

(Q.1-Q.5):

Indian Naval Ship (1) has arrived at the Port of Mombasa in Kenya in the continuation of the ongoing Mission Sagar II. The Govt of India, through the humanitarian mission, is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and INS is carrying food aid for the people of South Sudan, on the same line.

The Ministry of Defence in a statement said that the strong bonds of friendship and brotherly relations between India and countries in Africa have been forged and strengthened over several centuries. India has always stood in solidarity with the countries and people in Africa and has partnered in undertaking development, capacity building and humanitarian assistance programmes.

The Mission Sagar-II is aligned with Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR. It ingeminates India's position as a dependable partner in Indian Ocean Region



CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE SHEETS (CAPS)

(IOR) with Indian Navy as the principal maritime agency and first responder in the maritime domain. The mission highlights the significance accorded by India to relations with South Sudan and further strengthens the existing bond.

Mission Sagar-II is in line with the Mission Sagar undertaken by the Govt of India in May-June 2020. According to the mission, INS is set to deliver food aid to the African states of Sudan, South Sudan, (2) and (2). The Indian Navy is progressing this mission in close coordination with the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, and other agencies of the Indian Govt. The assistance is in line with India's role as the first

responder in the IOR.

Vision Sagar was launched by the Govt of India in(3), in order to deepen economic and security cooperation with it's maritime neighbours.

- As part of Mission Sagar-II, which Indian Naval Ship will deliver food aid? Refer (1)
 - INS Viraat
 - INS Vikramaditya
 - INS Airavat
 - INS Arihant
- The INS will deliver food to four African states. Which two are missing from above?
 - Djibouti and Eritrea.
 - Somalia and Yemen
 - Nairobi and Mombasa

(d) Somalia and Mombasa

- Vision Sagar was launched by the Government of India in which year?
 - 2014
 - 2016
 - 2015
 - 2018
- What does Sagar stands for?
 - Security and Growth for All in the Region
 - Safety and Growth for All in the Region
 - Security and Guarantee for All in the Region
 - Safety and Guarantee for All in the Region
- Consider the following statements and choose the correct one.
 - The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) was established in 1997
 - Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles along with La Réunion are part of Indian Ocean Commission.
 - India has recently become an observer to the Commission
 - i & ii
 - i and iii
 - ii & iii
 - All of them

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) **INS Airavat**

Explanation: Indian Naval Ship Airavat entered Port Sudan as part of 'Mission Sagar-II', carrying a consignment of 100 tonnes of food aid for the people of Sudan. The Government of India is providing assistance to friendly foreign countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic.

2. (a) **Djibouti and Eritrea**

Explanation: Mission Sagar-II, follows the first 'Mission Sagar' undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India reached out to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, and provided food aid and medicines.

As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

3. (c) **2015**

Explanation: In the year 2015, Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision was launched by the Government of India to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours. Furthermore, the mission seeks in building maritime security capabilities with these neighbours.

4. (a) **Security and Growth for All in the Region**

Explanation: SAGAR is a term

coined by PM Modi in 2015 during his Mauritius visit with a focus on the blue economy. It is a maritime initiative which gives priority to the Indian Ocean region for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India in the Indian Ocean region. The goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency; respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries; sensitivity to each other's interests; peaceful resolution of maritime issues; and increase in maritime cooperation. It is in line with the principles of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

5. (d) **All of them**

Explanation: Established in 1997 in Ebene Cyber City, Mauritius. First established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Mauritius on March 1995 and formally launched in 1997 by the conclusion of a multilateral treaty known as the Charter of the IORA for Regional Cooperation. It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.

(Q.6-Q.10):

The (RCEP) is the world's largest trade pact in terms of GDP, analysts say :

India pulled out of the agreement last year over concerns about cheap Chinese goods entering the country. Fifteen countries on Sunday signed a sprawling Asian trade deal seen as a huge coup for China in extending its influence.

The (RCEP) -- which includes Southeast Asian economies along with China, Japan, South Korea, (4) and Australia -- is the world's largest trade pact in terms of GDP, analysts say.

First proposed in (2), the deal was finally sealed at the end of a Southeast Asian summit as leaders push to get their pandemic-hit economies back on track.

"I am happy that after eight years of complex discussions, today we officially end RCEP negotiations," Vietnamese



Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said ahead of the virtual signing.

The agreement to lower tariffs and open up the services trade within the bloc does not include the United States and is viewed as a Chinese-led alternative to a now-defunct Washington trade initiative.

The RCEP "solidifies China's broader regional geopolitical ambitions around the Belt and Road initiative", said Alexander Capri, a trade expert at the National University of Singapore Business School, referring to Beijing's signature investment project that envisions Chinese infrastructure and influence spanning the globe.

"It's sort of a complementary element."

But many of the signatories are battling severe coronavirus outbreaks and they are also hoping the RCEP will help mitigate the crippling economic cost of the illness.

6. What does RCEP stands for?
 - (a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
 - (b) Regional Common Economic Partnership
 - (c) Region Common Economic Partnership
 - (d) Regional Complete Economic Partnership
7. Fill in the blank (2)
 - (a) 2014 (b) 2011
 - (c) 2015 (d) 2017
8. ASEAN has how many

members ?

- (a) 8 (b) 9
- (c) 10 (d) 13

9. The RCEP consists of ASEAN countries and some others which one is missing from above? refer (4)
 - (a) Iceland
 - (b) Netherland
 - (c) Switzerland
 - (d) New Zealand
10. Consider the following and choose the false ones.
 - I. The deal could increase global national income by USD 186 billion annually by 2030 and add 0.2% to the economy of its member states.
 - II. India pulled out in 2019 over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers
 - (a) Only i (b) Only ii
 - (c) Both (d) None

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

6. (a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Explanation: the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has come into existence on the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN Summit. It has laid down the path for restarting discussion that had failed to admit India earlier and said "new" developments would be taken into consideration if India re-applies.

7. (b) 2011

Explanation: The China-backed group will emerge as the largest free trade agreement (FTA) in the world surpassing both the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the European Union (EU). It is expected to eliminate a range of tariffs on imports within 20 years and also includes provisions on intellectual property, telecommunications, financial services, e-commerce and

professional services.

Under RCEP, parts from any member nation would be treated equally, which might give companies in RCEP countries an incentive to look within the trade region for suppliers.

Businesses with global supply chains might face tariffs even within an FTA because their products contain components that are made elsewhere.

8. (c) 10

Explanation: is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia. ASEAN also regularly engages other countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. A major partner of Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation, ASEAN maintains a global network of alliances and dialogue partners and is considered by many as a global powerhouse, the central union for cooperation in Asia-Pacific, and a prominent and influential organization. It is involved in numerous international affairs, and hosts diplomatic missions throughout the world

9. (d) New Zealand

Explanation: It consists of 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members, as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It excludes the USA, which withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2017. Members of the RCEP make up nearly a third of the world's population and account for 29% of global gross domestic product (GDP).

10. (d) None

Explanation: The agreement

has left the doors open for India. However, India, in 2019 opted out of the agreement mainly due to concerns of dumping manufactured goods from China. And also dumping of dairy products from New Zealand and agricultural products from Australia. India also raised several concerns regarding the deal. And the deal failed to address India's concerns. India, as an original negotiating participant of the RCEP, has the option of joining the agreement without having to wait 18 months as stipulated for new members in the terms of the pact. RCEP signatory states plan to commence negotiations with India once it submits a request of its intention to join the pact "in writing", and it may participate in meetings as an observer prior to its accession.

(Q.11-Q.15):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the "Statue of Peace" in Rajasthan's (5) district via video-conferencing on Monday to mark the (1) birth anniversary celebrations of Jain monk Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.

The (2) -inch-tall statue is made of "(3)" (eight metals with copper being the major constituent) and is being installed at the Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Rajasthan's district, an official statement said.

The saint, who lived during

1870-1954, led an austere life, working selflessly and dedicatedly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira, it said.

He also worked relentlessly for the welfare of the masses, spread of education and eradication of social evils, wrote inspiring literature (poetry, essays, devotional hymns and stavans) and gave active support to the freedom movement and the cause of the swadeshi, the statement said.

With his inspiration, more than 50 educational institutions of eminence, including colleges, schools and study centres,

are operational across several states, it added.

11. To mark which birth anniversary year the Statute is being unveiled?

- (a) 175th (b) 150th
(c) 151st (d) 170th

12. How tall the statue is?

- (a) 151 (b) 142
(c) 158 (d) 168

13. The statue is being made of eight metals with copper being the major constituent what it is called as?

- (a) Ashtadhatu
(b) Ashvadhatu

(c) Aatdhatu

(d) Ashmadhatu

14. Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj is a disciple of whom?

- (a) Vallabhsuri
(b) Vijayanand Suri.
(c) Anand suri
(d) Anant suri

15. In which district of Rajasthan the statue will be built?

- (a) Karauli (b) Sirohi
(c) Sikar (d) Pali



ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

11. (c) 151st

Explanation: The unveiling of Statue of Peace marked the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj. The Jain monk, who lived from 1870-1954, led an ascetic life and worked with dedication to spread the teachings of Lord Mahavira. He worked fervently for welfare of the masses, spread of education and elimination of social evils, wrote inspiring literature-poetry, essays, devotional hymns and stavans. He was an active supporter of the freedom struggle and the cause of swadeshi.

12. (a) 151

Explanation: 'Statue of Peace' in Rajasthan's Pali via video conferencing to mark the 151st Jayanti celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj. He also paid tribute to the Jainacharya and the spiritual leaders who were present on the occasion.

13. (a) Ashtadhatu

Explanation: The statue has been made from Ashtadhatu (octo-alloy) i.e. 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent, and is installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan.

The alloy is mainly used in casting metallic idols in Hindu and Jain temples. The alloy is made of metals such as gold, copper, silver, tin, zinc, iron, tin and antimony (or mercury). The metals are mixed in equal proportions to create the idol.

14. (b) Vijayanand Suri.

Explanation: He was a Jain monk born on October 26, 1870. He was a disciple of Vijayanand Suri. He was the founder of Shri Parshwanath Jain Vidyalaya in Pali district of Rajasthan. Also, he established the Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya in

Mumbai, Pune and Vadodara. He supported non-violent independent movements of Mahatma Gandhiji.

15. (d) Pali

Explanation: The country now has another tall statue after the world's tallest State of Unity in Gujarat, and the upcoming Lord Rama statue in Ayodhya. The 151 in tall statue has been made using ashtadhatu, which comprises, majorly, of copper and a combination of eight metals. The statue has been installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra in Rajasthan.

**(Q.16-Q.20):**

Four astronauts were poised to launch on the SpaceX Crew Dragon “Resilience” to the International Space Station on Sunday, the first of what the US hopes will be many routine missions following a successful test flight in late spring.

Three Americans -- Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover and (1) -- and Soichi Noguchi will blast off at 7:27 pm Sunday (0027 GMT Monday) from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida

In May, SpaceX completed a demonstration mission showing it could take astronauts to the ISS and bring them back safely, thus ending almost a decade of

reliance on Russia for rides on its Soyuz rockets.

“The history being made this time is we’re launching what we call an operational flight to the International Space Station,” NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine told reporters Friday.

The launch will be attended by Vice President Mike Pence and second lady Karen Pence.

The crew will dock at their destination at around 11:00 pm Monday night (0400 GMT Tuesday), joining two Russians and one American onboard the station, and stay for (2).

The Crew Dragon earlier this week became the first spacecraft

to be certified by NASA since the Space Shuttle nearly (3) years ago

16. Fill in the blank (1)

- (a) Andy Thomas
- (b) Shannon Walker
- (c) Tracy Caldwell
- (d) Kathleen Rubins

17. What is the mission time period?

- (a) Six months
- (b) Nine months
- (c) Twelve months
- (d) Eighteen months

18. SpaceX was founded by?

- (a) Larry Ellison
- (b) Sergey Brin

(c) Elon Musk

(d) Jeff Bezos

19. Soichi Noguchi is a native of which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) China
- (c) South Korea
- (d) Vietnam

20. SpaceX’s Crew Dragon spacecraft will lift from which space center?

- (a) Johnson Space Center
- (b) Marshall Space Flight Center
- (c) Kennedy Space Center
- (d) Stennis Space Center

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

16. **(b) Shannon Walker**

Explanation: Four astronauts were poised to launch on the SpaceX Crew Dragon “Resilience” to the International Space Station on Sunday, the first of what the US hopes will be many routine missions following a successful test flight in late spring. Three Americans -- Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker -- and Japan’s Soichi Noguchi

17. **(a) Six months**

Explanation: SpaceX’s Crew Dragon spacecraft will lift off carrying a crew of four people to the International Space

Station (ISS) on a six-month-long mission. The mission is part of NASA’s Commercial Crew Program, whose objective is to make access to space easier in terms of its cost.

This will carry four astronauts on NASA missions, maintaining a space station crew of seven to maximize time dedicated to scientific research on the orbiting laboratory.

With this, the cargo and crew can be easily transported to and from the ISS, enabling greater scientific research.

At the ISS, the crew will join

the members of Expedition 64, the space station crew currently in residence at the ISS.

18. **(c) Elon Musk**

Explanation: SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk in 2002, has leapfrogged its much older rival Boeing, whose program has floundered after a failed test of its uncrewed Starliner last year.

But SpaceX’s success won’t mean the US will stop hitching rides with Russia altogether, said Bridenstine

19. **(a) Japan**

Explanation: Soichi Noguchi is a Japanese aeronautical

engineer and JAXA astronaut. His first spaceflight was as a Mission Specialist aboard STS-114 on 26 July 2005 for NASA’s first “return to flight” Space Shuttle mission after the Columbia disaster

20. **(c) Kennedy Space Center**

Explanation: The John F. Kennedy Space Center, located on Merritt Island, Florida, is one of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s ten field centers. Since December 1968, KSC has been NASA’s primary launch center of human spaceflight

(Q.21-Q.25):

Under an UN initiative, over (1) scientists have joined hands to tackle the issue of misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines and build confidence by busting myths and sharing information on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines via the social media.

The UN has collaborated with (2) at the University of London to undertake Team (4), an initiative which aims to counter the misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines.

Globally, the initiative is supported by scientists who are involved in the race of coronavirus vaccine development across the world's top institutes like Imperial College London, Harvard Medical School, University of Sao Paulo, University of Barcelona and many others.

In India, scientists have joined Team from renowned institutes such as Institute of Medical Sciences and Sum Hospital; PGIMER, Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences, IIT Indore,

Christian Medical College, SRM Research Institute, and Deep Children's Hospital and Research Centre.

"At my institution, we are studying how Covid-19 reinfection operates and I am excited about opening up the story of the search for Covid-19 vaccines for the public," Gagandeep Kang, Professor of Microbiology at Christian Medical College Vellore, said in a statement.

"People want to know about the science and stories behind the headlines, and I'm delighted to be experimenting with social media to make serious points in creative ways," Kang added.

21. Under US initiative how many scientists have joined in?

- (a) 80
(b) 200
(c) 100
(d) 80

22. Fill in the blank (2)

- (a) The Vaccine Project
(b) The Vaccine Confidence



Project

- (c) The Vaccine Covid Project
(d) The Vaccine Confide Project

23. How many Indian Scientists have joined the Team?

- (a) 25
(b) 28
(c) 30
(d) 22

24. What is the Initiative called?

- (a) Team Halo

(b) Team hello

- (c) Team hey
(d) Team Help

25. Besides the Team will also highlight of the work of scientists of different countries which from the below is not one of them?

- (a) UK
(b) South Africa
(c) France
(d) Japan

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

21. (c) 100

Explanation: "Team Halo". More than 100 scientists from different parts of the world have come together under the project. The United Nations had launched several initiatives to help the world fight against COVID-19 Food Coalition In November 2020, the United Nations launched a new alliance to prevent COVID-19 food crisis. The alliance was proposed by Italy and is led by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). The alliance will work towards increasing resilience of agricultural food system.

COVID-19 Law Labs

It is a portal started by the United Nations to fight COVID-19. The portal hosts all legal steps adopted by its

member countries to fight COVID-19.

22. (b) **The Vaccine Confidence Project**

Explanation: The UN has collaborated with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London to undertake Team Halo, an initiative which aims to counter the misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines. Globally, the initiative is supported by scientists who are involved in the race of coronavirus vaccine development across the world's top institutes like Imperial College London, Harvard Medical School, University of Sao Paulo, University of Barcelona and many others.

23. (d) 22

Explanation: In India, over 22 scientists have joined Team

Halo from renowned institutes such as Institute of Medical Sciences and Sum Hospital; PGIMER, Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences, IIT Indore, Christian Medical College, SRM Research Institute, and Deep Children's Hospital and Research Centre.

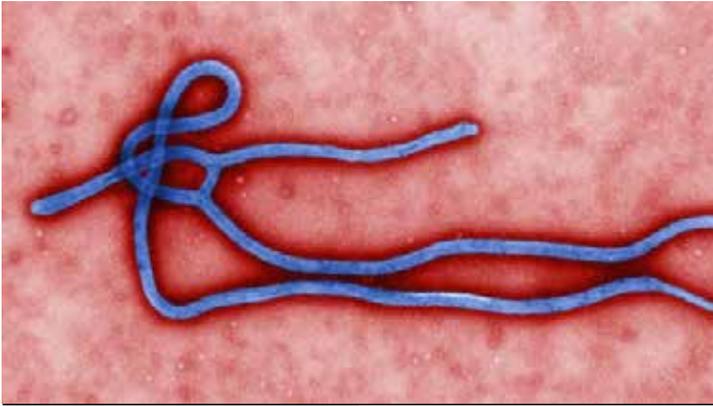
24. (a) **Team Halo**

Explanation: Scientists participating in Team Halo are keen to emphasise the global nature of their work and recognise the contribution made by thousands around the world. Team Halo aims to tackle misinformation on safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Under the initiative, the scientists will create social-media friendly videos on COVID-19 vaccine science based on their personal experiences.

Also, Team Halo will act as a communication platform for the scientists working on COVID-19 vaccines.

25. (d) **Japan**

Explanation: Besides India, Team Halo aims to highlight the work undertaken by scientists in the UK, the US, South Africa, Qatar, UAE, France, Spain, Peru, Canada and Brazil and create a platform for communication between the scientists working on Covid-19 vaccines and the citizens of these countries. Collectively they are producing creative, social media-friendly videos on topics such as Covid-19 vaccine science, personal experiences and reactions to COVID-19 vaccine news items.

**(Q.26-Q.30):**

A rare Ebola-like illness that is believed to have first originated in (1) can spread through human-to-human transmission, researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have discovered.

The biggest outbreak of the 'Chapare virus' was reported in 2019, when three healthcare workers contracted the illness from two patients. Two of the medical professionals and one patient later died. Prior to that, a single confirmed case of the disease and a small cluster were documented in the Chapare region over a decade ago.

While governments, scientists

and health experts across the world struggle to contain a second wave of coronavirus outbreaks, researchers at the US' CDC are now studying the virus to see if it could eventually pose a threat to humankind.

At the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) earlier this week, researchers from the US' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed that by examining the 2019 outbreak in Bolivia, they had found the virus can spread from person to person, particularly in healthcare settings.

"Our work confirmed that

a young medical resident, an ambulance medic and a gastroenterologist all contracted the virus after encounters with infected patients — and two of these healthcare workers later died," Caitlin Cossaboom, an epidemiologist with the CDC's division of high-consequence pathogens and pathology said in a statement. "We now believe many bodily fluids can potentially carry the virus."

26. In which year it is believed to be originated?

- (a) 2002
- (b) 2005
- (c) 2004
- (d) 2008

27. Chapare is named after province of?

- (a) Bolivia
- (b) Peru
- (c) Chile
- (d) Paraguay

28. An experimental Ebola vaccine, called what which proved highly protective against EVD.

- (a) rVSV-MEBOV

- (b) rVSV-NEBOV
- (c) rVSV-PEBOV
- (d) rVSV-ZEBOV

29. Consider the following and choose the correct ones

I. Chapare virus are generally carried by rats and can be transmitted through direct contact with the infected rodent, its urine and droppings, or through contact with an infected person.

