4th Week Current Affairs - June 2020
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**INTERNATIONAL**

**China launched last BeiDou Satellite System**

*China* launched the satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System 3 (BDS-3) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province on 23 June 2020.

**BDS-3 Satellite:**

BDS-3 Satellite was carried by a Long March-3B carrier rocket.

It is the 30th BDS-3 satellite and also the 55th of the whole BeiDou satellite family.

BDS-3 will offer its users services including high-precision positioning and short message communication. It will bring new highlights to global navigation satellite systems.

The final BDS satellite weighs over 10,000 pounds. It is the largest of its kind in the family.

The satellite is filled with propellants for maneuvers in orbit.

BDS-3 family will allow the constellation to provide more cost-effective navigation services.

BDS-3 is constructed with 24 satellites in medium-Earth orbits (MEO), three in inclined geosynchronous satellite orbits, and three in geostationary orbits. The satellite is scheduled to provide services worldwide.

The launch of the satellite marked the completion of China's domestically developed BeiDou constellation, one of four global navigation networks alongside the United States' GPS, Russia's GLObal NAvigation Satellite System (GLONASS) and the European Union's (EU’s) Galileo.

**China to join the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty to regulate its arms sales**

*China* announced that it has decided to join the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (UN-ATT) to regulate its arms sales. The decision was made during a three-day meeting which was held from 18-20 June of the top lawmaking committee in China- Legislative Affairs Committee.

**Highlights:**

China has always strictly controlled the export of military products.
China’s move to join the treaty is an important step towards the country's effort to enhance & maintain peace and stability across the globe and support multilateralism.
Under this, China will export military products to sovereign countries and will not export military products to non-state actors.

**Background:**
The move by China comes after the US announced to pull out of the ATT in 2019. US cited the reason was the treaty amounts to international gun control which is a threat to the USA's second amendment right to bear arms. In May 2020, the US announced its exit from the Open Skies Treaty (OST).

**What is the Arms Trade Treaty?**
Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) promotes, regulates, and monitors the international sales and transfer of conventional arms as per the global standards. ATT regulates from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships. UNGA adopted the treaty on 2 April 2013. ATT entered into force on 24 December 2014. As per the treaty, the UN member countries must keep records of international transfers of weapons. It also imposes the member states to prohibit cross-border shipments that could be used in human rights violations or attacks on civilians.

**Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic won the controversial Parliamentary election**

*Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic* won the controversial parliamentary election. The *Serbian Progressive Party (SNS)* won over 60% of the vote, which is around 190 seats in the 250-seat Serbian parliament.

**Background:**
The general election was originally scheduled for 26 April 2020 but was postponed after a state of the emergency was declared to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest block of parties including the Serbian Radical Party (SRP), the Democratic Party, the Party of Freedom and Justice, The Doors (Dveri), the People’s Party, and the Let's not drown Belgrade movement boycotted the election.

**About Siberian Parliament:**
Siberia Parliament is also known as the National Assembly of Siberia. It has a unicameral legislature. The PM of Siberia is elected and appointed by the 250 elected members of the National Assembly. The President of Siberia is also
empowered to propose the name of an individual to the National Assembly for the post of the Prime Minister.

**Mali awarded Project Management Consultancy contract to NTPC to develop 500 MW Solar Park**

The Republic of Mali has awarded the Project Management Consultancy contract to NTPC Limited, a central PSU that functions under the Ministry of Power, in an event held on 24 June 2020. The contract aims to develop 500 MW Solar Park. The event was chaired by the Union Minister of State for Power R.K. Singh, NRE, Skill Development and President of International Solar Alliance (ISA), and Mr.H.E. Sekou Kasse, the Ambassador of Mali.

**Highlights:**
- The event was hosted by ISA in the Ministry of Renewable Energy, New Delhi.
- The Republic of Mali has taken various initiatives towards the energy security of the country especially to increase access to electricity for its citizens.
- The move comes with a focus on solar power and applications.
- The development of Solar Projects in Mali is expected to make a considerable impact on the socio-economic growth of Mali.

**ISA:**
ISA is created with the vision and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and announced jointly with President of France during COP-21 held in Paris in 2015. ISA's vision is for a large-scale solar revolution, hinges on creating a facilitative international ecosystem that enables access to science and economic resources, reduce the cost of technology and capital, facilitates price reduction, and enables the development of storage technology and innovation. With its scale and authoritative understanding of the energy transition opportunities of diverse economies, ISA is the world's foremost energy transition catalyst for bringing a change from energy poverty to energy empowerment.

**Republic of Mali:**
- **President:** Ibrahim Boubacar Keta
- **Prime Minister:** Boubou Cisse
- **Capital:** Bamako
- **Official language:** French
NASA headquarters to be renamed as Mary W. Jackson, one of its Hidden Figures

The US Space Agency, NASA has announced that its headquarters in Washington, D.C., will be named after Mary W. Jackson, one of its history-making engineers. The information was passed by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

Mary W. Jackson:
In 1942, Mary W. Jackson graduated with bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physical science from Hampton University, which is a historically Black university. She was a mathematician & aerospace engineer. She started the NASA career in the segregated West Area Computing Unit of the agency's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. In the year 1951, she was recruited by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which was succeeded in 1958 by NASA, where she worked until her retirement in 1985.

She worked along with Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan, two other history-making Black mathematicians, during the space race. The women's stories were described in Margot Lee Shetterly's 2016 nonfiction book Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race. The movie was adapted into a motion picture titled Hidden Figures. It was nominated for three Academy Awards.

WHO-led coalition ACT-Accelerator needs USD 31.3 billion to fight against COVID-19 pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO)-led coalition ACT-Accelerator announced that it needs $31.3 billion over the next 12 months to fight the COVID-19 and to develop and roll out tests, treatments and vaccines.

Highlights:
As per the report, $3.4 billion had been collected of which $13.7 billion was urgently needed. It leaves the organization with a funding gap of $27.9 billion.

ACT initiative aims to scale up delivery of 500 million tests and 245 million courses of treatments to low- and middle-income countries by mid-2021.

It also aims to deliver 2 billion vaccine doses, including one billion to be bought by low- and middle-income countries, by the end of 2021.

WHO is currently working with a large coalition of drug-development, funding, and distribution organizations under the ACT-Accelerator Hub.
ACT-Accelerator initiative updated that the WHO and global health groups stated that the COVID-19 pandemic still threatens millions of lives and scores of economies.

WHO stated that the investment required is significant, but it pales in significance when compared to the cost of COVID-19.

The total cost of the ACT-Accelerator's work is less than a tenth of the IMF estimate of the global economy is losing every month due to the covid-19 pandemic.

**ACT-Accelerator:**
The coalition is known as Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT)-Accelerator initiative. The ACT-Accelerator was launched in April 2020. Under WHO's global initiative, many public and private organizations are involved in drug-development to funding and distribution to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

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**Russia announces to take first tourist on space walk in 2023 yr**

Russia's **Energia space corporation** has announced that it is to take the first tourist on a spacewalk in 2023, under the terms of a new contract with a US partner. Energia has signed a contract with Space Adventures. Under this, two space tourists to the **International Space Station (ISS).**

**Highlights:**

Energia announced after NASA signed a deal with Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic space tourism company. The deal is to promote private missions to the station after a special training program in the US.

The programme is introduced after the first successful mission by Elon Musk's SpaceX in the month of May 2020 to bring astronauts to the station on a reusable Crew Dragon spacecraft. This has ended nearly a decade of Russia holding a monopoly on shuttling humans to orbit.

SpaceX in March announced its own space tourism trip for three people in the year 2020, on board of the Crew Dragon.

SpaceX together with the Russian agency previously took 8 tourists to the ISS between 2001 and 2009.
MINISTER MANDAVIYA INAUGURATED FIRST 2020 VIRTUAL HEALTHCARE AND HYGIENE EXPO

The Minister of State (MoS) for Shipping (Independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated India's one the largest first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020.

Highlights:
The Expo has been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020 is the first-ever largest virtual exhibition in India.

The event will be virtually made live daily from 22-26 June 2020.

