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FOURTH WEEK

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1. The 'Pandemic Bonds' are issued by which multilateral development bank?

[A] World Bank ☒

[B] AIIB

[C] European Investment Bank

[D] ADB

- ✓ Pandemic Bonds were launched by World Bank under its Pandemic Emergency Financing umbrella in 2017 in response to the 2013 to 2016 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.
- ✓ The bonds issued by the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), offer investors high coupons in return for the risk of having to forgo some or all their money in the event of pandemic outbreaks of a number of infectious diseases.

2. The Shanidar Cave, a hotspot for Neanderthal remains, is located in which country?

[A] Syria

[B] Iraq ☒

[C] Tajikistan

[D] Egypt

- ✓ Shanidar Cave is located in the Kurdistan Region in Iraq in Zagros Mountains. Shanidar Cave was excavated in the 1950s, when archaeologist Ralph Solecki uncovered partial remains of ten Neanderthal men, women and children. Some were clustered together, with clumps of ancient pollen surrounding one of the skeletons.
- ✓ Solecki claimed this showed Neanderthals buried their dead and conducted funerary rites with flowers.

3. Which country is supplier of majority of mined Cobalt, which is used in cathodes for lithium-ion batteries used in cell phones and Electric vehicles?

[A] China

[B] Kazakhstan

[C] Sudan

[D] Democratic Republic of Congo ☒

- ✓ Cobalt is a critical element for not only cell phones but also electric vehicles that might be good for the environment. Roughly 60% of mined cobalt is sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its continued availability is becoming an issue due to political environment of DRC.

4. What is the current (2020) number of telecom companies in India?

[A] 10

[B] 8

[C] 6

[D] 4 ☒

- ✓ Telecom companies in India have reduced from nine in 2016 to four in 2020, including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the government-owned telecom company.
- ✓ This has happened even as consumption of mobile services rose 88% from 366 minutes per user per month to 691 while data consumption grew from less than 0.5 gigabytes (GB) to nearly 11 GB between 2016 and 2019, according to data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

5. Which country is world's biggest palm oil importer?

[A] India ☒

[B] China

[C] Russia

[D] Saudi Arabia

- ✓ As of 2020, India is largest importer of Palm Oil. India imported 9.4 million tonnes of palm oil in the marketing year that ended on October 31, including 2.72 million tonnes of refined palm oil.
- ✓ Palm oil makes up nearly two-thirds of India's total imports of edible oil. It buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, which are the world's top and second biggest producer of the commodity respectively.

6. Currently, which Economic Census is underway in India?

[A] 5th

[B] 6th

[C] 7th ☒

[D] 8th

- ✓ 7th Economic Census is being brought out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Central Statistics Office (Economic Statistics Division).
- ✓ A nationwide Business Register as per international practices adopted by developing countries and in line with UNSD recommendations.
- ✓ It will provide detailed information on economic variables, activity wise, of all the non agricultural establishments of the country including its distribution at all India, State, District, Village levels for

comprehensive analysis of the structure of the economy.

7. As per the National Population Register, a person is “usual resident” who has resided in a local area for past how many months / years?

[A] 6 months ☒

[B] 1 year

[C] 18 months

[D] 2 years

- ✓ National Population Register (NPR) is a list of “usual residents” of the country, defined as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.
- ✓ It is a register having both biometric and demographic details of every resident in India from village to district to state to the national level.

8. Who heads the 12 member “Technology Group” to advice ministries, departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) on technology implementation?

[A] Dr. R Chidamabaram

[B] Rishikesh

[C] Dr K Vijay Raghavan ☒

[D] Bhaskar Saha

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, recently gave its nod for the constitution of a 12 member “Technology Group” to advice ministries, departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) on technology implementation.
- ✓ The committee will be headed by Dr K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific advisor to PM Modi.

9. Which country has highest rate of hepatitis C in the world and is expected to eradicate the disease in 2020?

[A] Saudi Arabia

[B] China

[C] India

[D] Egypt ☒

- ✓ Egypt has 15–20% prevalence of HCV. The country is expected to eradicate the disease by 2020 after an ambitious nationwide campaign against the disease.

10. The cabinet of which state in India has cleared a bill to enact the “Time–Bound Clearance Act” which shall ensure time–bound clearance of industrial licenses for investment projects?

