Current Affairs

JANUARY 2020

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1. The government had recently launched central Equipment Identify Register portal. It operates under which of department?

[A] Department of Science and Technology

[B] Department of Telecom ☑

[C] Department of Biotechnology

[D] Department of Public Enterprise

✓ The Indian government had launched the Central Equipment Identify Register Portal to block and trace mobile phones. It has the database of the International Mobile Equipment Identity number of the blacklisted mobile phones.

2. Dhanu Jatra is currently celebrated in which state?

[A] Odisha ☑ [B] Telangana

[C] Jharkhand [D] Madhya Pradesh

✓ The famous 11–day Dhanu Jatra, the annual drama-based open–air theatrical performance is conducted in and around the city of Bargarh in Western Odisha.

✓ It is based on mythological story of Lord Krishna and his Uncle, King Kansa. In November 2014, it was conferred with the National Festival Status.

3. Fausta, a female black rhino, believed to be the world's oldest rhino, had recently died in Tanzanian conservation area. What is the IUCN status of the black rhinos?

[A] Least concern [B] Endangered

[C] Critically Endangered ☑ [D] Near threatened

✓ Also known as "hook–lipped rhinoceros", these species, though called "black" are in varying colours of brown and grey. They are found in South and East Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

✓ Its IUCN status is critically endangered, though the South–Western status of the black rhinoceros is classified under vulnerable.

4. Which state is going to observe "No Vehicle Day" on the first day of every month in 2020?

[A] Kerala [B] Gujarat

[C] Punjab [D] Rajasthan ☑

✓ In order to promote road safety and reduce vehicular pollution, Rajasthan Transport department is going to observe a "No Vehicle Day" once a month in 2020.

✓ The employees of the transport department are to come to their offices as pedestrians, via bicycles or a public transport.

5. Where was the event held to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the First Flag Hoisting by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

[A] Kashmir [B] Jammu

[C] Ladakh [D] Andaman and Nicobar Islands ☑

✓ A function was held to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the First Flag Hoisting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Port Blair. Subhash Mela Committee Swarajdweep has organised bike rally. The cultural programmes were also conducted.

6. Which state is going to conduct its maiden snow leopard survey?

[A] Uttrakhand ☑ [B] Himachal Pradesh

[C] Haryana [D] Punjab

✓ Uttarakhand is preparing for its maiden snow leopards survey after the winter is over. Experts estimate that there are over 80 snow leopards in Uttarakhand. However, a census of this cat has not yet been conducted.

7. Which ministry is set to launch "Santusht" portal for rapid grievance redressal for the employers and the employees?

[A] Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[B] Ministry of Finance

[C] Ministry of Labor and Employment ☑

[D] Ministry of Human Resource Development

✓ The Ministry of Labour and Employment is going to launch "Santusht" platform next month to ensure an efficient implementation of the labour laws at the grass root levels.

✓ It will also look into the services provided by the retirement fund body, EPFO and health insurance and service provider ESIC for those working in the formal sector.

8. Who is going to head the recently constituted task force for developing the National Infrastructure Pipeline?

[A] Cabinet Secretary

[B] Economic Affairs Secretary ☑

[C] Revenue Secretary

[D] Finance Secretary

✓ The Union Finance Minister had unveiled a Rs. 102 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline.

✓ To create a road map for the national infrastructure pipeline from 2019–2020 to 2024–25, finance ministry had set up a task force. It is to be headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary.

9. The Dornier aircraft, which was recently inducted into the Otters Squadron, belongs to which category?

[A] Reconnaissance aircraft

[B] Light Utility aircraft ☑

[C] Surveillance aircraft

[D] Strategic Airlifter

✓ The light utility aircraft Dornier was recently inducted into the No.41 "Otters" Squadron during a ceremony at the Palam Air Force Station.

✓ The Dornier–228 aircraft is a multi–purpose, fuel efficient, rugged, lightweight twin turboprop aircraft with retractable tricycle landing gear.

10. Captain Vikram Batra, after whom Delhi is to rename its Mukarba Chowk, was martyred in which war?

[A] Sino–Indian war of 1962

[B] Indo–Pakistan war of 1947

[C] Kargil War ☑

[D] Bangladesh Liberation War

✓ The Delhi government's naming committee had recommended the renaming of Pragati Maidan metro station as Supreme Court metro station. It had also decided to rename the Mukarba Chowk and its flyover after the Kargil War martyr Captain Vikram Batra.

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1. The agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities was signed in 1988 between which two countries?

[A] US and USSR [B] USSR and China

[C] India and Pakistan ☑ [D] India and USSR

- ✓ On 1st January each year, India and Pakistan exchange a list of their nuclear installations in accordance with the Agreement on the Prohibition of attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.
- ✓ This agreement prohibits both the countries from attacking each other's atomic facilities.

2. From which Indian organization, the four personnel have been selected for training in Russia for the Gaganyaan Mission, that is going to be launched in 2022?

[A] ISRO [B] IAF ☑

[C] MARCOS [D] Indian Navy

- ✓ Recently, four men from Indian Air Force have been identified for Gaganyaan, India's first manned mission to space. They will undertake astronauts' training in Russia.
- ✓ Gaganyaan is a crewed orbital spacecraft intended to send astronauts into space for a minimum of 7 days by 2022 as a part of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.

3. Who will launch the "Earthshot Prize" to motivate new solution to tackle climate crisis?

[A] Duke of Cambridge ☑ [B] Queen Elizabeth II

[C] Duke of Sussex [D] Prince of Wales

- ✓ Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge will launch the environmental prize called the Earthshot. The multi – million pound award will be given to five winners each year for the next 10 years, starting from 2021.
- ✓ Its aim is to provide at least 50 solutions to the world's greatest problems by 2030.

4. Who will be the head of the recently created Sainya Karta Vibhag?

[A] Prime Minister [B] Defence Minister

[C] Finance Minister [D] Chief of Defence Staff ☑

- ✓ A new Department of Military Affairs, also known as Sainya Karta Vibhag will be headed by the Chief of Defence Staff.
- ✓ This department is an addition to the four other departments of the Ministry of Defence – the Department of Defence, Defence Production, Defence and Development and Ex-service welfare.

5. Which nation has recently banned the 'reef–toxic' sunscreen?

[A] Australia [B] New Zealand

[C] Palau ☑ [D] Nauru

- ✓ Palau has banned "reef–toxic" sunscreens. The scientific evidence showed that chemicals found in most sunscreens were toxic to corals.
- ✓ Therefore, from New Year's Day, any reef–toxic sunscreens that are imported or sold in Palau will be confiscated and the owner will be fined.

6. The US was recently praised by the UAE for its role in the Global Coalition against Daesh. What is the other name for Daesh?

[A] Al Qaeda [B] Hezbollah

[C] ISIS ☑ [D] Houthis

- ✓ The UAE had expressed its support for all the measures taken by the US to defend and protect its interests and forces in the region and also praised the US' role in the Global Coalition against Daesh (ISIS).
- ✓ The term "Daesh" is an acronym for the Arabic phrase al – Dawla al – Islamiya al – Iraq al – Sham (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant).

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7. Which is the world's first major city to celebrate the start of the 2020 New Year and new decade?

[A] Sydney [B] Auckland ☑

[C] Christchurch [D] Welllington

✓ Auckland in New Zealand has become the world's first major city to celebrate the start of the 2020. Australia and New Zealand were followed by Europe, the Middle East and Asia to welcome the year 2020.

✓ The firework display in Sydney, Australia was put up despite the ongoing bushfire crisis.

8. What aspect of agriculture is focused upon by Krishi Karman Award?

[A] Supply [B] Sales

[C] Production ☑ [D] Water Management

✓ The Prime Minister is to visit Karnataka on January 2nd and 3rd. He will confer Krishi Karman Award to 21 states that have recorded good agriculture production in various categories during the previous crop seasons.

9. What is the aim of the recently formed Akhil Bharatiya Gujarati Samaj Sankalan Samiti?

[A] Include NRIs in the State's development process

[B] Include non–resident Gujaratis in the state's development process ☑

[C] Include persons of Indian origin in state's development process

[D] Include Indians outside Gujarat in the development process

✓ The Akhil Bharatiya Gujarati Samaj Sankalan Samiti, with the state's chief minister as chief patron and the Minister of Non–Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) as the president, aims to include Gujaratis living outside the state in the state's developmental process.

✓ The Samiti will meet twice a year – once in Gujarat and next in another state.

10. What is Landouria tonywhitteni that was named after Tony Whitten?

[A] Snail ☑ [B] Grasshopper

[C] Snake [D] Beetle

✓ Tony Whitten was a British conservationist who documented biodiversity in Asia before he died due to cycling crash. A prize fund was set up in his name after his death.

✓ One of the recent winners of this prize named a snail in Indonesia after him. These species live in a limestone habitat and are threatened due to quarrying for the cement industry.

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1. On January 2, 2020, Prakash Parv was celebrated as birth anniversary of which Sikh Guru?

[A] Guru Harkrishan Sahib [B] Guru Har Rai

[C] Guru Gobind Singh ☑ [D] Guru Teg Bahadur

✓ The birth anniversary of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated across the country and many parts of the world on January 2, 2020.

✓ The birth anniversary of a Sikh Guru is also called as "Prakash Parv". As per the traditional Sikh calendar (Nanakshahi), birthday of Guru Gobind Singh falls on January 2, this year (Though he was born on 5 January 1666 by Gregorian calendar).

✓ Guru Gobind Singh was named as the tenth Sikh guru, at the age of 9, after the ninth Guru and his father Guru Teg Bahadur was killed.

2. Which country was the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India during the first half of the financial year 2019-2020?

[A] UAE [B] Switzerland

[C] Singapore ☑ [D] USA

✓ According to the recently released Government data, Singapore remains the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India during the first half of the financial year with investments amounting to $8 billion.

✓ The second largest source was Mauritius with $6.36 billion worth investments followed by the United States, the Netherlands and Japan. India remains as one of the world's favourite FDI destinations during this year.

✓ FDI limits in coal mining and contract manufacturing were recently relaxed by the Government.

3. ISRO is to set up its second launch port in Tamilnadu for SSLV. What does SSLV stand for?

[A] Space Satellite Launch Vehicle

[B] Speed Satellite Launch Vehicle

[C] Small Satellite Launch Vehicle ☑

[D] Solar Satellite Launch Vehicle

✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation is to set up its second launch port in Thoothukodi district of southern Tamilnadu. The Government of Tamilnadu will arrange nearly 2300 acres of land for the construction of the launch centre.

✓ The proposed launch port will mainly handle the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, which is under development. SSLVs will be used to carry a payload of up to 500 kg and are expected to be deployed in the first half of 2020.

