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1. Which Indian monument has found place in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's, '8 Wonders of SCO' list?

[A] Taj Mahal

[B] Statue of Unity ☒

[C] Brihadeeswarar Temple

[D] Ajanta Caves

- ✓ The recently built monument of Gujarat, 'Statue of Unity' was recently included in the '8 Wonders of SCO' list released by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It is the tallest statue of the world, which was built as a tribute to the Indian leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✓ The 182 metre statue was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India in October 2018 in Gujarat's Kevadiya colony. The statue was built on the river Narmada, facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- ✓ SCO comprises of eight member states, which are India, Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

2. Who has recently been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

[A] Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar

[B] AP Maheshwari ☒

[C] Vijay Kumar

[D] Arvind Kumar

- ✓ Senior IPS Officer AP Maheshwari has been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- ✓ The previous DG of CRPF, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar retired last month and ITBP Director General S.S. Deswal was given the additional charge in CRPF.
- ✓ Maheshwari is a 1984 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, who is the Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry at present, has been appointed as the new Director General up to 28 February, 2021.

3. Which famous international money transfer company recently partnered with Ebixcash to expand its presence in Indian market?

[A] PayPal

[B] MoneyGram ☒

[C] Western Union

[D] Transfer Wise

- ✓ International money transfer company, MoneyGram and the leading international supplier of software and e-commerce services, EbixCash signed an agreement recently, to expand their business in India.
- ✓ By this partnership, EbixCash will be the exclusive partner of MoneyGram in India. MoneyGram could reach additional consumers in the rural areas through several distribution outlets of Ebix group.
- ✓ The customers of Ebixcash could also use the MoneyGram platform for money transfer services across several countries.

4. Which is the first Indian airport to get Disabled Aircraft Recovery Equipment (DARE)?

[A] Chattrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai

[B] Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

[C] Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru ☒

[D] Cochin International Airport

- ✓ The Kempegowda International Airport of Bengaluru is the first Indian airport to be with the capability of recovering disabled aircraft.
- ✓ Recently the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has partnered with the leading aircraft equipment supplier KUNZ GmbH to manufacture and deploy Disabled Aircraft Recovery Equipment (DARE) for the Bengaluru Airport.
- ✓ By this partnership, KUNZ GmbH will establish a centre for disabled aircraft recovery training in association with BIAL.

5. Which company recently announced to offer guidance to 15 tech start-up companies from 5 Indian states?

[A] Google

[B] Microsoft ☒

[C] Amazon

[D] Flipkart

- ✓ Microsoft has recently announced that it has selected 54 tech startups from five states, namely Gujarat,

Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala and Telangana. These start-up companies were selected through 'Emerge-X' competition.

- ✓ Among the 54 companies selected, fifteen start-up companies in the order of three from each state will be offered guidance by Microsoft.
- ✓ The start-ups companies selected are also the part of the Tech Major's initiative to strengthen the start-up ecosystem in states called 'Highway to a Hundred Unicorns'.

6. On which date, 'Armed Forces Veterans Day' celebrated across India?

- [A] January 10 [B] January 12
[C] January 13 [D] January 14 ☒

- ✓ The Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated on January 14 every year and was instituted in the year 2017, to commemorate the retirement date of the first Indian Chief of Army Staff, K M Cariappa. He served as the Chief of Army Staff from 1949 to 1953.
- ✓ The present Indian Army Chief General M M Naravane attended the event organised to observe the Armed Forces Veterans Day and announced that special pensions would be provided to the emergency commissioned and short service commissioned officers who fought in the wars of 1965 and 1971 against Pakistan.

7. Which badminton player recently won the Malaysian Masters 2020 title?

- [A] Viktor Axelsen [B] Kento Momota ☒
[C] Sai Praneeth [D] Kidambi Srikanth

- ✓ World No 1 Badminton player of Japan, Kento Momota defeated former world champion Viktor Axelsen in the final match of Malaysia Masters 2020 tournament and clinched the title.
- ✓ Kento Momota had won 11 major titles in the year 2019 and that is the highest number of titles held in a year by any badminton player. He won the 2019 BWF World Tour finals and also was awarded the BWF Best Male Player

of the Year award. He is expected to represent Japan in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.

- ✓ Chinese badminton player Chen Yu Fei won the women's singles title of the tournament.

