

**JANUARY**  
**2020**

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# SECOND WEEK

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**08 JANUARY - 14 JANUARY**



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1. Which Middle East country recently announced multiple-entry tourist visas to people of all countries?

- [A] Singapore [B] France  
[C] United Arab Emirates ☒ [D] Spain

- ✓ With an objective to improve its tourism sector, the United Arab Emirates recently announced multiple – entry tourist visas to people of all countries.
- ✓ The UAE cabinet recently approved the amendment for tourist visas, which will be valid for five years from the date of issue and can be used for multiple entries into the country. Being the favourite tourist destination of many nationals, the country attracts more than 20 million tourists in a year.

2. The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) which recently discovered a new habitable exoplanet, belongs to which space agency?

- [A] ISRO [B] NASA ☒ [C] JAXA [D] CNSA

- ✓ The planet finder satellite of NASA, named the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) recently discovered a new exoplanet in the habitable region of its host star. The newly found exoplanet, known as 'TOI 700 d' has approximately the same size of the Earth.
- ✓ The Space Scientists of NASA also announced that the exoplanet is only 101.5 light years from the earth, making it easy for further observations and research.

3. A one-horned rhinoceros calf was recently born at the Manas National Park. The National park is situated in which state?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh [B] Assam ☒  
[C] Sikkim [D] Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ The Manas National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a biosphere reserve is situated in Assam. Recently a one-horned rhinoceros of the national park named R3A gave birth to its calf.
- ✓ The R3A was also born in the same park to the elder rhino 'Laisri' in 2013. The One-horned rhinoceros or the Indian rhinoceros is an endangered species and is listed

as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red list of threatened species. At present, the national park is home to 42 rhinos.

4. Daniele De Rossi, who announced his retirement recently, is a world-cup winning footballer of which country?

- [A] Brazil [B] Italy ☒  
[C] Germany [D] France

- ✓ The ace footballer of the Italy team, Daniele De Rossi recently announced his retirement from professional football. He was associated with the Roma football club and played Serie A league matches for nearly 18 years.
- ✓ Daniele represented Italy in the 2004 Olympics and he was also a part of the FIFA world cup winning Italy team in 2006.

5. Hyundai partnered with which ride-sharing company to develop electric air taxis?

- [A] Didi [B] Uber ☒  
[C] Lyft [D] Grab

- ✓ Automobile Major Hyundai recently unveiled an air electric taxi, developed in collaboration with Uber, in the Consumer Electronics Show 2020.
- ✓ According to their partnership, Hyundai will develop and deploy vehicles and Uber will provide support service, ground transport connection and customer Interface. Uber is to launch urban commercial flights by 2023.

6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 began recently. What is the scheme associated with?

- [A] Merger of Banks [B] Universal Vaccination ☒  
[C] Defence Procurement [D] Space Mission

- ✓ Mission Indradhanush is a Universal Vaccination Programme launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare in 2014.

- ✓ The Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 is carried out from December 2019 to March 2020. Under the Indradhanush scheme, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children and pregnant women are vaccinated. The target fixed for the scheme is 2020.

- ✓ Recently the Ministry launched IMI 2.0 portal to record the target and real time data of the campaign.

**7. Which Indian Grandmaster won the title in the Hastings International Chess Congress?**

- [A] Pendyala Harikrishna      [B] Sasikiran Krishnan  
[C] P Magesh Chandran ☒      [D] Abhijeet Gupta

- ✓ Indian Grandmaster, P Magesh Chandran who presently lives in the USA, won the prestigious title of the Hastings International Chess Congress. The tournament was held in Hastings, England.
- ✓ He completed the game with 7.5 points and remained unbeaten in all rounds. The 36 year old chess player became the Grand master in 2006.
- ✓ With 6 points each, other Indian players Deep Sengupta and Swayam Mishra were placed in the 13th and 14th ranks respectively.

**8. Which public sector bank has approved a financial assistance to the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu?**

- [A] State Bank of India      [B] Canara Bank  
[C] Indian Bank ☒      [D] Bank of India

- ✓ Tamil Nadu based leading Public sector bank, Indian Bank recently signed an MoU with the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu. By this partnership, Indian bank will provide financial assistance and training to the members of the association for starting their business.
- ✓ The entrepreneurs will also be provided credit facilities with discounted rates. The members of WEWA will be trained in INDSETIs (Indian Bank Self-Employment Training Institutes) of Indian Bank society.