4. What is the estimated cost of the new Chandrayaan - 3 project, as per the announcement of ISRO?

[A] Rs. 600 Crore ☑ [B] Rs. 500 Crore

[C] Rs. 400 Crore [D] Rs. 300 Crore

✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation has recently confirmed the country's third mission to the moon, named Chandrayaan–3.

✓ The Govt has approved the project of Chandrayaan–3 and the estimated cost of the project would be more than Rs.600 Crores as announced by the Chairman of ISRO, K Sivan. As per his statement, the new soft–landing mission project is expected to be launched at the end of this year or during early 2021.

5. Which satellite would be launched on January 17, 2020 as the first satellite of the year 2020?

[A] GSAT–30 ☑ [B] GSAT–29

[C] GSAT–17 [D] GSAT–11

✓ As per the recent announcement of the Chairman of ISRO, India will launch GSAT–30, a heavy geo stationary communication satellite on January 17, 2020.

✓ This mission would be the first satellite of the year 2020 for India. The satellite will be launched using Ariane–5ECA launch vehicle from Kourou space centre in French Guiana.

- ✓ The satellite will be used to provide communication links to government and private service providers.

6. Who was recently reappointed as the Chairman of Railway Board?

[A] Vinod Kumar Yadav ☑ [B] Rajesh Agrawal

[C] Purnendu Sekhar Mishra [D] Vishwesh Chaube

- ✓ The incumbent Chairman of Railway Board, Vinod Kumar Yadav recently assumed office as the Chairman after his reappointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet.
- ✓ Recently the Cabinet approved the restructuring of the Railway board and the merger of several cadres in the administration. A new post of CEO was also created during the restructuring exercise.

7. What is the name of the award to be given to the states for good agricultural production, by the Prime Minister?

[A] Krishi Samman [B] Krishi Samridhi

[C] Krishi Karman ☑ [D] Krishi Keerthi

- ✓ The Prime Minister has presented the Krishi Karman awards during a function in Karnataka, to 21 states, for their excellent performance in agriculture production.
- ✓ The Krishi Karman award was instituted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare in the year 2010–2011 to recognise the efforts of states in food grain production.
- ✓ Awards are given on the basis of highest total food grain production and highest individual food grain crop production.

8. Which city is host to the 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC)?

[A] New Delhi [B] Lucknow

[C] Kolkatta [D] Bengaluru ☑

- ✓ The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru from January 3 to 7, 2020.
- ✓ The theme of the 5 day event will be "Science and technology: rural development". The congress would also host various programmes like Women Science Congress, Children Science Congress, Science Communicators Meet and Farmer's Science Congress.

9. Who received the famous 'Sangita Kalanithi' award of the Music Academy, recently?

[A] S. Sowmya ☑ [B] Sudha Ragunathan

[C] Bombay Jeyashree [D] Aruna Sairam

- ✓ The leading Carnatic vocalist S.Sowmya was selected for the 'Sangita Kalanithi' award instituted by the Music Academy and recently received the award.
- ✓ S. Sowmya, a recipient of various awards and titles in her music career, is a visiting faculty at the Madras Advanced School of Carnatic Music, run by the Music Academy. She also serves as the member of the Academic Council of the Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University.

10. After Indore at 1st rank, which cities ranked 2nd and 3rd (in 1st quarter) in Swachh Survekshan League, 2020, released recently?

[A] Ahmedabad & Jaipur [B] Gurugram & Bengaluru

[C] Pune & Bhubaneswar [D] Bhopal & Surat ☑

- ✓ The result of Swachh Survekshan League 2020 was recently released by the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri for the first and second Quarters of this year.
- ✓ Under the category of cities with 10 lakh+ population, Indore topped in both the 1st and 2nd quarters. The famous city of Madhya Pradesh, Indore was also the topper of the league in the previous year.
- ✓ Bhopal and Surat were ranked 2nd and 3rd in the 1st quarter respectively and Rajkot and Navi Mumbai in the 2nd quarter.

1. The Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated five Young Scientists Labs of which organisation?

[A] Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO

[B] Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO ☑

[C] Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, BARC

[D] Department of Atomic Energy, DAE

✓ The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi recently launched five new defence laboratories called DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories for the Defence Research and Development Organisation from Bengaluru, Karnataka.

✓ The labs will operate from five Indian cities, namely Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkatta. They will focus on developing new and innovative defence technologies for our country and thus enhance our self reliance in the field.

2. Which state has recently declared 2020 as the year of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and has signed MoUs with tech firms for AI research?

[A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Telengana ☑

[C] Odisha [D] Assam

✓ Recently, Telengana Government organised an event to declare the year 2020 as the year of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

✓ In the event, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with several technological firms and institutions for development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) research in the state.

✓ As per the partnerships, a Centre for Research in Applied Artificial Intelligence (CRiAA) and a Research & Development (R&D) park will be soon set up in Telengana.

3. According to the recent data from the Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC), what is the total number of tiger deaths occurred in India during 2019?

[A] 95 ☑ [B] 100

[C] 105 [D] 110

✓ According to the recent data from the Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the total number of tiger deaths was under 100 after three years.

✓ In the year 2019, 95 tigers were dead in total, among them 84 tigers were actually dead and 11 of them were presumed dead by identifying their body parts. In the previous year 2018, there were 100 deaths of tigers in total and in 2017, the count was 115.

4. David Stern who passed away recently was the Commissioner of which famous Sports league?

[A] Formula 1, F1

[B] National Basketball Association, NBA ☑

[C] Major League Baseball, MLB

[D] National Hockey League, NHL

✓ A famous figure among the basketball Community David Stern passed away recently. He served as the Commissioner of National Basketball Association, NBA from 1984 to 2014.

✓ He played a crucial role in broadening the scope of NBA in the international arena and making it popular and successful. The Women's National Basketball Association was founded under his leadership.

5. Sunita Lakra, who announced her retirement recently, is a famous Indian player of which Sports?

[A] Tennis [B] Badminton

[C] Hockey ☑ [D] Cricket

✓ Former Indian Hockey team captain and the team's defender Sunita Lakra recently announced her retirement from International Hockey citing her knee injuries. In the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy, India bagged the second place under her captaincy.

✓ She was also a part of the Indian team that participated in the Rio Olympics, 2016. Though she could not

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participate in Tokyo Olympics, Sunita will hopefully return to play domestic Hockey after her knee surgery.

6. Which state has recently announced a scheme to deliver sand to customer's doorstep from January 2, 2020?

[A] Odisha [B] Maharashtra

[C] Andhra Pradesh ☑ [D] Kerala

✓ The State Government of Andhra Pradesh recently announced that it would deliver sand to the customer's doorstep. The scheme was launched as a pilot project in the Krishna District and would be expanded to other districts as well.

✓ The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) would be the implementing agency of the delivery scheme. The state recently launched the new sand policy in September 2019 and has been taking various steps to curb illegal sand trade.

7. Umaro Cissoko Embalo was recently elected as the President of which country?

[A] Gambia [B] Senegal

[C] Guinea – Bissau ☑ [D] Guinea

✓ Former Prime Minister and Army General of Guinea – Bissau, Umaro Cissoko Embalo recently won in the second round of the presidential elections of the country.

✓ Jose Mario Vaz is the incumbent President of the country, who failed to win in the first round elections held earlier. Umaro Embalo, served as the Prime Minister under the presidency of Jose Mario Vaz from 2016 to 2018. Guinea – Bissau is a country in West Africa, which gained independence from Portugal in 1974.

8. Who was recently presented with the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award'?

[A] Ravish Kumar [B] Arnabh Goswami

[C] Shekar Gupta [D] Sanjay Gupta ☑

✓ Sanjay Gupta, the Chief Editor of the leading Hindi daily, 'Jagran' was recently honoured with the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award'.

✓ This award was instituted by the Pune based Kesari – Maratha Trust for recognising the contributions made by individuals in the field of journalism.

✓ The award will be presented at the event organised to commemorate the Foundation day of 'Kesari', the newspaper started by famous freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak.

9. What is the new integrated helpline number of the Indian Railways, launched recently?

[A] 138 [B] 139 ☑ [C] 1071 [D] 1072

✓ The Indian Railways has recently launched an integrated helpline number '139' for its passengers by merging several other existing helpline numbers.

✓ The only other number which can still be used is '182', which is the helpline number for assistance related to theft and criminal issues.

✓ This new helpline 139 is based on Interactive Voice Response system (IVRS) and is made available in 12 languages. The number can be even dialled from basic phones.

10. What is the annual financial assistance given to eligible farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme?

[A] Rs. 10000 [B] Rs. 8000

[C] Rs. 6000 ☑ [D] Rs. 5000

✓ The 3rd installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM–KISAN) scheme was released by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in Tumakuru, Karnataka. This latest installment is expected to benefit nearly six crore beneficiaries.

✓ The PM–KISAN scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on February 2019 to provide financial assistance of Rs.6000 per year to eligible farmers in three installments of Rs.2000 each. The payment of second installment began from April 2019.

1. Qassim Soleimani, who was killed in the US air strike was the Military Commander of which country?

[A] Iraq [B] Iran ☑

[C] Israel [D] Syria

- ✓ The powerful Military Commander of Iran, General Qassim Soleimani was killed in the air strike conducted by the United States.
- ✓ The President of the US is said to have ordered a drone attack on the vehicles, in which the Iran military personnel were travelling near the Bhagdad Airport.
- ✓ Another commander and adviser to Soleimani, Abu Mahdi al–Muhandis was also killed in the attack. Soleimani was the commander of the Quds Force of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

2. Manav Thakkar, who is in news recently, is a famous personality of which sports?

[A] Badminton [B] Tennis

[C] Table Tennis ☑ [D] Squash

- ✓ The 19 year old Table Tennis player of India, Manav Thakkar is in news as he reached the top position in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings in Under–21 men's single category.
- ✓ Manav is only the fourth Indian to become World No.1 in the ITTF rankings.

3. When is the World Braille day celebrated every year?

[A] January 2 [B] January 3

[C] January 4 ☑ [D] January 5

- ✓ The World Braille Day is observed every year on January 4 to remember the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille – for the people with visual disabilities. Louis Braille was born on 4th Jan 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France.
- ✓ At the age of 3, he lost his both eyes in an accident. This resulted into the invention of the 6 dots – which is popularly known as braille.
- ✓ According to the World Health Organization, there are 36 million blind people and 216 million people with moderate to severe visual impairment.

4. Raisina Dialogue is an annual multi–lateral conference organized by which Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

[B] Ministry of External Affairs ☑

[C] Ministry of Finance

[D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

- ✓ The Raisina Dialogue is an annual joint conference organized since 2016, by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the leading think–tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- ✓ The conference hosts various global leaders from all sectors to discuss the challenges faced by the global community. The title of this year's event is 'Navigating the Alpha Century' and will be held from January 14 to 16 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Australian Prime Minister who was expected to be the key speaker cancelled his participation recently after severe bush fires in his country.

