science Congress Association (1994), SS Bhatnagar Prize and Honorary Fellowship of TIFR.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India and “Chevalier de l’ordre du Mérite” by the President of France.

SUNDERLAL BAHUGUNA

Date: 21st May 2021

Noted environmentalist and Gandhian activist, Sunderlal Bahuguna Passed away. He was 94.

Key Points:

- He was the leader of the Chipko Movement.
- The first Chipko action took place in April 1973 in Mandal village, now in Uttarakhand, and spread over many Himalayan districts.
- In 2009, he was honoured with India's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan.
- Chipko movement was one of the strongest movements to conserve forests and trees in India from cutting by forest contractors.

INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Date: 16th May 2021

Why in news: Appointed as the People's Advocate of the COP26 for the UK's Presidency.

Key Points:

- World-renowned broadcaster and natural historian, Sir David Attenborough has been named as COP26 People's Advocate for the U.K.'s Presidency of the UN climate change summit which will be held in Nov 2021 at Glasgow.
- He has been tasked with putting forward a case to key decision-makers, global leaders, and the public to explain why climate action matters, highlight the progress to achieve the climate goals, and what actions will the decision-makers need to take ahead of COP26.
- David Attenborough is the recipient of Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Y NUKLU PHOM

Date: 18th May 2021

Why in news: Has been awarded the prestigious Whitley Award 2021.

Key Points:

- Nuklu Phom the only person from India to win the prestigious #WhitleyAwards 2021 for his work; “Establishing a biodiversity peace corridor”.
- The Whitley Award, also known as the “Green Oscar”, was given to a church worker from Nagaland for his efforts to establish a network of community-owned forests in the state and preserve the rare Amur falcon.
- The award is one of the world’s leading prizes for grassroots conservation.



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ISSUES

NATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

ICMR ISSUES ADVISORY ON PLASMA THERAPY



Date: 16th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- According to an advisory from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the use of convalescent plasma has been dropped from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19.
- PLACID trial conducted last year had found no significant benefit from the use of plasma; it still continued to find a place in the recommended guidelines.
- According to some experts, the use of such plasma may have caused new mutations to the virus.
- Plasma therapy is a medical procedure that uses the blood of a recovered patient to create antibodies on those infected individuals.
- This treatment uses antibodies found in the blood taken from a recovered Covid-19 patient.

STATES ASKED TO DECLARE MUCORMYCOSIS AN EPIDEMIC

What is mucormycosis | It is an aggressive and invasive fungal infection that can affect various vital organs such as the brain and cause internal damage to the ear, nose, throat, and mouth. It is not contagious but can be fatal if not detected early

Prevalence: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S., calls it a serious but rare disease. A computational model by Arunaloake Chakrabarti et al. estimated a prevalence of 0.14 cases per 1,000 individuals in India

indiscriminate use of a high dose of steroids in patients" could trigger the disease post-COVID-19 infection

Cure: The main line of treatment is an anti-fungal drug called Amphotericin B, which is given over an extended period of time under strict observation. Surgery might also be warranted

Underlying cause: Diabetes mellitus is the most common underlying cause. According to doctors, "an

Date: 18th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis, an epidemic under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.
- Mucormycosis is the black fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients.
- Declaring it an epidemic would lead to health facilities screening for it and reporting all such cases to the government.
- Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have already declared it an epidemic.
- People catch mucormycosis by coming in contact with the fungal spores in the environment.
- The disease is being detected among patients who are recovering or have recovered from Covid-19.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GST ON IMPORTED OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR UNCONSTITUTIONAL: DELHI HC



Date: 21st May 2021

Key Highlights:

- The Delhi High Court held the government's imposition of GST on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use as "unconstitutional".
- It said that oxygen concentrators constitute a life-saving device during the

COVID-19 pandemic and during a pandemic a different approach needs to be adopted.