**9. Which is the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) that is approved to convert into a Small Finance Bank?**

- [A] Bharat Cooperative Bank  
[B] Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank ☒  
[C] Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank  
[D] Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has recently granted 'in - principle' approval to Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank, to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB).
- ✓ It is the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) to be granted such permission after the announcement of RBI in September 2018, about voluntary conversion of UCBs into Small Finance Banks.
- ✓ The bank should comply with the requirements of an SFB such as minimum net worth and Capital to risk ratio, as stipulated by the RBI within 18 months of the in - principle approval.

**10. 'Jal-Jiwan-Hariyali mission' is a flagship climate change initiative of which state?**

- [A] Odisha      [B] Chhattisgarh  
[C] Bihar ☒      [D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Bihar launched the climate change initiative called 'Jal-Jiwan-Hariyali' scheme in the state recently. Under the scheme, various awareness programs about climate change and importance of water conservation are conducted across the state.
- ✓ The Chief Minister, Nithish Kumar recently launched schemes worth more than Rs.700 Crores in the 'Jagruta Sammelan', organised as a part of the 'Jal-Jiwan-Hariyali' mission.
- ✓ The state has also planned to organise a human chain movement across the state for spreading awareness on climate change.

1. Which Indian cricketer is selected for the 'C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award' of BCCI?
- [A] Kapil Dev [B] K Srikanth ☒
- [C] Sunil Gavaskar [D] Dilip Vengsarkar
- ✓ Former Indian Cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth is selected for the prestigious 'C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award', presented by the National Cricket Board of India, BCCI. The famous cricketer from Tamil Nadu represented India from 1981 to 1992.
- ✓ The other cricketer who is also to be presented with the award is Anjum Chopra, former Captain of Indian women's cricket team. The awards will be presented at the BCCI Annual awards function, to be held in Mumbai, on January 12, 2020.
2. What is the name of the mandatory standard individual health insurance policy launched by IRDAI?
- [A] Arogya Raksha [B] Arogya Suraksha
- [C] Arogya Sanjeevani ☒ [D] Arogya Samridhi
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recently directed the health and general insurance companies to offer a standard individual health insurance policy.
- ✓ The policy is named as 'Arogya Sanjeevani policy'. It will cover minimum health requirements of the insurers and would be offered from April 1, 2020. The minimum and maximum age limit to enroll are 18 years and 65 years respectively. The sum assured will be between Rs.1 Lakh and Rs. 5 Lakhs.
3. Which state government has started a project to save paper by using digital medium for administrative work?
- [A] Odisha [B] Kerala
- [C] West Bengal ☒ [D] Telengana
- ✓ The State Government of West Bengal has started an environmental friendly project to save paper. It has also decided to use digital medium for most administrative works.
- ✓ The State Secretariat, Nabanna already follows the method, which will be extended to other districts as well. The government also proposed to recycle the paper used for administrative purpose, by converting them into writing pads and reusing them. The process is to be continuously monitored by the state secretariat.
4. Which city will play host to the 2022 Common Wealth Games?
- [A] London [B] New Delhi
- [C] Birmingham ☒ [D] Gold Coast
- ✓ The international sports event for the members of the Common wealth, the Commonwealth Games of 2022 will be conducted in the city of Birmingham, England. England plays host to the event for the third time.
- ✓ The prestigious event is scheduled to take place between July 27 and August 7, 2020. Recently, Commonwealth Games India (CGI) submitted its proposal to host a Commonwealth shooting event and an archery event in India during 2022.
- ✓ But the federation is yet to announce that if the medals won in the proposed Shooting Championship will be added to the final CWG tally of the countries.
5. Scientists recently discovered dwarf galaxies with massive black holes using Very Large Array (VLA) observatory. Where is the observatory situated?
- [A] Japan [B] China
- [C] USA ☒ [D] Russia
- ✓ According to the recent study published in 'Astrophysical Journal', Scientists have discovered thirteen huge black holes in some dwarf galaxies.
- ✓ The galaxies are found to be located several light years from the earth and in half of the galaxies, the black holes are not in the centre of the galaxies.
- ✓ The high-resolution images of the galaxies with black holes were captured using the Very Large Array (VLA) observatory. It is a radio telescope observatory, which is situated in New Mexico, USA. VLA was set up by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

6. A devastating earthquake hit Puerto Rico recently. Which is the capital city of Puerto Rico?

- [A] Santo Domingo [B] San Juan ☒  
[C] Kingston [D] Havana

- ✓ The Government of Puerto Rico recently declared a state of emergency, after it was hit by a deadly earthquake.
- ✓ The 6.4 magnitude quake was the strongest and the most devastating earthquake, the country has ever had for hundred years.
- ✓ Puerto Rico is a group of islands located in the Caribbean Sea. It is one of the unincorporated territories of the United States. The capital city and the largest city of the country is San Juan.

