

1. 'Holi Mohalla' is a festival celebrated in which Indian state / UT?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Punjab ☒
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Assam



- ✓ 'Holi Mohalla' is a festival celebrated annually in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib by the people from the Sikh community. The festival is usually celebrated on the second day of lunar month of Chet, which will follow the day of Holi festival.
- ✓ This year, the 'Holi Mohalla' festival fell on March 10. It is celebrated to symbolise martial bravery and fighting prowess with music.

2. What is the theme of the 'World Development Report' 2021?

- A) Data for better lives ☒
- B) Data for better economy
- C) Data for better administration
- D) Data for better world



- ✓ World Development Report 2021 has been released with the theme of 'Data for Better Lives'. This is the first World Development Report which focused solely on the role of data for development.
- ✓ As the COVID pandemic made the global data inequalities even greater, the report speaks on how do we tap the full value of data, to ensure equitable access for poor people.

3. Which country has assumed the chairship of BRICS for the year 2021?

- A) China
- B) India ☒
- C) Russia
- D) South Africa



- ✓ For the year 2021, the chairmanship of BRICS is vested with India. India has commenced its chairship with the inauguration of 3-day-long Sherpas' meeting. The meeting was chaired by Secretary (CPV & OIA) of Ministry of External Affairs. During the meet, India introduced to the member countries its themes and priorities for the year 2021.

4. 'Khelo India Scheme' has been extended till which financial year?

- A) 2022-23
- B) 2023-24
- C) 2024-25
- D) 2025-26 ☒



- ✓ The Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced in Rajya Sabha that the 'Khelo India Scheme' has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26. An amount of Rs 8750 crore has been estimated for implementation of the new Khelo India Scheme. This data has also been provided to the Ministry of Finance by the Sports Ministry. Rs 657.71 crore has been allocated in the Budget for 2021-22 under the Khelo India Scheme.

5. As per the recent SBI report, India's second COVID wave may last up to how many days?

- A) 50
- B) 100 ☒
- C) 200
- D) 300

100

- ✓ Report from State Bank of India's research team underlined that duration of the second covid-19 wave in India might last up to 100 days. The report was authored by Chief Economic Adviser of Bank, Soumya Kanti Ghosh.
- ✓ The report also said that, localised lockdowns or restrictions have not resulted in controlling spread of infection. It is visible in case of states like Maharashtra and Punjab. So, it suggests that, Lockdown is ineffective and vaccination is the only cure.

6. As per a recent study, the heat waves occurring in India is due to the warming up of which region?

- A) Arctic Region ☒
- B) Antarctic Region
- C) Pacific Ocean
- D) Indian Ocean



- ✓ A recent study with researchers from India and Brazil published a research article entitled "Large-scale connection to Deadly Indian Heatwaves." As per the study, the heat waves during the summer season of April and May could be due to the significant warming up of the Arctic region. They state that the Indian heat waves occur due to a mechanism called "Quasi-Resonant Amplification (QRA)".

7. Which Indian body announced a new British Council developed assessment framework based on the National Education Policy 2020?

- A) AICTE
- B) UGC
- C) CBSE ☒
- D) NAAC



- ✓ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced a competency-based assessment framework for classes 6-10 based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ✓ The assessment aims to improve the overall learning outcomes of students mainly covering three subjects namely English (reading), Science, and Maths. British Council along with AlphaPlus as the UK knowledge partner, designed and developed this framework.

8. Which country's parliament has passed a bill to enable its incumbent President to run for two more terms from 2024?

- A) China
- B) Russia ☒
- C) United States
- D) Canada



- ✓ Russia's lower house of parliament the State Duma has recently approved a bill, to enable its incumbent President Vladimir Putin to run for two more terms starting from 2024. The draft law on elections was approved following the constitutional amendments adopted in a nationwide referendum in July 2020. The bill grants Putin the possibility of holding the office for two more terms until 2036.

9. Which is the only country other than India to pass the miscarriages bereavement leave law?

- A) Switzerland
- B) Norway
- C) New Zealand ☒
- D) Germany



- ✓ The parliament of the New Zealand has recently passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth. It has become only the second country in the world to pass the law, after India. One in four New Zealand women experienced a miscarriage. This law will give employees three days leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth.
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10. Which country is set to gift nearly 2 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the UN Peace keepers?

- A) China
- B) Russia
- C) India ☒
- D) UK



- ✓ India has announced 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines as a gift to the UN peacekeepers. It will be sent on March 27 and will be distributed to the peacekeeping missions. With this, it will be possible to administer the double doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all 85,782 UN peacekeepers serving in 12 peacekeeping operations across the world.
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