



CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS OF 7th & 8th JULY

Date - 8th July 2020

Time - 8:30 am to 9:15 am

By Sujeet sir



Question No: 1

Recently,..... won The Austrian Grand Prix?

- A. Max Verstappen
- B. Spileberg
- ✓ C. Valtteri Bottas
- D. Lewis Hamilton

Ans. C

Question No: 2

..... has been Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization since March 2019.

A. Jane Ellison

B. M.S. Swaminathan

C. Tedros Adhanom

☒ D. Soumya Swaminathan

chief of WHO

Ans. D

Question No: 3

Recently, a drug called Remdesivir has been considered effective in treating which disease?

- ☒ A. COVID – 19
- B. AIDS
- C. Cancer
- D. Polio

CPICM)

Ans. A

Question No: 4

Under which Article the Prime minister makes the President aware of the decisions of the Council of Ministers?

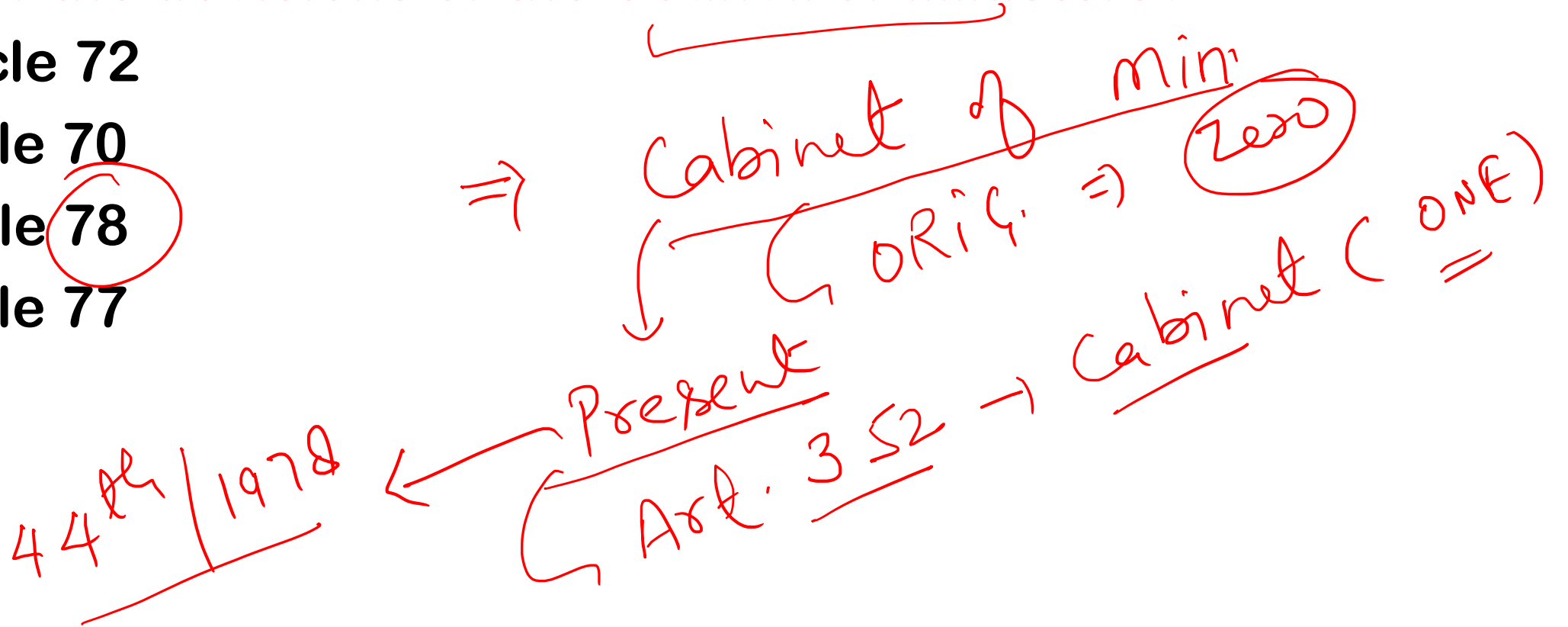
A. Article 72

B. Article 70

☒ C. Article 78

D. Article 77

Ans. C



Question No: 5

Where does the Indus and Zaskar rivers meet?