7. The 'National Traders convention' was held in which Indian city recently?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Lucknow  
[C] New Delhi ☒ [D] Varanasi

- ✓ The National Traders Convention was recently inaugurated by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. The three day event is organised by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and it will highlight the issues faced by the traders.
- ✓ On the second day, The Union Finance Minister participated in the event and addressed the traders. She assured that the Goods and Service Tax (GST) would be further simplified. Recently Government constituted a committee under the Revenue Secretary for rationalising the GST tax structure.

8. The Reserve Bank of India has recently revised the 'Supervisory Action Framework' of which category of banks?

- [A] Public Sector Banks  
[B] Private Sector Banks  
[C] Foreign Banks  
[D] Urban Cooperative Banks ☒

- ✓ India's Central bank, the Reserve Bank of India recently released various stipulations for the Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB).

- ✓ A UCB shall be placed in the Supervisory Action Framework upon certain conditions announced by the RBI, which include Net NPA exceeding 6% and CRAR ratio falling below 9%.

- ✓ Depending on the financial stress, the lending powers of the UCBs may also be cut short. The Reserve Bank has made this announcement at the backdrop of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam. The new norms would provide faster resolution to the bad assets of UCBs.

9. What is the name of the new relay satellite series, to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

- [A] Indian Relay Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)  
[B] Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) ☒  
[C] Indian Relay Satellite System (IRSS)  
[D] Indian Relay Tracking System (IRTS)

- ✓ The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently announced that indigenous relay satellite series called the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) will be launched soon.

- ✓ The IDRSS is a set of relay satellites that will continuously track the Indian satellites and exchange information with them.

- ✓ The first of the two proposed satellites will be launched by the end of 2020, before the unmanned space flight to be conducted preceding the Gaganyaan Mission. Such crucial missions can be continuously monitored by the new relay satellite series.

10. The Farmers' Innovation Fund, which was seen in news, is proposed to be set up by which organisation?

- [A] World Food Programme  
[B] Food and Agricultural Organisation

[C] National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

[D] Indian Council of Agricultural Research ☒

- ✓ The Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently announced that the 'Farmers' Innovation Fund' would be set by next financial year.
  - ✓ The announcement was made during the Farmers' Science Congress, the first of its kind event, organised as a part of the National Science Congress. He announced that an innovation centre would be established in New Delhi, which would assist the farmers in their research and would authenticate the innovations of the farmers.
  - ✓ At present, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras record the innovations of farmers.
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1. Recently, Supreme Court of India has asked the centre to consider deployment of which force to guard various courts of India?
- [A] Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- [B] Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) ☒
- [C] National Security Guard (NSG)
- [D] Indian Army
- ✓ Supreme Court recently asked the Centre to consider the deployment of the **Central Industrial Security Force** to guard the various courts in India — taking over the job of securing the courts from the local police forces.
2. On 9th January 2020, birth anniversary of Har Gobind Khorana was observed. He won Nobel Prize in Physiology in which year?
- [A] 1965      [B] 1968 ☒      [C] 1972      [D] 1979
- ✓ Khurana shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley for research that showed the order of nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell and control the cell's synthesis of proteins. In 1972, he also created the first ever artificial gene.
3. What is India's projected growth rate as per first advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2019-20?
- [A] 5% ☒      [B] 5.5%      [C] 6%      [D] 6.5%
- ✓ In first week of January, 2020 the government has released the first advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2019–20. The economy will grow at 5% this year, a massive downgrade from the 7% projected by the Economic Survey last year and much lower than the 6.8% growth in the previous year.
4. According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) Statement on Climate of India During 2019 report, Arabian Sea on India's west coast saw a 400% rise in cyclones, a record that is repeated only after 1902. Which five cyclones hit Arabian Sea in 2019?
- [A] Vayu, Pabuk, Kyarr, Bulbul and Pavan
- [B] Vayu, Pabuk, Kyarr, Bulbul and Fani
- [C] Pabuk, Vayu, Kyarr, Bulbul and Fani
- [D] Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr, Maha and Pavan ☒
- ✓ According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) Statement on Climate of India During 2019 report, the number of cyclones in the Arabian Sea was 400% higher than normal frequency because five out of eight cyclones affected Arabian Sea. These five cyclones were Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr, Maha and Pavan.
- ✓ This after the sea on India's west coast normally undergoes only one cyclone annually — read a 400% rise. (India normally has five cyclones in total every year).
- ✓ However, the Bay of Bengal — usually the more cyclone – prone coast of India — was relatively subdued in 2019 with three (Pabuk, Fani, Bulbul) instead of four cyclones that occur there annually on an average.
5. Election Commission recently declared February 8, 2020 as date of assembly elections in Delhi. What is the total number of seats in Delhi Legislative Assembly?
- [A] 70 ☒      [B] 72      [C] 75      [D] 68
- ✓ About 1.46 crore voters (80.55 lakh males + 66.35 lakh females) will have a chance to vote in the Delhi assembly elections on February 8.
- ✓ The results will be declared on February 11. Delhi Legislative Assembly has 70 seats of which 67 seats were won by AAP in last elections.
6. The North East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid is being implemented by a joint venture of five Indian Central Public Sector Undertakings. What is the name of this joint venture firm?
- [A] North–East Gas Grid Corporation (NEGGC)
- [B] Indian Gas Grid Company (IGGC)
- [C] Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) ☒

