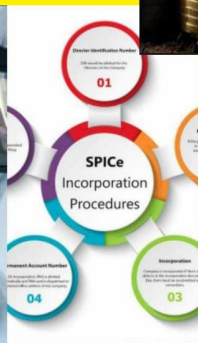




ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT SCHEME



Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 31th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st May to 31th May) will benefit our beloved readers.

Current affairs data will be useless if it couldn't originate any competitive exam questions. E-Dristi has been very successful in that direction. Almost all the questions from UPPCS and other examinations have been asked from our materials. You can verify that by matching the question papers and e-Dristi contents from yourselves.

National

Financial Package allocation to different sector of economy

Question: Consider the following statment and choose the correct statements in reference to the financial package allocation to the different sectors.

- 1) Announced economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crores is equivalent to 10% of India's GDP.
- 2) Rs 3 lakh crore Emergency Working Capital Facility will be given for Businesses, including MSMEs.
- 3) Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital announced for farmers through NABARD.
- 4) Rs 2 lakh crore credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme.

Correct option:

(a)1 and 3 (b)1, 2 and 4 (c)2, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Finance Minister announced measures for relief and credit support related to businesses to support Indian Economy's fight against COVID-19 on May 13 and 14, 2020.
- The economic package of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is of Rs 20 lakh crore which is equivalent to 10 percent of GDP.
- Following measures were announced today:-
- Rs 3 lakh crore Emergency Working Capital Facility announced for Businesses, including MSMEs
- To provide relief to the business, additional working capital finance of 20% of the outstanding credit as on 29 February 2020, in the form of a Term Loan at a concessional rate of interest will be provided. The amount will be 100% guaranteed by the Government of India providing a total liquidity of Rs. 3.0 lakh crores to more than 45 lakh MSMEs.
- Rs 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs Provision made for Rs. 20,000 cr subordinate debt for two lakh MSMEs which are NPA or are stressed.
- Rs 50,000 crores equity infusion through MSME Fund of Funds

- The definition of MSME will be revised by raising the Investment limit. An additional criteria of turnover also being introduced. The distinction between manufacturing and service sector will also be eliminated.
- No Global tenders for Government tenders of up to Rs 200 crores. General Financial Rules (GFR) of the Government will be amended to disallow global tender enquiries in procurement of Goods and Services of value of less than Rs 200 crores
- EPF Contribution to be reduced for Employers and Employees for 3 months. Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for next 3 months.
- Government will launch Rs 30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme, liquidity being provided by RBI. Investment will be made in primary and secondary market transactions in investment grade debt paper of NBFCs, HFCs and MFIs.
- Rs 90,000 crore Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs
- Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification. Corporation will infuse liquidity in the DISCOMS to the extent of Rs 90000 crores in two equal instalments.
- All central agencies like Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and CPWD will give extension of up to 6 months for completion of contractual obligations, including in respect of EPC and concession agreements.
- Technology system to be used enabling Migrants to access PDS (Ration) from any Fair Price Shops in India by March,2021-One Nation one Ration Card. Pilot scheme for portability of ration cards will be extended to 23 states. By that, 67 crore beneficiaries covering 83% of PDS population will be covered by National portability of Ration cards by August, 2020. 100% National portability will be achieved by March, 2021.
- Central Government will launch a scheme for migrant workers and urban poor to provide ease of living at affordable rent. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes will provide social security and quality life to migrant labour, urban poor, and students
- Government of India will provide Interest subvention of 2% for prompt payees for a period of 12 months to MUDRA Shishu loanees, who have loans below Rs 50,000.
- A special scheme will be launched within a month to facilitate easy access to credit to Street vendors, who are amongst the most adversely impacted by the present situation. Under this scheme, bank credit facility for initial working capital up to Rs. 10,000 for each enterprise will be extended. It is expected that 50 lakh

street vendors will be benefitted under this scheme and credit of Rs. 5,000 crore would flow to them.

- The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Group (annual Income between Rs 6 and 18 lakhs) will be extended up to March 2021. This will benefit 2.5 lakhs middle income families during 2020-21 and will lead to investment of over Rs 70,000 crore in housing sector.
- NABARD will extend additional re-finance support of Rs 30,000 crore for meeting crop loan requirement of Rural Cooperative Banks and RRBs.
- A special drive to provide concessional credit to PM-KISAN beneficiaries through Kisan Credit Cards. Fisherman and Animal Husbandy Farmers will also be included in this drive. This will inject additional liquidity of Rs 2 lakh crore in the farm sector. 2.5 crore farmers will be covered.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1623862>

Free foodgrains to 8 crore migrant labourers

Question: Under which scheme has the Central government announced to give free food grains to 8 crore migrant labourers due to COVID pandemic lockdown?

- (a) Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (b) MGNREGA
(c) Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (d) Food Security Act

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has announced that free food grains will be given to 8 crore migrant labourers and their families under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan on 16 May 2020.
- As part of the Economic Measures (Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan), the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced many short and long term measures for supporting the poor including migrant workers.
- Highlights of the scheme:
- The decision includes distribution of free food grains and pulses to 8 crore migrant labourers who are not covered under National Food Security Act or State Scheme PDS Cards @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost for two months (May & June, 2020).



- The Government of India has allocated 8 LMT of food grains to States / UTs and will bear the entire cost on account of such distribution including transportation within the State, dealers' margin etc.
- Allocation has been made taking 10% of the total number of beneficiaries covered under NFSA in a particular State/UT.
- The identification of beneficiaries and distribution of food grains to such beneficiaries will be the responsibility of respective State / UT Government.
- To ensure National Portability of ration card under 'One Nation One Card' Scheme, the department has started Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS).
- As on 1st May 2020, beneficiaries of 17 states/UTs have onboarded the 'One Nation One Card' scheme. 3 more states/UTs will be added by June 2020 and by August, 2020 total 23 states/UT will be part of this scheme.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624455>

Greenfield Expressway

Question: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently the demand of Greenfield Expressway for which of the following city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Bengaluru (c) Amritsar (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari announced the development of a new Greenfield connectivity to Amritsar City from Nakodar via Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib as part of Delhi-Amritsar Expressway on June 2, 2020.
- The road from Amritsar to Gurdaspur would also be fully developed and made completely signal free.
- With this, traffic would have option to travel to Gurdaspur onwards from Nakodar, i.e. via Amritsar or via Kartarpur.
- This greenfield alignment will not only provide shortest and alternate express connectivity to Amritsar city but also to other religious centres of Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib as well as the recently developed Dera Baba Nanak/Kartarpur Sahib International Corridor in Punjab.
- The first phase of expressway would involve investment of about Rs 25,000 crore.

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways have taken up development of Delhi Amritsar Katra Expressway under Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628631>

Indian Railways operationalises its most powerful Made in India locomotive

Question: India has recently operationalised it's most powerful locomotive railway engine produced indigenously. The power of the engine is:

(a)10000 HP (b)11000 HP (c)12000 HP (d)15000 HP

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Indian Railways operationalises its most powerful Made in India locomotive on May 18, 2020.
- Made in India Locomotive was manufactured by Madhepura Electric Loco Factory situated in Bihar. It was put into operation by Indian Railways from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn Station.
- It has the power of 12000 HP (Horse Power). The loco is named WAG12 with Number 60027.
- It was a proud moment for Indian Railways, as it became 6th country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horse power locomotive indigenously.
- It is the first time, high horse power locomotive has been operationalised on broad gauge track in the world.
- The locomotive has been produced under Make in India programme.
- Highlights of the locomotive:
- These locomotives are state of art IGBT based, 3 phase drive, 9000 KW (12000 horse power) electric locomotive.
- It is capable of maximum tractive effort of 706 kN, which is capable of starting and running a 6000 T train in the gradient of 1 in 150.
- The locomotive with twin Bo-Bo design having 22.5 T (Tonnes) axle load is upgradable to 25 Tonnes with design speed of 120 kmph.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1625158>

Government declares six cities as 5-star garbage-free cities

Question: Which of the following city has not declared as garbage free city by the central government?

(a) Rajkot (b) Surat (c) Musor (d) Lucknow

Answer:(d)

Related facts:

- The central government has declared six cities- Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysore, Indore and Navi Mumbai as five-star garbage-free cities.
- The star rating of garbage-free cities was announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on May 19, 2020. Overall, six cities were rated 5-star, 65 cities were rates 3-star and 70 cities were rated with one star.
- The Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri also launched the revised protocol for the star rating of garbage free cities. The Ministry has now brought importance of sanitation and effective solid waste management to the forefront due to the coronavirus crisis.
- The star rating protocol was launched by the Ministry in January 2018 to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve garbage free status and motivate other cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Centre-declares-Ambikapur%2C-Rajkot%2C-Surat%2C-Mysore%2C-Indore-and-Navi-Mumbai-as-five-star-garbage-free-cities&id=389050>

Cyclone 'Amphon'

Question: Cyclone 'Amphon' named by which of the following country?

