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FOURTH WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



OCTOBER 2020

October 22-31

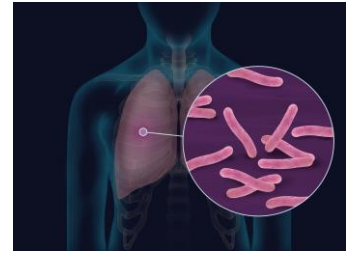
1. Which country has the highest TB burden across the globe at 26%, as per the recent report of WHO?

[A] Nigeria

[B] India ☒

[C] Central African Republic

[D] Republic of the Congo



- ✓ **The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report titled 'The Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020' recently. As per the report, India recorded a decline in the notification of tuberculosis (TB) cases by about 85 percent in April 2020, after the imposition of COVID-19 induced lockdown. However, India has the highest TB burden across the globe at 26 percent.**

2. Who represented India in the 102nd meeting of World Bank Development Committee Plenary?

[A] Narendra Modi

[B] Piyush Goyal

[C] Nirmala Sitharaman ☒

[D] Harsh Vardhan



- ✓ **Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 102nd meeting of World Bank Development Committee Plenary through video conferencing. She highlighted the measures taken by the Government to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, including the USD 23 billion and USD 271 Billion as a part of the economic stimulus package.**

3. ENFUSER and SILAM, that were in news recently, is associated with which field?

[A] Defence

[B] Environment ☒

[C] Education

[D] Culture



- ✓ **The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has operationalized an advanced high-resolution air quality early warning system for the national capital named ENFUSER (Environmental Information Fusion Service). Another model has also been made operationalized for the rest of the country. IMD has also improved the air quality forecast model 'System for Integrated Modelling of Atmospheric Composition (SILAM)', by implementing global emission inventories.**

4. 'Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)', which was in news recently is associated with which countries?

[A] China and Russia

[B] USA and Russia ☒

[C] India and Russia

[D] Israel and Russia



- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed that the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that expires in February, to be extended. However, the USA has rejected the Russian President's proposal of extending the accord for at least a year without imposing any conditions. The New START treaty, that was signed in 2010, limits the numbers of strategic nuclear equipment that the two countries can deploy.

5. What is the rank of India in the Global Hunger Index 2020 report?

[A] 102

[B] 105

[C] 94 ☒

[D] 97



- ✓ As per the Global Hunger Index 2020 report released recently, India ranks 94 among 107 countries in the world. India registered a score of 27.2, which means a level of hunger that is "serious". Last year, India ranked at 102nd position out of 117 countries. The report also revealed that 14 percent of India's population is undernourished.

6. By which year does the Government aim to make India Trans Fat Free?

[A] 2021

[B] 2022 ☒

[C] 2025

[D] 2030

2022

- ✓ India has aimed to make it Trans Fat Free by 2022. This is a year ahead of the target set by World Health Organisation (WHO). Trans Fat is a toxic substance present in Partially Hydrogenated Vegetable Oils, baked and fried foods are seen as an important source of non-communicable disease in India.

7. As per the recent publication in Lancet journal, what is the life expectancy of India in 2019?

- [A] 65
- [B] 66.6
- [C] 70.8 ☒
- [D] 80.8

70.8

- ✓ As per a recent publication by the Lancet journal, life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019. The value ranges between 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh. The report has however pointed out that, in India, people are living more years with illness and disability. High Blood pressure, use of tobacco, air pollution and COVID pandemic has resulted in acute health emergencies.

8. The rocket named New Shepard that is in news recently is associated with which space agency?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] NASA
- [C] Blue Origin ☒
- [D] Virgin Atlantic



- ✓ The rocket named New Shepard has been test launched recently by Blue Origin. It was an unscrewed test. The New Shepard launch vehicle consists of a reusable rocket and space capsule. During the test, both the capsule and the rocket boosters were brought down to earth successfully. Blue Origin is a private spaceflight company founded in 2000 by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.

