FreshersLive Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (1st June'20 - 7th June'20)

1st Week Current Affairs - June 2020

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Indian Affairs

Assam to provide functional tap connections to 13 lakh rural households in 2020-21 year

Assam State government presented the Annual Action Plan for consideration and approval of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Government of India (GoI) approved Rs.1,407 crore for 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Assam plans to provide tap connections to 13 lakh households out of a total of 63 lakhs in 2020-21.

Highlights:

Achieving the target of Jal Jeevan Mission in Assam is not difficult because of the abundant water resources in the State, which is both groundwater and surface water. Assam is giving emphasis on capitalizing on 'low-hanging fruits' in the villages/habitations where piped water supply schemes already exist in order to yield the desired results.

The state plans to immediately provide household tap connections to all remaining households belonging to weaker and marginalized sections on priority.

The state government has also defined roadmap for the effective implementation of the Village Action Plan (VAP) with the active participation of the rural community. The aim is to strengthen the existing drinking water sources for the long-term sustainability of drinking water supply systems through the convergence of various programmes like MGNREGS, SBM (G), 15th Finance Commission Grants to PRIs, District Mineral Development Fund, CAMPA, Local Area Development Fund, etc. at village level is planned for judicious use of all available resources.

With the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, people in rural areas now aspire to get tap connections in their household premises.

NTPC accelerates Learning and Development Opportunities for 19000 Employees amid Lockdown

NTPC Ltd. has offered learning opportunities to its 19,000+ employees and their family members amid nationwide lockdown. The move by the company is to meet the requirements of the lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NTPC has collaborated with the World Bank to provide learning opportunities. The collaboration aims to provide an opportunity to be part of a rigorous online technical course, attending virtual classes, giving assessments, and, eventually,
obtaining certifications.

**Highlights:**

NTPC Learning and Development (L&D) strategy has been customized for enriching employees through intensive digitization and online training, enabling them to avail of these services from anywhere.

Power Management Institute of NTPC has conducted **250+ training sessions** in diverse disciplines ranging from technical, functional, health and safety. Besides, NTPC's Regional Learning and Development Centres located in power plant projects have created almost 100-plus online learning opportunities.

The company introduced the method of learning to upskill the employees even during crises.

One of the courses "**45-Day Learning Challenge**" offers its staff thorough learning for 45 days in varied disciplines such as Technical, Finance, and HR, earning them certifications once completed from home.

Also, classes are being held on power plant essentials such as Turbine, Boiler, Water Chemistry, Renewable Energy, and other significant O&M (Operations & Maintenance) areas through in-house and guest faculties.

The new learning methodology includes connecting via online forums, webinars, an internally-developed mobile application "Samvaad" and leveraging the Internet and its internal learning portal.

**PM addressed 12th Episode of Mann Ki Baat 2.0 on 31 May**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a "**My Life, My Yoga**", a video blogging competition while addressing the nation in 12th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat 2.0' on 31 May 2020.

**My Life, My Yoga:**

The My Life, My Yoga or Jeevan Yoga is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The contest aims to introduce transformative impact of yoga on the lives of individuals.

The contest comes as one of the activities related to the observation of the 6th International Day of Yoga (IDY), which will be observed on 21 June.

The contest has gone live on the social media handles of the Ministry of AYUSH on 31 May.
The contest will be conducted in 2 phases. In the first phase, an international video blogging contest will be conducted. Winners will be picked within a country. In second phase, global prize winners will be selected from winners from different countries.

Participants can enter under three categories:
- youth-aged under 18
- adults-above 18 years
- yoga professionals

The contest will be contested separately for male and female contestants.

To participate in the contest, participants must upload a 3-minute video of three Yogic practices like kriya, asana, pranayama, bandha, or mudra, including a short video message or description on how the said Yogic practices influenced their life.

For contestants of India will be awarded prizes worth Rs.1 lakh, 50,000, and 25,000 for first, second and third-ranking within each of the categories.

PM launched CHAMPIONS, a Technology Platform to empower MSMEs

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched CHAMPIONS, the technology platform on 1 June. The platform aims to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). It is an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) based system. The entire ICT architecture is created in house with the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at no cost.

**Aim:**
CHAMPIONS portal will enhance the smaller units by solving their grievances. It also aims to encourage, support, help the MSMEs. It is expected to act as a real one-stop-shop solution of MSME Ministry.

**CHAMPIONS:**
CHAMPIONS stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

The ICT based system will help the MSMEs in present difficult situations, the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Purpose of CHAMPIONS:**
CHAMPIONS will resolve the problems of MSMEs including those of finance, raw materials, labor, regulatory permissions, etc. particularly in the COVID-19 created a difficult situation.

CHAMPIONS will help the MSME sector to capture new opportunities including
manufacturing of medical equipment and accessories like Personal protective equipment (PPEs), masks, etc and supply them in National and International markets;

It will identify and encourage potential MSMEs who are able to withstand the current situation and can become national and international champions.

The platform is a technology-packed control room-cum-management information system. In addition to ICT tools including telephone, internet, and video conference, the system is enabled by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Analytics, and Machine Learning.

It is also fully integrated on a real-time basis with GoI's main grievances portal CPGRAMS and MSME Ministry's own other web-based mechanisms.

Also, the physical infrastructure is created in one of the MSME Ministry's rooms in record time.

A network of control rooms is created in a Hub & Spoke Model in New Delhi in the Secretary of MSME's office.

The spokes are located in the States in various offices and institutions of the MSME Ministry.

So far, 66 state-level control rooms have been created and made functional.

The control room are connected through video conference in addition to the portal of Champions.

A detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) has been issued to the officers.

Staff have been deployed and training has been conducted for them.

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**Kisan Credit Cards campaign launched for 1.5 crore dairy farmers**

The Government has announced that it is to provide **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** to 1.5 crore dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies within the next two months from 1 June-31 July 2020, under a special drive. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services has issued KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same on a mission mode.

**Kisan Credit Cards campaign:**

The campaign aims to provide KCC to **1.5 crore dairy farmers.**

The campaign is a part of the **PM's Atma Nirbhar Bharat package for Farmers.**

The first phase of the KCC campaign has set a target 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. Interest subvention shall be available only to the extent of Rs.3 lakhs.

Also, the general limit for KCC credit without collateral remains Rs.1.6 lakh.

In the case of farmers whose milk is directly procured by the Milk Unions falls under tie-up arrangements between the producers and processing units without any intermediaries. The credit limits without Collateral can be up to Rs.3 lakh.

KCC campaign will ensure more credit availability for dairy farmers associated with Milk Unions and assuring repayment of loans to banks.

**Background:**

Around 1.7 crore farmers are associated with **230 Milk Unions** under the dairy cooperative movement in the country. On 15 May 2020, the Finance Minister has announced to cover 2.5 crore, new farmers, under the KCC scheme. The scheme will provide additional liquidity of Rs.5 lakh crore in the hands of farmers. Dairy is among the fastest-growing sectors of the economy with a Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of above 6% in the last 5 years. It will also provide short term credit to dairy farmers for meeting their requirements for working capital, marketing, etc. will boost their productivity tremendously.

**Centre approved Rs.812 Crore approved for Odisha under Jal Jeevan Mission**

The **Odisha state government** presented the **Annual Action Plan** for the state before the National Committee headed by Secretary, Drinking Water & Sanitation, **Ministry of Jal Shakti** for consideration and approval for 2020-21. The government of India approved Rs.812 crore for implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the State for the financial year 2020-21. Centre also approved an estimated outlay of Rs.3.60 Lakh crore, out of which the Central government will share Rs.2.08 lakh crore and the Odisha State government will share Rs.1.52 Lakh crore respectively.

**Highlights:**

Centre approved **Rs.812 crore** for the implementation of the **Jal Jeevan Mission** in the State for the financial year. This allocation is a significant jump from 2019's allocation of **Rs.297 crore**.
Odisha State government 100% household tap connections by the year 2024. Now, out of 81 lakh rural households in the State, Odisha govt. plans to provide 16.21 lakh household connections in 2020-21.

A priority of 100% coverage will be given to villages under water scarce areas, quality-affected areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna villages, villages in aspirational districts and SC/ST dominated habitations.

It has been aimed that each household will get a potable water supply of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis.

The State has also prepared a roadmap for the effective implementation of the Village Action Plan (VAP) with the active participation of the rural community. The main objective is to strengthen the existing drinking water sources for the long-term sustainability of drinking water supply systems at the village level for the judicious use of all available resources.

The State has been allocated Rs.2,258 crore under 15th Finance Commission Grants to PRIs during 2020-21; 50% of this amount has to be mandatorily spent on water and sanitation.

The mission aims to involve the community in planning, managing, implementing, operation, and maintaining the water supply schemes meant for them for long-term sustainability.

Centre approves changes in definition of MSMEs as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat

Centre announced policy changes in the definition for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package. Changes to the definition of MSMEs was approved in 2019. Union Cabinet also approved an Rs.50,000 crore equity scheme for MSMEs, which are grouped according to the new definition. The move comes as a recognition to the importance of MSMEs

**Highlights:**

As per the new definition, MSMEs with an investment of Rs.1 crore and turnover of Rs.5 crore will be classified as **micro-units**.