This is a step that marks that the business will happen virtually as Digital India is now making a way forward.

The Expo will help in ramping up domestic production in Pharmaceutical Sector and Health & Hygiene Sector.

FICCI:
Formed: 1927
Headquarters: New Delhi, India
President: Sangita Reddy

MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR INAUGURATED 2020 VIRTUAL INDIA PAVILION AT CANNES FILM MARKET

India is participating at the Cannes Film Festival 2020. The film festival began with the e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion by Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. The Festival will be held from 22-26 June 2020.

Highlights:
The virtual edition of the Cannes Film Market is aimed at exemplifying togetherness and resilience amid the COVID-19 crisis.

India has sent two films, MaiGhat: Crime No 103/200 (Marathi) and Hellaro (Gujarati), to Cannes from India. The two movies are the National Film Award-winning movies in the Market.
The film festival is held in its virtual mode. The festival will host B2B meetings and have a series of round table sessions each day on various aspects of the media and entertainment industry with panelists participating from the world over as also B2G and G2G meetings.

**NITI Aayog, ITF to launch Decarbonising Transport**

*NITI Aayog* in collaboration with *International Transport Forum (ITF)* is to launch the *Decarbonising Transport in India project* on 24 June. The project intends to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India. The project will be launched by ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim and NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

**Decarbonising Transport in India:**

The project will inform the transport and climate stakeholders in India about planned project activities.

The project will provide an opportunity to provide inputs regarding India's transport challenges and how it can be related to CO2 reduction ambitions. The discussion will help to focus the project further on India's specific needs and circumstances.

Decarbonising Transport in India project will design a tailor-made transport emissions assessment framework for India.

It will provide the government with a detailed understanding of current & future transport activity and the related CO2 emissions as a basis for their decision-making.

The project is carried out in the wider context of the International Transport Forum's Decarbonising Transport initiative.

This project is a part of the Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies (DTEE) family of projects, which supports transport decarbonisation across different world regions.

The launch ceremony will be available on YouTube Livestream at https://youtu.be/l2G5x5RdBUM

**Union HRD Minister launched YUKTI 2.0 platform for Higher Education Institutes in New Delhi**
Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched an initiative 'YUKTI 2.0' on 23 June 2020 in New Delhi. The initiative aims to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.

**YUKTI 2.0:**
YUKTI stands for *Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology & Innovation*

YUKTI 2.0 is the logical extension of the earlier version of 'YUKTI'. The initiative aims to identify ideas relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic. YUKTI 2.0 will help in fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the academic institutions.

The initiative is expected to help the government to identify bottlenecks and formulate appropriate policies to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the country.

It will also support creative innovations and technologies to help the society at large.

The portal will prove to be a milestone towards promoting innovations and entrepreneurship culture in the higher education system and involving youth in nation-building.

**Background:**
YUKTI was launched on **11 April 2020** by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way. It was launched with an aim to ensure that students, teachers, and researchers in higher educational institutions are getting appropriate support to meet the requirements needed to advance their technologies and innovations. The outcomes of the earlier version of YUKTI' will be released soon by MHRD.

**PM CARES allocates Rs.2000 crore to fight COVID-19 pandemic**

Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) Trust has allocated Rs.2000 crore for supply of 50000 Made-in-India ventilators to government-run COVID-19 hospitals in all States/Union Territories (UT). Further, a sum of Rs. 1000 crore has been allocated for the welfare of migrant labourers.
**Highlights:**
Out of the 50000 Made-in-India ventilators, 30000 ventilators is manufactured by M/s Bharat Electronics Limited.
The other 20000 ventilators will be manufactured by AgVa Healthcare (10000), AMTZ Basic (5650), AMTZ High End (4000), and Allied Medical (350).
Until now, 2923 ventilators have been manufactured. Out of the newly manufactured ventilators, 1340 ventilators have already been delivered to the States/UTs.
The ventilators were distributed to states including Maharashtra (275), Delhi (275), Gujarat (175), Bihar (100), Karnataka (90), Rajasthan (75).
It is expected that by the end of June 2020, additional 14,000 ventilators will be delivered to all States/UTs.

**Other measures:**
Also, PM CARES Fund trust has provided a sum of Rs.1000 crore to States/UTs for the welfare of the migrant labourers. The distribution of the fund is based on the formula of 50% weightage for the population as per the 2011 census, 40% weightage for the number of positive COVID-19 cases & the remaining 10% for equal distribution among all the States/UTs. This assistance was used to arranged accommodation, food, medical treatment, and transportation of the migrants in the respective states.
The main recipients of the grant are:
- Maharashtra with Rs.181 crore
- Uttar Pradesh with Rs.103 crore
- Tamil Nadu with Rs.83 crore
- Gujarat with Rs.66 crore
- Delhi with Rs.55 crore
- West Bengal with Rs.53 crore
- Bihar with Rs.51 crore
- Madhya Pradesh with Rs.50 crore
- Rajasthan with Rs.50 crore
- Karnataka with Rs.34 crore

**Make in India initiative in locust control trials of prototype vehicle mounted ULV sprayer successfully conducted**
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), under Make in India initiative indigenously develop a vehicle-mounted ULV sprayer for locust control to overcome the limitation of importing equipment.

**Highlights:**
Mechanization and Technology Division of DAC&FW developed a prototype of the sprayer, through an Indian manufacturer.
The trials of the sprayer were successfully conducted in Ajmer and Bikaner district of Rajasthan.
As the ground control vehicles with sprayers used for locust control can only spray up to a height of 25-30 feet the tractor-mounted sprayers were used. It reached to the inaccessible areas and tall trees.
The deployment of drones has enhanced another dimension in the capabilities of Locust Circle offices to ensure effective control over desert locust.
Currently, vehicle-mounted sprayers were supplied by M/s Micron Sprayers, UK. GoI placed an order for 60 nos. of sprayers on the firm in February 2020.

**Cabinet approved setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund**

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF). The approval is to provide a much-needed boost to infrastructure across sectors, which are crucial in the time of the pandemic.

**Highlights:**
To set up AHIDF, the Centre allocated a sum of Rs.15000 crore.
AHIDF will be an incentive infrastructure investment in dairy, meat processing, and animal feed plants.
The beneficiaries who are eligible under the Scheme are Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies, and individual entrepreneurs with only a 10% margin money contribution by them.
The remaining 90% will be the loan component that is to be made available to them by scheduled banks.
Centre will provide a 3% interest subvention to eligible beneficiaries.
It also announced a 2 years moratorium period for repayment of the loan with 6 years repayment period thereafter.
GoI is to establish a Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs.750 crore to be managed by NABARD. It will credit guarantee to the projects that are covered under the MSME defined ceilings.

Guarantee Coverage will be up to 25% of the Credit facility of the borrower.

**Background:**
GoI had earlier approved the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) worth Rs.10,000 crores for incentivizing investment by the cooperative sector for the development of dairy infrastructure. But, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Private companies were also needed to be promoted and incentivized for their participation in processing and value addition infrastructure in the animal husbandry sector.

**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released 2020 Annual TB Report**

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the annual TB Report 2020 through a virtual event on 24 June. Also, a Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) report, a manual on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to TB patients under NIKSHAY system, a Training Module, and the quarterly newsletter NIKSHAY Patrika was released.

**Report Highlights:**
The report stated that around 24.04 Lakh TB patients have been notified in the year 2019. The new reports amount to a 14% increase in TB notification as compared to the year 2018.

Centre is to achieve near-complete on-line notification of TB patients through the NIKSHAY system.

There occurred a reduction in the number of missing cases to 2.9 lakh cases against more than 10 lakhs in 2017.

Notifications by the Private sector increased by 35% with 6.78 lakh TB patients notified.

It also reported that the proportion of children diagnosed with TB has increased to 8% in 2019 against 6% in 2018, due to easy availability of molecular diagnostics.

The provision to test HIV for all notified TB patients has increased from 67% in 2018 to 81% in 2019.

