

**DECEMBER**  
**2019**

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# THIRD WEEK

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**16 DECEMBER - 21 DECEMBER**



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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 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- ✓ The government has prepared a list of best performing police stations in the country. These rankings were based on a range 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.
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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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.

1. Which country is to host the 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress?

- A) Russia                                      B) USA  
C) India ☒                                      D) Japan

✓ India is to host the 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC) in New Delhi during the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 become the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 69<sup>th</sup> annual beauty pageant held in Excel London, UK. She was crowned by the 2018 winner Vanessa Ponce de Leon of Mexico.

✓ She became the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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) Pragyaa 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.