II. A disease vector is any agent which carries and transmits an infectious pathogen into another living organism.

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both
- (d) None

30. Chapare belongs to which family?

- (a) Bornaviridae
- (b) Cystoviridae
- (c) Arenaviridae
- (d) Endornaviridae

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

26. (c) 2004

Explanation: Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently discovered a rare Ebola-like illness that is believed to have first originated in rural Bolivia in 2004.

27. (a) Bolivia

Explanation: The virus is named Chapare after the province in which it was first observed.

Chapare, is a rural province in the northern region of central Bolivia. The recent biggest outbreak of the 'Chapare virus' was reported in 2019, when three healthcare workers contracted the illness from two patients in the Bolivian capital of La Paz.

28. (d) rVSV-ZEBOV

Explanation: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) or Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever (EHF), is a viral hemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates caused by ebolaviruses

Transmission:

Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts. Just like the Ebola virus, the Chapare virus is capable of causing haemorrhagic fever. Ebola spreads via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with: Blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.

Objects that have been contaminated with body fluids (like blood, feces, vomit) from a person sick with Ebola or the body of a person who died from Ebola.

29. (c) Both

Explanation: Chapare virus are generally carried by rats and can be transmitted through direct contact with the infected rodent, its urine and droppings, or through contact with an infected person.

A disease vector is any agent which carries and transmits an infectious pathogen into another living organism.

Symptoms of Chapare Hemorrhagic Fever (CHHF): Hemorrhagic fever much like Ebola.

Viral hemorrhagic fevers are a severe and life-threatening kind of illness that can affect multiple organs and damage the walls of blood vessels.

- 1) Abdominal pain,
- 2) Vomiting,
- 3) Bleeding gums,

- 4) Skin rash,
- 5) Pain behind the eyes.

30. (c) Arenaviridae

Explanation: Chapare Virus belongs to the same Arenavirus family that is responsible for illnesses such as the Ebola virus disease (EVD). It causes Chapare Hemorrhagic Fever (CHHF). Chapare virus is much more difficult to catch than the coronavirus as it is not transmissible via the respiratory route. Instead, Chapare spreads only through direct contact with bodily fluids.

New sequencing tools will help develop an RT-PCR test — much like the one used to diagnose Covid-19 to help detect Chapare.

(Q.31-Q.35):

BEIJING: China is all set to begin the construction of the strategic Sichuan-Tibet Railway between Ya'an in southwest Sichuan province and Linzhi in Tibet, close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh, the official media reported.

China Railway announced on Saturday the bidding results for the construction of two tunnels and one bridge, as well as the power supply project for the Ya'an-Linzhi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, indicating that construction of the project is about to begin.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway is the second such project in Tibet after the (1).

It will go through the southeast of the Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas, a report by the state-run China News reported.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from (3), the capital of Sichuan province, and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the journey from to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours, the report said.

Linzhi, which is also known as (2), is located close to Arunachal Pradesh border.

China claims Arunachal

Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

Linzhi also has an airport, one of the five built by China in the Himalayan region.

The newly-built Ya'an-Linzhi section runs 1,011 kilometres and includes 26 stations.



Trains are expected to run at speeds between 120 and 200 km per hour, a staffer in charge of the project said.

31. Fill in the blank(refer 1)

- (a) Lhasa-Tibet
- (b) Hoh Xil-Tibet

- (c) Qinghai-Tibet
- (d) Potala-Tibet

32. Linzhi is also known as?

- (a) Nagqu
- (b) Chamdo
- (c) Nyingchi
- (d) Shannan

33. Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from where ?

- (a) Chengdu
- (b) Wuhan
- (c) Chongqing
- (d) Shanghai

34. India and China share a boundary that stretches for how many km from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.?

- (a) 4000
- (b) 3488
- (c) 3844
- (d) 3384

35. What is the total cost of entire of Sichuan-Tibet Railway project?

- (a) 319.8 billion yuan
- (b) 300 billion yuan
- (c) 400 billion yuan
- (d) 420 billion yuan

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

31. (c) Qinghai-Tibet

Explanation: The Qinghai-Tibet railway or Qingzang railway, is a high-elevation railway that connects Xining, Qinghai Province, to Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The length of the railway is 1,956 km. Construction of the 815 km section between Xining and Golmud was completed by 1984

32. (c) Nyingchi

Explanation: China has begun to build a strategic railway line (this is the second major railway line to Tibet) that will connect Sichuan Province in southwest China with

Linzhi, Tibet, near the border of Arunachal Pradesh in India. Linzhi (also known as Nyingchi) is located near the border of Arunachal Pradesh.

33. (a) Chengdu

Explanation: The Sichuan-Tibet Railway departs from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours.

◆ When there is a crisis on the border, the railway can act as a "fast track" for the transportation of strategic materials.

◆ Since this railway runs near

the southwest border of China, it will greatly improve the efficiency and convenience of military personnel and material transportation and logical materials.

34. (b) 3488

Explanation: The India-China border dispute involves a 3,488-kilometer line of actual control, which is the actual border between the two countries. China claims that Arunachal Pradesh is a part of southern Tibet, but India firmly rejected it.

35. (a) 319.8 billion yuan

Explanation: The total cost of the entire Sichuan-Tibet Railway project is around

319.8 billion yuan (USD 47.8 billion)

The Sichuan-Tibet railway is also of great significance in safeguarding national unity and maintaining border stability, the daily quoted Chinese experts as saying. "After the Sichuan-Tibet railway starts operation, Tibet will have more exchanges with other parts of the Chinese mainland. Strategically, China's Tibetan region will have much stronger capabilities in material transportation and logistical supplies

(Q.36-Q.40):

The annual Heads of State-level meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation will be held under the chairmanship of (1) on Tuesday. The virtual meeting is being held in the backdrop of major regional and global developments.

The SCO Summit of Heads of State is the main unit of the organisation that sets the agenda and gives political, security, trade, economic and cultural directions to the 8-member body. Apart from the members Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, four Observer States — Iran, Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia — will also participate in the summit.

It has been learnt that there will also be statements on issues like the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the World War II, digital economy, COVID-19, countering the spread of terrorism including on the Internet and countering the drug threat. “There will also be decisions on major projects and initiatives in trade and

economic sphere,” a source said.

The escalating violence in Afghanistan in the backdrop of the peace negotiations is also scheduled to feature among the discussions.

The summit is crucial as it provides the Chinese and the Indian leaderships an opportunity to exchange thoughts on regional and global issues even as the border tension in Eastern Ladakh continues

36. The recent SCO meet was held under the chairmanship of whom?
- Narendra Modi
 - Vladimir Putin
 - Xi Jinping
 - Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
37. Which country assumed chairmanship of SCO for 2021-22?
- China
 - India
 - Kazakhstan
 - Tajikistan
38. The SCO's official languages are?



- Russian and Chinese
 - Kazakh, Russian
 - Kyrgyz, Hindi
 - Russian and English
39. Consider the following and choose the correct ones
- It was created in 2001.
 - SCO Secretariat in Beijing, and Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent are two permanent bodies of SCO.
40. In which year India became a full time member of SCO?
- 2015
 - 2014
 - 2017
 - 2012

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

36. **(b) Vladimir Putin**
 Explanation: The Meeting was chaired by Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin. Significance of SCO Meet: 20th Summit of SCO Heads of State is important as it brought President Xi Jinping of China and Mr. Modi together in the virtual format even as both sides are caught in the high tension confrontation in Eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
37. **(d) Tajikistan**
 Explanation: The Republic of Tajikistan assumed chairmanship of SCO for 2021-22. India has proposed to set up a Special Working Group on Innovation and Startups and a Sub Group on Traditional Medicine within SCO. The Prime Minister

- of India indirectly referred chinese infrastructure projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and India China standoff at line of actual control and urged members of the SCO to respect “territorial integrity” and “sovereignty” of each other.
38. **(a) Russian and Chinese**
 Explanation: SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region. It was created in 2001. The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003. The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.

39. **(d) Both**
 Explanation: Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five. Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders. Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
40. **(c) 2017**
 Explanation: This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated after

becoming a full member in 2017. India has proposed to set up a Special Working Group on Innovation and Startups and a Sub Group on Traditional Medicine within SCO. PM highlighted India's role in supporting infrastructure and connectivity development projects in the SCO region. Examples: Chabahar port, The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal connectivity project to establish transport networks (ship, rail, and road route) for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

**(Q.41-Q.45):**

For decades, vaccine researchers have been enchanted and frustrated with the promise of messenger RNA. The tiny snippets of genetic code are essential in telling cells to build proteins, a basic part of human physiology — and key to unleashing the immune system.

But they've been hard to tame, at least until the coronavirus spurred a global race to create a vaccine.

Now, both Pfizer and (1) are testing their separate vaccine candidates that use messenger RNA, or mRNA, to trigger the immune system to produce protective antibodies without

using actual bits of the virus. If the experimental coronavirus vaccines win approval from the Food and Drug Administration, they will be the first-ever authorized vaccines that use mRNA — a development that would not only turn the tide in this pandemic but could also unlock an entirely new line of vaccines against a variety of viruses.

The two experimental vaccines have some key differences that will likely affect who they are administered to and how they are distributed. But experts say promising early results from both camps could be a boon for the technology, which had made progress over nearly three

decades but was long thought to be something of a pipe dream.

“This was a brand new platform,” Dr. Carlos del Rio, executive associate dean of the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, said. “There were a lot of people who were skeptical that an mRNA vaccine would work. Scientifically, it makes sense, but there's no mRNA vaccine out there that has been approved yet.”

41. Which US Biotech firm announced that its COVID-19 vaccines are 94.5% effective and it uses mRNA technology ?
 (a) Moderna
 (b) AstraZeneca
 (c) Pfizer
 (d) Vertex

42. American pharma company Pfizer has claimed that its vaccine candidate is more than 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 without prior infection. What is the name of vaccine?

- (a) MNT162b2
- (b) CNT162b2
- (c) BNT162b2
- (d) ENT162b2

43. How mRNA technology will help with Covid 19?
 (a) to develop hormone replacement therapies

(b) To develop gene silencing therapies

(c) coded to tell the cells to recreate the spike protein of the coronavirus

(d) coded to create Antigen

44. What does RNA stands for?

(a) Ribonucleic acid

(b) Reductone nano articulate

(c) Reproducing nucleic agent

(d) Rinonucleic acid

45. Who is considered the founder of vaccinology in 1796?

(a) Louis Pasteur

(b) Alexander Glenny

(c) Edward Jenner

(d) Joseph Lister

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

41. (a) Moderna

Explanation: Moderna, a US Biotech firm announced that its COVID-19 vaccines are 94.5% effective. The announcement comes in days after Pfizer released results showing 90% effectiveness in its own vaccine. Both the companies use mRNA technology in their vaccines. This is the first time the mRNA technology is being used to create vaccines.

42. (c) BNT162b2

Explanation: American pharma company Pfizer has claimed that its vaccine candidate BNT162b2 is more than 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 in participants without evidence of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection. It is a single nucleoside-modified

messenger RNA (modRNA) vaccine, which is made of a short segment of genetic material (the messenger RNA/mRNA) which provides instructions for a human cell to make a harmless version of a target protein, in this case the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, in order to activate an immune response.

43. (c) coded to tell the cells to recreate the spike protein of the coronavirus

Explanation: The mRNA sequence generated by the scientists using the technology has been coded with spike protein of COVID-19 virus. This RNA sequence is laid in a lipid coating and is injected into human body. As it is injected and arrives inside the human body, the cells read

the information in mRNA sequence. They then begin to generate copies of the viral proteins. This in turn forces the immune system to produce antibodies against the spike proteins. Thus, the individual is protected when a real virus enters the body. It is to be noted that the COVID-19 enters the human body through its spike proteins. Thus, by preventing the spike proteins from entering the human body, the entire virus is prevented.

44. (a) Ribonucleic acid

Explanation: RNA is an important biological macromolecule that is present in all biological cells. It is principally involved in the synthesis of proteins, carrying the messenger

instructions from DNA, which itself contains the genetic instructions required for the development and maintenance of life.

In some viruses, RNA, rather than DNA, carries genetic information.

45. (c) Edward Jenner

Explanation: Edward Jenner is considered the founder of vaccinology in the West in 1796, after he inoculated a 13 year-old-boy with vaccinia virus (cowpox), and demonstrated immunity to smallpox. In 1798, the first smallpox vaccine was developed. Over the 18th and 19th centuries, systematic implementation of mass smallpox immunisation culminated in its global eradication in 1979.

(Q.46-Q.50):

The UAE first implemented the visa system in May, 2019 to attract investors. It has now sought to expand the scheme to lure skilled and high-potential workers

On Sunday, the United Arab Emirates announced that it is seeking to expand its 'golden visa' scheme under which individuals may obtain residency in the Gulf state for up to (1) years, granted they meet specific eligibility criteria. Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum took to Twitter to declare that the UAE has approved the new visa grant system.

The visa is a long-term residency programme that came into effect in May 2019 following approval from the Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. Shortly after its launch, over 400 investors and businessmen, along with members of their families, were issued the visa, with several more being granted daily.

The visa class was originally drafted to be a permanent residency system however the General Directorate of



Residency and Foreign Affairs later noted that it is actually a long-term, visa that is renewable.

Typically, a visa is a type of grant issued to wealthy individuals looking to trade significant investment into a country for the opportunity to reside within it. The system has often been used by governments to broaden their tax base. The UAE has emerged as an attractive destination for investors and entrepreneurs particularly for its business-friendly and tax-free environment.

46. Fill in the blank(refer 1)

- (a) 8
- (b) 10
- (c) 7
- (d) 5

47. What grade is required by students for eligibility for golden visa ?

- (a) 3.8
- (b) 3.5
- (c) 3
- (d) 4

48. Consider the following and choose the correct ones

I. It would attract more

Indian professionals and businessmen to the Gulf nation and strengthen the India-UAE Relations.

II. The Indian expatriate community is reportedly the largest ethnic community in the UAE, constituting roughly about 30% of the country's population, which has played a major role in the economic development of the UAE.

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both
- (d) none

49. What is the Visa called ?

- (a) Pink Visa
- (b) Silver Visa
- (c) Golden Visa
- (d) Platinum Visa

50. UAE is a federation of how many emirates ?

- (a) 5
- (b) 6
- (c) 9
- (d) 7

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

46. (b) 10

Explanation: It grants 10-year residency to these visa holders and their families. Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to their employment.

In May 2019, the UAE started granting 5 and 10-year renewable visas to certain foreign investors, entrepreneurs, chief executives, scientists and outstanding students, under the Golden Card scheme.

47. (a) 3.8

Explanation: All holders of doctorate degrees, medical doctors and computer, electronics, programming, electrical and biotechnology

engineers.

Those with specialised degrees in artificial intelligence (AI), big data and epidemiology, as well as high school students living in the UAE who rank top in the country and students from certain universities with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.8 or higher.

The changes will take place from 1st December 2020.

48. (c) Both

Explanation: It will also facilitate the return of Indians who want to resume work after the relaxation of Covid-19-related restrictions, for which India had requested the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in early November 2020. In

March 2019, the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), was held in Abu Dhabi where India was invited as a guest of honour.

The UAE hosted the event and had strongly defended the decision to invite India despite Pakistan's strong objection and threat to boycott the event.

49. (c) Golden Visa

Explanation: The UAE's economy has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and low oil prices, prompting many expatriates to leave. The move intends to bring them back now and keep the "talented people and great minds" in the Gulf country and help in

nation-building.

It will attract talented professionals from various fields of expertise and further encourage innovation, creativity and applied research, adding to the appeal of a career in the UAE for the world's brightest minds.

50. (d) 7

Explanation: In December 1971, the UAE became a federation of six emirates - Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al-Quwain, and Fujairah, while the seventh emirate, Ras Al Khaimah, joined the federation in 1972. The capital city is Abu Dhabi, located in the largest and wealthiest of the seven emirates.

(Q.51-Q.55):

On Tuesday (November 10), Russia brokered a new peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the two countries that have been in a military conflict for over six weeks over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus.

During the course of the conflict, considered one of the most serious in recent years, over 1200 have lost their lives as per the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, while thousands have been displaced.

The deal, which is meant to end the conflict between the two nations, was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev and Armenian prime minister (2). Since the conflict started in September, multiple ceasefire agreements have been signed between the two sides, but none so far have been successful.

As per the new peace deal, both sides will now maintain positions in the areas that they currently hold, which will mean a significant gain for Azerbaijan as it has reclaimed over (1) per cent of its lost territory during the recent conflict, the AFP reported.

Further, under this agreement, all military operations are suspended, Russian peacekeepers will be deployed along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor that connects the region to Armenia.

These Russian peacekeepers with a force of roughly 2,000 will be deployed in the area for a period of (3) years.

Refugees and internally displaced persons will return to the region and the adjacent territories and the two sides will also exchange prisoners of wars and bodies. Significantly, a new corridor will be opened from (5) to Azerbaijan, which will be under Russian control.

The BBC reported that a large crowd gathered in the Armenian capital to protest against the peace deal, while Azerbaijan's Aliyev has said that the agreement was of "historic importance".



51. Fill in the blank (refer 1)

- (a) 15 to 20
- (b) 10
- (c) 20 to 30
- (d) 40

52. Who is the current Armenian Prime Minister?

- (a) Nikol Vovayi Pashinyan
- (b) Serzh Azati Sargsyan
- (c) Armen Vardani Sargsyan
- (d) Arayik Vladimiri Harutyunyan

53. For how many years the Russian peacekeeper force will be deployed?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3

- (c) 5
- (d) 10

54. What is the capital of Azerbaijan?

- (a) Yerevan
- (b) Tbilisi
- (c) Batumi
- (d) Baku

55. a new corridor will be opened from where to Azerbaijan, which will be under Russian control.?

- (a) Nakhchivan
- (b) Baku
- (c) Ganja
- (d) Turkey

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

51. (a) 15 to 20

Explanation: Both sides will now maintain positions in the areas that they currently hold, which will mean a significant gain for Azerbaijan as it has reclaimed over 15-20% of its lost territory during the recent conflict. Currently, the disputed region consists of a majority Armenian Christian population, even though it is internationally recognised as a part of Muslim-majority Azerbaijan.

52. (a) Nikol Vovayi Pashinyan

Explanation: Nikol Vovayi Pashinyan is an Armenian

politician serving as Prime Minister of Armenia since 8 May 2018. A prominent journalist and editor, Pashinyan first founded his own newspaper in 1998 which was shut down a year later. Parliamentary elections to the National Assembly are held every five years at most.

53. (c) 5

Explanation: All military operations are suspended and Russian peacekeepers will be deployed for a period of five years, along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor

which links the Karabakh capital, Stepanakert, to Armenia. Refugees and internally displaced persons will return to the region and the adjacent territories and the two sides will also exchange prisoners of wars and bodies.

54. (d) Baku

Explanation: Baku, the capital and commercial hub of Azerbaijan, is a low-lying city with coastline along the Caspian Sea. It's famed for its medieval walled old city, which contains the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, a vast royal

complex, and the iconic stone Maiden Tower. Contemporary landmarks include the Zaha Hadid–designed Heydar Aliyev Center, and the Flame Towers, 3 pointed skyscrapers covered with LED screens

55. (a) Nakhchivan

Explanation: It is the capital of the eponymous Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, located 450 km (280 mi) west of Baku. Armenian people are against the deal and have protested while Azerbaijan is pleased with the deal and considered it of "historic importance"

(Q.56-Q.60):

India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in the state. (2) (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the ministry of power, and (1) government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to discuss the rolling out of the affordable clean power project.

The project is expected to accelerate the usage of renewable energy sources in the country, Union minister of state (independent charge) for power and new and renewable energy R K Singh said, adding that the signing of the MoU "in some sense marks the beginning of a fresh green revolution". He asked the government to take the lead in this regard with all possible support by the Centre under the PM-KUSUM scheme.

"With this initiative is well on the path to becoming a green state," he said.

"The state has set a target to



generate (4) MW green energy in the next two to three years and will also set up 100MW solar power plants across the state," power minister said.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Singh, (5) Gabral, secretary ministry of power, Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, and other senior officers of the ministry.