8. Who has recently been appointed as the fourth Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?

- [A] U K Sinha [B] Ajay Tyagi
[C] Michael Patra ☒ [D] Krishnamurthy

- ✓ The government appointed an executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Michael Debaprata Patra as its fourth deputy governor. The Reserve Bank has three deputy governors at present, namely N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain.
- ✓ Former Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigned from his post in July 2019 citing personal reasons. Michael Patra is appointed for the said post after six months of resignation of Acharya. Patra will serve as the deputy governor of RBI, for three years from the time of his appointment.

9. The Vice President of India is to inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for studies of which Indian language, in Nellore?

- [A] Tamil [B] Telugu ☒
[C] Kannada [D] Malayalam

- ✓ The Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu is to inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Telugu in Nellore.
- ✓ Venkaiah Naidu had earlier suggested the Union Government to shift the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Telugu, situated in the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, to one of the Telugu States.
- ✓ It has now been shifted to Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. The centre performs several activities research on the evolution of the Telugu script, digitisation, and publishing of classical Telugu literature.

10. The communication satellite of ISRO, GSAT-30 is scheduled to launch aboard which vehicle?

[A] PSLV C-44

[B] PSLV C-46

[C] PSLV C-47

[D] Ariane-5 ☒

- ✓ The first mission of the year of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the communication satellite GSAT-30. It is scheduled for launch on January 17, 2020 aboard the Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) from French Guiana.
 - ✓ The satellite will provide communication services from geostationary orbit and is expected to serve as the replacement satellite to INSAT-4 A with extended coverage. GSAT-30 would be beneficial in several ways including supporting VSAT networks, Cellular connectivity and DTH-Television services.
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1. When is the Army Day celebrated across India, every year?

- [A] January 13 [B] January 14
[C] January 15 ☒ [D] January 16

- ✓ Army Day is celebrated every year on January 15, across the country to honour the contributions made by the soldiers to the country. The 72nd Army day was recently observed on January 15, 2020.
- ✓ On January 15, 1949, General KM Cariappa became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army after Independence. This day is being commemorated every year as Army Day. The Indian Army holds Army Parade every year in the Parade ground, New Delhi. Captain Tania Shergill becomes the 1st female to lead an all-men contingent at the Army Day Parade.

2. Which bank has recently signed an MoU with South – Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways, for doorstep collection of earnings from the railway stations?

- [A] Punjab National Bank [B] Bank of Baroda
[C] State Bank of India ☒ [D] Bank of India

- ✓ The State Bank of India and the South–Central Railway recently signed an agreement for doorstep collection of earnings from all the 585 railway stations of the zone.
- ✓ At present, the earnings of the smaller stations are sent through cash chest available with the Train Guards, the process being very tedious. The agreement will ensure collection of traffic earnings by the bank and it will be remitted to the Government account without any delay.

3. India recently provided nearly 1 lakh academic text books to which country, to assist its development in higher education and research?

- [A] Madagascar ☒ [B] Malawi
[C] Mozambique [D] Zimbabwe

- ✓ The Indian ambassador for Madagascar, Abhay Kumar recently handed over nearly 1 lakh academic text books

to the East African country, Madagascar for assisting its development in higher education and research.

- ✓ The books were received by the Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Madagascar, in an event held in its capital city, Antananarivo. The books were published by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the total cost of the books is nearly 76 lakh rupees.

4. Which cricketer won the 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for 'Player of the Year', presented by the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

- [A] Virat Kohli [B] Ben Stokes ☒
[C] Kane Williamson [D] Rohit Sharma

- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently presented the ICC Annual awards. The biggest award named 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for Player of the Year was bagged by the England All-rounder Ben Stokes.
- ✓ Indian opener, Rohit Sharma was named the 'ODI Player of the year', while the Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins was presented the 'Test Player of the year award'. The 'Spirit of Cricket Award' was presented to Virat Kohli. Another Indian cricketer, Deepak Chahar was given the 'T20I Performance of the Year' award.

5. Which company has recently announced to invest \$1 billion to digitise Small and Medium Businesses in India?

- [A] Google [B] Amazon ☒
[C] Microsoft [D] IBM

- ✓ Recently, the head of Amazon, Jeff Bezos announced that the company will invest \$ 1 billion to digitise Small and Medium Businesses in India. Jeff also announced that Amazon India will export several 'Make in India' products, worth \$10 billion, by the year 2025.
- ✓ He made this announcement during his recent official visit to India, where he met many Small and Medium businessmen, top Indian business leaders and government officials. Recently, The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) alleged that the company follows unfair business practices.