[D] BharadGrid Limited (BL)

- ✓ North East Gas Grid project is being implemented by IGGL, a Joint Venture company of five CPSEs (GAIL, IOCL, ONGC, OIL and NRL).
- ✓ The total length of the pipeline is planned to be 1,656 km and will be built at estimated cost of Rs. 9,265 crore (Including interest during construction). It will cover eight states of the North-Eastern region i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, MeghMizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

**7.** The recently approved Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 has done away with so called captive end-use criteria of which mineral / natural resource?

- [A] Coal ☒ [B] Gas Hydrates  
[C] Natural Gas [D] Crude Oil

- ✓ On January 8, 2020, Union Cabinet has approved promulgation of Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. The Ordinance will amend Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act 2015.
- ✓ The Ordinance will ease rules for auctioning of coal mines and to open up to all sectors. Government has also done away with end-use restrictions of the coal mining blocks.

**8.** Which airline is currently headed by Ashwani Lohani?

- [A] Indigo [B] Spicejet  
[C] Air India ☒ [D] Vistara

- ✓ Current Ashwini Lohani heads Air India. It began operations in 1932 with a single-engine, de Havilland Puss Moth monoplane. Last October, it also became the world's first airline to use a Taxibot on an A320 aircraft with passengers onboard.
- ✓ Recently, Group of Ministers (GoM) of the central government have approved the proposal to divest stake in the national carrier. Led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the GoM met on Tuesday and approved all

proposals on debt transfer from Air India to a special purpose vehicle.

**9.** For how many times, India has emerged as winner in the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament since it began in 2009?

- [A] One [B] Two [C] Three ☒ [D] Four

- ✓ India has emerged winner in the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament for three times since it began in 2009. P.V. Sindhu won it in 2013 and 2016, and Saina Nehwal in 2017. This year, B. Sai Praneeth has been already knocked out.

**10.** Recently, the Government of India has issued revised guidelines for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with other nations. At present (January, 2020) India has Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with how many countries?

- [A] 40 [B] 45 [C] 42 ☒ [D] 48

- ✓ India has Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with 42 countries and is signatory to various International Conventions for cooperation in criminal matters.
- ✓ The Home Ministry is the designated central authority for this. The recently revised guidelines have incorporated various legal and technological developments in recent years and aim to make documentation more compliant with international requirements.
- ✓ These revised guidelines have provision for service of documents to authorities of foreign country preferably within ten days of receipt of request in respect of offences committed against women and children.