A. Leh

☒ B. Nimmu valley

C. Mansarovar

D. Sindh

→ "Laddakh"

Ans. B

China censors Internet in Hong Kong

Under the new law, police can conduct raids without warrants and surveillance for national security

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

China has unveiled new powers to censor Hong Kong's Internet and access user data using its feared national security law – but U.S. tech giants have put up some resistance citing rights concerns.

The online censorship plans were contained in a 116-page government document released on Monday night that also revealed expanded powers for police, allowing warrantless raids and surveillance for some national security investigations.

The city's Chief Executive – a pro-Beijing appointee – will have final approval on all applications for interception of communications and covert surveillance operations to do with national security cases. Less intrusive surveillance can be approved by senior police officers.

China imposed the law on semi-autonomous Hong Kong a week ago, targeting subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces – its wording kept secret until the moment it was enacted.

Despite assurances that only a small number of peo-



In protest: Pro-democracy lawmakers raising blank papers in protest during a meeting to discuss the new national security law at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Tuesday. • AP

ple would be targeted by the law, the new details show it is the most radical change in Hong Kong's freedoms and rights since Britain handed the city back to China in 1997.

"The Hong Kong government will vigorously implement this law," Chief Executive Carrie Lam, the city's Beijing-appointed leader, told reporters on Tuesday.

"And I forewarn those radicals not to attempt to violate this law, or cross the red line, because the consequences of breaching this law are very serious."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke out against "Orwellian" moves to censor activists, schools and libraries since the law was enacted. "Until now, Hong Kong flourished because it

allowed free thinking and free speech, under an independent rule of law. No more," Mr. Pompeo said.

Online obedience

With pro-democracy books quickly pulled out of libraries and schools, the government signalled in the document that it would also expect obedience online.

Police were granted pow-

ers to control and remove online information if there were "reasonable grounds" to suspect the data breaches the national security law.

Internet firms and service providers can be ordered to remove the information and their equipment can be seized. Executives can also be hit with fines and up to one year in jail if they refuse to comply. The companies are also expected to provide identification records and decryption assistance.

Big tech resistance

However, the biggest American tech companies offered some resistance. Facebook, Google and Twitter said on Monday they had put a hold on requests by Hong Kong's government or police force for information on users.

Facebook and its popular messaging service WhatsApp would deny requests until it had conducted a review of the law that entailed "formal human rights due diligence and consultations with human rights experts," the company said in a statement.

Twitter and Google told AFP that they too would not comply with information requests.

Democracy
v/s
Dictatorship

U.S. stance on CAATSA unchanged

The message was reiterated in the context of India's jet fighter deal with Russia

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Despite a change in the ground realities following the deadly clash between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) last month, the U.S.'s message to countries, including India, on sanctions for the purchase of Russian arms has not changed. This message was reiterated in the context of India's planned jet fighter deal with Russia at an estimated ₹18,148 crore.

"We urge all of our allies and partners to forgo transactions with Russia that risk triggering sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)," a State Department spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

Last week, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of 21 MiG-29 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF), an upgrade for 59 of these Russian aircraft and the acquisition of 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had discussed defence



New equipment: The Defence Acquisition Council recently approved the procurement of 21 MiG-29 jets. ■ FILE PHOTO

cooperation with Russia while on a visit to Moscow two weeks ago.

The State Department spokesperson said a decision had not been made regarding the specific transaction. "We are aware of reports regarding India's planned defense purchase from Russia. We cannot prejudge whether a specific transaction would result in sanctions. The Secretary of State has not made any determination regarding the significance of any transaction involving India." The statement was made in response to a query from *The Hindu* on whether the U.S. position had shifted due to the conflict between India

and China. "There are strict criteria for considering a waiver, and each transaction is evaluated on a case by case basis," an unnamed State Department official told *Janes* (a defence and security magazine) on June 26.