Treatment services have expanded and resulted in a 12% improvement in the treatment success rate of notified patients to 81% in 2019 against 69% in 2018.
More than 4.5 lakh DOT Centers provide treatment covering almost every village across the country.

NIKSHAY Patrika has expanded the provision of four DBT schemes of the programme namely:

- Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) to TB patients
- Incentive to Treatment Supporters
- Incentive to Private Providers
- Transport incentive to TB patients in the notified tribal areas

Ministry of HRD released roadmap for 2020-21 NCERT

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has released the roadmap for NCERT for the year 2020-21. The move comes as it has been decided to set up a Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission under AtmaNirbhar Bharat. The move also focuses on Samagra Shiksha towards a Learning Outcome centric approach.

**Highlights:**

- MHRD & Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) has directed the NCERT to develop the required resources for implementing these in an effective and timely manner which will lead to an all-around improvement in learning outcomes and learning levels of students.
- Infographics, posters, presentations will explain each of the Learning Outcomes (LOs), for each subject, and for each grade for classes 1-5 will be completed by October 2020 and for classes 6-12 by March 2021.
- Online Teacher training courses for teachers of each grade for classes 1 to 5 will be conducted in phases by December 2020 and for classes 6 to 12 in phases by June 2021.
- NCERT will prepare supplementary/alternative academic learning material for the entire curriculum for learners amid the COVID-19 crisis, especially those who are not able to get access to the digital/online access, for classes 1-5 in phases by December 2020; for classes 6-12 in phases by June 2021.
- At least 10 items & questions each to measure each LO of each subject for each grade in at least two levels of proficiency to be prepared for classes 1 to 5 by November 2020 and for the rest of the classes by March 2021.

**New National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**
The Ministry has also initiated a new NCF for School Education. NCERT will be expected to make changes in the textbooks in accordance with the new NCF. Subject experts will initiate this process for school education, and give an interim report by December 2020. MHRD has instructed NCERT to ensure that nothing but the core content is placed in textbooks while redesigning textbooks. Also, the cognitive load of the textbooks is too high. Additional areas including creative thinking, life skills, Indian ethos, art, and integration, etc. will be integrated. NCERT will start working on the layout and design of the new textbooks well in advance, however, the new textbooks shall be written based on the new NCF. The new NCF will be prepared by March 2021. For PM E-Vidya, NCERT is to prepare content for Class 1-12 for SWAYAM PRABHA channels (1 class 1 channel) and start the channels by August 2020.

**Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated two important Bridges in Jammu and Kashmir**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), (MoS) Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated two important Bridges namely Devika and Puneja in Udhampur and Doda districts respectively in Jammu & Kashmir through the virtual platform. The bridge projects will usher in a new era of development for the region.

**Devika Bridge in Udhampur District:**
Devika Bridge in Udhampur District is 10-meter-long and costs around Rs.75 lakhs.
The bridge will solve the traffic issues in the region.
The bridge will help in the smooth passage of Army convoys and vehicles.
The bridge was constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in a span of 1 year.

**Puneja Bridge:**
Puneja Bridge was constructed by BRO at a cost of Rs.4 Crore at Bhaderwah in Doda District.
The bridge is 50-meter-long Puneja
Basoli-Bani-Bhaderwah road is a vital alternate link to the Doda, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah, and Kashmir valley from Pathankot (Punjab) region without passing Jammu and Udhampur.
The new connectivity and infrastructure projects will make Doda to emerge as a new centre of development.

Cabinet approves declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport.

Kushinagar Airport:
Kushinagar Airport is located in the vicinity of several Buddhist Cultural Sites like Sravasti, Kapilvastu, Lumbini.

The declaration of Kushinagar Airport as an International Airport will offer improved connectivity, a wider choice of competitive costs to the air-travellers. The decision will result in boosting domestic/international tourism and economic development of the regions.

It will be an important strategic location with the international border close by.

Note: Kushinagar is located in the north-eastern part of Uttar Pradesh about 50 km east of Gorakhpur. It is one of the important Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched eBloodServices Mobile App

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the eBloodServices' mobile App on 25 June 2020 through video conferencing. The app was developed by the Indian Red Cross Society (ICRS). The Union Health Minister is the Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society.

eBloodServices Mobile App:
eBloodServices Mobile App is developed by the E-Raktkosh team of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) under the Digital India scheme launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2015.

This Blood Donation App is a prime example of how the Digital India Scheme is serving the need for accessing blood services.

Through this App, four units of blood can be requisitioned at a time and the blood bank will wait for as long as 12 hours for the person to collect it.

This app makes it easy for those in need to request for Blood units at IRCS NHQ. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mobile App will provide succor to all those
who direly require blood.

The NHQ Blood Bank conducted 55 blood donation camps collecting 2896 units of blood. A total of 5221 units were collected during the lockdown period.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated Product Application and Development Centre at Paradip, Odisha

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan along with the Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a Product Application & Development Centre (PADC) at Paradip, through video conference on 25 June. It was set up by Indian Oil.

PADC:

PADC is setup by IndianOil at Paradip with a capex of Rs.43 crores, adjacent to its Refinery and Petrochemicals complex.

There are 4 laboratories in PADC namely Polymer Processing Lab, Analytical Testing Lab, Chemical Analysis Lab, and Characterisation Lab.

The Technical centre is equipped with 50 latest sophisticated polymer testing and processing equipment to cater to the needs of customers and new investors.

PADC, Paradip is recognized as a research centre by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India. PADC will act as an incubation centre for new entrepreneur development in and around Odisha in the field of Plastics.

The centre will render assistance to customers and investors in product and application development for polymer finished products such as molded furniture, houseware, woven sacks for packaging cement, fertilizer, healthcare applications like baby diaper, personal protective suit, mask, etc.

The centre will carry out testing and developmental activities for investors of Paradeep Plastic Park and other clusters like Balasore and Khurda.

Prime Minister to launch Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan on 26 June

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan on 26 June 2020 through Video-Conference in presence of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister will interact with villagers from six districts of Uttar Pradesh.
Highlights:

Government of India (GoI) announced the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package to stimulate various sectors.

Also, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan was launched on 20 June 2020 to generate employment with thrust towards creating infrastructure in backward regions of the country.

In Uttar Pradesh, nearly 30 lakh migrant workers returned. 31 districts of Uttar Pradesh have more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers.

By launching the abhiyan in UP, it is expected that it will provide employment, promote local entrepreneurship and create partnership with Industrial associations and other organizations to provide employment opportunities.

For this, GoI & the UP State government has created partnerships with Industry and other organizations.

NITI Aayog launched Behaviour Change Campaign Navigating the New Normal and Website

NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a behaviour change campaign called Navigating the New Normal', and its website on 25 June. Around 92,000 Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) working with NITI Aayog participated in the virtual launch via a webcast.

Highlights:

The campaign focuses on COVID-19-safe behaviours, especially wearing masks, during the Unlock' phase of the ongoing pandemic.

The campaign & website was developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, constituted by the Government of India and chaired by CEO, NITI Aayog.

The campaign has two parts.

The first is a web portal, http://www.covidthenewnormal.com/, containing resources informed by behavioural science and the use of nudge and social norms theory, related to COVID-safe behavioural norms during the ongoing Unlock phase

Empowered Group 6 & Ministry of Health nudged citizens towards desired wearing of masks.
social behaviour.

The effort aims to provide people with prompts and reminders along with simple, easy-to-practice ideas of designing their environment in such a manner that practising these behaviours become easy.

**KVIC launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to stir up monetization of its assets**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to spur monetization of its assets. The first of its kind initiative began with a drive with plantation of 500 saplings each of sandalwood and bamboo at its Nashik training center spread over 262 acres of land. The plantation ceremony was launched through video-conference by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena.

**Highlights:**

KVIC has procured sandalwood saplings from Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC) Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh, and Bamboo saplings from Assam.

The plantation of the Sandalwood was aimed to create an asset for the KVIC.

It has been estimated to fetch between Rs.50 crore to Rs.60 crore in the next 10 to 15 years.

A sandalwood tree matures in 10-15 years and as per the current rate, sells at Rs.10 lakh to Rs.12 lakh each.