6. Which organisation releases the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in India?

[A] Ministry of Human Resources and Development

[B] NITI Aayog

[C] NGO 'Pratham' ☒

[D] UNICEF

- ✓ The Non-Governmental organisation, called 'Pratham' releases the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in India. The ASER for the year 2019 was released recently.
- ✓ The report states that 5-year-old children in private institutions performed better in learning activities than the same-aged children in Government-run schools and anganwadis.
- ✓ The enrolment levels among girls in the age group of 4 to 8 years, were higher than those among boys. But more girls are being enrolled in state-run schools than boys, who are enrolled more in private schools, showing a clear gender gap.

7. Which global tele-communication company's arm has recently launched a new privacy-focused search engine called 'OneSearch'?

[A] AT&T

[B] Verizon ☒

[C] Vodafone

[D] China Mobile

- ✓ Verizon Media, an arm of the international tele-communication company, Verizon communications, has recently launched a new privacy-focused search engine called 'OneSearch'.
- ✓ The search engine claims that the search history of the users will not be stored and the self-destructible search data of the users will not be shared with advertisers. The new search engine is also expected to give unbiased and unfiltered results.

8. Eminent filmmaker and director Manmohan Mohapatra, who recently passed away, was from which state?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Odisha ☒

[C] Karnataka

[D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ Veteran filmmaker and director Manmohan Mohapatra from Odisha recently passed away. He had won National Film awards for best Odia feature film, for eight consecutive years.
- ✓ Seeta Raati was his first full-fledged Odia film, which he directed in 1976. It was the first Odia film to be screened at an international film festival, held abroad. He also directed several Hindi films.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has condoled the demise of the eminent director.

9. The District administration of which state has won the Swachhata Darpan Award for adopting innovative methods in plastic waste management?

[A] Telangana

[B] Kerala

[C] Odisha ☒

[D] Gujarat

- ✓ The district administration of Puri, Odisha has recently won the Swachhata Darpan Award for adopting innovative methods in plastic waste management.
- ✓ The award was presented by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under Ministry of Jal Shakti. The award was presented during the workshop organised by ODF Sustainability in New Delhi, by the Bollywood actor Aamir Khan.
- ✓ The Odisha Government has launched a scheme last year, to make Puri completely free from plastic.

10. The 'Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)' recently launched at the road safety stakeholders' meet, was developed by which institution?

[A] Indian Institute of Technology – Madras ☒

[B] Indian Institute of Science

[C] Indian Institute of Technology – Kanpur

[D] Indian Institute of Technology – Kharagpur

- ✓ Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari launched the 'Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)' during the road safety stakeholders' meet.
 - ✓ IRAD is a central accident database management system, to analyse the causes of road accidents and create solutions to reduce them. The database was developed by the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras (IIT – M) with the project cost of Rs. 258 Crores.
 - ✓ This initiative is supported by the World Bank and it is implemented through the National Informatics Centre.
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1. According to the recent study conducted by the Swiss bank Julius Baer, which is the most expensive city of the world for luxury goods?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Hong Kong ☒
[C] New York [D] Singapore

- ✓ The Swiss Bank Julius Baer has recently conducted a study on the 28 cities around the world to rank them as expensive in terms of luxury goods and services.
- ✓ According to the study, the bank tracked a basket of luxury goods and the most expensive city for the selected luxury goods is Hong Kong.
- ✓ Asia is considered to be the most expensive continent as the 2nd, 3rd and 5th ranks were bagged by Shanghai, Tokyo and Singapore respectively.

2. The 'National Highway Excellence Awards', which was recently presented by the Union Road, Transport and Highway Minister, was instituted in which year?

- [A] 2016 [B] 2017 [C] 2018 ☒ [D] 2019

- ✓ The 'National Highway Excellence Awards' was instituted by the Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highway, in the year 2018. It was then changed to an annual version and the second edition of the awards was presented by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi recently.
- ✓ The awards are presented to motivate the companies that perform well in the construction, operation, maintenance, tolling phase and road safety. There are 7 categories in the award and 12 winners were selected from several shortlisted applicants.

3. The country's first-of-its-kind exhibition on 'Indian Heritage in Digital Space' was inaugurated in which city?

- [A] Varanasi [B] Puri
[C] New Delhi ☒ [D] Jaipur

- ✓ Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the country's first-of-its-kind special exhibition on 'Indian Heritage in Digital Space' and a 2

day long first international heritage symposium in New Delhi.