9. Which Bank has been authorized to issue Electoral Bonds in India?

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



- ✓ The Ministry of Finance has authorised State Bank of India (SBI) to issue and encash Electoral Bonds. These bonds would be made available through SBI's 29 Authorized Branches from 19th October to 28th of October this year. This is the 14th phase of sale. Electoral Bonds will be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment will be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

10. Which country is to resume its oil & gas exploration in disputed South China Sea after a six-year moratorium?

[A] Thailand

[B] Taiwan

[C] Philippines ☒

[D] Singapore



- ✓ **The Philippines announced that it will resume oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, by ending a six-year moratorium on resource exploration. Former President Benigno Aquino III suspended exploration in the disputed sea in 2014 amid tensions with China. The United States had also supported Philippines against the move of China.**
-

1. As of today, how many Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs) have been selected by Sports Ministry?

- [A] 13
- [B] 17
- [C] 20
- [D] 24 ☒



- ✓ The Sports Ministry has recently selected nine States and Union Territories for upgradation to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE). The Ministry had identified 14 centres to be upgraded to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence. The total number stands at 24 KISCEs from 23 States and UTs. Centre will provide assistance for bridging gaps in sports equipment, coaches and technical support among others.

2. The naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from which ship?

- [A] INS Chennai ☒
- [B] INS Mysore
- [C] INS Kolkata
- [D] INS Vikramaditya



- ✓ A naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from INS Chennai. The missile was fired from the indigenously built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea. It hit the target accurately after performing extremely complex operations. The missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms.

3. Which organisation has constituted a task force to look into guidelines for vegan foods in the country?

- [A] Ministry of Agriculture
- [B] FSSAI ☒
- [C] FCI
- [D] APEDA



- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently constituted a task force to look into guidelines for vegan foods in the country. The task force includes 7 members from various

organisations like ICAR, Ministry of Commerce and the Industry and Quality Council and some private vegan institutions.

4. As per the report by WPP Plc and Kantar, which is India's most valuable Brand?

[A] TATA Motors

[B] HDFC Bank ☒

[C] Reliance Industries Limited

[D] ONGC



- ✓ As per a recent report by WPP Plc and Kantar, HDFC Bank has emerged as the most valued brand in India. The Bank is placed at the top position for seventh consecutive year. HDFC Bank is valued at USD 20.2 billion and it is followed by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) at second position.

5. The 'Kati Bihu' festival is celebrated in which state?

[A] Odisha

[B] Assam ☒

[C] West Bengal

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ The 'Kati Bihu' festival was celebrated in the state of Assam recently. It is an agricultural festival being celebrated in the month of October. It is an important festival, during which they light up their homes and agricultural fields. They also perform cultural dances and organise feasts across the state.

6. The Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure (FIST), is implemented by which department?

[A] Department of Agriculture

[B] Department of Science and Technology ☒

[C] Department of Personnel

[D] Department of Space



- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has stated that it is restructuring the "Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions" (FIST). The FIST programme will now be re-launched as FIST 2.0. It aims align the requirements of startups with the government's 'self-reliant India' campaign.

7. NITI Aayog has established a 'Cloud Innovation Center' with which technology major?

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



- ✓ India's think tank NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) has established a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) with Amazon Web Services (AWS). This aims to address societal challenges through digital innovation. This is the first Cloud Innovation Center of Amazon in India and twelfth around the world.

8. What is the name of the real-time Base Metals Index launched by the Multi commodity Exchange (MCX)?

- [A] METLDEX ☒
- [B] GOLDEX
- [C] BULLDEX
- [D] BASEDEX



- ✓ Commodity exchange, Multi commodity Exchange of India (MCX) has recently launched futures trading in real-time Base Metals Index 'METLDEX'. The Base Metals Index will track real-time performance of a basket of MCX Base Metal futures that includes zinc, copper, nickel, lead, and aluminium. In August 2020, the exchange had launched MCX Bullion Index (MCX BULLDEX) futures.