Sandalwood trees have high potential in the export market. Sandalwood and its oil have high demand in many countries like China, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, and the US. This will create a great opportunity for India to increase sandalwood plantation and occupy the position of a global leader in sandalwood production.

Also, a special variety of bamboo, Bambusa Tulda, was brought from Assam and planted in Maharashtra. This kind of bamboo is used for making Agarbatti sticks. The aim is to support the local Agarbatti industry and to create regular income for the training center.

**Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service in Chandigarh**
Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) was inaugurated at Chandigarh jointly by V P Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab-cum-Administrator, UT, Chandigarh, along with the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

**Highlights:**

Battery swapping technology will offer the best alternative to slow charging. The facility will help the drivers to make optimum use of the operational hours. The battery swapping model is initially targeted at the commercial segment, that is, electric autos, rickshaws, and electric 2W also and the electric vehicle (EV) which is either factory fitted or retrofitted.

Indian Oil has signed a non-binding Strategic cooperation document with M/s Sun Mobility to explore setting up of Energy infrastructure for EV through the Battery Swapping model across Indian Oil Retail outlets in select cities. Indian Oil will run a Pilot and offering Smart Mobility Proprietary Solutions (SMPLs) to support and service vehicles comprising of e-rickshaws, e-karts, and e-bikes, and e-auto rickshaws up to 20 to 25 quick interchange stations in select cities across India.

The QIS will play a pivotal role in providing an alternative energy solution to the 3-wheeler segment and boosting India’s economic growth. The initiative might bring a reform in the energy sector moving towards carbon-neutral culture.

**DST launches Logo for the celebration of Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year**

Secretary Department of Science and Technology (DST) Prof Ashutosh Sharma launched the official Logo for the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year celebration. DST under the Ministry of Science & Technology has announced many activities like special lecture series of 15-20 lectures in the form of webinars and short feature films on each Autonomous Institutions for the year.

**Highlights:**

DST has been directed to use AI to the newly launched 50 Year logo by representing it on banners in conferences held in the institutes. The institutions will co-brand the lecture series with the DST logo to create greater awareness about 50 years of existence of DST.
Institutes with facilities like museums will make a digital walkthrough or virtual tour that gives a realistic version of the work.

DST will hold lecture series, bringing out publications, documentaries, updating Wikipedia pages of Survey of India, and Autonomous Institutions under DST and events by DST autonomous organizations in India.

**DST:**
Department of Science & Technology was established on 3 May 1971. DST functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology in India. DST observes Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year during the period 3rd May 2020 to 2nd May 2021 with activities. The organization aims to promote new areas of Science & Technology. It is the nodal department to organize, coordinate, and promote Scientific and Technological activities in India. DST also provides funds to various approved scientific projects in India. It supports researchers in India to attend conferences abroad and to go for experimental works.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Ciplas antiviral drug Cipremi to be used to treat COVID-19 infection**

**Cipla Ltd** has announced the launch of its generic version of antiviral drug **Remdesivir** for emergency use in the treatment of the COVID-19 patients. The new drug will be sold under the **brand name Cipremi**. Cipla's antiviral drug Cipremi will join Glenmark's Fabiflu and Hetero's Covifor to treat the COVID-19 patients in India.

**Highlights:**
Cipla was granted regulatory approval by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for restricted emergency use in the country in order to accelerate the approval process considering the urgent medical need with a surge in COVID-19 cases in India, which have crossed the 4,00,000-mark.

The price of the drug is yet to be announced by Cipla.
Cipla will provide training on the use of the drug, inform patients for consent documents, conduct post-marketing surveillance as well as to conduct a Phase-IV clinical trial on Indian patients.

Remdesivir is the only USFDA approved Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) treatment for adults and children hospitalized with suspected or laboratory-confirmed coronavirus infection.

**Background:**
Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare included the use of antiviral drug Remdesivir as part of investigational therapy in India. The drug will be used only for restricted emergency-use in its updated Clinical Management Protocol for COVID-19 patients. The Ministry of Health also approved the off-label application of immunomodulator tocilizumab and convalescent plasma therapy for treating coronavirus patients in a moderate stage of criticality.

**Researchers finds new biomolecules to fight drug resistance in Kala-azar**

Researchers at the **Department of Biotechnology's National Centre for Cell Science (DBT-NCCS)** in Pune discovered **new biomolecules** to fight drug resistance in **Kala-azar exploring** ways to tackle miltefosine resistance.

**Highlights:**
The researchers worked with one of the species of Leishmania that causes infection, called Leishmania major. The researchers manipulated the transporter proteins in the species in a manner that would result in increased uptake of the drug and decrease in its being thrown out of the parasite's body.

The researcher used a computational method to design small molecules, called peptides, that could very specifically interact with the transporter proteins of L. major alone, and not interfere with human proteins in any way.

The peptides were designed to modulate the transporter proteins allosterically, that is, by interacting with the protein molecule at a location other than the specific location where miltefosine binds to it.

The outcomes of the research indicated that this approach could prove useful in the long run to develop novel therapeutics against drug-resistant Leishmania parasites.

**Background:**

Leishmaniasis is a tropical disease affecting almost 100 countries including India. It is caused by a parasite called Leishmania. It is transmitted through the bite of sandflies. There are three main forms of leishmaniasis are:

- visceral, which affects multiple organs and is the most serious form of the disease
- cutaneous causes skin sores and is the most common form
- mucocutaneous causes skin and mucosal lesion

Visceral leishmaniasis is commonly known as Kala-azar in India. It is fatal in over 95% of the cases if left untreated. The only drug available against leishmaniasis is miltefosine. This drug is rapidly losing its effectiveness because of emerging resistance to this drug due to a decrease in its accumulation inside the parasite, which is necessary for the drug to kill the parasite.

Specific types of protein molecules called transporter proteins to play a major role in carrying miltefosine into and out of the parasite's body, which comprises a single cell. A protein called P4ATPase-CDC50' is responsible for the intake of the drug by the parasite, and another protein, called P-glycoprotein', is responsible for throwing this drug out from within the parasite's body.

**Gravel geometry of the Indus river unravel its paleoclimatic history**

Researchers from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, have traced the paleoclimatic history of the Indus River in Ladakh Himalaya. It was traced with the help of geometric data from overlapping gravels of
channel fills.

**Highlights:**

The researchers studied the discharge during periods in which the river experienced an increase in land elevation, due to the deposition of sediment and its incision.

River Terraces are part of valley-wide aggradations, which has been studied extensively in Himalaya to understand the processes driving such a periodic increase in river valley land elevation and incision.

The researchers studied the discharge during periods of established river aggradation and incision of the Indus River, Ladakh Himalaya over late Quaternary.

The researchers used the geometric data from overlapping gravels of channel fills to calculate paleo discharges during net river aggradation at 4723 ka (thousand years), and preserved slack water deposits (SWDs) at 1410 ka to constrain paleo discharges that occurred during net river incision.

The researchers also observed that the aggradation in the Himalayan rivers occurred in glacial-interglacial transient warm climatic conditions (3321 ka and 1714 ka) when the sediment budget in the rivers increased just after the glacial events.

The recent study showed that aggradation took place in the Indus River when sediment to water ratio was higher during MIS-3 (Marine isotope stages (MIS)). Marine oxygen-isotope stages are alternating warm and cool periods in the Earth's paleoclimate, deduced from oxygen isotope data reflecting changes in temperature derived from data from deep-sea core samples) and incision initiated when sediment to water ratio reduced during post-glacial climatically wet phase (early Holocene).
ENVIRONMENT

NCPOR warns about the decline in the Arctic sea ice

The National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has warned about the decline in the Arctic sea ice. The dramatic decline in the Arctic sea ice is due to global warming. The loss of sea ice led to a localized increase in evaporation, air humidity, cloud cover, and rainfall.

**Highlights:**

It is well known that Arctic sea ice is a sensitive indicator of climate change and has strong retaliatory effects on other components of the climate system.

NCPOR observed that the largest decline in Arctic sea ice in the past 41 years happened in July 2019.