- Government's May 1 notification levied 12% GST on such imports from 28% earlier.
- The court had asked the government to consider temporarily dropping the 12% GST levied on such imports altogether, citing the shortage of oxygen in the second wave of the pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

WEATHERING OF OLDEST ROCK PAINTINGS DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Date: 20th May 2021

Key Highlights:

- Scientists have warned that environmental degradation is killing one of the oldest and most precious pieces of the world's human heritage.
- Pleistocene-era rock paintings dating back to 45,000-20,000 years ago are weathering at an alarming rate.
- Cave sites in Maros-Pangkep region, Southern Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- The artwork includes what is believed to be the world's oldest hand stencil created by pressing the hand on a cave wall, and spraying wet red-mulberry pigments over it.
- A nearby cave features the world's oldest depiction of an animal, a warty pig painted on the wall 45,500 years ago.
- The cave art of Sulawesi is much older than the prehistoric cave art of Europe.

A-76 BECOMES WORLD'S LARGEST ICEBERG



Date: 22nd May 2021

Key Highlights:

- A giant slab of ice bigger than the Spanish island of Majorca has sheared off from the frozen edge of Antarctica into the Weddell Sea.
- It has now become the largest iceberg currently afloat in the world.
- The iceberg is designated A-76 by scientists.
- A-76 broke away from Antarctica's Ronne Ice Shelf.
- It was spotted in recent satellite images captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission.
- It surpassed the now second-place A-23A iceberg which is also floating in the Weddell Sea.
- The Weddell Sea is part of the Southern Ocean and contains the Weddell Gyre.



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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

‘HIT (HOME ISOLATION TRACKING) COVID APP’



Date: 19th May 2021

Key Features:

- Bihar Government launched the ‘HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) COVID’ App.
- The app will be used to monitor and track the home isolated COVID-19 patients across the state.
- It was developed by Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (BELTRON), Department of Health and Department of Information Technology (DIT).
- The app will be updated on a regular basis as the health workers will visit the patients at home every day and feed data in the app after measuring their temperature and oxygen level. The data will be monitored at the district level.
- If the level of oxygen is below 94, the patient will be shifted to the nearby dedicated Covid health centres for proper treatment.

NGMA’S AUDIO-VISUAL GUIDE APP



Date: 20th May 2021

Key Features:

- The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) launched the Audio-Visual Guide App.
- The app was launched on the occasion of International Museum Day (18th May 2021).
- Through this app, the museum viewers will be able to listen to anecdotes and stories related to the treasured Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery.
- The app and the tours through it are free for all users.
- It can be downloaded through Google Play Store and the Apple Appstore.

HEALTHCARE

OXYGEN RECYCLING SYSTEM (ORS) – BY INDIAN NAVY



Date: 21st May 2021

Key Features:

- The Indian Navy has designed an Oxygen Recycling System (ORS) to meet the current shortages of oxygen requirements.
- The ORS was conceptualised and designed by the Indian Navy's Diving School of the Southern Naval Command.
- The Diving School of Indian Navy has expertise in this area as the same concept is used in some of the diving sets used by the school.
- The ORS will boost the life of the existing medical oxygen cylinders by two to four times, through the fact that only a small percentage of oxygen which is inhaled by a patient is actually absorbed by the lungs, and the rest is exhaled along with carbon dioxide produced by the body.

‘DIPCOVAN’ – A COVID-19 ANTIBODY DETECTION KIT BY DRDO



Date: 23rd May 2021

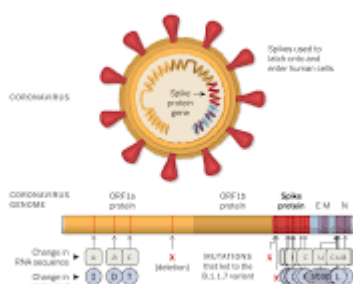
Key Features:

- DRDO developed a COVID-19 antibody detection kit named ‘DIPCOVAN’.
- The kit has the ability to detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus. Its detection sensitivity is 97%
- The kit will be useful to understand COVID-19 epidemiology and assess an individual’s previous SARS-CoV-2 exposure.
- The kit is intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting SARS-CoV-2 related antigens.
- It is developed by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DI-PAS), which is the lab of DRDO.

INTERNATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

NEW NAMING SYSTEM FOR VIRUS VARIANTS



Date: 21st May 2021

Key Features:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) would unveil a system of naming of coronavirus variants similar to the way hurricanes are named.
- The initiative seeks to remove stigma that gets attached to the country it was discovered in.
- It will also be easier for the public to remember rather than their lineage numbers.
- Scientists refer to viruses and their variants by formal lineage names, which are a combination of letters and names that point to the relationships between different variants.
- Variants such as B.1.1.7 and B.1.617 suggest that they have certain mutations in common and provide clues to their evolutionary history.
- However, 1.1.7 started to be known as the 'U.K. variant' and B.1.351 as the 'South African' variant.