Units with an investment of Rs.10 crore and turnover of Rs.50 crore will be classified as **small units**.

Units with an investment of Rs.50 crore and turnover of Rs.250 crore will be classified as **medium units**.
According to the new definition, **exports will not be excluded** from the turnover cap.

GoI has formulated the roadmap for implementing various measures for the MSME sector, as announced in the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

The measure aims to improve the ease of doing business, attract investment, and generate new job opportunities across the country.

Union Cabinet also approved a provision for more loans of up to Rs.10,000 for street vendors. It is expected that this would benefit 5 million vendors.

### Pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity launched

Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy & Minister of State (Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) **RK Singh** launched **pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity** through video conference in New Delhi on 3 June 2020. The real-time has placed the Indian electricity market amongst a league of few electricity markets in the world.

**Highlights:**

Real Time Market in electricity is an organized market platform to enable the buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirements closer to real-time operation.

The introduction of a real-time market will bring the required flexibility in the market to provide real-time balance while ensuring optimal utilization of the available surplus capacity in the system.

It will also help manage diversity in the demand pattern in the country with an organized market at the national level.

The Government of India's target of 175 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India.

The real-time market would help to mitigate challenges to the grid management due to the intermittent and variable nature of renewable energy generation and therefore, help to integrate higher quantum of renewable energy resources into the grid.

The real-Time market would lead to cost optimization of power purchase and serving the consumers with reliable supply.

### Cabinet approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port
The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. The decision was made by the Board of Trustees of Kolkata Port Trust in its Meeting held on 25 February 2020. The Board also passed a Resolution to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an eminent jurist, academician, thinker, leader of the masses, and a front-runner in national integration, dreamer of Bengal's development, the inspiration for industrialization.

**Background:**
The Kolkata Port is the first Major Port and the only riverine port of the country. The port features at Serial Number 1 in The First Schedule, Part I-Major Ports of the Indian Ports Act, 1908. It is governed by the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. Kolkata Port has been India's gateway to trade, commerce, and economic development. The port has witnessed historic events including India's struggle for independence, World Wars I & II, and socio-cultural changes taking place in the country, especially in Eastern India.

Generally, the Major Ports in India are named after the city or the town in which they are situated. Some ports have been re-named after great national leaders in the past. Few renamed ports are listed below:

- Nhava Sheva Port Trust was renamed as Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust by the Government in the year 1989
- Tuticorin Port Trust was renamed as V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in the year 2011.
- Ennore Port Limited has been re-named as Kamarajar Port Limited in the honour of Shri K Kamarajar, eminent freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- In 2017 Kandla Port was re-named as Deendayal Port.

**PM held telephone conversation with H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi President of Mozambique**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed with His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique. The leaders discussed the challenges posed in both countries by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Highlights:**
India reaffirmed its willingness to support Mozambique's efforts during the health
crisis, including through the provision of essential medicines and equipment. Both the leaders agreed to close cooperation between both countries in the field of healthcare and pharmaceutical supplies.

The two leaders discussed Indian investments and development projects in Mozambique.

India has made large commitments made by Indian companies to the coal and natural gas sectors of Mozambique.

The leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in defence and security.

Leaders of both countries agreed that the two countries would remain in touch to enhance cooperation and support during the ongoing pandemic.

**Mozambique:**

**President:** Filipe Nyusi

**Prime Minister:** Carlos Agostinho do Rosrio

**Capital:** Maputo

Currency: Mozambican metical (MZN)

Official languages: Portuguese

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**Cabinet approved establishment of PCIMH as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH**

Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi approved the re-establishment of the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). The commission will be formed by merging Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL) and Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM).

**Highlights:**

Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) functions under the Ministry of AYUSH. It was established in 2010.

The merger will optimize infrastructural facilities, technical manpower, and financial resources of the three organizations.

It will enhance the standardization outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Homoeopathy drugs towards effective regulation and quality control.

The merger will facilitate the focused and cohesive development of standards of
AYUSH drugs and the publication of pharmacopoeias and formularies.
The move will also accord legal status to PCIM&H and its laboratory by virtue of making the necessary amendment.
It will also enable provisions in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
The merger will have an adequate administrative structure to augment the capacity and outcomes of pharmacopoeial work.
It will achieve harmonization of pharmacopoeial standards of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs, to prevent duplication and overlapping of drug standardization work and optimal utilization of resources in an effective manner.

**Puducherry plans to provide tap connections to all rural households by 2020-21 year**

GoI approved the Annual Action Plan of Puducherry for Financial Year 2020-21. The plan was approved by National Jal Jeevan Mission. Puducherry Union Territory plans to provide household tap connections to remaining households in 2020-21.

**Highlights:**
To implement the plan, village-level planning has involved the local community despite COVID-19. Gram Sabhas are conducted in villages maintaining social distancing.
As per the plan, the local community will play a pivotal role in the planning, implementation, management, operation, and maintenance of water supply systems in villages to ensure long-term sustainability.
Local communities have been directed to provide due care also on greywater treatment and re-use.
Under Jal Jeevan Mission, water quality testing laboratories at different levels are being established in the UT.
The UT has been advised to focus on 24*7 service delivery in rural areas so that the villages can act as utilities' with a focus on service delivery'.
It has been also planned to conduct Internet of Things (IoT) based sensor monitoring for water supply in villages.
It also aims to provide a livelihood to the migrant workers who have returned to their native villages by providing jobs related to water supply especially water conservation works in every village that will ensure sufficient groundwater
availability leading to water security, water availability for agriculture and most importantly will help in the provision of drinking water to every rural household.

**MHRD launched TULIP, an Internship Program with ULBs across the country**

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) launched The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP), an Internship Program with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country. It was jointly launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and MoS (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep. S. Puri.

**TULIP:**

The first of its kind initiative TULIP is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all ULBs and Smart Cities across the country.

TULIP programme is expected to provide access to internship opportunities through 4400 Urban local bodies and smart cities pan India.

TULIP platforms will provide an opportunity for youth to generate news ideas to reform Urban local bodies through modern techniques and innovative methods.

TULIP aims to enhance the value-to-market of graduates in India.

The platform also aims to create a potential talent pool in diverse fields like urban planning, transport engineering, environment, municipal finance, etc.

**EESL, USAID launched Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings**

State-run Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has partnered with US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program and launched 'Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings' initiative. The initiative is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Power Ministry of India and USAID.

**Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings:**

Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings initiative aims to make workplaces healthier and greener.

The initiative aims to accelerate the adoption of cost-effective energy efficiency measures as a standard practice within buildings, and specifically focuses on cooling.
Under the initiative, EESL has become the first to implement the framework in its own offices. This initiative will address air quality and energy use concerns in buildings like directly improving comfort, health, productivity, and ultimately the quality of life of citizens in India and South Asia.

**Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):**

- **Established:** 10 December 2009
- **Functions under:** Ministry of Power
- **Chairman:** Rajeev Sharma
- **Managing Director:** Saurabh Kumar

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**Power Ministry launched #iCommit initiative**

*Union Minister of Power R. K. Singh* launched the [#iCommit initiative](http://example.com) for building an energy resilient future on 5 June 2020. A campaign was also launched to encourage all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency.

**#iCommit initiative:**

The #iCommit initiative will function under the administration of the Ministry of Power.

It is headed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). The campaign will include officials from governments, corporates, multilateral and bilateral organizations, and individuals.

The initiative aims to bring together a diverse spectrum of government and private players to build a new energy future for India.

#iCommit initiative will promote the flagship scheme of GoI including:

- National Electric Mobility Mission 2020
- FAME 1 and 2
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana
- Saubhagya Scheme
- Ujwala DISCOM Assurance Yojna (UDAY)
- Atal Distribution system Improvement Yojna (AJAY)
- Smart Meter National Programme
- Pradhan mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahaabhiya (KUSUM)
- Solar Parks
Grid Connected Rooftop
Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for All (UJALA)
Atal JyotiYojna (AJAY)

**Gadkari launched Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways Campaign**

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari has launched the UNDP national awareness campaign on **Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways'** on 5 June. The campaign aims to generate awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads of both human beings and animals.

**Campaign Highlights:**
As per the official data, India witnesses nearly 5 lakh road accidents every year, in which about 1.5 lakh lives are lost.

The move aims to bring down these figures by 20-25% by the coming 31st March. So far, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has identified over 5,000 black spots. The Ministry has also taken measures to process for their rectification including temporary and permanent measures is being carried out on an urgent basis.

SOPs to rectify black spots for taking up short-term and long-term permanent measures have already been issued.

- Road safety measures include:
- rectification of Black Spots
- traffic calming measures
- Crash Barriers
- Repairing rehabilitation
- reconstruction of dilapidated and narrow bridges
- Road Safety Audit
- Reduction of fatalities on vulnerable roads
- Highway Patrolling
- Safety during Construction
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Active asteroid discovered near Jupiters Orbit for the first time in billion years

Astronomers have discovered a rare kind of space object. It is described as something between an asteroid and a comet. The object has been called an active asteroid. The celestial body was first noticed by the astronomers in June 2019 when the University of Hawaii's Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) detected a faint new signal that appeared to be an asteroid in the Trojan group.