(a) Thailand (b) Pakistan (c) Sri Lanka (d) India

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

Context:

- Recently, The National Crisis Management Committee reviewed the preparedness for the impending cyclone and directed immediate assistance to West Bengal and Odisha, which are likely to hit by the storm.

Major Highlights:

- At the national level, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) are the key committees involved in the top-level decision-making related to Disaster Management.
- Cyclone Amphan (pronounced as UM-PUN) is a tropical cyclone formed over Bay of Bengal that has intensified and likely to turn into a “super cyclonic storm (maximum wind speed is 120 knots)”.
- According to the India Meteorological Department forecast, it will make landfall as a very severe cyclone between the Sagar islands of West Bengal and the Hatiya islands of Bangladesh.
- It has been named by Thailand.
- West Bengal, Odisha and Bangladesh are the affected regions.
- Amphan is the second pre-monsoon cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal in two years. The first one was Cyclone Fani.
- The pre-monsoon period is generally considered to be unsupportive for the formation of tropical cyclones.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/10-facts-on-supercyclone-amphan-that-will-hit-bengal-tomorrow-2231442>

National Migrant Information System (NMIS)

Question: Which of the following institution has developed the National Migrant Information System (NMIS) to help the seamless movement of migrants?

- (a) IIT Delhi (b) National Disaster Management Authority (c) Indian Army
(d) ICMR

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online Dashboard named National Migrant Information System (NMIS) on May 16, 2020.
- It has been developed to capture the information regarding movement of migrants and facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across states.
- The online portal would maintain a central repository on migrant workers and help in speedy inter-State communication/co-ordination to facilitate their smooth movement to native places.
- It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID-19 response work.

- The key data pertaining to the persons migrating has been standardized for uploading such as name, age, mobile no., originating and destination district, date of travel etc., which States are already collecting.
- The mobile numbers of people can be used for contact tracing and movement monitoring during COVID-19.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1624540>

38 new mandis integrated with eNAM

Question: What is the new total of integrated mandis in India by eNAM in Phase 2 after the recent integration of 38 new mandis?

(a) 450 (b) 415 (c) 525 (d) 515

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- 38 additional mandis were integrated with the eNAM platform on May 16, 2020, achieving milestone of integration of 415 mandis as per the planned target.
- 38 Mandis integrated are in Madhya Pradesh (19), Telangana (10), Maharashtra (4) and One (1) each from Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala & J&K.
- The e-NAM platform now has a total number of 1000 mandis across 18 States & 3 UTs. 585 mandis were integrated in Phase 1 and 415 has been integrated in Phase 2.
- e-NAM scheme:
- The e-NAM is being implemented by the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), being the lead agency for the project under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, with the support of all the e-NAM States/UTs, eNAM team etc.
- National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal launched on 14th April 2016, by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It aimed of networking the existing Mandis on a common online market platform as "One Nation One Market" for agricultural commodities in India.
- In last 4 years the e-NAM has registered a user base of 1.66 Cr Farmers, 1.31 lakh Traders, 73,151 Commission Agents and 1012 FPOs.

- As on 14th May 2020, total volume of 3.43 Crore MT & 38.16 Lakh numbers (Bamboo & Coconut) collectively crossed a remarkable business milestone worth Rs. 1 lakh crore on e-NAM platform.
- Presently 150 commodities, including Foodgrains, Oilseeds, Fibers, Fruits & Vegetables, are traded on eNAM.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624083>

Vande Bharat Mission

Question: which one of the following mission has operated as biggest evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions?

(a) Bharat Mission (b) Rashtragan Mission (c) Vande Bharat Mission (d) Vande Mission

Answer:(c)

Related Facts:

Context:

- On May 13, 2020 ,Indian seafarers stranded in different parts of the world will have to register for evacuation through the Vande Bharat Mission so that the government can evacuate them.

About Vande Bharat Mission:

- It is the biggest evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.
- It is also considered as the largest exercise to bring back Indian citizens since the evacuation of 177,000 from the Gulf region in the early 1990s at the start of hostilities between Iraq and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.
- Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express will operate 64 flights to bring back stranded Indians from 12 countries.
- The entire cost of travel will be borne by the passengers under the mission.

Links:

<https://mea.gov.in/vande-bharat-mission-list-of-flights.htm>

”Mission Sagar”

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **Mission Sagar has been launched as part of the government’s outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19.**
2. **Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed to provide food Items,”.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

As part of ”Mission Sagar”, INS Kesari entered Port of Male, Maldives on May 12. The Government of India is providing assistance to friendly foreign countries and towards this INS Kesari is carrying 580 tons of food provisions for the people of Maldives.

About Mission Sagar:

- Mission Sagar has been launched as part of the government’s outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19.
- Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide food Items, COVID-related medicines including HCQ tablets and special Ayurvedic medicines with medical assistance teams.
- Also, as part of the mission, INS Kesari would enter the Port of Male in the Republic of Maldives, to provide them 600 tons of food provisions.

Links:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/mission-sagar-ins-kesari-carrying-food-enters-male-port-maldives-appreciates-indias-assistance-2227791>

PM CARES Fund trust allocates fund for fight against COVID-19

Question: What amount of money has been allocated from PM CARES Fund to fight COVID-19 on May 13, 2020?

(a)2000 crore (b)3000 crore (c)2500 crore (d)3100 crore

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust allocated Rs. 3100 Crore for fight against COVID-19.
- Out of Rs 3100 crore, a sum of approximately Rs.2000 crore will be earmarked for the purchase of ventilators, Rs. 1000 crores will be used for care of migrant labourers and Rs.100 crores will be given to support vaccine development.
- This trust was formed on 27 March 2020 and is headed by Prime Minister and other ex-officio Members of the trust are Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister.
- Allotment of the fund:
- Ventilators:
- A total of 50,000 'Made-in-India' ventilators will be purchased from PM CARES Fund at a cost of approximately Rs. 2000 Crores.
- These ventilators will be provided to government run COVID hospitals in all States/UTs, for better treatment of the critical COVID-19 cases.
- Relief measures for migrants:
- Rs. 1000 Crore is allocated for strengthening the existing measures being taken for the welfare of the migrants and poor.
- This amount would be provided to the State Governments/UTs to place it at the disposal of the District Collectors/Municipal Commissioners for strengthening their efforts in providing accommodation facilities, making food arrangements, providing medical treatment and making transportation arrangements for the migrants. .
- Vaccine development:
- To support the COVID-19 vaccine designers and developers, an amount of Rs. 100 Crore will be given from PM CARES Fund as a helping hand to catalyse vaccine development, which will be utilized under the supervision of Principal Scientific Advisor.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1623649>

Pending exam date announced by CBSE

Question: CBSE has announced to commence the pending examination of 10th and 12th board for 29 subjects in the month of?

(a) June (b) August (c) July (d) May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal announced the dates for the pending CBSE examination on May 9, 2020.
- CBSE will be conducting 10th and 12th board pending exams between July 1 to 15.
- The exams will be held for a total number of 29 subjects.
- CBSE had to postpone all the board exams after March 18th due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.
- Examination for 41 subjects were postponed but examination for only 29 most important subjects will take place.

Links:

<https://amp.scroll.in/announcements/961454/cbse-pending-board-exam-dates-revealed-to-be-conducted-from-july-1-to-15>

Manipur black rice, Gorakhpur terracotta got GI tag

Question: Recently which of the following item has given GI tag?

(a) Manipur Black Rice (b) Gorakhpur terracotta (c) Both (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Both the products have been in circulation for centuries and are important sources of income
- Chak-Hao, the black rice of Manipur and the Gorakhpur terracotta have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The application for Chak-Hao was filed by the Consortium of Producers of Chak-Hao (Black Rice), Manipur and was facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur and the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC).
- In the case of Gorakhpur terracotta, the application was filed by Laxmi Terracotta Murtikala Kendra in Uttar Pradesh.
- Chak-Hao, a scented glutinous rice which has been in cultivation in Manipur over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma. It is normally eaten during community feasts and is served as Chak-Haokheer.
- Chak-Hao has also been used by traditional medical practitioners as part of traditional medicine. According to the GI application filed, this rice takes the longest cooking time of 40-45 minutes due to the presence of a fibrous bran layer and higher crude fibre content.

- At present, the traditional system of Chak-Hao cultivation is practised in some pockets of Manipur. Direct sowing of pre-soaked seeds and also transplantation of rice seedlings raised in nurseries in puddled fields are widely practised in the State's wetlands.
- The terracotta work of Gorakhpur is a centuries-old traditional art form, where the potters make various animal figures like, horses, elephants, camel, goat, ox, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gi-tag-to-manipur-black-rice-gorakhpur-terracotta/article31475958.ece>

‘one nation, one ration card’

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. Now there are 17 states which are added to One nation, One Card scheme.
2. The states have also been told to have a 10-digit standard ration card number.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- On January 1 this year, 12 states were integrated among each other and now 17 states are on integrated management of the public distribution system (PDS), also called ration shops/fair price shops.
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand and Tripura are 12 states where ration card portability has been implemented.
- The five more states namely Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Daman & Diu have been integrated with ‘one nation, one ration card’ scheme.