'Monitoring situation'

The U.S. was continuing to "closely monitor" the situation and supported a "peaceful resolution", the spokesperson said.

The U.S. itself has become increasingly wary of China, with which it has an extensive but increasingly strained economic relationship. Two American aircraft carriers recently entered the

South China Sea and conducted exercises on July 4, the U.S. Independence Day. "Our military might stands strong and will continue to stand strong, whether it's in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else," White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told *Fox News* on July 6.

Indian and U.S. bureaucrats are scheduled to meet at the India-U.S. Foreign Office Consultations on Tuesday afternoon (India time). The CAATSA issue was not on the agenda, but the U.S. was free to raise any issues, said an Indian official.

The U.S. President was given the authority in 2018 to waive CAATSA sanctions on a case by case basis for fiscal year 2019. However, U.S. officials have repeatedly stated that India should not assume it will get a waiver. These remarks were made in the context of India's planned purchase of the S-400 Triumf missile defence system from Russia for about \$5 billion.

75%

What is CAATSA?

- Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a legislation introduced in the United States that aims to counter anti-US aggression displayed by countries like Iran, North Korea and Russia through a series of punitive measures.
- Among the provisions of CAATSA are secondary sanctions on countries that are found to be dealing with the Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

Big flap: golden birdwing is India's largest butterfly

It dethroned a specimen found by a British Brigadier in 1932

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A Himalayan butterfly named golden birdwing is now India's largest, a record the southern birdwing held for 88 years.

With a wingspan of 194 mm, the female of the species is marginally larger than the southern birdwing (190 mm) that Brigadier William Harry Evans, a British military officer and lepidopterist, recorded in 1932. But the male golden birdwing (*Troides aeacus*) is much smaller at 106 mm.

The new measurements of this and 24 other species of butterflies were published in the latest issue of *Bionotes*, a quarterly newsletter for research on life forms. Shristee Panthee of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in Yunnan and Peter Smetacek of the Butterfly Research Centre at Bhimtal in Uttarakhand are the authors of the study.

Brigadier Evans's record

"The hitherto largest Indian butterfly that Brigadier Evans recorded in 1932 was an individual of the southern birdwing (*Troides minos*), which was then treated as a subspecies of the common birdwing," Mr. Smetacek told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.



Bright and beautiful: A male golden birdwing, which has a smaller wingspan than the female. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

he added.

While the female golden birdwing was recorded from Didihat in Uttarakhand, the largest male was from the Wankhar Butterfly Museum in Shillong.

According to the authors, the only measurement used in the study of Lepidoptera is wingspan – a simple concept with various interpretations of the term.

"Some older authors measured a straight line between the forewing apices (pointed ends or tips) of pinned specimens. This was controversial, since the same butterfly could have different wingspans, depending on the position of its forewings in relation to each other," the study

measured a butterfly from the centre of the thorax to the tip of the forewing apex and doubled the result. His contribution was to provide the wingspans of all butterfly species then known from the Indian subcontinent and his book is still the standard work on the subject.

The updated wingspan of three species – all from Uttarakhand – after the golden birdwing are the common windmill (*Byasa polyeuctes*) at 98 mm, the great windmill (*Byasa dasarada*) at 96 mm, and the common peacock (*Papilio bianor*) at 78 mm.

The smallest is the quaker (*Neopithecops zalmora*) with a wingspan of

TH

194 mm \Rightarrow wingspan

["Golden birdwing"

(190 mm \Rightarrow Southern birdwing)

Jair Bolsonaro tests positive for COVID-19

Brazil President says his lungs are clean, fever has subsided

ASSOCIATED PRESS
RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro says he has tested positive for COVID-19 after months of downplaying the virus' severity.