**2019 LD2:**

The newly discovered asteroid is named 2019 LD2.

2019 LD2 has an orbit like an asteroid but the tail of a comet.

The specialty of 2019 LD2 special is that the active asteroid shares Jupiter's orbit in an asteroid swarm known as the Jupiter Trojans.

This is the first Jupiter Trojan that the astronomers have come across.

These asteroids follow the same orbit like that of a planet. But, it remains 60 degrees ahead of or behind along the orbit.

The Jupiter Trojan asteroids orbit the Sun in two huge swarms, one swarm orbiting ahead of the planet, where 2019 LD2 is present, and the other swarm orbiting behind it.

It is suspected that the Trojan asteroids have been captured into these orbits by Jupiter's strong gravity.

2019 LD2 is a first-of-its-kind active asteroid because most Jupiter Trojans were captured billions of years ago.

Other planets on the Solar system like Earth, Neptune, and Jupiter have more than one Trojan asteroids.

IIT BHU to re-purpose approved drugs from DrugBank database to treat COVID-19 disease

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has approved support for research at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (BHU) Varanasi to identify lead compounds from available and approved drugs for anti-SARS-CoV-2 drug molecules.
Currently, the available treatments are focused only on symptomatic relief to help the patient overcome the infection.

It is expected that the repurposing of pre-existing drugs to help circumvent both the time and money required to find an effective cure.

The IIT (BHU) researchers are working on developing new drug candidates against SARS-CoV-2 by exploring DrugBank.

DrugBank is a database of US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drug compounds.

This database will be used for searching drugs against SARS-CoV-2 database compounds as an inhibitor of SARS-CoV-2 main protease, a key enzyme required for SARS-CoV-2 assembly and multiplication.

Extensive computational and experimental studies will be carried out to identify an inhibitor of SARS-CoV-2 main protease.

From the available crystal structure of the SARS-CoV-2 main protease, a structure-based inhibitor design will be done by the researchers.

The researchers will experimentally validate the designed inhibitor(s) on recombinant SARS-CoV-2 Mpro Protein will be carried out.

Various inhibitor parameters will be calculated to establish the effectiveness of the inhibition of the SARS-CoV-2 Mpro enzyme function.

The study is based on the fact that the enzyme SARS-CoV-2 Mpro is key for processing and polyprotein for virus assembly, the inhibition of this key protein can have an anti-viral effect.

**CSIR-CMERI developed new indigenous ventilator**

Researchers at Durgapur-based CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) have indigenously developed a ventilator to provide help and support to the COVID-19 patients.

**Highlights:**

The ventilator was developed by CSIR-CMERI, in coordination with critical care experts of the Health care professionals.

The design, controllers, and embedded electronics have been customized to ensure price efficacy and to meet the requirements of the relevant industries.

The ventilator was tested under multiple technical and design changes after
adopting critical feedbacks from healthcare professionals.
The cost of the ventilator is around Rs.80,000-90,000.
The ventilator will be further upgraded to meet the requirements of various other patient’s parameters.
The ventilator is expected to help massive substitution of import dollars by strengthening the medical care manufacturing landscape of the country.
It will upgrade the tertiary healthcare infrastructure.
The newly developed ventilator will ensure the availability of these ventilators in makeshift hospitals, basic hospitals, and other healthcare facilities.

**NCVTC to develop host-directed antivirals for COVID-19 disease**

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has approved support for the research and study done by the National Centre for Veterinary Type Cultures (NCVTC), ICAR-NRC from Hisar in Haryana. The researchers will screen the library of 94 small molecule chemical inhibitors for antivirals against coronaviruses.

**Highlights:**
The small molecule chemical inhibitors are known to inhibit cellular kinases, phosphatases, and epigenetic regulators like histone methyltransferase, histone deacetylase, and DNA methyltransferase.
The researchers are exploring alternative strategies to target such cellular proteins, protein-protein (virus-host) interaction, or epigenetic regulators called host-directed antiviral therapy.
The host-directed antivirals will have fewer tendencies in inducing drug resistance because it is not possible for the virus to easily change missing cellular functions by mutations.
Also, host-directed antiviral agents will exert broad-spectrum antiviral effects because the requirement of host factors by viruses is usually conserved across the members of a particular virus family or sometimes even across the members of different virus families.
The antiviral weapon will target cellular proteins, protein-protein (virus-host) interaction, or epigenetic regulators for COVID-19.

**CeNS develops low-cost catalyst for hydrogen generation from water**
Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) scientist has discovered that a low cost and efficient way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide as a catalyst. They have found that Molybdenum dioxide (MoO2) nanomaterials annealed in hydrogen atmosphere can act as efficient catalysts. Using this, Hydrogen can be generated from water and produces water on energy generation without any carbon footprint.

**Highlights:**

- MoO2 (Molybdenum dioxide) can replace the currently employed catalyst Pt, which is expensive and has limited resources.
- It can act as an efficient catalyst to reduce the energy input to bring about water splitting with great efficiency.
- Hydrogen can be generated by the Electrolytic splitting of water. But it requires energy input that can be brought down in the presence of a catalyst.
- The metal oxide nanomaterial is a cheaper alternative to the precious noble metal catalysts such as Platinum, presently employed in industry for water electrolysis.
- The catalyst is highly stable for a longer duration of reaction with sustained hydrogen evolution from water.
- About 80% efficient conversion of electrical energy into hydrogen has been achieved using this catalyst.
ENVIRONMENT

Urban Forest scheme to develop 200 Nagar Van across the country in next 5 years

Government announced the implementation of the Nagar van scheme to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next 5 years. The announcement was made on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED). The move is in line with WED 2020's focus on 'Biodiversity'.

Nagar van scheme:

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released a brochure on the best practices on Urban Forests and announcing the Nagar Van scheme.

It is expected that Urban Forest will revive the age-old tradition of village forests in cities.

Warje Urban Forest has been set as a role model for the Urban Forest in the country.

It has been studied that the forest is rich in biodiversity with 23 plant species, 29 bird species, 15 butterfly species, 10 reptiles, and 3 mammal species. The Urban Forest project will help to maintain ecological balance, serving both environmental and social needs.

India has 8% of the world's biodiversity. India occupies 2.5% of the world's landmass with 4% of freshwater sources.
DEFENCE

MoD places order on OFB for supply of 156 upgraded ICVs worth Rs.1,094 crore

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has placed an order worth Rs.1,094 to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The aim is to boost to Make in India initiative. It was approved by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The supply includes 156 BMP 2/2k Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICV) with upgraded features for use of the Mechanised Forces of the Indian Army.

Highlights:
Under this, the combat vehicles will be manufactured by Ordnance Factory, Medak in Telangana.
The vehicles are aimed to enhance the combat capability of the Army.
The BMP-2/2K ICVs will be powered by 285 horsepower (HP) engines and are lower in weight which will make them highly mobile to meet all tactical requirements of mobility on the battlefield.
These ICVs will reach a speed of 65 kilometres per hour (kmph) with easy steering ability in cross country terrain.
The ICVs will have amphibious capabilities to travel at 7 kmph in water.
These special vehicles are designed to overcome the slope of up to 35 cross obstacles of 0.7 metre and have lethal firepower capability.
The vehicles are planned to be completed by the year 2023.
With the induction of these 156 BMP 2/2K ICVs, the existing deficiency in the Mechanised Infantry Battalions will be mitigated.

India, China held high-level military talks amid stand-off in Ladakh

India and China held high-level talks on 6 June. The talk was initiated by India and was held at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The talks were held amid the border stand-off between the militaries of the two countries near eastern Ladakh.

Highlights:
The Indian delegation was led by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, Commander of 14 Corps, and the Chinese side was headed by the Commander of the Tibet Military District.
Indian and Chinese officials held talks through the established military and diplomatic channels to address the current situation in the India-China border areas. Indian side reported that the Chinese military is hindering normal patrolling by its troops along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim.

It strongly refutes China's contention that the escalating tension between both the armies was triggered by the trespassing of Indian forces across the Chinese side. The trigger is due to China's stiff opposition to India to lay a key road around the Pangong Tso Lake and the construction of another road connecting the Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie road in Galwan Valley.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw awarded EY World Entrepreneur of the year

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder and Chairperson & Managing Director of Biocon, has been named EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020. The award is to recognize her contribution to improving universal access to affordable life-saving medicine and thus transforming the world. She became only the third Indian to receive this prestigious award after Uday Kotak and Narayana Murthy. Shaw became only the second woman to receive this award. Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore is the first person to have won the title in 2011.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw:

Shaw founded Bangalore-based Biocon Limited in 1978. Biocon currently worth close to Rs.50,000 crore by market-cap and employs more than 11,000 people. The bio-enzyme company focus on global health care and the provision of universal access to life-saving medicine.

In September 2019, Biocon announced that the company would supply Rh-insulin at less than $0.10 per day to low and middle-income countries. The price is less than a third of current RH-insulin prices.