56. Which government has signed the MOU?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Goa
- (d) MP

57. What does EESL stands for?

- (a) Energy Efficiency Services Ltd
- (b) Energy Services Ltd
- (c) Energy Efficient Services Ltd
- (d) Energy Efficacy Services Ltd

58. The project will accrue savings of what amount to the State over a period of 25 years?

- (a) 2500 crores
- (b) 2574 crores
- (c) 2789 crores

(d) 3000 crores

59. Fill in the blank (refer 4)

- (a) 100
- (b) 110
- (c) 150
- (d) 170

60. Fill in the blank. He is a power minister. What is his full name?

- (a) Nilesh Gabral
- (b) Mukesh Gabral
- (c) Nitant Gabral
- (d) Akash Gabral

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

56. (c) **Goa**

Explanation: India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa. It focuses on energy solutions that lie at the confluence of renewable energy, electric mobility and climate change. Objective: It seeks to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.

57. (a) **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd**

Explanation: It is a joint venture of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation

and POWERGRID, It was set up under the Ministry of Power to facilitate implementation of energy efficiency projects. EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) that seeks to unlock the energy efficiency market in India, estimated at Rs. 74,000 crore that can potentially result in energy savings of up to 20% of current consumption, by way of innovative business and implementation models. It also acts as the resource centre for capacity building of State DISCOMs, financial institutions, etc.

58. (b) **2574 crores**

Explanation: The project will accrue savings of INR 2,574 crores to the State over a period of 25 years, while improving the health

of DISCOMs and providing cleaner power.

It will provide clean day time electricity to farmers as well as energy-efficient pump sets which would reduce the power consumption as well as T&D losses associated with transmitting power to agriculture and rural feeder networks

59. (c) **150**

Explanation: EESL shall implement the solar energy projects, establishment of 100 MW of decentralized ground-mounted Solar Power projects on government lands to be used for agricultural pumping, replace approximately 6,300 agricultural pumps with BEE star rated energy efficient pumps and distribute approximately 16 Lakh LED bulbs for rural domestic

household

60. (a) **Nilesh Gabral**

Explanation: Since 24 September 2018, Cabral is the Cabinet Minister of Power, Non-Conventional Energy, Law & Judiciary as well as Legislative Affairs in the Government of Goa. A joint venture of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Rural Electrification Corporation and POWERGRID, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) was set up under the Ministry of Power to facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency projects. EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) that seeks to unlock energy efficiency market in India.

**(Q.61-Q.65):**

New Delhi and Male on Monday signed four agreements, including a \$100 million Indian grant for an ambitious connectivity project, during (1) Foreign Secretary visit to the Maldives.

In addition to two MoUs for “high impact” community development projects, the countries signed an MoU on cooperation in sports and youth affairs and another for the \$100 million grant, which is part of India’s “\$(2) million package” for the Greater Male Connectivity Project

(GMCP). Last month, the two governments inked a deal for a \$400 million line of credit from the (3).

Mr. Secretary visit comes two months after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid held a virtual discussion, and about a fortnight after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s visit to the island nation. Amid New Delhi’s growing concern over China’s growing influence in the region, the ties with the Maldives have remained under sharp focus.

“The MoUs, which we have signed today, are emblematic of our strong development partnership which is multi-faceted and designed to meet the specific requirements of the government and people of Maldives,” the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary said.

61. Who is the Foreign Secretary of India?
 (a) Harsh V Shringala
 (b) Aditya Shringala
 (c) Harshit Shringala
 (d) Anuj Shringala
62. Fill in the blank

- (a) 1000
 (b) 500
 (c) 800
 (d) 600

63. From which bank of India the two governments linked a deal?
 (a) State bank of India
 (b) Bank of India
 (c) Exim Bank
 (d) Bank of Baroda
64. In April 2020, India supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines to the Maldives, under Operation what to tackle the pandemic?
 (a) Sanjeevani
 (b) Medicine
 (c) Neer
 (d) Josh
65. What is the capital of Maldives?
 (a) Jakarta
 (b) Male
 (c) Port Louis
 (d) Victoria

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

61. (a) Harsh V Shringala

Explanation: Harsh V Shringala has served in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi as Joint Secretary (Director General) responsible for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and the Maldives. The Foreign Secretary of India is the top diplomat of India and administrative head of the Ministry of External Affairs. This post is generally held by an IFS officer of the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

62. (b) 500

Explanation: Four MoUs: Two MoUs for High Impact Community Development Projects. An MoU on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs. An MoU for a USD 100 million grant to fund the

Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) which is the largest ever such infrastructure project undertaken in the Maldives. GMCP is a financial package by India, consisting of a grant of USD 100 million and a new line of credit of USD 400 million.

63. (c) Exim Bank

Explanation: the two governments inked a deal for a \$400 million line of credit from the Exim Bank of India A line of credit (LOC) is a preset borrowing limit that can be used at any time. ... The borrower can access funds from the line of credit at any time as long as they do not exceed the maximum amount (or credit limit) set in the agreement and meet any other requirements such as making

timely minimum payments.

64. (a) Sanjeevani

Explanation: The medicines were delivered by an Hercules C-130J-30 aircraft of Indian Air Force.

The medicines include influenza vaccines, antiviral drugs such as lopinavir and ritonavir among others as well as consumables such as catheters, nebulisers, urine bags and infant feeding tubes. Lopinavir and ritonavir have been used to treat patients with COVID-19 in some countries. In March India also dispatched a 14-member Army medical team to Maldives to set up a viral testing lab there and gifted 5.5 tonne of essential medicines.

65. (b) Male

Explanation: The MoUs

are symbolic of India-Maldives’ strong development partnership which is multi-faceted and designed to meet the specific requirements of the government and people. The Maldives enjoys a special and central place in India’ Neighbourhood First policy and itself has a foreign policy of India First. India is supportive of Maldivian Foreign Minister’s candidature for the Presidency of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2021. Both nations have consistently supported each other in multilateral fora such as the UN, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

(Q.66-Q.70):

For the (1) time in ten years, the United States territory of Puerto Rico has voted in favour of statehood, and thus be treated at par with the current (2) states of the country. For both Puerto Rico and D.C. statehood to succeed, both chambers of Congress (House and Senate) would have to support the initiative, which would then require the approval of the US President. The House has already done so for D.C. Any further progress, however, would depend on the outcome of the Georgia runoff elections in January, where control over the Senate would be decided.

Also, in the case of D.C., an even more formidable challenge would lie ahead even if both Congress and the President give statehood their nod. According to experts, the process for the capital city would only terminate when the 23rd Amendment is repealed– a daunting political task as this would require at least 38 states to agree to the motion.

The principal reason why this entire process hits a hurdle is that Democrats and Republicans fervently disagree



over the issue– mainly due to the effect the potential two new states could have on the nation's legislative math.

Currently, the Senate– the powerful upper house of the US Congress– has 100 seats, two from each US state irrespective of its population. D.C. and Puerto Rico are believed to be Democrat-leaning, and the addition of their four seats to the Senate is expected to tip the scales of power in favour of the Democrats in the long term.

Republicans have thus fiercely resisted the idea, especially because they have been holding a thin majority in the Senate since 2014. President Donald Trump has said that his party would be “very, very stupid” to admit D.C. as a state. Senator Mitch McConnell, the most

powerful Republican in the Senate, has called the statehood efforts of both regions “full-bore socialism on the march”, and has vowed, “as long as I am the majority leader of the Senate, none of that stuff is going anywhere.”

66. Fill in the blank. How many times in ten years, the United States territory of Puerto Rico has voted in favour of statehood?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2
- (c) 3
- (d) 4

67. How many states US consists?

- (a) 51
- (b) 52

- (c) 48
- (d) 50

68. Washington D.C. was created in ?

- (a) 1778
- (b) 1776
- (c) 1800
- (d) 1790

69. Puerto Rico was discovered by whom?

- (a) Vasco Da Gama
- (b) Christopher Columbus
- (c) Marco Polo
- (d) James Cook

70. Consider the following statements and choose the false ones

I. There are more than 3,000 Indians living in the island.

II. Also, India is currently in the track of increasing its trade with the Caribbean islands.

III. The first CARICOM summit was held in September 2019.

- (a) Only iii
- (b) ii & iii
- (c) none
- (d) only i

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

66. (c) 3

Explanation: It is an unincorporated territory of the United States.

Puerto Ricans have been citizens of the United States since 1917, and can move freely between the island and the mainland.

As it is not a state, Puerto Rico does not have a vote in the U.S. Congress, which governs the unincorporated territory with jurisdiction under the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act of 1950.

67. (d) 50

Explanation: The U.S. is a country of 50 states covering a vast swath of North America, with Alaska in the northwest

and Hawaii extending the nation's presence into the Pacific Ocean. Major Atlantic Coast cities are New York, a global finance and culture center, and capital Washington, DC. Midwestern metropolis Chicago is known for influential architecture and on the west coast, Los Angeles' Hollywood is famed for filmmaking.

68. (b) 1776

Explanation: Washington D.C. was created in 1776 on the idea that the national capital should not be a part of any state. The residents of Washington received rights to vote only in 1961 after 23rd US constitutional amendment.

Just like Puerto

69. (b) Christopher Columbus

Explanation: It is located in the northeast Caribbean Sea.

It includes the eponymous main island and several smaller islands, such as Mona, Culebra, and Vieques.

The capital and most populous city is San Juan. Originally populated by the indigenous Taíno people, Puerto Rico was colonized by Spain following the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1493.

In 1898, following the Spanish–American War, the United States acquired Puerto Rico, which remains an unincorporated territorial possession, making it the

world's oldest colony.

70. (c) none

Explanation: The Caribbean Community was formed in 1973.

CARICOM has 15 members – Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

The Chairmanship of the Community is rotated every six months among the member countries.



(Q.71-Q.75):

Madhya Pradesh's Panna National Park has been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Prakash Javadekar shared this news on Twitter congratulating the reserve for the status and praised its work on tiger conservation. This addition to the UNESCO list will help in exploring new measures towards the conservation of wildlife.

Every year UNESCO appoints new biosphere reserves and removes others to promote the

conservation of biodiversity, resolve the man-animal conflict at that site and allow sustainable use of natural resources.

The Panna Tiger Reserve witnessed a remarkable growth in tiger population last year. The number of tigers increased to 50, from zero which was just a decade ago. The Tiger Reintroduction Project started in 2009 with five female and two male tigers from Bhandhavgarh and Kanha national parks.

The reserve covers an area of approximately 542.67 sq km. The thick deciduous forest of this reserve is a natural habitat

for sloths, Indian wolf, Bear pangolins, leopards, gharial, Indian fox and a lot more. It's also home to stone carvings that date back to the Neolithic era.

Panna got the status of a Project Tiger Reserve 13 years after its formation in 1981. The All India Tiger Estimation reported that Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers. The state has a total of 526 tigers according to the 2018 census.

71. The PBR is the third in Madhya Pradesh to be included in the list after Pachmarhi and?
- Bhedaghat
 - Amarkantak
 - Khajurao
 - Chitrakoot
72. PBR was notified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in which year?
- 2010
 - 2011
 - 2014
 - 2013
73. The 1st Biosphere Reserve

from India to be included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves is?

- Nanda Devi
- Simlipal
- Sundarban
- Nilgiri

74. Consider the following and choose the correct ones.

I. PBR is located in the Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh
 II. Ken River (one of the least polluted tributaries of the Yamuna River) flows through the reserve and the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will also be located in it.
 III. Panna is famous for Paan

- Only iii
- Only i
- i & ii
- all of them

75. India has a total of how many Biosphere Reserves?
- 15
 - 22
 - 21
 - 18

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

71. (b) Amarkantak

Explanation: The PBR is the third in Madhya Pradesh to be included in the list after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak. Along with PBR, the Fuvahmulahand Addu Atoll in the Maldives has also been included in the WNBR. The idea of the biosphere reserve was initiated by UNESCO in 1974 under the MAB with the objective of obtaining international cooperation for the conservation of the biospheres.

72. (b) 2011

Explanation: 1994: The Panna National Park got the status of Project Tiger Reserve as India's

22nd tiger reserve.

2011: It was notified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

2018: By 2018, it witnessed a remarkable turnaround in tiger population by increasing their numbers remarkably from zero estimated a decade ago. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in the country followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

2020: UNESCO included it in the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB).

73. (d) Nilgiri

Explanation: The Nilgiri

Biosphere Reserve is an International Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hills ranges of South India. The Nilgiri Sub-Cluster is a part of the Western Ghats, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012

74. (c) i & ii

Explanation: Established in 1981, PBR is located in the Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh with an area of around 540 km. sq.

It is situated in the Vindhya mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.

Ken River (one of the least polluted tributaries of the Yamuna River) flows through the reserve and the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will also be located in it. The region is also famous for Panna diamond mining.

75. (d) 18

Explanation: The Indian government has established 18 biosphere reserves to protect larger areas of natural habitat than a typical national park or animal sanctuary, and that often include one or more national parks or preserves, along with buffer zones that are open to some economic uses.

(Q.76-Q.80):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed a virtual summit of the (Brics) grouping focussing on economic recovery amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi is participating in the virtual Brics summit with the theme "(1)". The summit's agenda includes intra-Brics cooperation, key global issues such as reforming the multilateral system, measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, counter-terrorism cooperation, trade, health and energy, external affairs ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava tweeted.

This is the second time Modi and Xi are on the same virtual platform since the India-China border standoff emerged in the open in May.

We all are passengers in the same boat and the wind is rough," Jinping said.

Chinese president Xi Jinping is addressing the summit now.

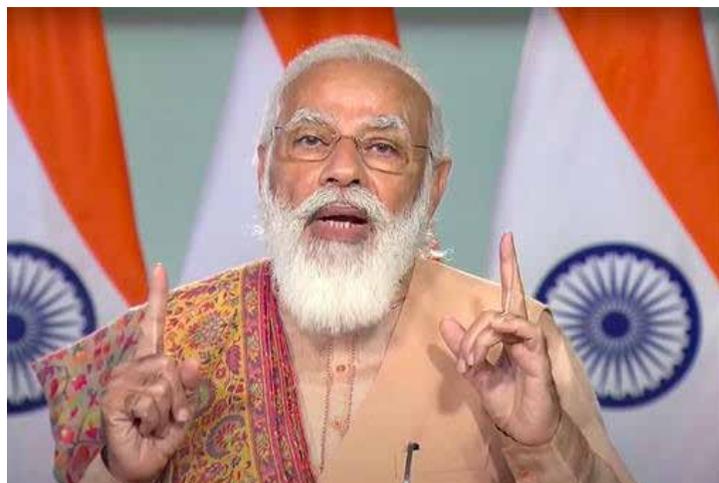
There is always a black sheep in the family, Russian president Vladimir Putin said

commenting on Modi's remark on terrorism.

During its leadership of Brics, India will promote digital health and traditional medicine among Brics countries, Modi said.

In his address, PM Modi briefly talked about the concept of '(3)'. Due to the strength of India's pharma sector, we were able to provide medicines to over 150 countries during Covid-lockdown era, PM Modi said adding that India's vaccine production and delivery ability will help mankind in the same way.

76. What was the theme of BRICS 2020?
- Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth
 - Economic Growth for an Innovative Future.
 - Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.
 - Stronger Partnership for brighter Future
77. BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging national



economies. Which from below is not a part of it?

- Russia
 - Belgium
 - China
 - South Africa
78. Narendra Modi briefly talked about which concept in the BRICS summit?
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat
 - Digital India
 - Vision 2020
 - Make in India
79. Consider the following statements and choose the correct ones
- The official language of BRICS is only English
 - BRICS was formed in

2010

III. New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states.

- Only ii
- Only iii
- i & iii
- ii & i

80. Which country will host the 13th BRICS summit in 2021?
- Russia
 - India
 - China
 - Sweden

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

76. (a) Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth

Explanation: 12th BRICS summit held online touched upon issues like terrorism, Covid-19 pandemic and the need for reforms in global bodies. BRICS, being one of the pillars of the emerging fairer polycentric world order, plays an important stabilising role in global affairs.

In the storming ocean of world politics, BRICS can contribute significantly in maintaining international stability and ensuring global economic growth and becoming a united center of the multipolar world.

77. (b) Belgium

Explanation: BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs. Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001, claiming that by 2050 the four BRIC economies would come to dominate the global economy by 2050. South Africa was added to the list in 2010.

78. (a) Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Explanation: India introduced Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) to the BRICS.

India said that the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign is based on the subject that a self-reliant and resilient India can become a force multiplier for the post Covid-19 world order. A self-reliant India would make solid contributions to the global value chains.

79. (b) Only iii

Explanation: According to the Agreement on the NDB, "the Bank shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments." The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs. Since 2009,

the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits

80. (b) India

Explanation: India will be taking over the chairship of the BRICS, which would be the third BRICS Presidency for the country since its inception, after 2012 in New Delhi and 2016 in Goa, and will host the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021. The fourth BRICS Summit held in New Delhi (2012) paved the way for the establishment of a bank that can mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS members.

**(Q.81-Q.85):**

G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO flagged off the first Varunastra, the heavy weight torpedo that was delivered to the Indian Navy at a ceremony held at BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit today.

He later laid the foundation stone for setting up of a state-of-the-art central stores at BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit.

Varunastra, the heavy weight torpedo, has been designed and developed by(1), Visakhapatnam. BDL, being the production agency, is manufacturing Varunastra at its Visakhapatnam Unit for the Indian Navy. This product is also being offered for export,

according to a BDL statement. BDL is associated with DRDO for its various missile programmes and it is the production agency for Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM), for which, trials were conducted successfully recently. BDL is also the production agency for Astra Air- to- Air Missile System and has commenced manufacturing of these missiles. These missile systems are developed indigenously by the DRDO for the Indian Air Force. Satheesh Reddy appreciated the synergy between all stakeholders, especially the design agency and the production agency BDL for the manufacture of the first Varunastra. He suggested that BDL should gear up for new programs of ALWT and EHW. Siddharth Mishra, CMD BDL said BDL is poised to take on the manufacture of futuristic weapon systems. Towards this, the BDL team is committed to hone new skills and create the

necessary infrastructure.

81. Varunastra is developed and designed by BDL and?

- (a) NSTL
- (b) MSTL
- (c) NNSL
- (d) ANTL

82. Varunastra was first inducted into Indian Navy in which year ?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2014

83. Which one of them is not an Indian Torpedo?

- (a) Takshak
- (b) Shyena
- (c) SMART
- (d) Aryaa

84. What is a Torpedo?

- (a) small watercraft designed to operate underwater. fully autonomous craft,

capable of renewing its own power and breathing air, whereas a submersible is usually supported by a surface vessel.

- (b) It is an underwater weapon with an explosive warhead that is designed to detonate when in proximity to the target or on contact with the target.
- (c) A watercraft capable of independent operation underwater.
- (d) Typically small vessel which travel most often on inland or coastal waters

85. BDL is associated with DRDO what does BDL stands for?

- (a) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- (b) BADAL
- (c) Bharat Defense LTD
- (d) Bharat Dynasty LTD

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

81. (a) NSTL

Explanation: Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam was established on August 20, 1969 to undertake research and development of complete major naval systems (Underwater Mines, Torpedoes, Fire Control Systems, Weapon Launchers, Targets, Decoys, etc) for the Indian Navy to make it self-reliant.

82. (c) 2016

Explanation: It was first inducted into Indian Navy in 2016. The weight of the torpedo is 1500 kilograms. Operational range is 40 kilometres. The maximum speed of the torpedo is 74 kilometre per hour. Also, Varun Astra is the only torpedo in the world to have a GPS based locating aid. The torpedo is capable of carrying a war head of 250

kilogram. It is powered by Silver oxide zinc battery.

83. (d) Aryaa

Explanation: The Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) Shyena is the first indigenously advanced lightweight anti-submarine torpedo of India, developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Navy. Takshak, advanced light torpedo Shyena, SMART and Varunastra are the Torpedo of the Indian Navy. SMART is Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo. It is canistered hybrid system. The range of SMART system is 650 km. It is an advanced lightweight Torpedo with two-way data link. It can be launched from a truck based coastal battery and also from a warship.

84. (b) It is an underwater

weapon with an explosive warhead that is designed to detonate when in proximity to the target or on contact with the target.

