



CURRENT AFFAIRS

July 2020

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HAGIA SOPHIA CONTROVERSY:

- Recently, the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced that the iconic architectural place of the country Hagia Sophia would be made a mosque, which gained criticism from across the world.
- After the top Turkish court revoked the museum status of the monument, the President made this announcement. The UNESCO World Heritage site in Istanbul was first constructed as a cathedral but was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. It has been a museum since 1935 and open to people of all faiths.

DOCTORS' DAY, JULY 1:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has saluted doctors on the occasion of Doctors' Day on July 1. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, "India salutes our doctors- exceptional care givers who are at the forefront of a spirited fight against COVID-19. doctorsday2020."
- India celebrates July 1 as 'National Doctor's Day' commemorating the iconic and internationally renowned medical practitioner, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy who served as a physician, a freedom fighter, an educationist and a politician.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' DAY, JULY 1:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has greeted Chartered Accountants on Chartered Accountants' Day on July 1. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, "Our industrious CA community has a major role to play in ensuring a healthy and transparent economy. Their services to the nation are deeply valued. Greetings on Chartered Accountants Day."
- Chartered Accountants Day or CA Day is celebrated on July 1 to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949.
- ICAI is India's national professional accounting body and also the second biggest accounting organization in the world. The ICAI was established on this day in the year 1949 under an Act passed in Parliament.

BIOPESTICIDE:

- Biopesticides include naturally occurring substances that control pests (biochemical pesticides), microorganisms that control pests (microbial pesticides), and pesticidal substances produced by plants containing added genetic material (plant-incorporated protectants) or PIPs.
- They are obtained from organisms including plants, bacteria and other microbes, fungi, nematodes, etc.
- Microbial pesticides which consist of bacteria, entomopathogenic fungi or viruses (and sometimes includes the metabolites that bacteria or fungi produce).
- Bio-derived chemicals are also in commercial use: pyrethrum, rotenone, neem oil, and various essential oils are naturally occurring substances that control (or monitor in the case of pheromones) pests and microbial diseases.

- Plant-incorporated protectants (PIPs) have genetic material from other species incorporated into their genetic material (i.e. GM crops). Their use is controversial, especially in many European countries.
- RNAi pesticides, some of which are topical and some of which are absorbed by the crop.
- Biopesticides have usually no known function in photosynthesis, growth or other basic aspects of plant physiology. Instead, they are active against biological pests.
- Many chemical compounds have been identified that are produced by plants to protect them from pests so they are called antifeedants.

JHARKHAND'S SAHIYAS:

- The ASHAs in Jharkhand, known as "Sahiyas", have been supporting delivery of health care services to the last mile, especially in the tribal areas.
- Jharkhand launched the week long Intensive Public Health Survey (IPHS) to identify the high risk population for COVID-19.
- About 42,000 Sahiyas played a crucial role in this survey.
- They conducted house-to-house survey of thousands of households to identify the local high risk population such as individuals with Influenza like Illness (ILI)/ Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) symptoms, population more than 40 years with co-morbid conditions, under-five children who missed vaccination as per the schedule and pregnant women due for Ante Natal Check-up (ANC).

DESIGNATED TERRORISTS:

- Central Government had amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in August 2019, to include the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.
- Prior to this amendment, only organizations could be designated as terrorist organizations.
- By invoking the said amended provision, in September 2019, the Central Government designated four individuals as terrorists, viz. Maulana Masood Azhar, Hafeez Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Dawood Ibrahim.
- Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, declared the nine other individuals as designated terrorists under the provisions of the UAPA Act 1967 (as amended in 2019) and included their names in the Fourth Schedule of the said Act.
- These individuals are trying to revive militancy in Punjab through their anti-national activities and through their support to and involvement in the Khalistan Movement.

UDYAM REGISTRATION PORTAL:

- Udyam Registration Portal developed by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has become operational.
- The new process of classification and registration of enterprises has started as already declared vide notification dated 26th June, 2020.
- Alongwith launching the portal <https://udyamregistration.gov.in> for online registration, M/o MSME has also organized single window system at champions control rooms and DICs for facilitation.
- Ministry has expressed hope that this new registration process will boost up 'Ease of Doing Business' and it will reduce transaction time and costs. Ministry has clarified that except the portal no other private online or offline system, service, agency or person is authorized to do MSME registration.

NPPA (NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING AUTHORITY):

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has identified list of critical medical equipments and has requested National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to ensure availability of the same in the country.
- All the medical devices have been notified as Drugs and have come under regulatory regime of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices (Control Order), 2013 w.e.f. 1st April 2020.
- In order to keep check on the price rise of critical medical equipments, NPPA, in exercise of powers conferred under DPCO, 2013, has called for price related data from manufacturers/importers of (i) Pulse Oximeter and (ii) Oxygen Concentrator to ensure that prices existing as on 1st April 2020 should not be increased more than 10% in a year.
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, Department of Pharmaceuticals comes under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India

DHAMMA CHAKRA DAY:

- After a very successful hosting of Virtual Vesak and Global Prayer Week in May 2020, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in partnership with Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is now celebrating the upcoming Asadha Poornima on July 4, 2020 as Dharma Chakra Day. It will be the annual flagship event of IBC.
- In keeping with the historical legacy of India being the land of Buddha's enlightenment and awakening, his turning of the wheels of Dhamma, and Mahaparinirvana, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the Dhamma Chakra Day celebrations from Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The auspicious day of Asadha Poornima which falls on the first full moon day of the month of Asadha as per Indian sun calendar is also known as Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand.
- It is the second most sacred day for Buddhists after the Buddha Poornima or Vesak.
- The day marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples (pañcavargika) on the full-moon day of Asadha at 'Deer Park', Rīṣipātana in the current day Sarnath, near Varanasi, India.
- This teaching of Dhamma Cakka- PavattanaSutta (Pali) or Dharma chakra Pravartana Sutra (Sanskrit) is also known as the First Turning of Wheels of Dharma and comprised of the Four Noble Truths and Noble Eightfold Path.

15TH FINANCE COMMISSION ON HEALTH FINANCING:

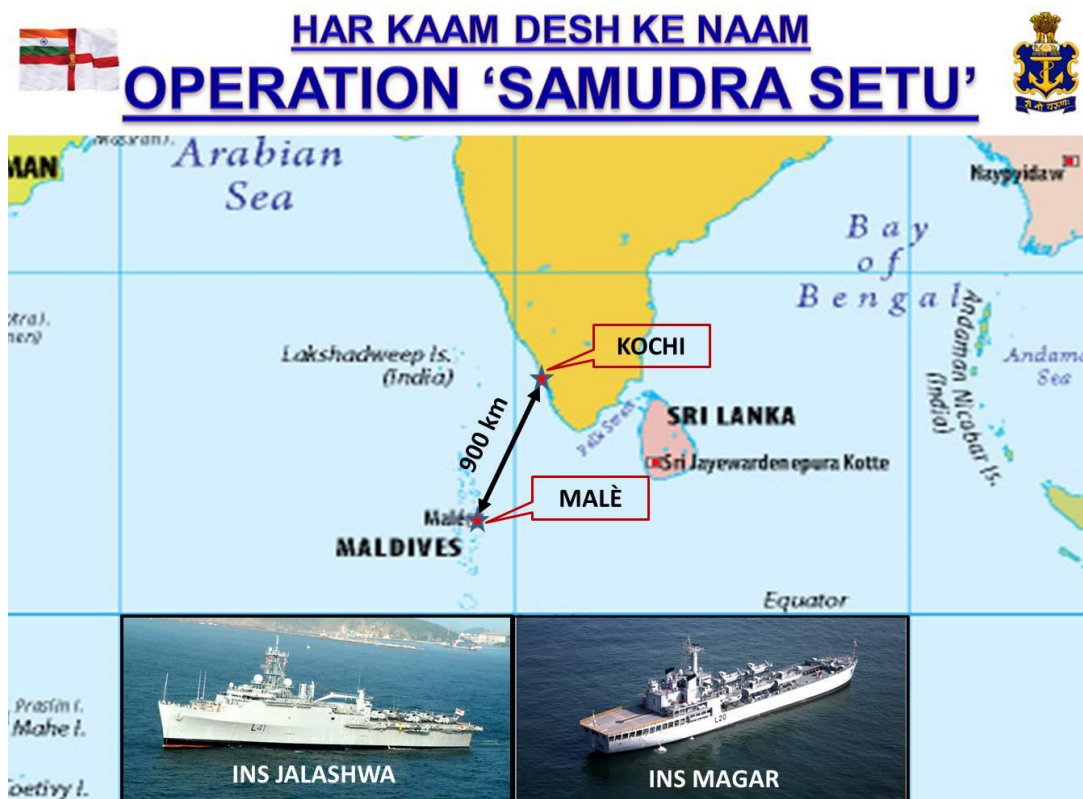
- More than 60% of health demand in India is supplied by private sector.
- Leveraging private clinics along with DBT may be used as tools to increase engagement with private sector.
- Importance of non-communicable disease can't be undermined. Another area that needs focus is infectious disease programs like tuberculosis.
- Niti Aayog emphasised on the importance of local bodies in delivery of health care services as 65% of public spending on health comes from State Governments while 35% come from Union Government. There is an enhanced need to increase the overall expenditure on health sector.
- It may be recalled that India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package (ER&HSP) was approved by Cabinet on 22nd April 2020 for Rs 15,000 Crores.
- Fifteenth finance commission for the first time will include finance for public health as a separate chapter in its report.