Mr. Bolsonaro confirmed the test results while wearing a mask and speaking to reporters in capital Brasilia.

"I'm well, normal. I even want to take a walk around here, but I can't due to medical recommendations," Mr. Bolsonaro said.

The President has often appeared in public to shake hands with supporters and mingle with crowds, at times without a mask. He has said that his history as an athlete would protect him from the virus, and that it would be nothing more than a "little



Jair Bolsonaro

flu" were he to contract it.

Brazil, the world's sixth most populous nation, with more than 210 million people, is one of the global hot spots of the pandemic.

On Monday, Mr. Bolsonaro told supporters in Brasilia that he underwent an X-ray

of his lungs that showed they were clean, and that he would be tested for COVID-19. On Tuesday, he told CNN Brasil that his fever had subsided.

No masks

Over the weekend, the Brazilian leader celebrated the U.S. Independence Day with the nation's Ambassador to Brazil, then shared pictures on social media showing him with his arm around the Ambassador alongside several Ministers and aides. None wore masks, despite being in close quarters.

The U.S. Embassy said on Twitter on Monday that Ambassador Todd Chapman is not showing any COVID-19 symptoms but would be tested.

Prez.

→ Brazil

mimp

BRAZIL: FAST FACTS

- Capital: Brasilia
- Parliament: National Congress
- Currency: Brazilian Real
- Brazil is the world's fifth-largest country by area and the sixth most populous



→ Largest Co.
South
Am

Chinese region reports bubonic plague case

- A herdsman in China's northern Inner Mongolia region has been confirmed to have the bubonic plague.
- According to China's National Health Commission, at least five people have died from it since 2014.
- The highly-contagious plague is rare in China and can be treated.

Bubonic Plague:

- Bubonic Plague first appeared in the 14th century and surfaced for a second time in London in 1665 and killed about 20% of its population.
- The outbreak tapered off in 1666.
- The bubonic plague is caused by the bacteria Yersinia pestis. It can spread through contact with infected fleas.

Zardozi

لکڑی

- It is a world-renowned textile embroidery.
- Zardozi is an art patronised by the Mughals that involves weaving metallic threads on fabric to create intricate patterns.



metel ⇒ Gold

- It flourished during the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar.
- Zardozi is a Persian word that means "Sewing with gold string".
- Lucknow Zardozi has a Geographical Indication tag.

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary (देहिंग)

- असम सरकार ने 'देहिंग पटकाई वन्यजीव अभयारण्य' (Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary) को एक 'राष्ट्रीय उद्यान' (National Park) के रूप में अपग्रेड करने का निर्णय लिया।
- असम सरकार द्वारा यह घोषणा 'देहिंग पटकाई एलीफैंट रिज़र्व' (Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve) में राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड (National Board of Wildlife- NBWL) द्वारा कोयला खनन परियोजना के लिये कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (Coal India Limited- CIL) को सशर्त मंजूरी देने के कुछ महीने बाद की गई है।





- अपग्रेड होने के बाद देहिंग पटकाई वन्यजीव अभयारण्य असम का छठा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान होगा। जबकि अन्य पाँच राष्ट्रीय उद्यान काजीरंगा, नामेरी, मानस, ओरंग और डिब्रू-साइखोवा हैं।

राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड (National Board for Wildlife-NBWL):

- वन्य जीवन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 के तहत वर्ष 2003 में राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड का गठन किया गया था।
- राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड वन्य पारस्थितिकी से संबंधित मामलों में सर्वोच्च निकाय के रूप में कार्य करता है।

- यह निकाय वन्य जीवन से जुड़े मामलों तथा राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों और अभयारण्यों के आस-पास निर्माण या अन्य परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा करता है।

- राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड की अध्यक्षता प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा की जाती है।

Annual Tuberculosis Report, 2020

हाल ही में 'स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय' (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) द्वारा वर्युअल कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से वार्षिक तपेदिक (टीबी) रिपोर्ट, 2020 (Annual Tuberculosis Report, 2020) जारी की गई है।