It stated that, in the last 40 years (1979-2018), the sea ice has been declining at a rate of -4.7% per decade, while its rate was found to be -13% in July 2019.

It warned that, if this trend continues, there would be no ice left in the Arctic sea by 2050, which would be dangerous for humanity and the entire environment.

The study also stated that the decline of the Arctic sea ice area and the increase in the duration of summer and autumn seasons have affected the local climate & weather over the Arctic Ocean and its marginal seas.

The report also highlighted that the loss of sea-ice at this rate will have a catastrophic impact due to rising global air temperature and slowing down of global ocean water circulation.
**BILLS & ACTS**

**President promulgates Banking Regulation Amendment Ordinance 2020 to ensure safety**

President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated the **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020**. It is in pursuance with the commitment to ensure the safety of depositors across banks. The Ordinance will amend the Banking Regulation Act 1949 as applicable to Cooperative Banks.

**Highlights:**

- The Ordinance will seek to protect the interests of depositors and strengthen cooperative banks by improving governance and oversight.
- The ordinance will extend powers that are already available with RBI in respect of other banks to Co-operative Banks and for sound banking regulation, and by ensuring professionalism and enabling their access to capital.
- The amendments do not affect existing powers of the State Registrars of Co-operative Societies under state co-operative laws.
- The amendments do not apply to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development, and which do not use the word bank or banker or banking and do not act as drawees of cheques.
- The Ordinance will amend Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, to enable the making of a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation of a banking company for protecting the interest of the public, depositors, and the banking system.
- The ordinance will also secure its proper management, even without making an order of moratorium, so as to avoid disruption of the financial system.
DEFENCE

Defence Minister inaugurated two-day Defence Conclave 2020 Gujarat through video conferencing

Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated a two-day digital conference on the defence & aerospace manufacturing sector Defence Conclave 2020, Gujarat via video conference on 26 June. The conclave is being jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Gujarat and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

Highlights:
- The Conclave will bring together high-level government representatives, key industries, and academia.
- The representatives will discuss, deliberate and exchange ideas, viewpoints, and knowledge about critical defence offset policies, sector analyses, and review choices of technology available globally for the manufacturing and production of indigenous defence systems.
- The Conclave intends to build on the positives of the Make in India vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for boosting the defence manufacturing.
- Gujarat has emerged as a State with excellent infrastructure facilities and can offer both forward and backward supply chain linkages to the Defence & Aerospace manufacturing sector.

Indian Navy inducted indigenously developed Torpedo Decoy System

Indian Navy (IN) has inducted indigenously developed Torpedo Decoy System on 26 June 2020. The Advanced Torpedo Decoy System Maareech was designed and developed DRDO labs, Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), and Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL).

Torpedo Decoy System:
- Anti-Submarine Warfare capability of the Indian Navy has received a major boost with the conclusion of a contract for Advanced Torpedo Decoy System Maareech capable of being fired from all frontline warships.
- Bharat Electronics Limited, a Defence PSU, will undertake the production of this decoy system.
- The prototype of the system was installed onboard and a nominated naval platform
had successfully completed all user evaluation trials and demonstrated the features as per the Naval Staff Qualification Requirements.

The induction is the joint resolution of the Indian Navy and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) towards the indigenous development of Defence technology.

This has given a major fillip to the Government's 'Make in India' initiative and the country's resolve to become 'Atmanirbhar' in niche technology.
Tripura launched Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme

Tripura State government announced the Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme. The scheme aims to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women. The scheme is expected to benefit 40,000 women from the state. The initiative was launched as many pregnant women and infants in the state suffer from malnutrition.

Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme:
Under the scheme, nutrition kits will be provided to the pregnant & lactating women. Each kit cost around Rs.500.

Each kit will have food items and grocery supplies, such as peanuts, soya beans, mixed pulses, jaggery, and ghee.

The state government has estimated to incur an expenditure of Rs.8 crore every year for the initiative.

Under this initiative, the pregnant women will be tested four times at a nearby Primary Health Centers (PHC). After the check-up, the beneficiaries will be given a nutrition kit after each test.

The scheme will be in addition to the Pradhan Mantri Matru Bandana Yojana. Previously, the state had allocated Rs.5,000 each under the Matru Bandana Yojana to 58,996 beneficiaries.
Vini Mahajan becomes the first Woman Chief Secretary of Punjab

Senior IAS officer Vini Mahajan assumed charge as Punjab's first woman chief secretary on 26 June 2020. She replaced Karan Avtar Singh. She has become the first Woman Chief Secretary of Punjab.

Vini Mahajan:
Vini Mahajan is a 1987-batch IAS officer. Mahajan is the wife of the state's director-general of police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta. Vini Mahajan will hold the additional charge of principal secretary, personnel, and vigilance. Mahajan is an Economics graduate from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University. She did her post-graduation from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

Karan Avtar Singh:
Karan Avtar Singh is a 1984-batch IAS officer. He was shunted out of the top bureaucratic position two months before his superannuation, which was due on 31 August 2020. Singh is tipped to be the first chairman of the Punjab Water Regulatory Authority set up by the Punjab state government.
IMPORTANT DAYS

United Nations Public Service Day is observed on 23 June

United Nations Public Service Day is observed on 23 June. The day marks the important role and the dedication of public servants during the crisis. The day is to highlight the importance of public service and the valiant people who dedicate their lives to the nation.

Events:
The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) & the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea are organizing an outreach and resource platform from 15-30 June. The aim of the event is to honour and thank the work of public servants globally and focus on the critical role frontline public servants have been playing in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

History:
On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution 57/277 and designated 23 June as Public Service Day. The day was designated to celebrate the virtue & value of public service to the community. The day also highlights the contribution of public service in the development process. The day focuses to recognize the work of public servants and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.
The United Nations established the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme in 2003. It was reviewed in 2016 to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNPSA was initiated with an aim to reward & promote innovation and excellence in public services by recognizing the creative achievements and contributions of public institutions.

International Olympic Day is observed on 23 June

International Olympic Day is observed on 23 June. The day is celebrated by people across the world. On 23 June 2020, the Olympic Movement is to celebrate Olympic Day by creating the world's largest 24 hours digital-first Olympic. The 2020 edition is the first to be celebrated virtually. The day is celebrated to ensure that people can all still #StayActive in the safest way possible despite restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Olympic Day History:
The beginning of Olympic dates back to 1947. Doctor Josef Gruss, a Czech IOC member, presented the idea of the observation of the World Olympic Day at the 41st Session of the International Olympic Committee in Stockholm in 1947. He proposed a day be set aside to celebrate everything that the Olympics stands for. It got approved at the 42nd IOC Session in St Moritz in January 1948. The National Olympic Committees were given the charge to organize International Olympic Day. The date, 23 June, was chosen to celebrate the special moment in the history of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which was established at the Sorbonne, Paris, on 23 June 1894, where Pierre de Coubertin rallied the revival of the Olympic Games.

International Widows Day is observed on 23 June

International Widows' Day is observed on 23 June. A million of widows across the globe live in poverty, and without any substantial support. Widows, and people dependent on them, face extreme poverty, a lot of injustice, among other societal. The day aims to address the issue that widows and their children face in several countries.

Background:
The United Nations passed the resolution A/RES/65/189 and observe International Widows' Day since 2011. The aim is to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need. Th day provides an opportunity to take action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows.

It aims to provide them with information on access to:
- a fair share of the inheritance, productive resources and land
- social protection & pension that is not based on marital status alone
- equal pay & decent work
- education & training opportunities

The day also mean addressing social stigmas that create exclusion, and discriminatory or harmful practices. The day urges all the governments to take necessary action to uphold their commitments to ensure the rights of widows as enshrined in international law, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
India became 12th largest holder of US govt securities at April

India became the 12th largest holder of the United States government securities at the end of April. As per the official data, India held securities worth 157.4 billion dollars.

Highlights:
The US Treasury Department data stated showed that after March India marginally hiked the holding by 0.9 billion dollars to 157.4 billion dollars the next month.

India's holding touched a record high of 177.5 billion dollars in February, the same was drastically reduced in March. It stood at 164.3 billion dollars in January.