Explanation: A modern torpedo is an underwater ranged weapon launched above or below the water surface, self-propelled towards a target, and with an explosive warhead designed to detonate either on contact with or in proximity to the target. Historically, such a device was called an automotive, automobile, locomotive or fish torpedo; colloquially a fish. The term torpedo originally applied to a variety of devices, most of which would today be called mines. From about 1900, torpedo has been used strictly to designate a self-propelled underwater explosive device.

85. (a) Bharat Dynamics Limited

Explanation: is one of India's manufacturers of ammunitions

and missile systems. It was founded in 1970 in Hyderabad, Telangana, India.[4] BDL was established in the year 1970 to be a manufacturing base for guided weapon systems. Begun with a pool of engineers drawn from Indian Ordnance Factories, DRDO and aerospace industries, BDL began by producing a first generation anti-tank guided missile - the French SS11B1. This product was a culmination of a licence agreement the Government of India entered into with Aerospatiale. BDL has three manufacturing units, located at Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad, Telangana; Bhanur, Medak district, Telangana and Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Two new units are planned at Ibrahimpatnam, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana and Amravati, Maharashtra.

(Q.86-Q.90):

China has launched a robotic spacecraft to bring back rocks from the moon – the first such attempt by any country since the 1970s.

The Long March-5, China's largest carrier rocket, blasted off at 4.30am Beijing time on Tuesday from (5) on the island of Hainan carrying the (1) spacecraft.

The mission, will seek to collect lunar material to help scientists understand more about the moon's origins and formation. The mission will test China's ability to remotely acquire samples from space before more complex missions.

If successful, the mission would make China only the third country to have retrieved lunar samples, joining the (3) and the (3).

Upon entering the moon's orbit, the spacecraft is meant to deploy a pair of vehicles to the

lunar surface: a lander and an ascender. The landing is due to take place in about eight days, according to Pei Zhaoyu, a spokesman for the mission. The probe is due to be on the lunar surface for about two days, and the entire mission is scheduled to take around (4).

The plan is for the lander to drill into the lunar surface and scoop out soil and rocks using a robotic arm. This material would be transferred to the ascender vehicle, which is due to carry it from the surface and then dock with an orbiting module.

The samples then would be transferred to a return capsule for the trip to Earth, with a landing in China's Inner Mongolia region.

"The biggest challenges ... are the sampling work on the lunar surface, takeoff from the lunar surface, rendezvous and docking in the lunar

orbit, as well as high-speed re-entry to Earth," said Pei, who is also director of the Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center at China National Space Administration. "We can conduct sampling through circumlunar and moon-landing exploration, but it is more intuitive to obtain samples to conduct scientific research – the method is more direct," Pei added. "Plus, there will be more instruments and more methods to study them on Earth."

86. China has launched a robotic spacecraft what it's name? refer 1

- (a) Chang'e-5 (b) Shenzhou
(c) Ziyuan (d) Yutu

87. The spacecraft is named on what?

- (a) Chinese Moon goddess
(b) Chinese Lake
(c) Earth Goddess

(d) Chinese astronaut

88. Fill in the blank(refer 3)

- (a) United States and France
(b) Japan and UK
(c) India and UK
(d) United States and Soviet Union

89. The entire mission is scheduled to take around what time?

- (a) 25 days (b) 23 days
(c) 28 days (d) 31 days

90. The spacecraft was launched from which space centre?

- (a) Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center
(b) Xichang Satellite Launch Center
(c) Guiana Space Centre
(d) Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Center

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

86. (a) **Chang'e-5**

Explanation: Chang'e 5 is an ongoing robotic mission of the Chinese Lunar Exploration Program. It was launched on November 23, 2020 20:30 UTC and is expected to land on the moon sometime after November 27, and return to Earth around December 16–17

87. (a) **Chinese Moon goddess**

Explanation: is an experimental robotic spacecraft that was launched to the Moon on 23 October 2014 by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) to conduct atmospheric re-entry tests on the capsule design planned to be used in the Chang'e 5 mission. As part of the Chinese Lunar Exploration Program, Chang'e 5, launched in 2020, is a Moon sample return mission. Like its predecessors, the spacecraft is named after the Chinese Moon goddess Chang'e. The craft consisted of a return vehicle capsule and a service module

orbiter

88. (d) **United States and Soviet Union**

Explanation: mission is completed as planned, it made China only the third country to have retrieved lunar samples, joining the United States and the Soviet Union. The Apollo programme (which first put men on the moon), the United States landed 12 astronauts over six flights from 1969 to 1972, bringing back 382 kg of rocks and soil. The Soviet Union Lead Luna: Deployed three successful robotic sample return missions in the 1970s. The last, the Luna 24, retrieved samples in 1976 from Mare Crisium, or "Sea of Crises" - a lunar basin. The Apollo-Luna sample zone of the moon, while critical to our understanding, was undertaken in an area that comprises far less than half the lunar surface. Subsequent data from orbital remote sensing missions

have shown a wider diversity of rock types, mineralogies and ages than represented in the Apollo-Luna sample collections.

89. (b) **23 days**

Explanation: Upon entering the moon's orbit, the spacecraft is intended to deploy a pair of vehicles to the lunar surface, a lander and an ascender. A lander will drill into the ground, then transfer its soil and rock samples to an ascender that will lift off and dock with an orbiting module. There will be an attempt to collect 2 kg of samples in a previously unvisited area in a massive lava plain known as Oceanus Procellarum, or "Ocean of Storms". Area of the moon where the spacecraft is due to land is 1-2 billion years old. If this is successful, the samples will be transferred to a return capsule that will return them to Earth, with a landing in China's Inner Mongolia

region.

The entire mission is scheduled to take around 23 days.

90. (d) **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Center**

Explanation: Launch: The Long March-5 Y5 rocket, carrying the Chang'e-5 spacecraft, was launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center (China). Key Task of the Mission: To drill 2 meters beneath the moon's surface and scoop up about 2 kilograms of rocks and other debris to be brought back to Earth. It will help scientists learn about: Moon's origins, Volcanic activity on its surface and its interior, and When its magnetic field, key to protecting any form of life from the sun's radiation dissipated.

(Q.91-Q.95):

On the completion of years of the UMANG app, the international version of the app has been launched. The UMANG international version is for select countries including US, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, (2) and (2), and will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad to avail government of India services anytime.

Launched by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Communications and Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, the international version of the app will also help in taking India to the world through 'Indian Culture' services available on UMANG and create interest amongst foreign tourists to visit India. Additionally, the government also announced that it is integrating Common Services

Centres service into the Umang app. Going forward, a voice-based solution using artificial may be developed for UMANG to be available to the common people living in the remotest corners of the country. The international version of the UMANG App can be downloaded by going to the Play Store of specific countries. "Digital India must lead to Digital Inclusion; it must bridge the Digital divide. And this must be achieved by technology which is home grown and also inclusive. This was concretised when the Prime Minister had told me that I want Governance to be available on the palm of every Indian. And thereafter we started this programme and what has really struck me that as on March 2020 UMANG had nearly (5) services; and today in the same year UMANG has 2000+ services. It indicates the sheer digital appetite of ordinary Indians. And secondly, a very resounding validation

of the Prime Minister that we have governance in the hands of every Indian. This is the metamorphosis from e-Governance to m-Governance. And that is the real shining success of UMANG." "10 years ago, it was a dream for us that all the services of Government of India, the State Governments, the statutory bodies should all come in one app," says Ajay Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY).

91. UMANG stands for?

- (a) Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance
- (b) Unique Mobile App for New-age Governance
- (c) Unified Mobile App for New-era Governance
- (d) Unique Mobile Application for New-era Governance

92. Fill in the missing

countries. Refer 2

- (a) France and China
- (b) Australia and New Zealand
- (c) Japan and south Korea
- (d) Switzerland and Thailand

93. App was launched in which year?

- (a) 2018
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2015

94. UMANG was developed by?

- (a) NeGD
- (b) SFIO
- (c) ERNET
- (d) NER

95. Fill in the blank (refer 5)

- (a) 700
- (b) 600
- (c) 756
- (d) 643

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

91. (a) Unified Mobile

Application for New-age Governance

Explanation: The UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.

It provides access to high impact services of various organizations of Centre and States. Presently it has 2000+ services.

The aim of UMANG is to fast-track mobile governance in India.

UMANG enables 'Ease of Living' for Citizens by providing easy access to a plethora of Indian government services ranging from - Healthcare, Finance, Education, Housing, Energy, Agriculture, Transport to even Utility and Employment and

Skills.

92. (b) Australia and New Zealand

Explanation: The international version is for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Expected Benefits:

It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime.

It will also help in taking India to the world through 'Indian Culture' services available on UMANG and create interest amongst foreign tourists to visit India.

93. (b) 2017

Explanation: The international version of UMANG app called 'UMANG International' was launched to mark three years of UMANG (UMANG App was launched in 2017). The

key partners of UMANG are Employee Provident Fund Organization, Direct Benefit Transfer scheme departments, Employee State Insurance Corporation, Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Staff Selection Commission (SSC). The top 3 States based on average monthly transactions are - Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

94. (a) NeGD

Explanation: NeGD is an Independent Business Division (IBD) established by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology within Media Lab Asia to undertake Programme Management of NeGP.

NeGD acts as one of the key catalysts and integrators for initiatives under Mission Mode Projects and support components under NeGP 2.0 across the country.

NeGD is also expected to proactively support central ministries/departments/state governments in propagation of their e-Governance initiatives.

95. (d) 643

Explanation: In the last three years application has grown immensely providing 2039 services. This includes 373 from Central departments, 1179 services of utility bill payments and 487 from state departments. There are more than 2.5 crore registered users of the application. Also, the application has crossed more than 3.7 crore downloads. It is to be noted that in March 2020, the application had only 643 services. Currently, there are more than 2,000 services. Thus the reach of the application is growing largely indicating growth of digital e-government services and their success.

(Q.96-Q.100):

US President Donald Trump on November 21 attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which was held virtually this year due to coronavirus pandemic. China's Xi Jinping, who used the forum to counter American protectionism, also came into the summit days after scoring a huge trade pact victory. On Friday, leaders from the APEC forum pledged to work toward free, open and non-discriminatory trade and investment to revive their coronavirus-battered economies.

Trump made the surprise decision to attend in this year's gathering, after not participating at the APEC since 2017. His attendance also came as surprise as he challenges the outcome of the US Presidential election, won by Joe Biden. Trump, whose "America First" policy has alienated trading partners, addressed the meeting alongside

other leaders via video link.

While the US President recently skipped the East Asia Summits and withdrew from speaking at an APEC CEO meeting, his turn away from multilateral groupings has left the floor open for China to write the Asia-Pacific's rules of commerce. On Friday, Xi used his speech to launch a strident defence of free trade. In his remark, he urged countries to "defend multilateralism" and called for the establishment of an "Asia-Pacific free trade zone at an early date".

According to Associated Press, Xi told that Beijing would actively consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreements from Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement that includes Japan, Canada, Mexico and other regional economies but not the US. Trump had pulled out of the CPTPP's predecessor, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which never took effect. The regional free

trade pact was once championed by the United States under the former President Barack Obama but then it was abandoned by Trump.

Xi's comments come after Beijing and 14 Asian nations linked the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which will be the world's biggest. If China were to join the CPTPP, that would make Beijing a member of the Asia-Pacific region's two biggest trade arrangements, while the US is part of neither.

96. The next APEC meeting is to be held by?

- (a) Japan
- (b) South Korea
- (c) New Zealand
- (d) Malaysia

97. Consider the following and choose the correct statements

- I. The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 was adopted

during the Summit.

II. It envisions and open, resilient peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040.

III. The Summit also replaced the 1994 Bogor Goals with post 2020 vision.

- (a) Only iii (b) i & ii
- (c) only i (d) all of them

98. Which one of them is not a member of APEC?

- (a) Russia (b) India
- (c) Brunei (d) Taiwan

99. India was invited for the first to be an observer in which year?

- (a) 2005 (b) 2013
- (c) 2011 (d) 2008

100. The meeting was hosted by which country?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Australia
- (c) China
- (d) New Zealand

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

96. (c) New Zealand

Explanation: The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by New Zealand. Earlier on November 17, 2020, the members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation held ministerial meeting. The members then committed towards free and open trade and investment. The APEC faced several hardships to conduct the Summit since 2018. In 2018, Chile had cancelled the summit due to violent domestic protests. Later at the Papua New Guinea summit in 2018, the APEC economies failed to arrive at a joint statement due to trade war between the United States and China.

97. (d) all of them

Explanation: APEC leaders adopted the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision to replace the Bogor Goals named after the Indonesian town where leaders agreed in 1994 to free and

open trade and investment. Recognised the importance of a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment to drive economic recovery at such a challenging time (Covid-19). Discussed the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda and the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER).

98. (b) India

Explanation: The members of the grouping are Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Hongkong, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan and United States of America. India had requested for a membership at the grouping. However, the members of the grouping had decided not to

allow India as the country does not border Pacific Ocean. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation mainly includes countries that are bordering the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, India has gained support from United States, Papua Guinea on, Japan and Australia to become a full-time member of the grouping. India is currently and observer of the grouping. It is to be noted that the Indo-Pacific was earlier called as Asia Pacific.

99. (c) 2011

Explanation: India had requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Officials have decided not to allow India to join as India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do. India was invited to be an observer for the first time in November 2011.

Reasons for India to join APEC:

India will be more integrated with the global economy since APEC economies constitute an important trading bloc in the world.

It will help India bargain and negotiate a better deal with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

100. (a) Malaysia

Explanation: The meeting was hosted by Malaysia. With growth in the Asia-Pacific region expected to decline by 2.7% this year, from a 3.6% growth in 2019, APEC's focus was on accelerating economic recovery and developing an affordable vaccine.

Focus Areas: Trade and investment, Digital Economy and Technology, Structural Reform, Economic and Technical Cooperation and Thematic and institutional matters.

(Q.101-Q.105):

G20 leaders announced on Sunday that (1) will host the summit of the high-profile grouping in 2023 —

India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022 with the Osaka declaration of the G20 stating last year that “we look forward to meeting again in (2) in 2020, in Italy in 2021 and in India in 2022”.

“We thank for hosting a successful Riyadh Summit and its contribution to the G20 process. We look forward to our next meetings in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, in 2023 and Brazil in 2024,” the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders Declaration said.

On now hosting the summit in 2023, a source said, “The order of the rotating presidency is decided among member states on the basis of consultations and mutual convenience.”

we looks forward to taking forward the G20 agenda in 2023 after the Italian and Indonesian presidencies, the source said.

G20 leaders’ final declaration



Leaders of the G20, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday asserted that they will spare no effort to ensure affordable and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines for all, while also pledging to use all possible policy tools to protect people’s lives, jobs and incomes in the wake of the pandemic.

101. Which country will host in 2023?

- (a) India
- (b) Russia
- (c) China

- (d) France
102. New Global Index will be based on 4 pillars which one is not one of them?
- (a) Trade
 - (b) Technology,
 - (c) Transparency and
 - (d) Trusteeship towards the planet.

103. G20 summit 2020 was held by which country?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Mexico
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Argentina

104. What was the theme of the summit?

- (a) Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All
- (b) Development” and “Health
- (c) Global Economy
- (d) Innovation

105. Who was the founder of G20?

- (a) Group of Eight
- (b) Group of Seven
- (c) G4
- (d) BRICS

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

101. (a) India

Explanation: The G20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff. The group’s chair rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries. The incumbent chair establishes a temporary secretariat for the duration of its term, which coordinates the group’s work and organizes its meetings. The 2019 chair was Japan, which hosted the 2019 summit in Osaka. The current chair is held by Saudi Arabia. The 2021 summit is planned to be held in Italy. The 2022, 2023 and 2024 summits will be hosted by Indonesia, India and Brazil respectively

102. (a) Trade

Explanation: the G20 (Group

of Twenty) summit held virtually India called for a “New Global Index” for the post-Corona world. Ensuring that technology reaches all segments of the society and the value of new technologies should be measured by their benefit to humanity. India suggested that as follow-up action and creation of a G20 virtual secretariat as a repository of documentation. Digital India and E-governance campaigns of India have increased people’s access to technology and other government services.

103. (a) Saudi Arabia

Explanation: This year’s summit was hosted by Saudi Arabia. The main focus of the Summit was on resilient, inclusive and sustainable

recovery from covid-19 crisis. During the Summit the leaders discussed on the preparedness of the countries in response to the pandemic. They also shared their vision on building a resilient future. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 2020 G20 summit that was held under the theme of “realising opportunities of the 21st century for all”. The theme mainly focuses on empowering people, safeguarding the planet, shaping new frontiers. In order to mark the G20 Presidency of Saudi Arabia the country released a 20 Riyal commemorative banknote.

104. (a) Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All
 Explanation: The Kingdom will guide the work of the G20

under the theme of “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All” and will focus on three aims: Empowering People by creating the conditions in which all people – especially women and youth – can live, work and thrive.

105. (b) Group of Seven

Explanation: It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world’s largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world’s population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

**(Q.106-Q.110):**

The second edition of the India, (1) and Singapore trilateral Naval exercise SITMEX-20 concluded in the (4) on Sunday and the 27th edition of India-Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 is scheduled to be held in the same area from November 23 to 25.

“The exercise, being conducted as a ‘non-contact, at sea only’ exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, highlights growing synergy, coordination and cooperation in the maritime domain between the three

friendly navies and maritime neighbours,” the Navy said in a statement.

The Indian Navy deployed indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare corvette (2) and missile corvette INS Karmuk for the exercise held on November 21 and 22 and hosted by the Singapore Navy. Singapore deployed a ‘Formidable’ Class frigate ‘Intrepid’ and ‘Endurance’ Class Landing Ship Tank ‘Endeavour’ and the Royal Thai Navy deployed a ‘Chao Phraya’ Class frigate ‘Kraburi’ for the exercise.

The first edition was hosted

by the Indian Navy and was held off (3) in September last year. Besides improving interoperability between the friendly navies, SITMEX series of exercise also aim to strengthen mutual confidence and develop common understanding and procedures towards enhancing the overall maritime security in the region, the statement added.

For SIMBEX, the Indian Navy is deploying destroyer INS Rana with its integral Chetak helicopter in addition to INS and INS Karmuk which are already in the area. In addition, submarine INS Sindhuraj and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft will also participate in the exercise, the Navy stated.

106. The exercise is between three countries which one of them is the third country?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) China
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Malaysia

107. Fill in the blank (refer 2)

- (a) INS Kamorta
- (b) INS Vikrant
- (c) INS Imphal
- (d) INS Arihant

108. The first edition was held where?

- (a) Betapur
- (b) Port Blair
- (c) South Andaman
- (d) Swaraj Deep

109. SIMTEX 20 was concluded where?

- (a) Bay of Bengal
- (b) Andaman sea
- (c) Java sea
- (d) South china sea

110. Which one of them is not a military exercise between Singapore and India?

- (a) SIMBEX
- (b) Bold kurukshetra
- (c) Joint military training (air force)
- (d) maitree

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

106.(c) Thailand

Explanation: The trilateral Naval exercise, SITMEX-20 between India, Singapore and Thailand was held in the Andaman sea. The SITMEX-20 Naval exercise was scheduled in a “non-contact at sea only format” due to covid-19 restrictions. The main objective of the exercise is to increase the interoperability between the three navies. The exercise will also enhance multifaceted Maritime operations.

107. (a) INS Kamorta

Explanation: The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by RSN (Singapore). The Indian Navy deployed indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare corvette INS Kamorta and missile corvette INS Karmuk for the exercise. The Singapore Navy was represented by RSS Intrepid,

RSS Endeavour. The Thailand Navy was represented by a Chao class frigate HTMS Kraburi. The conduct of the trilateral naval exercise between India Singapore and Thailand was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Shangri La dialogue. The maiden edition of the exercise was held in 2019.

108. (b) Port Blair

Explanation: The first edition of Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise (SITMEX), hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019. SITMEX is conducted annually. Aim: The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai

Navy (RTN).

It also aims to strengthen mutual confidence and develop common understanding and procedures towards enhancing the overall maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region. The exercise is in line with India’s SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.

109. (b) Andaman sea

Explanation: Recently, the second edition of the India, Thailand and Singapore trilateral Naval exercise SITMEX-20 concluded in the Andaman Sea.