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Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

16th- 23th May 2020 (WEEK 3)

Level 1

1 Name the Indian, who has recently won the Whitley Awards 2021?

- (a) Y. Nuklu Phom
- (b) Romulus Whitaker
- (c) Lokesh Ohri
- (d) Parbati Barua

2 Who among the following has been named for the “International Invincible Gold Medal” for 2021?

- (a) Prakash Javadekar
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
- (d) Harsh Vardhan

3. MS Narasimhan who passed away recently, was an awardee of Padma Bhushan by the President of India and “Chevalier de l’ordre du Mérite” by France. What was his profession?

- (a) Astronaut
- (b) Social Activist
- (c) Agricultural scientist
- (d) Mathematician

4. Who among these is the noted environmentalist and the leader of the Chipko Movement, who has passed away recently?

- (a) Mohan Dharia
- (b) Chandi Prasad Bhatt
- (c) Mike Pandey
- (d) Sunderlal Bahuguna

5. Who has been chosen as the “People’s Advocate” of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)?

- (a) Louis Theroux
- (b) Steve Backshall
- (c) Trevor McDonald
- (d) David Attenborough

6. The ‘Defence National OPD’ has been launched on which of the following portals?

- (a) CoWIN portal
- (b) e-Sanjeevani portal
- (c) AYUSH Research portal
- (d) Arogya Setu portal

7. Which state launched ‘Corona Mukh Pind Abhiyaan’?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Jharkhand

8. Where was India’s first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre jointly launched by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) and NABARD?

- (a) Hyderabad, Telangana
- (b) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- (d) Pune, Maharashtra

9. In May 2021, which state signed a MoU with National Health Authority (NHA) to implement Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana which will be managed by Aarogyasri Health Care Trust in the state?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Goa
- (d) Telangana

10. Recently, the RBI has mandated pre-paid instrument (PPIs) operators to enable full interoperability to PPI cards and PPI e-wallets for those customers who have fulfilled the KYC norms by ____.

- (a) April 2022
- (b) Dec 2021
- (c) March 2022
- (d) June 2021

11. Which state announced the establishment of the National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP) in May 2021?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Maharashtra

12. In May 2021, RBI announced to transfer a surplus of Rs _____ to the central government for FY21?

- (a) Rs 79,122 crore
- (b) Rs 99,122 crore
- (c) Rs 59,122 crore
- (d) Rs 69,122 crore

13. Which startup developed the World’s First Private Digital Court?

- (a) Jupitice Justice Technologies
- (b) Address Justice Technologies
- (c) Law Frame Technologies
- (d) None of the above

14. Recently, which of the following rocket manufacturers launched the Atlas V rocket which carried the SBRIS (Space-Based Infrared System) Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite?

- (a) Blue Origin
- (b) Space X
- (c) Astra Space
- (d) United Launch Alliance

15. Which country hosted the Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021?

- (a) India
- (b) Portugal
- (c) France
- (d) USA

16. In May 2021, India renewed MoU with which nation for Military Cooperation and Maritime issues?

- (a) Yemen
- (b) Kuwait
- (c) Bahrain
- (d) Oman

17. In May 2021, India hosted which edition of BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG)?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th

Level 2

1. Weddell Sea is a part of which of the following Ocean?

- (a) Indian Ocean
- (b) Pacific Ocean
- (c) Southern Ocean
- (d) Arctic Ocean

2. Consider the following statements regarding Plasma Therapy

1. Plasma therapy is a medical procedure that uses the blood of a recovered patient to create antibodies on those infected individuals.
2. Recently, the use of convalescent plasma has been dropped from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19 by WHO.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding Mucormycosis:

1. It is the white fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients.
2. Recently, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have declared it as an epidemic.

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, The Delhi High Court held the government's imposition of GST on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use as "unconstitutional". As per the May 1 notification of Government of India, what GST percentage is levied on oxygen concentrators?