5. The first silk processing plant of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is set up in which state, to boost production of Patola sarees?

[A] Maharashtra [B] Gujarat ☑

[C] Rajasthan [D] Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) inaugurated their first silk processing plant at Surendranagar district in Gujarat. The Patola is a trademark saree variety of Gujarat.
- ✓ It is regarded as a royal attire as it is priced very high. The reason for high price is the non-availability of processing plants in Gujarat. The silk yarn required to weave the saree is usually purchased from other states.
- ✓ This new plant set up by KVIC would cut down the price of silk yarn and boost production of Patola sarees.

6. The Transport Department of which state recently launched a helpline for women called 'Damini'?

[A] Uttar Pradesh ☑ [B] Uttarakhand

[C] Maharashtra [D] Rajasthan

✓ The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) launched a helpline for women called 'Damini', to improve the safety of women in public road transport.

✓ The helpline number subscribed for this scheme is '81142 – 77777', which will have both calling and Whatsapp service. The helpline will be handled by women officers at the headquarters and zonal offices of UPSRTC, which will be operational from 9 am to 6 pm daily.

✓ This scheme is launched as a part of the Central Government initiative of 'Nirbhaya Scheme'.

7. Which is the first country to ban sun screens that are toxic to coral reefs and sea life?

[A] Palau ☑ [B] Philippines

[C] Taiwan [D] Papua New Guinea

✓ Palau, a small island nation in the West Pacific Ocean imposed a ban on sun screens that contain chemicals affecting the coral reefs and other aquatic species. The step is also taken to conserve its Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

✓ The sun cream with the toxic chemicals including oxybenzone, will not be permitted to be used or sold in the country.

8. Which Indian city hosts the All India Police Judo Cluster Championship 2019?

[A] Guwahati [B] Cuttack

[C] New Delhi ☑ [D] Goa

✓ The Central Reserve Police Force organised the 4th edition of the All India Police Judo Cluster Championship in New Delhi. The event will be held from Jan.4–7, 2020. Morethan one thousand sports persons across the country are participating in the tournament.

✓ The event was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai. The previous edition of the championship was organized by the Odisha Police.

9. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy is to be established in which city?

[A] Mussoorie [B] Dehradun

[C] Nagpur ☑ [D] Hyderabad

✓ The foundation of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy was recently laid in Nagpur, Maharashtra by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He also inaugurated a campus of the Nagpur based National Fire Service College.

✓ The NDRF Academy, once completed will contain state – of–the–art infrastructure to simulate disasters and provide training to the personnel in various rescue operations. The National Disaster Response Force, a dedicated force for disaster response related operations was constituted in the year 2006.

10. Ratna Ojha, who recently passed away was a theatre artist and activist of which state?

[A] Odisha [B] Meghalaya

[C] Assam ☑ [D] West Bengal

✓ Veteran Theatre artist and Social Activist of Assam, Ratna Ojha passed away at Guwahati. He played an instrumental role in reviving the theatre play movement of the state.

✓ He had also actively participated and addressed demonstrations in several social issues of the country including those against Citizenship amendment act.

✓ For his great contribution towards the theatre art, he was honoured with the 'Natasurya Award' by the Assam Government.

1. Who is the Director General of Aeronautical Systems in DRDO and is also known as Missile Woman of India?

[A] Dr.Tessy Thomas ☑ [B] Ritu Karidhal

[C] Muthiah Vanitha [D] Anuradha T K

- ✓ The renowned Indian scientist and Director General of Aeronautical Systems, DRDO, Dr.Tessy Thomas was the Chief Guest of the Women Science Congress, held at Bengaluru. It was a part of the ongoing 107th Indian Science Congress.
- ✓ Tessy Thomas was the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India, when she was the Project Director of India's Agni–IV missile.

2. Nankana Sahib Gurdwara, recently seen in news is situated in which country?

[A] India [B] Pakistan ☑

[C] Nepal [D] Bhutan

- ✓ The Nankana Sahib Gurdwara is a highly revered gurdwara located in the city of Nankana Sahib near Lahore in Pakistan.
- ✓ The gurdwara is built at the place where the first Sikh Guru was believed to born and preached Sikhism. It is also called as the Janam Asthan Gurdwara. It is seen in news recently as there was a severe mob attack and vandalism in the Gurdwara.

3. Which famous Indian cricketer recently announced his retirement from all forms of cricket?

[A] Irfan Pathan ☑ [B] Yusuf Pathan

[C] Bhuvanesh Kumar [D] R Ashwin

- ✓ The ace Indian all–rounder and bowler famous for his swings, Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket recently. Irfan made his debut in 2003 when he was only 19 years old.
- ✓ In his professional cricket career spanning 16 years, he made several records including the hat–trick wicket in the first over of the test match. Irfan was also a part of the winning team of the 2007 T20 World cup.

4. Australia recently witnessed which disaster that killed many lives and caused huge destruction?

[A] Flood [B] Cyclone

[C] Wild fires ☑ [D] Tsunami

- ✓ Australia recently witnessed severe wild fires that killed nearly 25 people and destroyed several homes across the country.
- ✓ More than hundred bush fires were burning in New South Wales and they could not be controlled. Several million animals are also reported to be killed by the severity of bush fires. Scientists have cited Global warming to be the reason of this early and devastating wild fires.

5. Which state will have the country's first rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles?

[A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Bihar ☑

[C] Chhattisgarh [D] Odisha

- ✓ India's first rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles will be inaugurated in the Bhagalpur forest division of Bihar. The centre, which is to be open soon can accommodate 500 turtles at a time.
- ✓ The forest division is near to the river Ganga, which makes it a perfect breeding area for freshwater turtles. The turtles are abducted and hurt by smugglers will be rescued by the team of the rehabilitation centre and will be provided proper treatment.

6. Which country received a line of credit (LOC) of $75 million from India, for installation of solar parks?

[A] Argentina [B] Chile

[C] Cuba ☑ [D] Brazil

- ✓ India has extended a line of credit (LOC) of $75 million through its Exim Bank to Cuba for financing solar parks. An MoU was signed between the Export–Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and the nominated agency of Cuban Government, Banco Exterior De Cuba last year.

- ✓ Based on the agreement, the Exim bank extends the finance, which is nearly Rs.500 Crores. With this credit, 75 MW Solar Parks are to be installed in Cuba in the next five years.

7. Common Service Centre (CSC) recently partnered with which bank for sale of FASTags?

[A] Airtel Payment Bank [B] Paytm Payment Bank ☑

[C] State Bank of India [D] Equitas Bank

- ✓ The Common Service Centre (CSC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Paytm Payment Bank Ltd (PPBL) for selling digital toll payment tags called FASTags. CSC will integrate its platform with that of the bank to sell the PPBL FASTags.
- ✓ The digital tags are made mandatory to be fixed in all vehicles from December last year. The Common Service Centres sell the FASTags through its Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- ✓ Earlier CSCs had integrated with State Bank of India, Equitas Bank and HDFC Bank for sale of FASTags.

8. ArogyaSri Scheme, which is an initiative to provide free medical treatment to the poor, is the flagship scheme of which state?

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Andhra Pradesh ☑

[C] Kerala [D] Telengana

- ✓ ArogyaSri Scheme is the flagship scheme of Andhra Pradesh Government is an initiative to provide free medical treatment to the poor. Named as Dr. YSR ArogyaSri scheme, the scheme is available to people with annual income up to Rs. 5 Lakhs.
- ✓ The people will be given cards with QR codes and they can use it for availing treatment above Rs.1000. Under the scheme, several super–speciality hospitals are to be included in the network and various medicines are to be made available in the state government run hospitals.

9. Which film won the 'Best Motion picture–drama' award in the Golden Globe awards 2020?

[A] Once Upon A Time in Hollywood [B] 1917 ☑

[C] Missing Link [D] Parasite

- ✓ The movie titled '1917' bagged the 'Best Motion picture – drama' in the recently released Golden Globe awards 2020. The movie was released in December 2019 and was co–written and directed by Sam Mendes, who also won the 'Best Director' award in the ceremony.
- ✓ The film is based on the World War I in 1917 and two British soldiers in the war. George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman featured in the film in the lead roles.

10. Which famous actor won the 'Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama' award in the Golden Globe awards 2020?

[A] George MacKay [B] Dean – Charles Chapman

[C] Joaquin Phoenix ☑ [D] Brad Pitt

- ✓ For his commended performance in the movie 'Joker', American actor Joaquin Phoenix won the 'Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama' award in the Golden Globe awards 2020.
- ✓ The Joker movie was nominated in four categories in the ceremony and won two awards namely Best Actor (Drama) and Best Original Score.
- ✓ Joker is a psychological thriller film which was directed by Todd Philips. The movie was released in October 2019 and created records by collecting revenues in box offices world–wide.

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 2nd 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 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 Samriddhi

✓ 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 **C**entral **I**ndustrial **S**ecurity **F**orce 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 give 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) ☑

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[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 celebrate 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 Venkiah 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 10th Anniversary Celebrations of Muppavarapu Foundation in Hyderabad by the Vice President of India, Venkiah.

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] Karanataka

[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 14th 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 23rd 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 23rd 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 (NRCB) 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 5th 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 sôngkrānti), 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 concides 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 1st 2020 [B] April 1st 2021

[C] April 1st 2022 ☑ [D] April 1st 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 18th 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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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.

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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 Carriappa 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 BenStokes.

✓ 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 Shangai, 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 NewDelhi 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.

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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.

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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 wrester 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 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 Chilka 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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1. What is India's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal, as estimated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

[A] 5.2 % [B] 5.0 % [C] 4.8 % ☑ [D] 4.6 %

✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased India's GDP growth forecast to 4.8% for this fiscal year, which is 1.3% point lesser than its previous estimates. The IMF also projected that India's economy will grow by 5.8% next year and 6.5% in 2021–2022.

✓ The Global economic growth rate was also lowered by the IMF to be 3.3 % in the current year and 3.4% in 2022. India's GDP forecast dip was mainly due to the NBFC crisis and weak demand in rural India. The slowdown in India is said to be the reason for cut in global growth rate.

2. Which Indian state has topped the production of vegetables in 2018–19, as per the recent data from the Ministry of Agriculture?

[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Bihar

[C] Odisha [D] West Bengal ☑

✓ The Ministry of Agriculture recently released the State–wise horticulture production data for the year 2018–19. As per the data, West Bengal was the top State in vegetable production with 29.55 million tonnes (mt) of vegetables last year.