Background: The Prime Minister of India, during his keynote address at Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2018 announced the conduct of a trilateral naval exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand. The International Institute

for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue is Asia’s premier defence summit. It was launched in 2002.

110. (d) maitree

Explanation: Other Military Exercises between India and Thailand: MAITREE (Army) SIAM BHARAT (Air Force) Indo-Thai CORPAT (Navy), which was conducted recently. Other Military Exercises between India and Singapore: Bold Kurukshetra (Army) Joint Military Training (Air Force) SIMBEX (Navy) Indian Navy (IN) is scheduled to host the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 from 23rd to 25th November 2020 in Andaman Sea. It has been conducted annually since 1994.

(Q.111-Q.115):

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the (4) by the (IMO). This will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for obtaining position information similar to GPS and GLONASS to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters within the area covered by 50°N latitude, 55°E longitude, 5°S latitude, and 110°E longitude -. According to a press statement, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of IMO during its recent meeting - 102nd session - held from 4-11 November has approved the recognition of the IRNSS as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System. This is a significant achievement of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Atmanirbhar Bharat. The Mumbai-headquartered Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) under the Ministry of



Ports, Shipping and Waterways has initiated matters with the IMO. Details of the tests carried out on merchant ships with regard to the accuracy of the system have been included in the report prepared by ISRO which was submitted to IMO for consideration. After detailed analysis, the sub-committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) of IMO during the 7th session held in January recommended to the MSC of IMO for accepting the IRNSS as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System.

“IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate accurate position information service to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters,” the statement said.

111. What does IMO stands for?

- (a) International Marine Organization
- (b) International Maritime Organization
- (c) Intercontinental Marine Organization

- (d) Intercontinental Maritime Organization

112. India is the fourth country to have independent navigation system . Which one of them is not the first three?

- (a) USA
- (b) Russia
- (c) China
- (d) Japan

113. The navigation system up to how many km?

- (a) 1500
- (b) 1000
- (c) 1200
- (d) 1800

114. Fill in the blank (refer 4)

- (a) North pacific
- (b) Indian ocean
- (c) North Atlantic ocean
- (d) South Atlantic ocean

115. The IRNSS constellation was named as what by PM?

- (a) MacIC
- (b) NavIC
- (c) LavIC
- (d) BharatIC

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

111. (b) **International Maritime Organization**

Explanation: The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for its operation in the Indian Ocean Region. This will enable the vessels to use IRNSS to obtain position information similar to GLONASS and GPS.

112. (d) **Japan**

Explanation: India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the IMO as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).

The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the USA, Russia and China.

113. (a) **1500**

Explanation: The IMO has accepted IRNSS as an alternative navigation module in Indian waters. It was in use only on a pilot basis earlier but now all merchant vessels are authorised to use it, even small fishing vessels.

The navigation system can now replace GPS in the Indian Ocean waters upto 1500 km from the Indian boundary. IRNSS is a regional and not a global navigation system.

114. (b) **Indian ocean**

Explanation: The navigation system up to 1,500 km in the Indian Ocean waters can now

replace GPS. This means that the ships in the Indian Ocean can obtain information from IRNSS for their position at sea. With the recognition as a component of the WWRNS, the Indian navigation system is similarly placed as Global Positioning System (GPS - USA), most commonly used by marine shipping vessels across the world or the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).

It is being considered as a significant achievement towards the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Apart from navigational benefits it has strategic importance as it reduces overdependence on the global navigation system.

115. (b) **NavIC**

Explanation: The IRNSS constellation was named as “NavIC” (Navigation with Indian Constellation) by the Prime Minister. NavIC provides two types of services: Standard Positioning Service (SPS) is meant for the general public. Restricted Service (RS) is an encrypted service meant for authorised users and agencies. Unlike the widely used GPS which includes 24 satellites, NavIC has 8 satellites and their range is within India and its adjoining regions extending up to 1,500 km from the country's border.



(Q.116-Q.120):

New Delhi: A land-attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully testfired from the (1) territory on Tuesday. The test was conducted by the Indian Army which has many regiments of the DRDO-developed Missile system. The strike range of BrahMos missile has now been enhanced to over (3) km, ANI quoted sources as saying

Brahmos is a universal long-range supersonic cruise missile system that can be launched from land, sea and

air. The missile has been jointly developed by DRDO, India, and (2) . The system has been designed with two variants for anti-ship and land-attack roles. Brahmos weapon systems have been inducted and are operational with the Indian Navy as well as the Indian Army.

Earlier in September, BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems was successfully flight tested for designated range

from ITR, Balasore in Odisha. Notably, the BrahMos has a speed of roughly 2.8 Mach.

BrahMos, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired on October 18, 2020 from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea. The missile hit the target successfully with pin-point accuracy after performing high-level and extremely complex manoeuvres.

116. It was test fired from where?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar islands

- (b) Bay of Bengal
(c) Arabian sea
(d) Lakshadweep

117. BrahMos is developed by? Refer 2

- (a) NPOM
(b) MNOP
(c) MOP
(d) NPMO

118. Fill in the blank . refer 3

- (a) 500
(b) 600
(c) 550
(d) 400

119. BrahMos is named after?

- (a) Brahmāstra weapon
(b) Brahmaputra river and Makai river
(c) Goddess of Brahma
(d) Brahmaputra river and Moskva river

120. It was developed based on which Russian Cruise missile?

- (a) P-800 Oniks
(b) P-600 Oniks
(c) P-500 Oniks
(d) P-400 Oniks

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

116. (a) Andaman and Nicobar islands

Explanation: On November 24, 2020, India successfully test fired the land attack version of Brahmos supersonic missile. It was test fired in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The range of the missile has been extended to 400 km from 290 km. Its speed has been increased to 2.8 Mach which is almost three times the speed of sound.

117. (a) NPOM

Explanation: The BrahMos (designated PJ-10) is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world. It is a joint venture between

the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace

118. (d) 400

Explanation: The range of the missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km but its speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

The test was done in a "top-attack" configuration.

Most modern missiles, including BrahMos, can be fired in both top-attack and direct attack modes.

In top attack mode, the missile is required to climb sharply after launch, travel at a certain

altitude and then fall on top of the target.

In direct attack mode, the missile travels at a lower altitude, directly striking the target

119. (d) Brahmaputra river and Moskva river

Explanation: the name BrahMos is a portmanteau formed from the names of two rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia. It is the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation. The Moskva is a river running through western Russia. It rises about 140 km west of Moscow, and flows roughly east through the Smolensk and Moscow Oblasts, passing through central Moscow.

120. (a) P-800 Oniks

Explanation: The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft and from land platforms. Brahmos was a joint venture of DRDO and Russia. It was developed based on the Russian P-800 Oniks Cruise missile. The name of Brahmos missile was coined from the two rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia. It is the fastest anti-ship cruise missile in the world. Brahmos-II is currently under development with a speed of Mach 7-8. After India became a member of Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, Russia is to jointly build a new version of Brahmos missile that has a range of 800 km.

(Q.121-Q.125):

NEW DELHI: The Government of India, the Government of Meghalaya and the (1) signed a (2) project to improve and modernise the transport sector of state of Meghalaya.

This will help Meghalaya to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism. The project will improve about 300 km of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions. It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction.

Dr. C. S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs said that the MITP will help Meghalaya develop reliable, climate resilient and safe roads which is crucial for the economic development of the state and its people as economic growth of any region is closely linked to its road infrastructure.

The loan agreement was signed by Dr. C S Mohapatra on behalf of the Government of India and MrHideki Mori,



Operations Manager (India). Whereas, the project agreement was signed by Dr. Vijay Kumar D, Commissioner & Secretary (Planning) on behalf of Government of Meghalaya and MrHideki Mori, Operations Manager (India).

Difficult hilly terrain and extreme climatic conditions make Meghalaya's transport challenges particularly complex. On account, today, about half of the 5,362 habitations in the state lack transport connectivity.

Mr Mori said this project will tap into Meghalaya's growth potential in two ways. Within the state, it will provide the much-needed transport connectivity. It will also position Meghalaya as a major connecting hub for international trade through

the (4), Bhutan, India, and the Nepal Corridor.

This operation will also support state government's "(3)" to revive and boost development activities affected due to COVID-19 pandemic. It will help restore transport services and generate direct employment of about 8 million person days.

121. India and who signed million dollar deal to modernise transport sector in the state of Meghalaya?

- (a) IMF
- (b) World bank
- (c) Asian Development bank
- (d) World trade organisation

122. Fill in the blank (refer 2)

- (a) \$120 million
- (b) \$220 million
- (c) \$180 million
- (d) \$100 million

123. What is the name of the mission which will be boasted by the Meghalaya transport project?

- (a) Revive Meghalaya Mission
- (b) Renew Meghalaya Mission
- (c) Reopen Meghalaya Mission
- (d) Restart Meghalaya Mission

124. Meghalaya will be a major hub for international trade for India with Nepal, Bhutan and ?

- (a) China
- (b) Sri lanka
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Myanmar

125. What is the maturity period of the Loan?

- (a) 14 years
- (b) 15 years
- (c) 16 years
- (d) 12 years

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

121. (b) World bank

Explanation: The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low and middle income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects. It comprises two institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA). The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group. The World Bank's most recently stated goal is the reduction of poverty.

122. (a) \$120 million

Explanation: The Government of India, the Government

of Meghalaya and the World Bank today signed a \$120-million project to improve and modernize the transport sector of Meghalaya, a hill state located in the north east of India. This will help Meghalaya to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism.

123. (d) Restart Meghalaya Mission

Explanation: The Restart Meghalaya Mission was launched in August 2020 on the occasion of the 74th independence day. Around six projects were announced under the mission. A total investment of Rs 8,753 crores is to be used for infrastructure projects. The mission will

construct 13 major roads at a cost of Rs 850 crores. Under the mission, 400 agricultural entrepreneurs are to be provided with power tillers at subsidised rates. The mission will also develop tourism.

124. (c) Bangladesh

Explanation: The project will help Meghalaya to emerge as the major connecting hub of trade with border countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The project will cater small scale industries, agriculture areas, tourism, health and education centres. Currently, around 5,362 habitations in Meghalaya lack transport connectivity. It will increase access to health facilities. More than

500,00 inhabitants of the state will benefit in the state. The project is expected to generate direct employment of 8 million person days

125. (a) 14 years

Explanation: The \$120 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 14 years including a grace period of six years. The Government of India has been keen in improving connectivity in the North East Region to increase its trade. In 2018, Rs 1.9 lakh crores were sanctioned to build 14,000 km of roads in the North East region.

(Q.126-Q.130):

New Delhi: A Chinese journalist has sparked controversy after tweeting, and then deleting, the map of a new village of the country. Satellite imagery analysts claimed the village was two kilometres inside Bhutanese territory and near the (1) Plateau, but Bhutan has contested the analysis, asserting that there is no Chinese encroachment on its territory.

“There is no Chinese village on Bhutanese territory,” Major General V. Namgyel, Bhutan’s envoy to India, told The Print. Asked if the village was on Chinese land, he repeated that all he can say is that there are no Chinese villages on Bhutanese land

The row broke out after Shen Shiwei, a senior producer with the Chinese state-owned CGTN network, tweeted three images of a village along with a map showing its location.

“Now, we have permanent residents living in the newly established (2) village. It’s along the valley, 35 km south to Yadong country. Here is a map to show the location,” he had tweeted. He subsequently deleted his tweet.



The village is alleged to be on the eastern periphery of the plateau, where, in 2017 (3), India and China were involved in a stand-off. New satellite imagery put out by the popular Twitter handle @detresfa_ also claims a new 9 km road has come up next to the village into the Doklam Plateau.

126. Fill in the blank (refer 1)

- (a) Doklam
- (b) Dokkam
- (c) Domal
- (d) dumaei

127. The newly established village talked about in the

article what it is called?

- (a) Tuvas
- (b) Baoshan
- (c) Pangda
- (d) Pangai

128. On the same plateau where the alleged village is said to be there, there was a stand off between India and China in 2017 on border issue. There was a standoff how many days at that time?

- (a) 60
- (b) 52
- (c) 72
- (d) 89

129. It has been confirmed that 27 households with 124 people voluntarily moved from from which village to new built village in September 2020?

- (a) Shangdui
- (b) Hongcun
- (c) Baoshan
- (d) Wuyan

130. What is the capital of Bhutan?

- (a) Paro
- (b) Thimphu
- (c) Monrovia
- (d) Naypyitaw

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

126. (a) Doklam

Explanation: In Doklam, the faceoff had taken place over territory belonging to Bhutan, which has a border security agreement with India. The Chinese wanted to take control of the territory, called Doklam, to come closer to what is known as the chicken’s neck or the Silliguri Corridor of India that connects the Northeast with the rest of the country.

127. (c) Pangda

Explanation: The village of Pangda has been newly built and authorities in Yadong county (an administrative region) of Southwest China’s

Tibet Autonomous Region. The village was constructed by China in 2020 along the Torsa River, in a region that is approximately 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) within Bhutanese territory

128. (c) 72

Explanation: The 2017 China India border standoff or Doklam standoff refers to the military border standoff between the Indian Armed Forces and the People’s Liberation Army of China over Chinese construction of a road in Doklam near a trijunction border area, known as Donglang, or Donglang

Caochang, in Chinese

129. (a) Shangdui

Explanation: The village of Pangda has been newly built and authorities in Yadong county (an administrative region) of Southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region have confirmed that 27 households with 124 people voluntarily moved from Shangdui village to Pangda village in September 2020. It is for the first time since 2017 that a Chinese residential area has been noticed near the Doklam region, which is strategically important for India.

130. (b) Thimphu

Explanation: Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom on the Himalayas’ eastern edge, is known for its monasteries, fortresses (or dzongs) and dramatic landscapes that range from subtropical plains to steep mountains and valleys. In the High Himalayas, peaks such as 7,326m Jomolhari are popular trekking destinations. Paro Taktsang monastery (also known as Tiger’s Nest) clings to cliffs above the forested Paro Valley.

**(Q.131-Q.135):**

New Delhi. 25 November 2020. The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the (1) was conducted recently. Indian Naval Ship (INS) (2), an indigenously built Missile Corvette and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies are participating in the CORPAT.

As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR the Indian Navy has been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with EEZ Surveillance, Humanitarian

Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and other capacity building and capability-enhancement activities, on their request. India and Thailand have especially enjoyed a close and friendly relationship covering a wide spectrum of activities and interactions, which have strengthened over the years.

To reinforce maritime links, the two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade. CORPAT builds up the understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitates institution

of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy. It further enhances the operational synergy by exchange of information for prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and for conduct of SAR operations at sea.

The 30th Indo-Thai CORPAT will contribute towards Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate inter-operability and forge strong bonds of friendship with Royal Thai Navy.

131. CORPAT conducted between Indian navy and ? refer 1

(a) Royal Thai Navy

- (b) Imperial Thai Navy
- (c) Nobel Thai Navy
- (d) Superior Thai Navy

132. Fill in the blank(refer 2)

- (a) INS Arihant
- (b) INS Vikram
- (c) INS Kavya
- (d) INS Karmuk

133. Sagar stands for?

- (a) Security And Growth for All in the Region
- (b) Safety And Growth for All in the Region
- (c) Surety And Growth for All in the Region
- (d) Safety And Growth , prosperity for All in the Region

134. Corpat started in which year?

- (a) 2007
- (b) 2005
- (c) 2009
- (d) 2010

135. Exercise takes place in what period?

- (a) Once in a year
- (b) Twice in a year
- (c) In every two years
- (d) In every 9 months

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

131. (a) Royal Thai Navy

Explanation: The 30th Indo-Thai CORPAT is being held between Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy from November 18, 2020 to November 20, 2020. INS Karmuk, HTMS Kraburi along with the Dornier maritime aircraft are to participate in the CORPAT. The countries have been holding CORPAT along the International Maritime Boundary Line

132. (d) INS Karmuk

Explanation: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk (an indigenously built Missile Corvette) and Thailand Frigate HTMS Kraburi, along with Dornier Maritime Patrol

Aircraft from both the navies participated in the 30th edition.

Aims: To keep part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade. To ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS)

133. (a) Security And Growth for All in the Region

Explanation: As part of Indian Government's vision of Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), the Indian Navy has been involved in assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region

with Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and other capacity building and capability-enhancement activities, on their request. Other Military Exercises between India and Thailand: Exercise MAITREE (Army). Exercise SIAM BHARAT (Air Force).

134. (b) 2005

Explanation: It is a line drawn virtually over the Earth's water surface to demarcate the boundaries between the countries. The lines are drawn according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The line applies only to international seas and oceans. It does not encompass lakes or river boundaries. They are considered within the land boundaries.

135. (b) Twice in a year

Explanation: the International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005. CORPAT builds up the understanding and interoperability between navies .

It facilitates institution of measures to : Prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing Drug trafficking Maritime terrorism Armed robbery and piracy.

(Q.136-Q.140):

Praj Industries rose 3.57% to Rs 84.20 after the company signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing technology support to (1) projects under SATAT scheme. The objective of the MoU is to facilitate technological support to the entities for setting-up and commissioning of multiple number of eligible and qualified plants and their continuous operation for production of plant and organic compost manure under sustainable alternative towards affordable transportation (SATAT), the company said in a BSE filing made during market hours today.

SATAT initiative for boosting production and availability of plant as an alternative and affordable clean fuel for transportation sector was launched by Government of India on 1 October 2018. The scheme envisages setting up of (2) plants by 2023-24 with a production target of 15 MMT, facilitating the creation of new employment opportunities

and enhancing farmers' income towards further invigorating the rural economy.

Praj Industries is a global process solutions company that offers solutions to add significant value to bio-energy facilities, compressed biogas plants, critical process equipment & skids, brewery plants, industrial wastewater treatment systems and HiPurity water systems.

On a consolidated basis, the company's net profit tumbled 29.4% to Rs 11.39 crore on a 11.5% fall in net sales to Rs 260.24 crore in Q2 FY21 over Q2 FY20.

136. The MOU was signed to support what project?

- (a) Compressed Bio Gas
- (b) Compressed Nitrogen Gas
- (c) Compressed fluorine Gas
- (d) Compressed hydrogen Gas

137. Fill in the blank (refer 2)



Innovate • Integrate • Deliver

- (a) 4000
- (b) 5000
- (c) 6000
- (d) 8000

138. The agreement signed will bring what Rs investment to set up 900 plants?

- (a) 20, 000 crores
- (b) 10, 000 Crores
- (c) 30, 000crores
- (d) 80,000 crores

139. What is the full form of SATAT?

- (a) Sustainable Alternative

- Towards Affordable Transportation
- (b) Sustainable Alternative To Affordable Transit
- (c) Sustainable Alternative Towards Afford Transportation
- (d) Sustainable Alternative Towards Afford Transit

140. In which year the SATAT initiative was launched?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2011
- (d) 2018

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

136. (a) Compressed Bio Gas

Explanation: On November 20, 2020, the Government of India signed Memorandum of Understanding with leading oil and gas marketing companies to establish Compressed Bio-Gas Plants all over India. These plants are to generate biogas from crop wastes. The agreements were signed under the SATAT

137. (b) 5000

Explanation: Under the agreement, around 900 Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants are to be established in the country. Earlier, the Government of India signed an agreement for 600 plants. Together, around 1,500 plants are under execution currently.

GoI plans to build 5,000 CBG plants by 2023-34.

138. (c) 30, 000crores

Explanation: The agreement signed will bring in Rs 30,000 crores of investment to set up 900 plants. To set up 5000 plants, a total investment of Rs 2 lakh crores is envisaged. The biogas produced from the plants can be used to power automobiles. These fuels can be used to reduce the import by Rs 1 lakh crores.

139. (a) Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation

Explanation: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) is an effort that would benefit both vehicle-

users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs. Compressed Bio-Gas plants are proposed to be set up mainly through independent entrepreneurs. SATAT will help India achieve its goal of doubling farmers income by 2022. It will help to boost rural economy. It will help to reduce carbon emissions. Compressed Bio Gas will act as a buffer against oil and gas price fluctuations.