[A] Rajasthan

[B] Haryana

[C] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[D] Gujarat

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has cleared a draft bill to enact Madhya Pradesh Time–Bound Clearance Act. This act will ensure time–bound clearance of industrial licenses for investment projects.
- ✓ It envisages that around 40 clearances and permissions pertaining to almost 10 state departments will have to be delivered within a fixed timeframe.

1. What is the rank of India in the 'Global Flourishing index' released by WHO Commission and UNICEF?

[A] 101 [B] 111 [C] 121 [D] 131 ☒

- ✓ A report titled 'A Future for the World's Children' was recently released by a World Health Organization (WHO) Commission, UNICEF and the Lancet journal.
- ✓ The report included a new 'Global Flourishing index', which compares the countries in measures of child survival and wellbeing. Out of the total of 180 countries assessed, India is placed at 131st rank in flourishing index and 77th rank in sustainability index.

2. Project Tej, which was in news recently, was launched by which Indian state?

[A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Odisha
[C] Telangana ☒ [D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ The Government of Telangana have launched Project Tej, in association with a platform MedTechConnect, during the BioAsia 2020 – Biotech & Life Sciences forum of the state.
- ✓ This Project aims at creating a platform to help entrepreneurs test their ideas in medical technology field. The state's Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) and MedTechConnect signed a MoU in this regard.
- ✓ MedTechConnect platform was established by the engineering and Tech Company Cyient and Xynteo's business alliance called 'India2022 Coalition'.

3. As per the annual 'Nature Ranking Index-2020', which Indian institution is ranked in the first place in the country?

[A] IISc [B] CSIR ☒ [C] TIFR [D] HBNI

- ✓ As per the 'Nature Ranking Index-2020', which is based on total research output of institutions, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been ranked in the first place in the country.
- ✓ Based on the researches carried out from December 2018 to November 2019, the ranks are devised. Indian

Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has been ranked second in the index, followed by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR-Mumbai).

4. In which year, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were granted Indian statehood?

[A] 1972 [B] 1977 [C] 1982 [D] 1987 ☒

- ✓ The two north-eastern states Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday observed their Statehood Day on February 20. On the same day in the year 1987, the two states were granted Indian statehood.
- ✓ Mizoram was a part of the state Assam until 1972, the year in which it was made a separate Union Territory. Subsequently, it became the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987.
- ✓ The North East Frontier Agency was named Arunachal Pradesh and made a union territory in 1972, and then made a state in 1987.

5. What does CCPA stand for, in the context of Consumer Protection Act 2019?

[A] Common Consumer Protection Agency
[B] Central Consumer Protection Authority ☒
[C] Company Consumer Protection Authority
[D] Centralised Consumer Protection Affairs

- ✓ Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has recently announced that the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be created to implement the Consumer Protection Act 2019.
- ✓ The Authority will be established by the first week of April this year. The Minister also announced that an investigative wing will be formed, which will function under the authority to carry out inquiries related to unfair trade practices and deceptive advertisements.
- ✓ The Parliament approved 'The Consumer Protection Bill 2019', which replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, last year.

6. Who was named as the Ernst and Young (EY) Entrepreneur of the Year 2019?

- [A] Adi Godrej [B] Uday Kotak
[C] Kiran Mazumdar Shaw ☒ [D] Sridhar Vembu

- ✓ The 21st edition of the Ernst and Young (EY) awards for the year 2019 was presented recently.
- ✓ The Founder and CMD of India's leading Bio – Pharmaceutical firm – Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2019. She is set to represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Monte Carlo, to be held in June.
- ✓ Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award while Tuhin Parikh of Blackstone India, was the first recipient of the 'Transformational Impact Person of the Year' award.

7. Which city was host to the 'Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts'?

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

- ✓ The Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts was recently organised in New Delhi. The symposium was inaugurated by Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani.
- ✓ The national symposium was attended by officials from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Textiles & representatives of Export Promotion Council.

8. Which Indian sportsperson won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award for the third consecutive year?

- [A] Mary Kom [B] P V Sindhu ☒
[C] Saina Nehwal [D] Sania Mirza

- ✓ India's ace shuttler and World champion P V Sindhu won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award for a third consecutive time.

- ✓ Sindhu's World Championship victory has also been selected as the Moment of the Year. Chief National Badminton Coach Pullela Gopichand was selected as the Coach of the Year.

- ✓ Top-rated shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the ESPN's Male Sportsperson of the Year award while Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary duo grabbed the Team of the Year honour.