SUN LIKE STARS KEY FOR LI STOCK:

- Light inflammable, metal lithium (Li) has brought about transformation in modern communication devices and transportation.
- The origin of much of the Li can be traced to a single event, the Big-Bang that happened about 13.7 Billion years ago, from which the present-day Universe was also born.
- Over the course of time, Li content in the physical Universe has increased by about a factor of four, which is meager compared to the rest of the elements carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, iron, nickel and so on which grew about a million times over the lifetime of the Universe.
- Stars are primary contributors to this significant enhancement of heavier elements through mass ejections and stellar explosions. Li, however, understood to be an exemption.

INDIAN NAVY COMPLETES “OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU”:

- Operation Samudra Setu, which was launched on 05 May 2020 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic has culminated after successfully bringing 3,992 Indian citizens back to their homeland by sea.
- Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa (Landing Platform Dock), and Airavat, Shardul and Magar (Landing Ship Tanks) participated in this operation which lasted over 55 days and involved traversing more than 23,000 kilometers by sea.
- Indian Navy has previously undertaken similar evacuation operations as part of Operation Sukoon in 2006 (Beirut) and Operation Rahat in 2015 (Yemen).

**750 MW REWA SOLAR PROJECT:**

- This Project comprises of three solar generating units of 250 MW each located on a 500 hectare plot of land situated inside a Solar Park (total area 1500 hectare).

- The Rewa Solar Project was the first solar project in the country to break the grid parity barrier. Compared to prevailing solar project tariffs of approx. Rs. 4.50/unit in early 2017, the Rewa project achieved historic results: a first year tariff of Rs. 2.97/unit with a tariff escalation of Rs. 0.05/unit over 15 years and a levelized rate of Rs. 3.30/unit over the term of 25 years.
- This project will reduce carbon emission equivalent to approx. 15 lakh ton of CO₂ per year.
- The project is also the first renewable energy project to supply to an institutional customer outside the State, i.e. Delhi Metro, which will get 24% of energy from the project with remaining 76% being supplied to the State DISCOMs of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Rewa Project also exemplifies India's commitment to attain the target of 175 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, including 100 GW of Solar installed capacity.

PM-KUSUM SCHEME:

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in the country.
- The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.
- State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) of MNRE will coordinate with States/UTs, Discoms and farmers for implementation of the scheme.

THREE COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME:

- 1) Component A: 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.
 - 2) Component B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.
 - 3) Component C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.
- The scheme will open a stable and continuous source of income to the rural land owners for a period of 25 years by utilisation of their dry/uncultivable land. Further, in case cultivated fields are chosen for setting up solar power project, the farmers could continue to grow crops as the solar panels are to be set up above a minimum height.
 - The scheme would ensure that sufficient local solar/ other renewable energy based power is available for feeding rural load centres and agriculture pump-set loads, which require power mostly during the day time. As these power plants will be located closer to the agriculture loads or to electrical substations in a decentralized manner, it will result in reduced Transmission losses for STUs and Discoms. Moreover, the scheme will also help the Discoms to achieve the RPO target

SCHEME BENEFITS:

- The solar pumps will save the expenditure incurred on diesel for running diesel pump and provide the farmers a reliable source of irrigation through solar pump apart from preventing harmful pollution from running diesel pump.
- The scheme would ensure that sufficient local solar/ other renewable energy based power is available for feeding rural load centres and agriculture pump-set loads, which require power mostly during the day time.
- The solar pumps will save the expenditure incurred on diesel for running diesel pump and provide the farmers a reliable source of irrigation through solar pump apart from preventing harmful pollution from running diesel pump.

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY:

- World Youth Skills Day was on July 14.
- The day also marks the 5th anniversary of the launch of Skill India Mission.
- A Digital Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to mark the occasion.
- Skill India is an initiative of the Government of India which has been launched to empower the youth of the country with skill sets which make them more employable and more productive in their work environment.
- Skill India offers courses across several sectors which are aligned to the standards recognised by both, the industry and the government under the National Skill Qualification Framework.

MY LIFE - MY YOGA:

- Recently, the names of the winners of video blogging contest 'My Life, My Yoga' have been announced. This global contest on digital platform is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and was launched on 31st May 2020 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on occasion of 6th International Day of Yoga.
- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness. Thus, Yoga is the union of Pran and Apan.
- Yoga is a series of stretches and poses that you do with breathing techniques. It offers the powerful benefits of exercise. Since yoga is gentle, almost anyone can do it, regardless of age or fitness level. Men develop fully- physically, mentally, intellectually and spiritually by means of yoga.

PRAGYATA:

- PRAGYATA guidelines have been developed from the perspective of learners, with a focus on online/blended/digital education for students who are presently at home due to lockdown.
- Government added that these guidelines on Digital/ Online Education provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward online education to enhance the quality of education.
- The Minister highlighted that the guidelines will be relevant and useful for a diverse set of stakeholders including school heads, teachers, parents, teacher educators and students. The guidelines stress upon the use of alternative academic calendar of NCERT, for both, learners having access to digital devices and learners having limited or no access.
- The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online/ digital learning that is, Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak (talk)- Assign- Track- Appreciate.
- These steps guide the planning and implementation of digital education step by step with examples.
- The guidelines outlines suggestions for administrators, school heads, teachers, parents and students on the following areas:
 - I. Need assessment
 - II. Concerns while planning online and digital education like duration, screen time, inclusiveness, balanced online and offline activities etc level wise
 - III. Modalities of intervention including resource curation, level wise delivery etc.
 - IV. Physical, mental health and wellbeing during digital education
 - V. Cyber safety and ethical practices including precautions and measures for maintaining cyber safety
 - VI. Collaboration and convergence with various initiatives

15TH INDIA-EU (VIRTUAL) SUMMIT:

- The India-EU Summit that was due in March in view of COVID-19 was held virtually in July 2020.
- Members agree on an action-oriented agenda should be created, which can be implemented within a stipulated time frame. India and the EU are natural partners.
- India was one of the first countries to develop relations with the European Union.
- The Joint Political Statement of 1993 and the 1994 Co-operation Agreement were the foundational agreements for the bilateral partnership.
- First India – eu summit took place in 2001.
- In 2004, India and European Union became "Strategic Partners".
- A Joint Action Plan was agreed upon in 2005 and updated in 2008.
- India-EU Joint Statements was published in 2009 and 2012 following the India-European Union Summits.

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA:

- Competition Commission of India is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India and to prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.
- It was established on 14 October 2003. It became fully functional in May 2009.
- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws.
- The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and Merger and acquisition), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
- The Commission comprises a Chairperson and 6 members. Ashok Kumar Gupta is the current Chairperson of the CCI.
- In June 2019, CCI issued letters to handset makers seeking details of terms and conditions of their agreement with Google. This is to ascertain if Google imposed any restrictions on them for using the company's apps in the past 8 years from 2011.

INCOIS:

- Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is an autonomous organization of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Hyderabad. ESSO-INCOIS was established as an autonomous body in 1999.
- Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
- Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) - This is the first advisory service started by INCOIS. Real-time data for ocean color and SST provided by the OCEANSAT and NOAA respectively. This service was started because there was a need to identify the potential fishing zones.
- Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS)- In the aftermath of Sumatra earthquake in 2004 and the killer tsunami it set off, the Government of India wanted to set up an early warning centre for tsunami and other storm surges in the Indian Ocean region. Accordingly, on 15 October 2007, a centre housing the Indian Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) was established in INCOIS. By 2012, the centre has started to give a round-the-clock alert and advisory services to all Indian Ocean Rim Countries (IOR).
- Ocean State Forecast (OSF)- Being a peninsula, India is covered from three sides with water body. Hence there is a need for knowing the state of ocean in advance for carrying out various commercial activities. Prior information about the state of the ocean helps us to plan and execute our activities in the marine environment safely. Moreover, the ocean has an effect on the local climate as well. Thinking about all these factors, a new service was rolled out to

forecast the ocean state, which is capable of predicting the surface and sub-surface features of the Indian Ocean in advance. It is called the Indian Ocean Forecasting System (*INDOFOS*).