- ✓ The exhibition was organised in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and it will be made open to the general public for one month.
- ✓ Digital installations of Indian monuments were showcased, which were created under the Indian Digital Heritage (IDH) initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

4. The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (India Region) was organised in which city?

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

- ✓ The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (India Region), was recently inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla inaugurated the conference at the legislative assembly building in Lucknow.
- ✓ Several parliamentarians and delegates from some foreign countries will participate in the conference, whose theme is 'Role of Legislators'.
- ✓ The CPA was formed to support the Parliamentarians and their staff to implement good governance measures and values of the Common wealth.

5. How many Indian astronauts have been selected for India's first human space mission?

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

- ✓ Four astronauts, who are from Indian Air Force were selected for the first human space mission of India. Recently it was announced that the four astronauts will undergo a training in Russia for 11 months, which is to be started this month.

- ✓ After the training phase in Russia, the astronauts will be trained in operation and simulation of the crew and service module in India which has been designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- ✓ Before the first manned mission, ISRO will send a humanoid to space by the end of 2020.

6. Which cricketer was named as the Captain of ICC's ODI and Test teams of the year?

- [A] Mahendra Singh Dhoni [B] Virat Kohli ☒
[C] Kane Williamson [D] Eoin Morgan

- ✓ The International Cricket Council recently announced its team of the year and also presented the annual awards. Indian Cricket team skipper Virat Kohli was named as the Captain of both ICC's ODI and Test Teams of the year.
- ✓ Apart from Virat, only Mayank Agarwal found place in the ICC team, while the other Indians in the ODI Team were Rohit Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav.
- ✓ Virat has also won the Spirit of Cricket award, presented by the ICC. Along with Virat, who captains both the teams, Ben Stokes of England and Mitchell Starc of Australia were placed in both the ODI and Test teams of ICC.

7. The United States recently signed the first phase of historic trade deal with which country?

- [A] India [B] China ☒
[C] Russia [D] Switzerland

- ✓ After a year of several negotiations, the US signed the first phase of the trade deal with China. The agreement, which was signed by the US President, Donald Trump and the Vice Premier of China, Liu He.
- ✓ The first phase of the deal, which Trump quoted as 'historic', includes Protection of Intellectual Property, Removal of American Financial Services and Ending Currency Manipulation. This deal is expected to re-balance the US-China bilateral relations and resolve the long-pending disputes between the countries.

8. Alok Kansal has been recently appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway. Where is the headquarters of Western Railways located?

- [A] Gandhi Nagar [B] Ahmedabad
[C] Mumbai ☒ [D] Surat

- ✓ Western Railway zone of the Indian Railways connects Mumbai, the financial capital of India with Gujarat and some parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, with its headquarters being the Churchgate station of Mumbai.
- ✓ Alok Kansal, a 1983-batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) has been recently appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway zone. The previous General Manager was Anil Kumar Gupta, who retired on November 2019.

9. Which technology company has recently launched the new version of its 'Edge Chromium' browser for both Mac and Windows platforms?

- [A] Google [B] Microsoft ☒
[C] Mozilla [D] Apple

- ✓ Tech Major Microsoft has recently announced the launch of its new Edge Chromium browser for both the Mac and Windows platforms.
- ✓ Though the enterprise users are initially targeted by Microsoft, other Windows and mac users could also download the browser manually from the official website of Microsoft and install it.
- ✓ It is expected that the Windows 10 users will be provided the browser through a windows update. The Edge has similar features like those in Chrome and also supports Chrome extensions.

10. The entire government of which country resigned recently after the constitutional amendments announced by its President?

- [A] China [B] France
[C] Russia ☒ [D] Germany

- ✓ After the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin announced certain constitutional amendments that would extend his powers beyond Presidency, the entire government of Russia resigned. This also includes the Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev.
 - ✓ Putin made this announcement during his annual state of the nation address. He also proposed Mikhail Mishustin, the head of Russia's tax service as the next Prime Minister.
 - ✓ The leaving Prime Minister Medvedev may take on the position of deputy head of Russia's Security Council.
-

1. Which major tech-company recently announced that it has planned to cut more than half of carbon emissions across its supply chain, by 2030?

[A] Google

[B] Microsoft ☒

[C] Infosys

[D] IBM

- ✓ The Chief Executive of Microsoft Corporation, Satya Nadella recently announced that the company has set a new ambition to address climate change and promised to remove the carbon emissions the company has made.
- ✓ Microsoft has planned to cut more than half of carbon emissions across its supply chain by 2030. The plan also includes the creation of a "Climate Innovation Fund," which will invest \$1 billion for developing technologies to remove carbon.
- ✓ The company aims to remove the entire direct and indirect carbon emissions it had made since 1975 (founding year of Microsoft), by 2050.