9. Which portal of Indian Railways has won the Silver in National e-Governance Award for excellence in providing citizen-centric delivery?

- [A] Where is my train [B] Rail Suvidha
[C] Rail Madad ☒ [D] Rail Saarthi

- ✓ RailMadad, the grievance redressal portal of Indian Railways, has won the National e-Governance Award for excellence in providing citizen-centric delivery.
- ✓ The new unified portal of Indian Railways, used for grievance, inquiry, and assistance, was awarded Silver under Category II of National e-Governance Awards.
- ✓ The National e-Governance Awards are presented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) annually, to promote e-Governance initiatives.

10. Which city was host to NITI Aayog's 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Conclave 2020'?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Guwahati ☒
[C] Kolkata [D] Shillong

- ✓ NITI Aayog recently organised 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Conclave 2020: Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern States' in Guwahati, Assam.
- ✓ The conclave was organised in association with the North Eastern Council, Government of Assam, Tata Trust, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The 3 day event commenced from February 24th in Guwahati.

1. *Vellbergia bartholomaei*, which was seen in news recently, belongs to which species?
- [A] Frog [B] Lizard ☒
[C] Spider [D] Snake
- ✓ According to the recent research done by the researchers of Harvard University, a new prehistoric reptile species was discovered, which was claimed to be an ancestor to modern day lizards and snakes.
- ✓ The ancient lizard is called as '*Vellbergia bartholomaei*' and this discovery is expected to reveal several details about the evolution of 4 legged creatures.
2. Leo Varadkar, who recently tendered his resignation, was the Prime Minister of which country?
- [A] France [B] Ireland ☒
[C] The Netherlands [D] Greece
- ✓ The Prime Minister of Ireland Leo Varadkar recently tendered his resignation as Taoiseach, which means Prime minister in the country.
- ✓ Though he submitted his resignation to the Irish President Michael Higgins, he continued to stay on as interim leader. As per the country's constitution, the Taoiseach and the government will continue to carry on their duties until successors are appointed.
3. Which state Government has ordered destruction of breeding centres of Thai Mangur fish?
- [A] Odisha [B] West Bengal
[C] Assam [D] Maharashtra ☒
- ✓ The Thai Mangur fish, which has a similar appearance like fresh water Mangur, is cultivated in highly unhygienic conditions in the state and it causes sickness to people on consumption.
- ✓ Hence, the Maharashtra government has launched a special drive to destroy the cultivation centres of the exotic Thai Mangur fish. The Head of the state fisheries department has ordered a ban on sale of the fish.
- ✓ The National Green Tribunal had earlier banned the sale of the fish species in 2000.
4. Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens' scheme is associated with which state?
- [A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Haryana ☒
[C] Uttarakhand [D] Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ The Governor of Haryana, during the budget session of the State Assembly, announced that the Haryana government will open Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens in all markets and sugar mills across the state.
- ✓ The canteens are to be set up to provide affordable meals to farmers and labourers at 10 rupees per plate. Nearly 25 such canteens are to be established across the state.
5. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission is implemented by which Union Ministry?
- [A] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
[B] Ministry of Rural Development ☒
[C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
[D] Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
- ✓ The fourth Anniversary of the launch of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was observed on 21st February.
- ✓ In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mission under the Ministry of Rural Development, on the same date.
- ✓ Under the mission, well planned Rurban clusters are created to stimulate local economic development and thereby creating an inclusive rural development.
6. 'Viewpoints', which was recently in news, is an application of which major technological company?
- [A] Google [B] Amazon
[C] Facebook ☒ [D] Apple

- ✓ 'Viewpoints' is a market research application of the Facebook. It asks user to participate in surveys, tasks and product-testing and reward them for the same.
- ✓ It was in news recently as the company announced that it would financially reward the select group of users, who agree to record their voice to improvise the firm's speech-recognition technology.
- ✓ The users will have to record the audio using a new programme called 'Pronunciations' in the application.

7. Which State / UT was host to the 'National Organic Food Festival', held recently?

- [A] Lakshadweep [B] Assam
[C] Maharashtra [D] New Delhi ☒

- ✓ The National Organic Food Festival was recently inaugurated in New Delhi by the Union Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.
- ✓ 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential' is the theme of the festival. 100s of woman entrepreneurs and different self – help groups from across the nation exhibit their organic products in the 3 day festival.

8. India is set to provide grant to which country for upgradation of plantation schools, for Indian-origin estate workers?