- Ocean Observation Group (OOG)- The main activity of this group in INCOIS is to measure and monitor the surface temperature and salinity of the upper 2000 meters of the ocean. For this purpose, there is a global array of 3000 free-drifting, profiling floats that relay the measurement data to agencies, which in turn make available these data publicly within hours of reception. This will help them to continuously monitor the climate state of the ocean. This system was named as *Argo*, which emphasizes the strong complementary relationship between the free-drifting floats and Jason altimeter mission.

WHO ADVISES 140 TESTS/DAY/MILLION POPULATION:

- WHO in its Guidance Note on “Public Health Criteria to Adjust Public Health and Social Measures in the Context of COVID-19” has advised comprehensive surveillance for suspected cases.
- While explaining the concept of comprehensive surveillance and testing of suspect cases, WHO advises that a country needs 140 tests per day per million population.
- With the various coordinated efforts made by the Centre and the States/UTs, 22 States/UTs in India are already conducting 140 and more tests per day per million.
- States/UTs are being regularly advised to increase the testing capacity to match the WHO advised levels of testing.

SHERPA (EMISSARY):

- A sherpa is the personal representative of a head of state or government who prepares an international summit, particularly the annual G7 and G20 summits.
- Between the G7 summits there are multiple sherpa conferences where possible agreements are laid out. This reduces the amount of time and resources required at the negotiations of the heads of state at the final summit.
- The sherpa is generally quite influential, although they do not have the authority to make a final decision about any given agreement.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide.
- The WHO was established by constitution on 7 April 1948, which is commemorated as World Health Day. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July 1948.
- Its flagship publication, the *World Health Report*, provides expert assessments of global health topics and health statistics on all nations. The WHO also serves as a forum for summits and discussions on health issues.
- The WHA, composed of representatives from all 194 member states, serves as the agency's supreme decision-making body.
- It also elects and advises an Executive Board made up of 34 health specialists.
- The agency is part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
- Tedros Adhanom is Director-General and *Soumya Swaminathan* and Jane Ellison are deputy Director-Generals.

INDIA'S CASE FATALITY RATE (CFR) FOR COVID19:

- The focused efforts of Centre and State/UT governments on efficient clinical management of hospitalized cases have ensured that India's Case Fatality Rate has fallen below 2.5%.
- With effective Containment Strategy, aggressive testing and standardized clinical management protocols based on holistic Standard of Care approach, the Case Fatality Rate has significantly dipped.
- The Case Fatality Rate is progressively falling and currently, it is 2.49%. India has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world.

BLOOD PLASMA:

- Blood plasma is a 'yellowish liquid' component of blood that holds the blood cells of whole blood in suspension.
- It is the liquid part of the blood that carries cells and proteins throughout the body.
- It makes up about 55% of the body's total blood volume.
- It is the intravascular fluid part of extracellular fluid (all body fluid outside cells).
- It is mostly water (up to 95% by volume), and contains important dissolved proteins (6–8%) (e.g., serum albumins, globulins, and fibrinogen), glucose, clotting factors, electrolytes (Na⁺, Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, HCO₃⁻, Cl⁻, etc.), hormones, carbon dioxide (plasma being the main medium for excretory product transportation), and oxygen.
- It plays a vital role in an intravascular osmotic effect that keeps electrolyte concentration balanced and protects the body from infection and other blood disorders.
- Blood plasma is separated from the blood by spinning a tube of fresh blood containing an anticoagulant in a centrifuge until the blood cells fall to the bottom of the tube.
- Blood serum is blood plasma without clotting factors.
- Plasmapheresis is a medical therapy that involves blood plasma extraction, treatment, and reintegration.

BIOMARKER:

- By definition, a biomarker is "a characteristic that is objectively measured and evaluated as an indicator of normal biological processes, pathogenic processes or pharmacological responses to a therapeutic intervention."
- Biomarkers are the measures used to perform a clinical assessment such as blood pressure or cholesterol level and are used to monitor and predict health states in individuals or across populations so that appropriate therapeutic intervention can be planned.
- Biomarkers may be used alone or in combination to assess the health or disease state of an individual.
- A wide range of biomarkers are used today. For example, a general health check may include assessment of blood pressure, heart rate, cholesterol, triglycerides and fasting glucose levels.
- Body measurements such as weight, body mass index (BMI), and waist-to-hip ratio are routinely used for assessing conditions such as obesity and metabolic disorders.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019:

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes in to force from 20th July 2020. It has several new measures.

1. **CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA):**
 - To provide relief to a class of consumers

- Empowered to - Conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute Complaints / Prosecution, Order recall of unsafe goods and services, Order discontinuance of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, Impose penalties on Manufacturers/Endorsers/Publishers of Misleading Advertisements
- 2. SIMPLIFIED DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS:**
 - Deemed admissibility after 21 days of filing
 - Empowerment of Consumer Commissions to enforce their orders
 - State Commission & District Commission can now review their own orders
 - Appeals only on question of law after second stage
- 3. MEDIATION:**
 - An Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism
 - Reference to mediation by Consumer Commissions wherever scope for early settlement exists and parties agree for it.
 - Mediation Cells to be attached to Consumer Commissions
 - Panel of mediators to be selected by selection committee consisting of the President and a member of Consumer Commission.
 - Mediation to be held in consumer mediation cell
 - No appeal against settlement through mediation
 - A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller to be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services
- 4. Basis for product liability action -
 - Manufacturing defect
 - Design defect
 - Deviation from manufacturing specifications
 - Not conforming to express warranty
 - Failing to contain adequate instructions for correct use
 - Service provided-faulty, imperfect or deficient

FIRST MEGA FOOD PARK OF MIZORAM:

- The Mega Food Park at Village-Khamrang in Kolasib District, Mizoram was inaugurated recently.
- This is the first Mega Food Park operationalized in the State of Mizoram.
- Mega Food Park is a scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing with the aim of establishing a "direct linkage from farm to processing and then to consumer markets" through a network of collection centres and primary processing centres.
- Its purpose was to increase processing of perishables from 6% to 20% and to increase India's share in global food trade.
- Government provides grants up to Rs 50 crores for each food park to a consortium of companies.
- 30-35 food processing units are expected to be established.
- Collective investment of companies is expected to be at least 250 crores.
- A turnover of 400-500 crore and employment generation of at least 30000 from each mega food park is expected.
- A total of 42 Mega Food Parks have been sanctioned so far by MoFPI in six phases.

SERO- SURVEY:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare [MoHFW] commissioned a sero-surveillance study in Delhi.

- This study has been done by the National Center for Disease Control [NCDC] in collaboration with Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, following a rigorous multi-stage sampling study design.
- For all the 11 districts of Delhi, survey teams were formed. Blood samples were collected from selected individuals after taking written informed consent and then their sera were tested for IgG antibodies and infection using COVID KAVACH ELISA approved by Indian Council for Medical Research [ICMR].
- It is one of the largest sero-prevalence studies conducted in the country using the ELISA testing.
- Antibody testing repeatedly done over time i.e. sero-surveillance, generates important evidence for assessing the spread of the pandemic from time to time.
- The results of the sero-prevalence study show that on an average, across Delhi, the prevalence of IgG antibodies is 23.48 %.
- The study also indicates that a large number of infected persons remain asymptomatic.

GARO HILLS:

- The Garo Hills are part of the Garo-Khasi range in Meghalaya, India.
- They are inhabited mainly by tribal dwellers, the majority of whom are Garo people.
- It is one of the wettest places in the world.
- These are locations in and around Garo Hills which are tourist spots.
- **Nokrek Peak:** The highest point of the Garo Hills region of the State. This discovery led to the establishment of the National Citrus Gene Sanctuary-cum-Biosphere Reserve at Nokrek covering an area of 47 square kilometres.
- **Tura Peak:** A hill stands on the eastern flank of Tura, the largest town in the Garo Hills region of the state.
- **Imilchang Dare:** This waterfall is located close to Asakgre village in South the Garo Hills district.
- **Balpakram:** A National Wildlife Park, located in South Garo Hills and 167 km from Tura. It is home to the rare Lesser Panda, the Indian bison and the stag like Serow.
- Napak Lake: Ideal for fishing and bird watching with the river Simsang flowing nearby.
- **Siju Caves:** The famous limestone caves of Siju are located near Simsang River.
- Borkona Kali Ashram: Located about 40 km from Tura on Tura- Mankachar road is oldest Hindu Mutt.