1. Which state is set to conduct a dedicated state-level Adalat for LGBT community?

[A] Telengana

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Kerala ☒

[D] Gujarat

- ✓ For the first time in the state, the Kerala State Youth Commission has announced that it would conduct a state-level Adalat for LGBT community.
- ✓ The programme would be held at the state capital, Thiruvananthapuram. The main objective of the Adalat is to encourage the transgender community to come out with their grievances and to make arrangements for redressal of the issues.
- ✓ The Govt of Kerala had introduced a Transgender policy in 2015 and it has a dedicated 'Transgender Cell' working under the state's Social Justice Department.

2. Which city is set to host the international naval event 'MILAN' in March 2020?

[A] Goa

[B] Vishakhapatnam ☒

[C] Cochin

[D] Mumbai

- ✓ MILAN is a multilateral naval exercise, which is scheduled to be held at Vishakhapatnam in March 2020. The event was previously planned at Andaman and Nicobar Islands and then has been changed to Vishakhapatnam as navies from many countries are participating in the event.
- ✓ Nearly 30 international navies have confirmed their participation in the event. The theme of the exercise is "Synergy across the Seas". This event would help the navies to have professional discussions and learn the best practices in the naval arena across the world.

3. Manmad and Bhusawal railway stations, where AI based Facial Recognition technology was recently installed, belong to which state?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Maharashtra ☒

[C] Karnataka

[D] Gujarat

- ✓ The Indian Railways has installed Artificial Intelligence based Facial Recognition Technology in Manmad and Bhusawal stations of Maharashtra and Bengaluru station of Karnataka.

- ✓ The PSU under the Railway Ministry, RailTel carries out the project to provide Video Surveillance System with facial recognition and video analytics.

- ✓ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) will subsequently link the output of this facial recognition system with their existing criminal database, so that identification of criminals at the Railway station would be made easier.

4. The highest railway bridge in the world is to be constructed in which state/ UT?

[A] Himachal Pradesh [B] Uttarakhand

[C] Sikkim

[D] Jammu and Kashmir ☒

- ✓ As a part of the major Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project, which would connect the Kashmir valley with the Indian Railway network, a new railway bridge is to be constructed connecting Bakkal and Kauri.
- ✓ This bridge in the newly formed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be the world's highest railway bridge. The project is expected to be completed by December 2021. The proposed bridge will be 1.315 km long and will be built 359 m above the river bed.
- ✓ Presently, the highest railway bridge in the world is the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge of China.

5. World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on which date?

[A] January 8

[B] January 9

[C] January 10 ☒

[D] January 11

- ✓ Vishva Hindi Divas or World Hindi day is celebrated every year on January 10. The day is celebrated to commemorate the First World Hindi Conference, which was held from Jan.10-12, 1975, at Nagpur.

- ✓ The first Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. The first World

Hindi day was observed on January 10, 2006. The Day aims to promote Hindi language around the world.

6. Who has been recently chosen for “Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence”?

- [A] K Sivan [B] MS Swaminathan ☒  
[C] Azim H Premji [D] Dutee Chand

- ✓ The Father of Green Revolution Dr M S Swaminathan is chosen as the recipient of ‘Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence’. This award is instituted by the Muppavarapu Foundation based at Hyderabad.
- ✓ Eminent Agricultural Scientist and plant geneticist, M.S. Swaminathan is awarded for his contributions towards the field of agriculture.
- ✓ This award was presented during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Muppavarapu Foundation in Hyderabad by the Vice President of India, Venkaiah.

7. Which State has recently adopted a new Logo for its Legislative Assembly, which consists of Foxtail Orchid?

- [A] Assam [B] Himachal Pradesh  
[C] Arunachal Pradesh ☒ [D] Mizoram

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh has adopted a new logo for its Legislative Assembly recently. The new logo reflects the distinct identity and culture of the state. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly PD Sona had circulated pictures of the new logo among the members of the house. The new logo consists of the national emblem and the state flower of Arunachal Pradesh, foxtail orchid.

8. A cluster of institutions in which state’s Ayurveda University is to get the status of “Institutes of National Importance”?

- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Kerala  
[C] Gujarat ☒ [D] Sikkim

- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved to confer the status of “Institution of National Importance” to a cluster of Ayurvedic institutions in Gujarat State’s Ayurved University campus in Jamnagar.

- ✓ A bill to give effect to this approval will be introduced in the forthcoming Session of Parliament. This decision is also expected to boost tertiary care in India and reduce government expenditure on health as Ayurveda is cost – effective.