Beneficiaries:

- ‘One nation, one ration card’ scheme will help 60 crore beneficiaries to purchase subsidized food grains using their existing ration card from the fair price shops anywhere

‘one nation, one ration card’

- A standard format for ration card has been prepared after taking into account the format used by different states.
- For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides the local language, the other language could be Hindi or English.
- The states have also been told to have a 10-digit standard ration card number, wherein first two digits will be state code and the next two digits will be running ration card numbers.
- Besides this, a set of another two digits will be appended with ration card number to create unique member IDs for each member of the household in a ration card.

Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/-one-nation-one-ration-card-scheme-5-more-states-join-the-initiative-11588331166781.html>

Cauvery Water Management Authority brought under the Jal Shakti Ministry

Question: Cauvery Water Management Authority comes under which of the following ministries?

- (a) Jal Shakti Ministry
- (b) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
- (c) Ministry of Home affairs
- (d) Ministry of Human resource and development group

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On April 29, 2020, the central government has brought the Cauvery Water Management Authority(CWMA) under the Jal Shakti Ministry, which was earlier under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- This decision is a formality of business allotment, which means that the authority must report to the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The move will have no impact on the independent nature of the functioning of the authority.
- Water management authorities of other rivers have also been brought under the ministry, which was earlier under the same ministry as Cauvery Water Management Authority(CWMA).

- The CWMA, under the Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018, was established on June 1, 2018, under Section 6A of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- It is established to address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

Links:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/apr/29/cauvery-water-management-authority-brought-under-jal-shakti-ministry-2136995.html>

Vikas Abhaya scheme

Question: Vikas Abhaya scheme is launched by which of the following state governments?

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

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Karnataka VikasGrameen Bank (KVGB), has launched Vikas Abhaya ,a loan scheme to provide some relief to borrowers whose business activities are disrupted on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- This loan scheme will be an additional credit facility to the eligible existing micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) borrowers.
- This scheme will help them tide over the current crisis and ensure continuity of viable business activity.
- The loan will be for the existing MSME customers who have been regular as on February 29.
- A maximum loan of up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided and no collateral security will be insisted upon.
- The loan is repayable within 36 months.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/kvgb-loan-scheme-for-covid-19-affected-msme-borrowers/article31461961.ece>

JanaushadhiSugam App

Question: JanaushadhiSugam App which facilitates tracking of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendra has been developed by which of the following ministries?

(a) Ministry of health and family welfare (b) Ministry of Ayush

(c) Ministry of Human Resource and Development

(d) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Answer:(d)

- On 30th April 2020, more than 325000 users are benefited by the “JanaushadhiSugam” a mobile application developed by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India(BPPI) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India for the Pradhan MantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP).
- The JanaushadhiSugam App helps the consumers to use the digital technology to locate the Pradhan MantriBharatiyaJanaushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) and provide directions through Google Maps and search for the availability of affordable generic medicine, analyze the comparison of generic and branded medicine in MRP and overall savings.
- JanaushadhiSugam is a free mobile app that is available on both android and I-Phone platforms which can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and Apple Store.
- The Pharmacists of PMBJP Kendra are providing home delivery service for the patients and elderly in the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.
- There are more than 6300 PMJAK’s functioning across the country covering 726 districts.
- The app makes the lives of the users easier by using digital technology.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=202663>

International

Exoplanet climate ‘Decoder’ aids search for life

Question: Which University astronomers have developed an environmental color “decoder”—to tease out climate clues for potentially habitable exoplanets in galaxies?

(a) Cornell University (b) Oxford University (c) IIT madras (d) Harvard University

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Cornell University astronomers have developed a practical model—an environmental color “decoder”—to tease out climate clues for potentially habitable exoplanets in galaxies far away.

- The model was developed after examining a dozen types of a roster of planet surfaces and suns.
- Jack Madden who works in the lab of Lisa Kaltenegger, director of Cornell's Carl Sagan Institute, explained that it was observed that how different planetary surfaces in the habitable zones of the distant solar system can affect the climate on exoplanets.
- As per Jack Madden, the light reflected on the surface of planets plays a crucial role not only on the overall planet but also on the detectable spectra of Earth-like planets.

Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/science/exoplanet-climate-decoder-aids-search-for-life20200519085703/>

WHO, UN's postal agency release commemorative stamp on 40th anniversary of smallpox eradication

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. UN's postal agency release commemorative stamp on 40th anniversary of smallpox eradication.
2. Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by one of two virus variants, Variola major and Variola minor.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- On May 9 , 2020,United Nations, The WHO and the UN's postal agency have released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox, with the head of the global health body expressing gratitude to top Indian-origin UN official AtulKhare.

Small Pox:

- Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by one of two virus variants, Variola major and Variola minor.

- The last naturally occurring case was diagnosed in October 1977, and the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the global eradication of the disease in 1980.

Links:

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/who-uns-postal-agency-release-commemorative-stamp-on-40th-anniversary-of-smallpox-eradication/1828947>

International Energy Agency

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **International Energy Agency(IEA)is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation.**
2. **Its Headquarters (Secretariat) located in Paris, France.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

According to IEA, if lockdowns are shorter and the global recovery is more rapid, the decline in global energy demand across 2020 could be limited to 3.8 per cent, which is still four times the decline during the global financial crisis.

About IEA:

- Established in 1974 as per framework of the OECD, IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation.
- To ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its member countries and beyond.
- Its mission is guided by four main areas of focus: energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide
- Its Headquarters (Secretariat) located in Paris, France.

Roles and functions:

- Established in the wake of the 1973-1974 oil crisis, to help its members respond to major oil supply disruptions, a role it continues to fulfill today.
- IEA's mandate has expanded over time to include tracking and analyzing global key energy trends, promoting sound energy policy, and fostering multinational energy technology cooperation.

Composition and eligibility:

- It has 30 members at present. IEA family also includes eight association countries.
- A candidate country must be a member country of the OECD. But all OECD members are not IEA members.
- To become member a candidate country must demonstrate that it has:
- Crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, to which the government has immediate access (even if it does not own them directly) and could be used to address disruptions to global oil supply.
- A demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%.
- Legislation and organisation to operate the Co-ordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) on a national basis.
- Legislation and measures to ensure that all oil companies under its jurisdiction report information upon request.
- Measures in place to ensure the capability of contributing its share of an IEA collective action.
- They publishes various reports like Global Energy & CO2 Status Report, World Energy Outlook, World Energy Statistics, World Energy Balances, Energy Technology Perspectives.

Links:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/global-energy-demand-to-fall-6-per-cent-in-2020-largest-drop-in-70-years-iaa/75469829>

Global Energy Review 2020

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **Global Energy Review 2020 report is published by International Energy Agency (IEA).**
2. **According to the report advanced economies will experience the greatest declines in energy demand in 2020.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

International Energy Agency (IEA) has released its Global Energy Review 2020 report.

Major Highlights:

- Global energy demand is projected to fall six per cent in 2020.
- This will be steepest decline in percentage terms in 70 years and the largest ever in absolute terms.
- All fuels except renewables are set to experience their greatest contractions in demand for decades.
- The projected 6% decline would be more than seven times the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on global energy demand, reversing the growth of global energy demand over the last five years.
- According to the report advanced economies will experience the greatest declines in energy demand in 2020.
- In India, energy demand would decline for the first time, following on from low demand growth in 2019.
- Global oil demand in 2020 is projected to drop by 9 per cent or 9 million barrels per day on an average across the year, returning oil consumption to 2012 levels.
- Global coal demand is projected decline by 8 per cent, in large part because electricity demand will be nearly 5 per cent lower over the course of the year.
- Global Electricity Demand has been declined by 20% during periods of full lockdown in several countries. However, the residential demand is outweighed by reductions in commercial and industrial operations.

Links:

<https://www.iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2020>

Hezbollah outfit banned

Question: Which of the following european country has recently banned the Labnese Shia group Hezbollah?

(a) Britain (b) Germany (c) Turkey (d) Belgium

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Germany banned the Labnese Shia outfit named Hezbollah on April 30, 2020.
- The police raided five sites linked to this group around the country.
- US, Israel welcomed this move and claimed the organisation being a terrorist outfit.
- Iran has responded condemning the ban and threatened Germany to face consequences.

- Hezbollah:
- Hezbollah is a Shia Islamist political party as well as militant group based in Lebanon.
- Jihad Council is the paramilitary wing of Hezbollah.
- Hezbollah has been declared as a terrorist organization in many countries including US, Arab League and others.

Links:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindu.com/news/international/germany-extends-ban-on-hezbollah/article31476291.ece/amp/https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hezbollah>

SaniaMirza, first Indian to be nominated for Fed Cup Heart Award

Question: Which one following has nominated for first Indian to be nominated for Fed Cup Heart Award?