9. Which state in India has recorded the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019?

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



- ✓ The state of Uttar Pradesh has attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019. As per the Indian Tourist Statistics 2020, 23.1% of travelers in India visited Uttar Pradesh. The state stood at third position in average number of foreign travelers. As many as 47 lakh travelers visited the state in 2019.

10. India has signed an agreement with which organisation for 177–million–dollar loan to upgrade road infrastructure in Maharashtra?

[A] World Bank

[B] IMF

[C] ADB ☒

[D] AIIB



- ✓ **The Government of India has signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a loan of USD 177 million. The proceeds of the loan would be used for upgrading 450 kilometres of state highways in Maharashtra. The project is expected to boost the road connectivity between rural and urban centres in Maharashtra for better access to markets and services.**
-

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Environment Ministry to constitute expert committee for which project?

[A] Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project ☒

[B] Telangana Super Thermal Power Project

[C] Kakatiya Project

[D] Bhagiratha Project



- ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has recently held that environmental clearance was granted to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project in Telangana “ex post facto” in violation of the legal requirement. NGT directed the Ministry of Environment to constitute a seven-member expert committee and suggest relief and rehabilitation measures. It will also assess the extent of damage caused by the project.

2. As per Solvent Extractors’ Association, the import of which product has decreased by 12 per cent during this oil year in India?

[A] Edible Oil ☒

[B] Soy Bean

[C] Oil Cakes

[D] Mustard



- ✓ As per the recent statement of the Solvent Extractors’ Association (SEA) of India, the import of edible oils to the country reduced by 12 percent in the first 11 months (November to September) of the oil year 2019–20. The oil year ranges from November to October. India imported 11.95 million tonnes of edible oil during November–September of 2019–20 as against 13.58 million tonnes during the corresponding period of 2018–19.

3. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) asked which country to review the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act?

[A] China

[B] India ☒

[C] United States of America

[D] Brazil



- ✓ The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) chief Michelle Bachelet has recently appealed to the Government of India to review the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

- ✓ The head of the UN forum also asked India to review compliance of the act with international human rights norms. She also regretted that it was being used to punish NGOs for human rights reporting. Earlier, Amnesty Intl., shut its office in India after its bank accounts were frozen.

4. 'PM 2020', that was seen in news recently, is associated with which organisation?

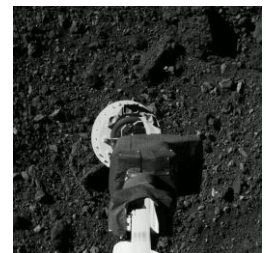
- [A] ISRO
[B] DRDO ☒
[C] BSNL
[D] HAL



- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a new version of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Procurement Manual 2020 (PM-2020). The previous Procurement Manual was altered in the year 2016. The manual aims to encourage more participation of start-ups and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) in defence research and development.

5. What is 'OSIRIS-Rex' that was seen in news recently?

- [A] Spacecraft ☒
[B] Submarine
[C] COVID-19 vaccine
[D] Anti-tank missile



- ✓ Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) is a space craft of the NASA. It was seen in news recently as the space craft touched an asteroid using its robotic arm to collect dust and pebbles from the surface to deliver to Earth in 2023. The asteroid known as Bennu, is currently more than 321 million kilometers from Earth.

6. The evidence of a 172-thousand-year-old river has been found at which state?

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



Volume 247 1 November 2020 ISSN 0277-3791

QUATERNARY
SCIENCE REVIEWS
The International Journal of Earth, Climate and Life Interactions

- ✓ As per a recent study published in the 'Quaternary Science Reviews' journal, evidence of a lost river has been found, which might have been a life-line to human populations.

- ✓ The river which through the central Thar Desert, near Bikaner, before 172 thousand years ago. The study was conducted by Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Germany, Anna University in Tamil Nadu, and IISER Kolkata.

7. Which state has the best Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index among 29 states in the country?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Kerala

[C] Haryana ☒

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ In a recently released scorecard of the Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Haryana was ranked at the top spot with an AMB Index of 46.7. The Anaemia Mukh Bharat is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF. It aims to reduce the prevalence of Anaemia all over India.