MANODARPAN:

- HRD Ministry has taken an initiative, named, MANODARPAN covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- Working Group, having experts from the fields of education, mental health and psychosocial issues as its members, has been set up to monitor and promote the mental health issues and concerns of students and to facilitate providing of support to address the mental health and psychosocial aspects during and after COVID-19 lockdown, through counselling services, online resources and helpline.

U.S.-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL:

- The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows.

- The organization serves as a direct link between business and Government leaders, resulting in increased trade and investment to strengthen ties between the two nations.
- It organised India Ideas Virtual Summit 2020.

NEOWISE:

- Comet Neowise officially known as C/2020F3 is the brightest comet that can be seen in the sky and will be visible across the globe as it is closest to the earth these days.
- The Neowise, once disappears will be visible only after 6800 years.
- 'Comet Neowise' was first spotted by NASA's spacecraft mission Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) on 27 March 2020 and hence the name NEOWISE.
- Comet is an icy small body which consists mostly of rocky materials, dust and ice.
- As they come closer to the sun there is evaporation of volatile contents from these comets. When they start melting, the particles start glowing by the reflected sunlight.

KAKRAPAR ATOMIC POWER PLANT:

- Entire nation salutes our scientists on this stellar achievement as indigenously designed 700 MWe Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3 in Gujarat achieved criticality.
- Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is a nuclear power station in India, which lies in the proximity of the city of Vyara in the state of Gujarat.
- It first started operation in 1992.

INDSAT:

- The Ministry of HRD conducted the first ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its 'Study in India' programme.
- Nearly five thousand candidates from Nepal, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sri-Lanka, Kenya, Zambia, Indonesia and Mauritius appeared for the exam conducted in the proctored internet mode by the National Testing Agency.
- EdCIL (India) Limited, a PSU under MHRD and the implementing agency of SII handled the registrations and other aspects of the examination.
- Ind-SAT is an exam for grant of scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in select Indian universities under the Study in India programme. The exam is designed to gauge the scholastic capability of students applying to study in India.
- The Ind-SAT scores will serve as a criterion to shortlist the meritorious students for the allocation of scholarships for under graduate as well as post graduate programmes under 'Study in India' programme.

LIST OF RIVERS OF ASSAM:

Major rivers are Brahmaputra River, Barak River and Manas River.

Others rivers are:

Aie River	Debang River	Dudhnai River
Balsiri River	Desang River	Gabharu River
Bargang River	Dhansiri River	Gaurang River
Barnadi River	Digaru River	Godadhar River
Baroi River	Dihing River (or Buridihing)	Jatingha River
Bhogdoi River	Dikhow River	Jhanji River
Beki River	Doigroong River	Jiadhal River
Champavati River	Doyang River	Jinari River

Jiri River
Kalioni River
Kameng River
Katakhal River
Kolong River
Kopili River
Krishnai River
Kulsi River
Subansiri River
Tipkai River

Kushiara River
Lohit River
Manas River
Mora Dhansiri River
Mothura River
Nanoi River
Noa Dehing River
Noa-Nadi River

Pagladiya River
Puthimari River
Ranganadi River
Sankosh River
Saralbhangha River
Shiri River
Siang River

PM-SVANIDHI SCHEME:

- PM SVANidhi is a central sector scheme that was launched on 1st June 2020.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reviewed the implementation of PM-SVANidhi Scheme of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- Government of India has launched PM SVANidhi Scheme to facilitate collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately, 50 lakh *street vendors*, to resume their businesses.
- Incentives in the form of interest subsidy (@ 7% per annum) and cash back (upto Rs.1,200/- per annum) are being provided to promote good repayment behaviour and digital transactions respectively.
- The interest subsidy effectively works out to 30 % of the entire interest burden for a loan of Rs. 10,000 @ 24 % annual interest.

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN:

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.
- First phase was launched in 2014 and UBI 2.0 became operational in 2018.
- With more than 1832 institutes under it, each institute is linked with at least five villages for transmission of latest knowledge different dimensions of rural development.
- Their mission is conceptualised as a movement to enable processes that connect institutes of higher education with local communities to address the development challenges of rural India through participatory processes and appropriate technologies for accelerating sustainable growth.
- It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between the society and an inclusive university system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors.

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES:

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Kiren Rijju and Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar announced Haryana as the host state for the fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games, which is currently scheduled to take place after Tokyo Olympics.
- The Games will be held in Panchkula in Haryana.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTRE NETWORK (KRCNET):

- Under the Digital India initiative of Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) aims to develop a World-Class Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet). Salient objectives of the KRCNet:
- Establish a Total Quality Management (TQM) system by securing ISO certification for documenting MoES knowledge resources, its maintenance, easy retrieval and dissemination.
- Collect, collate, analyze, index, store and disseminate the intellectual resources, products and project outputs available in MoES headquarter and its institutes.
- Develop and maintain an up-to-date meta-data of the print & digital resources available in MoES headquarter and MoES institutes, including MoES services.
- Provide 24X7 access to the subscribed knowledge contents through the KRCNet portal.
- Application of information analytical tools & techniques like bibliometrics, scientometrics, big-data analytics, social media analytics etc., for policy formulation, report preparation and information dissemination.
- Periodically organize training workshops to popularize usage of electronic journals, databases, digital products, data analytics etc.

BIS-CARE:

- Government launched the Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App 'BIS-Care' and three portals – the Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Training Portals of e-BIS on **www.manakonline.in** for consumers.
- Consumers can check the authenticity of the ISI-marked and hallmarked products and lodge complaints using this app.
- BIS is strengthening its capacity of enforcement by implementation of e-BIS, an integrated portal covering all its functions, enlisting the services of outside agencies for factory and market surveillance and development of mobile app-based and AI-enabled surveillance methods.

MAUSAM:

- Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the mobile App "Mausam" for India Meteorological Department.
- The MAUSAM mobile App has the following 5 services:
- Current Weather -Current temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction for 200 cities updated 8 times a day. Information on Sunrise/ sunset and moonrise/ moonset are also given.
- Nowcast- Three hourly warnings of localized weather phenomena and their intensity issued for about 800 stations, and districts of India by State Meteorological Centres of IMD. In case of severe weather, its impact also is included in the warning.
- City Forecast – Past 24 hours and 7 day forecast of weather conditions around 450 cities in India.
- Warnings- Alerts issued twice a day for all districts for the next five days in colour code (Red, Orange and Yellow) to warn citizens of approaching dangerous weather. The colour code Red is the most severe category urging authorities to take action, Orange code prompts authorities and public to be alert and Yellow code prompts authorities and public to keep themselves updated.
- Radar products: Latest Station wise radar products updated every 10 minutes

TIGER CENSUS REPORT:

- Tigers and other wild life are a kind of soft power India has to show on the international front.

- The despite several constraints such as less land mass, India has eight percent of bio-diversity because our country has a culture of saving and preserving the nature, trees and its wild life. India is tirelessly working with all 13 tiger range countries towards nurturing the tiger.
- LIDAR based survey technology will be used for the first time.
- Lidar is a method for measuring distances by illuminating the target with laser light and measuring the reflection with a sensor.
- With the presence of nearly 30 percent of India's tigers outside tiger reserves, India had embarked upon assessing management interventions through the globally developed Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) framework, which will now be extended to all fifty tiger reserves across the country.
- During the said meeting it was also decided to celebrate July 29 as Global Tiger Day across the world, which is since, being celebrated to spread and generate awareness on tiger conservation.

ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK:

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. The bank started operation after the agreement entered into force on 25 December 2015.
- The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for "scaling up financing for sustainable development" and to improve the global economic governance.
- The starting capital of the bank was \$100 billion, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.
- It received the highest credit ratings from the three biggest rating agencies in the world, and is seen as a potential rival to the World Bank and IMF.
- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) through video conference in New Delhi in July 2020.