- (a) 5%
- (b) 12%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 28%

5. Maros-Pangkep region, Southern Sulawesi, Indonesia, was recently in news for which of the following?

- (a) Surge in Covid-19 cases despite vaccination
- (b) Forest fires
- (c) Volcanic eruption
- (d) Environmental degradation of oldest rock paintings

6. Consider the following statements regarding the naming system for virus variants:

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) is coming with a new system of naming of coronavirus variants similar to the way hurricanes are named.
2. The initiative seeks to remove stigma that gets attached to the country it was discovered in.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

7. Which state launched the 'HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) COVID' App?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Rajasthan

8. Recently, which organisation launched the Audio-Visual Guide App to allow museum viewers to listen to anecdotes and stories related to the treasured Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery?

- (a) J J School of Arts
- (b) National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)
- (c) Salar Jung Museum
- (d) IIT Bombay

9. Recently, which organisation developed the Oxygen Recycling System (ORS) to meet the current shortages of oxygen requirements?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) Indian Army
- (c) Indian Navy
- (d) IIT Bombay

10. Recently, 'DIPCOVAN' – A COVID-19 antibody detection kit has been developed by which of the following organisations?

- (a) Indian Institute of Virology Pune
- (b) AIIMS Delhi
- (c) DRDO
- (d) IISc Bangalore

11. In partnership with which organisation has Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) recently launched India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre in Pune, Maharashtra?

- (a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- (b) NABARD
- (c) SEBI
- (d) NASSCOM

12. Consider the following statements regarding White fungus:

1. Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative.
2. The infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.

Which of the above is or are correct?

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

13. Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has signed a MoU with which of the following organizations on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools?

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| (a) Microsoft | (b) Byju |
| (c) Facebook | (d) TCS |

14. Which organisation launched Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for the Indian Army?

- (a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (c) Bharat Dynamics
- (d) Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML)

15. Recently, China landed a spacecraft on Mars carrying its first Mars rover. Consider the following statements in this backdrop:

1. Only Russia and the USA had previously carried out a successful landing on Mars.
2. Name of China's first Mars mission, which was launched in July 2020, is Tiangong-1.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements:

1. mRNA vaccines need to be stored at much lower temperatures than some other kind of COVID-19 vaccines because RNA is much less stable than DNA.
2. Pfizer-BioNTech is a mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

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Answers and Explanation

16th- 23th May 2020 (WEEK 3)

Level 1

1. (a) Nagaland-based conservationist, Y. Nuklu Phom has won Whitley Awards 2021, also known as the Green Oscar. The award is one of the world's leading prizes for grassroots conservation.
2. (c) The Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with the "International Invincible Gold Medal" for 2021. Dr. Nishank has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
3. (d) Noted Indian mathematician Professor MS Narasimhan has passed away. He was 88. Professor Narasimhan, along with C. S. Seshadri, were known for their proof of the Narasimhan–Seshadri theorem.
4. (d) Noted environmentalist and Gandhian activist, Sunderlal Bahuguna, who was the leader of the Chipko Movement, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications. He was 94.
5. (d) Sir David Attenborough has been named as the "People's Advocate" of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), which is scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November 2021, under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom.
6. (b) The 'Defence National OPD' was launched on the e-Sanjeevani portal. The 'Defence National OPD' will grant free online medical consultation to the people. It will also provide an online prescription of medicines.
7. (c) The government of Punjab launched the unique 'Covid Fateh programme', as part of the 'Corona Mukht Pind Abhiyaan'. The Abhiyan was launched to limit the spread of coronavirus in the rural areas of the state amid the second wave of the pandemic.
8. (d) The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in partnership with NABARD has launched India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre in Pune, Maharashtra. This facilitation centre will be the one-stop-shop destination for the exporters associated with Agri and allied sectors.
9. (d) The Telangana Health department signed an MoU with National Health Authority (NHA). The MoU was signed to implement Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the state.
10. (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated pre-paid instrument (PPIs) operators to enable full interoperability to PPI cards and PPI e-wallets for those customers who have fulfilled the KYC norms. The Payment companies associated with PPIs are mandated to enable PPI interoperability by March 2022 by RBI.
11. (d) The government of Maharashtra approved the building of the National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP). The NIMP will be a one-stop centre responsible to meet the needs of medicinal plants.