9. What is India’s GDP growth rate for the FY20, as estimated by the World Bank?

- [A] 6 % [B] 5.8 % ☒ [C] 1.5 % [D] 1.2 %

- ✓ The World Bank has recently released its “January 2020 Global Economic Prospects report”. The GDP growth of India for FY20 is estimated to be 5%. The GDP growth for the year 2021–22 is also lowered to 5.8% in the report.
- ✓ The credit instability of the weak Non–Banking Finance Companies is cited to be the reason for the downgrade. Recently the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Statistical Office of the country also lowered the growth rate to 5% for this fiscal year.

10. Which state has launched the ‘Amma Vodi’ scheme for below poverty line mothers to educate their children?

- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Karnataka  
[C] Kerala [D] Andhra Pradesh ☒

- ✓ Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has launched Rs.6318 Crore, ‘Amma Vodi’ scheme for below poverty line mothers to educate their children.
- ✓ Rs.15000 direct financial assistance will be provided to poor and financially weak mothers or guardians, to support them in educating their children. The amount will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in January every year.

1. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently released a book titled 'Karmayoddha Granth' on the life of which Indian political leader?

[A] Atal Bihari Vajpayee

[B] Narendra Modi ☒

[C] L K Advani

[D] Arun Jaitley

✓ The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah recently released a book titled 'Karmayoddha Granth'. The book is based on the life of the present Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

✓ During the book releasing event, Amit Shah hailed Modi for successfully transforming the Gujarat BJP organisation and his leadership qualities as the Indian Prime Minister. Narendra Modi is the 14<sup>th</sup> and the incumbent Prime Minister of India since 2014. Prior to that he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat since 2001.

2. Which Union Ministry is set to launch a program for development of eastern states called 'Purvodaya'?

[A] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

[B] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

[C] Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

[D] Ministry of Steel ☒

✓ The Union Ministry of Steel is to launch a program called 'Purvodaya – Accelerated Development of Eastern Region through an Integrated Steel hub'. The Union Minister for Steel and Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan will launch the program.

✓ The Eastern states of India such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh possess a huge share of reserves but lag in development. This proposed Integrated Steel Hub in the Eastern region would lead to an inclusive socio-economic development in the region.

3. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is to organise the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Youth Festival in Lucknow. It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of which famous personality?

[A] A P J Abdul Kalam

[B] Swami Vivekananda ☒

[C] B R Ambedkar

[D] Bhagat Singh

✓ The 23<sup>rd</sup> National Youth Festival is to be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in Lucknow from January 12 to 16, 2020, in association with the Uttar Pradesh Government.

✓ The festival is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Every year, the birthday of the famous Indian monk from Kolkata, Swami Vivekananda is celebrated as the National Youth day on January 12 and the week commencing from the day as the National Youth week.

✓ During the youth festival, several competitions are held for the youth and National Youth awards are also presented.

4. The 1<sup>st</sup> in-depth review of India's energy policies was recently released by which international organisation?

[A] World Energy Council

[B] International Energy Agency ☒

[C] Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

[D] International Renewable Energy Agency

✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released the 1<sup>st</sup> in-depth review of India's energy policies in collaboration with the Indian think tank NITI Aayog. The report was launched at the Head Quarters of NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

✓ India was made as the association member of the Paris based global energy organisation, International Energy Agency (IEA) on March 2017 and this is the 1<sup>st</sup> review after that. The report highlighted the growth of renewable energy sector in India, which is nearly 23% of the country's total installed capacity now.

5. Which state government recently announced to prepare special text-books for children with learning disabilities?

[A] Andhra Pradesh

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[D] Odisha

- ✓ The State Government of Uttar Pradesh recently announced that special text-books would be prepared for the children of the state, who have learning disabilities.

- ✓ The children with intellectual disabilities due to disorders such as Down syndrome, Attention deficit disorder (ADD), Autism and Dyslexia will be enrolled in the primary and secondary schools run by the state. Textbooks for classes 1 to 5 on the subjects of English, Hindi and Mathematics are being designed.

6. The freedom of speech and freedom to carry on a business through internet is covered under which article of Indian constitution?