INDIA REPORT ON DIGITAL EDUCATION:

- Government launched India Report on Digital Education, 2020. The report elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by Ministry of HRD, Education Departments of States and Union Territories for ensuring accessible and inclusive education to children at home and reducing learning gaps.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development has initiated many projects to assist teachers, scholars and students in their pursuit of learning like DIKSHA platform, Swayam Prabha TV Channel, Online MOOC courses, On Air – Shiksha Vani, DAISY by NIOS for differently-abled, e-PathShala, National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) etc.
- Some of the major digital initiatives by State Governments are SMILE (Social Media Interface for Learning Engagement) in Rajasthan, Project Home Classes in Jammu, Padhai Tunhar duvaar (Education at your doorstep) in Chhattisgarh, Unnayan Initiatives in Bihar through portal and mobile application, Mission Buniyaad in NCT of Delhi.
- Madhya Pradesh has launched Top Parent App, a free mobile app that empowers parents of young children (3-8 years), KHEL (Knowledge Hub for Electronic Learning), a Game Based Application has also been started, that covers class 1-3.
- Uttarakhand is making use of Sampark Baithak App, Assam has launched the Biswa Vidya Assam Mobile Application for class 6 to 10.
- Bihar has launched Vidyavahini App with e-books for class 1 to 12. Under Unnayan Bihar Initiative, Bihar has also launched Mera Mobile Mera Vidyalaya for students, and Unnayan Bihar Teacher App.

- Odisha Shiksha Sanjog - a Whatsapp based digital learning programme has been launched in Odisha that shares e-content with class groups in a streamlined way.

MOTHER TONGUE:

- The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu called for protecting and promoting various Indian languages through the use of mother tongue in different fields from education to administration.
- Article 350A of Constitution of India- "Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage"- "It shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups; and the President may issue such directions to any State as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities."

INTERNATIONAL THERMONUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR:

- The ITER Organization (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is celebrating the Start of Assembly of the ITER Tokamak with a ceremony on 28th July 2020 at Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France.
- Invited Head of States of all ITER member countries are participating either in person, or electronically through remote mode, or conveying his/her message. The Celebration has been hosted virtually by President Macron.
- ITER (originally the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is an international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject, which will be the world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment. It is an experimental tokamak nuclear fusion reactor that is being built in France.
- The machine aims to demonstrate, for the first time in a fusion reactor, the principle of producing more thermal power than is used to heat the plasma.
- The project is funded and run by seven member entities—the European Union, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States. Construction of the ITER tokamak complex started in 2013.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020:

Important features of the NEP 2020 in simple terms:

- The idea of 10+2 board examination structure has been dropped and it will reduce the dropout rates of students from the schools.
- The new structures that will be implemented in place of point 1 will be 5+3+3+4, which is comes as a big relief and would prove revolutionary.
- The levels of studies have been put in simple and focused categories:
 - Pre-school: Upto Class 5 b) Middle School: Class 6 to 8 (as before) c) High school: Class 9 to 12 d) Degree: Class 12 onwards
- The vocational training will start from Class 6 and will give more exposure to the students from an early age.
- The students can choose their respective favourite subjects from Class 8 to 12 and it will provide them with a platform to do specialisation in subjects they have chosen.
- The duration of all graduation courses would be four years, thus giving ample time students to master their respective subjects.
- All graduate courses will have one major course which will be their core subject and one minor subject which will be additional in order to enhance the students' interest in the subjects by

giving flexibility. For example, for science students, a student with mathematics as major subject can opt for music as the minor subject.

- All higher education systems would be governed by a single authority and UGC and AICTE will merge as one body.
- All universities — government, private, deemed/deemed to be, open universities and vocational training institutes — will have the same grading pattern and regulations.
- One teacher training board will be set up for all teachers in the country, irrespective of the subjects.
- The accreditation of the institutes will be based on similar criteria and they will be able to avail autonomous rights and central funds based on their ratings.
- A new program of basic learning will be launched for parents of children aged up to three years in their respective homes, and pre-school will start for children from three to six years of age.
- Multiple entries and exits from the chosen course are possible for the students.
- The credits earned by students in any semester in their graduation courses can be continued and utilised by them when they rejoin the course after study breaks.
- All school examinations will run semester wise and thus two exams will be held annually.
- The entire school syllabus will be limited to their respective core knowledge level only.
- The focused will be on practical and application based knowledge.
- If a student completes one year in any graduation course, then he/she will get the basic education certificate or diploma certificate upon the completion of second year and degree on completion of the entire course. This way, the student will not waste any year if he drops out from the course in between.

CLEAN GANGA FUND:

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for setting up of Clean Ganga Fund in September 2014 with the aim of using the collection for various activities under the Namami Gange programme for cleaning the Ganges. **Aims:**
 - I. Cleaning up of the Ganges
 - II. Setting up of waste treatment plants
 - III. Conservation of biotic diversity of the river
 - IV. Development of public amenities
 - V. Activities such as Ghat redevelopment and Research and Development and innovative projects.

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA:

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council which was set up in October 2016 under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities order 2016.
- The order dissolved National Ganga River Basin Authority. The aim is to clean the Ganges and its tributaries in a comprehensive manner.

NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME:

- In the budget tabled in Parliament on 10 July 2014, government announced an integrated Ganges development project titled 'Namami Gange' and allocated ₹2,037 crore for this purpose.
- The objectives were effective abatement of pollution, conservation, and rejuvenation of the Ganges. Under the project, 8 states are covered.

- As a part of the program, government of India ordered the shut down of 48 industrial units around the Ganges.
- The centre will now take over 100% funding of various activities/ projects under this program.
- In an attempt to bolster enforcement, the centre also plans to establish a four-battalion Ganga Eco-Task Force.
- 'Namami Gange' will focus on pollution abatement interventions namely interception, diversion and treatment of waste water flowing through the open drains through bio-remediation / appropriate in-situ treatment / use of innovative technologies / sewage treatment plants (STPs) / effluent treatment plant (ETPs); rehabilitation and augmentation of existing STPs and immediate short term measures for arresting pollution at exit points on river front to prevent inflow of sewage etc.

The main pillars of Namami Gange Programme are:

- Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
- River-Front Development
- River-Surface Cleaning
- Bio-Diversity
- Afforestation
- Public Awareness
- Industrial Effluent Monitoring
- Ganga Gram

INFLIBNET:

- INFLIBNET Centre (Information and Library Network Centre) is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India under Ministry of HRD (MHRD) located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- INFLIBNET is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connecting them as well as information centres in the country through a nationwide high speed data network using the state-of-art technologies for the optimum utilization of information.
- INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in India.
- The Centre has implemented several projects for the development of library services in Indian Universities. These include the following:
 - Shodhganga, a digital repository for theses and dissertations by research scholars in universities in India
 - Shodhgangothri, a digital repository of synopsis of research topic submitted to the universities in India by research scholars
 - Creation of R&D facilities and working groups to study and contribute to the open source movement
 - e-PG Pathshala: A Gateway to All Post Graduate Courses

LUDDITE MOVEMENT:

- The term has come to mean one opposed to industrialisation, automation, computerisation, or new technologies in general.
- The Luddites were a secret oath-based organization of English textile workers in the 19th century, a radical faction which destroyed textile machinery as a form of protest.
- The group was protesting against manufacturers who used machines in what they called “a fraudulent and deceitful manner” to get around standard labor practices.
- Luddites feared that the time spent learning the skills of their craft would go to waste, as machines would replace their role in the industry.

- The Luddite movement began in Nottingham in England and culminated in a region-wide rebellion that lasted from 1811 to 1816.

UMANG:

- The Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), is a Government of India all-in-one single unified secure multi-channel multi-platform multi-lingual multi-service freeware mobile app for accessing over 841 services through 127 department central and state government services in multiple Indian languages over Android, iOS, Windows
- This a key component of Digital India government initiative to make all traditional offline government services available 24/7 online through single unified app. App is initially available in 13 language and will replace or complement 1500 apps launched by the government so far.
- This e-Gov service can be accessed via multiple channels, such as mobile app, IVR, website, etc. User numbers will be boosted by the roll out of BharatNet.
- Users can Create and update Profile, Sort & Filter through categories and services, or search to access relevant services while on the move.

COGNITIVE COMPUTING:

- Cognitive computing (CC) describes technology platforms that, broadly speaking, are based on the scientific disciplines of artificial intelligence and signal processing.
- These platforms encompass machine learning, reasoning, natural language processing, speech recognition and vision (object recognition), human-computer interaction, dialog and narrative generation, among other technologies.
- It widely used in cases pertaining to Speech recognition, Sentiment analysis, Face detection, Risk assessment, Fraud detection, Behavioral recommendations.

NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY OF INDIA:

- The Library was launched in pilot form in May 2016.
- The National Digital library of India (NDLI) is a project under Ministry of Human Resource Development, The Government of India.
- The objective is to collect and collate metadata and provide full text index from several national and international digital libraries, as well as other relevant sources.
- It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media.
- The NDLI provides free of cost access to many books in the Indian languages and English.

DISHA SCHEME:

- This is an early intervention and school readiness scheme for children in the age group of 0-10 years with the four disabilities covered under the National Trust Act that aims at providing training (specifically school readiness) and counselling to both children and parents.
- The Disha scheme aims at setting up Disha Centres for early intervention for Person with Disability (PwD) in 0-10 years of age covered under the National Trust Act, through therapies, trainings and providing support to family members.
- The Scheme is available in the entire country except Jammu and Kashmir.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI):

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a statutory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India. It consists of a Chairperson and not more than two full-time members and not more than two part-time members.
- The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.
- In order to increase broadband penetration in India, TRAI has proposed WANI (Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) architecture. If implemented, it may lead to set up of Public Data Offices (PDOs) where Wi-Fi Internet would be available on demand.
- TRAI relates the same with PCOs which were used to do the voice calls and were very popular hotspots before the mobile phones or home landlines became the ultimate mode of communication.

SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE AAPDA PRABANDHAN PURASKAR:

- The Government of India invites nominations for the “Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar” for excellence in the field of Disaster Management.
- The Government of India has instituted Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskaar to recognise the excellent work done by the individuals and institutions in the field of disaster management.
- In addition to a certificate, these awards carry a cash award of Rs 51 lakhs for an Institution and Rs 5 lakhs for an Individual.

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY:

- The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is a voluntary humanitarian organization to protect human life and health based in India. It is part of the International Red Cross.
- IRCS has a network of over 700 branches throughout India.
- Volunteering has been at the very heart of the Indian Red Cross Society since its inception in 1920, with the Society having Youth and Junior volunteering programmes.
- The President of India is the President of the IRCS
- The Minister of Health and Family Welfare is the Chairman of the Society.
- The Chairman and 6 members of the managing body are nominated by the President. The remaining 12 are elected by the state and union territory branches through an electoral college.

COGX:

- Artificial Intelligence-enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk received two awards at the CogX 2020 is held annually in London, the UK.
- CogX is a prestigious Global Leadership Summit and Festival of AI & Emerging Technology.
- MyGov Corona was awarded under the categories ‘Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society’ and ‘People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner’.
- CogX is a large AI event that is held annually in London with over 15,000 participants.
- Representatives from the highest levels of business, government, industry, and research participants in the event. The Cogx Awards are presented to the best-of-the-best in AI and emerging technologies across the world.

QKDSIM:

- Researchers from Raman Research Institute (RRI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has launched Quantum Key Distribution or QKD.
- The qkdSim simulation toolkit aims to ensure safety in secure quantum communication platforms.
- QKDSIM is a unique simulation toolkit for end-to-end QKD simulation which is based on modular principles that allow it to be grown to different classes of protocols using various underpinning technologies.
- The simulation toolkit will satisfy the recent advisories by the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure online communication via secure platforms.
- This comes as due to the increasing need for measures to ensure security in the virtual world as the COVID-19 confines most day to day activities to the digital space.

ELYMENTS:

- Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu is to launch Elyments, the first Indian Social Media Super App, on 5th July 2020. More than 1000 IT professionals jointly created the indigenous first social media super-app. Main features-
 - I. Elyments was built with an aim to keep the user's privacy in mind, as a primary concern.
 - II. The product was designed by India's top privacy professionals.
 - III. Data of users will be stored in the app and will never be shared with a third party without the user's explicit consent.
 - IV. The app is available in more than eight Indian languages.
 - V. The app aims to combine the special features of popular social media apps and present it on a single unified app.
 - VI. The app will allow the users to stay in touch through a vibrant feed, seamless free audio/video calls, and private/group chats.
 - VII. Elyments also aims to launch:
 - VIII. Audio/ Video conference calls
 - IX. Secure payments via Elyments Pay
 - X. Public profiles who users can Follow/Subscribe
 - XI. Curated commerce platform to promote Indian brands
 - XII. Regional voice commands

INJETI SRINIVAS:

- Senior bureaucrat Injeti Srinivas was appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for the Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City.
- IFSCA will serve as a unified authority to regulate all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) across the country.
- Until now, the regulations for entities and financial services at IFSCs were governed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- The appointment will now typically lead to several key regulations and development work falling between regulatory bodies.

HIMALAYAN BUTTERFLY:

- The Himalayan butterfly named Golden Birdwing has become India's largest butterfly and broke the record set by an unknown specimen, which was held for 88 years.
- The wingspan of the female of the Golden Birdwing species is 194 mm.

- The female Golden Birdwing was recorded from Didihat, Uttarakhand
- The smallest butterfly is the Quaker (*Neopithecops zalmora*) with a wingspan of 18 mm and forewing length of 8 mm.

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND:

- Central scheme announced this scheme in July, 2020.
- AIF aims to provide a medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.
- Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans.
- The beneficiaries will include Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), SHGs, Farmers etc among others.
- The moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to a minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.
- Agri Infra fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform.
- The National, State and District level Monitoring Committees will be set up to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feedback.
- The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- The Project by way of facilitating formal credit to farm and farm processing-based activities is expected to create numerous job opportunities in rural areas.

ATL APP:

- ATL App Development Modules' was launched for school children across the country in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative to transform school students from smartphone-based applications users into innovative smartphone-based applications developers.
- The 'ATL Device Development Modules' are launched by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under its Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) initiative, in partnership with Plezmo- a mobile application(Indian Startup Company-Gunakar Private Limited)

NEW GUINNESS RECORD:

- India's 2018 Tiger Census has made it to the Guinness Book of World Records to be the biggest wildlife trapping camera in the world.
- The fourth cycle of the 2018 All India Tiger Estimate, the results of which were announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the nation on Global Tiger Day last year, reported 2,967 tigers or 75 per cent of the global tiger population.

NATIONAL FISH FARMERS DAY, 10TH JULY:

- Every year, India celebrates 10 July as the "National Fish Farmers' Day" to honor fishermen, aquapreneurs and fishermen in appreciation of their achievements in the field and their contribution to the growth of the country's fisheries sector. It was 63rd National Fish Farmer's Day this year.
- National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated in the memory of scientists Dr K. H. Alikunhi and Dr H. L. Chaudhury.

- Both of them successfully demonstrated Hypophysation (technology of induced breeding) in Indian Major Carps (common name for several species of fish) on 10th July 1957.
- **Objectives:**
- To recognise the accomplishments and contribution of fish farmers, aquapreneurs (entrepreneurs in the water sector) and fisherfolks in the growth of the fisheries sector in the country.
- To draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.

Fish Cryobanks:

- NFDB and the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) will establish fish cryobanks in different parts of the country.
- The Cryomilt technology may be helpful in the establishment of fish cryobanks, which will provide good quality of fish sperm in hatcheries at any time.
- This would be the first time in the world when Fish Cryobanks will be established, enhancing fish production and increasing prosperity among the fish farmers.

RAVEN AND SPIKE FIREFLY:

- The Indian army is to acquire hand-launched, remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle Raven from the US and state-of-the-art Israeli Spike Firefly.
- The aim is to add lethality to its ground infantry apart from long-range precision artillery shells with a range of over 40 kilometres.

GREEN RAILWAY:

The Ministry of Railways has announced mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by the year 2030.

1. Indian Railways, as a part of mission mode, has planned to electrify All routes on Broad Gauge (BG) network by December 2023.
2. Indian Railways is currently focusing on the electrification of last-mile connectivity & missing links. Under this, 365 km of major connectivity work has been commissioned amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Indian Railways strategy to achieve net-zero carbon emission includes Railway Electrification, improve the energy efficiency of locomotives and trains and fixed installations, green certification for installations/stations, fitting bio-toilets in coaches and switching to renewable sources of energy, among others.
4. So far, Indian Railways has completed electrification of more than 40,000 Route km (RKM) (63% of Broad Gauge routes).

TIFAC REPORT ON ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS:

Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), an autonomous organization under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India released the title 'Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients- Status, Issues, Technology Readiness, and Challenges.'