As per the report, at the end of April, Japan remained the country with the maximum exposure at 1.27 trillion dollars. It is followed by China at 1.1 trillion dollars and the UK at 368.5 billion dollars.

In India, the American government securities are held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the Central Banks invests in foreign assets as part of its prudential liquidity management.

Top 10 countries:

- Japan with 1.27 trillion dollars
- China with 1.1 trillion dollars
- The UK with 368.5 billion dollars
- Ireland with $300.2 billion
- Luxembourg with $265.5 billion
- Brazil with $259.5 billion
- Hong Kong with $242.8 billion
- Switzerland with $241.3 billion
- Belgium with $210.2 billion
- The Cayman Islands with $206.8 billion
QUIZ CORNER

1) Who inaugurated India's one the largest first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020?

A. Mansukh Mandaviya  
B. Dr. Harsh Vardhan  
C. Piyush Goyal  
D. Amit Shah

Answer A

Explanation The Minister of State (MoS) for Shipping (Independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated India's one the largest first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020. The Expo has been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

2) When is the International Widows' Day observed?

A. 23 June  
B. 25 June  
C. 28 June  
D. 30 June

Answer A

Explanation International Widows' Day is observed on 23 June. A million windows across the globe live in poverty, and without any substantial support. Widows, and people dependent on them, face extreme poverty, a lot of injustice, among other societal. The day aims to address the issue that widows and their children face in several countries.

3) When will the Cannes Film Festival 2020 be held?

A. 21-25 June 2020  
B. 22-26 June 2020  
C. 23-27 June 2020  
D. 24-28 June 2020
Answer B

Explanation India is participating at the Cannes Film Festival 2020. The film festival began with the e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion by Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. The Festival will be held from 22-26 June 2020.

4) The United Nations passed the resolution A/RES/65/189 and observe International Widows' Day since _________.

A.2000
B.2006
C.2011
D.2014

Answer C

Explanation The United Nations passed the resolution A/RES/65/189 and observe International Widows' Day since 2011. The aim is to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need. The day provides an opportunity to take action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows.

5) Who organized India's one the largest first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020?

A.NITI Aayog
B.FSSAI
C.FICCI
D.APEDA

Answer C

Explanation The Minister of State (MoS) for Shipping (Independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated India's one the largest first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020. The Expo has been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

6) What are the movies that were sent to Cannes from India?

A.Hellaro
B.MaiGhat: Crime No 103/200
India has sent two films, MaiGhat: Crime No 103/200 (Marathi) and Hellaro (Gujarati), to Cannes from India. The two movies are the National Film Award-winning movies in the Market. The film festival is held in its virtual mode.

7) When was the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) established?

A. 1927
B. 1935
C. 1940
D. 1947

Answer A

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) was established in 1927. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

8) When is the International Olympic Day observed?

A. 23 June
B. 25 June
C. 27 June
D. 30 June

Answer A

International Olympic Day is observed on 23 June. The day is celebrated by people across the world. On 23 June 2020, the Olympic Movement is to celebrate Olympic Day by creating the worlds largest 24 hours digital-first Olympic. The 2020 edition is the first to be celebrated virtually. The day is celebrated to ensure that people can all still #StayActive in the safest way possible despite restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
B. 22 June
C. 23 June
D. 24 June

**Answer C**

**Explanation** United Nations Public Service Day (UNPSC) is observed on 23 June. The day marks the important role and the dedication of public servants during the crisis. The day is to highlight the importance of public service and the valiant people who dedicate their lives to the nation.

10) When was the first International Olympic Day celebrated?

A. 1948
B. 1956
C. 1963
D. 1970

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The first-ever Olympic day was celebrated on June 23, 1948. The countries of Portugal, Greece, Austria, Canada, Switzerland, Great Britain, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Belgium organized an Olympic Day in their respective countries and IOC President at the time.

11) When did the UNGA adopt the resolution 57/277 to declare the United Nations Public Service Day?

A. 1995
B. 1998
C. 2002
D. 2007

**Answer C**

**Explanation** On 20 December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution 57/277 and designated 23 June as Public Service Day. The day was designated to celebrate the virtue & value of public service to the community.

12) When was the International Olympic Committee (IOC) established?
A.1885
B.1894
C.1902
D.1906

Answer B

Explanation The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a non-governmental sports organization based in Lausanne, Switzerland. It was established by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas in 1894, it is the authority responsible for organizing the modern Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

13) When was the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme established?

A.2002
B.2003
C.2004
D.2008

Answer B

Explanation The United Nations established the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme in 2003.

14) India became _______ largest holder of US govt securities at April end.

A.6
B.12
C.18
D.24

Answer B

Explanation India became the 12th largest holder of the United States government securities at the end of April. As per the official data, India held securities worth 157.4 billion dollars.

15) Who launched Decarbonising Transport in India?

A.NITI Aayog
16) Which country is the largest holder of US govt securities in April end?

A. Japan
B. The UK
C. Ireland
D. India

Answer A

Explanation Japan is the largest holder of US govt securities in April end with 1.27 trillion dollars.

17) Who inaugurated Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020?

A. Nirmala Sitharaman
B. Shivraj Singh Chouhan
C. Prakash Javadekar
D. Digvijaya Singh

Answer C

Explanation India is participating at the Cannes Film Festival 2020. The film festival began with the e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion by Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. The Festival will be held from 22-26 June 2020.

18) Cipla Ltd has announced the launch of ________ for emergency use in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

A. Cipremi
B. Ciplofavir
C. Cipfervor
D. Cipflabi

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Cipla Ltd has announced the launch of its generic version of antiviral drug Remdesivir for emergency use in the treatment of the COVID-19 patients. The new drug will be sold under the brand name Cipremi. Cipla’s antiviral drug Cipremi will join Glenmark’s Fabiflu and Heteros’ Covifor to treat the COVID-19 patients in India.

19) **Which Ministry launched YUKTI 2.0 platform?**

A. Ministry of Home Affairs
B. Ministry of Human Resource Development
C. Ministry of Science & Technology
D. Ministry of Tourism

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched an initiative 'YUKTI 2.0' on 23 June 2020 in New Delhi. The initiative aims to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.

20) **Which country is to join the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (UN-ATT)?**

A. India
B. China
C. Pakistan
D. Afghanistan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** China announced that it has decided to join the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (UN-ATT) to regulate its arms sales. The decision to enter ATT was made during a 3-day meeting which was held from 18-20 June of the top lawmaking committee in China- Legislative Affairs Committee.
21) When was the YUKTI platform launched?

A. March 2020  
B. April 2020  
C. May 2020  
D. June 2020

**Answer B**

Explanation YUKTI was launched on 11 April 2020 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way.

22) Which of the following country announced its exit from the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (UN-ATT) in 2019?

A. China  
B. India  
C. USA  
D. UK

**Answer A**

Explanation US announced to pull out of the ATT in 2019. US cited the reason was the treaty amounts to international gun control which is a threat to the USA's second amendment right to bear arms. In May 2020, the US announced its exit from the Open Skies Treaty (OST).

23) PM CARES Fund Trust has allocated fund for supply of ________ Made-in-India ventilators to government-run COVID-19 hospitals in all States/UTs.

A. 10,000  
B. 20,000  
C. 40,000  
D. 50,000

**Answer D**

Explanation Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) Trust has allocated Rs.2000 crore for supply of 50,000 Made-in-India ventilators to government-run COVID-19 hospitals in all States/Union Territories (UT). Further, a sum of
Rs.1000 crore has been allocated for the welfare of migrant labourers.

**24) When did the UNGA adopt the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)?**

A. 2010  
B. 2012  
C. 2013  
D. 2014  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) promotes, regulates, and monitors the international sales and transfer of conventional arms as per the global standards. ATT regulates from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships. UNGA adopted the treaty on 2 April 2013.