8. Nazca Lines, which was seen in news recently, is located in which country?

[A] Brazil

[B] Peru ☒

[C] Jamaica

[D] South Africa



- ✓ The famous UNESCO World Heritage Site Nazca Lines (Pampa de Nazca) is located in the South American country Peru. The place was seen in news recently as a new figurative geoglyph related to a cat was identified, drawn on one of the slopes of this hill. The site is known for its depictions of gigantic animals, plants and imaginary beings.

9. Which organisation in association with World Bank has released the report named "Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty – An update"?

[A] WHO

[B] FAO

[C] IMF

[D] UNICEF ☒



- ✓ 'Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update' is an analysis on children living in poverty, released by World Bank Group and UNICEF. As per the estimate, 1/6th of the total 356

million children of the world, were living in extreme poverty before the COVID-19. The report states that sub-Saharan Africa accounts for two thirds of children living extreme poverty.

10. Which country recorded highest air pollution exposure globally in 2019, as per the State of Global Air 2020 report?

[A] China

[B] United States of America

[C] India ☒

[D] Singapore



- ✓ **The State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report was released by US-based Health Effects Institute and Global Burden of Disease (GBD). As per the report, India recorded the highest annual average PM 2.5 concentration exposure in the world last year.**
 - ✓ **People in India are exposed to the highest PM 2.5 concentrations globally and the country has been recording an increase in PM 2.5 pollution since 2010.**
-

1. What is the name of the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette commissioned into the Indian Navy?

[A] INS Kavach

[B] INS Kavaratti ☒

[C] INS Kamorta

[D] INS Kiltan



- ✓ **INS Kavaratti, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette built under Project 28 (Kamorta Class) was commissioned into the Indian Navy by General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff at a ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. INS Kavaratti is the last of the four indigenously built ASW stealth corvettes under 'Project 28'. It has been built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.**

2. Which state has implemented Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 Government schools?

[A] Tamil Nadu ☒

[B] Kerala

[C] Odisha

[D] Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ **Tamil Nadu state government has started implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools. Under the Smart Black Board scheme, audio visual teaching material is used that can be fed into the computer screens using pen drives. This project is expected to ensure better teaching environment.**

3. Low cost COVID-19 test unit 'COVIRAP', which was approved by ICMR, was developed by which institution?

[A] IIT Chennai

[B] IIT Kharagpur ☒

[C] AIIMS

[D] JIPMER



- ✓ **A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur has developed a low-cost COVID-19 test unit named 'COVIRAP'. It is a portable unit for rapid diagnostics of coronavirus and produces results in less than an hour.**

- ✓ It involves accurate molecular diagnostic procedure and costs only around Rs 500 per test. The team also developed a mobile application for finding the results.

4. Which Union Ministry has launched 'e-Dharti Geo portal'?

[A] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒

[B] Ministry of Agriculture

[C] Ministry of Environment

[D] Ministry of Home Affairs



Ministry of Housing
and Urban Affairs
Government of India

- ✓ Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has recently launched the 'e-Dharti Geo Portal'. The portal aims to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system named e-Dharti and make it a geographic information system (GIS) enabled system.

5. 'The Future of Jobs Report 2020' has been released by which organisation?

[A] ILO

[B] WEF ☒

[C] WTO

[D] UNCTAD



- ✓ Switzerland-based World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently released a report titled 'The Future of Jobs Report 2020'. As per the report, advances in robotics and artificial intelligence will lead to a net increase in jobs over the next five years. It also revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic will result in "double-disruption" for workers.

6. 'Right of First Refusal (RoFR)', that was seen in news recently, is associated with which field?