140. (d) 2018

Explanation: The Sustainable alternative Towards Affordable Transportation aims to set up compressed Bio-gas production plants. The initiative was launched in

2018. Under the initiative, the CBG plants are to be set up through independent entrepreneurs. The targets set under the initiative are as follows
 The ultimate goal of the initiative is to establish 5,000 plants by 2025.
 The other sub goals of the initiative are as follows
 To establish 250 CBG plants by 2020
 To establish 1,000 CBG plants by 2022
 These 5,000 biogas plants will produce 15 million tonnes of CBG per annum. This is around 40% of current Compressed Natural Gas consumption

**(Q.141-Q.145):**

(1), the high-performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at C-DAC has achieved global ranking of (2) in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world released on 16th November 2020.

The AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry & astrophysics, and several packages being developed under the mission on platform for drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood

prone metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna and Guwahati. This will accelerate R&D in war against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and is a boon for Indian masses and for start-Ups and MSMEs in particular.

It is a boon for application developers and will help testing of weather forecasting packages by NCMRWF & IITM, geo-exploration packages for oil and gas recovery; packages for aero-design studies; computational physics and mathematical applications and even online courses for education.

The supercomputer with Rpeak of 5.267 Petaflops and 4.6 Petaflops Rmax (Sustained)

was conceived by C-DAC and developed jointly with support of Department of Science and Technology (DST), (3) under NSM.

“It is a historical first. India today has one of the largest supercomputer infrastructures in the world and that is evidenced by the ranking that -AI has received today,” said Secretary Department of Science & Technology, Professor. Ashutosh Sharma.

141. What the supercomputer is being named as? refer 1

- (a) Pratyush
- (b) Param Siddhi
- (c) Mihir
- (d) EKA

142. Fill in the blank (refer 2)

- (a) 70 (b) 60
- (c) 61 (d) 63

143. The supercomputer was developed by Department of Science and Technology and?

- (a) Niti Ayog
- (b) MeitY
- (c) Centre of computer emerging

(d) Software technology parks of India

144. Consider the following statements and choose the correct ones

I. Petaflops is a unit of computing speed. One petaflop equals to one thousand million million Floating point Operations (FLOP) per second.

II. The LINPACK Benchmarks are a measure of a system's floating point computing power.

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both
- (d) none

145. Consider the following statements and choose the false ones

I. NSM was launched in 2015

II. This seven-year mission was allocated Rs 4,500-crore

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both
- (d) none

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

141. (b) Param Siddhi

Explanation: Param Siddhi was jointly developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Science and Technology. The supercomputer has a speed of 5.267 petaflops. It has now got the recognition of non-distributed super computer systems. Param Siddhi was built on NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD reference architecture networking.

142. (d) 63

Explanation: Param Siddhi is a high-performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer that was established at C-DAC under the National Supercomputing Mission. It has secured rank 63

in top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer system list in the world.

143. (b) MeitY

Explanation: supercomputer developed by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is an executive agency of the Union Government of the Republic of India.

144. (c) Both

Explanation: The supercomputer has Rpeak

of 5.267 Petaflops and 4.6 Petaflops Rmax.

In high-performance computing, Rmax and Rpeak are scores used to rank supercomputers based on their performance using the LINPACK Benchmark. The LINPACK Benchmarks are a measure of a system's floating point computing power. A system's Rmax score describes its maximal achieved performance, the Rpeak score describes its theoretical peak performance. Values for both scores are usually represented in teraFLOPS or petaFLOPS. A petaflop is the ability of a computer to do one quadrillion floating point operations per second

(FLOPS). Additionally, a petaflop can be measured as one thousand teraflops.

145. (d) none

Explanation: The Mission envisages empowering our national academic and Research and Development (R&D) institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising more than 70 high-performance computing facilities. Launched in 2015, this seven-year mission was allocated Rs 4,500-crore. These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN).

(Q.146-Q.150):

New Delhi: India on Tuesday announced an agreement with Afghanistan for building the (1) Dam, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul city. Speaking at the Afghanistan 2020 Conference via video conferencing, S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs also announced that India will also launch a new phase of over 100 high-impact community projects in Afghanistan worth USD 80 million (Rs 592 crore) as the country's development portfolio in the war-ravaged nation has reached over USD 3 billion (Rs 22,200 crore) so far. "The external affairs minister (EAM) announced at the conference that India had just concluded with Afghanistan an agreement for the construction of the dam, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul city," the MEA said. India had earlier built the 202-km Phul-e-Khumri transmission line that provided electricity to Kabul city. During the conference, MEA Jaishankar

also called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire to stop violence in that country and reiterated that the peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.

"India's development portfolio in Afghanistan has to-date amounted to over (2). The minister highlighted that no part of Afghanistan today is untouched by the 400 plus projects that India has undertaken in all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces. More than 65,000 Afghan students have also studied in India," the MEA said in a release.

EAM also announced launch of phase four of the High-Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan, which envisages more than 100 projects worth USD 80 million that India would undertake in Afghanistan," it said.

Jaishankar emphasised India's long-term commitment to the development of Afghanistan and the benefit of it's people as a contiguous neighbor and strategic partner.

146. Fill in the blank. Refer (1)

- (a) Dahla dam
- (b) Shahtoot dam
- (c) Surobi dam
- (d) Darunta dam

147. So far India has contributed what million USD in rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

- (a) 2 billion
- (b) 1 billion
- (c) 5 billion
- (d) 3 billion

148. The dam was renamed to Afghan-India Friendship Dam. What was the former name?

- (a) Salma dam
- (b) Chaki wardak
- (c) Zana khan dam
- (d) Kamal khan dam

149. Consider the statement and choose the correct ones

I. Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a landlocked country at the crossroads of Central and



South Asia.

II. Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south; Iran to the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north; and China to the northeast

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both
- (d) none

150. Dam is a proposed dam in which river basin?

- (a) Kabul river
- (b) Indus river
- (c) Pamir
- (d) Farah

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

146. (b) Shahtoot dam

Explanation: Shahtoot Dam is a proposed dam in the Kabul river basin, one of the five river basins in Afghanistan. This project will provide drinking, irrigation and Environmental water for Kabul province. The cost of this project is estimated to be about US\$120 to \$305 million and the feasibility study of this project cost USD 1.86 million which was completed in 2012. The return per year would be about US\$2 million per year. This dam is going to be constructed by India

147. (d) 3 billion

Explanation: India's development portfolio in Afghanistan has to-date amounted to over USD 3 billion. The minister

highlighted that no part of Afghanistan today is untouched by the 400 plus projects that India has undertaken in all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces. More than 65,000 Afghan students have also studied in India. EAM also announced launch of phase four of the High-Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan, which envisages more than 100 projects worth USD 80 million that India would undertake in Afghanistan.

148. (a) Salma dam

Explanation: Afghan-India Friendship Dam (AIFD), formerly Salma Dam, is a hydroelectric and irrigation dam project located on the Hari River in Chishti Sharif

District of Herat Province in western Afghanistan. Since this project is funded and constructed by the Government of India as a part of the Indian aid project, the Afghan cabinet renamed the Salma Dam to the Afghan-India Friendship Dam in a gesture of gratitude to strengthen relations between the two countries

149. (d) none

Explanation: The modern boundaries of Afghanistan were established in the late 19th century in the context of a rivalry between imperial Britain and tsarist Russia that Rudyard Kipling termed the "Great Game." Modern Afghanistan became a pawn in struggles over political ideology and commercial

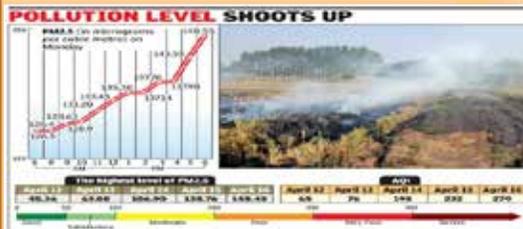
influence. In the last quarter of the 20th century, Afghanistan suffered the ruinous effects of civil war greatly exacerbated by a military invasion

150. (a) Kabul river

Explanation: Kabul river is a 700-kilometre-long (430 mi) river that emerges in Maidan Wardak Province in the Sanglakh Range of the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan, and is separated from the watershed of the Helmand River by the Unai Pass. The Kabul River empties into the Indus River near Attock, Pakistan. It is the main river in eastern Afghanistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

TOPIC GALAXY

NOV 2020



Air Pollution and AQI index and Stubble burning issue



All insults not offence under SCST Act



Armenia, Azerbaijan agree on peace deal



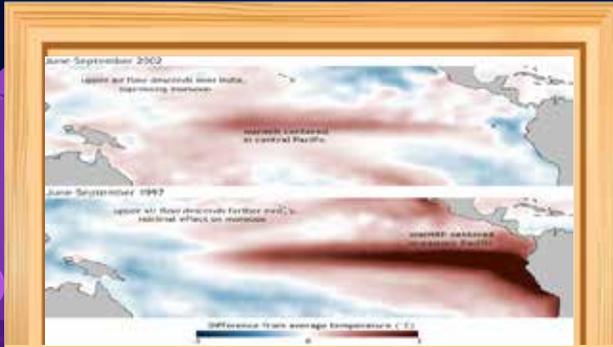
Article 32 and recent developments



China's dam constructions on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet



Cyclone Nivar



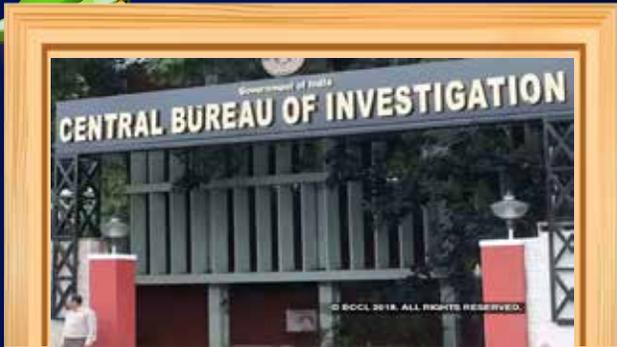
ENSO System and North East Monsoon



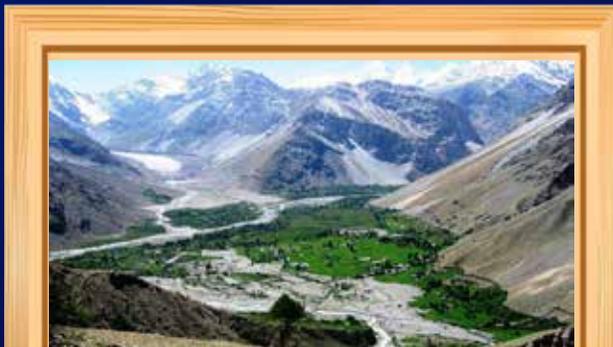
Farmers protest and new agricultural laws



G-20 and recent developments



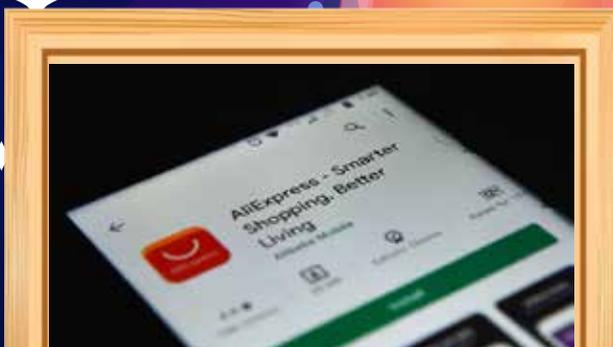
General consent & Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)



Gilgit-Baltistan



H1B Visa



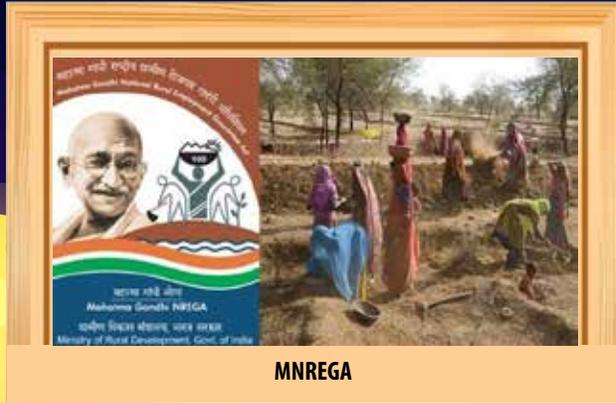
India_s decision to ban 43 Chinese apps.



India_s latest earth observation satellite EOS-01



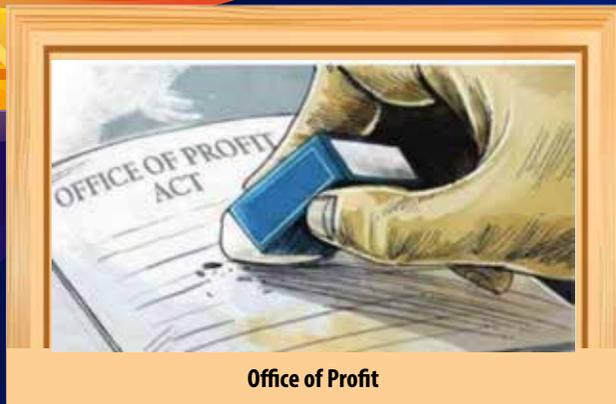
Jallikattu



MNREGA



Myanmar general elections



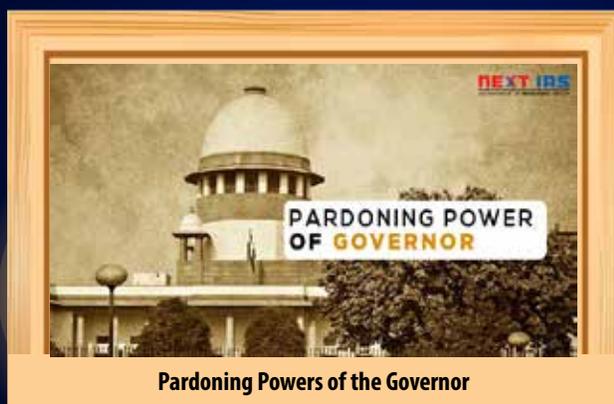
Office of Profit



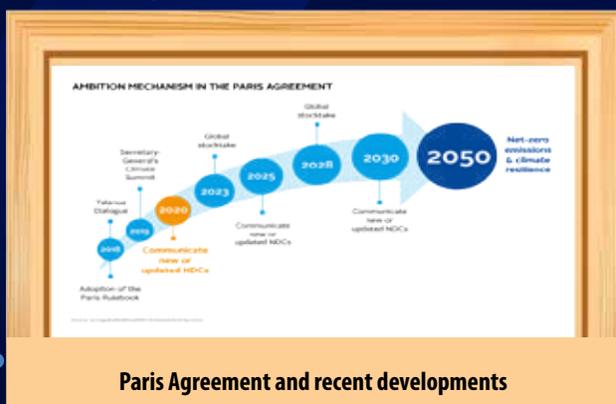
One nation one election



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



Pardoning Powers of the Governor



Paris Agreement and recent developments

**Political crisis in Ethiopia****Ramsar convention****RCEP****SCO summit and recent developments****The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)****U.K. to face Brexit trade disruption****U.P. Unlawful Religious Conversion Prohibition Ordinance, 2020 and constitutional provisions****United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

ONE LINERS

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the



country's first seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Arogya Van' in the Narmada district of Gujarat. PM Modi was accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Governor Acharya Devvrat. PM also inaugurated Arogya Kutir, Ekta Mall, and Children Nutrition Park.

3. The 40th Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE



Governors' Group was held virtually, under the Chairmanship of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI. The meeting was attended by the Governors from SAARC central banks. During the meeting, Mr Das also inaugurated the SAARCFINANCE Sync, a closed user group secure communication network.

4. In Madhya Pradesh, the Panna Tiger Reserve has been included in

the 'World Network of Biosphere Reserves' list of the UNESCO. This is the 12th biosphere reserve from India to be included in the 'World Network of Biosphere Reserves'.

5. In West Bengal, Kolkata will soon feature India's



first "Tyre Park", where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display. The West Bengal Transport Corporation will launch this Tyre Park.

6. India's first of its kind solar energy-driven miniature train was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, Kerala by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

7. Super Typhoon Goni, claimed as the world's strongest typhoon of 2020 has hit the south of the Philippines' main island of Luzon. Goni is one of the strongest storms to hit the Philippines since 2013's Haiyan, which killed more than 6,300 people.

8. Duarte Pacheco has won the elections for the post



the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The term of the Duarte Pacheco will be

from 2020-2023. He will be the 30th President of the IPU and will succeed Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron.

9. The incumbent President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara, has won a third 5-year term in a landslide victory, gaining more than 94 per cent of the votes polled.

10. Bangladesh and US navies launched the 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and



Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020' to expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness between the two countries.

11. The President of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli has been sworn for a second five-year term.

12. The United States has



officially withdrawn from the Paris climate accord on 04 November 2020. With this, the US has now become the only country to formally pull out of the deal since it was adopted in 2015.

13. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Research and Development Centre of Indian Oil

Corporation Limited (IOCL) have signed an MoU to develop and demonstrate biomass gasification-based hydrogen generation technology.

14. The Bilateral Summit



between India and Italy was held virtually on 6th November 2020. The Summit was attended by the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Prof. Giuseppe Conte.

15. Tamal Bandyopadhyay has authored a book titled "Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy" and will be released on November 09, 2020. This book, published by Roli Books, provides an understanding of the challenges and economic potential of India.

16. Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer, Rajiv Jalota has been appointed as the chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT).

17. The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India



(ESSCI) announced the

appointment of PVG Menon as its chief executive officer.

18 AK Gupta, the new



Managing Director and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) took charge. Before this, he was Director (Operations) of the company.

19 National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman, Dilip Rath has been unanimously elected to the board of global dairy body International Dairy Federation (IDF).

20. Manipur's Gyanendro



Ningombam was elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India, while former President Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad is back in the Hockey India Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the Senior Vice President post.

21 The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. The aircraft took off from an airbase in Punjab & reached the Bay of Bengal after mid-air refuelling.

22 The Navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia began the four-day-long phase first of the Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal. From the Indian side, destroyer Ranvijay, frigate Shivalik, off-shore patrol vessel Sukanya, fleet support ship Shakti and submarine Sindhuraj will be part of the drill.

23. The enhanced version of



PINKA rocket system was successfully flight tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

24 India receives the second batch of three Rafale Aircraft, bringing total Rafale Jets with IAF to eight. The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in Jamnagar, Gujarat on 4th November 2020, after flying non-stop from France.

25 Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has



conducted a three-day Tri-Service Combat Exercise code-named "Bull Strike" at Teresa Island in Nicobar Group of Islands. The exercise focussed on interoperability and synergy among three services – Army, Navy and Air Force to maximise combat potential.

26 A two-day joint coastal

security exercise, "Sagar Kavach" was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha. The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments.

27 Noted Malayalam writer, Paul Zacharia has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the Kerala government's highest literary honour.

28 Noted filmmaker Hariharan has been selected for the JC Daniel Award, the state government's highest honour for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema.

29 The 4th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India



Dialogue was hosted by the OPEC Secretariat. The Meeting was co-chaired by HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, Secretary-General of OPEC and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel

30 The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)



has announced Jio as the Title Sponsor of the 2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge. The partnership will also have the support of Reliance Foundation Education.

31 Indian boxers Amit



Panghal, Sanjeet and Ashish Kumar have won gold medals at the recently concluded Alexis Valentine International Boxing Tournament held in Nantes, France.

32 Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020 at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari race track, Italy.

33 West Indies batsman, Marlon Samuels has announced his retirement from professional cricket.

34 World Vegan Day is



observed globally on 1st November every year. This day is celebrated to spread benefits of veganism for humans, non-human animals, and the natural environment.

35 The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is an UN-recognized day observed annually on 2 November.

36 World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world on 5 November.

37 The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation

of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is an international day observed annually on November 6.

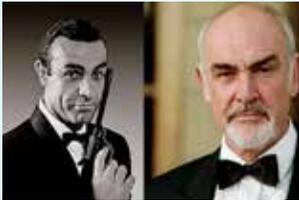
38 The National Cancer



Awareness Day is observed annually in India on November 7, to spread awareness on cancer, its symptoms and treatment.