2. Recently, the toll-free number '8884333331' for Missed Call Alert facility of users, was launched for which application?

[A] FASTags ☒

[B] BHIM

[C] UMANG

[D] NPS

- ✓ Indian Highways Management Company, incorporated by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), has recently introduced the 'Missed Call Alert Facility' to check the FASTag balance of the users.
- ✓ The toll-free number '8884333331' will be available throughout the day. The users of FASTags, who have registered their mobile numbers with NHAI Prepaid wallet, can give a missed call to the number, to check their FASTag balance.
- ✓ The prepaid payment can be done through the My FASTag App, which can be linked to the NHAI wallet or to the Savings account of 13 banks.

3. The second Tejas Express, which was recently flagged off, connects Mumbai with which city?

[A] Pune

[B] Hyderabad

[C] Ahmedabad ☒

[D] Nagpur

- ✓ The second Tejas Express in the Mumbai – Ahmedabad route was recently flagged off from Ahmedabad by the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani. The commercial run is expected to start on January 18 and it will run in the route for all days of the week except Thursday.
- ✓ Tejas Express is a high-speed and fully air-conditioned train, which is run by the wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Railways, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- ✓ The first Tejas Express between New Delhi and Lucknow was inaugurated in October 2019. For Tejas Express, IRCTC follows a dynamic pricing scheme and it pays compensation to the customers on train delays.

4. The 'World Economic Situation and Prospects report' is released by which organisation?

[A] World Bank

[B] United Nations (UN) ☒

[C] International Monetary Fund (IMF)

[D] Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ✓ The United Nation's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report was recently released. As per the report, the UN projects the GDP growth of India in the current fiscal year to be 5.7 %.
- ✓ The UN also predicted that the GDP growth rate of the next fiscal year will rise to 6.6%. In the WESP report of 2019, the UN had predicted India's growth rate to be 7.6% for the current fiscal year, which has now been lowered to 5.7%.
- ✓ As per the recent report, East Asia continues to be the world's fastest growing region and the largest contributor to global growth. The report also predicted that the global growth would dip to 1.8% this year.

5. The first edition of "Krishi Manthan" summit is being held in which state?

[A] Assam

[B] Tamil Nadu

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Gujarat ☒

- ✓ The 1st edition of Krishi Manthan is being held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is the Asia's largest "Food-Agri-business-Rural Development" Summit. It is organized by the Food and Agri Business Committee of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad.
- ✓ It is a platform for Business, industry, academia, policy-makers and other stakeholders to share their knowledge and expertise. It is a 2-day event where more than 1,500 delegates including students, working professionals from Food, Agriculture and allied sectors would be participating.

6. Who has been recently conferred with the 29th Saraswati Samman Award?

[A] Vikram Seth

[B] Mahabaleshwar Sail

[C] Vasdev Mohi ☒

[D] Padma Sachdev

- ✓ The famous Sindhi Writer and poet Vasdev Mohi has been chosen for the prestigious 29th Saraswati Samman Award. The Saraswati Samman Award is a famous award in the field of Literature, presented by the KK Birla Foundation.
- ✓ Vasdev Mohi is being conferred with this award for his short story collection named 'CHEQUE BOOK'. The collection of short stories describes the sufferings and agonies of the marginalised section of the society. This was published in 2012 in Sindhi language.

7. The Government of India and the Government of Assam has signed a Loan Agreement with which International Financial Organisation, to modernise Assam's Passenger Ferry Sector?

[A] Asian Development Bank

[B] Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

[C] World Bank ☒

[D] New Development Bank

- ✓ To help modernise the passenger ferry sector of Assam, the Government of India, Government of Assam and the World Bank has signed a loan agreement at New Delhi

for \$88 million. The Assam's passenger ferry sector operates passenger freight service in major rivers including the Brahmaputra.

- ✓ There are more than 360 ferry routes in Assam, and most of them cut through the Brahmaputra or serve its islands. Hence, this is a very important means of transportation in the Brahmaputra Valley. The Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP) will help the state to improve the passenger ferry infrastructure.

8. Which Indian satellite has been recently launched from French Guiana?

[A] RISAT - 2B

[B] GSAT - 30 ☒

[C] GSAT - 7A

[D] IRNSS - 1H

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation's high-power communication satellite, GSAT 30 has been launched successfully from French Guiana on 17th January, 2020.
- ✓ The aim of this satellite is to provide high quality telecommunication, Cellular and Broadcasting service. The satellite was put in place in the Geo Synchronous Orbit by the 'Ariane-5' rocket.