इंडिया टीबी रिपोर्ट, 2020 के अनुसार, वर्ष 2019 में लगभग 24.04 लाख टीबी (क्षय) मरीजों को अधिसूचित/चिन्हित किया गया है जो वर्ष 2018 की तुलना में 14% अधिक हैं।

तपेदिक के कुल मामलों में आधे से अधिक वाले पाँच शीर्ष राज्य:



उत्तर प्रदेश (20%), महाराष्ट्र (9%), मध्यप्रदेश (8%) राजस्थान (7%) और बिहार (7%) हैं।

टीबी या क्षय रोग बैक्टीरिया (माइकोबैक्टीरियम ट्यूबरकुलोसिस) के कारण होता है जो फेफड़ों को सबसे अधिक प्रभावित करता है।

Quota Bill Approved in Kuwait

According to the bill, **Indians should not exceed 15% of the population** and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait.

Persian Gulf Region

- The lands around the Persian Gulf are shared by **eight** **countries** namely, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

World Bank's Support to India for MSMEs

Recently, the **World Bank (WB)** and the **Government of India** has signed the **USD 750 million** agreement for an **Emergency Response Programme** for **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

Earlier and Revised Definition of MSMEs

Earlier MSME Classification



Criteria: Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing Enterprises ✓	Investment < ₹ 25 lac ✓	Investment < ₹ 5 cr.	Investment < ₹ 10 cr.
Services Enterprise ✓	Investment < ₹ 10 lac	Investment < ₹ 2 cr.	Investment < ₹ 5 cr.

→ Old

Revised MSME Classification

Composite Criteria: Investment and Annual Turnover

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services ✓	Investment < ₹ 1 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 5 cr ✓	Investment < ₹ 10 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 50 cr.	Investment < ₹ 20 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 100 cr.

→ New

Source: Ministry of Finance

- Indian government has announced **Rs.3-lakh crore collateral-free assistance or sovereign credit guarantee** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- The **MSME sector is central** to India's growth and job creation and will be key to the pace of **India's economic recovery**, post Covid-19.

✓✓ Gandhi Peace Prize

- The **International Gandhi Peace Prize**, named after Mahatma Gandhi, is awarded annually by the Government of India.
- As a tribute to the ideals espoused by Gandhi, the Government of India launched the International Gandhi Peace Prize in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mohandas Gandhi.

Last - Part
↓
(Nat. Awards)
→ Inter. Awards

- **Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari** for the year **2015** for their contribution in Rural Development, Education, Development of natural resources.
- For **2016** jointly to **Akshaya Patra Foundation** for its contribution in providing **mid-day meals** to millions of children across India and **Sulabh International** for its contribution in **improving the condition of sanitation in India** and emancipation of manual scavengers.

2019

- **Ekal Abhiyan Trust** for the year 2017 for their contribution in providing **Education for Rural and Tribal Children** in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender, and Social Equality.
- ✓ • **Shri Yohei Sasakawa** for the year 2018 for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

First awarded: 1986

2019: Sir David Attenborough

(London)

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration

The **Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration** is a prestigious award accorded by the Indian National Congress, after former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi.

INC

This Award is given annually starting from 1985 to distinguished persons/institutions for promoting national integration and understanding and fellowship amongst religious groups, communities, ethnic groups, cultures, languages and traditions of India and the strengthening, through thought and action of the nation's sense of solidarity

- 2018: (Chandi Prasad Bhatt)

• **Chandi Prasad Bhatt** (born 1934) is an Indian Gandhian environmentalist and social activist, who founded Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in Gopeshwar in 1964, which later became a mother-organization to the Chipko Movement, in which he was one of the pioneers.

OK

चण्डी प्रसाद भट्ट
 १९३४

- He was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1982, followed by the Padma Bhushan in 2005.
- Today he is known for his work on subaltern social ecology, and considered one of India's first modern environmentalist.
- In 2013, he was the recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize.