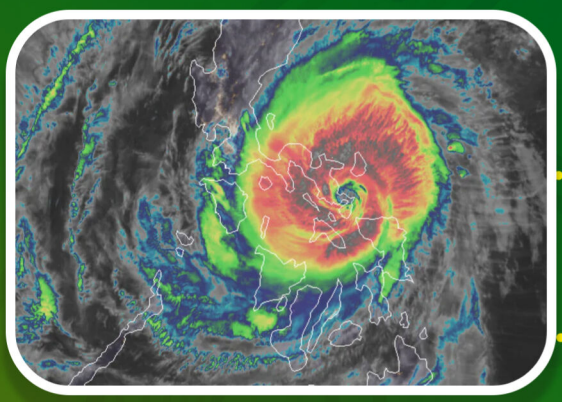
CURRENT AFFAIRS



DECEMBER

2019

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1. Election Commission of India has recognized Jannayak Janta Party as state party of which state?

A) Haryana ☑ B) Punjab

C) Madhya Pradesh D) Rajasthan

✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently recognized the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) as state party of Haryana and alloted the symbol of "key" for the party. The decision in this regard was taken on the basis of the poll performance of the party in the recent 2019 Assembly elections in Haryana.

✓ The JJP was formed in December 2018 by a breakaway faction of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) & won 10 seats in the recently–held Haryana Assembly elections and formed the government with the BJP.

2. Yasuhiro Nakasone, who passed away recently, was the former PM of which country?

A) North Korea B) China

C) South Korea D) Japan ☑

✓ In Japan, Yasuhiro Nakasone (101) has passed away at Tokyo on 29th November. He was one of the longest–reigning Prime Ministers and known for his friendship with Ronald Reagan. In 1983, he became the first Japanese Premier to officially visit South Korea.

3. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa is associated to which sports?

A) Chess B) Cricket

C) Boxing D) Shooting ☑

✓ In shooting, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa unofficially hit a world record score in the men's skeet final at the 63rd National Shooting Championships for Shotgun events in New Delhi on 29th November. He defeated his senior and fellow Tokyo 2020 quota winner Mairaj Ahmad Khan of Uttar Pradesh.

4. Who has become fastest man to reach 7,000 Test runs?

A) Virat Kohli B) Rohit Sharma

C) Steve Smith ☑ D) Aaron Finch

✓ Steve Smith has become the fastest man to score 7,000 Test runs in the ongoing second Test against Pakistan. He broke English great Wally Hammond's record that had stood since 1946. Smith also passed Bradman's 6,996 Test runs. It took Smith 70 Tests to do so, while Bradman needed only 52.

5. Noted theatre artiste Paramananda Sahu, who passed away recently, was from which state?

A) Odisha ☑ B) Punjab

C) Madhya Pradesh D) Rajasthan

✓ Renowned theatre artiste of Odisha, Paramananda Sahu (72) has passed away in Balasore on 30th of November. He had directed and acted in more than a hundred dramas, besides being an artiste in All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan.

6. Who is the author of the book "The Legacy of Militancy in Punjab: Long Road to Normalcy"

A) Dona Suri ☑ B) Vikram Seth

C) Arundhati Roy D) Vani Kaushal

✓ The book titled "The Legacy of Militancy in Punjab: Long Road to Normalcy" have been authored by civil rights activist Inderjit Singh Jaijee and journalist Dona Suri.

✓ The book provide details how militancy in Punjab affected judiciary by delaying trials, how it influenced the popular culture and how the youth today are still responding to conditions in the northern state.

7. Schistura syngkai is the scientific name of which type of species?

A) Elephant B) Fish ☑

C) Frog D) Tortoise

✓ The fish species, that has a scientific name Schistura syngkai, has been discovered in West khasi hills district of Meghalaya. It was discovered at Twahdidoh stream (a tributary of Wahblei River) by a team of scientists led by Prof. Khlur Mukhim of Shillong's Lady Keane College.

✓ Both sexes of the fish have golden–brown bodies. Earlier, Mukhim had discovered a blind fish species that lives 1,600 feet inside a limestone cave in East jaintia hills district of the state.

8. Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, who has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith Award, is associated to which language?

A) Tamil B) Kannada

C) Malayalam ☑ D) Telugu

✓ Eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri has been chosen as the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019.

✓ Born in 1926, Akkitham is one of the most revered names in Malayalam poetry. Apart from poetry, his literary excellence has footprints in genres like drama, critical essays, children literature, short stories & translation.

✓ He has authored 55 books out of which 45 are collections of poems including "Khanda Kavyas", "Katha Kavyas", "Charitha Kavyas" and songs. His works have also been translated into many Indian and foreign languages.

9. The first–ever International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" was held in which city?

A) Geneva B) London

C) Paris D) New Delhi ☑

✓ Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the first–ever International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" in New Delhi.

✓ This first–of–its–kind conference aims to bring together all the stakeholders including relevant Ministries and experts to discuss, debate and disseminate information, experiences and innovations for landslides risk reduction and resilience at national and international levels.

10. Who has been appointed as chairman of microfinance panel of the Code for Responsible Lending?

A) H R Khan ☑ B) R Gandhi

C) Mahesh Kumar Jain D) Anand Sinha

✓ Former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), H R Khan has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the steering committee of the Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) in micro–credit.

✓ The CRL is a self–regulatory step for the micro–credit industry making diverse entities like banks, NBFC–MFIs and NBFCs adhere to standards of customer protection.

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1. 50th International Film Festival of India was recently concluded in which city?

A) Goa ☑ B) Mumbai

C) Chennai D) New Delhi

✓ The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India, IFFI, culminated in Goa. The festival saw screening of 300 films of various languages from India and abroad for delegates from different parts of the world.

✓ The IFFI was awarded the ICFT–UNESCO Fellini medal at the closing ceremony which was received by Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare and Director of festivals Chaitanya Prasad. Governor of Goa Satyapal Malik, Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant, Union minister Babul Supriyo and others were present on the occasion.

2. Researchers of which country have recently discovered a massive black hole in the Milky Way?

A) India B) China ☑

C) USA D) Japan

✓ Researchers from the National Astronomical Observatory of China have discovered a black hole in the Milky Way. The black hole is so huge that it challenged the existing models of the evolution of stars.

✓ The black hole was discovered by an international team of scientists using China's sophisticated Large Sky Area Multi–Object Fibre Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) telescope. The black hole, LB–1, is located 15,000 light–years away from Earth.

3. Who was awarded 2019 Karmaveer Chakra by iCONGO and United Nations?

A) Manjeet Singh B) Rahul Adhikari ☑

C) Aman Desai D) Sachin Tanwar

✓ 2019 Gold–Medalist from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee and founder of International Changemaker Olympiad Rahul Adhikari, was conferred with 2019 Karmaveer Chakra Award REX Karmaveer Global Fellowship at the REX CONCLiVE held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The award was given for his contribution in the education sector.

4. Who is the author of 'Garam pahad'?

A) Namdev Tarachandani B) Moti Prakash

C) Anita bhatnagar Jain ☑ D) Fahmida Hussain

✓ Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has launched 3 books for children namely Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition) in New Delhi.

✓ The 3 books, penned by Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain, IAS (1985 batch), are a collection of stories for children and have documented the environmental issues & topics like socio–cultural unity, cultural heritage.

5. Which film won the Golden Peacock Award 2019?

A) Aramm B) Rwanda

C) Particles ☑ D) Jallikattu

✓ Particles, the French–Swiss film directed by Blaise Harrison won the Golden Peacock Award at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. The IFFI 2019 concluded on November 28.

✓ The Golden Peacock Award includes a cash prize worth Rs. 40 lakhs, a trophy and a citation. This film was produced by Estelle Fialon. The prize money is to be distributed equally between the director and producer.

6. Which company has became the first company to list commercial papers on stock exchanges?

A) Tata Capital B) Aditya Birla Finance ☑

C) Muthoot Finance D) Bajaj Finserv Ltd.

✓ On November 28, Aditya Birla Finance became the first company to list its commercial papers borrowing of Rs 100 crore on the Indian stock exchanges.

✓ The non–banking finance company (NBFC) listed its CPs on NSE with a value date of November 28, 2019 and maturity date on February 7, 2020.

7. Which bank is to assist in strengthening power connectivity in Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor?

A) Asian Development Bank ☑ B) RBI

C) Swiss Bank D) BRICS Bank

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has extended a $451 million loan to strengthen power connectivity between the southern and northern parts of the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC). CKIC is part of the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a $451 million loan for strengthening power connectivity between northern and southern parts of Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) which is part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). ECEC is India's first coastal economic corridor.
- ✓ It will help establish extra–high–voltage transmission link between Coimbatore and Virudhunagar. It will meet increased power demand in CKIC by transfering additional generation capacity of 9,000 MW, including 6,000 MW from renewable by 2025. This will help reliably evacuate power from these new power plants in southern CKIC.

8. The Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium has became the second neutral venue in India to host a Test match.The stadium is in which Indian city?

A) Varanasi B) Chennai

C) Lucknow ☑ D) Ghaziabad

- ✓ The Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow became the second neutral venue in India to host a Test match. Afghanistan and the West Indies are playing in a one–off Test at the stadium.
- ✓ Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Dehradun became the first neutral venue to host a Test in the country.

9. The United Nations Development Programme has launched the country chapter of its Accelerator Lab in which city?

A) Hyderabad B) Bangalore

C) Kohima D) New Delhi ☑

- ✓ Seeking to address some of the most pressing issues facing India, including air pollution, through innovation, the United Nations Development Programme on Nov.28 launched the country chapter of its Accelerator Lab in New Delhi.
- ✓ The laboratory that will be housed in the UNDP India office has partnered with the Indian government's Atal Innovation Mission to achieve its objectives.

10. A 2 day Conference on Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat is to be organized in which state / UT?

A) Ladakh B) New Delhi

C) Jammu and Kashmir ☑ D) Assam

- ✓ The government is to organize a two–day Conference on Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat form 30 November – 1 December 2019 at Jammu.
- ✓ It will be inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of DONER, Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions; Atomic Energy & Space along with G.C. Murmu, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, R.B. Udhayakumar, Minister for Revenue & Disaster Management, Government of Tamil Nadu and R.K. Mathur Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

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1. According to the recently released UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2019, the global temperature will rise by how many degrees till 2100?

A) 3.2°C ☑ B) 4.7°C C) 1.9°C D) 2.4°C

✓ Recently released United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report–2019 warns that the Earth's average temperature may rise by 3.2°C by 2021.

✓ The report was released prior to United Nations Climate Conference (COP–25) to be held in Spain from Dec.2. It states that GHG emissions have increased by 1.5% since last decade and that carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions have reached an all–time high figure of 55.3 gigatons.

✓ China, USA, European Union and India are among the top 4 greenhouse gas emitters. UNEP report highlights that India is regularly considering deadlines and targets to curb carbon emission. As per the report, India's per capita emission is one of the lowest within G20 countries. Also, India is one of the leading countries that are looking for electric vehicle development.

2. SURYA KIRAN, a joint military Exercise of India with which country?

A) Bhutan B) Nepal ☑

C) USA D) Japan

✓ 'Surya Kiran XIV' between India and Nepal will be conducted at Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal from 3–16 December 2019.

✓ The exercise will comprise of 300 soldiers from both the Indian Army and Nepal Army who will be sharing their experiences in the conduct of various counter–insurgency and counter–terrorism operations, as also various humanitarian assistance missions by both Armies.

3. The 6th Dornier aircraft squadron of Indian Navy was recently commissioned in which state/UT?

A) Goa B) Punjab

C) Gujarat ☑ D) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

✓ The Indian Navy has commissioned its sixth Dornier aircraft squadron in the Porbandar town of Gujarat. It aims to give a fillip to coastal security near the sea border with Pakistan.

✓ It was commissioned by Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice–Admiral M S Pawar. Dornier aircraft squadron: The Indian Naval Air Squadron 314 is called Raptors. It will operate with next–generation Dornier aircraft.

4. Which one is the maximum fine that can be imposed by the government for the misuse of National Emblem?

A) Rs.5 lakh B) Rs.2 lakh

C) Rs.4 lakh D) Rs.1 lakh ☑

✓ The Government of India has proposed increasing the fine for illegal and improper use of national emblems for commercial gains from Rs.500 to Rs.1 lakh. It also suggested change also includes jail time and a fine of Rs.5 lakh for repeat offenders.

✓ The aim is to crack down on their misuse. The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 of India prohibits the misuse of the national flag, the Ashoka Chakra, the official seal of the President or Governor, the coat–of–arms used by a government department, the pictorial representation of Mahatma Gandhi and the Prime Minister.

5. Which online trucking platform, has partnered with IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to provide FASTags?

A) Blackbuck ☑ B) Trunk pool

C) Freight D) Integrated logistics

✓ BlackBuck, the online trucking platform, has partnered with private lenders IDFC Bank and Yes Bank on 28 November. The partnership aims to provide FASTags to truck owners free of cost.

✓ With this partnership, the Truck owners can order FASTags on BlackBuck's Boss App. It will be delivered at their doorstep free of cost until 31 December 2019. The initiative will help over 3 million trucks in India become FASTag compliant.

6. The police of which Indian city has recently received SKOCH award for clean stations?

A) Hyderabad B) Chennai ☑

C) Amravati D) Panaji

✓ On Nov.29, the Greater Chennai Police received the Union government's SKOCH Award under the category 'Swachh Police Station', for maintaining cleanliness in all their police stations.

✓ This comes after the police's efforts to clear up abandoned and unclaimed vehicles from all station premises. A huge pile of abandoned and unclaimed vehicles around nearly all police stations in the Greater Chennai area used to take up a lot of space, besides giving the stations a shabby look.

✓ On the instruction of Commissioner of Police A.K. Viswanathan, senior officers took account of all these vehicles in each police station in the city.

7. The Small Industries and Export Corporation of which state has recently launched a Web–based Geographic Information System?

A) Andhra Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Punjab ☑ D) Uttar Pradesh

✓ The Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) has launched the Estate Management System (EMS) and Web–based Geographic Information System (Web–GIS) on 28 November 2019.

✓ PSIEC launched it under the leadership of Capt. Amarinder Singh. The aim of the system is to ensure transparency. The system also promotes ease of doing business in the State.

8. 18th World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition was organized in which country?

A) Israel B) Spain

C) Brazil ☑ D) Germany

✓ World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) organized the 18th World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (WWEC2019) from 25–27 November 2019 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The conference focused on opportunities offered by a renewable energy strategy.

✓ The conference held a discussion to set up strategy including wind power as a cornerstone of a country's energy supply system that is based on renewable energy.

9. Which country has been recently elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee?

A) Indonesia B) Malaysia

C) Thailand ☑ D) Laos

✓ Thailand has been elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee. It was selected during the 22nd session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in Paris.

✓ The representatives from 193 countries cast their votes to fill nine vacant seats on the 21–member World Heritage Committee. With this selection, it will be the fourth time Thailand has served on the World Heritage Committee. The term would end in 2023.

10. World AIDS Day is observed all over the world on which date?

A) November 29 B) December 1 ☑

C) December 2 D) November 30

✓ World AIDS Day is observed on 1 December every year. The day aims to raise public awareness about AIDSThe theme of the 2019 World AIDS Day is "Communities Makes The difference".

✓ Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a pandemic disease that is caused due to the infection of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV causes damage to the immune system.

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1. 'Mitra Shakti' is a joint military exercise of India with which country?

A) Nepal ☑ B) Bhutan

C) Sri Lanka D) Iran

✓ The seventh Indo–Sri Lanka joint military exercise Mitra Shakti was held on December 1, 2019 at Aundh military station. The main objective of the exercise is to build and promote positive relations between the countries.

✓ The exercise was scheduled to be conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Pune between December 1 and December 14, 2019.

2. Which country has become the first country to make entire Haj process digital?

A) Bhutan B) India ☑

C) Myanmar D) Sri Lanka

✓ India has become the first country in the world to completely digitize the Haj process. Various services have been added to the online application service like e–visa, haj mobile app, e–messiah health facility, stay and traffic information in Mecca Medina and Haj pilgrimage information.

✓ It is for the first time when digital pre–tagging has been arranged by the airlines so that Haj pilgrims will get all kinds of information in India itself. Haj pilgrims will get prior information about which room of which building in Mecca Medina and what number bus will have to be taken after landing at the airport.

3. Who has been elected as the new speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly?

A) Praful Patel B) Nana Patole ☑

C) Dilip Walse Patil D) Kisan Kathore

✓ Congress MLA Nana Patole has been elected as Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly. Patole's election came after the BJP took back the name of Kisan Kathore as the party's nominee with minutes to go before the 10 am deadline. It is a tradition in the Maharashtra Assembly for the Speaker to be elected unopposed.

4. Who recently took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts?

A) Giriraj Prasad Gupta B) Archana Nigam

C) J.P.S. Chawla D) Soma Roy Burman ☑

✓ The government on Dec.1, appointed Soma Roy Burman, a 1986–batch Indian Civil Accounts Service Officer, as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Ms. Burman is the 24th CGA and is the seventh woman to hold this position.

✓ During her 33–year long career, she has held cadre positions at different levels in ministries such as Home Affairs, Information & Broadcasting, Industry, Finance, Human Resource Development and Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.

5. Which became the first Asian country to be the 'Guest of Honour Country' at the International Book fair, Mexico?

A) Bhutan B) India ☑

C) Myanmar D) Sri Lanka

✓ International Book Fair is the biggest book fair in the Spanish–speaking world. This is the 33rd edition of Guadalajara International Book Fair and will continue till 8 December.

✓ India is the 'Guest of Honour Country' in this book fair and it becomes the first Asian country to participate as 'Guest of Honour' in the Fair. The National Book Trust, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India, is participating as the nodal agency of the Government in this book fair.

6. 13th South Asian Games have recently been inaugurated in which country?

A) Bhutan B) Nepal ☑

C) Myanmar D) Sri Lanka

✓ 13th South Asian Games have formally begun in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari declared games open in a glittering ceremony at Dasaratha Rangshala in Kathmandu on December 1.

✓ Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Chairman of National Assembly Ganesh Timilsina, Deputy Prime Minister Ishwor Pokharel, Ministers from South Asian countries and a large number of other dignitaries also graced the opening ceremony. Over 2700 athletes from seven South Asian Countries participated in the march past.

7. Who won the Women's Singles title at 2019 Syed Modi International badminton tournament?

A) P.V. Sindhu B) Carolina Marin ☑

C) Baek Ha–na D) Alina Davletova

✓ Carolina Marin won second title in 71 days but Sourabh Verma faltered at the final hurdle of the $150,000 Syed Modi International badminton tournament on December 1. In the second, she easily bridged a five–point deficit. In fact, she won 15 of the last 20 points.

8. Which city is to organize the 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games?

A) Chandigarh B) Nashik

C) Guwahati ☑ D) Patna

✓ The third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games which is scheduled to be held from January 10 to 22 in Guwahati.

✓ The third edition will have two additional sports — Cycling and Lawn Bowls as over 10,000 participants from across the country participate in a total of 451 medal events during the 13 action–packed days. The Khelo India Games was launched in 2018 to imbibe a culture of sports in the country.

9. Who has been recently re–elected as the president of Namibia?

A) Sam Nujoma B) Peter Katjavivi

C) Hage Geingob ☑ D) Peter Shivute

✓ Namibia's President Hage Geingob has been re–elected for a second term, the country's electoral commission says. Geingob polled 56.3% in election, well ahead of his nearest rival Panduleni Itula with 29.4%.

✓ However, Geingob's tally was well down from 87% with which he won his first term in 2014.

10. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed on which date?

A) November 29 B) December 2 ☑

C) December 1 D) November 30

✓ The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is a yearly event on Dec.2, organized by the United Nations General Assembly. The Day was first celebrated in 1986.

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1. Who won the 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix title?

A) Max Verstappen B) Charles Leclerc

C) Valtteri Bottas D) Lewis Hamilton ☑

✓ Britain's Lewis Hamilton has won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix F1 Series at the Yas Marina Circuit in the United Arab Emirates. Max Verstappen of the Netherlands and Charles Leclerc of Monaco took second and third place respectively.

✓ Hamilton, who has already won his sixth World Championship title, has won the 11th trophy in the current 21 series. Overall, he ranks second on the list of players who have won more than one trophies (84) in the F1 arena. Topping the list is Germany's Michael Schumacher (91).

2. Which spacecraft of NASA has recently found the crashed Indian Moon lander Vikram?

A) CALIPSO B) Aura

C) Landsat7 D) LRO ☑

✓ NASA satellite orbiting the Moon has found India's Chandrayaan–2 Vikram lander which crashed on the lunar surface in September.

✓ NASA released an image taken by its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) that showed the site of the spacecraft's impact and associated debris field, with parts scattered over almost 2 dozen locations spanning several kilometers.

3. Carl XVI Gustaf, who is on a visit to India, is the King of which country?

A) Sweden ☑ B) Switzerland

C) Turkey D) Scotland

✓ King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden are on a five–day visit to India aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. The Swedish royal couple, who arrived in India on December 2 were accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

✓ Apart from Delhi, the royal couple is scheduled to visit Mumbai and Uttarakhand. The ties between India and Sweden have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years. The King is leading a high–level business delegation from his country. The bilateral trade volume was USD 3.37 billion in 2018.

4. Who is the author of the book 'The Vault of Vishnu'?

A) Ashwin Sanghi ☑ B) Amish Tripathi

C) Devdutt Pattanaik D) Sunil Dalal

✓ Bestselling author Ashwin Sanghi will come out with his next book, "The Vault of Vishnu", on January 23, 2020, announced publishing house Westland. The book, which will be the sixth installment of the author's famous mythological 'Bharat series', will be released at the upcoming Jaipur Literature festival.

✓ Setting a fictional timeline of mythological events, Sanghi said, the new book will also be a "combination of history, mythology, culture, philosophy, geology, and science".

5. Which Income Tax Act will be amended by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019?

A) Income Tax Act 1922 B) Income Tax Act 1962

C) Income Tax Act 1961 ☑ D) Income Tax Act 2018

✓ The Lok Sabha on December 2, 2019 passed a Bill to replace an Ordinance promulgated in September for effecting reduction of corporate tax rates. Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, will amend the Income Tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No 2) Act 2019.

6. What is the name of the typhoon that recently hit Philippines?

A) Frank B) Kammuri ☑

C) Angela D) Haiyan

✓ A powerful typhoon is blowing through the central Philippines, damaging homes and heading toward the capital, Manila.

✓ Typhoon Kammuri hit the eastern coast overnight and was moving west through Quezon province ripping off

roofs, toppling trees and knocking out power. It had maximum sustained winds of 155 km per hour and gusts of up to 190 kmph. Nearly 90,000 residents were evacuating coastal and low–lying areas prone to flash floods and landslides.

7. Who has been appointed as the new President of Mauritius?

A) Ameenah Gurib–Fakim B) Pravind Jugnauth

C) Pritivirajsing Roopun ☑ D) Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

✓ On December 3, 2019 the former arts and culture minister Pritivirajsing Roopun was elected as president of Mauritius. His predecessor Ameenah Gurib–Fakim resigned in March 2018 after being embroiled in a scandal over her use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.

✓ In Mauritius, the prime minister is head of the government and holds most political power while the President is head of the state but has no executive role and is considered the guardian of the Constitution.

8. Who won the Ballon d'Or award 2019?

A) Virgil van Dijk B) Cristiano Ronaldo

C) Lionel Messi ☑ D) Mohamed Salah

✓ Lionel Messi claimed a record sixth men's Ballon d'Or award on December 2, beating Liverpool's four leading nominees to claim soccer's most prestigious individual trophy. He beat Virgil van Dijk, the runner–up, and third–placed Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal, who has won the award five times.

✓ Senegal's Sadio Mane, who with Van Dijk and fellow nominees Alisson Becker of Brazil and Egypt's Mohamed Salah, helped Liverpool win the Champions League, was fourth in the poll of international journalists.

9. Who won the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize?

A) David Reich B) Shrikant G. Talageri

C) Tony Joseph ☑ D) Hartosh Singh Bal

✓ English author Tony Joseph has won 12th 'Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize' for his 2018 book, 'Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came'.

✓ Tony Joseph, a journalist–author won against four other debut writers and the award was announced Shakti Bhatt Foundation. The award that was instituted in 2008 & carries a trophy and a cash prize of Rs.2 lakh.

✓ It seeks to celebrate 'extraordinary new writing in all genres' from South Asian countries. In 2018, the prize was awarded to Sujatha Gidla for her 'Ants among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India'.

10. International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated on December 3 under which theme?

A) Empowering persons with disabilities

B) The Future is Accessible ☑

C) Ensuring inclusiveness and equality

D) Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all

✓ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on December 3 to promote the rights and well–being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

✓ The annual observance of the Day was proclaimed in 1992, by a United Nations General Assembly resolution. The 2019 theme is 'The Future is Accessible'.

1. Which state won the Best State Award in cadaveric organ donation?

A) Maharashtra B) Rajasthan

C) Kerala D) Tamilnadu ☑

✓ For the fifth consecutive year, Tamil Nadu received the Best State Award in cadaveric organ donation from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

✓ Along with this, the State received the best performing hospital award for the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, and an award for plastic surgeon Dr. Ramadevi for performing a bilateral hand transplant at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital.

2. India is to set up Healthcare Innovation Centre with the help of which country?

A) Netherlands B) USA

C) Japan D) Sweden ☑

✓ India and Sweden has joined hands to set up a healthcare innovation centre to promote research, broadly in non–communicable diseases and help scale–up Indian start–ups in the sector.

✓ Later, AIIMS, Delhi; AIIMS, Jodhpur, and Swedish Trade Commissioner's Office in New Delhi signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) to cement cooperation, to set up a healthcare innovation centre. The signing of MoI marks 10 years of India–Sweden health cooperation.

3. What is the strike range of nuclear–capable Prithvi–II missile whose night trial was recently conducted?

A) 250 Kms B) 350 Kms ☑

C) 422 Kms D) 450 Kms

✓ India has successfully conducted another night trial of its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi–2 missile from a mobile launcher of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha coast.

✓ Earlier, the flight test of surface–to–surface missile was carried out barely a 15 days after two back–to–back trials of Prithvi–2 were conducted successfully at night from same base on 20 November.

✓ It is a tactical surface–to–surface short–range ballistic missile (SRBM) with a strike range of 350 kilometres and is capable of carrying 500–1,000 kilograms of warheads.

4. Which country is to organize the 2019 NATO Summit?

A) United States B) United Kingdom ☑

C) France D) India

✓ The NATO 2019 summit will take place in Watford, UK. Some of the world's most important leaders will meet at The Grove Hotel at Chandler's Cross.

✓ NATO summits are a periodic opportunity for Heads of State and Heads of Government to meet and evaluate NATO's current strategies, evaluate the alliance's current position and brainstorm strategic direction.

5. Which state won the National Award of Excellence for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities?

A) Himachal Pradesh B) Telangana

C) Uttar Pradesh ☑ D) Gujarat

✓ Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment conferred Uttar Pradesh with the National Award of Excellence for doing a commendable job in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

✓ Uttar Pradesh also received the award for the best state in the implementation of Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. The department's website also received the award as the best portal for being disabled–friendly while Varanasi has been awarded for offering the best rehabilitation services among the districts.

6. Recently launched 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem' has been penned by which writer?

A) Shankar Mahadevan B) Vishal Khurana

C) Ehsaan Noorani D) Prasoon Joshi ☑

✓ "Bharatiya Poshan Anthem" was launched on December 3, which aims at taking the message of making India malnutrition free to all corners of the country.

✓ The anthem has been penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan. Poshan Abhiyan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018 with an objective to make India malnutrition free by 2022.

7. The Operation Clean Art has been launched to protect which species in India?

A) Tiger B) Ganges Dolphin

C) Mongoose ☑ D) Olive Ridley Turtle

✓ Government launched the Operation Clean Art across India. The operation aimed to crackdown illegal trade in the mongoose hair. This is the first time such an operation is happening in India. It was initiated by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

✓ The mongoose is a small carnivoran found in southern Eurasia and mainland Africa. It is listed in Schedule II (Part II) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. As per the act, smuggling Mongoose or possession of its body part is a non–bailable offence.

✓ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed Mongoose on the Least Concern category in the Red List.

8. Which bank is to assist Tamil Nadu in developing water supply and sewerage infrastructure?

A) RBI B) ICICI

C) Asian Development Bank ☑ D) AIIB

✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $206 million loan on 2 December. The aim of the MoU is to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu.

✓ It will strengthen the capacities of urban local bodies for improved service delivery. The project aims to improve the lives of the urban people in the identified cities of Tamil Nadu. It will provide universal access to water supply and sanitation, improve sewage treatment and drainage systems.

9. Which state cabinet has passed a bill to sell Yamuna Water?

A) Uttrakhand B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Haryana D) Himachal Pradesh ☑

✓ The Himachal Pradesh State Cabinet approved to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sell the water of River Yamuna from Maharashtra's share at Tajewala corridor. The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. With this decision, the State would earn Rs.21 crore per annum.

✓ The Yamuna is the longest tributary in India. It originates from the Yamunotri Glacier. It is the second–largest tributary river of the Ganges. The rivers cross several states namely Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.

10. ISRO is to launch which sharp–eyed surveillance satellite?

A) RISAT–1 B) Cartosat–3

C) RISAT–2BR1 ☑ D) EMISAT

✓ ISRO has planned to launch sharp–eyed surveillance satellite RISAT–2BR1 (Radar Imaging Satellite–2) with synthetic aperture radar (SAR) on 11 December 2019. RISAT–2BR1 is a radar imaging satellite.

✓ It is dubbed as a spy satellite. It can take pictures of the earth during day and night even under cloudy conditions. The satellites will help 24/7 border surveillance along with checking infiltration. It will keep an eye on terror or anti–national activities across the borders

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1. Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant was inaugurated in which state?

A) Maharashtra B) Rajasthan

C) Kerala D) Uttarakhand ☑

✓ The 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Sarai in Haridwar, Uttarakhand started its functioning on Dec.5. The plant was completed before its scheduled timeline. It was inaugurated by their Majesties, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden.

✓ The Sarai 14 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant is the first STP that was completed under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) based Public–Private Partnership Model. The cost of the project was Rs.41.40 crores. The Plant is based on an advanced aerobic biological process which is capable of removing the nutrients during treatment.

2. First Mega Food Park of Central India has been inaugurated in which state?

A) Telangana B) Chhattisgarh

C) Maharashtra D) Madhya Pradesh ☑

✓ Union Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Steel Silo based Avantee Mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. This is the first food park of central India. It is spread over 51 acres and has been constructed at a cost of about Rs.150 crore.

✓ Excess production compels farmers to sell their produces at low rates. Since the mega food park is now present in the region, farmers will be able to earn more through value addition by storing their produces after getting facility of food processing and storage.

3. According to a recent report, which country has recorded the highest estimated number of cervical cancer deaths in 2018?

A) China B) Brazil

C) India ☑ D) Mexico

✓ A report by Lancet Global Health said India recorded the highest estimated number of cervical cancer deaths in 2018.

✓ The report titles, "Estimates of Incidence and Mortality of Cervical Cancer In 2018: A Worldwide Analysis" said that the global cervical cancer cases reported in India and China together contributed 35% of the global cases in 2018. India contributed with 97,000 cases and 60,000 deaths and China recorded over 106,000 cases and 48,000 deaths.

4. International Civil Aviation Day is being observed on which date?

A) December 5 B) December 6

C) December 7 ☑ D) December 8

✓ In 1996 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that 7 December was to be the International Civil Aviation Day. The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization since 1994 December 7, the 50th anniversary of the signing the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

✓ The purpose of the day is to recognize the importance of aviation, especially international air travel, to the social and economic development of the world.

5. Which language has recently been used for the first time in Rajya Sabha?

A) Bodo B) Dogri

C) Maithili D) Santhali ☑

✓ Santhali language on December 6, 2019 made its debut in Rajya Sabha when a lawmaker from Odisha used it to raise a matter of urgent public importance during the Zero Hour.

✓ Sarojni Hembram of the Biju Janata Dal spoke in Santhali, an Austroasiatic–Munda language spoken mostly by tribals in Odisha. She also demanded Bharat Ratna for Raghunath Murmu, who in 1925 created the Ol Chiki script for the Santhali language.

6. Which city organized the National Florence Nightingale Awards–2019?

A) Bengaluru B) Ahmedabad

C) Pune D) New Delhi ☑

✓ The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel in New Delhi on 5 December 2019. The event will be held from 5–6 December 2019.

✓ The nurses play a vital role in delivering quality and cost–effective healthcare, addressing multiple health challenges and responding to the health needs of individuals, families, and communities. The nurses are a symbol of seva, karuna, and shushrusha.

7. Which ports have been declared as Ports of Call between India and Bangladesh?

A) Chalna and Khulna ports

B) Mongla and Chattogram ports ☑

C) Mongla and Khulna ports

D) Khulna and Chattogram ports

✓ Indian Government has declared Port of Mongla and Chattogram as Ports of Call under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) between India and Bangladesh. Mongla and Chattogram are declared as Ports of Call under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between India and Bangladesh.

✓ An MoU, Agreement and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was signed between India and Bangladesh on the use of Chattogram Port & Mongla Ports for the movement of goods to and from India.

8. ISRO has set–up a new Space Technology Incubation Centre at which institute?

A) NIT, Warangal B) NIT, Rourkela

C) NIT, Tiruchirappalli ☑ D) NIT, Hamirpur

✓ ISRO has set–up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S–TIC) at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli. The centre will work with ISRO on the technical problems at hand related to the future Space programmes and shall provide solutions.

✓ This S–TIC will cater to the southern region of India, including Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

9. Which company has recently launched its Cyber Defence Centre in Melbourne, Australia?

A) Infosys B) Wipro ☑

C) Cognizant D) TCS

✓ Software major Wipro Limited on Dec.5, announced the launch of its cyber defence centre in Melbourne, Australia. The Indian IT giant also has plans to come up with more such centres in other cities in Australia, which will offer resilience and digital protection to large government organisations.

✓ With the launch of this centre, Wipro aims to make substantial investments to upskill its employees, hire more local resources and generate more than 100 jobs in Melbourne for cyber security specialists.

10. Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority has signed an agreement with which bank to create Investor awareness in India?

A) Axis Bank B) HDFC Bank

C) SBI D) Bank of Baroda ☑

✓ Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) signs MOU with Bank of Baroda for information dissemination and reaching out to investors and stakeholders.

✓ The exercise aims to help various investors who often fall prey to tempting offers for investments and Ponzi schemes. The MoU will spread customer awareness and investor education by strengthening ties with IEPFA.

1. Who has been appointed as a Senior Security Advisor in the Home Ministry?

A) C. Sylendra Babu B) K Vijay Kumar ☑

C) Walter Devaram D) Sandeep Bharadwaj

✓ K Vijay Kumar is appointed as a Senior Security Advisor in the Union Home Ministry. He will be advising the Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah on security–related matters of Union Territory of J&K and Left Wing Extremism.

✓ K Vijay Kumar, 67, is a 1975–batch officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS). He served as the Director–General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Director of the National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

2. The 4th India Water Impact Summit was being organized in which city?

A) New Delhi ☑ B) Mumbai

C) Chennai D) Hyderabad

✓ The 4th India Water Impact Summit was held from 5–7 December 2019 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Summit was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) led by IIT Kanpur.

✓ The theme of the 2019 summit is Valuing Water | Transforming Ganga. The theme focuses on the Financing of High Impact Projects in the water sector.

3. Which state has launched Anti Depredation Squads in forests to avoid human–wildlife conflicts?

A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Nagaland

C) Assam ☑ D) Sikkim

✓ Aiming to control the human–elephant conflicts, the Assam government launched Anti–Depedration Squads of the state forest department which would be stationed at 15 major human–wildlife conflict districts in order to mitigate the problem and to ensure safety of both humans and wildlife

✓ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched 15 Anti–Depredation Squads during a programme held in state capital Guwahati. The state forest department engaged specially trained 50 frontline staff to handle conflict situations.

4. Which railway station has become the 5500th station of India to get free wifi facility?

A) Hazaribagh Railway Station

B) Arigada Railway Station

C) Mahuamilan Railway Station ☑

D) Ranchi Railway Station

✓ Jharkhand's Mahuamilan railway station has become the latest among these to get the facility. Mahuamilan station becomes the country's 5500th station to get free wifi facility.

✓ Free Wi–Fi service to passengers are being provided under RailWire. The Railways began the service of providing free WiFi at their stations from January 2016 from the Mumbai Central station.

5. The provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 are not applicable to tribal areas of which state?

A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Nagaland

C) Meghalaya ☑ D) Sikkim

✓ Indian Government will introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Parliament. The Bill proposes to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

✓ The Bill seeks to grant citizenship to undocumented non–Muslims (Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Parsi, Jain and Sikh) from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.

✓ Purpose of the Bill is to enable acquisition of Indian citizenship by persons who were forced to seek shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion.

✓ The Bill shall not apply to: Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as included in the sixth schedule of the Constitution.

6. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of National Stock Exchange?

A) Vipin Anand B) Ashok Chawla

C) T C Suseel Kumar D) Girish Chandra Chaturvedi ☑

✓ Leading stock exchange NSE on December 6, appointed Public Interest Director Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its new chairman. The appointment comes following the approval of the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

✓ The position was vacant since Ashok Chawla resigned as the chairman of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in January 2019.

7. Global Migration Report 2020 is published by which organization?

A) UNESCO

B) International Organisation for Migration ☑

C) League of Nations

D) UNICEF

✓ India continues to be the largest country of origin of international migrants with a 17.5 million–strong diaspora across the world. It received the highest remittance of $78.6 billion from Indians living abroad.

✓ The International Organisation for Migration said in its 'Global Migration Report 2020' that the number of international migrants in 2019 is now estimated at 270 million and the top destination remains the US, at nearly 51 million.

8. Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on which date?

A) December 7 ☑ B) December 5

C) December 6 D) December 8

✓ Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7 December. It is observed every year in India. The day is observed to honor the martyrs and the men of the Armed Forces who valiantly fought on the borders to safeguard India's honor.

✓ On this day, the three branches of the Armed Forces of India, the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Navy, organized a variety of programmes to showcase their efforts towards national security.

9. Who has been appointed as the Plogging Ambassador of India?

A) Ravi Duhan B) Jayshree Laxman

C) Ravish Kumar D) Ripu Daman Bevli ☑

✓ Ripu Daman Bevli has been appointed as the Plogging Ambassador of India. The appointment was announced by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju on the Fit India Plogging Run.

✓ The minister also launched the nation–wide Plogging Ambassador Mission under which, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region. Run to make Litter Free India which is in line Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign.

10. Who has been awarded with the Siu–Ka–Pha Award–2019?

A) Janaki Ammal B) Ram Kumar Seewan

C) George Bentham D) Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi ☑

✓ The Siu–Ka–Pha Award was presented to noted educationist, Botanist and folklore researcher Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi. It was presented at a programme held at Siu–Ka–Pha Samannay Kshetra in Golaghat.

✓ The award recognized his effort and contribution in the field of botany and science. The inaugural edition of the award carried a citation, a memento, a cheleng chador and Rs.10,000. It was presented by Golaghat Deputy Commissioner Dhiren Hazarika.

1. Which country has recently recorded the first polio case in 27 years?

A) Vietnam B) Singapore

C) Malaysia ☑ D) Indonesia

✓ Malaysia has reported the first case of Polio in 27 years, when a three–month–old Malaysian infant boy was diagnosed with polio.

✓ The last polio case in Asia–Pacific country occurred in 1992, and in 2000, after which the country was declared polio–free. In this recent case, the child was confirmed to be infected with vaccine–derived poliovirus Type 1 (VDPV1) on 6 December 2019.

2. Who won the Miss Universe 2019 title?

A) Tyler Perry B) Vartika Singh

C) Zozibini Tunzi ☑ D) Catriona Gray

✓ Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi was crowned as Miss Universe 2019 at the event held at Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, United States.

✓ The 26–year–old Zozibini Tunzi was presented the crown by Philippines' Catriona Gray, who was the Miss Universe winner in 2018. India was represented by Vartika Singh in the beauty pageant. After Lara Dutta had won the crown in 2000, no Indian contestant has been able to win Miss Universe title in all these 19 years.

3. Who has been recently elected the youngest–ever as PM of Finland?

A) Sanna Marin ☑ B) Katri Kulmuni

C) Li Andersson D) Antti Lindtman

✓ Sanna Marin has been elected as the Prime Minister of Finland. She became the world's youngest Prime Minister ever. She also became the third female government leader of the country. She defeated Antti Lindtman to take over the government's top post from incumbent Antti Rinne.

✓ The new government will be approving her appointment quickly. Marin was a lawmaker since 2015. She was the Social Democratic Party's vice chairwoman. She served as the minister for transport and communications.

4. International Anti–Corruption Day is being observed on December 9, 2019 under which theme?

A) The Power of People's pressure

B) United Against Corruption ☑

C) Fight Corruption

D) End of corruption

✓ International Anti–Corruption Day is observed on 9 December. The day aims to raise awareness about corruption and the measures that can be taken to combat corruption. The theme for the year 2019 is "United against Corruption".

5. Which city in Karnataka recently conducted a Human Library event?

A) Bangalore B) Mysore ☑

C) Hubli D) Mangalore

✓ Karnataka conducted a Human Library event in Mysuru on 8 December 2019. Human Library is spread across various metropolitan cities including Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore in India.

✓ The aim of the Human Library event is to break long–standing prejudices and stereotypes of the past and create a safe framework for conservation by using a library analogy of lending people rather than books. The event aims to generate greater human cohesion across various social, religious and ethnic diversities.

6. According to a recent report, which Indian River has become one of the top 10 cleanest rivers of the world?

A) Cauvery B) Tamirabarani

C) Yamuna D) Ganga ☑

✓ Minister of Jalshakti said that Ganga has become one of 10 cleanest rivers in the world among the major rivers category. The announcement was made by the Jalshakti

Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at the 4th India Water Impact Summit, 2019 in New Delhi.

✓ The Centre is committed to ensuring the cleanliness and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga. India has only 4% of the world's drinking water while 18% of the world's human and equivalent livestock population.

7. The satellite Duchifat 3, which is to be launched from India, belongs to which country

A) USA B) Russia

C) Netherlands D) Israel ☑

✓ Three youngsters, Alon Abramovich, Meitav Assulin and Shmuel Aviv Levi, from an Israeli school, will travel to India to launch a satellite, Duchifat 3. The three 17 to 18 years old are the students of Sha'ar HaNegev High school in Israel's southern region.

✓ The satellite was designed and built by the students aboard PSLV C48 from ISRO's Sriharikota launch site. The satellite is to be launched on 11 December.

✓ Duchifat 3: Duchifat 3 is the third satellite made by the Israeli student. The satellite was designed to serve children from across the country to observe the Earth. It is an imaging satellite that will be used for ecological research of Earth from space.

8. SAARC Charter Day was celebrated on December 8. The association was established in which year?

A) 1967 B) 1987 C) 1985 ☑ D) 1991

✓ On December 8, 1985 at the first SAARC Summit in Dhaka, the leaders of the seven South Asian states – the Maldives, India, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – signed a charter to establish the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Afghanistan became the eight SAARC member in 2007.

9. All India Conference of Director Generals / Inspector Generals of Police was organized in which city?

A) Mumbai B) Pune ☑

C) Indore D) Faridabad

✓ All India Conference of Director Generals / Inspector Generals of Police was organised in Pune from December 6 to 8, 2019. The theme of the conference was scientific and forensics–based investigation and technology–enabled policing.

✓ A number of sessions on these subjects were held during the three–day conference and the home minister also held sessions with the top brass of police.

10. Who has been appointed as chief design consultant for TRIFED?

A) Rohit Bal B) JJ Valaya

C) Neeta Lulla D) Ritu Beri ☑

✓ Tribes India has announced the association with Ritu Beri Designs to promote Indian tribal crafts and culture. Ritu Beri has very graciously accepted to be the Chief Design Consultant for Tribes India.

✓ TRIFED has established a chain of 117 unique showrooms under the brand name of Tribes India, located all over the country, which provide artisans the platform for marketing and promotion of their products.

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1. Human Rights Day is celebrated on which date?

A) Dec.7 B) Dec.8 C) Dec.9 D) Dec.10 ☑

✓ The International Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 to commemorate the day when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris in 1948. The 2019 theme is "Youth Standing Up for Human Rights".

2. Which one is the rank of India in Human Development Index–2019?

A) 95 B) 117 C) 129 ☑ D) 179

✓ India climbed one spot to 129 among 189 countries in the 2019 human development index (HDI), according to a report by the United Nations Development Programme.

✓ In India, 27.1 crore people were lifted out of poverty from 2005–06 to 2015–16, UNDP India resident representative Shoko Noda said. The steady progress was due to nearly three decades of rapid development, which saw a dramatic reduction in absolute poverty, along with gains in life expectancy, education, and access to health care. As per the HDI, no other region had experienced such rapid human development progress.

3. Who became the first Indian to play 150 Ranji matches?

A) Sairaj Bahutule B) Amol Muzumdar

C) Wasim Jaffer ☑ D) Devendra Bundela

✓ Veteran opener Wasim Jaffer on December 9, became the first player in Indian cricket to feature in 150 Ranji matches. The 41–year–old from Maharashtra, who has been an important part of the title–winning Vidarbha team in the last two years, achieved the rare distinction during their 'Group A' opener against Andhra Pradesh.

✓ The former India opener is now just 853 runs away from completing 20,000 runs in first class cricket. Jaffer is followed by Madhya Pradesh batsman Devendra Bundela (145 matches) and Amol Muzumdar (136 matches), who have played for Mumbai and Assam.

4. Who is to get the 'Gangadhar National Award' 2019?

A) Suryakumar Pandey B) Phoolchand Gupta

C) Viswanath Prasad Tiwari ☑ D) Ashok Chakradhar

✓ Eminent Hindi poet Viswanath Prasad Tiwari would be honoured with the prestigious 'Gangadhar National Award' during the 53rd Foundation Day celebrations of the Sambalpur University.

✓ The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a shawl and citation, would be presented to Tiwari in January. Instituted in memory of Odisha's renowned bard Gangadhar Meher, the award is conferred on a poet of national repute every year since 1991.

5. Which city organized the FICCI ARISE Conference 2019?

A) Gurugram B) Sonipat

C) New Delhi ☑ D) Noida

✓ FICCI ARISE Conference 2019 in New Delhi on December 9–10 with theme, "Future Ready Learners and Schools". Inaugurating the FICCI ARISE Conference on School Education, Muppavarapu Venkaiah called for value–based education and said that education is not just for employment but also for empowerment and enlightenment of individuals and the society.

✓ He stressed upon inculcating values such as patience, honesty, respect, tolerance and empathy in the students.

6. A MoU has been signed between NSIC and Aramco for the development of MSME Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector. Aramco belongs to which country?

A) UAE B) Saudi Arabia ☑

C) Russia D) Israel

✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Saudi Aramco (Asia) for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.

✓ The MoU will pave a way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out a space as vendors in Global space. Saudi Aramco: It is a Saudi Arabian national petroleum and natural gas company based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It is world's largest Oil & Gas Company and is one of the largest companies in world by revenue.

7. Which film has been named the best film of the year by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association?

A) Parasite B) The Irishman

C) Leave No Trace D) IT Chapter 2 ☑

✓ The Los Angeles Film Critics Association tapped Parasite as its choice for Best Picture and named the film's Bong Joon Ho as Best Director.

8. Which place has been selected as the leading sports tourism destination of world?

A) Dubai B) Buenos Aires

C) Abu Dhabi ☑ D) Bali

✓ Abu Dhabi is selected as the world's leading Sports tourism Destination for the seventh consecutive time. The decision was made at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards that is being held in Muscat, Oman.

✓ Abu Dhabi stands as a premium destination for sports tourism in 2019. It hosted some of the world's top sporting events, such as the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Club World Cup 2017 and 2018, the AFC Asian Cup 2019, the Special Olympics World Games 2019, the 1st edition of the UAE Tour, and the Brazil vs South Korea international friendly match.

9. The Appeal Court of which international organization has been recently shutdown?

A) WTO ☑ B) FAO C) ICJ D) UNESCO

✓ The Appeal Court of the World Trade Organization that acts as trade dispute settlement body for the members was shut down by the United States on December 9, 2019.

✓ The seven–member body that was cut down to a 3–member body in 2018 is now completely blocked by the United States. Without WTO's appellate body, the dispute settlement will return to pre–1995 GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) status quo.

10. Bharti Airtel has recently launched Wi–Fi Calling in which Indian city?

A) New Delhi ☑ B) Pune

C) Mumbai D) Hyderabad

✓ Bharti Airtel launched the Wi–Fi calling service for its subscribers. The service is currently rolling out in Delhi–NCR, gradually implemented in other cities. This service will significantly enhance indoor calling services without incurring any extra charges.

✓ Airtel Wi–Fi to enhance voice calling experience for Airtel smartphone customers, especially when they are indoors.

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1. International Mountain Day is observed on which date?

A) Dec.7 B) Dec.8 C) Dec.9 D) Dec.11 ☑

✓ The International Mountain Day is observed every year on December 11 to celebrate and bring awareness to the world's mountain environments and the people and cultures that inhabit them. The 2019 theme is "Mountains Matter for Youth".

2. How many 'Must See Monuments' have been identified by Archaeological Survey of India?

A) 235 B) 154 C) 138 ☑ D) 338

✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has identified 138 monuments as 'Must See Monuments'. This information has been made available on 'Must See' portal of ASI. There are 38 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India, which includes 30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and 1 mixed–criteria site.

✓ India has the 6th largest number of sites in the world. Out of 38, the 22 cultural sites including monuments, buildings and caves are under the protection of ASI.

3. Which rank has been achieved by India in the Climate Change Performance Index?

A) 9 ☑ B) 7 C) 8 D) 12

✓ India has ranked 9th in the high category of 2019 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) presented on 10 December at the COP25 climate summit in Madrid, Spain. This is the first time India has ranked among the top 10 among the list.

✓ The current levels of per capita emissions and energy used in India are still comparatively low for the greenhouse gas emissions and energy use categories. The report suggest the Indian government to develop a roadmap for the phase–out of fossil fuel subsidies that would consequently reduce the country's high dependence on coal.

4. 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise of USA with which other country?

A) China B) Nepal

C) UAE ☑ D) Japan

✓ 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between ground forces of United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States, commenced on 10 December 2019 in presence of UAE Commander of Land Forces Major General Saleh Mohamed Saleh Al Amiri and Commander of US Army Central (USARCENT) Lieutenant General Terry Ferrell.

✓ It is aimed at enhancing combat efficiency and tactical expertise between two countries.

5. Which country has topped the medal tally of 13th South Asian Games–2019?

A) China B) Nepal

C) India ☑ D) Japan

✓ South Asian Games 2019 concluded on 10 December,2019 in Nepal, with India finishing on top with a best–ever medal haul of 312 medals comprising of 174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze. Host Nepal remained second and Sri Lanka got third place in the regional multi–sporting.

✓ The year 2019 marks the 13th edition of South Asian Games. India finished on top, continuing its undisputed domination in regional multi–sporting event by finishing on top for the 13th time–in–a–row. India has topped the medal tally of every South Asian Games since its establishment in 1984.

6. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has recently added how many species to List of Threatened Species?

A) 940 B) 1640 C) 1840 ☑ D) 840

✓ The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) added about 1,840 new species to its updated "Red List of Threatened Species", a catalogue of plants and animals that risk extinction. The list now contains over 30,000 species under threat of disappearing.

✓ The group released its Red List update in the middle of COP25 climate talks in Madrid, Spain. The year 2020 will see two global IUCN gatherings, first in June in

Marseille, France and another in Kunming, China, in October.

7. According to India Skill Report, which state has the highest employable talent?

A) Gujarat B) Kerala

C) Maharashtra ☑ D) Telangana

✓ On December 9, 2019, the India Skills Report was released jointly by the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and AIU (Association of Indian University).

✓ The report provides employability of citizens in the country across the states and. The report also ranked the cities based on the availability of employment. The report was prepared based on a survey that assessed 300,000 candidates from 35 educational institutes across 28 states and 9 UT's.

✓ According to the report, Maharashtra topped the list with the highest employable talent. Following Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh ranked second and third respectively.

8. Greta Thunberg, Aminatou Haidar, Guo Juanmei and Davi Kopenawa Yanomami won Right Livelihood Award–2019. The award was established in which year?

A) 1987 B) 1981 C) 1980 ☑ D) 1989

✓ Four people won the Right Livelihood Award for the year 2019. The awardees are Greta Thunberg, Aminatou Haidar, Guo Juanmei and Davi Kopenawa Yanomami.

✓ The award aims to honour Greta Thunberg for her fight against climate change. Davi Kopenawa Yanomami for her commitment and efforts to protect the indigenous rights and land. Guo Juanmei was awarded for her work for women's rights in China for 25 years.

✓ The award recognized Aminatou Haidar's efforts for the independence of Western Sahara. She spent four years in a secret prison, isolated from the outside world.The Right Livelihood Award was established in 1980.

9. Social Security Code Bill–2019 has been introduced in Loksabha recenlty.The bill is to help which category of workers in India?

A) Social Workers B) Govt. Employees

C) Unorganized Workers ☑ D) ESIC Workers

✓ On December 11, 2019, the social security code bill was introduced in Lok Sabha. The bill paves way for universalization of social security of 50 crore workers in the country.

✓ The bill proposes setting up of a social security fund to fulfill benefits such as medical cover, pension, death and disablement benefits including gig workers. This will help to tap the corporate social responsibility fund and divert it towards the unorganized sector.

10. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been recently approved by the Indian Government.The IBA was introduced to deal with which sector of Indian Economy?

A) Infrastructure B) Transport

C) Banking sector ☑ D) Distressed sectors

✓ Union Cabinet has approved certain amendments in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (code), through Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019.

✓ The amendments aim to remove certain difficulties being faced during insolvency resolution process to realise objects of code, protect corporate debtors, prevent ill–thought–out triggering of bankruptcy proceedings and to further ease doing of business (ADB).

✓ Amendment Bill seeks to amend sections 5(12), 5(15), 7, 11, 14, 16(1), 21(2), 23(1), 29A, 227, 239, 240 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) and insert new section 32A in it.

1. The National Energy Conservation Day is observed on which date?

A) Dec.10 B) Dec.11 C) Dec.12 D) Dec.14 ☑

✓ The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on Dec.14. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under Union Ministry of Power spearheads the celebrations of the day every year since 1991.

✓ BEE is also observing National Energy Conservation Week from 9–14 December 2019, in order to drive mass awareness about importance of energy efficiency and conservation.

2. How many deemed Sanskrit universities will be converted into Central universities under Central Sanskrit Universities Bill?

A) 2 B) 4 C) 3 ☑ D) 7

✓ The Lok Sabha passed the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019. The Bill seeks to upgrade three deemed Sanskrit universities into Central universities.

✓ They are: Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Bhopal, Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Tirupati.

3. Parivara, Talwara and Siddi are the Scheduled Tribes of which Indian state?

A) Tamil Nadu B) Karnataka ☑

C) Kerala D) Bihar

✓ Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 12 December 2019 by voice vote.

✓ The bill seeks to amend Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to include three tribes namely– Parivara, Talwara and Siddi community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts, in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. The bill was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister of State Renuka Singh Saruta in Upper House.

4. Which country has recently left 2050 Climate Neutrality Agreement of European Union?

A) Ethiopia B) Sudan

C) Poland ☑ D) Greece

✓ On December 13, Poland left 2050 Climate Neutrality Agreement of European Union. Poland, whose 80% of energy needs are relied on coal opted out of Climate Neutrality 2050 plan.

✓ The country requested to extend the plan execution deadline to 2070 availing longer period to cut emissions according to the plan. But net players like Netherlands refused to agree to the terms that led Poland to leave the plan.

5. Who has topped the Forbes' 2019 edition of 100 World's Most Powerful Women?

A) Nancy Pelosi B) Ursula von der Leyen

C) Angela Merkel ☑ D) Christine Lagarde

✓ German Chancellor Angela Merkel has topped the Forbes' 2019 edition of 100 World's Most Powerful Women for the ninth consecutive year. She was joined in top spots by fellow prominent female political leaders.

✓ The 65–year–old German leader has made 14 appearances in Forbes magazine list's 16–year history. She was praised for standing up to US President Donald Trump and for allowing over a million Syrian refugees into Germany.

6. Who has been named as the 2019 Person of the Year by TIME magazine?

A) Virat Kohli B) Bob lger

C) Greta Thunberg ☑ D) LeBron James

✓ The news magazine Time has named the teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg in 2019 Person of the Year. She was named as she inspired millions of people in 150 countries to protest climate change.

✓ Others honoured by TIME for the year 2019: Disney CEO Bob lger was named the Business Person of the Year. US

Women's Soccer Team has been named as the Athlete of the Year. The US Public Servants was named as the Guardians of the Year Singer Lizzo has been named as the Entertainer of the Year.

7. Which Indian city became the first city to have an online waste exchange for municipal solid waste?

A) Chennai ☑ B) Indore

C) New Delhi D) Pune

✓ Chennai has become the first city to have an online waste exchange for municipal solid waste. Residents who want to sell their waste online will be able to contact 2,600 scrap dealers and other agencies across the city.

✓ The Madras Waste Exchange, which is both a web portal and an application, has been conceptualized by the Smart City Mission, with support from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

8. Who recently won the Presidential election in Algeria?

A) Ahmed Gaid Salah B) Ali Benflis

C) Ahmed Ouyahia D) Abdelmadjid Tebboune ☑

✓ Former Prime Minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune was declared the winner of Algeria's presidential election.

✓ Tebboune, who also served as housing minister under Abdelaziz Bouteflika – the former president was forced to step down in April following mass protests. This time he received 58.15 percent of votes.

9. Who has been appointed as the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary?

A) Praveen Kumar B) Ravi Mittal ☑

C) Rajesh Bhushan D) Amit Khare

✓ Ravi Mittal has been appointed as the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary. He will replace Mr. Amit Khare who has been appointed as the new secretary of the Department of Higher Education.

✓ Ravi Mittal belongs to a 1986 batch of Bihar Cadre of Indian Administrative Service. He is currently serving as the Special Secretary in the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

10. National Tribal Dance Festival is to be held in which city?

A) Dispur B) Raipur ☑

C) Kolkata D) Patna

✓ A three–day National Tribal Dance Festival will be held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The festival is to be held on 27–29 December 2019.

✓ During the event, artists from various states and countries will march past in their traditional attires. Nearly 1,400 artists of 151 art troupes from 23 states and guest artists from 6 countries will participate.

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1. International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on which date?

A) Dec.8 B) Dec.9 C) Dec.10 D) Dec.12 ☑

✓ The International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed every year on December 12 to mobilize diverse stakeholders to call for stronger, more equitable health systems to achieve universal health coverage, leaving no one behind.

✓ The day is also the anniversary of the first unanimous UN's resolution calling for all nations to provide for their citizens affordable, quality health care. The theme for the 2019 UHC Day is "Keep the Promise".

2. According to recent report, which police station is the best police station of India?

A) Ajk Burhanpur B) Balasinor

C) Aberdeen ☑ D) Bakani

✓ Aberdeen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the best police station in India, followed by Balasinor in Gujarat and Ajk Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. All Women Police Station, Theni from Tamil Nadu is in 4th place.

✓ The government has prepared a list of best performing police stations in the country. These rankings were based on a rage of parameters such as addressing the number of offences related to property disputes, crime against women and crime against weaker sections at a police station.

3. Which city organized the Symposium on Scope of Science of Ayurveda in Global Health?

A) Dehradun B) Haridwar

C) New Delhi ☑ D) Panchkula

✓ Government organized a Symposium on Scope of Science of Ayurveda in Global Health on 11 December, 2019 at New Delhi. It was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs.

✓ It is in line with the Ministry of AYUSH's commitment to promote Ayurveda and Traditional systems of Medicine globally. The symposium aimed to sensitize all the Ambassadors and High Commissioners and impart them with the information about advanced research and recent developments in Ayurveda.

✓ It is expected that these personalities play a vital role in exploring the possibilities to establish age-old Ayurveda a Traditional Medical System in different countries.

4. The Legislative Assembly of which state has passed Disha Bill, 2019 recently?

A) Gujarat B) Kerala

C) Andhra Pradesh ☑ D) Telangana

✓ On 14 December, 2019, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019 (AP Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019).

✓ The bill provides for awarding death sentence for offences of rape and gangrape and expediting trials of such cases to within 21 days.

✓ Major provisions include completion of investigation in seven days and trial in 14 working days, where there is adequate conclusive evidence, and reducing the total judgment time to 21 days from the existing four months.

✓ The AP Disha Act also prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.

5. George Laurer, who recently passed away was the inventor of which service?

A) Telgram B) Twitter

C) Barcode ☑ D) E-mail

✓ George Laurer, the US engineer who helped develop the barcode, has passed away at the age of 94.Mr. Laurer has been recognized as the co-inventor of the Universal Product Code (UPC) or barcode. It is found on millions of products, services, and other items for identification.

✓ When he was working as an electrical engineer with IBM, he developed UPC or barcode. He developed a scanner that could digitally read codes.

6. Which country has become the 6th largest oil supplier of India?

A) UAE B) Kuwait C) USA ☑ D) Iran

✓ United States has surpassed Kuwait to become India's sixth-largest oil supplier. India began to import crude oil from the US in 2017 as a move to diversify India's import basket beyond the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) nations.

✓ Note that, currently Iraq is top supplier of crude oil for India, while Qatar is top supplier of natural gas to India.

7. Which state government is to set up a virtual police station?

A) Gujarat B) Kerala

C) Andhra Pradesh ☑ D) Telangana

✓ Andhra Pradesh is to set up a virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University (AU). It will be the first of its kind. It will help the students to report violence or any other crime online.

✓ The plan to establish VPS was initially proposed by AU vice-chancellor Prasad Reddy in August 2019.

8. The 37th National Symposium of Heads of Police Training Institutions is being held in which Indian city?

A) Dehradun B) Haridwar

C) New Delhi ☑ D) Panchkula

✓ The 37th National Symposium of Heads of Police Training Institutions is being held at BPR&D Headquarters, New Delhi. The two-day symposium is held from 12-13 December 2019.

✓ The symposium is organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs. The theme of the two-day Symposium is, "Optimal Utilization of Resources – Through Sharing and Networking".

9. Who has been appointed as the secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs?

A) Vikas Swarup ☑ B) Sanjay Bhattacharyya

C) Ravi Gehlot D) Sukhdev Singh

✓ Senior diplomat Vikas Swarup is appointed as the Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Appointments Committee (ACC) of the Cabinet has approved the appointment.

✓ Swarup is a 1986 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. As the Secretary (West), he will be responsible for India's affairs with the UK & other European nations.

10. Who is the new High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana?

A) E.J.C. Nwana B) C. Sugandh Rajaram ☑

C) Yousif Mohamed D) Rahul Kulshreshth

✓ C. Sugandh Rajaram has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana. Rajaram is presently the Consul General, Consulate General of India to Southern Germany.

✓ He will replace Birender Singh Yadav as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana. The announcement was made by the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Sugandh Rajaram is an IFS officer of 2001 batch.

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1. Which country is to host the 36th International Geological Congress?

A) Russia B) USA

C) India ☑ D) Japan

✓ India is to host the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) in New Delhi during the 1st week of March 2020. It is popularly described as the Olympics of Geosciences. The theme of the event is "Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Development".

✓ The IGCs are global geoscientific events held once in 4 years. The event aims to provide a platform for international cooperation in all major fields of geosciences including the provision of investment opportunities in mining, launching of collaborative programs, mineral exploration and environmental management and related enterprises.

2. Which company has won the Space Oscars awards at Copernicus Masters competition?

A) Urthecast B) Spatial AI

C) Blue Sky analytics ☑ D) PCI Geomatics

✓ Blue Sky Analytics won the Space Oscars awards on the international competition Copernicus Masters. The awards were presented in a ceremony during the European Space Week held at Helsinki, Finland.

✓ Blue Sky Analytics has became the 1st Indian Startup to win the Space Oscars award presented by the European Space Agency.

3. Who has recently created history by scoring centuries on debut in both ODI and Test cricket?

A) Marnus Labuschagne B) Abid Ali ☑

C) Dhananjaya de Silva D) Mohammad Hasnain

✓ Pakistan opener Abid Ali has become the only male player in cricket history to score a hundred on both his ODI and Test debuts when he reached three figures on the final day of the Rawalpindi Test against Sri Lanka.

✓ Former England women's player Enid Bakewell who played 12 Tests between 1968 and 1979 was the first cricketer (male/female) to start both their ODI and Test careers with a century.

4. Who has been recently crowned Miss World Asia 2019?

A) Suman Rao ☑ B) Anukreethy Vas

C) Shreya Shanker D) Shivani Jadhav

✓ Jamaica's Toni–Ann Singh was crowned Miss World at an annual beauty pageant held at the 69th annual beauty pageant held in ExceL London, UK. She was crowned by the 2018 winner Vanessa Ponce de Leon of Mexico.

✓ She became the 4th Jamaican woman to win Miss World. India's Suman Rao became the second runner–up. She was crowned as Miss World Asia.

5. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a draft notification on December 15, 2019, to regulate the registration of which type of vehicles?

A) Petrol Vehicle B) Vintage Vehicle ☑

C) Diesel Vehicle D) Luxury Vehicle

✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a draft notification on December 15, 2019, to regulate the registration of old vintage vehicles.

✓ The ministry has planned to provide a special number plate with letters VA to signify the vintage vehicles.

6. Which paramilitary force has launched the first ever matrimonial site for its staff?

A) CISF B) BSF C) ITBP ☑ D) NSG

✓ In a first of its kind move, the border guarding paramilitary force of Indo–Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has started a dedicated matrimonial site for its staff.

✓ This is the first–ever dedicated and well–managed matrimony portal among Central Armed Police Forces. A link for the unique portal was launched on 9 December on the official website of ITBP.

✓ The website will be managed by ITBP and only the staff will be able to access it.

7. Police of which state has recently received the President Colours Award–2019?

A) Gujarat ☑ B) Kerala

C) Andhra Pradesh D) Telangana

✓ The Gujarat police was presented the 'President's Colours' by Vice–President M Venkaiah Naidu at a ceremony held in Karai Police Academy in Gandhi Nagar on 15 December 2019.

✓ Gujarat now becomes the seventh state to receive the prestigious President's Colours, also called as Nishaan, an emblem which all police officers of Gujarat would wear on left–hand sleeve of their uniform.

✓ A new logo of Gujarat Police was also unveiled and the force was also awarded a specially designed flag and an emblem.

8. Which Union Territory unveiled a start up policy of the Industries Department?

A) Chandigarh B) Delhi

C) Puducherry ☑ D) Lakshadweep

✓ The Union Territory Puducherry unveiled a startup policy of the Industries Department. It was announced by Puducherry Industries Minister Shajahan.

✓ The policy lays emphasis to provide financial grants, monthly stipend, fiscal incentives to interested entrepreneurs and bring new business ventures to the Union Territory.

✓ The policy creates a corpus fund of Rs.10 crore to support the setting up of startup incubators and to develop co–working spaces. It will provide a grant of Rs.3 lakh to the projects recommended by incubators that are established by the government or private sector as a startup grant.

9. Which site has been selected for sample collection on asteroid Bennu?

A) Nightingale ☑ B) Ceres

C) Itokawa D) Hygiea

✓ NASA has finally selected a sample collection site on asteroid Bennu after the arrival of OSIRIS–REx spacecraft in December 2018.

✓ The OSIRIS–Rex mission team has selected the site designated Nightingale, which is located in a crater high in Bennu's northern hemisphere.

✓ The team has also selected site Osprey of Bennu as a backup sample collection site.Site Nightingale is located in a northern crater 460 feet wide of the asteroid.

✓ As per the observation, Nightingale's regolith or rocky surface material is dark, and images show that the crater is relatively smooth.

10. Which famous massage has been recently added to prestigious heritage list of UNESCO?

A) Swedish massage

B) Hot Stone massage

C) Aroma Therapy massage

D) Nuad Thai massage ☑

✓ Thailand's famous 2000–year–old massage, Nuad Thai was added to UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) prestigious heritage list.

✓ Nuad Thai is an intense form of massage in which the body is pulled and rotated well with the help of the thumb, elbow, knees and feet.

✓ Thai massage originated in India and brought it to Thailand about 2,500 years ago by doctors and monks who carried its secrets for generations.

1. Recently, the Indian troops serving with the UNMISS received the UN Medal for their dedication and sacrifice. The UNMISS is in service to which country?

A) Morocco B) South Sudan ☑

C) Sudan D) Syria

✓ Around 850 Indian peacekeepers who are serving in South Sudan were awarded with the prestigious UN medal for their service and contribution to promote peace in the strife–torn nation. India is among the largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations.

2. Five US tech giants are currently facing lawsuits over the death of child labourers in cobalt mines in which country?

A) Congo ☑ B) Uganda

C) Angola D) Sierra Leone

✓ Apple, Microsoft and Google's parent Alphabet are among the tech giants who were named in a case that is currently looking into the death of child labourers in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

✓ Democratic Republic of Congo is the largest producer of Cobalt, a rare metal and a vital raw material for batteries used in mobile phones and electric vehicles.

3. Which neighbouring country of India was recently criticised for providing special permits for the royal family of Qatar to hunt vulnerable species Houbara Bustards?

A) Nepal B) China

C) Sri Lanka D) Pakistan ☑

✓ International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed houbara bustard as "vulnerable" species. IUCN states that these species are currently at a high risk of extinction.

✓ These birds are constantly under threat due to hunting and trapping. Current estimates state that there are about 50,000 to 100,000 left.

4. Which joint military exercise was recently concluded by Nepal and India?

A) Yudh Abhyas B) Sampriti

C) Hand in Hand D) Surya Kiran ☑

✓ Surya Kiran is an annual bilateral military exercise between India and Nepal. It is conducted in alternative basis. This year it was held in Salijhandi of Rupendehi district of Nepal.

✓ Its aim is to conduct battalion–level combined training to increase interoperability in jungle warfare and counter–terrorist operations in mountainous terrain, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, medical and environmental conservation.

5. In December, the MSME ministry launched which of these products produced by women of militancy affected areas of J&K?

A) Khadi Rumal ☑ B) Kashmiri Rug

C) Papier mache crafts D) Pashmina shawls

✓ In December, the ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) launched 'Khadi Rumal' from the militancy affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

✓ These are handkerchiefs made of khadi cloth and stitched by the women of the affected region. This is an effort to create employment in the region.

6. The Ilisu Dam, which has been in the news recently, is in which country?

A) Pakistan B) Bhutan

C) Turkey ☑ D) Bangladesh

✓ Ilisu Dam is in Turkey. It is one of the Southeastern Anatolia Project which involves 22 dams. The Ilisu Dam is located on the Tigris River. The dam is meant for water storage, flood control and also hydroelectricity generation. It is a concrete face rock filled dam.

7. The scientists at the IIT–H developed a 'memristor' for detecting Bovine Serum Albumin. Which of the following is not a feature of this 'memristor'?

A) SET switching B) RESET switching

C) Metal electrodes D) None of the above ☑

✓ The scientists at the IIT Hyderabad had developed a memristor sensor for detecting the bovine serum albumin, which is analogous to the human serum albumin.

✓ The memristor or 'Resistive Random Access Memory' device is capable of changing its resistance state with voltage (called SET and RESERT switching). It is made up of metal electrodes and uses titanium dioxide as the active material.

8. Pakistani judiciary recently announced the death sentence for former president Pervez Musharraf. In which year, Musharraf had seized power in a military coup in Pakistan?

A) 1996 B) 1999 ☑ C) 2000 D) 2002

✓ The judiciary of Pakistan recently handed the death sentence to Pervez Musharraf in December. The penalty was handed by a special court against the former military dictator for high treason.

✓ Musharraf was a 4 star general of the Pakistani Army and the 10th president of the country. Musharraf seized power in a military coup in 1999 and ruled Pakistan as President until 2008.

9. The Centre is planning to initiate 'Saksham Anganwadi' scheme through which of its ministries?

A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

B) Ministry of Science and Technology

C) Ministry of Women and Child Development ☑

D) Ministry of Human Resource Development

✓ The ministry of women and child development is planning to implement the 'Saksham Anganwadi' scheme.

✓ Through this program, 2.5 lakh anganwadis are to be upgraded over the next 5 years. The scheme will introduce upgraded facilities.

10. Which sportsman was recently named "BBC Sports Personality of the year 2019"?

A) Lewis Hamilton B) Ben Stokes ☑

C) Jos Buttler D) Eoin Morgan

✓ Ben Stokes, the famous all rounder of the England Cricket team has won the coveted "BBC Sports Personality of the year 2019". He played a crucial role in the World Cup finals match against New Zealand.

✓ This is one among the BBC's annual sporting awards that honours sportspersons and teams selected through public voting. The England Cricket team won the Best Team of the year award.

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1. India and the US are going to hold 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in Washington. India holds similar dialogue format with which other country?

A) Japan ☑ B) Australia

C) Russia D) New Zealand

✓ Japan and the US are the only two countries with which India is currently holding 2+2 Ministerial dialogue. It is held between the countries' foreign and defence ministers. This year, Japan and India held its first ever 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

2. What is the name of the trilateral naval exercise held between India, the US and Japan?

A) Milan B) Malabar ☑

C) SIMBEX D) INDRA

✓ India, Japan and the US are part of the trilateral naval exercise Malabar. Initiated in 1992, it was originally a bilateral exercise between the US and India. Japan became a permanent member in 2015.

✓ It includes diverse activities, ranging from fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers through Maritime Interdiction Operations Exercises.

3. India's Supreme Court has decided to examine the constitutional validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act. Which part of the constitution deal with citizenship in India?

A) Part I B) Part II ☑

C) Part III D) Part IV

✓ Article 5 to 11 (Part II) of the Indian constitution deals with the citizenship in India. The legislation related to this is the Citizenship Act, 1955.

✓ It has been amended many times and the most recent of it is in 2019 to provide path to citizenship to certain religious minorities from several Muslim countries.

4. The US has recently rejected China and Russia's call to ease sanctions on North Korea. Which country supported North Korea during the Korean War?

A) China ☑ B) USSR

C) Vietnam D) Cambodia

✓ Korean War (1950–53) took place when North Korean military invaded South Korea. The UN force led by the US intervened to defend the south and rapidly advanced into North Korea.

✓ Chinese forces intervened on behalf of North Korea. No peace treaty was signed but an armistice in 1953 led to the restoration of the original boundary of the two nations.

5. The Odisha Cabinet has approved SAMRIDHI. What is it?

A) Agriculture policy ☑ B) Healthcare policy

C) Education policy D) Trade policy

✓ Agriculture Policy 2020, SAMRIDHI was approved by the Odisha Cabinet recently.

✓ It is based on 8 components – Science and Technology, Adaptation to Climate Change, (Markets) Domestic and Global, Physical and financial, Resource use efficiency and higher productivity and Creating appropriate Infrastructure.

6. Lok Sabha speaker emphasised on the implementation of e–cabinet. Which is the first North East State to implement e–cabinet solution?

A) Assam B) Sikkim

C) Tripura D) Arunachal Pradesh ☑

✓ In 2017, Arunachal Pradesh became the first North East state to implement e–cabinet solution. The solution allows the ministers to prepare, conduct and review the cabinet meetings without the use of papers.

✓ It gives remote access to the Ministers to view and circulate Cabinet notes in advance for the proper

analysis and feedback. It has also reduced the time consumed during the cabinet meeting.

7. Where is the Bharat Vandana Park being constructed?

A) New Delhi ☑ B) Gujarat

C) Rajasthan D) Uttar Pradesh

✓ The foundation stone for the Bharat Vandana Park was recently laid at Dwarka in New Delhi. The park is to serve as a major tourist attraction upon completion. It is to be developed at the cost of 550 crore INR.

8. Where is the Incirlik Air Base located?

A) USA B) Greenland

C) Turkey ☑ D) Syria

✓ The Incirlik Air Base is located in Turkey. Turkey is planning to close down this strategically important air base. The United States air force makes use of this base to launch air raids on Islamic State/ IS forces in Syria.

9. The Global Refugee Forum meeting was organised by which institution?

A) Amnesty International

B) Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor

C) Centre for Economic and Social Rights

D) UNHCR ☑

✓ The first ever Global Refugee Forum meeting was recently organised by the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland in December. The UNHCR organised the meeting a year after the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees by the United Nations General Assembly.

10. The Abraham Koshy Committee was constituted for which organisation?

A) RBI B) SEBI ☑

C) IRDAI D) TRAI

✓ The Abraham Koshy Committee is an eight member panel that serves as an advisory body for the SEBI / Securities and Exchange Board of India.

✓ It was recently revamped to look into the issues of investor education and protection. It is headed by Abraham Koshy who is a former professor of IIM Ahmedabad.

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1. The Jalasathi program was launched by which state government?

A) Tamil Nadu B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Odisha ☑ D) Telangana

✓ The Jalasathi program was recently launched by the Odisha state government for providing access to safe drinking water supply to all households.

✓ A dedicated app was also launched along with it. Point of Sale machines and kits for testing water quality were distributed to women volunteers called 'Jalasathis'.

2. What is Andhra Pradesh's OCTOPUS?

A) Science research institute

B) Water management authority

C) Anti–encroachment drive

D) Counter–terrorism unit ☑

✓ OCTOPUS is a counter–terrorism force of Andhra Pradesh. OCTOPUS or Organisation for Counter – Terrorist Operations is an elite unit and was recently assigned as a security cover for the state's Chief Minister. It was formed for the first time in 2007.

3. Which state is in talks to develop 3 decentralized capitals instead of one?

A) Tamil Nadu B) Andhra Pradesh ☑

C) Odisha D) Telangana

✓ The state government of Andhra Pradesh is in talks to develop 3 decentralised capitals instead of one. The state is in talks to develop Amaravati as the legislative capital, Visakhapatnam as the executive capital and Kurnool as the judicial capital.

4. The upcoming 2020 Raisinia Dialogue is to deal with what topic?

A) Economy B) Geopolitics ☑

C) Climate Change D) Wildlife Conservation

✓ The Raisinia Dialogue is a flagship platform of India in geoeconomics and geopolitics. The ministry of external affairs organises this event annually in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

✓ The 2020 edition is to be conducted from January 14th to 16th in New Delhi.

5. The Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan is a scheme of which state?

A) Chhattisgarh ☑ B) Jharkhand

C) West Bengal D) Odisha

✓ The Suposhan Abhiyan is a scheme of the Chhattisgarh state government. The state recently conducted information dissemination drives in local languages under this scheme to create awareness about the various government initiatives to the forest dwellers and tribal people of the region.

6. The Ludhiana Tiger Safari, which is to receive new Bengal Tigers, is in which state?

A) Punjab ☑ B) Chhattisgarh

C) Gujarat D) West Bengal

✓ The Ludhiana Tiger Safari is in Punjab. It is the one such facility in the state. The safari is to welcome 2 new tigers from Chhattisgarh. Three of its tigresses had passed in 2013 and its remaining two tigers are of failing health.

7. The INDRA 2019 bilateral exercise involves which arms of the armed forces?

A) Army B) Air Force

C) Navy D) All of the above ☑

✓ The INDRA 2019 is a tri–service defence exercise between India and Russia. The exercise involves the army, navy and the air force of both the countries.

✓ The second edition of the exercise concluded recently in Pune, Goa and Babina. The exercise focuses on counter–terrorism and counter–insurgency.

8. Which of the pairs of host star and exoplanet were named after gemstones in Malay language?

A) Wadirum and Petra

B) Bibha and Santamasa

C) Baiduri and Intan ☑

D) Nakambe and Mouhoun

✓ The host star and exoplanet, HD 20868 and HD 20868b, were named as Baiduri and Intan by the International Astronomical Union recently.

✓ The names are derived from terms for gemstones in Malay language. It was suggested by Malaysia. They are in the constellation Fornax (the Furnace).

9. Which recently named star is in the constellation Eridanus (the River constellation)?

A) Baiduri B) Nakambe ☑

C) Bran D) Wadirum

✓ The star Nakambe is in the constellation Eridanus (the River). The star was named by the International Astronomical Union based on the suggestions of Burkina Faso.

✓ The star is named after a major river in the African nation. The name was arrived at through the 'NameexoWorlds' contest.

10. The recently conducted exercise 'Apharan' involves which arm of the armed forces?

A) Army B) Air Force

C) Navy ☑ D) CRPF

✓ The exercise 'Apharan' was conducted at Port of Kochi. It saw the participation of Indian navy and coast guard.

✓ It is an anti– hijacking exercise of the Southern Naval Command. The Cochin Port Trust was also involved in the exercise.

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1. Which country recently became the first to recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia?

A) Afghanistan ☑ B) Iraq

C) Saudi Arabia D) Qatar

✓ The National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recently recognised the official book of standards under India's Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.

✓ The book specifies the standards with respect to identity, strength and purity of the drugs manufactured and marketed in India.

2. What aspect does the recently launched EChO Network deal with?

A) Indian ecology and environment ☑

B) Indian foreign policy

C) Indian military technology

D) India's satellite network

✓ The EChO network was recently launched by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Dr. Vijay Raghavan.

✓ The EChO network is to improve 'cross–disciplinary leadership' for research and creation of knowledge and awareness about Indian ecology and environment.

3. What is Pinaka which was recently tested in Chandipur of Odisha?

A) Cruise Missile B) IED

C) Minesweeper D) Artillery Missile ☑

✓ Pinaka missile system is an indigenously developed artillery missile system. It was tested by the Defence Research and development Organisation (DRDO) at Chandipur Integrated Test Range in Odisha. The missile has a range of 75 km when striking with high precision.

4. What is Boeing's Starliner spacecraft that is being tested?

A) Solar space probe B) Mars space probe

C) Astronaut capsule ☑ D) Jupiter space probe

✓ The Starliner spacecraft of Boeing is an astronaut capsule. It is being developed as a part of NASA's commercial crew program. The capsule is intended for transferring astronauts to the International Space Station. It is capable of carrying 7 astronauts.

5. The Kuril Island is being disputed between which two countries?

A) Japan and South Korea B) Japan and Russia ☑

C) Russia and Ukraine D) Russia and USA

✓ The Kuril Islands is a disputed territory between Japan and Russia. It is an archipelago with a population of about 20,000 people.

✓ It is located north of Hokkaido and is referred to as Northern Territories by Japan. The two states recently conducted meeting for ways to resolve the conflict.

6. Which surface rover recently broke the record for lunar longevity?

A) Lunokhod 1 B) Viper

C) Pragyan D) Yutu 2 ☑

✓ The lunar rover Yutu 2 had recently broken the record for the longest operation on the moon's surface. It is a part of the Chinese mission to moon called Chang'e 4.

✓ It has been functioning on the far side of the moon for over 11 months now.

7. The bite strength of a Purussaurus was recently calculated. What is a Purussaurus?

A) A flying reptile B) An ancient shark

C) A caiman ☑ D) An ancient snake

✓ The Purussaurus is an extinct species of caiman (same family as alligators) that lived during the Miocene

epoch. Scientists calculated the bite strength of these reptiles to be twice that of Tyrannosaurus Rex. The Purussaurus brasiliensis grew to lengths of over 12m.

8. RBI's Operation Twist is meant for tackling which issue?

A) Stagflation

B) Hardening in long–tenor bond yields ☑

C) Liquidity crunch in NBFC

D) Low transfer of rate cuts

✓ Reserve Bank of India had launched the Operation Twist to deal with the problem of hardening in long tenor bond yields. As a part of the operation, the RBI is to involve in open market operations which involves simultaneous buying and selling of government bonds.

9. The 'Cricket 4 Good' is a partnership program of ICC with which international body?

A) Olympic committee B) UNESCO

C) UNICEF ☑ D) WADA

✓ Cricket 4 Good is an outreach program implemented as a collaboration between International cricket Council (ICC) and United Nations Children's Fund.

✓ The ICC recently announced the extension of its partnership with UNICEF for the 2020 Women's T20 world cup.

10. The Kambala sport, which is to get its own museum, involves the use of which animal?

A) Dogs B) Camels

C) Horses D) Buffaloes ☑

✓ The Kambala is a traditional sport of Karnataka. It is a slush track buffalo race. The players of this sport are called jockeys. A museum for this sport is to come up in Dakshina Kannada district. A research centre is also being planned in the area.

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1. The 'Nine Dash Line', which is to be contested at the UN, is in which water body?

A) South China Sea ☑ B) North Atlantic Ocean

C) East Philippine Sea D) Arctic Ocean

✓ The Nine Dash Line is a demarcation line in the South China Sea. It is used by China to claim sovereignty over major part of the South China Sea. Malaysia is to contest its claims at the United Nations with reference to the concept of 'Exclusive Economic Zone' rights.

2. The Nord Stream 2 is a gas pipeline project between which two countries?

A) Russia and Turkey B) Germany and USA

C) Russia and Germany ☑ D) Turkey and USA

✓ The Nord Stream 2 pipeline is a project between Russia and Germany. The US government recently passed a legislation imposing sanctions on firms aiding the development of this gas connection.

✓ Russia is already a major gas supplier to the EU accounting for 40%. The pipeline will increase in the gas exports to the EU.

3. Which port was recently brought under the Chabahar Agreement?

A) Chennai B) Mormugoa ☑

C) Kolkata D) Vishakhapatnam

✓ India, Iran and Afghanistan have recently decided to open Mormugoa and New Mangalore Port in addition to the JNPT, Mundra, Kandla and Cochin as part of the designated route under the Chabahar agreement that connects India to strategically located Chabahar port.

4. The International Criminal Court, which is seeking to look into war crimes in West Asia, was established by which treaty?

A) Geneva Convention B) Rome Statute ☑

C) Vienna Convention D) Kyoto Protocol

✓ The International Criminal Court was established by the Rome Statute at Hague in Netherlands. The ICC is seeking to look into war crimes in the Gaza and West Bank region. However, Israel is not a signatory to the Rome Statute and is hence claiming lack of jurisdiction of ICC.

5. Which pope abolished the 'pontifical secrecy' rule's applicability to sexual abuse cases?

A) Pope Francis ☑ B) Pope Benedict XBI

C) Pope Pius XII D) Pope Paul VI

✓ The applicability of 'pontifical secrecy' to sexual abuse of minors was abolished by the current pope, Pope Francis.

✓ Pontifical secrecy allows the Roman Catholic Church to keep certain matters in secrecy, like communications between it and papal embassies. This is in accordance with the 'Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church'.

6. The Apex court of which country recently became the first for holding the government responsible for climate action?

A) Netherlands ☑ B) Denmark

C) Norway D) Finland

✓ The highest court of Netherlands had recently held that the government must cut greenhouse gas emission by 25% by the end of next year.

✓ It also upheld that the humans have the fundamental rights to be protected against climate change, making Netherlands the first country to be held responsible by its courts to take action against climate change.

7. The humanoid robot capable of mirroring human actions, T–HR3, was launched by which firm?

A) Ford B) Volkswagen

C) Toyota Motor Corp. ☑ D) Honda

✓ Toyota Motor corp. has recently launched an upgraded version of its humanoid robot, T–HRS3. This robot can be controlled remotely using headset and wiring on arms.

✓ This technology can be used for surgery at a long distance, in case the surgeon cannot travel.

8. USA's legislation DASKA provides for sanctions against which country?

A) Russia ☑ B) China

C) Iran D) Iraq

✓ The Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act (DASKA) was passed recently.

✓ It is designed to strengthen the US' ability to confront Russia in several fronts – reinstating the commitment to NATO, improving cyber security and levying sanctions on Russian entities and individuals involved in illicit and corrupt activities.

9. Harbin Ice Festival is celebrated by which country?

A) China ☑ B) Japan

C) Finland D) South Korea

✓ Harbin ice festival is an annual winter festival that takes place with a theme in China. It is currently the largest ice and snow festival in the world.

✓ Initially, the participants were mostly Chinese; however, it has since become international festival.

10. The South Central Railway recently adorned the Hyderabad to New Delhi Express in the colours of which company as a part of its vinyl wrapping advertisement?

A) Singareni Collieries Company Limited ☑

B) Mahanadi Coal Mine Limited

C) Tata Steel

D) Eastern Coal Field

✓ The South Central Railway, Hyderabad, has launched the first of its kind initiative to advertise the government departments/PSUs.

✓ It had tied up with Singareni Collieries Company Limited, the government–owned coal producing company, to vinyl wrap the Hydrabad – New Delhi Telangana Express.

1. Galapagos National Park, sometimes seen in news, is located in which country?

A) Ecuador ☑ B) Honduras

C) Papua New Guinea D) Brazil

✓ Ecuador has declared emergency to contain the environmental impact of a fuel spill in the Galapagos Islands, after a barge carrying 600 gallons of diesel fuel sank. The Islands are located 1,000 kilometers east of mainland Ecuador.

✓ Ecuadorian navy and national police were coordinating with the nature reserve authority, Galapagos National Park to resolve the emergency & assess environmental damage. Latin American Galapagos archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to one of the most fragile ecosystems on the planet.

2. Manuel Marrero Cruz is the Prime Minister of which country?

A) Cuba ☑ B) Cambodia

C) Chile D) Ecuador

✓ Manuel Marrero Cruz is the Prime Minister of Cuba. The country had appointed its first Prime Minister after more than four decades. The last PM of the country was Fidel Castro after whom the office was abolished in 1976.

3. The Ethiopian Prime Minister, the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner, had recently called for peace in Horn of Africa. What is it?

A) Island B) Peninsula ☑

C) Plateau D) Subcontinent

✓ Horn of Africa is a peninsula in Africa that extends hundreds of kilometers into the Arabian Sea. It lies along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden. The countries that exist in this region are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

4. Acute Respiratory Infection, which is claiming the lives in Bangladesh, is caused by which organism?

A) Bacteria B) Virus ☑

C) Fungus D) Micro – Organism

✓ Acute Respiratory Infection has claimed lives of 16 individuals in Bangladesh. It is a serious infection that prevents normal breathing function.

✓ It usually begins as a viral infection in the nose, trachea or lungs. If the infection is not treated, it can spread to the entire respiratory system.

5. Storm Elsa is affecting which part of the world?

A) America B) East Asia

C) Central Asia D) West Europe ☑

✓ Storm Elsa and Storm Fabien have affected Spain and Portugal. According to the latest forecast, the weather may still worsen.

✓ These severe storms have brought violent winds and torrential rains to a large parts of the Iberian peninsula.

6. What is Ursids that was recently mentioned in the news?

A) Meteor Shower ☑ B) Comet

C) Constellation D) Satellite

✓ The Urside Meteor activity begins annually around December 17 and continues for a week until 25th or 26th. It is named for its radiant point, which is located near Beta Ursae Minoris in the constellation Ursa Minor.

7. FDA has recently approved Ervedo. What is Ervebo?

A) Ebola vaccine ☑ B) Measles vaccine

C) Small – pox vaccine D) Polio vaccine

✓ Food and Drug Administration became the first to approve Ervebo, an Ebola vaccine developed by Merck.

✓ It protects against Zaire Ebola Virus, the species of virus that has been the most common cause for Ebola outbreaks. Ebola Zaire is responsible for the current long–running outbreak in the Republic of Congo.

8. The National Farmers Day is celebrated in honour of which Indian Prime Minister?

A) Gulzarilal Nanda B) Morarji Desai

C) Chandra Shekhar D) Charan Singh ☑

✓ The National Farmer's Day is celebrated every year in India on December 23 to acknowledge the role of farmers in India's socio–economic development and to mark the birth anniversary of 5th Prime Minister Late Chaudhary Charan Singh.

✓ He used to be referred to as the 'champions of India's peasants' for his strive for the betterment of farmer's lives in the country. The day is popularly known as 'Kisan Diwas'.

9. The Kirtipur Girls' Hostel was constructed by the Indian Government for the armed police force of which country?

A) Nepal ☑ B) Bhutan

C) Tibet D) Afghanistan

✓ The Girls' Hostel at Kirtipur, Kathmandu was constructed and inaugurated recently by the Government of India. It is meant for use by the Nepal Armed Police Force School in Kirtipur.

✓ 21% of the school's strength is composed of girls. The school was established in 2005. India had contributed over 40 million Nepali Rupee for the structure's construction.

10. India's National Mathematics Day is celebrated on 22 December each year. It is to commemorate which person?

A) Aryabhata B) C.R Rao

C) D.R Kaprekar D) Srinivasa Ramanujan ☑

✓ The National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year in India on December 22 to commemorate the birth anniversary of great mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan and to recognize his contribution to mathematics.

✓ It was in 2012 that then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day. In 1917, Ramanujan was elected to be a member of the London Mathematical Society.

✓ In 1918 he also became a Fellow of the Royal Society, becoming the youngest person to achieve the feat. He passed away on April 6, 1920.

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1. The government had recently notified rules on microdot identifiers. Microdot technology is used for what purpose?

A) Vehicle ID ☑ B) Surveillance

C) Navigation D) E–Banking

✓ The government has recently notified the rules for the fixation of microdots on motor vehicles and their parts.

✓ It can improve security, prevent theft and fake spare parts. It is a technology that involves the spraying of microscopic dots on vehicles and their parts to provide them with unique identification.

2. Shahid Beheshti Port, sometimes seen in the news, is located in which country?

A) Turkey B) UAE

C) Oman D) Iran ☑

✓ The 19th session of the India–Iran Joint Commission was recently held in Tehran and both the countries have expressed their satisfaction on the progress achieved in operationalizing the Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar.

✓ Chabahar port serves as Iran's only oceanic port consisting of two separate ports – Shahid Kalantari port and Shahid Beheshti.

3. The newly inaugurated DNA analysis centre in Chandigarh was established under which fund?

A) NSS Fund B) Enterprise Fund

C) Nirbhaya Fund ☑ D) Provident Fund

✓ DNA Analysis Centre in Chandigarh, which was recently inaugurated, was set up under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.

✓ This centre will provide facility for Sexual Assault and Homicide Unit, Paternity Unit, Human Identification Unit & Mitochondrial DNA unit. It will be well–equipped with modern DNA Profiling tools and equipment. It has the capacity to examine 2000 cases per year.

4. The Kanal Istanbul project connects the Sea of Marmara with which sea?

A) Red Sea B) Black Sea ☑

C) Arabian Sea D) Bohani Sea

✓ The Kanal Istanbul is a project involving the creation of artificial sea–level waterway that connects Black Sea and Sea of Marmara, the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.

✓ Announced in 2009, the Istanbul Mayor has recently pulled out of the project owing to the problem of environment and corruption.

5. When is National Consumer Day observed?

A) December 21 B) December 22

C) December 23 D) December 24 ☑

✓ The National Consumer Day is observed on 24th December each year. Its objective is to highlight the importance of consumer movement and promote awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.

✓ This year's theme is "Alternate consumer grievance redressal". This was the day when the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted.

6. What is thermal inversion which caused Iran to close down its schools recently?

A) A type of heat wave

B) Drought–like condition

C) Hot air held close to the ground by cold air above

D) Cooler air held close to the ground by the hot air above ☑

✓ In Iran, schools were closed for a week due to severe air pollution.

✓ Tehran was engulfed in thick toxic smog and the situation was worsened due to the thermal inversion, a phenomenon that occurs when a layer of warm air settles over a layer of cooler air that lies near the

ground. The warm air holds down the cool air and prevents the pollutants from dispersing.

7. Chillai Kalan, sometimes seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

A) Avalanche–prone area in Kashmir

B) Tourism spot in Jammu and Kashmir

C) Sanctuary

D) Harshest period of winter in Kashmir ☑

✓ The traditional 40–day period of harshest winter in Kashmir known in the local parlance as 'Chillai–Kalan' began on 21 December 2019, with the upper reaches of valley receiving snowfall. Chillai–Kalan period which is known for sub–zero temperatures, frozen lakes and river, will end on 31 January 2020.

✓ Even after Chillai–Kalan ends, the cold wave, however, continues even after that. Therefore Chillai–Kalan is followed by a 20–day–long period called 'Chillai–Khurd' (small cold) that occurs between February 1 and February 19 and a 10–day–long period 'Chillai–Bachha' (baby cold) which is from February 20 to March 2.

8. Which app was recently released by the president to improve access to blood banks?

A) Red Cross App ☑ B) Friends2Support

C) Mblood D) LifeLine

✓ The President had recently released the mobile app of the Red Cross Society of India in Hyderabad.

✓ It was developed by the Telangana Centre for Good Governance. It is accessible in all languages. The app will ensure easier access to blood bank and Red Cross membership.

9. Which region of Africa was recently deemed as the most unequal on the continent by UNDP in terms of income?

A) North Africa B) West Africa

C) East Africa D) South Africa ☑

✓ As per the recently released Human Development Index by UN Development Program, Southern Africa is the most unequal region.

✓ Inequality was at the highest in South Africa and Nigeria as most of the national income comes from only 10% of the society.

10. Arak Nuclear Reactor, which is currently being redeveloped, is in which country?

A) North Korea B) India

C) Pakistan D) Iran ☑

✓ Iran has recently unveiled the redevelopment of part of its Arak heavy water reactor. Iran, as per the 2015 nuclear deal, had agreed to shut down the reactor at Arak, southwest of Tehran.

✓ The foreign governments who are part of the nuclear deal (UK, France, China, Germany and Russia) feel that it can be used to produce plutonium, which can be used in atom bombs.

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1. When is "Good Governance Day" observed?

A) December 24 B) December 25 ☑

C) December 26 D) December 27

✓ The Good Governance Day is observed on 25th December each year. It was initiated in 2014 to honor PM Vajpayee.

✓ Its objective is to spread awareness to the public about the accountability of the government and governance. Many events were conducted across the nation to mark this event.

2. Strategic tunnel under Rohtang Pass was recently named after which of the following individuals?

A) Indira Gandhi B) Vallabhai Patel

C) Moraji Desai D) Atal Bihari Vajapyee ☑

✓ The Government is going to name the strategic tunnel under the Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh after the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

✓ The decision to construct this tunnel was taken during Vajpayee's tenure. The 8.8 km tunnel will be worlds' longest above an altitude of 3,000 meters and it reduces the distance between Leh and Manali.

3. Who is Madan Mohan Malviya, who was recently mentioned in the news?

A) Freedom Fighter ☑

B) Nobel Peace Prize Winner

C) Wartime Gallantry Winner

D) Distinguished scientist

✓ Madan Mohan Malviya was born on December 25, 1861 in Allahabad (Prayagraj). He played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle. He is the founder of Banaras Hindu University.

✓ He is also known for his role in ending Indian indenture system, especially in the Caribbean. Died in 1946, he was posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna in 2014.

4. What is Sire Directory that was recently launched by Madhya Pradesh Government?

A) Matrimonial record of cattle ☑

B) Land ownership record

C) Farmers' portal

D) Home ownership record

✓ The Madhya Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department has compiled "matrimonial record" that contains details about 200 bulls of 16 different breeds to help farmers choose the right "match" for their cow.

✓ It was launched as "Sire Directory" and is also available in the website under 'Pedigree Details 2019–20. The details are categorised under three groups – General Information, Performance Traits and Testing for Genetic Disorders.

5. Many civilians were recently killed in Burkina Faso due to terror strike in the military base and a village. Where is Burkina Faso?

A) North Africa B) Latin America

C) West Asia D) West Africa ☑

✓ Burkina Faso is a landlocked country located in the Western Africa. Many civilians, soldiers and 80 militants were killed in this incident. Majority of the civilians who died in this incident was women.

✓ Burkina Faso, a predominantly Muslim country, was once relatively stable, had descended into serious unrest since 2015.

6. Typhoon Phanfone had recently hit which of the following countries?

A) Japan B) China

C) USA D) Philippines ☑

✓ Typhoon Phanfone had hit the Central Philippines on 25th December, disrupting the holiday of Asia's largest Catholic Nation.

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✓ Though weaker, it has taken the similar path as that of the 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan, the country's deadliest cyclone in record.

7. National Street Food Festival was organised by which of the following?

A) FAO

B) Department of Agriculture

C) Department of Food and Public Distribution

D) NASVI ☑

✓ Recently, the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have jointly organised the National Street Food Festival.

✓ It was initiated in 2009 with an aim to bring the street vending communities to the mainstream. The theme of this year's event is "Healthier Diets"

8. As per the recently released report by Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, which country saw the most deaths due to pollution?

A) China B) India ☑

C) Indonesia D) Nigeria

✓ As per the new report "2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis" released by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GHAP), India saw the highest number of deaths in 2017 due to pollution.

✓ In this list, India is followed by China and Nigeria. USA, the third most populous nation is 7th in this list.

9. Where is Chaukhandi Stupa, an ASI protected site where Chinese sign boards were installed recently?

A) Uttar Pradesh ☑ B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Bihar D) Ladakh

✓ The Chaukandi Stupa is in Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh. It is a monument of national importance as declared by the Archaeological Survey of India.

✓ The ASI recently installed sign boards in Chinese at this stupa as more than 1 lakh Chinese tourists visit this site.

10. The recently unveiled long distance CNG bus project was executed by which natural gas distribution?

A) Indraprastha Gas Ltd ☑

B) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

C) Reliance Petroleum Ltd

D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd

✓ India's first long distance bus powered by compressed natural gas was unveiled in Delhi. It can operate for a distance of 1,000 km.

✓ The CNG bus project was executed by Indraprastha Gas Ltd, one of the largest CNG distributors in India.

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1. Which state is going to observe 2020 as Susashan Sankalp Varsh?

A) Uttar Pradesh B) Gujarat

C) Haryana ☑ D) Madhya Pradesh

✓ Haryana is going to observe 2020 as good governance year. The state government had called for suggestions on reforms from public.

✓ This announcement came during the Good Governance Day Event, when many other measures were taken to motivate the government employees to work towards the welfare of the population.

2. Which of the following is the only ape found in India?

A) Gorilla B) Chimpanzee

C) Hoolock Gibbon ☑ D) Mandrill

✓ The tailess Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India. It is native to eastern Bangladesh, North East India and South West China.

✓ It is categorised into Western Hoolock Gibbon and Eastern Hoolock Gibbon. Both these species are listed under the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act of 1972.

3. Which American firm is developing the Project Kuiper, which is to launch thousands of satellites into space?

A) SpaceX B) NASA

C) Amazon ☑ D) Blue Origin

✓ Amazon is set to launch over 3,000 satellites into space as part of the Project Kuiper. It will form a mega constellation that will provide lost cost space internet to the public. The satellites are to operate from the Low Earth Orbit.

4. The Tamil Nadu government recently observed the 15th anniversary of the 2004 tsunami. Where did this tsunami originate?

A) Java Island B) Sumatra Island ☑

C) Bali Island D) Sulawesi Island

✓ 2004 saw one of the biggest tsunami events in the Indian Ocean region. The tsunami started near the Sumatran Island of Indonesia. The tsunami was triggered by an underwater earthquake. The tsunami is also called the 'Sumatra Andaman earthquake'.