(a) SaniaMirza (b) Mahesh Bhupati (c) P V Sindhu (d) LianderPaes

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On 30th April 2020, SaniaMirza became the first Indian to be nominated for the Fed Cup Heart Award from the Asia/Oceania Zone along with Priska Madelyn Nugroho of Indonesia, Estonia's AnettKontaveit and Luxembourg's EleonoraMolinaro from Europe/Africa, Fernanda Contreras Gomes of Mexico and Paraguay's Veronica CepedeRoyg from Americas.
- The voting for the award opens from 1st May until 8th May.
- SaniaMirza Nominated For Fed Cup Heart Award.
- SaniaMirza won the doubles match which helped her to win against Indonesia in the final Group 1 match and secured her a place in the playoff.
- In her comeback after giving birth in October 2018 in January 2020 pairing with NadiiaKichenok, she secured the women's double title at Hobart International.

Fed cup:

- Fed cup, the world's largest annual international team competition in women's sport with 108 nations entered in 2019 was launched in 1963.
- Fed Cup Heart Award is an International Tennis Federation(ITF) initiative established in 2009 to recognise players representing their countries in the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas.
- The first Fed Cup Heart award was presented to USA's Melanie Oudin in 2009.

Links:

<https://www.pinterest.com/revistatenis/fed-cup-final-2016/>

Russia will launch its first Arktika-M satellite

Question: Consider the following statement:

1. **Arktika-M satellite launched by Russia.**
2. **Arktika-M will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- Russia will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year.
- As of now, the number one Arktika-M spacecraft has been developed and is undergoing radio-electronic testing ... the launch is planned for the end of 2020.
- The second Arktika-M satellite is still under development and will be launched in 2023.
- The launch of the first Arktika-M satellite from the Baikonur space center was planned for December 9, 2020.
- The satellite will be launched using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket with the Fregat booster.

Arktika-M:

- Russia's Arktika-M remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth.
- It will allow to improve weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change.

Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/russia-to-launch-first-arktika-m-satellite-for-monitoring-arctic-climate-this-year20200504063849/>

First Indian Prime Minister who attended NAM summit

Question: Which one following would become the first Indian Prime Minister who has attended NAM summit?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Manmohan Singh (c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (d) Rajiv Gandhi

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On May 4, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to be held to enhance coordination of the member states in their fight against the coronavirus pandemic.
- The meeting is being convened at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as the current chair of the movement.
- This would be the first time that the Indian Prime Minister would be attending a NAM summit-level meeting after taking office in 2014.
- PM Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to give the NAM summit in 2016 a skip. He did not attend the 2019 summit as well.
- The online session will conclude with a political declaration of the movement “uniting against Covid-19” as well as identified measures for enhanced coordination among NAM members in their common fight against Covid-19.
- India, on its part, has been extending assistance to many countries in ways of providing medicines and essential medical supplies to many countries.
- The summit-level meeting will also see participation from representatives of international organisations such as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO.
- Pakistan was represented by President Arif Alvi.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/pm-narendra-modi-to-participate-in-nam-virtual-summit-on-coronavirus-on-monday-1674032-2020-05-04>

India ranks 53rd in budget transparency and accountability

Question: What is India's rank in the Open Budget Survey 2019 conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP)?

(a) 53 (b) 51 (c) 55 (d) 56

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On April 30, 2020, According to the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP), India has been placed at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and accountability,
- The survey, conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP).
- It has provided India's Union Budget process a transparency score of 49 out of 100, which is higher than the global average of 45.
- India also functioned better in publishing timely and relevant information in the audit reports and in-year reports.
- New Zealand tops the chart with a score 87.
- Some of the other large developing countries, with the exception of China, have got much higher transparency scores.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-53rd-in-budget-transparency-accountability-in-ibp-survey/articleshow/75457830.cms?from=mdr>

Economics

Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) campaign launched for 1.5 crore dairy farmers

Question: Government has decided to extend the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to dairy farmers too. What is the amount of collateral free loan to be given to these farmers under this scheme?

(a) 2 Lakh (b) 5 Lakh (c) 3 Lakh (d) 1 Lakh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Government on June 1, 2020 announced to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies.
- This will be done within the next two months (1st June-31st July 2020) under a special drive.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with Department of Financial Services has already circulated relevant circulars and KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same on a mission mode.
- Under the dairy cooperative movement, approximately 1.7 crore farmers are associated with 230 Milk Unions in the country.

- In the first phase of this campaign, the target is to cover all farmers who are members of dairy cooperative societies and associated with different Milk Unions and who do not have KCC.
- Farmers who already have KCC based on their land ownership, can get their KCC credit limit enhanced, though interest subvention shall be available only to the extent of Rs 3 lakhs.
- Although the general limit for KCC credit without collateral remains Rs. 1.6 lakh, but the case of farmers whose milk is directly procured by Milk Unions falls under tie up arrangements between the producers and processing units without any intermediaries, and hence the credit limits without Collateral can be upto Rs.3 lakh.
- The special drive to provide KCC to 1.5 crore dairy farmers is part of the Prime Minister's Atma Nirbhar Bharat package for Farmers.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628393>

World Bank economic assistance to fight COVID-19

Question: What amount of economic assistance has been announced by World Bank for India to help the poorest people in fighting COVID 19 pandemic?

(a) \$ 500 million (b) \$ 800 million (c) \$ 1 billion (d) \$ 1.25 billion

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Government of India and the World Bank has signed a \$750 million of \$1 billion proposed assistance on May 15, 2020 for accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This takes the total commitment from the Bank towards emergency COVID-19 response in India to \$2 billion.
- A \$1 billion support was announced last month towards immediate support to India's health sector.
- Important highlights of the assistance:
- This new support will be funded in two phases – an immediate allocation of \$750 million for fiscal year 2020 and a \$250 million second tranche that will be made available for fiscal year 2021.

- The first phase of the operation will be implemented countrywide through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). It will immediately help scale-up cash transfers and food benefits, using a core set of pre-existing national platforms and programmes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT).
- In the second phase, the programme will deepen the social protection package, whereby additional cash and in-kind benefits based on local needs will be extended.
- Social protection is a critical investment since half of India's population earns less than \$3 a day and are precariously close to the poverty line. Over 90 per cent of India's workforce is employed in the informal sector,
- This will help 460 plus fragmented social protection schemes to an integrated system that is fast and more flexible, acknowledging the diversity of needs across states and other policies.
- Of the \$1 billion commitment, an immediate allocation of \$750 million for fiscal year 2020 of which \$550 million will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and \$200 million will be a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The remaining \$250 million will be made available after June 30, 2020 and would be on standard IBRD terms. The programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624156>

Cooperative banks shall be placed under SARFAESI Act: SC

Question: Consider the following statement:

- 1) **SARFAESI Act allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties (of Defaulter) to recover loans.**
- 2) **The Supreme Court of India pronounced its judgement that cooperative banks shall be placed under SARFAESI Act.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- On May 05, 2020, The Supreme Court of India pronounced its judgement that cooperative banks shall be placed under SARFAESI Act.
- The Supreme Court brought cooperative banks under a stringent 2002 law that empowers lenders to seize and sell defaulters' assets, in a boost for these institutions that play a vital role in financial inclusion across India.

Major Highlights

- According to the judgement, cooperative banks come under the category of banks as defined under Section 2(1)(c) of the Sarfaesi Act, and the recovery procedures mentioned under that law apply to cooperative banks as well.
- The bench, also upheld the legislative power of the Parliament to bring cooperative banks under the ambit of Sarfaesi Act.
- The bench also effectively upheld a 28 January 2003 notification issued under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, that brought cooperative banks within the class of "banks" under the Act.
- Sarfaesi Act allows secured creditors to take possession of the assets of a borrower who fails to pay dues within 60 days of demanding repayment.
- The judgement also stated that cooperative banks were bound by the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and all the other legislation applicable to banks under the RBI Act.

Sarfaesi Act, 2002:

- The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (also known as the SARFAESI Act) is an Indian law.
- It allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties (of Defaulter) to recover loans.

Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/sarfaesi-act-applicable-to-cooperative-banks-sc-11588685424449.html>

Scientific

Ultra Swachh for disinfection of PPEs and other materials

Question: Which of the following organization of India has developed Ultra Swachh which will be used for disinfection of PPEs and other materials?

(a) ICMR (b) IIT Kanpur (c) DRDO (d) Indian Railways

Answer: (c)

Related facts

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics, etc.
- It has been developed by Delhi based DRDO laboratory; Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS) with industry partner M/s Gel Craft Healthcare Private Ltd, Ghaziabad.
- Major highlights of the system:
- The system uses an advanced oxidative process comprising of multiple barrier disruption approach using Ozonated Space Technology for disinfection.
- The system is double layered with specialised Ozone sealant technology assuring trapping of ozone for the necessary disinfection cycle. It also has catalytic converter to ensure environment friendly exhaust i.e. only oxygen and water.
- The system is in compliance with International Standards of Industrial, Occupational, Personal and Environmental Safety.
- The Ultra Swachh comes in two variants namely Ozonated Space and Trinetra Technology. Trinetra technology is the combination of Ozonated space and radical dispenser. Treatment is optimised with automation for quick disinfection cycle.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628355>

CHAMPIONS: Technology Platform to empower MSMEs

Question: Who has launched the technology platform named Champions to MSMEs on June 1, 2020?