- [A] Bangladesh [B] Sri Lanka ☒
[C] Nepal [D] Laos

- ✓ India & Sri Lanka have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for upgradation of infrastructure in plantation schools for estate workers of Indian origin.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in Colombo, under which infrastructure of 9 plantation schools are to be upgraded with the assistance of 30 Cr rupees from India. Construction and renovation of several school buildings is also being carried out with Indian grant.

9. 'Thal Sena Bhawan', which was seen in news recently, is to be built in which state/ UT?

- [A] Ladakh [B] Jammu and Kashmir
[C] Chandigarh [D] New Delhi ☒

- ✓ India's new Army Headquarters is christened as 'Thal Sena Bhawan'. Recently, the Defence Minister laid foundation stone of the new Headquarters at Delhi Cantonment.
- ✓ The new Army headquarters is to be constructed spanning around an area of 39 acres. The newly created Chief of Defence Staff office will also be set up in the building.
- ✓ The multistoreyed building is scheduled to be constructed in five years and will have all the offices of Army in the complex.

10. India's first floating jetty has been inaugurated in which State / UT?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Goa ☒
[C] Mumbai [D] Gujarat

- ✓ India's first floating jetty has been inaugurated in Panaji, Goa on the banks of Mandovi River. The jetty is located in the premises of the state port department.
- ✓ The jetty, which is made of cement concrete, can be built in a short time. Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the jetty as well as the immigration facility at a cruise terminal in Mormugao Port.

1. As of February, 2020, which country is India's top trade partner?

[A] China [B] USA ☒ [C] Japan [D] Russia

- ✓ United States has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner. According to the Commerce Ministry data, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at nearly 88 billion dollars in 2018–19 fiscal.
- ✓ During the period, India's trade with China was at 87.1 billion dollars. Similarly, during April–December 2019–20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at 68 billion dollars against a nearly 65 billion dollars trade with China in the same period.
- ✓ America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus. On the other hand, India has a huge trade deficit with China.
- ✓ In 2018–19, India has a trade surplus of 16.9 billion dollars with America, while it has a deficit of 53.6 billion dollars with the neighboring country. The data showed that China was India's top trading partner since 2013–14 till 2017–18.

2. What was overall rank of India in the Asian Wrestling Championships, 2020 held in New Delhi?

[A] 2nd [B] 3rd ☒ [C] 4th [D] 5th

- ✓ The Asian Wrestling Championships, 2020 was held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium, Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi from February 18 to February 23.
- ✓ China was barred from entering into the competition due to the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreak. The top 4 countries in the series were Japan, Iran, India and Kazakhstan. Japan won 8 Gold and total 16 medals. India won 5 Gold medals while total medal tally was 20.

3. Which city has recently hosted International Judicial Conference?

[A] New Delhi ☒ [B] Bhopal
[C] Mumbai [D] Chandigarh

- ✓ The two-day International Judicial Conference, 2020 was held at Supreme Court auditorium, New Delhi. The

theme of the conference was 'Judiciary and the Changing World.'

4. Which state has recently ordered the destruction of 'Thai Mangur' fish breeding centers?

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Goa
[C] Gujarat [D] Maharashtra ☒

- ✓ The Thai Mangur fish, which has a similar appearance like fresh water Mangur, is cultivated in highly unhygienic conditions in the state and it causes sickness to people on consumption.
- ✓ Hence, the Maharashtra government has launched a special drive to destroy the cultivation centres of the exotic Thai Mangur fish. The Head of the state fisheries department has ordered a ban on sale of the fish.
- ✓ The National Green Tribunal had earlier banned the sale of the fish species in 2000.

5. What is the upper land-holding limit to become eligible for financial support under PM-KISAN scheme?

[A] 1 Hectare [B] 2 Hectare
[C] 3 Hectare [D] No limit ☒

- ✓ PM-KISAN scheme launched on 24th February 2019. The schemes provides income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs.
- ✓ Under the Scheme, Rs.6000 per year is transferred in installments directly into the bank accounts of the farmers. The scheme initially provided income support to all small and marginal farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to two hectares.
- ✓ However, its ambit was later expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

6. The recently set up Sanjiv Puri Expert Group is looking into which domain?

[A] Unorganized Sector [B] Farm Exports ☒

[C] Manufacturing Industries [D] Service Sector

- ✓ The 15th Finance Commission has established a high level expert group for looking into agricultural exports. The committee is to be headed by ITC Chairman and is to submit its report in 3 months.