12. (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transfer a surplus of Rs99,122 crore to the central government. The decision for the same was taken in the 589th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of RBI.

13. (a) The World's First Private Digital Court was developed by Jupitice Justice Technologies, which is the Chandigarh based startup. The World's First Private Digital Court is powered by Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain technologies. It will resolve disputes under the private justice system through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.

14. (d) The United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station of Florida. The rocket carried SBRIS (Space-Based Infrared System) Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite.

15. (c) The Summit on Financing of African Economies 2021 was held in Paris, France and also held in a virtual format via video conference. The summit was hosted by France. The summit was held to plan financial resources to retrieve the African Economy which is severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

16. (d) India and Oman have renewed their MoUs for Military Cooperation and Maritime issues. These MoU were signed by both nations in 2018.

17. (d) The 7th meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) was hosted by India in a virtual manner. The meet was hosted from Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, Maharashtra in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Level 2

1. (c) A giant slab of ice bigger than the Spanish island of Majorca has sheared off from the frozen edge of Antarctica into the Weddell Sea. It has now become the largest iceberg currently afloat in the world. The iceberg is designated A-76 by scientists. The Weddell Sea is part of the Southern Ocean and contains the Weddell Gyre.
2. (a) According to an advisory from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the use of convalescent plasma has been dropped from the recommended treatment guidelines for COVID-19. Plasma therapy is a medical procedure that uses the blood of a recovered patient to create antibodies on those infected individuals.
3. (a) The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis, an epidemic under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897. Mucormycosis is the black fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients. Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have already declared it an epidemic.
4. (b) The Delhi High Court held the government's imposition of GST on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use as "unconstitutional". Government's May 1 notification levied 12% GST on such imports from 28% earlier.

5. (d) Scientists have warned that environmental degradation is killing one of the oldest and most precious pieces of the world's human heritage. Pleistocene-era rock paintings dating back to 45,000-20,000 years ago are weathering at an alarming rate. Cave sites in Maros-Pangkep region, Southern Sulawesi, Indonesia.
6. (c) The World Health Organization (WHO) would unveil a system of naming of coronavirus variants similar to the way hurricanes are named. The initiative seeks to remove stigma that gets attached to the country it was discovered in. It will also be easier for the public to remember rather than their lineage numbers.
7. (c) Bihar Government launched the 'HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) COVID' App. The app will be used to monitor and track the home isolated COVID-19 patients across the state. The app will be updated on a regular basis as the health workers will visit the patients at home every day and feed data in the app after measuring their temperature and oxygen level.
8. (b) The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGM(a) launched the Audio-Visual Guide App. Through this app, the museum viewers will be able to listen to anecdotes and stories related to the treasured Indian modern art exhibited at the Gallery.
9. (c) The Indian Navy has designed an Oxygen Recycling System (ORS) to meet the current shortages of oxygen requirements. The ORS was conceptualised and designed by the Indian Navy's Diving School of the Southern Naval Command.
10. (c) DRDO developed a COVID-19 antibody detection kit named 'DIPCOVAN'. The kit has the ability to detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus. Its detection sensitivity is 97%.
11. (b) The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in partnership with NABARD has launched India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre in Pune, Maharashtra. This facilitation centre will be the one-stop-shop destination for the exporters associated with Agri and allied sectors.
12. (c) Rising cases of 'white fungus' or 'candidiasis' have been detected recently in India. Patients of white fungus show Covid-like symptoms but test negative. The infection can be diagnosed through CT-Scan or X-ray.
13. (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft have signed MoU on Joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools. It aims to skill educators and students in next-generation digital technologies including Artificial Intelligence.
14. (d) The Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML) launched the Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for the Indian Army. It is developed through DRDO's lab Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers) through Technology of Transfer (ToT).
15. (a) China landed a spacecraft on Mars carrying its first Mars rover in a big boost to its space ambitions. China had in July 2020, launched its first Mars mission, called Tianwen-1, carrying a lander and rover. Only Russia and the U.S.A had previously carried out a successful landing on Mars.
16. (c) The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine. mRNA vaccines need to be stored at much lower temperatures than some other kind of COVID-19 vaccines because RNA is much less stable than DNA.

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