**25) How much did the PM CARES Fund Trust allocate funds to Made-in-India ventilators to government-run COVID-19 hospitals in all States/Union Territories?**

A. Rs.2000 crore  
B. Rs.3000 crore  
C. Rs.4000 crore  
D. Rs.5000 crore  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) Trust has allocated Rs.2000 crore for supply of 50,000 Made-in-India ventilators to government-run COVID-19 hospitals in all States/Union Territories (UT). Further, a sum of Rs. 1000 crore has been allocated for the welfare of migrant labourers.

**26) When was the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) came into force?**

A. 2012  
B. 2014  
C. 2015  
D. 2016  

**Answer B**
Explaination: Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) promotes, regulates, and monitors the international sales and transfer of conventional arms as per the global standards. ATT regulates from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships. UNGA adopted the treaty on 2 April 2013. ATT entered into force on 24 December 2014.

27) Which country launched the BeiDou Satellite System on 24 June 2020?

A. China  
B. Russia  
C. European Union  
D. Japan

Answer A

Explanation: China launched the satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System 3 (BDS-3) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province on 23 June 2020.

28) Who won the controversial parliamentary election?

A. Aleksandar Vucic  
B. Ivica Dacic  
C. Aleksandar Vulin  
D. Ana Brnabic

Answer A

Explanation: Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic won the controversial parliamentary election. The Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) won over 60% of the vote, which is around 190 seats in the 250-seat Serbian parliament.

29) BeiDou Navigation Satellite System 3 (BDS-3) is the ________ & last Navigation Satellite System of China.

A. 30th  
B. 35th  
C. 40th  
D. 50th
Answer A

Explanation BDS-3 Satellite was carried by a Long March-3B carrier rocket. It is the 30th BDS-3 satellite and also the 55th of the whole BeiDou satellite family. BDS-3 will offer its users services including high-precision positioning and short message communication. It will bring new highlights to global navigation satellite systems.

30) ________, under Make in India initiative indigenously develop a vehicle-mounted ULV sprayer for locust control to overcome the limitation of importing equipment.

A. DBT
B. MoEFFC
C. DoP
D. DAC&FW

Answer D

Explanation Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), under Make in India initiative indigenously develop a vehicle-mounted ULV sprayer for locust control to overcome the limitation of importing equipment.

31) How much did the Centre allocate for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)?

A. Rs.15000 crore
B. Rs.20000 crore
C. Rs.25000 crore
D. Rs.30000 crore

Answer A

Explanation The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF). The approval is to provide a much-needed boost to infrastructure across sectors, which are crucial in the time of the pandemic. To set up AHIDF, the Centre allocated a sum of Rs.15000 crore.

32) Puneja Bridge is located at ________.

A. J&K
B. Ladakh  
C. Himachal Pradesh  
D. Uttarakhand  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Puneja Bridge at Doda district in Jammu & Kashmir was constructed by BRO at a cost of Rs.4 Crore at Bhaderwah in Doda District. The bridge is 50-meter-long Puneja. Basoli-Bani-Bhaderwah road is a vital alternate link to the Doda, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah, and Kashmir valley from Pathankot (Punjab) region without passing Jammu and Udhampur.

33) GoI had earlier approved the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) worth ________ for incentivizing investment by the cooperative sector for the development of dairy infrastructure.

A. Rs.10,000 crore  
B. Rs.20,000 crore  
C. Rs.30,000 crore  
D. Rs.40,000 crore  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** GoI had earlier approved the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) worth Rs.10,000 crores for incentivizing investment by the cooperative sector for the development of dairy infrastructure. But, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Private companies were also needed to be promoted and incentivized for their participation in processing and value addition infrastructure in the animal husbandry sector.

34) What is the cost of the Devika Bridge?

A. Rs.50 lakh  
B. Rs.75 lakh  
C. Rs.100 lakh  
D. Rs.125 lakh  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Devika Bridge in Udhampur District is 10-meter-long and costs around Rs.75 lakhs. The bridge will solve the traffic issues in the region.
35) Who released the 2020 Annual TB Report?

A. Pam Vilas Paswan  
B. Prakash Javadekar  
C. Faggan Singh Kulaste  
D. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Answer D

Explanation Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the annual TB Report 2020 through a virtual event on 24 June. Also, a Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) report, a manual on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to TB patients under NIKSHAY system, a Training Module, and the quarterly newsletter NIKSHAY Patrika was released.

36) Where is Kushinagar Airport located?

A. Himachal Pradesh  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. J&K  
D. Delhi

Answer B

Explanation Kushinagar Airport or Kasia Airport is situated in Kushinagar, Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh, India. It is located 52 km east of Gorakhpur Airport. The airport is in 590 acres, has a single airstrip of 3.2 kilometers by 46 meters. It is capable of handling large aircraft.

37) The report stated that around ________ Lakh TB patients have been notified in the year 2019.

A. 20.04  
B. 24.04  
C. 28.04  
D. 32.04

Answer B

Explanation Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the annual TB Report 2020 through a virtual event on 24 June. Also, a Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) report, a manual on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to TB patients under NIKSHAY
system, a Training Module, and the quarterly newsletter NIKSHAY Patrika was released. The report stated that around 24.04 Lakh TB patients have been notified in the year 2019. The new reports amount to a 14% increase in TB notification as compared to the year 2018.

38) Which is the Capital of the Republic of Mali?
A. Timbuktu
B. Bamako
C. Seagou
D. Sikasso

Answer B

Explanation The population of Mali is 19.1 million. 67% of its population was estimated to be under the age of 25 in 2017. Its capital is Bamako.

39) Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has released the roadmap for NCERT for the year ________.
A. 2019-20
B. 2020-21
C. 2021-22
D. 2022-23

Answer B

Explanation Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has released the roadmap for NCERT for the year 2020-21. The move comes as it has been decided to set up a Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission under AtmaNirbhar Bharat. The move also focuses on Samagra Shiksha towards a Learning Outcome centric approach.

40) What is the currency of Mali?
A. West African CFA franc
B. East African CFA franc
C. South African CFA franc
D. South African Dollars

Answer A
Explanation The official currency in Mali is the West African CFA Franc (XOF), which is divided into 100 centimes. The CFA franc is tied to the Euro. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks in Bamako.

41) Which country awarded the Project Management Consultancy contract to NTPC Limited, a central PSU that functions under the Ministry of Power?

A. Mali  
B. Indonesia  
C. Russia  
D. China  

Answer A

Explanation The Republic of Mali has awarded the Project Management Consultancy contract to NTPC Limited, a central PSU that functions under the Ministry of Power, in an event held on 24 June 2020. The contract aims to develop 500 MW Solar Park. The event was chaired by the Union Minister of State for Power R.K. Singh, NRE, Skill Development and President of International Solar Alliance (ISA), and Mr. H.E. Sekou Kasse, the Ambassador of Mali.

42) Who is the President of Mali?

A. Soumala Ciss  
B. Mahmoud Dicko  
C. Amadou Toumani Tour  
D. Ibrahim Boubacar Keta

Answer D

Explanation Ibrahim Boubacar Keta (born 29 January 1945), or as he is often known as IBK, is the incumbent President of Mali since 2013.

43) When was International Solar Alliance (ISA) created?

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

Explanation International Solar Alliance (ISA) was created with the vision and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and announced jointly with the President of France during COP-21 held in Paris in 2015. ISA's vision is for a large-scale solar revolution, hinges on creating a facilitative international ecosystem that enables access to science and economic resources, reduce the cost of technology and capital, facilitates price reduction, and enables the development of storage technology and innovation.

44) Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the declaration of ________ in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport.

A. Kanpur Airport  
B. Kushinagar Airport  
C. Mahayogi Gorakhnath Airport  
D. Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport

Answer B

Explanation Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport. Kushinagar Airport is located in the vicinity of several Buddhist Cultural Sites like Sravasti, Kapilvastu, Lumbini.

45) Where is the new Devika Bridge constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) located?

A. Uttarakhand  
B. Punjab  
C. J&K  
D. Ladakh

Answer C

Explanation Devika Bridge in Udhampur District, J&K is 10-meter-long and costs around Rs.75 lakhs. The bridge will solve the traffic issues in the region. The bridge was constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in a span of 1 year.