- ✓ The Sanjiv Puri Expert Group was set up to look into ways of improving agriculture exports.

7. The recently discovered *C. gretathunbergae* is a species of__?

[A] Fish [B] Snake

[C] Snail ☒ [D] Frog

- ✓ Scientists in Netherlands have named a new species of land snail discovered in Brunei after Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.

- ✓ *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae* is a newly discovered species of land snail. It was named in honour of the Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.

- ✓ The snail is noted for being sensitive to droughts, forest degradation and temperature extremes. It belongs to a group of snails called Caenogastropods.

8. NRI Sabha is an NGO controlled by which state government?

[A] Rajasthan [B] Haryana

[C] Punjab ☒ [D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ After a lag of 5 years, the elections to the post of president of NRI Sabha Punjab is to be held. Only members of the NRI Sabha can vote in the election of the president. The NRI Sabha is an NGO controlled by the Punjab government.

- ✓ Any NRI can become its member by paying a fee of 10,500 INR. The body has about 23,000 members across the world. Only the members of the NRI Sabha have a right to contest in the elections. Participation in the voting is also reserved for the members.

- ✓ The NRI Sabha was registered under the Societies Act in 1998. The president of the NRI Sabha does not have any

legal authority. The office bearers of the Sabha also do not have legal authority.

- ✓ Their function is to take up issues concerning NRIs with ambassadors of different countries. They can also push for speeding up government works concerning NRIs.

9. The term "JavaScript sniffers" is associated with__?

[A] Authorization Software [B] Malware ☒

[C] Encryption Software [D] Firewall

- ✓ A Singapore based cybersecurity firm reported that 98% of credit card data being sold on the dark web are of Indian customers and highlighted the use of JS sniffers.

- ✓ JS sniffers or JavaScript sniffers are specialized malwares that are used by cybercriminals for stealing sensitive credit card information. A recent report by Singapore based Group IB highlighted the growing use of these softwares by cybercriminals. The stolen information is then being sold on the dark web.

10. What is Ethnologue?

[A] Database of Languages ☒

[B] Database of Heritage Buildings

[C] Database of local customs

[D] Database of Tribes

- ✓ The 23rd edition of the Ethnologue– the world's largest language database was released in light of the International Mother Language Day, celebrated on February 21st.

- ✓ 'Ethnologue: Languages of the World' is an annual publication that serves as the largest database on the languages of the world. It is mainly used by linguists for research and also by students. Ethnologue is published by a non-profit organization, SIL International which is based in the USA. It is being published since 1951. The main objective of the publication is to document the world languages and promote literacy.

1. The Consumer Protection Act 2019, which is to come into force from April, 2020, makes provisions related to "class action suits". This suit can be invoked to__?

[A] Sue many producers of same product

[B] Recall an entire batch of faulty products ☒

[C] Sue entire management team of the producers of faulty products

[D] Claim damages for an entire group of consumers of faulty product

- ✓ In April, 2020, consumers in India will be able to initiate class-action lawsuits and also opt for mediation under the new Consumer Protection Act 2019, which gives legal teeth to claims for damages over defective products or poor services.
- ✓ A class action suit is a legal tool that enables an individual complaint of a faulty product / service to be treated as an 'interest group' of other people in similar circumstances. The suit can be invoked to recall an entire batch of faulty products based on one complaint.
- ✓ If one lot of an item has a common defect, a single complaint can trigger its recall through 'class action'.

2. After initially dropping shooting and archery from Commonwealth Games, 2022, it has been recently decided that these two sports will be included and will be organized and funded in India as a part of Birmingham Commonwealth Games, 2022. What is the venue of these two sports in India?

[A] New Delhi [B] Chandigarh ☒

[C] Bengaluru [D] Hyderabad

- ✓ India had threatened to boycott the Games after shooting and archery were initially dropped.
- ✓ However, final approval was recently given by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to include these sports. The Commonwealth archery and shooting championships will be held in Chandigarh in Jan, 2022.
- ✓ Medals won will be added to the final tally of participating nations at the Birmingham

Commonwealth Games to be held from July 27 to August 7 that year.