(a) Nitin Gadkari (b) Nirmala Sitharaman (c) Narendra Modi (d) Narendra Singh Tomar

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the technology platform CHAMPIONS which stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength on June 1, 2020.
- This portal is developed for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.

- This ICT based system is set up to help the MSMEs in present difficult situation and also to handhold them to become national and international champions.
- Major objective of CHAMPIONS:
- Grievance Redressal: To resolve the problems of MSMEs including those of finance, raw materials, labor, regulatory permissions etc particularly in the Covid created difficult situation;
- To help them capture new opportunities: including manufacturing of medical equipments and accessories like PPEs, masks, etc and supply them in National and International markets;
- To identify and encourage the sparks: i.e. the potential MSMEs who are able to withstand the current situation and can become national and international champions.
- It is a technology packed control room-cum-management information system. It is also fully integrated on real time basis with GOI's main grievances portal CPGRAMS and MSME Ministry's own other web based mechanisms.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628317>

Electrochemical sensing platform developed

Question: Which of the following institution has recently developed an electrochemical sensing platform for detecting carcinogenic & mutagenic compounds in food?

- (a) IIT Delhi (b) IASST, Guwahati (c) BHU, Varanasi
(d) National Institute of Virology, Pune

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, has developed an electrochemical sensing platform for detecting carcinogenic or mutagenic compound N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) and N-nitrosodiethanolamine (NDEA) sometimes found in food items like cured meat, bacon, some cheese, and low-fat milk. It was achieved by developing a modified electrode by immobilizing carbon nanomaterials (carbon dots) in DNA.
- The scientists pointed out that with changing food habits of urban Indians, they are exposed to harmful chemicals belonging to Nitrosamine family in cured meats, bacon, some cheese, low-fat dry milk, and fish.

- Such chemicals include carcinogenic ones like NDMA and NDEA, which may also alter the chemical composition of our DNA. Hence it is important to develop detection techniques to detect them.
- Most of the techniques used for detection of Nitrosamine have detection limits in μM .
- In this study published in the journal ACS Appl. Bio Mater, the scientists, have fabricated an electrochemical biosensor using DNA immobilized on the surface of carbon dots for sensitive and selective detection of N-nitrosamine.
- As this is an electrochemical sensor, electrode was developed by depositing carbon dots (carbon nanoparticles) and then immobilizing bacterial DNA on them.
- This electrode system was used to measure the current peak.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1626040>

Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Sachet’ commissioned

Question: Defence Minister has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Sachet’ on May 15, 2020. It has been built in which of the following dockyard?

- (a) Goa Shipyard Limited (b) Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai.
(c) Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin
(d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sachet and two interceptor boats (IBs) C-450 and C-451 in Goa via video conference on May 15, 2020.
- The ICGS Sachet, the first in the series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) has been designed & built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- The 105 metre long ship ‘Sachet’ displaces approximately 2,350 tons and is propelled by two 9,100 KW diesel engines designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots, with an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles.
- The ship is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and search & rescue operations.
- The ship is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.

- The IBs C-450 and C-451 are indigenously designed & built by Larsen & Toubro Shipyard Hazira, and fitted with latest navigation and communication equipment.
- The two 30 metre long boats are capable of achieving speeds in excess of 45 knots and designed for high speed interception, close coast patrol and low intensity maritime operations.
- The IBs has about 70 per cent of indigenous contents, thus providing the necessary fillip to the Indian shipbuilding industry.
- With the commissioning of these ships, the ICG has reached a landmark 150 ships & Boats and 62 aircraft.
- The ICG has to its credit of saving about 400 lives at sea, 4,500 lives as part of assistance rendered to civil authorities and undertook 32 medical evacuations in the year 2019 alone.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624023>

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

Question: Defence Minister has approved a Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme on May 16, 2020. What is the amount approved for the scheme?

(a) 200 crore (b) 300 crore (c) 400 crore (d) 800 crore

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) with an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state of the art testing infrastructure for this sector.
- This has been done to give a boost to domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- Highlights of the scheme:
- The Scheme would run for the duration of five years and envisages to setup six to eight new test facilities in partnership with private industry.
- This will facilitate indigenous defence production, consequently reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.
- The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75 percent government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'. The remaining 25 per cent of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

- While majority of test facilities are expected to come up in the two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs), the Scheme is not limited to setting up Test Facilities in the DICs only.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624118>

Scientists develop mobile indoor disinfection sprayer to combat COVID-19

Question: Scientists of which institution have recently developed a mobile indoor disinfection sprayer to combat COVID-19?

- (a) DRDO (b) IISc Bengaluru (c) National Institute of Virology
(d) CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Scientists at CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, have developed two mobile indoor Disinfection Sprayer units on May 16, 2020.
- These units can be used for cleaning and disinfecting pathogenic micro-organism effectively, especially in hospitals.
- Highlights of the equipments:
- These are named as Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS) and Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection (POMID). These can be used to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches etc.
- The sprayer systems in both BPDS and POMID are designed with two-stage spraying units and separate storage tanks to clean and disinfect the indoor areas by the numbers of fixed and flexible nozzles set in the lower and upper tiers.
- There is also an industrial variant of the Disinfectant Sprayer for heavy usage and to cover a larger area.
- These sprayers are also equipped with mopping features and extendable arms to reach hidden area and clean comprehensively.
- This technology will have relevance even beyond the current COVID-19 crisis, since viruses have been existent throughout and a substantial number of cases of such influenza has been spreading throughout the globe every year.

Links:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

Next-generation biodegradable metal implants developed

Question: Which of the following institution has recently developed the next-generation biodegradable metal implants?

- (a) IIT Mumbai (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- (c) Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials
- (d) NIT Bhopal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram both autonomous institutes under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) have jointly developed new generation Iron-Manganese based alloys for biodegradable metal implants for use in humans on May 16, 2020.
- Highlights of the development:
- The ARCI team employed both conventional melting and powder metallurgy techniques in manufacturing of the new Fe-Mn based biodegradable alloys and stent having dimensions as Diameter: 2 mm, Length: 12 mm and Wall thickness: 175 μm .
- Iron-Manganese based alloy Fe-Mn (having Mn composition of more than 29% by weight) is a promising biodegradable metallic implant which exhibits single austenitic phase (non-magnetic form of iron) with MRI compatibility.
- The Fe-Mn alloy produced at ARCI exhibited 99% density with impressive mechanical properties and behaved as a nonmagnetic material even under a strong magnetic field of 20 Tesla.
- The alloy also showed a degradation rate in the range of 0.14-0.026 mm per year in the simulated body fluid, which means that the Fe-Mn alloy exhibits mechanical integrity for 3-6 months and completely disappears from the body in 12-24 months.
- During the degradation process, calcium phosphate deposits on the implant due to local alkalization and saturation of calcium and phosphate, allow cells to adhere onto the surface to form tissues.
- The team is making further efforts to achieve control in corrosion rates through alloying addition and surface engineering and to employ advanced manufacturing processes like additive manufacturing to realize complicated shapes.

- Based on the impressive results, the ARCI team is certain that the newly developed Fe-Mn based alloys are suitable for biodegradable stent and orthopedic implant applications. In vivo and in-vitro studies are being planned at Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences by the team.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624299>

COBAS 6800 testing machine

Question: COBAS 6800, a testing machine dedicated to nation on May 14, 2020 is equipped to perform how many tests in one day?

(a) 1000 (b) 500 (c) 1200 (d) 800

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare visited the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and dedicated the COBAS 6800 testing machine to the nation on May 14, 2020.
- This is the first such testing machine that has been procured by the Government for testing of COVID-19 cases and is installed at the National Centre for Disease Control.
- COBAS 6800:
- COBAS 6800 is a fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19 in the service of nation.
- It will provide quality, high-volume testing with a high throughput of test around 1200 samples in 24 hours. It will largely increase the testing capacity with reduction in pendency.
- It is enabled with robotics that minimizes the chance of contamination as well as the risk of infection to the health care workers.
- COBAS 6800 can also detect other pathogens like Viral Hepatitis B & C, HIV, MTb (both rifampicin and isoniazide resistance), Papilloma, CMV, Chlamydia, Neisserreia etc.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1623782>

Question: Who chaired the 165th EC meeting of Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) on May 8, 2020?