✓ The state accounted for 15.9% of the country's total vegetable production in 2018–19. The number one state during 2017–18 was Uttar Pradesh, which is pushed to the second place this year, with 27.71 mt vegetables.

✓ In fruit production, Andhra Pradesh continued to hold the top spot with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra with 10.82 mt.

3. Who was recently appointed as the new Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI)?

[A] Challa Sreenivasulu Setty ☑ [B] Rajnish Kumar

[C] Atanu Kumar Das [D] Sanjiv Chadha

✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of the Financial Services for appointing Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI).

✓ Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, who is currently serving as the Deputy managing director of the country's largest lender, has been appointed as the MD of the SBI for a period of 3 years. Last year, an MD of SBI, Anshula Kant was appointed as the MD and Chief Financial Officer of World Bank.

4. What is the rank of India in the 'Social Mobility Index', recently released by the World Economic Forum?

[A] 56 [B] 66 [C] 76 ☑ [D] 86

✓ In the recently released World Economic Forum's Social Mobility Index, India was ranked at 76 out of 82 countries. Denmark was placed at the first rank in the inaugural edition of the index.

✓ The index assessed the countries across five key dimensions, which are health, education, technology, work and protections & institutions. According to the index, the most socially mobile societies in the world are all European, the first five spots being held by Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland.

5. Which organisation recently released the 'Time to Care' report?

[A] World Bank [B] Asian Development Bank

[C] NGO Oxfam ☑ [D] NGO Pratham

✓ Oxfam, a confederation of charitable organizations and rights group recently released the 'Time to care' report, which focussed on global inequalities.

✓ The report said that inequalities pertaining at the global level is deep–rooted and vast while the number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade.

✓ It also revealed a comparison that the total wealth of 63 Indian billionaires is higher than the total Union Budget of India for the fiscal year 2018–19 (Rs 24,42,200 crore). It also suggested that gender inequalities must be resolved for an inclusive development.

6. Who has been recently appointed as the President of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)?

[A] Ashish Garg ☑ [B] Aditya Garg

[C] Nagendra Rao [D] Narendra Rao

✓ The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) recently appointed Ashish Garg as its new President for the year 2020. Another member of ICSI, Nagendra D Rao has been elected Vice–President of the Institute.

✓ Ashish Garg was elected to the central council of ICSI for the 2015–18 term and has been re–elected for the 2019–22 term. The ICSI is a New Delhi based statutory body to promote and regulate the profession of company secretaries in India.

7. Which country is the largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2019, according to the latest UNCTAD report?

[A] India [B] China [C] USA ☑ [D] Singapore

✓ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released its 'Global Investment Trend Monitor report' and listed the countries on the basis of receipts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

✓ As per the report, the United States was the largest recipient of FDI in 2019 with inflow of investments amounting to $251 billion. The second largest recipient was China at $140 billion in 2019.

✓ India was also among the top 10 FDI recipients in 2019, which attracted investments worth $49 billion. This is 16% higher than the previous year FDI inflow of the country. The report also stated that majority of India's FDI inflow went to its service sector.

8. The UN World Tourism Organization recently released its 'UNWTO World Tourism Barometer report'. Where is the headquarters of UNWTO located?

[A] Paris [B] Madrid ☑ [C] Tokyo [D] New York

✓ The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations Agency for promoting sustainable tourism, which is headquartered at Madrid, Spain.

✓ UNWTO recently released its comprehensive report on global tourism titled 'UNWTO World Tourism Barometer report'. According to the report, 1.5 billion international tourist arrivals were recorded in the year 2019, around the globe. This is an increase of 4% from the previous year and this is also the tenth consecutive year recording growth. It also predicted a growth of 3% to 4% in tourism sector, for the year 2020.

9. Who was recently appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Bank of Baroda?

[A] Challa Sreenivasulu Setty [B] Rajnish Kumar

[C] Sanjiv Chadha ☑ [D] Atanu Kumar Das

✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Sanjiv Chadha as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the public sector bank, Bank of Baroda.

✓ Chadha was serving as the Deputy Managing Director at SBI Capital Markets. Another two key appointments were also made, which includes Lingam Venkat Prabhakar as MD & CEO of Canara Bank and Atanu Kumar Das as MD & CEO of Bank of India.

✓ While Lingam Venkat Prabhakar was the Executive Director of Punjab National Bank earlier, Atanu Kumar Das was Executive Director at Bank of India who will be promoted to the post of MD& CEO.

10. Man Mohan Sood, who passed away recently, belonged to which field?

[A] Music [B] Sports ☑ [C] Literature [D] Politics

✓ The 80–year–old Former Indian cricketer and National Selector, Man Mohan Sood recently passed away. Sood was born on 06–07–1939 in Lahore (now in Pakistan). He had played one Test match representing India and 39 first–class matches.

✓ Man Mohan Sood also had served as an administrator at the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) and a member of the National Selecting Committee.

1. Which is the most polluted city in India, according to Greenpeace India's recent report?

[A] Gurugram [B] Jharia ☑

[C] Lucknow [D] Noida

✓ According to the recent report released by the environmental NGO Greenpeace India, Jharia, a city in Jharkhand is the most polluted city in India, which is followed by Dhanbad of the same state.

✓ The report also revealed that six of the country's ten most polluted cities are in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Lunglei city of Mizoram is the least polluted city and it is the only city with Particulate matter (PM) levels under the World Health Organisation's prescribed level.

✓ Greenpeace India has used data from the Central Pollution Control Board and analysis of particulate matter (PM) data of 287 cities, to rank the most polluted cities in India

2. Which state is the first in the country to implement agricultural land leasing policy?

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Gujarat

[C] Uttarakhand ☑ [D] West Bengal

✓ The State government of Uttarakhand recently released a notification that it has made a policy to lease agricultural land, becoming the first Indian state to implement such policy.

✓ According to the policy, any institution, company or NGO can take farm land on lease for 30 years, provided the leased land is below 30 acres. The farmers who own the land will receive the corresponding rent during the leased period.

✓ Difficulties in leasing land for agriculture and plantation in hilly areas and consolidation of fragmented land are being solved by the policy.

3. What is the name of the indigenous artillery guns, which are to be inducted into the Indian Army?

[A] Sharang ☑ [B] Shrirang

[C] Sevak [D] Senak

✓ As per the recent announcement from the Indian Army, the first batch of 18 indigenously upgraded 'Sharang' artillery guns are to be inducted into the Army by March 31, 2020. The barrel of the indigenously designed gun has been upgraded from 130 mm to 155 mm.

✓ As a result, the hitting range of the gun has been increased by 12 km kilometres, to 39 kilometres. The Gun Carriage Factory (GCF) in Jabalpur had been awarded the global contract for upgrading the Sharang artillery gun, and the project was done with the help of ordnance factories, Indian Army and DRDO.

4. Which defence Force of India has recently signed a MoU with Geological Survey of India?

[A] Indian Army [B] Indian Navy ☑

[C] Indian Air Force [D] Indian Coast Guard

✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between Indian Navy and Geological Survey of India (GSI). The agreement was on 'Sharing of seabed sediments data, products and expertise for Naval Application in Meteorology and Oceanography'.

✓ The Marine and Coastal survey Division of GSI has mapped most of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone.

✓ This repository of data collected using the oceanic research vessels of GSI, will now be used by the Indian Navy. The data would be used for oceanographic modelling during their maritime operations in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

5. The National Bravery Awards for children are presented by which ministry / organisation annually?

[A] Ministry of Women and Child Development

[B] Ministry of Defence

[C] UNICEF

[D] Indian Council for Child Welfare ☑

✓ The National Bravery awards for the year 2019 were recently presented by the Indian Council for Child

Welfare (ICCW) in New Delhi. 22 children including 10 girls were selected for the National Bravery awards. Among them, one award was given posthumously.

✓ The highest award called Bharat award was conferred on a 15 year old Kerala boy Adithya, for saving more than 40 lives after a bus accident.

✓ Indian Council for Child Welfare was formed in the year 1952, which initiated this award to recognize children for their brave and spontaneous selfless service or their daring act against a social crime.

6. Retired IAS Officer Yudvir Singh Malik has been recently appointed as the Chairman and Managing director (CMD) of which crisis-hit firm?

[A] IL&FS [B] DHFL

[C] Unitech ☑ [D] Altico Capital

✓ Retired IAS Officer Yudvir Singh Malik has been recently appointed as the Chairman and Managing director (CMD) of crisis–hit realty firm Unitech. He assumed office on January 21, 2020.

✓ A few days back, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to take total management control of Unitech and appoint a new board of nominee directors. The firm was reported of allegedly using flat–buyer's money and default the delivery of flats.

7. Which Private sector bank launched 'Cardless Cash Withdrawal' facility from its ATMs, recently?

[A] HDFC Bank [B] Axis Bank

[C] ICICI Bank ☑ [D] Kotak Mahindra Bank

✓ India's leading Private sector bank recently launched card-less cash withdrawal' facility from its ATMs. The facility will be available throughout the day, across all ICICI Bank ATMs, which count to nearly 15000.

✓ For availing the card-less service, the customer needs to log into the ICICI mobile app – 'iMobile' and generate a temporary PIN. The customer then can withdraw cash by entering the OTP received and the PIN, without the need of carrying any card. The daily transaction limit and limit per transaction is ₹20,000.

8. As per the recent survey of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) by consultancy firm PwC, which country has the highest growth prospects?

[A] China [B] India

[C] United States of America ☑ [D] Germany

✓ The leading international consultancy firm PwC recently released the results of its annual survey of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) across the world. The firm surveyed more than 1,580 CEOs in 83 countries about global economy prospects.

✓ As per the survey, the United States has the highest growth prospects, according to the CEOs. China remained in the second place while India retained the position of the fourth rank. The report also stated that 53% of global CEOs believe international economic growth would decline in the next 12 months.

9. The recently set-up 'National Start-up Advisory Council' is to be chaired by which Union Minister?

[A] Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

[B] Minister of Corporate Affairs

[C] Minister of Commerce and Industry ☑

[D] Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

✓ The Union government recently announced that a National Startup Advisory Council has been set up. The Council will advise the Centre on steps to be taken to create a strong environment for startup companies in India.

✓ The Council will be chaired by the Union Commerce minister while it will have non–official members with 2 year term, to be nominated by the Centre. The nominees of the ministries and organisations concerned, not below the rank of joint secretary will be ex–officio members.

10. India's first ever convention centre in Africa was recently inaugurated in which African country?

[A] Libya [B] Ghana

[C] Niger ☑ [D] Algeria

- ✓ Indian External Affairs Minister Jai Shankar recently inaugurated the first ever convention centre of India in Africa. The Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) was inaugurated in the Western African country Niger with the assistance from India.
- ✓ The International Convention Centre was jointly inaugurated by President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. This is also the first–ever visit by an Indian Foreign Minister to the West African country.
- ✓ India has recently extended $15 million grant to Niger in support of organizing the African Union (AU) summit held in Niger last year.