3. In which city, India's Central Vista project, that was recently in news, is coming up?

[A] New Delhi ☒

[B] Mumbai

[C] Hyderabad

[D] Bengaluru

- ✓ Central Vista is an ambitious plan that includes setting up of a new Parliament building, bringing all central ministries closer, and redeveloping the existing heritage structures in and around the central vista.
- ✓ Under the project, eight new government office buildings, a new Parliament House and a residential complex near the South Block that could house the homes of the Prime Minister and the Vice President are among the projects that may come.

4. Which of the following African countries has been recently listed in the FATF's grey list?

[A] Gabon

[B] Algeria

[C] Kenya

[D] Mauritius ☒

- ✓ Mauritius, long considered a tax haven, has been listed in the FATF's grey list. This has raised questions about the fate of FPI from Mauritius in India.

5. Who heads the IRDAI committee looking into issue of indemnity based health insurance products for life insurance companies?

[A] D Rajkumar

[B] Pravin Kumar Purwar

[C] Pradosh Kumar Rath [D] MR Kumar ☒

- ✓ The insurance regulator IRDAI has set up a committee to examine whether life insurers can offer indemnity based health policies.
- ✓ IRDAI has now set up a nine member committee led by MR Kumar, Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation of India to look into the issue.

6. For the 1st time, which of the following supranational banks has listed Masala Bonds in the Global Securities Market?

[A] World Bank

[B] Asian Development Bank ☒

[C] Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

[D] African Development Bank

✓ In a first, supranational institution Asian Development Bank, has listed its 10 year ₹850 crore Masala bond on the Global Securities Market of the India International Exchange at GIFT City.

✓ Asian Development Bank's Masala bonds are dual listed at both Luxembourg and India INX.

7. What is the current number of members in the BIMSTEC grouping?

[A] 5

[B] 6

[C] 7 ☒

[D] 8

✓ BIMSTEC is a regional grouping with seven countries from South and Southeast Asia including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Myanmar. It aims to promote regional cooperation for rapid economic development.

8. In which year, the MoU to establish the 'BIMSTEC grid interconnection' was signed between the members of BIMSTEC countries?

[A] 2016

[B] 2017

[C] 2018 ☒

[D] 2019

✓ Recently, BIMSTEC and South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration jointly organized the conference titled 'Increase Cooperation in the Energy Sector in BIMSTEC Region.' The BIMSTEC members are planning for a 3000 km BIMSTEC power grid called BIMSTEC grid interconnection. The MoU was signed in 2018.

9. The proposed 'Santusht' app is for the beneficiaries of which scheme?

[A] National Saving Certificates Scheme

[B] Employees State Insurance (ESI) scheme ☒

[C] PMKISAN

[D] None of the above

✓ Labour Ministry will soon launch a mobile app 'Santusht' with an aim to address issues of beneficiaries of Employees State Insurance (ESI) scheme.

✓ The minister informed about bringing 'Santusht' mobile app for the benefit of ESI beneficiaries very soon at Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) foundation day celebration function in the capital, a labour ministry statement said.

10. Antihydrogen is composed of ____?

[A] Positron & Proton

[B] Neutron & Proton

[C] Positron & Antiproton ☒

[D] Neutrino & Neutron

✓ Antihydrogen is the antimatter counterpart of hydrogen. Whereas the common hydrogen atom is composed of an electron and proton, the antihydrogen atom is made up of a positron and antiproton.

1. As of 2020, the largest cricket stadium of the world is located in which country?

[A] Australia

[B] India ☒

[C] South Africa

[D] New Zealand

✓ Sardar Patel Stadium located in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) also called as the Motera Stadium is the largest cricket stadium of the world and the 2nd largest stadium in the World, after the Rungrado May Day Stadium of North Korea.

✓ The reconstruction work of the Sardar Patel Stadium started in the year 2016. US President Donald Trump jointly addressed the 'Namaste Trump' event with PM Narendra Modi at the newly renovated Stadium

2. Which country organised a training course on 'Vessel Search Technique' for Indian Coast Guard and Customs personnel at Chennai?

[A] Japan

[B] Australia ☒

[C] Oman

[D] Qatar

✓ The Mobile Training Team of the Australian Border Force conducted the training course on 'Vessel Search Technique' for the personnel of Indian Coast Guard, Customs and Coastal Security Group members of the Tamil Nadu Police.

✓ Indian Coast Guard organised this training course at the capital of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, along with the Border Force of Australia.