5. The followers of which religion are called the "Hynniew Trep"?

A) Shinto B) Taoism

C) Seng Khasi ☑ D) Confucianism

✓ Seng Khasi was founded in Meghalaya on 23rd November 1899. The term "Seng" means beginning or foundation and "Khasis" are the indigenous people in the area.

✓ The followers of this religion are called "Hynniew Trep" (seven huts). Each year, the festival called Lympung is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the religion.

6. Which government is going to conduct 'Night Walk' to promote women empowerment?

A) Tamil Nadu B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Karnataka D) Kerala ☑

✓ The Kerala Women and Child Development Department is going to conduct Night Walk for women.

✓ This is a part of the government's effort to push towards women empowerment and spread awareness among the public about the increasing violence against women. This event will be conducted from 11 AM to 1 AM at 100 locations across the state.

7. In which state, India's first university for transgender community will be opened?

A) Uttar Pradesh ☑ B) Kerala

C) Gujarat D) Andhra Pradesh

✓ India's first university for transgender community will be established in Fazilnagar block of Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh. It is being constructed by the Akhil Bharatiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust.

✓ This university will provide education from Class 1 to Post Graduate and even PhD degree.

8. Pakistan, one among the three countries in the world with Polio endemic, is planning to import Polio markers from India. Which are the other two countries?

A) Afghanistan and Mongolia

B) Nigeria and South Africa

C) Afghanistan and Nigeria ☑

D) Nigeria and Kenya

✓ Pakistan, in response to the abrogation of Article 370, had suspended the import of polio markers from India. Currently, there are only three countries in the world where Polio is still an endemic – Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

✓ Recently, Pakistan's cabinet had decided to import polio markers, which is used to mark the fingers of the children after they were given polio vaccination.

9. Which organisation gives forecast on general locust situation to the global community?

A) FAO ☑ B) WWF

C) IFAD D) WFP

✓ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) gives timely information on the general locust condition to the global community and provide warning and forecasts to those countries that are likely to be in danger of locust invasion.

✓ Northern parts of Gujarat is currently being invaded by swarms of locust leading to a significant damage to the crops.

10. Which of the following is called the Falcon Capital of the World?

A) Siberia B) Nagaland ☑

C) Meghalaya D) China

✓ Amur Falcons is a small migratory raptor that breeds in Southeastern Siberia and Northern China and migrates to Southern Africa through India during the winter months.

✓ The Doyang Lake in Nagaland is where these birds stop during their migration each year. Therefore, Nagaland is called the "Falcon Capital of the World".

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1. Which fighter aircraft, that was recently retired, is also known as Bahadur?

A) MiG 27 ☑ B) Tejas

C) Mirage 2000 D) Gulfstream

✓ The Indian Air Force recently retired the MiG 27 fleet. The fighter aircraft, developed by Soviet Union and manufactured in India by HAL, is also known as Bahadur. It is noted for its role in the 1999 Kargil War.

2. Which tropical storm is also known by the name of Typhoon Ursula?

A) Typhoon Kammuri B) Typhoon Phanfone ☑

C) Typhoon Nakri D) Typhoon Bualoi

✓ The Typhoon Phanfone raging in the Philippines region is locally known as Typhoon Ursula. It is a part of the Pacific Typhoon Season. Several people were killed and thousands were evacuated in Philippines in response to the tropical storm.

3. The centre is consulting with the states and UTs for the 2020 Shehri Samriridhi Ursav – which is used to create awareness about which government initiative?

A) DAY–NULM ☑ B) PMKVY

C) PM KISAN D) NRLM

✓ The Shehri Samridhi Utsav is organised by the government to create awareness about the DAY–NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihood Mission).

✓ The event helps in linking target groups like Self–Help Groups with various government schemes for their development.

4. The government recently made Aadhaar linking for Vaya Vandana Yojana mandatory. Who are the beneficiaries under this Vaya Vandana Yojana?

A) Widows of the armed personnel

B) Senior citizens ☑

C) Physically challenged persons

D) Destitute women

✓ The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vanjana Yojana is a pension scheme for senior citizens. It covers citizens of age 60 years and above. The government recently made it mandatory for beneficiaries to provide Aadhaar as identity proof under this scheme.

5. Who is the world's longest serving president, recently in news when IMF asked him to declare his assets before availing financial assistance?

A) Teodoro Mbasogo ☑ B) Robert Mugabe

C) Hun Sen D) Hassanal Bolkiah

✓ Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo is the longest serving president in the world. He is the president of Equatorial Guinea. He came to power in 1979.

✓ The IMF had recently asked Mbasogo to provide information about his assets to avail financial aid as the country's economy has shrunk by almost a third.

6. Mauritius accused UK of committing 'Crimes against Humanity' for refusing to allow people to return to their homes. This accusation is in reference to which island?

A) Bougainville B) Sri Lanka

C) Chagos ☑ D) Kiribati

✓ The Chagos Islands are disputed between the United Kingdom and Mauritius. Despite the United Nations calling for the handing over of the islands to the natives, UK has refused to do so.

✓ In response, the Mauritian government has accused UK of committing crimes against humanity.

7. Japan recently announced a rare overseas mission to protect their merchant ships in which region?

A) Strait of Hormuz B) Gulf of Oman ☑

C) Pacific Ocean D) South China Sea

- ✓ The Japanese government announced a rare overseas mission in the Gulf of Oman, Northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
- ✓ This 'investigation and research' mission is to collect information about piracy in the region. The mission is to involve the Japanese Maritime Self–Defence Force.

8. Which state / UT celebrated the Losar Festival recently?

A) Telangana B) Meghalaya

C) Puducherry D) Ladakh ☑

- ✓ Losar is the New Year's Day celebration observed in the Himalayan states. Ladakh celebrated the Losar for the first time as a union territory. It is a 15 days long celebration based on Tibetan Buddhist traditions. It is also celebrated in Bhutan, Nepal, etc.

9. Shirodhara, which was recently highlighted by the health ministry, is most associated with which therapy?

A) Ayurveda ☑ B) Rigpa

C) Unani D) Traditional Chinese Medicine

- ✓ Shirodhara is a therapy in the Ayurvedic system of medicine. The term Shirodhara is derived from Sanskrit terms for head (shiro) and flow (dhara).
- ✓ The therapy involves pouring liquids like oil, coconut water, milk, water, buttermilk, etc. over the forehead.

10. The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, near which an earthquake struck recently, is in which country?

A) Iran ☑ B) Iraq

C) Saudi Arabia D) Kuwait

- ✓ The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is in Iran near its coastline. An earthquake of magnitude 5 recently struck close to it. The plant was inaugurated in August of 2010 and is the first civilian reactor in the Middle East region.

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1. China had recently launched its heaviest satellite, Shijian–20, on which rocket?

A) Long March 2E B) Long March 4C

C) Long March 3B D) Long March 5 ☑

✓ China had recently launched the heaviest and the most advanced communication satellite, Shijian–20, on the country's largest carrier rocket Long March 5.

✓ This powerful rocket can carry a maximum payload of 25 tonnes into the low Earth Orbit and 14 tonnes into the geo–synchronous orbit.

2. Which archipelago did Tropical Cyclone Sarai recently hit?

A) Indonesia B) Solomon Islands

C) Fiji ☑ D) New Guinea

✓ The tropical cyclone Sarai had recently hit Fiji, a country in the South Pacific. It is an archipelago consisting of more than 300 islands.

✓ On its present track, the cyclone is forecasted to pass adjacent to Fiji's main island Viti Levu and then may head towards Tonga, where the tropical cyclone warning centre has been alerted.

3. Who had drafted the recent UNGA approved draft for international treaty to combat cyber–crime?

A) USA B) Russia ☑

C) France D) China

✓ The United Nations General Assembly had recently approved a resolution that allows the initiation of the process of drafting a new treaty to combat cyber–crime.

✓ This resolution was drafted by Russia and it allows the establishment of expert committee representing all the regions in the world.

✓ It will provide for a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for the criminal purposes.

4. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank had recently announced a loan for irrigation and solar energy projects in India. It is headquartered in which of the following countries?

A) South Korea B) Singapore

C) Japan D) China ☑

✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a multilateral developmental bank, whose headquarters is located in Beijing, China.

✓ It had recently approved a total loan of 210 million USD for solar energy and irrigation projects in India. Of the 100 members, India is its second largest shareholder & the largest recipient of loan and equity commitments.

5. Which state / UT had recently approved the Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019?

A) Delhi ☑ B) Punjab

C) Puducherry D) Sikkim

✓ The Delhi Cabinet had recently approved Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019 to counter the air pollution in the national capital.

✓ As per the policy, the government seeks to make 25% of all new vehicles into electric vehicles by 2024. Through this policy, the government will provide for public charging infrastructure and subsidies for those who are buy electric vehicles.

6. Da Chen, who had recently died, is well known for which of the following works?

A) Colours of the Mountain ☑

B) Dream of the Red Chamber

C) To Live

D) Art of War

✓ Da Chen, who had recently passed away, was famous for his work "Colours of the Mountain". In this book, he narrates the abuses he and his family suffered during

China's Cultural Revolution, launched by Mao Zedong. This book was published in seven languages.

7. Him Darshan Express that was recently launched connects which of the following sites?

A) Sikkim – Gangtok B) Kalka – Shimla ☑

C) Chandigarh – Shimla D) Srinagar – Shimla

✓ On December 2019, for the first time, the Indian Railways had launched the "Him Darshan Express" that consists of vistadome coaches. It travels between Kalka and Shimla. It consists of 6 AC vistadom coaches and one AC coach with transparent ceiling and walls.

8. Which state's urban bodies have not yet declared themselves Open Defecation Free?

A) Bihar B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Jharkhand D) West Bengal ☑

✓ On December 2019, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had announced that the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban has achieved the national target of becoming ODF.

✓ The urban areas of 35 states / UTs have become ODF. However, the urban local bodies in West Bengal have not yet declared themselves as ODF.

9. The Mandu Festival is held in Madhya Pradesh. Who is organising this event?

A) Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board ☑

B) Madhya Pradesh Tribal Affairs Department

C) UNESCO

D) Madhya Pradesh Department of Culture

✓ The first edition of Mandu Festival haS begun in Mandu, Madhya Pradesh. It is organised by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board. This festival is based on the idea of "Khojne Me Kho Jao".

✓ It would involve the celebration of historic heritage blended with the modern liveliness of the city culture.

10. Which bank had recently received the "Best Performing Bank Award"?

A) SBI Bank B) ICICI Bank

C) Jammu and Kashmir Bank D) Andhra Bank ☑

✓ The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj had recently awarded the "Best Performing Bank Award" to the Andhra Bank for the financial year 2018–19.

✓ It was awarded for setting up 14 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Kerala. The RSETIs function under the Andhra Bank Rural Development Trust.

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1. Koneru Humpy won the World Women's Rapid Chess Championship by playing which of the following versions of fast chess?

A) Blitz chess B) Armageddon chess ☑

C) Bullet chess D) Ultrabullet chess

✓ In Armageddon chess, the White is given more time on the clock than the Black. This is a way to produce decisive results – acting as a tie–breaker.

✓ Koneru Humpy became the 2nd Indian chess player after Vishwanathan Anand to win the Rapid Gold.

2. The Stolen Works of Art Database, which was in news recently, is maintained by which organisation?

A) UNESCO B) WTO

C) ASI D) INTERPOL ☑

✓ The Stolen Works of Art (WoA) database is maintained by the Interpol. The Central Bureau of Intelligence (CBI), which is the nodal agency for Interpol in India, recently alerted agencies like the ASI about India turning into a prime target for art thefts.

3. Which state recorded the highest forest cover in the recently released India State of Forest Report 2019?

A) Andhra Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh ☑

C) Nagaland D) Meghalaya

✓ Madhya Pradesh recently recorded the highest forest cover in terms of area. Other high forest covers were recorded in Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

✓ The State of Forest report is released biennially by the Forest Survey of India which is under the ministry of environment, forest and climate change.

4. What is CAT IIIB system which has been in news recently with respect to the fog conditions in the north?

A) Instrument landing system ☑

B) Weather monitoring system

C) System for classifying fog intensity

D) Road safety system

✓ The CAT III B system is an instrument landing system. It is used for safe landing of airplanes in times of poor visibility.

✓ It enables precision landing when the visibility is at least 50 feet. Only CAT III B compliant pilots were allowed to land at the Delhi airport sue to the fog.

5. Operation Inherent Resolve, which was in news recently, is being conducted by which country's military forces?

A) France B) USA ☑

C) Canada D) Russia

✓ Operation Inherent Resolve is a military operation of the USA. It is a military intervention against the activities of ISIL in Iraq, Syria and previously Libya. Recently, the USA undertook airstrikes against Iran-backed militia, Kataib Hezbollah, in Syria and Iraq.

6. The atrial fibrillation technology, over which tech giant Apple was recently sued, is used to detect what condition?

A) Overheating of system B) Foreign body attack

C) Irregular heartbeat ☑ D) Electrolyte imbalance

✓ The atrial fibrillation technology is used to detect irregularities in the heartbeat. The Apple Watch product makes use of this technology to monitor the functioning of the heart of the wearer.

✓ A New York University doctor recently sued Apple for stealing the technology which was patented by him.

7. The protein Importin-11, that was recently identified by scientists, is linked with causing which type of cancer?

A) Blood Cancer B) Lung Cancer

C) Prostate cancer D) Colorectal cancer ☑

- ✓ Scientists recently identified the protein, Importin–11, to be responsible for transferring beta–catenin protein into nucleus of cells.
- ✓ This beta–catenin drives the proliferation of the bowel cancer cells. They identified that the gene IPO11 to be responsible for coding for the Importin–11 protein.

8. Who recently set the record for the longest spaceflight by a woman?

A) Peggy Whitson B) Christina Koch ☑

C) Jessica Meir D) Sally Ride

- ✓ Christina Koch, a NASA astronaut has set the record for the longest spaceflight by a woman. She broke the previous record set by astronaut Peggy Whitson who was in space for 288 days.
- ✓ Koch is expected to be in space for a total of 328 days, especially to study the effects of long spaceflights.

9. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, which was conferred recently, is the highest award in the country for which field?

A) Theatre B) Classical dances

C) Cinema ☑ D) Classical music

- ✓ Dadasaheb Phalke award is the highest award conferred in the field of cinema in India. Recently, it was awarded to Amitabh Bachchan. The award was instituted in honour of Dhundiraj Govind Phalke (also known as the Father of Indian Cinema) in 1969.

10. All cases registered during the Pathalgadi Movement were withdrawn recently. Which state is the movement associated with?

A) Chhattisgarh B) Jharkhand ☑

C) Odisha D) West Bengal

- ✓ The state government of Jharkhand recently decided to withdraw all cases registered during the Pathalgadi Movement. The term pathalgadi means 'planting a stone order'.
- ✓ The members of the movement refused to recognize the authority of the state and central governments. Instead, they recognized only the gram panchayat.

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