Biocon supplied more than 2 billion affordable doses of biosimilar insulins to patients globally in the last 15 years.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Biocon is studying the use of its existing novel biologic drug Itolizumab to treat COVID-19 related health conditions in India.
SPORTS

India to host AFC 2022 Asian Women's Cup

India is to host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup. The hosting rights have been awarded to India by the Asian Football Confederation. This is the second time India will be hosting the event. India hosted the event for the first time in 1979. The information was passed by the All India Football Federation.

2022 Women's Asian Cup:
Women's Asian Cup will be held in the second half of the year 2020. Women players are expected to bring social revolution in the event. The football tournament will feature 12 teams. The number of participating teams has been expanded from the previous slot of eight teams. As India hosts the tournament, India will qualify directly in the tournament. The event will serve as the final qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.
In the 1979 event, India had finished as runners-up. The announcement to host the tournament comes as a measure to boost AIFF as India is to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022.

BFI nominates Amit Panghal, Vikas Krishan nominated for Khel Ratna

World silver-medallist and Indian boxer Amit Panghal and Vikas Krishan were nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Other nominations:
BFI has nominated world bronze-winning trio of Lovlina Borgohain under 69kg, Simranjit Kaur under 64kg, and Manish Kaushik under 63kg for the Arjuna awards. BFI has finalized and nominated the names of national women's coach Mohammed Ali Qamar and assistant coach Chhote Lal Yadav, for the Dronacharya awards. The athletes and coaches nominations are based on performance during the last four years.
OBITUARY

Former Delhi Police commissioner Ved Marwah passed away

Former Delhi Police commissioner Ved Marwah passed away on 5 June 2020. He was 87 years old. The former Governor of Mizoram, Manipur, and Jharkhand also served as the director-general of the National Security Guard (NSG), and as an adviser to governors in J&K and Bihar.

Ved Marwah:
Ved Marwah served as the police commissioner of Delhi from 1985-88. He then served as the third director-general of NSG from 1988-90. Marwah served as the governor of Manipur from 1999-2003, Mizoram from 2000-2001, and Jharkhand from 2003-2004. He was on the governing council of the Asian Academy Of Film And Television. He has authored a book titled "Uncivil Wars: Pathology of Terrorism in India".
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande took over as the 15th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command

Lieutenant General Manoj Pande assumed charge as the 15th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CLINICIAN) on 1 June 2020. He will replace Lieutenant General Podali Shankar Rajeshwar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC. Shankar Rajeshwar was the 14th CINCAN and retired from service on 31 May 2020. He had his distinguished career spanning four decades. He had taken over the appointment on 1 December 19.

Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande:
Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers, The Bombay Sappers, in December 1982. He graduated from Staff College, Camberley, United Kingdom and attended the Higher Command Course at Army War College, Mhow, and National Defence College (NDC) at Delhi. He had a good experience of 37 years of distinguished service. He has taken an active part in Operation Vijay and Parakram. He commanded an Engineer Regiment along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir, an Engineer Brigade as part of the Strike Corps, an Infantry Brigade along LoC, a Mountain Division in High Altitude Area of Western Ladakh and a Corps deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as also in Counter Insurgency Operations area in the North East. He dealt with subjects of Discipline, Ceremonial and Welfare, prior to assuming the present appointment.

Pradip Kumar Tripathi Assumes Charge as Secretary in Ministry of Steel

Shri Pradip Kumar Tripathi has assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India on 1 June 2020. He took over as Secretary upon the superannuation of present incumbent Binoy Kumar. The appointment was approved by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet. Binoy Kumar is a 1983 batch officer who had taken over as Secretary, Ministry of Steel on 1 September 2018. He retired on 30 May 2020.

Pradip Kumar Tripathi:
Pradip Kumar Tripathi is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1987 batch of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre. Prior to this appointment, Tripathi had been posted as Special Secretary and Establishment Officer in Department of
RK Chaturvedi assumed charge as Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals


RK Chaturvedi:
RK Chaturvedi is a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. Prior to this, he served as an Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Culture. He has worked as Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and as DG in the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA).

Department of Chemicals and PetroChemicals:
Department of Chemicals and PetroChemicals was established by GoI in 1991. The department functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. The department is responsible to make policy, planning, development, and regulation of Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industries.

VN Datt takes over as Chairman and MD of National Fertilizers Limited

Virendra Nath Datt, Director (Marketing), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has taken over the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of the Company on 3 June. Datt is associated with Company as Director (Marketing) since October 2018.

Virendra Nath Datt:
Virendra Nath Datt has a professional experience of over 35 years with premier Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) such as GAIL and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) besides the Fertilizer Industry. Prior to the appointment, he served as the Executive Director (ED) in GAIL Limited. He handled all India marketing operations of the company in addition to Corporate Strategy, Planning, and Advocacy. He was also a Director on the Board of Mahanagar Gas Ltd., Mumbai.
As Marketing Director of NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of the company from **43 Lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 Lakh MT in 2019-20**, an increase of 32% over the previous two years. During this period, the NFL established a pan India footprint in the fertilizer industry. He also had a 10-year stint with ONGC before joining GAIL in 1995.

**Uday Kotak takes over as CII president**

**Banker Uday Kotak** assumed office as the **president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for the year 2020-21. He will replace **Vikram Kirloskar**, who is the chairman and managing director (MD) of Kirloskar Systems Ltd and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor.

Also, **T V Narendran**, CEO & MD of Tata Steel Limited, is now the president-designate of CII for 2020-21.

**Sanjiv Bajaj** assumed office as CII vice president for the year 2020-21. He is the chairman and MD of Bajaj Finserv Limited.

**Uday Kotak:**

Uday Kotak is the MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. He is associated with CII for over two decades. Also, he has served in many capacities in the chamber. Kotak has served as a non-executive chairman of the new IL&FS board to steer the company out of its financial crisis. He served as the chairman of the SEBI panel on corporate governance. He holds a bachelor's degree in commerce. He holds an MBA from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day is observed on 1 June

World Milk Day is observed on 1 June every year. The day aims to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector. 2020 Milk day marks the 20th year since the initiative and the entire world celebrates the day to mark the significance of milk intake in the diet.

Aim:
World Milk Day aims to provide information about the need and importance of milk in a human being's life. The day will raise awareness about milk and its products. The day also aims to educate people about the nutrients that are present in milk like calcium, protein, vitamin B2, potassium, iodine, etc.

Milk:
Milk has valuable nutrients. It offers a wide range of health benefits. Milk is a white liquid food produced by the mammary glands of mammals. Milk is not only consumed by growing children but also by the people of all age groups. Milk is a rich source of calcium, protein, fat, and vitamin C. Mainly we get milk from cows, buffaloes, and other animals like sheep, goat, and camel.

History:
World Milk Day was established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The day was initiated to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. The day has been observed each year since 2001.

Global Day of Parents is celebrated on 1 June

Global Day of Parents is celebrated on 1 June every year. The day aims to honour all the parents throughout the world. The observation of the day recognizes the primary responsibility of the family in nurturing and protecting their children. Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate parents across the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.

History:
During the 1980s, the United Nations (UN) focussed on attending issues related to the family. Based on the recommendations of the United Nations Economic and
Social Council (ECOSOC), in 1983, the Commission for Social Development in its resolution on the Role of the family in the development process (1983/23) requested the UN to address the problems and need of the family. The day was designated to enhance awareness among decision-makers and the public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as of effective ways of meeting those needs.

On 9 December 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family. UNGA passed resolution 47/237 in 1993 and designated 15 May of every year as the International Day of Families. In 2012, UNGA proclaimed 1 June as the Global Day of Parents. It also directed its member states to observe the Global Day of Parents annually in honour of parents throughout the world.

**International Sex Workers Day is observed on 2 June**

International Sex Workers Day is observed on 2 June. The day aims to spread awareness about the rights of sex workers so that they too can live a life of respect.

**History:**

On 2 June 1975, approximately 100 sex workers gathered at Sant-Nizier Church in Lyon, France, to express anger about their exploitative living conditions and work culture. The Church was brutally raided by the police forces on 10 June. This action became a national movement. The day is now celebrated in Europe and worldwide. The day aims to ensure they have the same rights as all other human beings do. It is expected that it will help them to tackle problems of them being exploited, abused, or trafficked.

**India:**

National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) report stated that there are around 6,37,500 sex workers in India and over 5 lakh customers visit red-light areas on a daily basis. Women and men are forced into sex work, most of the time, because it is their only way of earning a living.

Measures have been taken to give them equal rights as everyone else and decriminalizing the work they do would not only help destigmatize them but also protect them.
Telangana State Formation Day celebrated on 2 June

**Telangana Day** is celebrated on 2 June each year from 2014. The day marks the state's bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh. Telangana State Formation Day 2020 marks the sixth Telangana State Formation Day. It is the 29th state of India after the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act** was passed in the Parliament.

**Highlights:**
- The bill was introduced on 5 December 2013 in the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Bill Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 was passed in the Parliament of India in February 2014.
- The bill was given assent by the President and published in the Gazette on 1 March 2014.
- Telangana state was formed officially on 2 June 2014.

**About Telangana:**

- **Founded on:** 2 June 2014
- **Governor:** Tamilisai Soundararajan
- **Chief Minister:** K.Chandrashekar Rao
- **Capital:** Hyderabad

Telangana is bordered by:
- Maharashtra to the north
- Chhattisgarh and Karnataka to the west
- Andhra Pradesh to the south and east

World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June

**World Bicycle Day** is observed on 3 June. The day aims to motivate and inspire people towards having more tolerance, understanding, and respect for one another. Bicycle signifies a sustainable means of transport which is good for the environment and economy.

**Aim:**
World Bicycle Day aims to devote special attention to the bicycle in cross-cutting development strategies. It also aims to include the bicycle in international, regional, national, and subnational development policies and programmes. The day aims to adopt best practices and means to promote the bicycle across the world.
**History:**
The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 3 June as International World Bicycle Day in **April 2018**. The observation of the day began as the after-effect of Leszek Sibilski’s crusade and the help of Turkmenistan and 56 different nations to commemorate World Bicycle Day. The day was designated to recognize the uniqueness, longevity, and versatility of the bicycle. It is also a simple, affordable, reliable, clean, and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation. UNGA encouraged its stakeholders to emphasize and advance the use of the bicycle as a means to foster sustainable development, strengthen education, respect, promoting health, preventing disease, promoting tolerance, mutual understanding, and to facilitate social inclusion and a culture of peace.

**International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed on 4 June**

**International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** is observed on 4 June every year. The day aims to make people aware of the protection of children's rights and highlighting their suffering.

**Aim:**
The day aims to acknowledge the pain suffered by children from around the world who are the victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. It also aims to provide each and every family justice, peace, and freedom in the world.

**History:**
In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the **51/77 Resolution** on the Rights of the Child. The day was established on 19 August 1982. The observation of the day originally focused on victims of the 1982 Lebanon War. Many innocent Lebanese and Palestinian children became the victims of the aggression acts by Israel. The day affirms the UN's commitment to protecting the rights of children. It is one of the important efforts to improve the protection of children in conflict situations.

**World Environment Day observed on 5 June**

**World Environment Day** is observed on **5 June**. The day aims to create awareness and action for the protection of the environment.
Theme:
The theme for the 2020 World Environment Day is 'Biodiversity'. The theme focuses on a concern that is both urgent and existential. The theme was based on the recent events including bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia; locust infestations across East Africa; a global disease pandemic COVID-19. These have demonstrated the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist.

History:
In 1972, the United Nations convened the first major conference on environmental issues from June 5-16 in Stockholm, Sweden. It is known as the Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) its goal was to forge a basic common outlook on how to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment.

On 15 December 1972, the General Assembly adopted a resolution A/RES/2994 (XXVII) and designated 5 June as World Environment Day. Later, on 15 December 1972, UNGA adopted another resolution A/RES/3000 (XXVII), that led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the specialized agency on environmental issues. In the year 1974, the first World Environment Day was celebrated with the theme "Only One Earth".
AGREEMENTS MOU

Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment

The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between **India and Bhutan**. The agreement was signed to improve cooperation in the areas of the Environment.

**MoU Provisions:**

MoU will enable and promote the closer and long-term cooperation between India and Bhutan in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources on the basis of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefits.

Both the countries agreed mutually to set priorities in the following areas of the environment including Air, Waste, Chemical Management, Climate Change, any other areas jointly decided upon.

The agreement will stay in force for a period of 10 years.

It encourages organizations, private companies, government institutions at all levels and research institutions on India and Bhutan to establish cooperation activities.

**Background:**

The MoU was signed between the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** of India and the National Environment Commission (NEC) of Bhutan on 11 March 2013. This MoU expired on 10 March 2016. Considering the benefits of the earlier MoU, both sides have decided to continue cooperation and collaboration in the field of Environment.
India ranked 23rd in the 2020 Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report

StartupBlink has released the Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020. India ranked 23rd in the report. The report ranks 1,000 cities and 100 countries worldwide, based on their startup ecosystem strength and activity level. StartupBlink is a global startup ecosystem map and research center.

**Highlights:**

India has dropped 6 places to be ranked at the 23rd spot in the latest ranking. India scored 5.698. In 2019, India ranked at the 17th spot.

The Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020 was topped by the United States with a score of 123.167.

The ranking is based upon three primary parameters:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Business Environment

In terms of cities, 6 Indian cities made a place in the top 100, compared to 7 cities in 2019.

India's Silicon Valley Bengaluru is the top Indian city with the best startup ecosystem ranking, ranked 14th in the list.

Delhi ranked 15th rank, Mumbai ranked 22nd and Hyderabad ranked 96th.

Globally, the top three cities with the best startup ecosystems are:

- San Francisco Bay, United States
- New York, United States
- London, United Kingdom

**Top 5 countries:**

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Israel
- Canada
- Germany

President promulgates 2 Ordinances to boost rural India and agriculture

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the two Ordinances
namely the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020. The move comes after the announcement of the landmark decisions by the Government of India for reforms in the agricultural sector for raising the income of the farmers as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

**Highlights:**

The ordinance aims to boost rural India for farmers engaged in agriculture and allied activities.

The two ordinances will enable barrier-free trade in agriculture produce, and also empower the farmers to engage with sponsors of his choice.

It provides the freedom to the farmers, which is of paramount importance.

**The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020:**

The ordinance will support the farmers and traders relating to the sale and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.

It will promote transparent, efficient, and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce that are produced outside the deemed markets notified under various State agricultural produce market legislations.

Also, the Ordinance will provide a facilitative framework for electronic trading.

**The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020:**

The ordinance will provide for a national framework on farming agreements.

It will protect and empower farmers to engage with agri-business firms, wholesalers, exporters, or large retailers.

The ordinance will enhance farm services and sale of future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework and transparent manner.
1) When is the World Milk Day observed?
A. 25 May  
B. 28 May  
C. 30 May  
D. 1 June

**Answer D**

**Explanation** World Milk Day is observed on 1 June every year. The day aims to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector. 2020 Milk day marks the 20th year since the initiative and the entire world celebrates the day to mark the significance of milk intake in the diet.

2) When was the World Milk Day initiated?
A. 1990  
B. 1995  
C. 2001  
D. 2005

**Answer C**

**Explanation** World Milk Day was established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The day was initiated to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. The day has been observed each year since 2001.

3) When is the Global Day of Parents observed?
A. 1 June  
B. 2 June  
C. 3 June  
D. 4 June

**Answer A**
Explanation Global Day of Parents is celebrated on 1 June every year. The day aims to honour all the parents throughout the world. The observation of the day recognizes the primary responsibility of the family in nurturing and protecting their children. Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate parents across the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.

4) 2020 World Milk day marked the ________ year of observation.

A. 10th  
B. 15th  
C. 20th  
D. 25th

Answer C

Explanation World Milk Day is observed on 1 June every year. The day aims to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector. 2020 Milk day marks the 20th year since the initiative and the entire world celebrates the day to mark the significance of milk intake in the diet.

5) Which year was observed as the International Year of the Family?

A. 1985  
B. 1988  
C. 1990  
D. 1994

Answer D

Explanation On 9 December 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family. UNGA passed resolution 47/237 in 1993 and designated 15 May of every year as the International Day of Families. In 2012, UNGA proclaimed 1 June as the Global Day of Parents. It also directed its member states to observe the Global Day of Parents annually in honour of parents throughout the world.

6) Who is appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command?

A. Manoj Pande  
B. Iqroop Singh Ghuman
C.Ravendra Pal Singh
D.Alok Singh Kler

Answer A

Explanation Lieutenant General Manoj Pande assumed charge as the 15th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) on 1 June 2020. He will replace Lieutenant General Podali Shankar Rajeshwar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC. Shankar Rajeshwar was the 14th CINCAN and retired from service on 31 May 2020. He had his distinguished career spanning four decades. He had taken over the appointment on 1 December 19.

7) When did the UN proclaim the observation of the Global Day of Parents?

A.2000
B.2014
C.2008
D.2012

Answer D

Explanation In 2012, UNGA proclaimed 1 June as the Global Day of Parents. It also directed its member states to observe the Global Day of Parents annually in honour of parents throughout the world.

8) Who served as the 14th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN)?

A.Satinder Kumar Saini
B.Raj Shukla
C.Shankar Rajeshwar
D.Manoj Mukund Naravane

Answer C

Explanation Lieutenant General Podali Shankar Rajeshwar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC served as the 14th CINCAN and retired from service on 31 May 2020. He had his distinguished career spanning four decades. He had taken over the appointment on 1 December 2019.

9) Which State has announced to provide functional tap connections to 13 lakh rural households in the 2020-21 year?
A. Assam
B. Madhya Pradesh
C. Arunachal Pradesh
D. Tripura

Answer A

Explanation Assam State government presented the Annual Action Plan for consideration and approval of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Government of India (GoI) approved Rs. 1,407 crore for 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Assam plans to provide tap connections to 13 lakh households out of a total of 63 lakhs in 2020-21.

10) What is the name of the Active asteroid discovered near Jupiter?

A. 2019 Jup1036
B. 2019 JR10A
C. 2019 LD2
D. 2019 AA1

Answer C

Explanation Astronomers have discovered a rare kind of space object. It is described as something between an asteroid and a comet. The object has been called an active asteroid. The celestial body was first noticed by the astronomers in June 2019 when the University of Hawaiis Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) detected a faint new signal that appeared to be an asteroid in the Trojan group. The newly discovered asteroid is named 2019 LD2.