9. Which country is to offer e-Visa facility to Indian Tourists?

[A] Canada

[B] South Africa ☒

[C] Kenya

[D] Ireland

- ✓ Indian Tourists will be offered with the facility of e-Visa by South Africa. This information has been furnished by the South African Tourism Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane. The online Visa Portal would be launched by next week on a pilot basis in India.
- ✓ As per the official data, over 81316 Indians have travelled to South Africa as of October 2019 registering a 30% increase on year-on-year basis and this is expected to grow up to 50% in near future.

10. What is the name of the Biggest Airborne Exercise recently conducted by the Indian Army?

[A] Him Vijay

[B] Dhruv Sakthi

[C] Winged Raider ☒

[D] Yudh Abhiyas

- ✓ The biggest airborne exercise called the “Winged Raider” was conducted by the Indian Army in North Eastern Theatre recently.
 - ✓ This exercise witnessed the participation of more than 500 special force troops, who parachuted from C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster transporter aircrafts of Indian Air Force.
 - ✓ During the exercise, the newly inducted aerial equipments were tested with acute precision and seamless integration between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force in some of the most difficult terrains.
-

1. Which Indian entrepreneur was recently honoured with the Australia's highest civilian honour, 'Order of Australia'?

- [A] Anand Mahindra [B] Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw ☒
[C] Azim Premji [D] Uday Kotak

- ✓ The Founder and Chairperson of the famous Bio-technology company Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was recently honoured with the Australia's highest civilian honour, 'Order of Australia'.
- ✓ The award was presented to her for significant service to promote bilateral relationship between Australia and India, especially in commercial and educational aspects. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the 4th Indian citizen to receive this honour after Mother Teresa, former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee and cricketer Tendulkar.

2. The 6.5 km long Z-Morh tunnel, which was seen in news recently, is to be constructed in which state / UT?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh [B] Sikkim
[C] Jammu and Kashmir ☒ [D] Assam

- ✓ The construction project of the Z-Morh Tunnel, to be built in in Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded to APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway.
- ✓ A MoU was recently inked between National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and the company in this regard, in the presence of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ✓ The project entails a cost of Rs. 2,379 crores and it would provide road connectivity to the tourist spot Sonamarg, in Jammu and Kashmir. The tourist destination mostly remains closed due to heavy snowfall.

3. The passengers returning from which country are to be screened for novel Corona virus (nCov), in selected Indian airports?

- [A] Indonesia [B] China ☒
[C] Thailand [D] Japan

- ✓ For nearly three weeks, China is hit by a new viral disease which was reported to spread by novel Corona virus (nCov). It killed one person and infected more than 40 in the country.

- ✓ Two other people in Japan and Thailand who had travelled to China were also infected by the virus. Recently, the Union Health Ministry instructed the airport authorities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata to screen passengers returning from China and to check through thermal scanners if they carry the virus.

- ✓ Corona Viruses are a large family of viruses that cause diseases such as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome CoronaVirus (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory syndrome (SARS).

4. The 'APNA UREA – Sona Ugle' brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) was recently launched by which Union Minister?

- [A] Ramvilas Paswan [B] D.V. Sadananda Gowda ☒
[C] Rajnath Singh [D] Harsh Vardhan

- ✓ The Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda recently launched the 'APNA UREA – Sona Ugle' brand and logo of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL).
- ✓ HURL is a Joint Venture Company, which is promoted by the three PSUs and Maha Ratna Companies – Coal India Limited, NTPC Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- ✓ HURL has undertaken the revival process of three sick Urea plants, situated at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Barauni (Bihar) and Sindri (Jharkhand). The plants are to be commissioned in February 2021.

5. China's Great Wall Motors (GWM) is set to acquire the manufacturing plant of which automobile company located in Maharashtra?

- [A] General Motors ☒ [B] Ford
[C] Volkswagen [D] Toyota

- ✓ China's leading automobile manufacturer, Great Wall Motors (GWM) has signed an agreement with the

American manufacturer General Motors (GM) to acquire GM's manufacturing plant located in Talegaon, near Pune in Maharashtra.

- ✓ General Motors announced that Chevrolet Sales India, which is the sales arm of GM in India will continue as an independent entity. It will continue to provide after – sales service and spare part support to existing Indian customers. GWM has planned to enter into the Indian market by 2021.

6. How is the 'Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)', the scheme of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, recently renamed?