3. Which city hosted the 4 day 'International Conference on Banana' organised by ICAR?

[A] Gandhi Nagar

[B] Tiruchirappalli ☒

[C] Cochin

[D] Thiruvananthapuram

✓ A four day 'International Conference on Banana' was recently organised by the National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), an institution under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in association with Bioversity International, during 22–25 February, 2020.

✓ ICAR's National Research Centre for Banana is based at Tiruchirappalli. The Conference is organised at Trichy on the theme of 'Innovations in sustainable production and value chain management in banana'.

4. Which Indian PSU is set to acquire the government's entire stake in THDC India and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO)?

[A] NTPC Limited ☒

[B] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

[C] Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

[D] NHPC Limited

✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently permitted the Maharatna PSU NTPC Limited to acquire the government's entire stake in THDC India and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO).

✓ NTPC will acquire 100% of the issued and paid-up share capital of the NEEPCO and 74.5% in THDC India, the rest of which is held by Uttar Pradesh state government.

5. '5G Hackathon' was recently launched by which Union Ministry/ organisation?

[A] NITI Aayog

[B] Ministry of Science and Technology

[C] Ministry of Communication ☒

[D] Ministry of Human Resource and Development

✓ The Dept of Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communication has recently launched '5G Hackathon' in association with govt & industry stakeholders.

✓ The Hackathon aims to convert new ideas into feasible 5G products and solutions in the country. All students, startups, SMEs, academic institutions and registered companies in India and even NRIs can participate in the event.

6. Which is the only Indian company to feature in the Fortune's 'Top 20 Big Companies to Work For' list in 2020?

- [A] Infosys [B] Tata Consultancy Services ☒
[C] Zoho [D] Zomato

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected as one of the Fortune's Best Big Companies to Work For in the year 2020.
- ✓ It is also the only Indian firm to feature in the Top 20 list. Great Place to Work, an international workplace culture expert conducted the survey from 33,000 employees at the certified organisations across the US.

7. The two species of birds 'Red Throated Thrush and Plumbeous Water Redstart' were recently found in which State / UT?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh [B] Uttarakhand
[C] Ladakh ☒ [D] Lakshadweep

- ✓ The Great Backyard Bird count exercise was recently carried out by the Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh.
- ✓ During the exercise, two new bird species namely 'Red Throated Thrush and Plumbeous Water Redstart' have been found for the first time in Ladakh Region. Bird and wildlife experts have counted and recorded a total of 87 different species of birds in Ladakh.

8. Which city was the venue of "Microsoft Future Decoded – CEO Summit"?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai ☒
[C] Chennai [D] Gurugram

- ✓ Microsoft hosted its "Microsoft Future Decoded – CEO Summit" in Mumbai on February 24. The summit was attended by leaders of different fields. The gathering was addressed by Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.
- ✓ Nadella also attended the 'Microsoft Future Decoded – Tech Summit' held at Bengaluru on February 25.

9. Abhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of which Indian PSU?

- [A] NTPC Limited
[B] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
[C] NHPC Limited ☒
[D] Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

- ✓ Abhay Kumar Singh has been recently appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of the Indian PSU, NHPC Limited. He has assumed the charge of Chairman and Managing Director of the company on February 24, 2020 and will serve till the date of his superannuation.
- ✓ Abhay Kumar Singh has replaced Ratish Kumar who held additional charge of the post of Chairman and MD.

10. The 1st anniversary of the launch of which welfare scheme was observed on February 24?

- [A] PM Kisan Maan–Dhan Yojana (PM–KMY)
[B] PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM–KISAN) ☒
[C] PM Shram Yogi Maan–Dhan (PM–SYM)
[D] PM Laghu Vyapari Maan–Dhan Yojana

- ✓ The 1st anniversary of the launch of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM–KISAN) scheme was recently observed on February 24, 2020.
- ✓ PM–KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. Under the Scheme an annual income support of Rs.6000 is provided to all farmer families across the country in 3 equal instalments of Rs.2000.

1. Which aircraft carrier launched freighter services to assist shrimp farmers?

[A] Alliance Air

[B] IndiGo

[C] SpiceJet ☒

[D] Vistara

✓ Leading Indian aircraft carrier SpiceJet launched freighter services from Chennai and Vishakhapatnam to Surat and Kolkata, to assist the transportation of shrimp seeds.

✓ The air cargo arm of SpiceJet called SpiceXpress, will use the Boeing 737 freighter with a 21 tonne carrying capacity will be used in this transportation. This is the 1st such effort in the proposed routes. In the recent budget, a similar service called 'Krishi Udaan' was proposed.