11) How much did the Centre approve for Assam 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)?

A. Rs. 1,407 crore
B. Rs. 2,018 crore
C. Rs. 2,647 crore
D. Rs. 3,201 crore

Answer A

Explanation Assam State government presented the Annual Action Plan for consideration and approval of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Government of India (GoI) approved Rs. 1,407 crore for 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Assam plans to provide tap connections to 13 lakh households.
households out of a total of 63 lakhs in 2020-21.

12) Who launched "My Life, My Yoga" contest amid lockdown?

A. President Ram Nath Kovind  
B. PM Narendra Modi  
C. President Xi Jinping  
D. President Vladimir Putin  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a "My Life, My Yoga", a video blogging competition while addressing the nation in 12th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat 2.0' on 31 May 2020. The My Life, My Yoga or Jeevan Yoga is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

13) Assam State government presented the Annual Action Plan for consideration and approval of the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the year ________.

A. 2020-21  
B. 2021-22  
C. 2022-23  
D. 2023-24  

**Answer A**  

**Explanation** Assam State government presented the Annual Action Plan for consideration and approval of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Government of India (GoI) approved Rs.1,407 crore for 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Assam plans to provide tap connections to 13 lakh households out of a total of 63 lakhs in 2020-21.

14) An active asteroid is discovered near ________ Orbit for the first time in billion years.

A. Saturn  
B. Mars  
C. Neptune  
D. Jupiter
Astronomers have discovered a rare kind of space object. It is described as something between an asteroid and a comet. The object has been called an active asteroid. The celestial body was first noticed by the astronomers in June 2019 when the University of Hawaiis Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) detected a faint new signal that appeared to be an asteroid in the Trojan group.

15) Who assumed charge as the Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals?

A. Ajay Pande
B. RK Chaturvedi
C. SP Abishek Kumar
D. Raj Kumar Singh

Answer B


16) When is Telangana State Formation Day celebrated?

A. 1 June
B. 2 June
C. 3 June
D. 4 June

Answer B

Telangana Day is celebrated on 2 June each year from 2014. The day marks the state's bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh. Telangana State Formation Day 2020 marks the sixth Telangana State Formation Day.

17) Who was superannuated on 31 May 2020 as Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals?

A. Param Veer
B. Dutta Patel
C.Kiran Pratap  
D.Raghavendra Rao

**Answer D**

**Explanation** P.Raghavendra Rao was superannuated on 31 May 2020 as Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. He was replaced by RK Chaturvedi.

18) Telangana is the _______ state in India.

A.28th  
B.29th  
C.30th  
D.27th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Telangana Day is celebrated on 2 June each year from 2014. The day marks the state's bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh. Telangana State Formation Day 2020 marks the sixth Telangana State Formation Day. It is the 29th state of India after the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was passed in the Parliament.

19) When was the Department of Chemicals and PetroChemicals established?

A.1985  
B.1991  
C.1994  
D.1998

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Department of Chemicals and PetroChemicals was established by GoI in 1991. The department functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. The department is responsible to make policy, planning, development, and regulation of Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industries.

20) When was the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act passed?

A.2012  
B.2013
21) Who launched CHAMPIONS Platform?

A. President Ram Nath Kovind  
B. PM Narendra Modi  
C. Minister Piyush Goyal  
D. Minister Nirmala Sitharaman  

Answer B  

Explanation Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched CHAMPIONS, the technology platform on 1 June. The platform aims to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). It is an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) based system. The entire ICT architecture is created in house with the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at no cost.

22) In which year, the Telangana State was formed?

A. 2012  
B. 2013  
C. 2014  
D. 2015  

Answer C  

Explanation The Bill Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 was passed in the Parliament of India in February 2014. The bill was given assent by the President and published in the Gazette on 1 March 2014. Telangana state was formed officially on 2 June 2014.

23) CHAMPIONS platform aims to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). What does CHAMPIONS stand for?

A. Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength
B. Coal and Heavy Application of Mega Processes to Increase Ore and Natural Source
C. Cost and Hour Application of Metro Processes to Improve the Output and National Strength
D. Centre for Health Application of Modern Processes for Innovation & Outstanding New Source

Answer A

Explanation Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched CHAMPIONS, the technology platform on 1 June. The platform aims to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). CHAMPIONS stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

24) Who is the Governor of Telangana?

A. E. S. L. Narasimhan
B. Vanathi Srinivasan
C. Bandaru Dattatreya
D. Tamilisai Soundararajan

Answer D

Explanation Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan is an Indian medical doctor, the Governor of Telangana, and former President of the Tamil Nadu BJP.

25) The Government has announced that it is to provide _________ to 1.5 crore dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies within the next two months from 1 June-31 July 2020.

A. Smart Ration Card
B. Kisan Soil Scheme card
C. Kisan Credit Card
D. Kisan Drought card

Answer C

Explanation The Government has announced that it is to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies within the next two months from 1 June-31 July 2020, under a special drive. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Financial Services has issued KCC application format to all State Milk Federation and Milk Unions for implementing the same.
26) Which state does not share border with Telangana?
A. Maharashtra  
B. Madhya Pradesh  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Chhattisgarh  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Telangana is bordered by Maharashtra to the north, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka to the west, Andhra Pradesh to the south and east. The state does not share a border with Madhya Pradesh.

27) When is the International Sex Workers Day observed?
A. 13 March  
B. 6 May  
C. 2 June  
D. 14 July  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** International Sex Workers Day is observed on 2 June. The day aims to spread awareness about the rights of sex workers so that they too can live a life of respect.

28) ________ is to identify lead compounds from available and approved drugs for anti-SARS-CoV-2 drug molecules.
A. IIT-Kanpur  
B. IISc Bangalore  
C. IIT BHU  
D. CSIR  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has approved support for research at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (BHU) Varanasi to identify lead compounds from available and approved drugs for anti-SARS-CoV-2 drug molecules. The IIT (BHU) on a mission mode.
researchers are working on developing new drug candidates against SARS-CoV-2 by exploring DrugBank.

29) When did 100 sex workers gathered at Sant-Nizier Church in Lyon, France, to express anger about their exploitative living conditions and work culture, which led to the formation of International Sex Workers Day?

A.1963  
B.1968  
C.1975  
D.1982

Answer C

Explanation On 2 June 1975, approximately 100 sex workers gathered at Sant-Nizier Church in Lyon, France, to express anger about their exploitative living conditions and work culture. The Church was brutally raided by the police forces on 10 June. This action became a national movement. The day is now celebrated in Europe and worldwide.

30) Centre approved _______ for implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Odisha State for the financial year 2020-21.

A.Rs.750 crore  
B.Rs.812 crore  
C.Rs.938 crore  
D.Rs.1,006 crore

Answer B

Explanation Government of India approved Rs.812 crore for implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the State for the financial year 2020-21. Centre also approved an estimated outlay of Rs.3.60 Lakh crore, out of which the Central government will share Rs.2.08 lakh crore and the Odisha State government will share Rs.1.52 Lakh crore respectively.


A.StartupIdea  
B.StartupCareer  
C.StartupBlink
D. StartupIndia

Answer C

Explanation StartupBlink has released the Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020. India ranked 23rd in the report. The report ranks 1,000 cities and 100 countries worldwide, based on their startup ecosystem strength and activity level. StartupBlink is a global startup ecosystem map and research center.

32) When is the World Bicycle Day observed?

A. 1 June  
B. 3 June  
C. 12 June  
D. 20 June

Answer B

Explanation World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June. The day aims to motivate and inspire people towards having more tolerance, understanding, and respect for one another. Bicycle signifies a sustainable means of transport which is good for the environment and economy.

33) When was the MoU signed between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of the Environment?

A. 2012  
B. 2013  
C. 2014  
D. 2015

Answer B

Explanation The MoU was signed between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of India and the National Environment Commission (NEC) of Bhutan on 11 March 2013. This MoU expired on 10 March 2016. Considering the benefits of the earlier MoU, both sides have decided to continue cooperation and collaboration in the field of Environment.

34) When did the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declare 3 June as International World Bicycle Day?
A.2012  
B.2014  
C.2016  
D.2018  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 3 June as International World Bicycle Day in April 2018. The observation of the day began as the after-effect of Leszek Sibilski's crusade and the help of Turkmenistan and 56 different nations to commemorate World Bicycle Day.

35) **When was the MoU which was signed between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment expired?**

A.2008  
B.2012  
C.2016  
D.2019  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The MoU was signed between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of India and the National Environment Commission (NEC) of Bhutan on 11 March 2013. This MoU expired on 10 March 2016. Considering the benefits of the earlier MoU, both sides have decided to continue cooperation and collaboration in the field of Environment.

36) **Who assumed office as the Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)?**

A. Virendra Nath Datt  
B. B. N. Kirpal  
C. Mahesh Mittal Kumar  
D. Sriram Kalyanaraman  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Virendra Nath Datt, Director (Marketing), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has taken over the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of the Company on 3
June. Datt is associated with Company as Director (Marketing) since October 2018.