[A] National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) ☒

[B] National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP)

[C] National Tuberculosis Removal Programme (NTRP)

[D] National Tuberculosis Abolition Programme (NTAP)

- ✓ The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), the scheme of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was recently renamed as the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare recently intimated the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories about the change of name.
- ✓ In 2018, the PM of India Narendra Modi announced 2025 as the target year for eliminating Tuberculosis from India, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal. On account of the target, the programme was renamed to NTEP.

7. Bapu Nadkarni, who recently passed away, belonged to which field?

[A] Politics [B] Literature

[C] Sports ☒ [D] Arts

- ✓ Former Indian cricketer Bapu Nadkarni passed away recently in Mumbai. He was a left-arm spinner and an all-rounder, who played for India in international cricket matches.

- ✓ He had created the record of bowling 21 successive maiden overs, when he achieved it in the test match against England.

- ✓ Nadkarni represented India in 41 Test matches and subsequently served as a member of the National Selection Committee and the joint secretary of Mumbai Cricket Association.

8. Which famous international company is to release its original film named 'The Banker'?

[A] Amazon

[B] Apple ☒

[C] Netflix

[D] HBO

- ✓ Apple is scheduled to release one of its first-ever original films 'The Banker', which is one of the earliest films for Apple TV plus.
- ✓ The movie, which was set to be released in December last year was postponed due to some allegations. So, it will be released in theatres and subsequently to its subscribers in the month of March, this year.
- ✓ The movie is based on the real-life story of two African – American businessmen of 1960s, Bernard Garrett Sr. and Joe Morris who helped people to overcome the racial barriers in the field of banking.

9. Which Indian wrestler won the Gold medal at the Rome Ranking Series 2020 event, held recently?

[A] Geeta Phogat

[B] Babita Phogat

[C] Vinesh Phogat ☒

[D] Sakshi Malik

- ✓ Top Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the Gold medal in the 53 kg category, at the Rome Ranking Series 2020 event, held recently.
- ✓ In the final bout for gold, she defeated the Ecuadorian wrestler Luisa Elizabeth Valverde 4–0. This is her 1st Gold medal in the year 2020. Earlier, in the tournament, another Indian wrestler Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the 57 kg category.

10. The birth rate of which country fell to the lowest, since the founding of the country seven decades ago?

[A] India

[B] China ☒

[C] United States of America

[D] Brazil

- ✓ An official data from China revealed that the country's birth rate fell to the lowest, since 1949, the year in which the People's Republic of China was founded seven decades ago.
 - ✓ According to the data, the birth rate was 10.94 per thousand, which was lesser than the previous birth rate of 12.43 per thousand, in 2017.
 - ✓ As China has a rapidly growing aging population, it allowed urban couples to give birth to two children. As per another recent study, India will overtake China in population in 2027.
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1. Which famous International Tennis tournament is held in the month of January, every year?

- [A] US Open [B] Australian Open ☒
[C] French Open [D] Wimbledon

- ✓ The Australian Open tournament is the first of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments held every year, before the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open events. It is organized by Tennis Australia and generally held during the last fortnight of every January.
- ✓ The event comprises of many categories including Singles and Doubles matches for Men and Women, Mixed Doubles, Junior Championship and wheel-chair matches. The 2020 Australian Open is the 108th edition, scheduled from January 20 to February 2 at Melbourne Park, Victoria, Australia.
- ✓ The defending Champions of the event in Men's singles and Women's singles are Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka respectively.

2. Which state recently organized the world's longest awareness human – chain for more than 18000 km?

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

- ✓ The state government of Bihar under its 'Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali' campaign, recently organized a record 18034 km long human chain, which witnessed the participation of more than 5 Crore people.
- ✓ The Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar participated in the event along with the Deputy Chief Minister and his Cabinet members. The human chain was organized to create awareness among the public on climate change and social ills such as dowry and child-marriage.
- ✓ The human-chain, which is claimed to be the longest in the world is the third of its kind event after the chains formed in Bihar in 2017 and 2018.

3. Which Indian city has been adjudged as the 'World's most dynamic city', as per the JLL City Momentum Index, 2020?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Bengaluru
[C] Kolkata [D] Hyderabad ☒

- ✓ The capital of Telangana and a major hub of technology industries, Hyderabad was recently adjudged as the 'World's Most Dynamic City', as per the JLL City Momentum Index, 2020.
- ✓ The US-based by global real estate services firm Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL), recently released the index by assessing 129 cities around the world. In this seventh edition of the ranking, Hyderabad was placed at the top spot followed by another Indian tech-hub Bengaluru.
- ✓ Southern city Chennai is placed at the fifth place while Delhi is at the sixth place. India leads the 2020 Index with its seven cities being placed in the top 20 ranks.