2. Bob Iger, who recently tendered his resignation, was the CEO of which global firm for 15 years?

[A] Walt Disney Company ☒

[B] Netflix

[C] Warner Bros

[D] Pixar

✓ The Chief Executive Officer of the Walt Disney Company commonly called as Disney, Bob Iger recently tendered his resignation. He has served as the CEO of the US based multinational mass media company from 2005.

✓ Under his leadership, the company successfully purchased Star Wars, Marvel and Fox's entertainment businesses. Bob Chapek is to replace Iger as the next CEO. Iger will be the executive chairman till 2021 Dec.31.

3. As of 2020, what is the Foreign Direct investment (FDI) limit, allowed in insurance intermediaries?

[A] 0%

[B] 26%

[C] 49%

[D] 100% ☒

✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently notified that 100% FDI is allowed in insurance intermediaries under automatic approval route. The FDI policy, earlier allowed 49% foreign investment in the insurance sector, including insurance intermediaries.

✓ Intermediary services comprise of insurance brokers, re-insurance brokers, insurance consultants, 3rd party administrators, loss assessors etc.

4. What is the name of the new satellite, scheduled to be launched by the ISRO on March 5, 2020?

[A] GISAT-1 ☒

[B] GISAT-3

[C] GISAT-7

[D] GISAT-11

✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that geo imaging satellite, GISAT 1 will be launched on March 5. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10) will launch the satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

✓ The 2275 kg world class earth observation satellite will be placed in the geosynchronous transfer orbit.

5. Hosni Mubarak, who recently passed away, was the former President of which country?

[A] Greece

[B] Egypt ☒

[C] France

[D] Libya

✓ The former of Egypt President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, passed away recently at the age of 91. He was the President of the country for nearly 30 years. Mubarak was a former Chief of the country's Air Force.

✓ After he became the Vice President of Egypt in 1981, he assumed power as the President after his predecessor Anwar Sadat was assassinated. After huge protests, Mubarak was forced to step down in 2011.

6. As per the new agreement signed by the Container Corporation of India (Concor) and RZD Logistics JSC (Russian Railways), cargos are to be transported through which country?

[A] Pakistan

[B] Afghanistan

[C] Iran ☒

[D] Uzbekistan

✓ Container Corporation of India (Concor) and RZD Logistics JSC (Russian Railways) recently signed a service agreement for transporting cargo between India and Russia using a single invoice.

- ✓ The containers will move between the two countries by using the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which passes through Iran. The corridor also passes through Azerbaijan.

7. Suella Braverman, an Indian origin minister recently sworn in as the Attorney General of which country?

- [A] United States [B] United Kingdom ☒
[C] New Zealand [D] Finland

- ✓ Indian origin minister Suella Braverman recently sworn in as the Attorney General of the United Kingdom. She was appointed by the new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after he reshuffled his cabinet.

- ✓ Suella is only the second female to be appointed in the crucial role & she is also the 1st female Attorney General to be appointed by a Conservative Party government.

8. Which country is the 1st to develop an antibody test to identify the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

- [A] China [B] United States
[C] Singapore ☒ [D] South Korea

- ✓ The Singapore Ministry of Health announced that an antibody test has been developed by the country's medical school and it has successfully identified two people, who were infected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

- ✓ The currently used molecular test detects the viral genetic material in oral swab samples whereas the newly developed test detects antibodies developed by the immune system when infected with the virus.

9. As per the recent 'Hurun Global Rich List 2020', which country has the highest number of billionaires?

- [A] United States [B] China ☒
[C] Russia [D] India

- ✓ As per the recently released 'Hurun Global Rich List 2020', China is home to the highest number of billionaires of the world.

- ✓ The report placed Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos in the top rank, who possesses wealth amounting to \$140 bn. Microsoft Founder Bill Gates is in the 3rd spot, while Mukesh Ambani was placed in the 9th place with \$67 bn. He is the only Indian to feature in the Top 10 list and he is the richest in Asia.

10. 'Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrator' is a programme launched of Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
[B] Ministry of Human Resource Development ☒
[C] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
[D] Ministry of MSME

- ✓ The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank recently launched a programme called 'Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrator'.

- ✓ It is a joint initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC) and British Council under the support of UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). The main objective of the programme is to train the senior and middle level administrators in Indian Universities.