37) Cabinet approved to rename Kolkata Port as _________.

A. Deendayal Port
B. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port
C. Bidhan Chandra Roy Port
D. Chandra Sen Port

Answer B

Explanation The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. The decision was made by the Board of Trustees of Kolkata Port Trust in its Meeting held on 25 February 2020. The Board also passed a Resolution to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an eminent jurist, academician, thinker, leader of the masses, and a front-runner in national integration, dreamer of Bengal's development, the inspiration for industrialization.

38) When was National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) established?

A. 1970
B. 1979
C. 1986
D. 1994

Answer B

Explanation National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) was established on 1 September 1979. The India state-owned producer of chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers, and industrial chemicals. As of 2018, it was the second-largest producer of fertilizers in India.

39) Which is the only riverine port of India?

A. Mumbai Port
B. Chennai Port
C. Kolkata Port
D. Kochi Port

Answer C
Explaination The Kolkata Port is the first Major Port and the only riverine port of the country. The port features at Serial Number 1 in The First Schedule, Part I-Major Ports of the Indian Ports Act, 1908. It is governed by the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. Kolkata Port has been India's gateway to trade, commerce, and economic development. The port has witnessed historic events including India's struggle for independence, World Wars I & II, and socio-cultural changes taking place in the country, especially in Eastern India.

40) Who launched pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity through video conference in New Delhi on 3 June 2020?

A. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala  
B. R. K. Singh  
C. V. K. Sharma  
D. Sandeep Jajodia

Answer B

Explanation Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy & Minister of State (Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) RK Singh launched pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity through video conference in New Delhi on 3 June 2020. The real-time has placed the Indian electricity market amongst a league of few electricity markets in the world.

41) India ranked ______ in the 2020 Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report.

A. 10th  
B. 15th  
C. 23rd  
D. 30th

Answer C

Explanation StartupBlink has released the Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020. India ranked 23rd in the report. The report ranks 1,000 cities and 100 countries worldwide, based on their startup ecosystem strength and activity level. StartupBlink is a global startup ecosystem map and research center.

42) The Government of India's target of 175 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by ______ is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India.

A. 2020
B.2021
C.2022
D.2024

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Government of India's target of 175 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India. The real-time market would help to mitigate challenges to the grid management due to the intermittent and variable nature of renewable energy generation and therefore, help to integrate higher quantum of renewable energy resources into the grid.

43) Which country topped the 2020 Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report?

A.US
B.UK
C.Israel
D.Switzerland

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020 was topped by the United States with a score of 123.167.

44) On 3 June 2020, Cabinet approved MoU between India and ________ on Cooperation in the areas of Environment.

A.Thailand
B.Bhutan
C.Bangladesh
D.Myanmar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Bhutan. The agreement was signed to improve cooperation in the areas of the Environment. MoU will enable and promote the closer and long-term cooperation between India and Bhutan in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources on the basis of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefits.
45) Which City topped the 2020 Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report with the best startup ecosystems?

A. Moscow  
B. New York  
C. San Francisco Bay  
D. London

**Answer C**

**Explanation** San Francisco Bay, United States topped the 2020 Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report with the best startup ecosystems.

46) Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed with His Excellency __________, President of Mozambique.

A. Ossufo Momade  
B. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi  
C. Afonso Dhlakama  
D. Armando Guebuza

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed with His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique. The leaders discussed the challenges posed in both countries by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

47) Who is appointed as CII vice president for the year 2020-21?

A. Vikram Kirloskar  
B. Keshav R Murugesh  
C. Nandan Nilekani  
D. Sanjiv Bajaj

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Sanjiv Bajaj assumed office as CII vice president for the year 2020-21. He is the chairman and MD of Bajaj Finserv Limited.
48) Which is the capital of Mozambique?

A. Luanda  
B. Maseru  
C. Maputo  
D. Lusaka

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Maputo is the capital of East Africa's Mozambique. It is an Indian Ocean port with preserved Portuguese colonial architecture. Many turn-of-the-century buildings are in the downtown jacaranda-lined Baixa neighborhood.

49) When was the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) formed?

A. 1888  
B. 1895  
C. 1903  
D. 1907

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is an industry association in India. The non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization was founded in 1895.

50) What is the currency of Mozambique?

A. Mozambican metical  
B. Mozambican dollar  
C. Mozambican birr  
D. Mozambican kwacha

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The new Metical is the official currency of Mozambique. It is subdivided into 100 centavos. In the southern part Mozambique, US Dollars, the South African Rand, and the British Pound Sterling are also used for business transactions.

51) ________ developed a ventilator for which the design, controllers, and
embedded electronics have been customized to ensure price efficacy and to meet the requirements of the relevant industries.

A.DRDO  
B.CSIR-CMERI  
C.IISc  
D.IIT-Kanpur

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Researchers at Durgapur-based CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) have indigenously developed a ventilator to provide help and support to the COVID-19 patients. The design, controllers, and embedded electronics have been customized to ensure price efficacy and to meet the requirements of the relevant industries. The ventilator was tested under multiple technical and design changes after adopting critical feedbacks from healthcare professionals.

52) What is the official language of Mozambique?

A.Portuguese  
B.Spanish  
C.Arabic  
D.English

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Portuguese is the official language, although this is generally only spoken by the more educated amongst Mozambique's population. Beside this, more than 60 different dialects of Bantu languages can be found in Mozambique.

53) Ministry of Defence has placed an order on ________ for supply includes 156 BMP 2/2k Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICV) with upgraded features.

A.DRDO  
B.HAL  
C.BEL  
D.OFB

**Answer D**


Explaination Ministry of Defence (MoD) has placed an order worth Rs.1,094 to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The aim is to boost to Make in India initiative. It was approved by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The supply includes 156 BMP 2/2k Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICV) with upgraded features for use of the Mechanised Forces of the Indian Army.

54) Cabinet approved the establishment of PCIM&H as Subordinate Office under the Ministry of ________.

A. Chemical & Fertilizer
B. Power
C. AYUSH
D. Science & Technology

Answer C

Explanation Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi approved the re-establishment of the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). The commission will be formed by merging Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL) and Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM).

55) What is the cost of the order place by Defence Ministry on OFB for the supply of 156 upgraded ICVs?

A. Rs.780 crore
B. Rs.1,094 crore
C. Rs.1,654 crore
D. Rs.1,878 crore

Answer B

Explanation Ministry of Defence (MoD) has placed an order worth Rs.1,094 to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The aim is to boost to Make in India initiative. It was approved by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The supply includes 156 BMP 2/2k Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICV) with upgraded features for use of the Mechanised Forces of the Indian Army.

56) When was Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) established?

A. 2000
Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) was initially established as the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) in the year 2010. However, in pursuance to the decision of the Central Government (dated 20th March 2014), Homoeopathy was incorporated and the Commission was renamed as Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H).

57) When is the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression observed?

A. 1 June
B. 4 June
C. 7 June
D. 11 June

Answer B

Explanation International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed on 4 June every year. The day aims to make people aware of the protection of children's rights and highlighting their suffering. The day aims to acknowledge the pain suffered by children from around the world who are the victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. It also aims to provide each and every family justice, peace, and freedom in the world.

58) Which of the following Union Territories got approval for the Annual Action Plan of Puducherry for Financial Year 2020-21?

A. Delhi
B. Daman & Diu
C. Puducherry
D. Ladakh

Answer C

Explanation GoI approved the Annual Action Plan of Puducherry for Financial Year 2020-21. The plan was approved by National Jal Jeevan Mission. Puducherry Union Territory plans to
provide household tap connections to remaining households in 2020-21.

59) When did UNGA adopt the 51/77 Resolution on the Rights of the Child?

A. 1985
B. 1988
C. 1995
D. 1997

Answer D

Explanation In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the 51/77 Resolution on the Rights of the Child. The day was established on 19 August 1982. The observation of the day originally focused on victims of the 1982 Lebanon War.

60) Who is appointed as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)?

A. Uday Kotak
B. T V Narendran
C. Padmaja Chunduru
D. Ramaswami Kumar

Answer A

Explanation Banker Uday Kotak assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the year 2020-21. He will replace Vikram Kirloskar, who is the chairman and managing director (MD) of Kirloskar Systems Ltd and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor.

61) When did UNGA decide to designate the 4 June as International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression?

A. 1975
B. 1978
C. 1982
D. 1985

Answer C

Explanation On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine,
the General Assembly, appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression, decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.

62) Which Ministry launched TULIP, an Internship Program with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)?

A. Ministry of Power
B. Ministry of Science & Technology
C. Ministry of Human Resource Development
D. Ministry of AYUSH

Answer C

Explanation Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) launched The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP), an Internship Program with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country. It was jointly launched by the Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank and MoS (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep. S. Puri.

63) ________ is to develop host-directed antivirals for COVID-19 disease.

A. CSIR
B. ICMR
C. SCTIMST
D. NCVTC

Answer D

Explanation The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has approved support for the research and study done by the National Centre for Veterinary Type Cultures (NCVTC), ICAR-NRC from Hisar in Haryana. The researchers will screen the library of 94 small molecule chemical inhibitors for antivirals against coronaviruses.

64) When is the World Environment Day observed?