4. Which country recently test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile, named 'K-4', which can be launched from submarine?

- [A] China [B] Russia
[C] India ☒ [D] Israel

- ✓ Recently, India has successfully test-fired a 3,500 km range nuclear capable missile from the coast of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The ballistic missile named 'K-4' that can be launched from a submarine, is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ The missile, which is to be fitted into the Arihant-class submarines of the Indian Navy, has ideal configuration to strike its targets. Arihant is India's first nuclear – powered submarine of 6000 tonnes, which was successfully tested in November 2018.

5. Recently, 146 Irrawady dolphins were recently spotted in Chilika Lake. Where is the Chilika Lake situated?

- [A] Himachal Pradesh [B] Odisha ☒
[C] Jammu & Kashmir [D] Uttarakhand

- ✓ Chilika Lake is the largest brackish water lake of India, situated in the state of Odisha. It is also home to the highest single lagoon population of the endangered species called Irrawady dolphins.
- ✓ The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) recently undertook the Dolphin Census and 146 Irrawady dolphins were directly sighted. The population of the aquatic mammal species last year was 151.

- ✓ After removal of certain encroachments in the lake, the dolphins are found colonising in the central and southern regions of the lake for the first time.

6. Which state is to set up a committee to suggest measures to improve forest tourism?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Maharashtra ☒
- [C] Karnataka [D] Kerala

- ✓ The Maharashtra government is to set up a committee to suggest measures to increase the number of visitors to the state's forest areas.
- ✓ The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Aaditya Thackeray, the state's Tourism Minister. The proposed committee will comprise of members from the state tourism and forest development corporation.
- ✓ The main objective of the panel would be promoting forest conservation as well as boosting tourism in the state. The infrastructure of the existing tourism centres would also be improved

7. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah is to launch POL NET 2.0 platform. What is POLNET 2.0 associated with?

- [A] Political campaign
- [B] Political Network Service
- [C] Police Network Service ☒
- [D] Police complaint registration

- ✓ The Union Home Minister Amit Shah is to launch the new platform POL NET 2.0, during the national conference of 'Heads of public protection and Disaster relief organisations' on January 20 in New Delhi.

- ✓ The Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless manages and operates POLNET or the police network services in the country. The Directorate has created a new robust communication platform with improved multimedia facilities, for Police and Security forces called POLNET 2.0. It will be beneficial during disasters or law and order problems.

8. What is the name of the exhibition of the Indian electrical industry, recently inaugurated by the Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises?

- [A] ELECASE [B] ELECRAMA ☒
- [C] ELECTRON [D] ELECTRIC 2.0

- ✓ Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated ELECRAMA 2020 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy (IC) R K Singh was also present during the inaugural ceremony. ELECRAMA is organised by the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA), once in every two years.
- ✓ It is an exhibition cum conference in the field of Indian electrical industry. The event displays various products and technologies in the field and creates a trade platform between buyers and sellers. It also hosts various seminars for knowledge exchange.

9. Name the female actor who won the 'Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a motion picture' award in the Screen Actors Guild Awards?

- [A] Renée Zellweger ☒ [B] Jennifer Aniston
- [C] Olivia Colman [D] Elisabeth Moss

- ✓ The 26th edition of the annual Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards were presented recently. The 'Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a motion picture' was won by Renée Zellweger for featuring in the movie titled 'Judy'. Renée Zellweger recently received the Golden Globe award for her performance in the biopic of 'Judy'.

- ✓ The 'Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role' in a motion picture was presented to Joaquin Phoenix for the movie 'Joker'.
- ✓ The South Korean film 'Parasite' became the 1st foreign – language film to win the Award for 'Best Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture'.

10. Which state cabinet has recently approved the proposal for creating three capitals for the state?

- [A] Maharashtra [B] Andhra Pradesh ☒
- [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ The state cabinet of Andhra Pradesh has approved a proposal to create three state capitals namely Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool.
 - ✓ The ruling Jagan Mohan Reddy government introduced the bill in the state assembly. The 'AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020' was approved by the cabinet for a decentralised and balanced growth and development of the state.
 - ✓ It also provides for creating several zones within the state and establishing zonal planning and development boards. The government is to set up its legislative capital in Amaravati, secretariat and executive capital in Visakhapatnam and judicial capital in Kurnool.
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