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FOURTH WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS

22 DECEMBER - 31 DECEMBER



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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 XVI
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.

Telangana Express.

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 Hyderabad – New Delhi

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 Ursids 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 Ervebo. 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.

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.

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 Vajpayee ☒

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.

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 tailless 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 low 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".

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 Samridhi 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.

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.

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 due 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.
 - ✓ 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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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'.