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1. Hassan Diab is the Prime Minister of which country?

[A] Israel [B] Jordan

[C] Syria [D] Lebanon ☑

✓ Lebanon formed a new government recently under Prime Minister Hassan Diab amidst various economic and political crises.

✓ The country remained without an effective government, after the former Prime Minister Saad Al Hariri quit from his role in October 2019 under pressure from protests against state corruption and mismanagement.

✓ The President of Lebanon, Michel Aoun nominated Hassan Diab as the new Prime Minister. Hassan Diab is a 60–year–old professor at the American University of Beirut, who heads a new cabinet of 20 members.

2. Which Indian telecom service provider recently got approval from the telecom department to raise the FDI limit to 100%?

[A] Jio [B] Bharti Airtel ☑

[C] Vodafone Idea [D] BSNL

✓ Bharti Airtel recently got approval from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to increase the FDI limit up to 100% of the paid–up capital from the earlier limit of 49%.

✓ The company already received permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for overseas portfolio investors to invest up to 74% in Bharti Airtel.

✓ This DoT approval will help the tele–com company to source more funds from overseas investors. Singapore Telecommunications Ltd or Singtel, which owns a 35% stake in Bharti Airtel is expected to increase its stake in Bharti Airtel.

3. According to the recent notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, India, which country was declared as the 'reciprocating territory'?

[A] United Arab Emirates ☑ [B] Oman

[C] Saudi Arabia [D] Yemen

✓ The Ministry of Law and Justice recently issued a Gazette Notification, which declared the United Arab Emirates to be a "reciprocating territory" under Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.

✓ The notification also declared a list of courts in the UAE to be 'Superior Courts' under the same section of CPC. The orders passed by certain designated courts from a 'reciprocating territory' can be implemented in India, as if they were passed in India.

✓ Besides UAE, the other countries which were declared as reciprocating territories include United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia and New Zealand among others. The decision is believed to help bring down the time required for executing verdicts between the two countries.

4. What is India's rank in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) India annual report?

[A] Fifth ☑ [B] Sixth

[C] Seventh [D] Eighth

✓ Carbon Disclosure Project–India (CDP), an environmental non–profit organisation released its annual report of 2018, titled "Corporates #StepUp Climate Action".

✓ As per the report, 25 companies committed to science–based targets in alignment with the Paris Agreement by December 2018. This has earned the 5th rank to India, which is only after the US, Japan, Britain and France in corporate climate action.

✓ The report examines carbon reduction activities of companies and revealed that 58 Indian companies of the 59 firms surveyed between 2018 and 2019, have board–level oversight of climate–related issues.

5. Which Indian actor was recently honoured with the Crystal Award of the World Economic Forum?

[A] Priyanka Chopra [B] Deepika Padukone ☑

[C] Kareena Kapoor [D] Anushka Sharma

✓ Famous Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone received the Crystal Award during the 50th Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

✓ The award was presented to her in recognition of her efforts to create awareness about the importance of mental health. Hilde Schwab, Chairwoman and Co–Founder of the World Economic Forum's World Arts Forum presented the award to the actor.

✓ Deepika Padukone runs a foundation named 'Live Love Laugh', which works towards conducting awareness programs in Indian schools. It also funds for free psychiatric treatment & medical education programs.

6. Which state government has recently launched the 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana'?

[A] Gujarat [B] Uttar Pradesh ☑

[C] Maharashtra [D] Andhra Pradesh

✓ The state government of Uttar Pradesh Government has recently launched Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana.

✓ Under the scheme financial assistance of Rs. 5 Lakh will be provided to the family of farmers on their death or occurrence of physical disability while working. The farmers in the age group of 18 to 70 are covered under the scheme.

✓ The assistance program will also cover the people who work in the fields of other owners and receive the crops after harvesting. The state has also decided to implement Mukhyamantri Paryatan Samvardhan Yojana to boost tourism in state.

7. What is the name of the humanoid robot, which was recently unveiled by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

[A] Gagan Mitra [B] Vyom Mitra ☑

[C] Vayu Mitra [D] Human Mitra

✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently unveiled the humanoid robot, called Vyom Mitra at the inaugural session of the conference "Human Spaceflight and Exploration — Present Challenges and Future Trends", held in Bengaluru.

✓ This humanoid with feminine features is to be launched into the space ahead of the first manned space mission of India. The humanoid will simulate the human functions required for space during its test flight. ISRO has scheduled two trail flights with humanoids in December 2020 and July 2021.

8. What is the capital of the newly formed Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu?

[A] Daman ☑ [B] Nagar Haveli

[C] Dadra [D] Silvassa

✓ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced that the city of Daman will be the headquarters of the newly constituted Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Daman is a city in the erstwhile UT Daman & Diu, located on the west coast of India.

✓ Two separate Union Territories of India, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli were merged to a single Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on December 3, 2019. Silvassa was the previous capital of the erstwhile UT Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

9. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) of India recently signed a MoU to assist the Petroleum Authority of which country?

[A] Ghana ☑ [B] Argentina

[C] Brazil [D] Peru

✓ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was recently signed between the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and National Petroleum Authority (NPA) of Ghana to expand the country's Liquified petroleum gas (LPG) network.

✓ Indian Oil will provide assistance and share its technical expertise with the Petroleum authorities of the African country to implement the National LPG Promotion Policy of Ghana. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Petroleum and natural gas.

- ✓ Indian Oil is also expected to assist Ghana in areas of infrastructure development for the new LPG Value chain.

10. Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel has recently launched a volunteer scheme 'SERVICE' for the employees of which Indian PSU?

[A] Coal India Limited (CIL)

[B] Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) ☑

[C] National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)

[D] Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

- ✓ Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel has recently launched a volunteer scheme 'SERVICE' for the employees of the Indian PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- ✓ The scheme called, SAIL Employees Rendering Volunteerism & Initiatives for Community Engagement (SERVICE), will be made operational from the foundation day of the company, which is on January 24.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the employees are encouraged to voluntarily indulge themselves in social activities, with main focus on education, health and women empowerment.

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1. Which organisation is set to develop the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)?

[A] Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation

[B] NITI Aayog ☑

[C] Finance Commission

[D] National Development Council

✓ The Think tank of India, NITI Aayog is to develop the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP). Recently the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog released the Vision document for the National Data and Analytics Platform.

✓ The stake holders can access all government data through the platform, in a user–friendly manner. The platform will comprise of the latest data from various government websites. It will also host tools for analysis of the data and different types of visualisation.

✓ The first version of NDAP will be released in 2021. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will also be set up with experts in the field, who guide in the development and management of the platform.

2. India recently handed over the consignment of Measles and Rubella vaccines to which country, after a suspected outbreak?

[A] Sri Lanka [B] Maldives ☑

[C] Bangladesh [D] Nepal

✓ More than thirty thousand doses of Measles and Rubella vaccines to the Maldives to control the outbreak of Measles in the island country.

✓ Though Maldives has eliminated the spread of Measles, the government in Male suspected an outbreak of the disease after it detected the case. The country made an emergency request to India, for the vaccines, which was handed over within three days of the request.

✓ Maldives had earlier approached Denmark and UNICEF for the vaccines. It is also said that 4 people of Maldives tested positive for the disease in the past one week.

3. World Holocaust Forum was recently convened in which city, to remember Holocaust and counter anti–Semitism?

[A] Moscow [B] Jerusalem ☑

[C] Paris [D] Berlin

✓ World Holocaust Forum was recently convened in the capital city of Israel, Jerusalem. The forum marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

✓ More than 40 global leaders attended the forum, which includes the Russian President Vladimir Putin, US Vice–President Mike Pence, Presidents of France and Germany and the Prince of Wales.

✓ The forum was organised by the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, which is an international organisation found to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and to promote tolerance between all religions & nationalities.

4. When is the International Day of Education observed every year?

[A] January 21 [B] January 24 ☑

[C] February 21 [D] February 24

✓ January 24 is observed as the International Day of Education every year by UNESCO. It celebrates the role of education for Development and Peace. The theme for this year's International Day of Education is "Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace".

✓ On December 2018, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution, which declared January 24 as 'International Day of Education'.

✓ This year's celebration is the 2nd year of observing the day and it has considered education and learning as the greatest Renewable Resource and it reaffirms that the Education is a Fundamental Right.

5. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has recently signed a MoU with which of the following organization?

[A] World Bank

[B] Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation ☑

[C] Asian Development Bank

[D] BRICS Bank

✓ A MoU has been signed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). This MoU is under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY–NRLM). The MoU aims to strengthen the rural poor institutions at grass root level.

✓ DAY–NRLM and BMGF has a shared focus on improving the lives of poor people and the marginalized, by creating employment opportunities through rural institutions.

✓ DAY–NRLM was launched by the MoRD IN June 2011. The scheme has an agenda of covering seven crore rural population in the country through self–managed Self–Help Groups (SHGs) and other such institutions in a period of 8 to 10 years.

6. Who has been recently awarded with the Subash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, 2020?

[A] Vijay Kumar [B] Sylendra Babu

[C] Kumar Munnan Singh ☑ [D] Naveen Kumar

✓ Kumar Munnan Singh has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020 under the Individual category.

✓ Under the Institution category, Disaster Mitigation & Management Centre, Uttarakhand has been selected for the award. Kumar Munnan Singh was the founding member of the National Disaster Management Authority in 2005. He is also lauded for establishing the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), from scratch.

✓ The award is given by the Government of India to recognize the commendable work done by individuals and organisations in the field of disaster management.

✓ The award is announced every year on 23rd January which marks the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

7. Which state has recently made reading of preamble to constitution as a mandatory practice in schools?

[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Madhya Pradesh ☑

[C] Gujarat [D] Maharashtra

✓ As per an order issued by the State Education Department of Madhya Pradesh, the state government has made the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution in schools mandatory.

✓ As per the order, the Preamble would be read out every Saturday, by the head master or the teacher in all the primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools after prayer, along with the students. It is said that such practice in school would inculcate the interest in our constitution among the students.

✓ Maharashtra has also has made reading of Preamble of the Constitution in all primary and secondary schools, starting from January 26, 2020. The resolution in this direction was adopted in 2013 but was not implemented so far.

8. Which state's Tourism department has received the special mention honour as "Emerging Global Destination" in UN World Tourism Organisation Global Destination Award 2019?

[A] Uttarakhand [B] Manipur

[C] Assam [D] Kerala ☑

✓ The Barrier Free Tourism Project implemented by Kerala Tourism in Trissur District has received the special mention honour as "Emerging Global Destination" in UN World Tourism Organisation Global Destination Award 2019.