A. 12 May
B. 5 June
C. 4 July
D. 14 August
Answer B

Explanation World Environment Day is observed on 5 June. The day aims to create awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

65) Under Nagar van scheme _________ Urban Forests has been decided to be developed.

A.200  
B.350  
C.400  
D.500  

Answer A

Explanation Government announced the implementation of the Nagar van scheme to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in the next 5 years. The announcement was made on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED). The move is in line with WED 2020's focus on 'Biodiversity'.

66) What is the theme for World Environment Day 2020?

A.Air Pollution  
B.Biodiversity  
C.Beat Plastic Pollution  
D.Connecting People to Nature  

Answer B

Explanation World Environment Day is observed on 5 June. The day aims to create awareness and action for the protection of the environment. The theme for the 2020 World Environment Day is 'Biodiversity'. The theme focuses on a concern that is both urgent and existential.

67) Who is named the EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020?

A.Roshni Nadar  
B.Chanda Kochhar  
C.Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw  
D.Naina Lal Kidwai
Answer C

Explanation Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder and Chairperson & Managing Director of Biocon, has been named EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020. The award is to recognize her contribution to improving universal access to affordable life-saving medicine and thus transforming the world.

68) When did the United Nations convene the first major conference on environmental issues?
A.1968  
B.1972  
C.1976  
D.1980

Answer B

Explanation In 1972, the United Nations convened the first major conference on environmental issues from June 5-16 in Stockholm, Sweden. It is known as the Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) its goal was to forge a basic common outlook on how to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment.

69) Who is the Indian/s who received EY World Entrepreneur of the year award?
A.Uday Kotak  
B.Narayana Murthy  
C.Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw  
D.All the above

Answer D

Explanation Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder and Chairperson & Managing Director of Biocon, has been named EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020. The award is to recognize her contribution to improving universal access to affordable life-saving medicine and thus transforming the world. She became only the third Indian to receive this prestigious award after Uday Kotak and Narayana Murthy.

70) Where was the UN's first major conference on environmental issues held?
A. Vietnam  
B. Rome  
C. New York  
D. Stockholm

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In 1972, the United Nations convened the first major conference on environmental issues from June 5-16 in Stockholm, Sweden. It is known as the Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) its goal was to forge a basic common outlook on how to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment.

**71) Who is the first woman to receive the EY World Entrepreneur of the year award?**

A. Cheong Koon Hean  
B. Chua Sock Koong  
C. Olivia Lum  
D. Elim Chew

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore is the first person to have won the title in 2011.

**72) When was the first World Environment Day observed?**

A. 1972  
B. 1973  
C. 1974  
D. 1976

**Answer C**

**Explanation** On 15 December 1972, the General Assembly adopted a resolution A/RES/2994 (XXVII) and designated 5 June as World Environment Day. Later, on 15 December 1972, UNGA adopted another resolution A/RES/3000 (XXVII), that led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the specialized agency on environmental issues. In the year 1974, the first World Environment Day was celebrated with the theme "Only One Earth".
73) Which country is to host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup?

A. China  
B. India  
C. Nepal  
D. Russia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India is to host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup. The hosting rights have been awarded to India by the Asian Football Confederation. This is the second time India will be hosting the event. India hosted the event for the first time in 1979. The information was passed by the All India Football Federation.

74) What was the theme of the first World Environment Day?

A. Clean Air  
B. Only One Earth  
C. Save Earth  
D. Green Economy

**Answer B**

**Explanation** In the year 1974, the first World Environment Day was celebrated with the theme "Only One Earth".

75) _________ launched 'Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings' initiative.

A. EESL  
B. USAID  
C. UNDP & BHEL  
D. A&B

**Answer D**

**Explanation** State-run Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has partnered with US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program and launched 'Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings' initiative. The initiative is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Power Ministry of India and USAID.
76) Which of the following Ordinance was promulgated by the President to boost rural India and agriculture?

A. Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020  
B. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020  
C. Farmers Service on eNAM and Agri Services Ordinance 2020  
D. A & B

Answer D

Explanation The President of India Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the two Ordinances namely the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020. The move comes after the announcement of the landmark decisions by the Government of India for reforms in the agricultural sector for raising the income of the farmers as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

77) Who launched Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways Campaign?

A. Shri Piyush Goyal  
B. Shri Nitin Gadkari  
C. PM Narendra Modi  
D. Shri Rajnath Singh

Answer B

Explanation Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari has launched the UNDP national awareness campaign on Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways on 5 June. The campaign aims to generate awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads of both human beings and animals.

78) Ved Marwah who passed away served as a __________.

A. Director-general of the National Security Guard  
B. Governor of Manipur  
C. Governor of Mizoram  
D. All the above
Answer D

Explanation Ved Marwah who passed away served as Director-general of the National Security Guard, Governor of Manipur, Governor of Mizoram. Ved Marwah served as the police commissioner of Delhi from 1985-88. He then served as the third director-general of NSG from 1988-90. Marwah served as the governor of Manipur from 1999-2003, Mizoram from 2000-2001, and Jharkhand from 2003-2004. He was on the governing council of the Asian Academy Of Film And Television. He has authored a book titled "Uncivil Wars: Pathology of Terrorism in India".

79) Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways is ______ national awareness campaign.

A. UNEP
B. UNDP
C. WHO
D. STAT

Answer B

Explanation Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari has launched the UNDP national awareness campaign on Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways on 5 June. The campaign aims to generate awareness and education for the masses at large towards reducing or eliminating mortality on the roads of both human beings and animals.

80) Who authoured the book Uncivil Wars: Pathology of Terrorism in India?

A. Kateekal Sankaranarayanan
B. Keshari Nath Tripathi
C. Ved Marwah
D. Rama Jois

Answer C

Explanation Ved Marwah has authored a book titled "Uncivil Wars: Pathology of Terrorism in India".

81) __________ develops low-cost catalyst for hydrogen generation from
water.
A. CSIR
B. CeNS
C. DRDO
D. HERML

Answer B

Explanation Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) scientist has discovered that a low cost and efficient way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide as a catalyst. They have found that Molybdenum dioxide (MoO2) nanomaterials annealed in hydrogen atmosphere can act as efficient catalysts. Using this, Hydrogen can be generated from water and produces water on energy generation without any carbon footprint.

82) Which Ministry launched #icommit?
A. Ministry of Earth
B. Ministry of Tourism
C. Ministry of Science & Technology
D. Ministry of Power

Answer D

Explanation Union Minister of Power R. K. Singh launched the #iCommit initiative for building an energy resilient future on 5 June 2020. A campaign was also launched to encourage all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency.

83) What is the atomic number of Molybdenum?
A. 12
B. 15
C. 34
D. 42

Answer D

Explanation Molybdenum is a chemical element with the symbol Mo and atomic number 42. The name is from Neo-Latin molybdænum, from Ancient Greek molybdos, meaning lead, since its ores were confused with lead ores.
84) India held high-level talks with _______ at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

A. China  
B. Pakistan  
C. Myanmar  
D. Nepal  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India and China held high-level talks on 6 June. The talk was initiated by India and was held at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

85) Who promulgated the Agri-Ordinance to boost rural India and agriculture?

A. President  
B. Vice-President  
C. Prime Minister  
D. Cabinet Minister  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The President of India Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the two Ordinances namely the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020. The move comes after the announcement of the landmark decisions by the Government of India for reforms in the agricultural sector for raising the income of the farmers as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

86) What is the chemical formula for Molybdenum?

A. Mb  
B. Md  
C. Mo  
D. My  

**Answer C**
Explanation Molybdenum is a chemical element with the symbol Mo and atomic number 42. The name is from Neo-Latin molybdænum, from Ancient Greek molybdos, meaning lead, since its ores were confused with lead ores.

87) Who heads the #iCommit initiative?

A. BHEL  
B. BEL  
C. SAIL  
D. EESL

Answer D

Explanation The #iCommit initiative will function under the administration of the Ministry of Power. It is headed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

88) Whom did BFI nominate for Khel Ratna?

A. Amit Panghal  
B. Mary Kom  
C. Vikas Krishan  
D. A&C

Answer D

Explanation World silver-medallist and Indian boxer Amit Panghal and Vikas Krishan were nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

89) Which of the following scheme is promoted by the #iCommit initiative?

A. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana  
B. Saubhagya Scheme  
C. Ujwala DISCOM Assurance Yojna (UDAY)  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation #iCommit initiative will promote the flagship scheme of GoI including National Electric Mobility Mission 2020, FAME 1 and 2, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Saubhagya Scheme, Ujwala DISCOM Assurance Yojna (UDAY), Atal Distribution system.
Improvement Yojna (AJAY), Smart Meter National Programme, Pradhan mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahaabhiya (KUSUM), Solar Parks, Grid Connected Rooftop, Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for All (UJALA), Atal JyotiYojna (AJAY).

90) BFI has nominated ________ for the Arjuna awards.

A. Lovlina Borgohain  
B. Simranjit Kaur  
C. Manish Kaushik  
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation BFI has nominated world bronze-winning trio of Lovlina Borgohain under 69kg, Simranjit Kaur under 64kg, and Manish Kaushik under 63kg for the Arjuna awards.
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