[A] Medicine

[B] Shipping ☒

[C] Medicine

[D] Education



- ✓ In pursuance of 'Make in India' policy of the Government of India, Ministry of Shipping has reviewed the ROFR (Right of First Refusal) licensing conditions for chartering of vessels/Ships through tender process for all types of requirements. To promote the demand of the ships built in India, priority in chartering of vessels is given to vessels built in India, flagged in India and owned by Indians under the amendments in the guidelines of ROFR (Right of First Refusal).

7. Which is the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), as per the recent announcement of Labour Ministry?

[A] 2010

[B] 2012

[C] 2016 ☒

[D] 2018

2016

- ✓ The Labour and Employment Ministry has recently revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016. This has been done to reflect the changing consumption pattern, to give more weightage to spending on health, education and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages. However, this will not affect the DA of government employees.

8. Golconda Fort is located in which Indian city?

[A] Amritsar

[B] Jhansi

[C] Hyderabad ☒

[D] Ayodhya



- ✓ The devastating rains over Hyderabad in the recent past have caused damage to the 500-year-old Golconda Fort. It is an early capital of the Qutab Shahi Dynasty. As per the Archaeological Survey of India, steps and rocks of the Kingsway, the wall near the Jagadambika temple, the rear wall and a structure near the second well have suffered damage.

9. Who is the head of the IRDAI working group that has proposed Surety Bonds?

[A] G Srinivasan ☒

[B] Ashok Mehta

[C] Injeti Srinivas

[D] Uday Kotak



- ✓ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a working group headed by former New India Assurance Chairman G Srinivasan. The committee has been set up to study the suitability of offering surety bonds by Indian insurance industry. Surety bonds protect the beneficiary against events that impair the underlying obligations of the principal. The committee has favoured the introduction of Surety Bonds in the insurance sector.

10. The Cabinet has approved MoUs between which organisation and its counterparts in Malaysia and Papua New Guinea?

[A] Indian Space Research Organization

[B] Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ☒

[C] Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

[D] Geological Survey of India



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea, to work together in capacity building in Financial and Audit Knowledge base in the island country. Mutual Recognition Agreement between the ICAI and the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants was also approved.**
-

1. The permanent campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar was inaugurated. In which state is the institution located?

- [A] Rajasthan
[B] Punjab ☒
[C] Uttar Pradesh
[D] Haryana



- ✓ **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has recently inaugurated the permanent campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar. IIT Ropar has featured in the 351–400 rank in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020. The institute also received a grant of Rs 110 crore to set up the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) in the fields of agriculture and water.**

2. 'Parinam Manjusha' is the digital academic repository of which institution?

- [A] National Recruitment Agency
[B] Indian Space Research Organisation
[C] Central Board of Secondary Education ☒
[D] All India Council for Technical Education



- ✓ **The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is to enable students their digital academic documents of class X and XII using Facial Recognition System. The live image of the student will be matched with the photograph on the CBSE admit card. The application will be available in the digital academic repository of Central Board of Secondary Education– 'Parinam Manjusha' and Digi Locker.**

3. Where is the 2nd Regional Raw Drug Repository of National Medicinal Plants Board inaugurated?

- [A] Varanasi
[B] New Delhi ☒
[C] Ahmadabad
[D] Mysore



NATIONAL MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARD
Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

- ✓ **The Regional Raw Drug Repository (RRDR) has been inaugurated at All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi. This RRDR is the second in the series of repositories proposed by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH. Ministry of AYUSH has proposed eight RRDR and one NRDR out of which three Regional Raw Drug Repositories are ready.**

4. Who represented India addressed the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group?

- [A] Nitin Gadkari
[B] Jitendra Singh ☒
[C] Nirmala Sitharaman
[D] Piyush Goyal



- ✓ **Union minister Jitendra Singh represented India in the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. The Minister attended the meeting through video conference. During his address, he said that India is committed to the policy of zero tolerance against corruption and unaccounted money. He also mentioned about India's Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.**