39 Veteran Politician and former prime minister of Turkey, Mesut Yilmaz has passed away.

40 The Scottish actor, best



known for his portrayal of James Bond, Sean Connery passed away.

41 Noted actor, filmmaker and voiceover artiste, Ashish Kakkad, has passed away.

42 Noted violin maestro and Padma awardee, TN Krishnan passed away. His full name was Tripunithura Narayanaiyer Krishnan.

43 Indian-origin New Zealand



politician, Priyanca Radhakrishnan has created history by becoming the first Indian-Kiwi woman to become a minister in New Zealand.

44 The iconic Indian superhero, Chacha Chaudhary, whose brain works faster than a computer has now come forward to join hands with the Namami Gange Programme.

45 Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. has defeated Donald



Trump to become the 46th U.S. president. Biden will become the oldest president-elect in U.S. history and the first to oust a sitting commander-in-chief after one term since Bill Clinton defeated George H.W. Bush in 1992.

46 The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, Azim Premji has topped the EdelGive



Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020. The 75-year-old made the highest contribution of Rs 7,904 crore between April 2019 and March 2020 towards philanthropic causes.

47 Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals in the final of Dream11 Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 to lift their fifth IPL trophy. Chasing 157 runs for victory, Mumbai were helped by their captain Rohit Sharma, who hit 68 runs off 51 balls.

48 In India, the National Education Day or Rashtriya Shiksha Diwas is celebrated

on 11 November every year. The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India.

49 The Ministry of Shipping is being expanded and renamed as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. This information was given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8 November 2020, during a launch event of Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira .

50. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways



(MoRTH) has issued a notification that FASTags will become mandatory for all four-wheelers, including old vehicles, from January 1, 2021.

51 Union Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Arunachal Pradesh.

52 Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR)



in Arunachal Pradesh has become the first in the eight-State northeast to provide insurance cover against Covid-19 for "green soldiers"

53 Nagaland govt decides to



celebrate Hornbill Festival virtually this year, amid the surge in COVID19 cases in the country.

54 India's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge has been inaugurated in Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. The Dobra-Chanti Jhula (suspension) bridge, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat

55 Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar has virtually unveiled 'Project Air Care' to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon

56 Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh



Chouhan has launched a roadmap to "Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023" through a virtual event.

57 China has sent into space the world's first 6G experiment satellite. The 6G satellite was among three Chinese satellites successfully launched into orbit, along with 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by Argentinian company Satellogic.

58 The second World Health Expo was inaugurated on November 11, in Wuhan, the capital city of Central

China's Hubei Province. T

59 Ex-SPG officer, Sasindran



Kallinkeel's has penned a novel named "Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender". The main character in the novel, published by BookMitra, is a transgender named Rasaathi born in a well-to-do family in South India

60 Actor Anupam Kher's latest book is titled "Your Best Day Is Today!". He had announced the book, in which he experiences during the coronavirus-induced countrywide lockdown.

61 Maharashtra Governor,



Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released the book 'Majhi Bhint' (My Wall) authored by former Maharashtra Minister of Education Rajendra Darda at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.

62 Sonu Sood is set to pen his autobiography titled "I Am No Messiah". The book will be co-authored by Meena Iyer.

63 Indian diplomat, Vidisha Maitra has been elected to the UN's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

64 Indian Oil Corp (IOC) director-pipelines Akshay

Kumar Singh will be the new managing director and chief executive of the country's biggest gas importer, Petronet LNG Ltd.

65 The Indian Navy has launched the fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir" at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai.

66 Malayalam author, S



Hareesh has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel Moustache. It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India.

67 Ruskin Bond, one of India's most cherished authors was conferred Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020. He has a substantial body of work, close to 100 books – across genres for children and adults.

68 The Vice President of



India, M Venkaiah Naidu has presented the National Water Awards (NWAs) for 2019. This is the second edition of the award. Among the states category, Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan

69 International Day of Radiology is observed

globally on 8th November every year. The motto of International Day of Radiology 2020: 'Radiologists and radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19'.

70 In India, 09 November is celebrated as "National Legal Services Day" every year by all Legal Services Authorities.

71 World Urbanism Day, also known as "World Town Planning Day", is celebrated on 8 November globally.

72 Bollywood filmmaker



Sudarshan Rattan passed away due to COVID-19.

73 American television editor, writer and producer Ken Spears, who co-created the beloved animated series "Scooby-Doo" passed away.

74 Author & Gujarati



columnist, Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ passed away.

75 Bahrain's Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman alKhalifa has passed away. He was 84. He was not only the longest-serving PM of Bahrain, but he was the world's longest-serving prime minister. He had held the post since independence in 1971.

76 Bollywood actor Asif Basra, who was known for his role in the recent thriller series

Paatal Lok, has passed away.

77 Former Sikkim chief minister Sanchaman



Limboo passed away. He was 73. He was the fourth Chief Minister of Sikkim.

78 Every year, November 24 is celebrated as Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs of Sikh religion. The day is celebrated as Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur across the country.

79 Union Minister for Social



Justice & Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has e-launched a 'National Portal for Transgender Persons'

80 India will host the Summit of the G20 Group in 2023.



India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022. India and Indonesia have swapped their respective hosting year of G20.

81 Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate

Change, Prakash Javadekar has launched the "India Climate Change Knowledge Portal". The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.

82 The Uttarakhand forest department has dedicated



the newly-built Moss Garden to the people, claiming that it is the country's first such garden, spread over 10 hectares in Kumaon's Nainital district.

83 Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and first of its ten gurus. The book has been penned by Kirpal Singh Ji.

84 Auckland-based



commercial lawyer and director of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) since 2012, Greg Barclay has been elected as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), after the second round of voting.

85 Lt Gen Harpal Singh has appointed new Engineerin-Chief of Indian Army. He is presently

the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on 1 December.

86 Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Border Roads Organisation. The BRO is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads along the borders with China and Pakistan.

87 Indian Navy has got



its ninth Boeing P-8I longrange maritime reconnaissance and antisubmarine warfare aircraft, part of the nearly \$1 billion deal with the US for four additional planes signed in 2016.

88 The 27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 has been organized from 23 to 25 November 2020 in the Andaman Sea. Indian Navy (IN) is the host for the 2020 edition of SIMBEX. The SIMBEX series of exercises are being held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), annually since 1994.

89 Karnataka Governor



Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO

Chairman K Sivan.

90 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020) through video conferencing.

91 The 59th National Pharmacy Week (NPW)



was celebrated throughout the country from November 16-22, 2020. The theme of the NPW 2020 is "Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals".

92 Airports Authority of India (AAI) is observing the Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020 from 23 November to 27 November 2020.

93 The United Nations



designated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on November 25

94 This year's theme for the



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!".

95 Three-time Assam Chief Minister from Congress

party Tarun Gogoi passed away. Tarun Gogoi had served as the Chief Minister of Assam between 2001 and 2015.

96 Senior Congress leader and

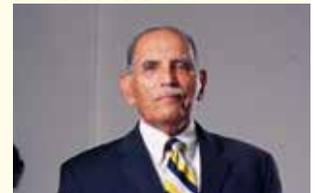


Rajya Sabha MP, Ahmed Patel passed away. He was Lok Sabha MP for three terms from 1977 to 1989 and Rajya Sabha MP since 1993 representing Gujarat.

97 Television actor Ashiesh Roy has passed away. The actor had appeared in a number of TV shows and films in his long acting career which began in 1997.

98 One of the greatest footballers of all time, Diego Maradona passed away. He was captain when Argentina won the 1986 World Cup.

99 Founder of Tata



Consultancy Services (TCS), Faqir Chand Kohli, better known as the Father of the Indian IT industry, passed away. Besides being the founder, he was also the first CEO of TCS.

100 Malayalam film "Jallikattu", directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category for the 93rd Academy Awards.

Legal Current Affairs

1. A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has said



that the setting up special courts to expeditiously try sitting and former MPs and MLAs accused of various crimes is in public interest and will enhance faith in judiciary. The Bench was considering a report filed by a committee of the Madras High Court that raised reservations over the setting up of special courts to exclusively try legislators for various offences. In 2017, the Supreme Court had ordered that special courts be set up across the country to fast-track the long-pending trials of lawmakers. Following this, 12 special courts were set up across 11 States exclusively to try sitting MPs and MLAs.

2. Haryana Assembly has passed the Haryana State



Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 to reserve 75% of private-sector jobs in the state for local residents. It has led to a new debate on the growing trend of jobs for locals and the associated concerns. Once it becomes law, it will apply to companies, societies, trusts, limited liability partnership

firms, partnership firms, etc. located across the state. It has been criticised for not being in the best interest of the industries as it will affect the competitiveness of the industries and will lead to loss of investments in Haryana.

3. A Kerala-based NGO for farmers has moved



the Supreme Court (SC) to declare the draft notification on the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) unconstitutional. It has sought a direction to the government to not implement the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan committees' reports on the conservation of the Western Ghats. The draft notification would declare 123 agricultural villages in Kerala as ESA converting the semi-urban villages in the region into forests with no facilities and roads. It will affect 22 lakh people and cripple the economy of Kerala. The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), also known as Gadgil Committee, and the Kasturirangan Committee, a High-Level Working Group, was constituted to conserve and protect the biodiversity of Western Ghats while allowing for sustainable and inclusive development of the region. They recommended that identified geographical areas falling in the six States

of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu should be declared as ESA.

4. The National Legal Services Day is celebrated on 9th



November every year to spread awareness for ensuring reasonable fair and justice procedure for all citizens. National Legal Services Day (NLSD) was first started by the Supreme Court of India in 1995 to provide help and support to poor and weaker sections of the society. Free legal services are provided in matters before Civil, Criminal and Revenue Courts, Tribunals or any other authority exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

5. The Chief Justice of India (CJI), during a hearing of



a plea, said that the court is trying to discourage petitions filed under Article 32. CJI noted that there is a spate of Article 32 petitions and reiterated that the High Court can also uphold fundamental rights (under article 226). In case of the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, the jurisdiction of the SC is original but not exclusive.

It is concurrent with the jurisdiction of the high court under Article 226.

6. The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to provide information on the existing legal mechanisms to deal with complaints about the content on television channels. Further it has asked the Centre to create an authority to check fake news and bigotry on air. The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by various organisations who objected to the reporting by certain television news channels and news portals on the Tablighi Jamaat event held in March 2020. The religious gathering emerged as one of the early hot spots of Covid-19 in the national capital. The petitions sought a direction from the court to stop the dissemination of fake news and to identify and take strict action against sections of the media that communalised the incident. In October 2020, the bench asked the Centre to file a response on steps taken to ensure fake news is not circulated through online and electronic media platforms.

7. The Supreme Court has held that once a court takes cognisance of a corruption case investigated by the CBI, it cannot be set aside for lack of the State government's prior consent for the probe against some of the accused, unless it is shown that it has resulted in prejudice. Previously,

two officials of Uttar Pradesh government had earlier contended in the Allahabad High Court that the general consent given by the State government was not enough, and separate consent ought to have been obtained prior to their being investigated. The SC held that if the State had given a general consent to CBI investigation in a corruption case and cognisance had been taken by a court, the case cannot be set aside unless the public servants plead that prejudice has been caused to them on account of non-obtaining of prior consent. Further the judges held that the case cannot be set aside unless the illegality in the investigation can be shown to have brought about miscarriage of justice.

8. The Supreme Court has issued notices on a batch of petitions challenging the election of External Affairs



Minister S. Jaishankar to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat. The pleas have also raised the issue of Election Commission's (EC) power on issuance of separate notifications for holding bypolls for casual and regular vacancies in Rajya Sabha. One of the petitions against Mr. Jaishankar has been filed by Congress leader Gaurav Pandya. A Bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, Justices A.S. Bopanna and V.

Ramasubramanian took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal that a date is fixed for hearing these matters.

9. The Supreme Court (SC) has reserved its order on



the state governments providing a 50% in-service reservation for admissions to super-speciality medical courses (Doctorate of Medicine/DM and Master of Chirurgiae/M. Ch.) in government colleges for the academic year 2020-21. In August 2020, the SC allowed states to grant the benefit of reservation of seats to in-service doctors in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) postgraduate (PG) degree courses. The judgment held that the state has the legislative competence and authority to provide for a separate source of entry for in-service candidates seeking admission to PG/diploma courses in the exercise of powers under Entry 25, List III.

10. The Jharkhand Assembly has unanimously passed



a resolution seeking the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in Census, 2021. The resolution was passed unanimously with voice vote. The Resolution

seeks a separate column for followers of Sarna religion in Census 2021. The Sarna religion followers are worshippers of nature. They do not consider themselves as Hindus. They have been fighting for a separate religious identity for decades. Currently, Sarna is not classified as a separate religion.

11. The President of the United States of America (USA)



has exercised his powers under the constitution to pardon his former National Security Advisor. Unlike the USA President, whose powers to grant pardons are almost unrestrained, the President of India has to act on the advice of the Cabinet. The President of the USA has the constitutional right to pardon or commute sentences related to federal crimes. The USA Supreme Court has held that this power is granted without limit and cannot be restricted by Congress (legislature).

12. The Central Government has recently tried to



justify its decision to construct a new Parliament building under the proposed 'Central Vista Redevelopment' project, in the Supreme Court (SC). One of the issues raised by

the petitioners was if it's possible to refurbish and use the existing Parliament building. According to the centre, Underlining the cost and infrastructure advantages of the proposed project, the Centre told the SC that the question whether or not to have a new Parliament building is a policy decision which the government is entitled to take.

13. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has



notified new rules under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) first enacted in 1976, was once amended in the year 2010 to regulate the foreign contributions or donations and hospitality (air travel, hotel accommodation etc) to Indian organizations and individuals and to stop such contributions which might damage the national interest. It has been amended again in 2020 to enhance transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions and facilitating the genuine non-governmental organisations or associations who are working for the welfare of society. The Act is applicable to all associations, groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who intend to receive foreign donations.

ARTICLES YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS

India-U.S. 2+2 dialogue | U.S. to support India's defence of territory

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo raises security threat from China after 2+2 talks

The United States will support India to defend its territorial sovereignty and liberty, U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said on Tuesday. Addressing the media at the end of the 3rd India-US 2+2 dialogue in New Delhi, Mr. Pompeo also said that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is “no friend to democracy”.

The observations about the threats to Indian sovereignty came as New Delhi announced the signing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement on geospatial cooperation (BECA) with the U.S.

“The United States will stand with the people of India as they face threats to their sovereignty and their liberty,” said Mr. Pompeo hinting at the ongoing tense scenario in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese forces in a standoff since May. Mr. Pompeo also referred to the greater threats posed by China in the Asia-Pacific region and the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our leaders and our citizens see with increasing clarity that the CCP is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency, nor to freedom of navigation, the foundation of a free and open and prosperous Indo-Pacific. I am glad to say that the U.S. and India are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party,” said Mr. Pompeo addressing the media

at the Hyderabad House here.

In his opening remarks, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid out the challenges before India. Speaking in Hindi, Mr. Singh said, “We are meeting today at an extraordinary time. This pandemic is something that we have never experienced in our lifetime... our partnership is becoming stronger because of the challenges that we are

Earth Observations and Earth Sciences, and an agreement to extend duration of the MoU regarding the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership. The two sides also signed an agreement on electronic exchange of customs data and a letter of intent regarding cooperation in traditional Indian medicines.

A Joint Statement issued following the conclusion of the

Mr. Pompeo also referred to the loss of lives of Indian soldiers in the clash with the Chinese PLA troops in June and said India and the U.S. are committed to upholding common values against threats.

“Today morning we have been to the National War Memorial to pay homage to the brave men and women of the Indian armed forces who have sacrificed for the world's largest democracy



facing at present.” The Minister’s comments were taken forward by Mr. Pompeo, promising American support.

U.S. Secretary of Defence Mark Esper said, “BECA will enable greater sharing of geospatial information between our armed forces”.

Apart from BECA, India and the U.S. also sealed a MoU on Technical Cooperation in

visit of the American dignitaries highlighted shared Indo-U.S. goals in the Asia-Pacific region and “emphasised that the Code of Conduct in the South China sea should not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of any nation in accordance with international law”. The two sides also decided to expand joint capacity building activities with partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

including 20 that were killed by the PLA forces in Galwan valley in June,” Mr. Pompeo said.

Chinese rejection

Responding to the comments of the U.S. Secretary of State, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Mr. Pompeo’s comments are groundless.

“These are groundless

accusations which reflect he is clinging to Cold War mentality and ideological biases. We urge him to abandon the Cold War and zero sum game mentality, stop sowing discord between China and regional countries as well as undermining regional peace and stability," said Mr. Wang.

'Security convergence'

Explaining the "2+2" dialogue, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar said the discussions had a political military content. "Our national security convergences have obviously grown in a more multipolar world. We meet today to not only advance our own interests but to ensure that our bilateral cooperation makes a positive

contribution in the world arena," he said.

Speaking about the conclusion of BECA ahead of the U.S. presidential election, a highly placed government source said that the presence of the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defence in India despite the election season in the U.S. is a sign of the importance that the U.S. attaches to India.

"It is a demonstration to the world at large," said the official about the discussions between the two sides. Apart from Indo-Pacific region, the two sides also discussed the status of Afghanistan and supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

Information exchange

BECA enables exchange of geospatial data and information between the two countries and will improve the accuracy of India's missiles in future during precision strikes.

BECA will help share geospatial maps and charts between U.S. and India, which may have been acquired from multiple sources like satellites, UAVs, reconnaissance aircraft, aerostats among others, said Captain (IN) Vikram Mahajan (Retd), Director, Aerospace and Defence at U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

"Data shared from BECA will help in identifying, updating and tracking of various types of

target and their position, both on land and sea," he told The Hindu.

Terming the signing of BECA a "significant achievement," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the U.S. accepted an Indian request for "cooperation in the advanced field of maritime domain awareness." As part of measures to enhance military to military cooperation Mr. Singh said now Liaison Officers at each other's establishments could be leveraged to enhance "information sharing architecture" while in the joint statement both sides "reiterated their intent to assign additional Liaison Officers."

US formally exits Paris climate deal

President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year. The US exited the pact after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Wednesday.

The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement on Wednesday amid election uncertainty, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact

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that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.

Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025. He also said it gave other major emitters, like China and India, a free pass.

The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. It can still attend negotiations and give opinions, but is relegated to observer status. Trump stated that he intended to renegotiate the details of the United States's membership within the Paris Agreement that can better protect US workers in industries like coal, paper, and steel.

The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China. But whether the US exit turns out to be brief or lasting depends on the outcome of

the presidential contest, The Washington Post said.

A possible second Trump term would make clear that an international effort to slow the Earth's warming will not include the US government. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, meanwhile, has vowed to rejoin the Paris accord as soon as he is inaugurated and to make the US a global leader on climate action.

"Biden has vowed to re-enter the Paris accord if elected, a move that could take less than six months," Varun Sivaram, a senior research scholar at Columbia University's SIPA Center on Global Energy Policy, told ABC News.

"Over the last four years, the Trump administration has sharply diminished the United States' standing in the world," in terms of environmental policy, Sivaram said.



to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

President Trump originally

The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value

While Biden's climate plan has been recognised as the most ambitious the US has ever proposed, it still may not hit the

mark, according to some critics. Republicans have criticised Biden's climate plan as being too expensive, with Vice President

Mike Pence describing it as "a USD 2 trillion version of the Green New Deal" during his debate with Democratic rival

Senator Kamala Harris last month.

Article 370: Peoples Conference approaches SC for early hearing of pending petitions

Sajad Lone's party says 'the petitions ought to be heard and disposed of urgently as significant changes to the rights

spokesman Adnan Ashraf Mir's plea.

He said the petitions "ought

changes are being brought about by the Centre that impact the rights of a large number of people, including dilution of the

A slew of petitions, including those filed by the National Conference and Kashmir High Court Bar Association,



of the residents of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir have already been brought about by the Centre.

The Peoples Conference, headed by Sajad Lone, on Monday submitted a plea before the Supreme Court for an early hearing of the petitions pending before it contesting the measures taken by the Centre since August 5 last year in Jammu and Kashmir, including the abrogation of provisions of Article 370.