46) What is the official language of Mali?
A. English
B. Bambara
C. Kanuri
D. French

**Answer D**

**Explanation** French is the official language of Mali.

47) A two-day digital conference on the defence & aerospace manufacturing sector Defence Conclave 2020 was inaugurated at _________.

A. Gujarat
B. Madhya Pradesh
C. Uttar Pradesh
D. Maharashtra

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated a two-day digital conference on the defence & aerospace manufacturing sector Defence Conclave 2020, Gujarat via video conference on 26 June. The conclave is being jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Gujarat and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

48) The National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has warned about the decline in the _________ sea ice.

A. Antarctica
B. Arctic
C. Oceania
D. Himalayas

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has warned about the decline in the Arctic sea ice.

49) Who organized the defence & aerospace manufacturing sector Defence
Conclave 2020?

A. Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)
B. CII
C. DRDO
D. A&B

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Naik inaugurated a two-day digital conference on the defence & aerospace manufacturing sector Defence Conclave 2020, Gujarat via video conference on 26 June. The conclave is being jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Gujarat and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

50) Who designed and developed Advanced Torpedo Decoy System Maareech?

A. HAL
B. Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL)
C. Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)
D. B&C

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Indian Navy (IN) has inducted indigenously developed Torpedo Decoy System on 26 June 2020. The Advanced Torpedo Decoy System Maareech was designed and developed DRDO labs, Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), and Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL).

51) ________ launched Behaviour Change Campaign Navigating the New Normal and Website.

A. DRDO
B. ICMR
C. NITI Aayog
D. Ministry of AYUSH

**Answer C**
NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a behaviour change campaign called Navigating the New Normal, and its website on 25 June. Around 92,000 Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) working with NITI Aayog participated in the virtual launch via a webcast.

52) Who inaugurated Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS)?

A. Dharmendra Pradhan  
B. Naveen Patnaik  
C. Pratap Chandra Sarangi  
D. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Answer A

Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) was inaugurated at Chandigarh jointly by V P Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab-cum-Administrator, UT, Chandigarh, alongwith the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

53) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched _________ plantation to spur monetization of its assets.

A. Sandalwood  
B. Bamboo  
C. Palm  
D. A&B

Answer D

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to spur monetization of its assets. The first of its kind initiative began with a drive with plantation of 500 saplings each of sandalwood and bamboo at its Nashik training center spread over 262 acres of land. The plantation ceremony was launched through video-conference by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena.

54) Where was the Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service inaugurated?
A.Chandigarh  
B.Rajasthan  
C.Gujarat  
D.Odisha

**Answer A**  
**Explanation** Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service (QIS) was inaugurated at Chandigarh jointly by V P Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab-cum-Administrator, UT, Chandigarh, alongwith the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

**55) KVIC has procured sandalwood saplings from Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC) ___________.**

A.Meerut  
B.Bareilly  
C.Kannauj  
D.Mathura

**Answer C**  
**Explanation** KVIC has procured sandalwood saplings from Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC) Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh, and Bamboo saplings from Assam.

**56) NITI Aayog partnered with _________ to launch a behaviour change campaign called Navigating the New Normal.**

A.Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)  
B.Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC) & Ashoka University  
C.Ministries of Health & Ministry of Women and Child Development  
D.All the above

**Answer D**  
**Explanation** NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a behaviour change campaign called Navigating the New Normal, and its website on 25 June. Around 92,000 Non-
Governmental Organisation (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) working with NITI Aayog participated in the virtual launch via a webcast.

57) Who promulgated Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020?

A. President of India  
B. Prime Minister of India  
C. Cabinet Ministers  
D. All the above

**Answer A**

**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. It is in pursuance with the commitment to ensure the safety of depositors across banks. The Ordinance will amend the Banking Regulation Act 1949 as applicable to Cooperative Banks.

58) ACT-Accelerator announced that it needs __________ over the next 12 months to fight the COVID-19 and to develop and roll out tests, treatments, and vaccines.

A. $20.35 billion  
B. $28.12 billion  
C. $31.30 billion  
D. $35 billion

**Answer C**

**Explanation** World Health Organization (WHO)-led coalition ACT-Accelerator announced that it needs $31.3 billion over the next 12 months to fight the COVID-19 and to develop and roll out tests, treatments and vaccines.

59) ________ seeks to protect the interests of depositors and strengthen cooperative banks by improving governance and oversight.

A. Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019  
B. Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020  
C. Banking Rules & Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019  
D. Banking Rules & Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020
President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. The Ordinance will seek to protect the interests of depositors and strengthen cooperative banks by improving governance and oversight.

60) Who assumed charge as Punjabs Chief secretary?
A. Vini Mahajan  
B. Deepika Kumari  
C. Dinesh Kumar  
D. Divya Mittal

Answer A

Senior IAS officer Vini Mahajan assumed charge as Punjabs first woman chief secretary on 26 June 2020. She replaced Karan Avtar Singh. She has become the first Woman Chief Secretary of Punjab.

61) NASA is to rename its headquarters as _________.
A. Jim Bridenstine  
B. Mary W. Jackson  
C. Katherine Johnson  
D. Dorothy Vaughan

Answer B

The US Space Agency, NASA has announced that its headquarters in Washington, D.C., will be named after Mary W. Jackson, one of its history-making engineers. The information was passed by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.
Senior IAS officer Vini Mahajan assumed charge as Punjabs first woman chief secretary on 26 June 2020. She replaced Karan Avtar Singh. She has become the first Woman Chief Secretary of Punjab.

63) Where is the headquarters of NASA located?

A. California  
B. New Jersey  
C. Washington, D.C.  
D. New York

Answer C

Explanation The headquarters of NASA is located in Washington, D.C., the United States.

64) Which state government launched the Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme?

A. Arunachal Pradesh  
B. Assam  
C. Manipur  
D. Tripura

Answer D

Explanation Tripura State government announced the Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme. The scheme aims to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women. The scheme is expected to benefit 40,000 women from the state. The initiative was launched as many pregnant women and infants in the state suffer from malnutrition.

65) DST launches Logo for the celebration of _______ Commemoration Year

A. 25th  
B. 50th  
C. 75th  
D. 100th

Answer B
Explanation Secretary Department of Science and Technology (DST) Prof Ashutosh Sharma launched the official Logo for the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year celebration. DST under the Ministry of Science & Technology has announced many activities like special lecture series of 15-20 lectures in the form of webinars and short feature films on each Autonomous Institutions for the year.

66) Under Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme, nutrition kits that cost ________ will be provided to the pregnant & lactating women.

A. Rs.500
B. Rs.1,000
C. Rs.1,500
D. Rs.5000

Answer A

Explanation Under the Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme, nutrition kits that cost Rs.500 will be provided to pregnant & lactating women.

67) When was the Department of Science & Technology established?

A. 1963
B. 1971
C. 1978
D. 1985

Answer B

Explanation Department of Science & Technology was established on 3rd May 1971. DST functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology in India. DST observes Golden Jubilee Commemoration Year during the period 3rd May 2020 to 2nd May 2021 with activities.

68) Which country announced to take the first tourist on spacewalk, under the terms of a new contract with a US partner?

A. China
B. Russia
C. India
D. Canada
Answer B

Explanation Russia's Energia space corporation has announced that it is to take the first tourist on a spacewalk in 2023, under the terms of a new contract with a US partner. Energia has signed a contract with Space Adventures. Under this, two space tourists to the International Space Station.

69) Russia announced to take the first tourist on a spacewalk in ________, under the terms of a new contract with a US partner.

A.2021
B.2022
C.2023
D.2024

Answer C

Explanation Russia's Energia space corporation has announced that it is to take the first tourist on a spacewalk in 2023, under the terms of a new contract with a US partner. Energia has signed a contract with Space Adventures. Under this, two space tourists to the International Space Station.

70) When was the ACT-Accelerator launched?

A.March 2020
B.April 2020
C.May 2020
D.June 2020

Answer A

Explanation The coalition is known as Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT)-Accelerator initiative. The ACT-Accelerator was launched in April 2020. Under WHO's global initiative, many public and private organizations are involved in drug-development to funding and distribution to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.
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