✓ In March 2019, the Kerala Tourism has launched the barrier free project to make 120 destinations in Kerala disabled friendly. 80 such projects have been implemented and 8 of them are in the district of Trissur.

✓ Kerala is the first state to work as per the guidelines issued by UN WTO, on making the destinations disabled friendly.

9. What is the name of the award recently presented by the Indian President to children, in the fields of innovation, social service, sports, art and culture and bravery?

[A] Janani Puraskar [B] Shakti Puraskar

[C] Bala Shakti Puraskar ☑ [D] Bala Puraskar

- ✓ The Bala Shakti Puraskar award is given to children in the fields of innovation, social service, scholastic activities, sports, art and culture and bravery.
- ✓ The Indian President Ramnath Kovind recently presented the awards to 49 children in the age group of 5–18 years. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bala Puraskar award was instituted by Ministry of Women and Child Development and is given under two categories.
- ✓ Bala Shakti Puraskar is awarded to meritorious children while Bal Kalyan Puraskar is awarded to individuals and institutions, who have contributed for child welfare.

10. What is the current investment limit for foreign portfolio investors in government and corporate bonds, after the recent directions of RBI?

[A] 20% [B] 25%

[C] 30% ☑ [D] 35%

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently increased the investment limit for FPIs in government and corporate bonds from 20% to 30%.
- ✓ As of now, the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) could not invest more than 20 per cent of their total investment in either central government securities or state development loans or corporate bonds.
- ✓ This relaxation is expected to attract more investments and increase the inflow of funds into the Indian market. FPIs are allowed to invest in exchange–traded funds that invest only in debt instruments.

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1. The 1st edition of Ganga–Volga dialogue was recently held in New Delhi, to enhance the bilateral co–operation between India and which country?

[A] China [B] Russia ☑

[C] Nepal [D] Bangladesh

✓ The inaugural edition of the Ganga Volga Dialogue was recently held in New Delhi, the idea of which was originated during the India–Russia Summit between President Putin and Prime Minister Modi, held in October 2018.

✓ The Dialogue was organised by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, India in association with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation.

✓ Several scholars of India and Russia participated in the event and had discussions in the context of India–Russia bilateral cooperation, with the main focus on culture and civilization.

2. The International Summit on Women in STEM – "Visualizing the Future: New Skylines", was recently held in which city?

[A] Mumbai [B] New Delhi ☑

[C] Hyderabad [D] Kolkata

✓ The Department of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology organized an International Summit on Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) – "Visualizing the Future: New Skylines" at India Habitat centre, New Delhi.

✓ The Summit was organized to encourage the participation of women in STEM field and for developing their career in the field.

✓ Renowned women scientists from different countries, who pursue their career in the STEM field addressed the participants and motivated them to pursue their scientific career.

3. What is the theme of the National Voters' Day celebrated across the country?

[A] Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy ☑

[B] Voting Rights for All

[C] Ethical Voting

[D] Sab Se Pehle Voting

✓ National Voters' Day is being celebrated across the country on January 25. It was first celebrated on January 25, 2011, to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI). Which was established on the same day in 1950.

✓ The National Voters' day of this year marks the tenth year of celebration and the 70th year of functioning of the Election Commission of India. The theme for the National Voters' Day, 2020 is 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'.

✓ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind will be the Chief Guest of the celebration organised at New Delhi, by the ECI.

4. India signed a MoU with the World Bank for the Agri–Business and Rural Transformation Project of which state?

[A] Gujarat [B] Maharashtra ☑

[C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Haryana

✓ The Government of India, the state government of Maharashtra and the World Bank signed a loan agreement of $210 million for the Agri–business and Rural Transformation Project of the state.

✓ The fund will help small and marginal farmers to increase their market access and assist them to participate in the value chains.

✓ The farmers are encouraged to adopt climate resilient production techniques in agriculture. The project will be implemented in all 36 districts of the state of Maharashtra and nearly 1 million farming households are expected to benefit from the project.

5. Which Indian Private sector bank has recently launched its wealth management platform called 'Pioneer Banking'?

[A] ICICI Bank [B] HDFC Bank

[C] Axis Bank [D] IndusInd Bank ☑

✓ Leading Private Sector bank IndusInd bank has launched its wealth management platform called 'Pioneer Banking', which serves the banking needs of its high net–worth customers.

✓ The new service of wealth management recently introduced is expected to be merged with the other set of personal and commercial banking products offered by the bank to its customers.

✓ The new service mainly focuses the high net–worth individual customers and provides various benefits including free doorstep banking up to Rs 4 lakh per day and Services of dedicated wealth managers and investment specialists.

6. Which steel plant of India was recently awarded at the WEF Annual meet, for being included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network?

[A] Salem Steel Plant

[B] Tata Steel, Kalinganagar ☑

[C] Vijayanagar Steel Plant

[D] Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant

✓ Tata Steel Kalinganagar was recently awarded at the WEF Annual meet, for being included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network.

✓ In July 2019, Tata Steel Kalinganagar became the first and only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the coveted 'Lighthouse Network' of the World Economic Forum. Other ten manufacturing plants from around the world were also included in the network.

✓ Tata Steel's IJmuiden plant located in the Netherlands has already been included in the network.

7. The Global Consortium for Digital Currency Governance was recently announced by which organisation?

[A] World Bank [B] World Economic Forum ☑

[C] IMF [D] World Trade Organisation

✓ The first Global Consortium which focussed on creating a framework for Governance of Digital Currencies was recently announced by the World Economic Forum. The announcement was made during the last day of the 50th annual meeting of WEF, held in Davos, Switzerland.

✓ This initiative is to create a global platform for financial institutions, government representatives and technical experts in the field. The consortium is announced with the objective of increasing access to the financial system through inclusive policies.

✓ The Governance of Digital currencies, including cryptocurrencies and stable–coins would also be focussed.

8. Jair Messias Bolsonaro, who has arrived India to attend the Republic Day celebrations as chief guest, is the President of which country?

[A] Argentina [B] Brazil ☑

[C] France [D] Germany

✓ The President of Brazil, Jair Messias Bolsonaro recently arrived India along with his ministers, parliamentarians and top businessmen, to grace the Indian Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest.

✓ India and Brazil are expected to sign as many as 15 agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of like oil and gas, mining and cyber security.

✓ Agreements on social security, on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, on cooperation in bio – energy are also expected to be inked between the countries. Bolsonaro became the President of Brazil in October 2018 and this is his first visit to India.

9. The International Children's Film festival was recently inaugurated in which South Asian country, with the theme 'Under the World'?

[A] Sri Lanka [B] Bangladesh ☑

[C] Nepal [D] India

✓ The International Children's Film festival was recently inaugurated in the capital city of Bangladesh, Dhaka. It is one of the biggest film festivals in the country and the

only international festival which is celebrated exclusively for children and young adults since 2008.

- ✓ The festival is organized by the Children's Film Society of Bangladesh and will feature 173 films from 39 countries. The 7 day–long festival is set to conclude on 31st of January.

- ✓ To mark the 100th birth anniversary of the country's founding President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 'Khoka Jokhon Chhoto Chhilen' movie was screened. The theme of this year's festival is 'Under the World'.

10. India has signed an agreement with which country to upgrade Ashuganj–Akhaura road into 4–lane highway?

[A] Sri Lanka [B] Bangladesh ☑

[C] Nepal [D] India

- ✓ India has recently signed an agreement with Bangladesh to upgrade 50.58 km road between Ashuganj river port and Akhaura in Bangladesh into 4–lane highway. This is the part of $2 billion Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh in 2016.

- ✓ Out of the 50.58 km, a stretch of 39 km would be upgraded by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of Bangladesh and an Indian Company – Afcons Infrastructure Limited.

- ✓ The RHD and an India–Bangladesh joint venture firm will take up the work of upgrading the remaining part of the road. The project is expected to improve the road connectivity between the two countries and facilitate regional connectivity between South and South–east Asian countries.

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1. Which legendary Indian sportsperson was awarded with the prestigious 'Padma Vibhushan' award recently?

[A] Sachin Tendulkar [B] Dhanraj Pillai

[C] M C Mary Kom ☑ [D] Abhinav Bindra

✓ 6 time World Champion and Olympian boxer Mary Kom was conferred with the prestigious 'Padma Vibhushan' award on the Republic day of the year 2020.

✓ Seven eminent personalities were presented the 'Padma Vibhushan' award, which is the second highest civilian award in India, only next to the 'Bharat Ratna'.

✓ Other awardees are Former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes (posthumously), Singer Chhannulal Mishra of Uttar Pradesh and former Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Gugnauth.

2. How many personalities were selected for the 'Padma Bhushan' award, on the republic day 2020?

[A] 14 [B] 15 [C] 16 ☑ [D] 17

✓ Sixteen eminent personalities were selected for the 'Padma Bhushan' award, for their distinguished service of high order. Out of the 141 total Padma awardees selected this year, there were seven Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri Awardees.

✓ Famous personalities who were selected for the 'Padma Bhushan' award includes, top–rated Badminton Player PV Sindhu, Former Chief Minister of Goa – Manohar Parrikar (posthumous), father of modern legal education in India, N R Madhava Menon and businessmen Anand Mahindra and Venu Srinivasan.

3. 'The National Tourism Conference' of the year 2020 was recently organised in which Indian city?

[A] Varanasi [B] Konark ☑

[C] Shimla [D] Leh

✓ The National Tourism Conference was recently hosted in the city of Konark, Odisha. The 2 day conference was jointly organized by the state government of Odisha and The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

✓ Union Tourism Minister Prahalad Singh Patel attended the conference and announced that the Ministry of tourism would fund the travel expenditure of the tourists, who visit 15 places in the country in a year.

✓ Such tourists have to travel outside their home states and submit the photos on the ministry's website. A Memorandum of Intent (MoI) was signed between Odisha and Gujarat for cross–promotion of tourist sites.

4. Mark Rutte, who was seen in news recently, is the Prime Minister of which country?

[A] Germany [B] Netherlands ☑

[C] France [D] Italy

✓ The Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte was recently seen in news, as he made the country's first apology for the persecution of Jews during the World War II.

✓ He made this historic apology, first–of–its kind made by any government in this regard, during the country's annual Holocaust commemoration in Amsterdam, on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

✓ More than 1.1 million Jews out of the 1.4 million who lived in Netherlands were killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp, at the outbreak of World War II.

5. Which city plays host to the annual event 'Bharat Parv, 2020' which celebrates the spirit of India?

[A] Mumbai [B] New Delhi ☑

[C] Ahmedabad [D] Jaipur

✓ The annual event 'Bharat Parv, 2020' is being celebrated from 26th – 31st January, 2020 in New Delhi. The aim of the festival is to encourage Indians to visit different tourism destinations of India and to encourage them with the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'.