(a) Amit Shah (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Bipin Rawat (d) Narendra Modi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over 165th and first ever virtual Executive Council (EC) meeting of Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) on May 8, 2020.
- He lauded all the members of the EC and other scholars for discharging their duties despite the limitations imposed due to COVID-19.
- The MP-IDSA was one of the first institutions to reopen amidst restrictions, while at the same time taking appropriate safety measures and following the social distancing guidelines.
- The EC meeting was attended in person by its members Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, former Home Secretary Shri G K Pillai etc. through video conferencing.
- MP-IDSA:
- MP-IDSA is a key Institute that conducts quality research in defence, security and international relations. It is located in New Delhi.
- It has worked diligently towards establishing extensive linkages with the armed forces, research establishments of the Government and universities across different states of the country.
- Its wide ranging exchanges with a large number of think tanks, both domestic and international, provides an opportunity for scholars to interact in an atmosphere where free and frank views and opinions can be exchanged.
- It was formed in 1965 and previously named as IDSA.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1622237>

Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH) By DST

Question: Consider the following statement:

- 1) Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)” launched by Department of Science and Technology(DST).**
- 2) To assess and rationalize community preparedness and perceptions is one of the objective of this program.**

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology launches a programme on health and risk communication “Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)” with Focus on COVID-19.
- A comprehensive and effective science and health communication effort for promoting grass-root level appreciation and response on health and risk would be an advantage for saving and shaping the lives of the people at large, as well as building confidence, inculcating scientific temper and promoting health consciousness amongst them.

Objectives of the YASH programme are:

- To minimize risks at all levels with help of public communication and outreach activities at large.
- To promote public understanding of common minimum science for community care and health safety measures like personal sanitation and hygiene, physical distancing, and maintaining desired collective behaviours, etc.
- To develop and disseminate science communication software, enhance science coverage in massmedia including illustrative interpretations especially to reduce the fear of risks and build confidence with a dose of necessary understanding.
- To assess and rationalize community preparedness and perceptions.
- To inculcate scientific temper for adopting sustainable healthy lifestyles, and nurturing scientific culture among masses and societies.

Links:

<https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/YASH%20Backgrounder.pdf>

DRDO has developed an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower

Question: Consider the following statement:

- 1) “UV blaster” is a UV-based area sanitizer developed by DRDO.
- 2) It can be used for rapid and chemical-free disinfection of infection-prone areas.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower.
- It can be used for rapid and chemical-free disinfection of infection-prone areas.
- It is likely to prove useful at a time when the novel coronavirus pandemic has disrupted normal life across India.

UV blaster:

- The equipment named “UV blaster” is a UV-based area sanitizer designed and developed by Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC), DRDO’s Delhi-based premier laboratory.
- The Centre has developed it with the help of “New Age Instruments and Materials Private Limited, Gurugram.
- The equipment has six lamps each with 43 watts of UV-C power at 254 nm wavelength for 360-degree illumination.
- For a room of about 12 x 12 feet dimension, the disinfection time is about 10 minutes and 30 minutes for 400 square feet area by positioning the equipment at different places within the room.

Ultraviolet light:

- Ultraviolet light can be broken up into four categories based on a specific range of wavelengths.
- The UV-C, a lower and more powerful wavelength of ultraviolet light than found in sunlight,
- It is used for disinfection of surfaces, especially in hospital settings.

- It is seen as successful in mitigating the virus, as its radiation inactivates cells from reproducing. So far, no micro-organisms have shown immunity to UV exposure anywhere in the world.

Significance:

- UV Blaster is useful for high-tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets in laboratories and offices that are not suitable for disinfection with chemical methods.
- The product is also effective for areas with a large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc.
- UV blaster is also a user-friendly device that can be used by remote operation through laptop/mobile phone using a Wi-Fi link.
- This sanitiser switches off on the accidental opening of a room or human intervention.
- One more salient safety feature of the product is the key to arm operation.

Links:

<https://www.thestatesman.com/coronavirus/drdo-develops-uv-disinfection-tower-helpful-to-fight-covid-19-in-public-places-1502884098.html>

USGS released first detailed geological map of the moon

Question: Recently, The United States Geological Survey (USGS) map released first detailed geological map of the moon, what was the scale of this map?

(a) 1:5,000,000 (b) 1:250,000 (c) 1:5,000,0 (d) 1:2,500,000

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- Recently, The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has released a 1:5,000,000 scale map which reveals a lot about the surface of the Moon.
- It is colour-coded for scientists, researchers and lunar enthusiasts to easily study the Moon's surface and it can also aid future research projects involving the Moon.
- The USGS was able to create the map with the help of NASA and the Lunar Planetary Institute.
- The team of researchers used six digitally renovated geologic maps of the celestial body including data from current satellite missions like the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, the SELENE Kaguya terrain camera and the LOLA altimetry.

Purpose of this Map:

- According to the USGS, the primary purpose of this map is to “summarize the current state of lunar geologic knowledge”.

- This map can be used for developing new theories and carry out in-depth studies of the Moon.

Scale of the Map:

- Map scale refers to the relationship (or ratio) between distance on a map and the corresponding distance on the ground. For example, on a 1:100000 scale map, 1cm on the map equals 1km on the ground

Links:

<https://nenow.in/science-technology/us-geological-survey-releases-first-comprehensive-geological-map-of-moon.html>

Defense/Science Short Notes China successfully launched spacecraft

Question: China has successfully launched a rocket recently as a test to operate a permanent space station. What is the name of spacecraft?

(a)Chang e (b)Long March 5B (c) Saturn 5 (d)Falcon X

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- China launched a new rocket and prototype spacecraft successfully on May 5, 2020 in a major test to operate a permanent space station and send astronauts to the Moon.
- Highlight of the launch:
- The rocket named Long March 5B took off from the Wenchang launch site on the southern island of Hainan.
- It was 54 meter long and carried about 849 tonnes weight
- The unmanned prototype spacecraft successfully separated and entered its planned orbit after eight minutes.
- A test version of a cargo return capsule was separated successfully from the rocket.
- China expects sending astronauts from the rocket by 2022 to the Moon with a crew capacity of six.
- United States is the only country to have successfully sent humans to the Moon.

Links:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehindu.com/news/international/chinas-new-large-rocket-makes-maiden-flight/article31509636.ece/amp/https://amp.theguardian.com/science/2020/may/06/china-launches-new-rocket-into-space-as-it-steps-up-moon-landing-plans>

Sports

Cricket

ICC set to ban use of saliva to shine cricket balls

Question:ICC set to ban use of saliva to shine cricket balls due to which of the following Disease?

(a) Coronavirus (b) Typhoid (c) Dengue (d) Plague

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On May 18, The International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricket committee recommended the ban on the use of saliva to shine balls during matches. The recommendation will help in mitigating the risks posed by COVID-19 and will protect the players and match officials.
- The committee that was chaired by former India leg-spinner Anil Kumble, concluded a conference call to specifically address the issues related to COVID-19.
- The virtual call also included maintaining the condition of the match ball and the appointment of referees and non-neutral umpires to the international cricket.
- The recommendations proposed by the cricket committee will be presented to the ICC Chief Executives Committee in early June 2020 for the approval.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/52714934>

Short Notes

Personalities

New Chair of Executive Board of WHO

Question: Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Executive Board of World Health Organisation on May 22 2020?

(a) Dr Harsh Vardhan (b) Patricia Roberts (c) Nancy Pelosi (d) Iraj Harirchi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been elected as Chair of the Executive Board of World Health Organization for the year 2020-21.
- This took place today during the 147th session of the Executive Board, in a meeting that was virtually held.
- He has replaced Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan also shared India's experience of combating COVID-19. and said that India has a mortality of 3 per cent only. In a country of 1.35 billion, there are only 0.1 million cases of COVID19. The recovery rate is above 40 per cent and the doubling rate is 13 days.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan has also been a member of several prestigious committees of WHO like Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and the Global Technical Consultative Group (TCG) on Polio Eradication.
- He has also served as an Advisor to the WHO.
- Executive Board of WHO:
- The Executive Board of WHO is composed of 34 technically qualified members elected for three-year term.
- The main functions of the Board are to implement the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, and advise and facilitate its work.
- From 1993 to 1998, he served as the Minister of Health, Education, Law & Justice & Legislative Affairs for the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
- In 1994, as the Delhi Health Minister, he oversaw the successful implementation of the pilot project of the Pulse Polio Programme which involved the mass immunisation of 1.2 million children up to the age of 3 in Delhi, laying the groundwork for a Polio free India in 2014.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan has been the Union Health Minister in 2014, and later took over as the Union Minister Science & Technology and Earth Sciences. He was also Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. He was re-

elected to the 17th Lok Sabha and sworn in on May 30th, 2019 as Union Cabinet Minister and was given the portfolios of Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1626111>

Chuni Goswami passed away

Question: Legendary sportsmen Chuni Goswami passed away recently. He was related to?

(a) Tennis (b) Football (c) Chess (d) Wrestling

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Legendary Footballer Chuni Goswami died in Kolkata on April 30, 2020 after prolonged illness. He was 82 years old.
- Chuni Goswami was the captain of gold medal winning Indian football team of Jakarta Asian Games held in 1962.
- He was awarded Arjun , Padmasree and several others prestigious awards for his outstanding contributions in the field of Sports.
- He received Mohonbagan Ratna awards in 2005. The West Bengal Government conferred him the highest civilian award Banga Bibhusan in 2013 .
- Chuni Goswami was also captain of Bengal Ranji Cricket team. He was also Sheriff of Kolkata.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Legendary-footballer-Chuni-Goswami-passes-away-at-82&id=387204>

Ramesh Babu appointed as NTPC director operations

Question: Who has been appointed as NTPC director?