"(I appeal to) Allow the present application on behalf of the petitioner for an early hearing of the present petition and the other petitions and fix an early date for hearing," reads party

to be heard and disposed of urgently as significant changes to the rights of the residents of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir have already been brought about by the Centre".

"The petitioners have made out a very strong prima facie case and the issues raised are being considered by a Constitution Bench of the court.

"Notwithstanding the foregoing, pending the final hearing of these petitions challenging the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and the abrogation of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, and notwithstanding the prevailing pandemic conditions, sweeping

safeguards earlier available to the permanent residents of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir," it reads.

Mr. Mir argued that the changes undertaken would have an irreparable impact on the rights of the citizens of J&K, which included the creation of domicile rights and third-party rights in land ownership.

"The very purpose of the present proceedings will be severely undermined if the present petitions are not heard and disposed of urgently. Suffice to say sufferance of the people continues as if under conquest without a full-fledged responsible government," it added.

challenging abrogations of provisions of Article 370 and other constitutional changes in J&K are pending before the Supreme Court.

Omar on PC's move

NC vice president Omar Abdullah said the PC approached the court "as was decided in the recent meeting of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration". "We are seeking early hearings in this matter so that the petitions challenging 5th Aug 2019 move forward", he added.

The PC and the NC are among seven other political parties that are part of the Gupkar alliance.

Pakistan to make Gilgit-Baltistan a full-fledged province: report

'Imran to make announcement during his visit to the region'

Pakistan has decided to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan's status to that of a full-fledged province, a Pakistani media report on Thursday quoted a senior Minister as saying.

India has clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession.

According to a report in the Express Tribune, Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Ali Amin Gandapur, on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would soon visit the region and make the formal announcement to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan to the status of a full-fledged province with all constitutional rights.

Mr. Gandapur said Gilgit-Baltistan would be given adequate representation on all constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly and the Senate.

After consultation with all stakeholders, the federal government has decided in

principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan, the Minister told reporters.

changes in Pakistan occupied areas of the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Instead,

Special Economic Zone would begin under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



India's objections

India has said the Government of Pakistan or its judiciary has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it.

India completely rejects such actions and continued attempts to bring material

Pakistan should immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation, the Ministry of External Affairs said in May while protesting Islamabad's efforts to bring material change in Pakistan occupied territories.

Mr. Gandapur also said that work on the Moqpondass

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The CPEC is a collection of infrastructure and other projects under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013.

15th Finance Commission submits its report to President

The panel has come up with State-specific considerations to address the key challenges that individual States face.

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Punjab becomes 6th state to withdraw general consent to CBI to probe cases in state

West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have recently withdrawn their general consent to the CBI.

Chandigarh: The Congress-led government in Punjab has revoked its general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation for probing cases in the state, joining several other non-BJP ruled states that have carried out similar moves.

West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are among the states that have already withdrawn their "general consent" to the CBI.

According to the notification issued by the Punjab government on November 8, its prior consent will be required by the CBI, which comes under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, to investigate any case in the state.

In exercise of the power conferred by section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (Central Act No 25 of 1946), the Government of Punjab hereby withdraws the general consent accorded to the members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment, anytime herein before, as per notification issued by the Additional Chief Secretary, department of Home Affairs and Justice.

In view of revocation of all previous general consents issued earlier, prior consent of the Government of Punjab shall be required, hereinafter, on a case-to-case basis for investigation of any offence or class of offences under section 3 of the aforesaid Act, by the Delhi Special Police Establishment, it further said.

The Punjab government had earlier withdrawn consent from the CBI for investigating the

resolution in this regard in 2018.

Later, it handed over the probe into the incidents of desecration



2015 sacrilege incidents there after the state assembly passed a

of religious texts to the special investigation team of the Punjab police.

Kunal Kamra Contempt Case: What did the A-G Say? What Happens Now?

The person being accused of criminal contempt has to be given an opportunity to file their reply and affidavits. Attorney General KK Venugopal, on Thursday, 12 November, gave his consent to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings against comedian Kunal Kamra for his tweets about the Supreme Court.

The Attorney General's consent is needed for a contempt petition filed by a third party to proceed, under both the Supreme Court's Rules on contempt proceedings, as well as the Contempt of Courts Act 1971.

A-G KK Venugopal went through the list of tweets made by Kamra that had been listed in the request and found that two of them "are not only in bad taste but clearly cross the line between humour and contempt of the Court."

These two tweets read:

- "Honour has left the building (Supreme Court) long back."
- "The Supreme Court of this Country is the most Supreme joke of this country."

A third tweet that the A-G felt constituted criminal contempt was one where Kamra had shared an image of the Supreme Court building dressed in saffron colours with the BJP flag on top instead of the national flag. According to Venugopal:

While he found the other tweets to be "highly objectionable" as well, he left it to the apex court to decide whether they too amounted to criminal contempt.

The A-G concluded by pointing out that people today believe that they can condemn the Supreme Court and its judges by exercising their freedom of speech.

What is Criminal Contempt & Who Takes Action?

According to The Contempt of Court Act, 1971, Criminal

Contempt means the publication of any matter or the doing of any act which -

immediately.

The other circumstances are where someone commits

journalist Rajdeep Sardesai, for comments about the Supreme Court. He also declined to



(i) scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or

(ii) prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or

(iii) interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

The Supreme Court has the power to take action where a person has committed contempt of it in several different circumstances.

The most obvious one is where a person commits contempt in view or presence or hearing of the apex court – in which case the court can take it up

contempt outside the court, whether through comments in the press, or on social media, at a public gathering or on television. In such cases the court can take up the issue suo motu (as in the Prashant Bhushan case), or after a petition filed by the Attorney General or the Solicitor General.

Additionally, a contempt case may also arise from a petition filed by any person with the court. Where this is an allegation of criminal contempt of court, then the Attorney General or Solicitor General has to give their consent in writing to the filing of the contempt petition.

Attorney General KK Venugopal recently refused to grant consent for initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against actress Swara Bhasker and

grant consent for contempt proceedings against Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, in connection with his letter to the Chief Justice of India, released publicly, which included allegations against a senior judge of the Supreme Court.

Next Steps Regarding Contempt Pleas

If consent is granted, however, as is the case with the complaints against Kunal Kamra, then the criminal contempt petitions by a 'third party' can be filed in the Supreme Court. These petitions have to be supported by an affidavit and copies of all the statements (including tweets or other social media posts) which disclose the alleged offence.

The person being accused of criminal contempt has to be given an opportunity to file their

reply and affidavits, and then the matter can be heard, whenever listed by the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice of India, as always, will assign which judges will hear the case, even if the contemptuous statements reference them.

While the Supreme Court has its own Rules for the procedure and has significant discretion when it comes to contempt matters,

it normally follows or at least is guided by certain provisions and guidelines set out in the Contempt of Courts Act 1972 (though it is not bound by this law). These include those under Section 13 of the Act, that:

1. the accused should be allowed to argue truth as a defence (if the court is satisfied this is a bona fide request)

2. the guideline that a sentence shall not be imposed on a person convicted of contempt “unless it is satisfied that the contempt is of such a nature that it substantially interferes, or tends substantially to interfere with the due course of justice”

Once the hearings are over, the court then decides whether or not to hold the alleged contemnor guilty of contempt

of court.

If the person is convicted, then they can be sentenced to up to six months in prison (again, the SC can potentially give a higher sentence), or a fine, or both. The accused may be discharged or the punishment awarded remitted if the accused makes a bona fide apology to the satisfaction of the court.

Madras High Court Panel Questions Validity Of Supreme Court Order Setting Up Special Courts For MPs/MLAs

West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have recently withdrawn their general consent to the CBI.

The legal validity of establishing Special Courts for trial of MPs and MLAs has been questioned by the Criminal Rules Committee, comprising of three Judges from the Madras High

an offence under POCSO Act (or other special Acts like PC Act, NDPS Act) can only be tried by a Special Court created under the POCSO Act (PC Act, NDPS Act) and there

cannot be constituted by judicial or executive fiat.

The remarks on the HC panel were mentioned in a report submitted to Senior Advocate

Ramana, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy, has asked the High Courts to formulate an action plan to rationalize the disposal of criminal cases pending against legislators.



The Madras High Court Committee has however stated that constitution of offender centric Courts is not legally permissible and cannot be a way to expedite disposal of cases.

The Committee noted that the Supreme Court fell in error by ordering that a Central Scheme may be prepared for setting up of Courts, exclusively to deal with criminal cases involving political persons, vide order dated November 1, 2017, in Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay case.

It is pointed out that the Government Orders creating Special MP/MLA Courts trace their powers to this order and not to any statute. The Report states,

Court.

In a report dated October 13, 2020, the Committee has stated that Special Courts can only be “Offence Centric” and not “Offender Centric”.

“An MP/MLA, who commits

cannot be another Special Court exclusively for trial of an MP/MLA, who commits POCSO offence,” the Committee submitted.

In other words, the Committee contends that Courts can be constituted only by statute and

Vijay Hansaria, Amicus Curiae in the matter concerning expeditious disposal of criminal cases pending against former/sitting legislators.

In this case, a three-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court, comprising of Justices N V

“The Hon’ble Supreme Court was very guarded in its orders, but unfortunately, fell in error by creating Special Courts for trial of criminal cases involving MPs and MLAs by implicitly adopting the format of the Government Order that was

passed by the Telangana State.”

The Committee had also relied on several Judgments of the Supreme Court, including State of WB v. Anwar Ali Sarkar, 1952 SCR 284, to contend that procedure for trial, as prescribed under the Code of Criminal Procedure, has to be strictly followed.

However, these arguments have been rebutted by the amicus in his report. The same be read here:

No Illegality In Establishing ‘Offender Centric’ Courts For Trial Of MPs/MLAs: Amicus Curiae Tells Supreme Court

Inter alia, the Committee has submitted that that existing Court structure in the State of Tamil Nadu is robust and is more than enough to deal with the cases involving MPs and MLAs.

The Committee has therefore sought exemption from establishing any Special Courts

for trial of cases involving MPs and MLAs and has sought status quo ante.

It has also pointed out practical difficulties in establishing such special Courts. It stated,

“By sending the case from Kanyakumari District to the Special Court MP/MLA in Chennai, the witnesses from Kanyakumari were required to travel 700 kms for giving evidence and none thought about their safety”

Further,

“The Government Order dated 26.4.2019 states that if the offences stated in the Special Act were to be committed by an MP or MLA in Chennai, he will have to be tried by the Special Court MP/MLA No. II. This Government Order ignores the fact that there are already Special Courts under the SC/ST Act, POCSO Act, and PC Act and other Central and State enactments, for exclusive trial of the offence under those Acts”.

Accused entitled to ‘default bail’ if probe not completed within prescribed time, SC says

A 3-judge SC bench has said the right to ‘default bail’ is linked to Article 21 that promises protection of life and personal liberty against unlawful detention.

New Delhi: An accused should be granted ‘default bail’, irrespective of the merits of the case, if the investigating agency does not complete its probe within the prescribed time limit,

Procedure provided a “clear mandate” that the investigative agency must collect the required evidence within the prescribed time period, failing which the accused can no longer be

investigation relates to any other offence, the accused can be detained for 60 days.

In some special statutes such as the Narcotic Drugs and

arrested person is entitled to ‘default bail’.

In the judgment delivered on 26 October, the bench also said Section 167(2) is “integrally linked to the constitutional commitment under Article 21 promising protection of life and personal liberty against unlawful and arbitrary detention, and must be interpreted in a manner which serves this purpose”.

The court was hearing a petition filed by one M. Ravindran, who was arrested in August 2018 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. He was remanded in judicial custody on the day he was arrested.

He approached the trial court for default bail, 180 days from the remand date, contending that the investigation was not complete and that the charge sheet had not been filed yet.

the Supreme Court held in a judgment.

A three-judge bench comprising Justice U.U. Lalit, Justice M.M. Shantanagoudar and Justice Vineet Saran noted that Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal

detained.

Under Section 167(2), an accused can be detained in custody for a maximum of 90 days for a crime punishable with death, life imprisonment or a sentence of over 10 years. If the

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the period of detention can extend to 180 days.

If the investigative agencies do not complete their investigation within these time limits, the

While the trial court granted Ravindran bail, the Madras High Court cancelled it in November 2019, on the ground that the prosecution filed an additional complaint against him even as his bail plea was



being heard. The high court order was then challenged in the Supreme Court.

'Indefeasible right'

The 56-page SC judgment said this 'default bail' will also compel the investigating officers to act swiftly and efficiently without misusing the prospect of further remand.

"This also ensures that the Court takes cognizance of the case without any undue delay from the date of giving information of the offence, so that society at large does not lose faith and develop cynicism towards the criminal justice system," it observed.

The Supreme Court took note of several precedents, as well as Law Commission of India reports on the subject.

It then highlighted the purpose behind Section 167(2), saying the intent was to "balance the need for sufficient time limits to complete the investigation with the need to protect the civil

liberties of the accused".

The court referred to its 2001 judgment, in which another apex court bench had referred to default bail as an "indefeasible right".

The SC had then ruled that the accused is "deemed to have exercised his right to default bail under Section 167(2), CrPC the moment he files the application for bail and offers to abide by the terms and conditions of bail".

As a cautionary measure, the court said, the lawyer for the accused as well as the magistrate should inform the accused of this right once he becomes entitled to him.

"This is especially where the accused is from an underprivileged section of society and is unlikely to have access to information about his legal rights," the bench observed.

Right extinguishes if accused does not exercise it'

The Supreme Court asserted that once an accused files an application for default bail, he is "deemed to have availed of or enforced his right to be released on default bail".

It ruled that this right continues to remain enforceable even if, while the bail application is pending, a chargesheet or an application for extension of time is filed.

But the actual release of an accused from custody depends on the directions passed by the court granting bail. So if the accused fails to furnish bail or comply with the terms and conditions of the bail order, his detention would continue, according to the judgment.

It added that if the accused fails to apply for default bail when the right accrues to him, and subsequently a chargesheet or an extension report is filed then "the right to default bail would be extinguished".

For Ravindran's case, the court took note of the provisions of

the NDPS Act, which allow the investigating agency 180 days to complete the probe.

According to the Act, this period can be extended to one year by a special court, if the public prosecutor submits a report mentioning the progress of the probe and specific reasons for the extension.

The court noted that in the case at hand the public prosecutor had not filed any such report within the 180-day period for an extension. Therefore, in Ravindran's case, the final report was to be filed by the authorities within 180 days, it said.

The court then asserted that "the prosecution cannot be allowed to take advantage of its own default of not filing the investigation report or complaint against the appellant within the stipulated period".

It, therefore, set aside the High Court order and granted bail to the accused.

Arnab Goswami Vs Maharashtra Assembly: 'No Contempt, Letter Issued on Instructions From Speaker, It Cannot Be Withdrawn: Dushyant Dave Tells SC

The Supreme Court on Tuesday considered the petition filed by Arnab Goswami, against the breach of privilege notice issued by the Maharashtra Assembly against him.

On November 6, the Court had issued contempt notice upon Assistant Secretary of the Maha Legislative Assembly for sending an allegedly "intimidating" letter to Goswami & to show cause as to why contempt should not be issued in terms of Article 129 of the Constitution.

Senior Advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Goswami had told the bench that the letter of Assistant Secretary, Vilas

Athawale, questioned Goswami for producing communications of the Speaker and Privilege Committee before Court as they are confidential in nature.

On Tuesday, the bench headed by CJ S. A. Bobde was informed that the Secretary, in his reply filed last night, has asserted that he acted on the instruction and under the directions of the Speaker. The bench deliberated on whether to issue notice to the Speaker.

"We received the reply of the Secretary of the Maharashtra Legislative Secretariat late last night. None of us have read it", said the CJ at the outset on

Tuesday.

"Yes. And it raises an interesting question of law- shorn of details, should a notice be issued to the Speaker? He (the Secretary) has repeatedly said that he was only acting on the directions of the Speaker. I will put the matter to Your Lordships before any pale of doubt", began Senior Advocate Harish Salve.

"I have placed before Your Lordships the show-cause notice and the annexures to the notice. I was following the Hansard Rule, for what happened in the House can only be shown by the official publications. The affidavit says that he was acting

under the instructions of the Speaker to issue the show-cause notice", he continued.

"So he has said all this but not withdrawn the letter?", asked the CJ.

At this point, Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave appearing for the Secretary, advanced, "I have not withdrawn because I wish to contest! There is no contempt. There are 4 judgments of this court which directly help me!"

"So we will adjourn the matter by 2 weeks. Till then, everyone can file anything they want", said the CJ.

“All of us can put in written submissions. Then Your Lordships can list it for hearing some day?”, suggested Mr. Salve.

“What do you say, Mr Datar?”

occasion?”, requested Mr. Dave.

“No, no...”, said the CJ.

It was pointed out to the bench that on account of the COVID situation flying between Delhi

first hold if there is contempt!”, pressed Mr. Dave.

“No. We first serve and then we decide. It is not the other way round! The apprehension

Will that be contempt? I don't see a request in this behalf from Mr. Salve”, argued Mr. Dave.

“If there is an off-chance that Mr. Dave is wrong - and being a lawyer, he would agree that there may be things we feel strongly about but may eventually be wrong - could Your Lordships please record a finding...”, prayed Mr. Salve.

“We see what you are saying. The Secretary has made the statement that he did everything on the Speaker's instructions and directions, but if the Speaker says that the statement is not right, then he should get a chance! Mr. Datar, please address us on this also”, observed the CJ.

“This person is acting as the agent of the Speaker. So that would make the Speaker the proper and the necessary party. Mr. Dave is on merit- if there is no contempt, then everything goes. But if the Speaker disowns the statement that the Secretary had acted on his directions...?”, advanced Mr. Datar

“Yes. If there is no contempt of court, then everybody is discharged! But if there is contempt, then they should be here and should be heard!”, noted the CJ.

At this point, Senior Advocate A. M. Singhvi, having represented the state of Maharashtra at the previous occasion, sought to make a submission in connection with a separate matter- “May I...”, he began.

“You had washed your hands off at the last occasion...”, commented the CJ.

Then, the bench proceeded to adjourn the matter by 2 weeks.



inquired the CJ from Senior Advocate Arvind Datar, having been appointed Amicus Curiae in the matter.

“I have not seen the rejoinder. I understand that the question is whether the filing of the writ petition would amount to contempt”, said Mr. Datar. He indicated the 1964 constitution bench judgment of the Supreme Court in a reference under Article 143 in Keshav Singh's case- “Mr. B. Solomon appeared for Keshav Singh. It was held that filing of the writ petition is not contempt. I also have US authorities on this point”.

“We look forward to your assistance. Is your client here, Mr. Dave?”, asked the CJ.

“He is in Delhi. He is in my office”, replied Mr. Dave.

“Your statement is good enough for us”, said the CJ.

“Could Your Lordships please exempt him from personal appearance at the next

and Maharashtra is difficult and that there are formalities of undergoing RT-PCR tests.

“Is it? Then your request seems reasonable. We will grant it”, allowed the CJ.

“We are not opposing it at all. But the secretary has said that he was acting at the behest of the Speaker. Could Your Lordships lay down the law in case the Speaker says that he has not been personally served or that he has not been heard?”, prayed Mr. Salve.

“That is not necessary. There is no contempt or any obstruction of justice! He is saying that he relied on the Speaker's directions, but that does not mean the Speaker should come...”, Mr. Dave sought to interject.

“Mr. Salve is not on contempt but on whether the Speaker should be served”, clarified the CJ.

“But Your Lordships have to

is that the Speaker should not say that the proceedings were held without him. If there is no contempt, there will be no prejudice. But just because the Secretary is saying he relied on the Speaker's instructions, the Speaker cannot be denied the chance to say whether this is right or wrong”, observed the CJ.

“I assure you that you will drop the proceedings on the next occasion!”, urged Mr. Dave.

“What we do on the next occasion is for us to decide. You don't tell us!”, remarked the CJ.

“I am on the law...”, pleaded Mr. Dave.

“We are also on the law”, said the CJ.

“I am only saying that even if there is a one in a trillion chance...”, Mr. Salve sought to submit.

“Today the ED has raided the office of the MLA who had filed the complaint against Goswami!