- ✓ The theme of this year's festival is set as "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and "Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi".

- ✓ The six–day–event which is to held in front of Red Fort at Gyan Path and Red Fort grounds in New Delhi has several attractions including performance by armed forces bands cultural Performances from different regions of the country.

6. National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has recently partnered with which global organisation to establish a 'Communication Resource Unit'?

[A] World Bank [B] UNICEF ☑

[C] UNESCO [D] IMF

- ✓ National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, has recently partnered with UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) to establish a 'Communication Resource Unit'.

- ✓ The unit will act as a mechanism to provide communication support to national flagship programmes including POSHAN Abhiyaan, National Health Mission and Swachh Bharath Mission.

- ✓ The Communication Resource Unit is currently operating in three states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, to furnish communication support including capacity building and consultation, to different government departments.

7. India's first and biggest walk–through aviary with over 100 species of birds, was recently inaugurated in which city?

[A] Mumbai ☑ [B] Guwahati

[C] Bengaluru [D] Thiruvananthapuram

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the country's first and biggest walk–through aviary at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo commonly called as the Byculla zoo in Mumbai.

- ✓ The aviary comprises of an area of over 18,200 sq.ft. It will be home to over 100 different species of exotic and common birds. A small bridge passes through the aviary which will be opened for the public to walk through and view the birds.

8. What is the name of the national award that is given to a person for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person?

[A] Jeevan Raksha Padak ☑ [B] Raksha Puraskar

[C] Jeevan Shakti Padak [D] Jeevan Puraskar

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has approved to confer the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards, 2019 to 54 persons. This includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 7 persons, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 8 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 39 persons. Five awards are to be given posthumously.

- ✓ Jeevan Raksha Padak awards, a branch of the Ashoka Chakra series of Gallantry awards, were instituted in the year 1961. The award is given for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person in incidents like accidents, electrocution, natural calamities or rescue operation in mines.

9. 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme, which is aimed at providing a meal to the poor at subsidised rates, was recently launched in which state?

[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Bihar

[C] Maharashtra ☑ [D] Karnataka

- ✓ The state government of Maharashtra launched the 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme, which aims to provide a meal to the poor for Rs 10. The scheme was launched on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day celebrations.

- ✓ Under the scheme, thalis or lunch plates would be available to the people at designated centres in all districts. Nearly 50 'Shiv Bhojan' outlets were set up in a pilot basis, which will be extended to other parts of the state.

10. Sher Singh Kukkal, who passed away recently, was a famous personality in which field?

[A] Politics [B] Sports

[C] Art ☑ [D] Business

✓ The 86–year–old veteran artist and sculptor Sher Singh Kukkal passed away after age–related illness in New Delhi recently. Sher Singh Kukkal was a noted artist with a great experience in several branches of fine arts including drawing, painting, sculpture, printing and photography.

✓ He also taught arts at the Sainik School Satara. The artist had won several national and international awards including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Award and the Senior Fellowship in Visual Art Photography by Union Ministry of Culture during 2008–09.

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1. The Government of India and the state government of Assam recently signed a tripartite agreement with which tribal group?

[A] Bodo ☑ [B] Kuki

[C] Adi [D] Nishi

✓ The Centre and the state government of Assam recently signed a tripartite agreement with National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).

✓ The Bodo tribal group was demanding a separate state of Bodoland from Assam for several years. The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) and another group called United Bodo People's Organisation, which led the insurgency, also signed the agreement.

✓ More than 1500 militants of NDFB are expected to surrender with arms. Rs.1500 crore has been sanctioned by the government for implementing the accord in next three years.

2. Which Indian squash player became the runner–up in the Pittsburgh Open squash tournament?

[A] Joshna Chinappa [B] Dipika Pallikal

[C] Saurav Ghosal ☑ [D] Sunayna Kuruvilla

✓ Ace Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal became the runner–up in the Pittsburgh Open squash tournament after he lost to the top seed Egyptian player, Fares Dessouky in the final.

✓ The second seed Saurav Ghosal lost 7–11, 4–11, 9–11 to the Egyptian player after he advanced to the finals by defeating the fifth seed Egypt's Omar Mossad in the hard–fought semi–final match, which lasted for an hour and 13 minutes.

3. Which state assembly recently passed a resolution to abolish the state's legislative council?

[A] Telangana [B] Maharashtra

[C] Andhra Pradesh ☑ [D] Karnataka

✓ The state assembly of Andhra Pradesh recently passed a resolution to abolish the state's legislative council. The decision was supported by 133 legislators of the ruling YSR Congress Party.

✓ This decision is taken at the backdrop of the constant opposition faced in the upper house of the legislature, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative council. The main opposition party, Telugu Desam Party led by Chandrababu Naidu has 27 seats out of 58 in the council.

✓ It recently sent two bills related to the decentralization of Andhra Pradesh's capital to a select committee for further deliberation, after it was passed in the assembly.

4. What is the planned percentage of the government's stake in Air India to be divested?

[A] 50% [B] 60% [C] 75% [D] 100% ☑

✓ According to the recent bid document released by the Government, it would sell all its 100 per cent of its equity share capital in Air India, which includes the Air India's 100% stake in AI Express Limited and 50% in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited.

✓ The government has also announced that it would absorb 30% more in debt and liabilities, than it did in the previous year. March 17 has been set as the dead line for the submission of bids for the sale, which is to be implemented through the open bidding route.

✓ The net worth for the interested entities is also reduced to Rs.3500 Cr from the earlier limit of Rs.5000 Cr.

5. Which Indian city plays host to the third Global Potato Conclave of 2020?

[A] Mumbai [B] Ahmedabad

[C] Gandhinagar ☑ [D] Surat

✓ The third Global Potato Conclave recently commenced in Gandhinagar, with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address through video–conferencing.

✓ Two Global Potato Conferences were organised in 1999 and 2008, one in every 10 years. The conclave for this decade is being organised by the Indian Potato Association (IPA) in association with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Shimla based ICAR–

Central Potato Research Institute and International Potato Centre (CIP), Peru. The 3 day global event will showcase the achievements in potato research and to set a blueprint for the decade.

6. Which Indian ship–builder is to deliver the anti–submarine stealth warship INS Kavaratti to Indian Navy?

[A] Mazagon Dock Limited

[B] Cochin Shipyard Limited

[C] Hindustan Shipyard Limited

[D] Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers ☑

✓ Kolkata–based Defence PSU– Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers is to deliver the anti–submarine stealth warship, INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy soon, as per the recent announcement.

✓ Kavaratti is the last of the four Anti–Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built by the GRSE for the Indian Navy under Project P28, the 1st 3: 'Kamorta', 'Kadmatt' and 'Kiltan', named after islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago, were delivered from 2014–17.

✓ The new Kavaratti warship has 90 per cent indigenous components and is expected to require lower maintenance. With all the trials being completed, the ship is to be delivered by the month end.

7. The world's smallest gold coin, which features Albert Einstein, is recently released by which country?

[A] USA [B] Switzerland ☑

[C] Germany [D] France

✓ Switzerland has recently minted the world's smallest gold coin, which bears the famous picture of the great Scientist Albert Einstein. The govt–run Swissmint announced that the world's smallest coin has a diameter of 2.96–millimeter and weighs 0.063 grams.

✓ The value of the coin is pegged at 1/4 Swiss francs or approximately Rs 18.50. Einstein came to Switzerland at the age of 17 and completed his education in the country. He also became a Swiss citizen in 1902. Another coin featuring the Swiss tennis star Roger Federer was also minted.

8. Marjan Sarec, who was seen in news after his resignation, was the Prime Minister of which country?

[A] Slovenia ☑ [B] Slovakia

[C] Serbia [D] Croatia

✓ The Prime Minister of Slovenia, Marjan Sarec was seen in news as he recently submitted his resignation from the post to the country's parliament. He also called for an early election as his minority government could not pass important legislations.

✓ The next regular election is due to be held in the middle of 2022. The ruling coalition of five parties, which assumed power in Late 2018, had only 43 out of 90 seats in parliament. Before the announcement of the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister Andrej Bertoncelj also submitted his resignation.

9. Who has been appointed as the chief executive of Indian Bank's Association (IBA)?

[A] Rajnish Kumar [B] V G Kannan

[C] Sunil Mehta ☑ [D] Rakesh Sharma

✓ As per the recent announcement from the Indian Bank's Association (IBA), Former Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank, Sunil Mehta has taken charge as the Chief Executive of IBA. Sunil Mehta has recently retired as the MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank.

✓ He has previously held the post of Chairman of Indian Banks Association, which was replaced by the head of State Bank of India, Rajnish Kumar in October 2019. Now, Sunil Mehta has replaced VG Kannan, who assumed office on December 31, 2019.

10. Which Indian theatre artist is to be conferred the prestigious French honour, Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters?

[A] Naseeruddin Shah [B] Sanjana Kapoor ☑

[C] Girish Karnad [D] Lillette Dubey

- ✓ Veteran theatre personality and the daughter of Bollywood star Shashi Kapoor, artist Sanjna Kapoor is to be presented with the French honour, Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters.
- ✓ The award is conferred on her for the outstanding contribution the artist has made to the theatre arts. The Culture Minister of France, Franck Riester, who is currently on an official visit to India, is expected to confer the prestigious award on Sanjna Kapoor in a proposed ceremony.

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1. The Supreme Court of India recently permitted to introduce which animal to Indian habitat from Namibia?

[A] African Elephant [B] African Lion

[C] African Cheetah ☑ [D] African Rhinoceros

- ✓ The Supreme Court of India recently permitted the Centre to introduce the 'African Cheetahs' to the appropriate habitats in India. As the Asiatic cheetah, commonly called as the Indian Cheetah, has become almost extinct, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) filed a petition, which sought permission for introducing African Cheetahs to India.
- ✓ The bench headed by the Chief Justice S A Bobde also set up a committee with three members from Wildlife Institute of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, which will guide the NTCA in this regard.

2. How many wetlands in India were recently added to the 'Ramsar Site' list?

[A] 8 [B] 10 ☑ [C] 12 [D] 14

- ✓ The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar recently announced that 10 more Indian wetlands have been declared as sites of international importance by Ramsar. The number of wetlands with Ramsar site tag has now increased to a total of 37.
- ✓ The total surface area covered by the 37 Ramsar sites is also increased more than 1 million hectares. In the new declaration, Maharashtra gets the first Ramsar site tag for Nandur Madhameshwar.
- ✓ Punjab added 3 more sites and now has a total of 6 sites while Uttar Pradesh added 6 new sites and now has 7 Ramsar sites. The Ramsar Convention was signed by the member countries to preserve the ecological significance of their wetlands.