1. The report stated that the indigenous production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) needs to be scaled up to a level where the production is economically viable.
2. The report recommended focusing on engineering and scale aspects of technology development, the need for Mission mode Chemical Engineering with defined targets for uninterrupted synthesis of molecules.
3. It also suggested creating mega drug manufacturing clusters with common infrastructure in India and the technology platform to be developed for biocatalysis towards reducing process

steps for cost optimization and for fluorination, Investment on priority in fermentation sector of large capacity and scale supporting techno-economic feasibility, attention to technologies like hazardous reactions, flow chemistry, cryogenic reactions, and membrane technology.

4. The report suggested the Government to encourage the Indian companies working in chemical segments such as steroids, amino acids, carbohydrates, nucleosides, etc., to collaborate for technology development or quick technology transfer and the need for closer academia-industry interaction for technology development and commercialization.

PNEUMOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE CONJUGATE VACCINE:

1. The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved the first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine. This vaccine has been developed by M/s. Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd, Pune.
2. Serum Institute has first obtained the approval of DCGI to conduct Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III clinical trials of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine in India.
3. This vaccine is used for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by "Streptococcus pneumonia" in infants.
4. The vaccine is administered in an intramuscular manner.
5. The application along with the clinical trial data has been reviewed by the Office of Drug Controller General of India with the help of the Special Expert Committee (SEC) for vaccines.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND:

Government of India (GoI) launched the implementation guidelines for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth Rs.15,000 crore.

1. The fund was approved by the Union Cabinet in June under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan stimulus package for ensuring growth in several sectors.
2. The AHIDF was established as MSMEs and Private companies are to be promoted and incentivized for their involvement in processing and value addition infrastructure.
3. AHIDF is a first-of-its-kind type of scheme for private sector. It is aimed to benefit millions of farmers by creating infrastructure and more milk will be processed. This will also increase export of dairy products which is presently negligible.
4. The eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme will be Farmer Producer Organizations, MSMEs, Private Companies and individual entrepreneurs with minimum 10% margin money contribution by them. The remaining 90% would be the loan component to be made available by scheduled banks

WORLD DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, 17 JULY:

1. World Day for International Justice is observed on 17 July across the world.
2. The aim is to recognize the strengthening system of international justice. The day also promotes international criminal justice.
3. World Day for International Justice is observed on 17th July as the day commemorates the historic adoption of the Rome Statute in the year 1998.
4. It also marks the importance of continuing the fight against impunity and bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

UAE LAUNCHED MISSION TO MARS:

1. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched its first mission to Mars on 20th July 2020. The UAE is striving to develop its scientific and technology capabilities and move away from its reliance on oil.

2. The Hope Probe was launched from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center on 20 July for a seven-month journey to Mars.
3. The satellite will orbit around Mars and send back data about the atmosphere.
4. The total cost of the Emirates Mars Mission is \$200 million.
5. The Hope Probe was developed by the Emiratis and Dubai's Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) worked with U.S. educational institutions.
6. The UAE has an ambitious plan for a Mars settlement by 2117.
7. At present, there are 8 active missions exploring Mars. Of the 8 missions, some satellites orbit the planet and some satellites have landed on the surface of Mars planet. China and the United States, currently, each plan to send another this year.

Installed Power Station Capacity in India as of June 30, 2020

Sector	Thermal (MW)				Sub-Total Thermal	Nuclear (MW)	Hydro (MW)	Renewable (MW)	Total (MW)
	Coal	Lignite	Gas	Diesel					
<u>Central</u>	58,990.00	3,490.00	7,237.91	0.00	69,717.91	6,780.00	15,346.72	1,632.30	93,476.93
<u>State</u>	65,631.50	1,290.00	7,154.86	236.01	74,312.36	0.00	26,958.50	2,357.03	103,627.89
Private	74,173.00	1,830.00	10,598.74	273.70	86,875.45	0.00	3,394.00	83,679.86	173,949.30
All India	198,794.50	6,610.00	24,991.51	509.71	230,905.72	6,780.00	45,699.22	87,669.19	371,054.12
Percentage	53.58	1.78	6.73	0.14	62.23	1.83	12.31	23.63	100

Hydroelectric power plants with ≤ 25 MW generation capacity are included in Renewable category (classified as SHP - Small Hydro Project).

The break-up of renewable energy sources (RES) is:

- Solar power (35,122.33 MW)
- Wind power (37,829.55 MW)

- Biomass (9,880.31 MW)
- Small hydro (4,688.16 MW)
- Waste-to-energy (148.84 MW)

INDIA'S FIRST CHARGING PLAZA:

- Recently, the Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy Shri R K Singh inaugurated first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza at Chelmsford club in New Delhi.
- The charging Plaza was established by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) and NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council). The plaza is to host five Electric Vehicle chargers of different specifications.
- The EESL is working towards procuring Electric Vehicles and identify innovative business models to implement Public Charging Stations (PCS).
- Along with the charging plaza, the minister also inaugurated RAISE (Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency). It is a joint initiative of EESL and USAID.
- The RAISE initiative will alleviate issues of bad air quality in workspaces all over the country. The RAISE was launched in partnership with US Agency for International Development (USAID) MAITREE programme.
- The initiative focuses to improve indoor air quality, energy efficiency and thermal comfort in the office air conditioning of EESL.
- RAISE has shown 80% improvement in air quality parameters with no implement hassles.

INDIA-US CONDUCT PASSEX EXERCISE:

- On July 20, 2020, the US Navy carrier USS Nimitz conducted maritime drills - PASSEX exercise with Indian warships in the Middle East.
- The USS Nimitz (world's largest aircraft carrier) was on its way from South China Sea. The naval carrier recently participated in the military exercise conducted in the South China sea along with USS Ronald Reagan.
- The Indian Navy has conducted similar PASSEX with Japan Maritime Self Defence Force and French Navy. PASSEX is a passage exercise. A passage exercise is normally conducted when there is an opportunity in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills. Thus, PASSEX is is a practice cooperation.
- Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force is the Japan Navy. It was formed after World War II. It has a fleet of 154 ships and 346 aircrafts. Since 2000, it is the fourth largest Navy in the world.

ITUC REPORT ON WORKERS' RIGHTS:

- On July 20, 2020, the International Trade Union Confederation released it ranking of 144 countries on degree of respect for workers' rights. India was among the least performing 10 countries in the list.
- The other least performing countries include Brazil, Bangladesh, Columbia, Kazakhstan, Honduras, Philippines, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Turkey.

- The middle-east region has been named the worst region in the world for working people. This is mainly due to the ongoing insecurity and conflicts in Syria, Palestine, Syria, Libya, Yemen coupled with most regressive region of worker representation and union rights.
- The ranking of the countries has been made based on the value of Global Rights Index. The index is prepared based on 97 metrics. This includes workers' rights, right to strike, freedom from violent conditions.
- The ITUC was established in 2006. It is based in Brussels, Belgium. It was formed on the merger of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and World Confederation of Labour. India is a member of ITUC.

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION:

- Recently, India revives Preferential Trade Agreement with South African Customs Union.
- The South African Customs Union (SACU) comprises of South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana and Eswatini. India and the South African Customs Union held a virtual meeting to discuss the aspects of Preferential Trade Agreement.
- India during the meet revived its Preferential Trade Agreement with the grouping. Under the PTA, India is supporting manufacturing and industries in the countries of the region. This mainly includes agriculture, irrigation, ICT, renewables, pharmaceuticals.
- The trade between India and Africa as a whole is 66.7 billion USD. Of this, India and SACU trade stands at 10.9 billion USD.
- The trade between India and South Africa stood at 10, 584 million USD in 2018-19. The exports from India to South Africa includes drugs, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, footwear, dyes, gems, jewellery, textiles and rice. On the other hand, the bilateral trade between India and Namibia in 2018-19 was 135.92 million USD. Namibia is rich in Uranium, copper, phosphates, diamonds, copper.

SAFEGUARD DUTY ON SOLAR CELLS:

- Recently, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies announced that the safeguard duty on solar cells imported from China, Vietnam and Thailand will continue for another one year starting from July 31, 2020. However, the countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia have been exempted.
- The import duties are to be imposed on all solar cell products whether or not assembled in panels or modules. The existing safeguard duty was imposed on July 2018.
- The import of solar cells from certain countries have been affecting the domestic industry. Therefore, it is essentials to curb them to protect the domestic industries.
- The finance ministry that takes the final call to impose the duty.
- The provision of safeguard duty is provided by GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), 1994. It allows a member of WTO to temporarily restrict imports of a product to safeguard its domestic industry.
-

SPICES EXPORTS INCREASE BY 23%:

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce released data on exports. According to the data, the export of spices has increased.
- In June 2020, Indian Spices exports has increased by 23% as compared to the same month in 2019. The exports of spices have earned 359 million USD in June 2020 as compared to 292 million USD in June 2019.
- The overall exports of the country in June 2020 was at 21.91 billion USD as compared to 25.01 billion USD in June 2019. The overall exports has declined by 12.41%.
- The major spices being exported include pepper, ginger, cardamom, coriander, turmeric, celery, fenugreek, nutmeg, mint and spice oils. The major importers of Indian spices are UAE, France, US, UK, Germany, Australia, Iran, China, Bangladesh and France.
- Spices have been considered as natural immunity boosters. The efforts of the Ayush Ministry have increased traditional knowledge about spices in India.