(a) Ramesh Babu (b) Suresh Babu (c) Ramesh Singh (d) Narayan Shah

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- On May 1, 2020, State-owned power giant NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) appointed Ramesh Babu as director (operations).
- He was the successor of Prakash Tiwari who retired on April 30, 2020.

- Ramesh Babu appointed as NTPC dir operations.

About Ramesh Babu:

- He joined NTPC as an executive (trainee – 12th batch) in 1987 and has more than 32 years of experience in managing large power stations in the areas of operations and maintenance, renovation and modernisation of old units as well as in the domains of efficiency & systems improvement of thermal plants.
- Babu as a professional manager and strategic planner has led several initiatives for improving reliability and efficiency of power stations.
- Director (operations) will be responsible for the overall planning of safe, reliable and efficient operations of all power generating stations of the NTPC Group while ensuring fuel security & environmental compliance of these power stations.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/ramesh-babu-appointed-as-ntpc-dir-operations/articleshow/75488172.cms?from=mdr>

Thangjam Dhabali Singh

Question Who was conferred the Order of Rising Sun- Gold and Silver Rays by the Japanese government ?

(a) ThangjamDhabali Singh (b) Manmohan Singh (c) Amit Shah (d) NarendraModi

Answer:(a)

Related facts:

- ThangjamDhabali Singh, an allopathic doctor by profession and founder of the Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF), was conferred the 'Order of Rising Sun – Gold and Silver Rays' by the Japan government.
- He has been felicitated for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.
- The 'Order of the Rising Sun' is conferred on persons with achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, environmental preservation, welfare or achievements in their fields.
- It was constituted by Japanese Emperor Meiji in 1875.

Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/manipuri-doctor-conferred-order-of-rising-sun-by-japan-2599303.html>

Operations & Campaign

“Hunar Haat” to restart from September 2020

Question: The government has decided to re start Hunar Haat in September 2020. What will be the theme of it?

(a) Aatm Nirbhar (b) Bharat ka hunar (c) Global in Local (d) Local to Global

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- “Hunar Haat”, will restart from September 2020 again after a gap of five months.
- The theme decide for this is “Local to Global” and comparatively larger participation of artisans.
- Hunar Haat”, has provided employment and employment opportunities to more than 5 lakh Indian artisans, craftsmen, culinary experts and other people associated with them in the last 5 years.
- Social distancing, hygiene, sanitisation and use of masks will be ensured at “Hunar Haat”. There will be a special “Jaan Bhi, Jahaan Bhi” pavilion to create health awareness among the people with the theme of “Say no to panic, yes to precautions”.
- People will also be able to buy “Hunar Haat” products digital and online also.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1626322>

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Question: Prime Minister in his address to the nation on May 12, 2020 called for Aatmnitbhar Bharat. What amount of special economic package was announced by him for the nation?

(a)15 lakh crore (b)10 lakh crore (c) 5 lakh crore (d)20 lakh crore

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on May 12, 2020 amid COVID-19.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, a special economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore was launched by Prime Minister to tackle with the crisis of COVID 19.
- Major highlights of the address:
- Self-reliant India:

- Prime Minister observed that in order to fulfill the dream of making the 21st century India's, the way forward is through ensuring that the country becomes self-reliant.
- Prime Minister remarked that the definition of self-reliance has undergone a change in the globalized world and clarified that when the country talks about self-reliance, it is different from being self-centered.
- Five pillars of a self-reliant India:
- He said that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz. Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India; System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan:
- Prime Minister announced a special economic package and gave a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The package of Rs 20 lakh crore, which is equivalent to almost 10% of India's GDP.
- Prime Minister observed that the package will also focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws. It will cater to various sections including cottage industry, MSMEs, labourers, middle class, industries, among others.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1623391>

Indian Navy launches Operation to bring Indian back

Question: What is the name of operation recently started by Indian Navy to repatriate Indian abroad?

(a)Vande Bharat (b)Samudra Setu (c)Indian Back (d)Samudra Manthan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian Navy on May 5 2020 launched Operation Samudra Setu, as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently enroute to the port of Malè, Republic of Maldives to commence evacuation operations from 08 May 2020 as part of Phase-1.

- A total of 1000 persons are planned to be evacuated during the first trip, catering for COVID- related social distancing norms vis-a-vis the carrying capacity and medical facilities available onboard.
- The ships have been suitably provisioned for the evacuation operation. The evacuated personnel would be provided the basic amenities and medical facilities during the sea-passage.
- The evacuated personnel will be disembarked at Kochi, Kerala and entrusted to the care of State authorities.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1621256>

Commission & Committee

Government implements Committee recommendations for creating border infrastructure

Question: Which committee recommendation has been accepted by the government for building border infrastructure?

- (a) Sarkaria Committee (b) Kalelkar Committee (c) Shekatkar Committee
(d) Upendra Committee

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Government has accepted and implemented three important recommendations of Committee of Experts (CoE) under the Chairmanship of Lt General D B Shekatkar (Retd) relating to border Infrastructure. These were related to speeding up road construction, leading to socio economic development in the border areas.
- Highlight of the recommendation:
- On the matter related to creating border infrastructure, the Government has implemented recommendation of CoE to outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- It has been made mandatory to adopt Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than Rs 100 crore.
- The other recommendation relating to introduction of modern construction plants, equipment and machinery has been implemented by delegating enhanced procurement powers from Rs 7.5 crore to Rs 100 crore to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements.

- Border Roads has recently inducted Hot-Mix Plant 20/30 TPH for speedier laying of roads, remote operated hydraulic Rock Drills DC-400 R for hard rock cutting, a range of F-90 series of self-propelled snow-cutters/blowers for speedier snow clearance.
- The land acquisition and all statutory clearances like forest and environmental clearance are also made part of approval of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624882>

Planning & Project 100 % solarisation of Konark Sun Temple

Question: The government has decided to 100 % solarise Konark Sun Temple and the town of Konark. What is the amount sanctioned for this project?

(a) ₹ 20 crore (b) ₹ 25 crore (c) ₹ 30 crore (d) ₹ 40 crore

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has taken up the Complete Solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha on May 20, 2020.
- The Scheme envisages setting up of 10 MW grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications like solar trees, solar drinking water kiosks, off-grid solar power plants with battery storage etc.
- A 100% Central Financial Assistance (CFA) support of around Rs. 25 Crores is given from Government of India through Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for this project.
- The project will be implemented by Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA).

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1625340>

Sensor-based service delivery monitoring system in rural drinking water sector

Question: Which state has recently decided to implement a sensor-based service delivery monitoring system in rural drinking water sector under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)?

(a)Kerala (b)Gujarat (c)Punjab (d)Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Gujarat has confirmed to implement a sensor-based service delivery monitoring system in rural drinking water sector under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- The pilot is already underway in two districts of the state so as to monitor the functionality of water supply i.e. potable water in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality being provided to every rural household on regularly on long-term basis.
- The Annual Action Plan for providing household tap connections to rural households for the FY 2020-21 is finalised.
- Out of 93.6 lakh rural households in the State, 65 lakh (70%) are already having household tap connections. The state plans to provide 11.15 lakh household tap connections in rural areas in 2020-21.
- The state has prepared plan taking into account the difficulty being faced in achieving the Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).
- Remaining areas are having large cattle population, hilly terrain with low population density, coastal areas with high salinity, areas having low level of surface water resources & also including areas with perennial large water sources. Gujarat state has set the target year of 100% coverage by the year September, 2022.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1623821>

Tap water connection to all households by December 2022

Question: Which if the following state has decided to provide tap connections to all rural households by December, 2022?

(a)Haryana (b)Kerala (c)Maharashtra (d)Andhra Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Haryana state has decided to provide tap water connection to all rural households by December, 2022.
- The State has provided 1.05 lakh tap connections during 2019-20 under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Now the State Government is planning 100% coverage by December, 2022.
- This will be ahead of the national goal by 2024-25.

- There are 28.94 lakh households in Haryana, out of which 18.83 lakh are already provided with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTCs).
- Out of the remaining 10.11 lakh households, Haryana plans to provide tap connections in 7 lakh households by 2020-21.
- Haryana is likely to get Rs 290 Crores as Central share under JJM for this financial year, which will be supplemented by same amount of State's matching share.
- Government of India is implementing the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' (JJM) in partnership with States to ensure every rural household in the country has FHTC for drinking water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in their living standards.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1623492>

80 km long road inaugurated for Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage

Question: Who inaugurated the 80 km long road constructed for decreasing the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage time in Uttarakhand?