5. The European Union's Sakharov Prize 2020 has been awarded to the opposition movement of which country?

- [A] Belarus ☒
[B] Chile
[C] Argentina
[D] Singapore



- ✓ **The European Parliament has awarded the Sakharov Prize for human rights to the Belarusian movement opposing President Alexander Lukashenko. The opposition movement was led by the exiled Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. The EU also had agreed to impose sanctions against officials suspected of involvement in a security crackdown on protesters in Belarus.**

6. Saad al-Hariri has been named as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- [A] Kuwait
[B] Lebanon ☒
[C] Zimbabwe
[D] Iran



- ✓ **Former Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad Hariri won a small majority of votes in parliament and has been named the next Prime Minister. He has been tasked with forming his fourth government, just under a year after his resignation amid mass-protests. President Michel Aoun had consultations with various parliamentary associations before naming him as the Prime Minister.**

7. Which city has broken the record for world's largest fountain?

- [A] Chennai
[B] Tokyo
[C] Dubai ☒
[D] New York



- ✓ **The city of Dubai of United Arab Emirates (UAE) has broken the record for the world's largest fountain. The Palm Fountain which covers an area of 14,366 square feet is located at the Pointe shopping and dining district on Palm Jumeirah of Dubai. Dubai which is one of the seven emirates already holds the record for world's tallest building and world's fastest police car in service.**

8. Recently, Indian Navy conducted a test launch of an Anti-Ship Missile (AshM) from which vessel?

- [A] INS Prabal ☒
[B] INS Kavaratti
[C] INS Kalwari
[D] INS Virat



- ✓ **The Indian Navy has made a test launch of its Anti-Ship Missile (AshM) from a Missile Corvette named INS Prabal. According to an official release, the INS Prabal launched and fired an anti-ship missile in the Arabian Sea on a target of an old ship. The missile had hit the target with utmost accuracy and sank the target ship.**

9. The European Union has fixed a target for net Zero Carbon Emission by which year?

- [A] 2025
[B] 2030
[C] 2050 ☒
[D] 2100



- ✓ **In a meeting held by the European Union (EU) environment ministers in Luxembourg, a law was formulated was signed to make European Union net zero carbon emitter by 2050. The deal makes it legally binding on all the EU members. This climate law would create a basis for Europe's plans to reduce greenhouse emissions in various industrial sectors.**

10. Government e–Marketplace (GeM) portal has been recently integrated with which portal?

[A] SWAYAM Portal

[B] IRCTC Portal

[C] Central Public Procurement Portal ☒

[D] CHAMPIONS Portal



- ✓ Recently, the Government e Marketplace (GeM) has been successfully integrated with Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP). By doing so, the entire process of public procurement of goods and services have been brought under a single platform. The function of "custom bid" is also created in the platform, which will allow a buyer to float a bid on GeM.
-

1. Which state became the third State to curtail the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) powers?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Maharashtra ☒

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Maharashtra became the third state in the country to curtail the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) powers in the state. The state withdrew its general consent agreement with the CBI agency. Hence forth CBI has to seek permission from the Government of Maharashtra for every case it has to investigate. A similar move was earlier done by Rajasthan and West Bengal.**

2. A Price Monitoring and Resource Unit has been recently set up in which Indian state?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Goa ☒

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **A price monitoring and resource unit (PMRU) has been recently set up in Goa, under the aegis of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). NPPA has already established PMRUs in 15 states/ UTs, under its Consumer Awareness, Publicity and Price Monitoring (CAPPM) scheme. As per the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the unit will function at the state level under the direct supervision of the state drug controller.**

3. As per a recent study, the habitat of which species has been estimated to decline by 2050, due to climate change?

[A] Gangetic Dolphin

[B] Bengal Tiger

[C] Himalayan Brown Bear ☒

[D] Great Indian Bustard



- ✓ **A recent study on the Himalayan brown bear by scientists of Zoological Survey of India, has forecast that there is a decline in their suitable habitat, due to climate change. The study has urged scientists to suggest an adaptive planning of protected area network in the western Himalayas, to conserve the Himalayan brown bear species (Ursus arctos isabellinus).**

4. 'Tarang Suposhit Maharashtra', a scheme that was seen in news recently, is associated with which field?