Classic IAS Academy Quiz

Q.1) Lebanon shares a land border with which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Cyprus
3. Syria
4. Israel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.2) What is 'Loya Jirga', recently in the news?

- a) A volunteer organization that operates in parts of opposition-controlled Syria and Turkey.
- b) A movement for the preservation of tribal culture and tradition.

c) A national gathering that brings together representatives from the various sections of society.

d) A traditional medicine systems popular in the South East Asian region.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Casuarinas?

1. They are one of the mangrove species native to India.
2. They fix atmospheric nitrogen through a symbiotic association with the bacteria, Frankia.
3. They can be used for biomass-based power generation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.4) With reference to the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
2. Under this program, the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) will provide training to artisans working in rural areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Which of the above rivers is/are tributary/tributaries of Brahmaputra River?

1. Kuakhai
2. Subansiri
3. Kameng
4. Kolong

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.6) The Nongkrem dance festival belongs to which of the following community/tribe?

- a) Bodos
- b) Khasis
- c) Brus
- d) Kukis

Q.7) What is 'IntelliMAST, recently in the news?

- a) A solar-based wearable sensor designed for patients suffering from movement disorders.
- b) A drone designed to fight locust attacks.
- c) A software-based intelligent surveillance system to track the movement of people under quarantine.
- d) A kiosk capable of identifying the body temperature of a person and detect whether an individual is wearing Face Mask or not.

Q.8) With reference to the 'Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet)' recently in the news, which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. It aims to strengthen the resource base for the teachers in higher education.

2. Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) is a flagship leadership development training programme under this network.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.9) Recently, there was a news of upgrading the Poba Reserve Forest to a wildlife sanctuary. In which one of the following states is Poba Reserve Forest located?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Assam
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Tripura

Q.10) In which one of the following countries is Hagia Sophia located?

- a) Egypt
- b) Syria
- c) Turkey

d) Lebanon

Answer-Keys & Explanation

Q.1)

Ans) A

Exp)

- Lebanon shares a land border with Syria and Israel. Lebanon is bounded to the north and east by Syria, to the south by Israel, and to the west by the Mediterranean Sea.



Q.2)

Ans) C

Exp)

- **Loya Jirga** is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in **Afghanistan**.
- Recently, a three-day Loya Jirga-grand assembly has been called in Afghanistan to decide on freeing about 400 Taliban fighters convicted for serious crimes including murder and abductions.
- Loya Jirga is a highly respected centuries-old consultative body that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues.
- According to the Afghan Constitution, a Loya Jirga is considered the highest expression of the Afghan people. It is not an official decision-making body and its decisions are not legally binding. However, the Loya Jirga's decision is seen as final, with the president and parliament expected to respect the ruling.

Q.3)

Ans) B

Exp)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Casuarinas are a versatile group of plants with wide-ranging adaptability to grow in different environments and provide multiple end uses and services. In India, Casuarina equisetifolia was introduced during the 19th century and is now estimated to be under cultivation in around half a million hectares mainly in the Peninsular region.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Casuarinas fix atmospheric nitrogen through a symbiotic association with the bacteria, Frankia.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Casuarina wood with a high calorific value is a renowned fuelwood in the tropics. Apart from fuel, the wood is extensively used for papermaking and of late is a preferred choice for biomass-based power generation. The straight cylindrical stems find use in rural house building and as scaffolds in construction sites. It is the principal species for developing shelterbelts in coastal areas and windbreaks for protecting crops. It also plays a key role in reclaiming mined areas and afforesting nutrient-poor sites.

Q.4)

Ans) A

Exp)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in the manufacturing of agarbatti and to develop the village industry under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana'.
- Initially four pilot projects will be started as part of the programme, including one in the North East.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 automatic agarbatti making machines and 10 mixing machines. Accordingly, a total of 200 automatic agarbatti making machines and 40 mixing machines will be provided to the artisans. The

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will provide training, and assist artisans working in this area, with Agarbatti manufacturing machines. The Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Q.5)

Ans) C

Exp)

- The Brahmaputra river originates from Kailash ranges of the Himalayas at an elevation of about 5150 m and flows for about 2900 km through Tibet (China), India, and Bangladesh and joins the Ganga. The river Brahmaputra receives several tributaries at its north and south banks, in the catchment area in India.

Major tributaries of Brahmaputra

Tributaries from North bank	Tributaries from South bank
The Jadhah	The Noa Dehing
The Subansiri	The Buridehing
The Siang	The Debang
The Kameng (Jiabharali in Assam)	The Dikhow
The Dhansiri(North)	The Dhansiri(S)
The Puthimari	The Kopili
The Pagladiya	The Digaru
The Manas	The Dudhnai
The Champamati	The Krishnai
The Saralbhangha	
The Aie	
The Sankosh	

Q.6)

Ans) B

Exp)

- Nongkrem Dance (Pomblang Nongkrem) is popularly known as the Nongkrem Dance is one of the most important festivals of the **Khasis**, Meghalaya.
- The festival lasts for five days and is generally celebrated in the month of November.
- This festival is celebrated as a thanksgiving to God Almighty for the good harvest and to pray for peace and prosperity.

Q.7)

Ans) D

Exp)

- Solar Based Intelligent Mask Automated Dispensing Unit cum Thermal Scanner (IntelliMAST) or Solar Based IntelliMAST is an Intelligent surveillance kiosk which identifies the body temperature and whether an individual is wearing Face Mask or not through customised Software solutions. After identifying, it also informs the administrator. The in-built thermal scanner detects the rise in body temperature through forehead scanning. It works under a power supply of 40-50 watts.
- It is a part of the COVID-19 protection System (COPS) for workplaces unveiled by CSIR-CMERI.
- The COPS includes contactless solar-based intelligent mask automated dispensing unit cum thermal scanner (IntelliMAST), 360-degree car flusher and touchless faucet. These sub units are now available for technology transfers. The COPS is the conglomeration of the above-listed technologies.

Q.8)

Ans) D

Exp) Both the statements are incorrect.

- Under the Digital India initiative of the Government of India, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) aims to develop a World-Class Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet). Keeping in mind the spectacular developments in information technology, the traditional libraries of the MoES system will be upgraded into a top-notch Knowledge Resource Centres (KRC).
- KRCs will be connected with each other and integrated into the KRCNet portal. It will be a single point entry to the intellectual world of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Q.9)

Ans) B

Exp)

- Recently, the Chief Minister of Assam announced that Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary.
- Poba Reserve Forest was declared in 1924 with an area of 10,522 hectares, is home to large number of flora and fauna.
- The Assam keelback snake has been sighted by a team from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the first time since 1869.
- Initially known as Hebius Pealii, the Assam keelback is so far known only to inhabit Sivasagar in Upper Assam and Poba reserved forest in Assam-Arunachal border. As far as present knowledge goes, Assam keelback is an endemic snake of Upper Assam.

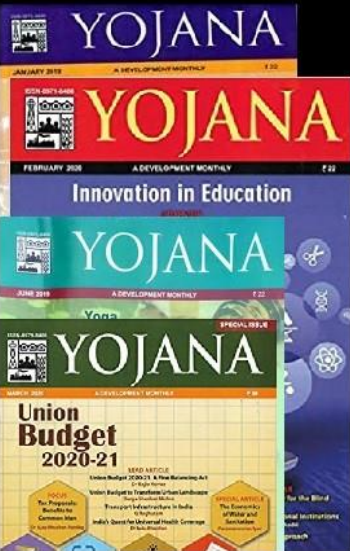
Q.10)

Ans) C

Exp)

- Hagia Sophia is a sixth-century Byzantine structure in Istanbul, Turkey. It was an Eastern Orthodox patriarchal cathedral for about 900 years, an imperial mosque for 482 years and now currently functions as a museum and a famed tourist spot.
- Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been one of the most visited monuments in Turkey, and an emblem of Christian-Muslim co-existence.
- **It is now being turned into a mosque by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.**

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Insight into
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