(a) Trivendra Singh Rawat (b) Rajnath Singh (c) Amit Shah (d) Bipin Rawat

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a special event inaugurated the road link from Dharchula (Uttarakhand) to Lipulekh (China Border) on May 8, 2020 shortening Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra time and border area connectivity,
- He also flagged off a convoy of vehicles from Pithoragarh to Gunji through video conferencing.
- The completion of this crucial road link fulfills the dreams and aspirations of local people and pilgrims.
- Highlights of the road:
- The road originates from Ghatiabagarh and terminates at Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to Kailash-Mansarovar.
- In this 80 kilometre road, the altitude rises from 6,000 to 17,060 feet. With the completion of this project, the arduous trek through treacherous high-altitude terrain can now be avoided by the pilgrims of Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra.
- At present, the travel to Kailash-Mansarovar takes around two to three weeks through Sikkim or Nepal routes.

- With completion of this road link, the yatra could be completed in one week compared to 2-3 weeks it took earlier.
- Now Pilgrims to Manasarovar will traverse 84 per cent land journeys on Indian Roads and only 16 per cent land Journeys in China.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engineers and personnel completed the construction of road.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1622091>

AYUSH Sanjivani App

Question: Who launched the AYUSH Sanjivani App and AYUSH based study of COVID 19 on May 7, 2020?

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ram Nath Kovind (c) Dr. Harshavardhan (d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health & Family Welfare Minister launched the 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation on May 7, 2020.
- This app has been launched to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.
- It is developed by Ministry of AYUSH and MEITY and reach out to a target of 50 lakh peoples.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan also launched two more scientific studies. One is the collaborative clinical research study on Ayurveda interventions as prophylaxis and as an add-on to standard care to COVID 19.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan also launched the population based interventional studies on impact of AYUSH based prophylactic interventions for prevention of COVID-19 infection in high risk population.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1621787>

Treaty & Agreements

Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy Business

Question: Leading PSU NTPC has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with which other company to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy business?

(a) Coal India (b) Gas Authority of India (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
(d) Steel Authority of India

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- NTPC Ltd., PSU under Ministry of Power and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), the PSU under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy business on May 22, 2020.
- The MoU will enable both companies to accelerate their footprint in Renewable Energy.
- As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore the setting up of offshore wind and other Renewable Energy Projects in India and overseas. They shall also explore opportunities in the fields of sustainability, storage, E-mobility and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) compliant projects.
- NTPC presently has 920 MW of installed Renewable power projects in its portfolio and about 2300 MW of RE projects under construction. With this tie-up, NTPC would accelerate its RE capacity addition program and also expand its footprint in offshore wind and overseas Renewable Energy projects.
- This will help India's largest power generator achieve its ambitious target of 32 GW of Renewable Energy Projects by 2032.
- ONGC has a renewable portfolio of 176 MW comprising of 153 MW wind power and 23 MW of solar.
- This development will enhance the presence of ONGC in the Renewable Power business and enable its ambition to add 10 GW of renewable power to its portfolio by 2040.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1626014>

Question: The Government of India & AIIB has signed an agreement of \$ 145 million to improve irrigation services and flood management in which if the following state?

(a) Bihar (b) Assam (c) West Bengal (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB) has signed a loan agreement on May 15, 2020 for \$ 145 million project to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA) in West Bengal.
- The West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project will benefit about 2.7 million farmers from five districts of West Bengal across 393,964 ha area with better irrigation services and improved protection against annual flooding.
- The DVCA is over 60 years old, and in need of modernization. Key challenges include degradation of infrastructure and inadequate irrigation management, etc.
- The Lower Damodar basin area is historically flood-prone. On average, 33,500 hectares of the cropped area and 461,000 people are affected annually.
- To deal with these challenges, several institutional reforms are planned under the project. These include introduction of a modern Management Information System (MIS), benchmarking and evidence-based decision making, promotion of conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, etc.
- The total value of the project is \$413.8 million, co-financed between the AIIB (\$145 million), IBRD (\$145 million) and the Government of West Bengal (\$123.8 million). The \$145 million loan from the AIIB has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624065>

Law & Justice

Ordinance to suspend labour laws

Question: Which of the following state has recently passed ordinance to suspend the labour laws in the state?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Rajasthan (c) Karnataka (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Uttar Pradesh passed the ordinance on May 8 2020 to suspend various labour laws in the state for a period of three years.
- UP cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath passed the 'Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020' relaxing all labour laws in the state, except three related to abolishment of bonded labour, ex gratia to workers in case of work-related diseases and disabilities, and timely wage payments.
- This step has been taken to promote the business and industry which has slowed due to COVID 19.
- The benefits would be provided to all existing industries and manufacturing units, as well as new ventures.
- All labour laws related to labour unions, settling work disputes, regulations for working conditions, contracts, etc will remain suspended for three years in Uttar Pradesh under this ordinance.

Links:

<https://m.businesstoday.in/lite/story/industry-unshackled-in-uttar-pradesh-all-labour-laws-but-three-suspended-for-3-years/1/403189.html>

Year, Day & Week

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)

Question: Consider the following statement:

- 1) It celebrates this event bi-annually on the second Saturday in May and in October.
 - 2) The theme of this year's WMBD is "Birds Connect Our World".
- Choose the correct one:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- It aims to draw attention to the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.
- This day was initiated in 2006 by the United Nations Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds(AEWA).
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) celebrates this event bi-annually on the second Saturday in May and in October.
- The theme of this year's WMBD is "Birds Connect Our World".

Links:

<https://sdg.iisd.org/events/world-migratory-bird-day-2020/>

National Technology Day

Question: Consider the following statement:

- 1) National Technology Day observed on May 11.
- 2) This day marks the anniversary of Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998.

Choose the correct one:

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

Context:

- May 11 is observed as the National Technology Day.
- This day marks the anniversary of Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998 and India's technological advancements in this space.

Important facts:

- The day which was first observed on 11 May, 1999, aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists, engineers.
- The day was named by the former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee.

- Every year, the Technology Development Board of India (a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology) celebrates the day by awarding individuals with National Award for their contribution to science and technology in India.
- The focus this year is 'Rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.'
- It is the day India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on May 11, 1998.
- India successfully test-fired its Shakti-1 nuclear missile in operation called Pokhran-II, also codenamed as Operation Shakti.
- The nuclear missile was tested at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan.
- This was the second test which was conducted after Pokhran-I codenamed Operation Smiling Buddha, in May 1974.
- On the same day, India performed a successful test firing of the Trishul Missile (surface to air short range missile) and had test flown the first indigenous aircraft – 'Hansa – 3'.

Links:

<https://cio.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/strategy-and-management/why-may-11-is-celebrated-as-national-technology-day/58625954>

International Nurses Day

Question: Consider the following statement:

- 1) **International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every year on May 12.**
- 2) **The Theme for the year 2020 is Nurses: A voice to lead- Nursing the World to Health.**

Choose the correct one:

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.
- ICN commemorates this important day each year with the production and distribution of the International Nurses' Day (IND) resources and evidence.
- The Theme for the year 2020 is Nurses: A voice to lead- Nursing the World to Health.
- It demonstrates how nurses are central to address a wide range of health challenges.

Background:

- The day was first observed in 1965 by International Council of Nurses (ICN), after an officer with the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare Dorothy Sutherland proposed Nurses Day in 1953 and was first declared by President Dwight D Eisenhower.
- In January 1974, May 12 was chosen to celebrate the day. Each year, ICN prepares and distributes the International Nurses Day Kit. The kit contains educational and public information materials, for use by nurses everywhere.
- WHO (World Health Organization) designated the year 2020 as the “International Year of the Nurse and Midwife”.
- In April 2020, WHO & partners launched the first-ever State of the Worlds’ Nursing Report, which provides a snapshot of the global nursing workforce as well as highlights the scale of the challenge we face and provides feasible policies for governments to invest in nursing so that Health for All can become a reality.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN):

- It is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations (NNAs), representing the more than 20 million nurses worldwide.
- Founded in 1899, ICN is the world’s first and widest reaching international organisation for health professionals.

Links:

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/international-nurses-day-2020-theme-importance-and-more-read-here.html>

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AI-powered mobile app for mock tests

Question: Who launched a mobile app powered by AI for mock tests for JEE Mains, NEET 2020 on May 19, 2020?

- (a) Ravishankar Prasad (b) Piyush Goyal (c) Amit Khare
(d) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a new mobile app called the 'National Test Abhyas' on May 19, 2020.
- The App has been developed by NTA to enable candidates to take mock tests for upcoming exams such as JEE Main, NEET under the NTA's purview.
- The app has been launched to facilitate candidates' access to high quality mock tests in the safety and comfort of their homes since there was a demand for making up the loss to students due to closure of educational institutions and NTA's Test-Practice Centers (TPCs) due to the continuing lockdown.
- Students across the country can use the App to access high quality tests, free of cost, in a bid to be fully prepared for the upcoming JEE, NEET and other competitive exams.
- The tests can be easily downloaded; they can be completed off-line, thus economising on internet availability too.

Links:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1625181>