3. The tableau of which state has won the Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade, 2020?

[A] Odisha [B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Gujarat [D] Assam ☑

- ✓ The tableau of Assam with the theme, "Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture" was adjudged as the winner of 'Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade, 2020'.
- ✓ The tableaux of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh were jointly selected for the second place. While Odisha displayed the famous Rukuna Ratha Yatra of Lord Lingaraja, Uttar Pradesh showcased the cultural and religious tourism of the state with the theme 'Sarva Dharma Sama Bhav'.
- ✓ The tableaux of National Disaster Relief Force and Jal Shakti Mission which portrayed 'Jal Jeevan Mission' were chosen as the best among the Ministries and Departments and Central Public Works Department got the Special Prize.

4. Who was recently appointed as the Ambassador of India to the United States?

[A] Harsh Vardhan Shringla [B] Jai Shankar

[C] Taranjit Singh Sandhu ☑ [D] Vijay Gokhale

- ✓ Veteran diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been recently appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to the United States. He replaces Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who was the previous Indian envoy to the US.
- ✓ Taranjit Singh Sandhu is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1988 batch and is currently posted as High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka. Sandhu has earlier worked as the Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of India in Washington D.C. for four years from 2013–2017.
- ✓ He has also served as the Joint Secretary (United Nations) at the Ministry of External Affairs between 2009 and 2011.

5. The recently launched Bhuvan Panchayat web portal's new version 3.0 uses the technology of which organisation?

[A] Indian Space Research Organisation ☑

[B] Defence Research and Development Organisation

[C] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

[D] Bharat Electronics Limited

✓ Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh recently launched the version 3.0 of Bhuvan Panchayat web Portal, which will function with the help of satellite technology developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

✓ The project is aimed at providing geo–spatial services to assist the process of developing Gram Panchayats, undertaken by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The integrated high–resolution satellite data will provide better visualisation and enable decentralised planning and monitoring of schemes at panchayat levels.

6. Which Hindi word is chosen as the 'Oxford Hindi Word of 2019' by the Oxford University Press?

[A] Samriddhi [B] Samvidhaan ☑

[C] Sampriti [D] Sammaan

✓ The Oxford University Press has selected the hindi word 'Samvidhaan' as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019'. Samvidhaan is the Hindi word which represents the meaning of constitution. It also denotes a body of fundamental principles as per which a state or an organisation is to be governed.

✓ A word or expression that has attracted the attention of large number of people and reflects the mood and character of the past year is selected as the Oxford word. The Oxford Hindi Word of the Year is chosen by the team of Oxford Dictionaries in India with the guidance from a panel of language experts.

7. Which Indian cueist won the title at the Senior National Billiards Championship, which was his career's 33rd National title?

[A] Saurav Kothari [B] Pankaj Advani ☑

[C] Dhvaj Haria [D] Geet Sethi

✓ World–class Indian cueist and 23–time world champion Pankaj Advani has recently clinched his 33rd National title by winning the title at the Senior National Billiards Championship.

✓ In the tournament held at Pune, Pankaj defeated his fellow cueist Sourav Kothari 5–2 in the finals. In the semi–final held earlier, Pankaj dominated with a 5–0 victory over Dhvaj Haria of Gujarat.

✓ This is not only the 33rd national title of Pankaj Advani, but this is also his 10th senior title. He will also participate in the national snooker championship, which is scheduled in the same venue from February 3.

8. Union Social Justice Minister has recently inaugurated the Composite Regional Centre for empowerment of persons with disabilities in which city?

[A] Hyderabad [B] Port Blair ☑

[C] Chennai [D] Kochi

✓ Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot recently inaugurated the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) in the city of Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar.

✓ The Composite Regional Centre is aimed at providing skill development, rehabilitation and empowerment of persons with disabilities in the local region. The centres are set under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to create infrastructure facilities and resources for persons with disabilities.

✓ In India, the CRCs are located in several other cities including Bhopal, Lucknow, Patna, Guwahati and Ahmedabad.

9. Who was recently appointed as the Foreign Secretary of India?

[A] Harsh Vardhan Shringla ☑ [B] Jai Shankar

[C] Taranjit Singh Sandhu [D] Vijay Gokhale

✓ India's former ambassador to the United States and Senior diplomat Harsh Vardhan Shringla recently assumed charge as the next Foreign Secretary of India.

✓ He has succeeded Vijay Gokhale to take charge in the said post for a fixed two–year term. Harsh Vardhan Shringla is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1984 batch.

- ✓ Shringla had successfully hosted the 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston, US in September 2019. He had also served as the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, when he played an instrumental role in the historic India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement 2015.

10. The skill development centre to train tribals, named 'Sardar Valabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods', is to be set up in which state?

[A] Odisha [B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Gujarat ☑ [D] Assam

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar lays the foundation stone of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods near the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat.
- ✓ This center aims to provide training to youth, farmers, Self Help Groups every year through its various capacity building programs.
- ✓ GMR Varalakshmi Foundation has taken a joint initiative with Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited to establish this Centre with an investment of over Rs 15 crore.

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1. Which district has topped the list of aspirational districts for the month of December, released by NITI Aayog?

[A] Sahibganj (Jharkhand)

[B] Hailakandi (Assam)

[C] Belangir (Odisha)

[D] Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh) ☑

- ✓ The think tank to Indian Government, NITI Aayog has ranked the aspirational districts on the basis of incremental progress made across six developmental areas in December 2019.
- ✓ As per the list, Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh has been placed in the top position, followed by Belangir district of Odisha. Andhra Pradesh's YSR district is in the third place.
- ✓ The six developmental areas which are taken into account are: Health and nutrition, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, education, skill development and infrastructure.

2. What is the upper limit for legal abortion, as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, recently approved by the Cabinet?

[A] 20 weeks [B] 24 weeks ☑

[C] 28 weeks [D] 32 weeks

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has recently approved the 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and increased the upper limit for legal abortion to 24 weeks.
- ✓ Prior to the amendment, the upper limit was only 20 weeks. The existing act of 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971' has been amended and the 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020', which was drafted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was approved by the Cabinet.
- ✓ The bill is expected to be introduced in the upcoming session of the Parliament.

3. Inwhich city, the Indian Coast Guard has recently commissioned its 'C–448' high–speed boat?

[A] Kochi [B] Vishakhapatnam

[C] Mangaluru ☑ [D] Chennai

- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard has recently commissioned its 'C–448' high–speed boat at Mangaluru, Karnataka. The Chief Secretary of Karnataka attended the ceremony of commissioning the Coast Guard vessel.
- ✓ C–448 is an interceptor vessel, which is set to be deployed in for patrolling and rescue operations off the coast of Mangaluru.
- ✓ The boat also comprises of world–class navigation and communication equipment systems, which helps in search operations and maritime surveillance.

4. What was Tushar Kanjilal, the famous personality who passed away recently in Kolkata?

[A] Sportsperson [B] Social worker ☑

[C] Politician [D] Musician

- ✓ The 85–year–old veteran social worker and educationist Tushar Kanjilal passed away recently in Kolkata. He was the recipient of the prestigious 'Padma Shri', the fourth highest civilian honour of India, in 1986.
- ✓ Fondly called as 'Mastermoshai', he worked as the head of a high–school in Rangabelia village of Kolkatta and strived for promoting education among the local population. He also authored a book titled 'Who Killed the Sunderbans?' which is based on the issue of destruction of the Sunderbans' mangrove forests.

5. What is the theme of the World Sustainable Development Summit, 2020?

[A] Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count ☑

[B] Sustainable Energy across the world

[C] Attaining SDG before 2030

[D] Energy and Resources for all

- ✓ The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- ✓ This year, the global summit is scheduled to be held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The three–day event was inaugurated on January 29, 2020 with the theme, 'Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count'.
- ✓ The summit has been organised for 18 years from 2001, to provide a platform for global leaders to discuss climatic issues. This year, the event focusses on the global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

6. The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is the flagship annual event organised by which state?

[A] Bihar [B] Haryana ☑

[C] Himachal Pradesh [D] Assam

- ✓ The 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela is set to be held from Feb.1 to 16, 2020, at Surajkund, Haryana. It is an annual flagship event organised by the state government of Haryana. This year, Himachal Pradesh is selected as the theme state for the festival.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur attended the inaugural ceremony of the Mela. Various cultural programmes and exhibitions are arranged to promote the tourism of the state.
- ✓ This will enable the state to showcase its tourism potential and attract more people to the state.

7. As per the recent survey of Transparency International, which state has been ranked as the top state in budget formulation practices?

[A] Odisha [B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Assam ☑ [D] West Bengal

- ✓ According to the recent survey conducted the international NGO Transparency International, Indian state Assam has been ranked as the top state in terms of best practices followed during budget formulation.
- ✓ The survey considered four parameters for ranking the states, which are: public disclosure, budgetary process, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly.
- ✓ The survey also revealed that the states which are placed at the bottom of the list were Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab.

8. Which Indian has been recently appointed as the UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand?

[A] Harsh Vardhan Shringla [B] Gita Sabharwal ☑

[C] Jai Shankar [D] Taranjit Singh Sandhu

- ✓ Gita Sabharwal of India has been recently appointed as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand, with the approval of the host country. Gita Sabharwal was serving as the Peace–building and Development Adviser representing the United Nations, in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The UN Resident Coordinators are the representatives of the UN Development system and leaders of the UN country teams. They also support to member countries in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets.

9. Amazon India recently partnered with Eastern Railways, to set up a pick–up kiosk in which railway station?

[A] Dum Dum junction [B] Bidhan Nagar

[C] Sealdah ☑ [D] Durga Nagar

- ✓ E–Commerce giant, Amazon India recently partnered with Eastern Railways, to set up a pick–up kiosk in Sealdah railway station in Kolkata.
- ✓ By selecting the railway station as their pick–up location while ordering their products in the company's website or application, the customers can pick up their packages conveniently at the station.
- ✓ In 2019, Amazon successfully launched pick–up kiosks at four railway stations in Mumbai by partnering with Indian Railways.

10. Which international smartphone firm recently signed a MoU with IIT – Hyderabad for Research and Development projects?

[A] Xiaomi [B] OPPO ☑

[C] Huawei [D] Vivo

- ✓ The international smartphone firm OPPO recently signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad for collaborating in Research and Development projects in emerging technologies.
- ✓ As per the agreement signed between the R&D Department of the IIT and Head of OPPO India, joint research and development for multiple projects will be undertaken for a period of two years, in technologies such as Image processing, 5G networks and Artificial Intelligence.
- ✓ The partnership also aims to create industry–ready and skilled workforce from the institution.

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