- [A] Article 17 [B] Article 18  
[C] Article 19 ☒ [D] Article 20

- ✓ The article 19 (1) (a) confers the right to freedom of speech and expression while the sub clause (g) of the article provides the right to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- ✓ Recently the Supreme Court of India declared that freedom of speech and expression and freedom to carry on a business through Internet also enjoys constitution –al protection under the Article 19(1) (a) and 19(1) (g).
- ✓ This landmark judgement came at the backdrop of the 5 month restriction on Internet imposed in the Jammu and Kashmir UT.

7. The report titled 'National Strategy for Financial Inclusion' was recently released by which organisation?

- [A] RBI ☒ [B] IRDAI  
[C] NABARD [D] SEBI

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a report titled 'National Strategy for Financial Inclusion'. The report suggested that along with formal banking outlets, payment banks, small finance banks, cooperative banks and non-banking units like fair price shops should also practice digital banking.
- ✓ The Regulator directed the banks to increase the outlets in all villages and hilly areas by March 2020. The report

also suggested to make the Public Credit Registry (PCR) fully functional by 2022.

8. Which state is the worst place for women's security, according to the recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh ☒ [B] West Bengal  
[C] Bihar [D] Jharkhand

- ✓ The edition of 'Crime in India' statistics for the year 2018 was released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As per the report Uttar Pradesh is the worst place for women's security with the most crimes against women at 59445.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of rape cases in the year and West Bengal registered the highest number of acid attack cases. The report also said that Crime in India has increased by 1.3% in 2018 compared to that of 2017. The overall number of crime against women has also steadily increased in the last 3 years.

9. Who has been recently named as the new ruler / sultan of Oman?

- [A] Qasem Soleimani [B] Qaboos bin Said al Said  
[C] Haitham bin Tariq ☒ [D] Mahjoob Zweiri

- ✓ The ruler of Oman and one of the longest serving rulers in the Middle East countries, Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said recently passed away. He was not keeping well for a long time and was undergoing medical treatment in Belgium last month.
- ✓ After his demise, the former culture minister of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq was named as the successor of Sultan Qaboos. It is mandatory to name the successor of the vacant throne within three days, as per the constitution of Oman.

10. The Biennial Global Pulses Conference named 'The Pulses Conclave 2020' is to be held in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Kerala  
[C] Karnataka [D] Maharashtra ☒

- ✓ The apex body of India's pulses and grains industry and trade, India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) will organise the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the biennial global pulses conference, called 'The Pulses Conclave 2020' from Feb.12-14, 2020 at Lonavala, Pune in Maharashtra.
  - ✓ The Association is based at Mumbai. More than a thousand participants across the world are expected to attend the conference.
  - ✓ This would help the people from pulses producing nation to explore business opportunities in the field.
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1. Which city plays host to the annual 'World Future Energy Summit' of the year 2020?
- [A] Abu Dhabi ☒ [B] Riyadh
- [C] Dubai [D] Sharjah
- ✓ The World Future Energy Summit recently began in Abu Dhabi. The summit is the largest future energy and sustainability event of the Middle East Region, which is held annually at the National Exhibition Centre of Abu Dhabi. The theme for the 2020 edition of the summit is "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment".
- ✓ The event is to be held for four days and several thousand participants and exhibitors from across the world are expected to take part in it. The Climate Innovations Exchange and the Future Sustainability Summit are also organised along with this event.
2. Which state has recently started an awareness campaign for farmers to protect their sugarcane crop from locust?
- [A] Gujarat [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Uttar Pradesh ☒ [D] Bihar
- ✓ The Department of Cane Development of the state government of Uttar Pradesh has recently started an awareness campaign for the farmers to protect their sugarcane crop from locusts.
- ✓ During the month end of December 2019, a huge swarm of locusts destroyed more than 25000 hectares of crop lands in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Several thousand litres of pesticides were used by the state governments to kill the locusts. Gujarat recently announced Rs.18500 per hectare as relief assistance for the affected farmers.
3. What is a "Shopper", which was sometimes seen in news recently?
- [A] e-Commerce website [B] Malware ☒
- [C] Electric vehicle for shopping [D] Robot
- ✓ Kaspersky Labs, an international cyber-security and anti-virus provider recently made an announcement about a 'Trojan' application or a malware named 'Shopper'. It is said to randomly increase the ratings of some popular e-commerce applications through the social media counts of the victims.
- ✓ Nearly 14% of the users, who were affected by the malware were Indians while the highest number of people affected were from Russia.
4. Which of these festivals of other parts of India does not coincide with Makar Sankranti celebrated in North India in January?
- [A] Pedda Padanga [B] Magh Bihu
- [C] Thai Pongal [D] Vishu ☒
- ✓ Lohri is a festival celebrated in North India, especially in Punjab ahead of the Makar Sankranti Festival. The festival marks the completion of winter and the arrival of sunny weather in the region. It is also regarded that the festival commemorates the passing winter solstice.
- ✓ According to the traditional calendar, this year the festival Lohri falls on January 13. People of North India celebrate the festival by lighting bonfires, with their friends and relatives. It is mainly celebrated in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.
- ✓ This festival is celebrated as Makara Sankranti (Pedda Pandaga) in Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal (also called Poush sôṅkrānti), Karnataka and Telangana, Sukarat in Central India, Magh Bihu by Assamese, and 'Thai Pongal' by the world's most respected Tamils who lives all over the world. Vishu coincides with Vaishakhi.
5. What is the deadline to separate roles of chairman and MD in top 500 companies, as per the recent directions of SEBI?
- [A] April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 [B] April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
- [C] April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 ☒ [D] April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022
- ✓ As per the recent notification of the Securities Market Regulator SEBI, the deadline to separate roles of chairman and MD in top 500 listed companies by market capitalisation is deferred by two more years to April 2022.

- ✓ Earlier, the top 500 companies were mandated to perform the separation by April 2020. The proposal of splitting the roles of Chairman and MD was first made by the SEBI's Committee on Corporate Governance headed by Uday Kotak.

6. Union Minister Smriti Irani recently launched a welfare scheme named 'Yashaswini' from Goa. What does the scheme aim at?

[A] Vaccination to Children

[B] Assistance to women Self Help Groups ☒

[C] Cleaning of Beaches

[D] Assistance to schools

- ✓ Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Irani recently launched a scheme named 'Yashaswini' from Goa. It is a women empowerment scheme, which aims at supporting women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with interest free loans up to ₹5 lakh.

- ✓ The scheme will also help them to get guidance from experts. During the event, the Minister also launched Swasthya Sakhi Project and a mobile breast cancer screening initiative, which will be carried out by Anganwadi workers to screen all women of Goa for breast cancer.

7. An international Film Festival with the theme of 'Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society', was recently inaugurated in which city?

[A] Tokyo

[B] Dubai

[C] Dhaka ☒

[D] Colombo

- ✓ The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the famous Dhaka International Film Festival was recently inaugurated at Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The festival will be organised from January 11 to 19, 2020 with the theme of 'Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society'.

- ✓ During the 8 day long festival, which is to be held at various venues in Dhaka, more than 200 films from 74 countries are to be screened. A conference on the theme of 'Women in cinema' will also be conducted during the film festival.

8. Who will participate in the interaction program with students named 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' scheduled for the year 2020?

[A] Venkiah Naidu

[B] Narendra Modi ☒

[C] Ramesh Pokriyal Nishank

[D] K Sivan

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will participate in the interaction program with students named 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' scheduled for the year 2020. The event is to be organised at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on January 20.

- ✓ The Human Resources and Development Ministry recently asked for suggestions and questions from students, teachers and parents ahead of the grand event. This is the third edition of the event, where the Prime Minister will meet thousands of students and address them about overcoming examination fear.

9. The Workshop and exhibition on "Bamboo – A wonder grass" was recently held in which state / UT?

[A] Assam

[B] Meghalaya

[C] Jammu and Kashmir ☒

[D] Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ A 2 day workshop and exhibition was recently organised in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on "Bamboo – A wonder grass". The workshop focussed on the growth of Bamboo industry in Jammu & Kashmir along the lines of North Eastern Region.

- ✓ The event was organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

- ✓ During the workshop, Planning Advisor of the North Eastern Council shared various recommendations for the growth of bamboo industry. Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the workshop.

10. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) has started a program called 'TB – free air for every child' in which state?

[A] Bihar

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Karnataka

[D] Kerala ☒

- ✓ The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) has started the 'TB-free air for every child' in the state of Kerala. The IAP will train its 2500 paediatricians in the treatment protocol of Tuberculosis and they will maintain a uniform and standardised procedure for the treatment.
  - ✓ The drive will ensure to that all the children of the state will be free of TB, ahead of the target year of 2025. They will also conduct campaigns in schools and explain about malnutrition, ill effects of tobacco usage by adults and cough etiquette.
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