[A] Education

[B] Nutrition ☒

[C] Sports

[D] Industries



- ✓ Maharashtra has recently inaugurated the platform named 'Tarang Suposhit Maharashtra', to fulfil the nutritional requirements of lactating mothers and children in the state. The platform is based on the interactive voice response system. The platform also aims to create awareness about the nutritional requirements of women and children in the state. The state stood first in the 'Poshan Mah' observed this year.

5. Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) is the Mars orbiter mission of which country?

[A] India

[B] United States of America ☒

[C] United Arab Emirates

[D] Russia



- ✓ Mars orbiter Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (Maven) is the Mars orbiter mission launched in the year 2013, to investigate the upper atmosphere and ionosphere of Mars. As per a recent study of data and images sent by ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and NASA's MAVEN, Mars is losing its atmosphere to outer space at a faster rate, when compared to other terrestrial planets in the solar system.

6. Bum La, where the Joginder War Memorial has been inaugurated, is located in which state?

[A] Sikkim

[B] Kerala

[C] Arunachal Pradesh ☒

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ Indian Army has recently organised the Inauguration Ceremony of Joginder War Memorial at Bum La, in Arunachal Pradesh. The ceremony was held on October 23, the same day on which the Battle of Tongpen La (Bum La) took place in 1962.

- ✓ Joginder Singh, who served in the Sikh Regiment, posthumously received the highest gallantry award, 'Param Vir Chakra' for his sacrifice during the 1962 Sino– India War.

7. Which organisation released a report titled 'The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics'?

[A] World Economic Forum

[B] United Nations ☒

[C] World Bank

[D] International Monetary Fund



- ✓ The United Nations has launched a report titled 'The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics'. It compiles 100 data stories to assess the state of gender equality worldwide. As per the report, less than 50% of working-age women are in the labour market. This has been the same since the last quarter of the century. The report also reveals that COVID-19 pandemic additionally affects women's jobs and livelihoods.

8. When is the "UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons" expected to come in force?

[A] December 2020

[B] January 2021 ☒

[C] March 2021

[D] December 2021



- ✓ The United Nations Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was opened for signature at United Nations headquarters on 20th September 2017. Once 50 countries have ratified or acceded to it, it will enter into force. The United Nations announced recently that 50 countries have ratified the treaty and would come into force within 90 days, by January 2021.

9. Which organisation constructed the 'Alternate Alignment Gangtok – Nathula Road', which was seen in news?

[A] Larsen and Toubro

[B] Border Roads Organisation ☒

[C] Ordnance Factory Board

[D] National Highways Authority of India



- ✓ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 'Alternate Alignment Gangtok – Nathula Road'. The road has been constructed by the Army's Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Sikkim.

- ✓ The road was inaugurated by virtual means from Darjeeling. BRO has constructed the 19.35 km long alternate route of National Highway-310, which connects Gangtok to 'Nathu La'.

10. Indian origin Wavel Ramkalawan has been elected as the President of which country?

[A] Pakistan

[B] Sri Lanka

[C] Indonesia

[D] Seychelles ☒



- ✓ Indian Origin Wavel Ramkalawan, has been recently elected as the President of Seychelles. He belongs to the opposition party and it is the first time since 1977 that a person from opposition is assuming the office of President. Ramkalawan, a former Anglican Priest, defeated incumbent Danny Faure after three decades of unsuccessful runs for the Presidency.
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1. When is the World Development Information Day celebrated every year?

- [A] October 21
- [B] October 22
- [C] October 24 ☒
- [D] October 25



- ✓ Every year, October 24 is celebrated as the World Development Information Day by the United Nations. The resolution in this regard was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1972. The day lays stress on the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve international problems. It mandates to improve the dissemination of information and the mobilization of public opinion, particularly among young people to find solutions for problems of development.

2. What is the theme of this year's National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption?

- [A] Healthy India, Powerful India
- [B] Vigilant India, Prosperous India ☒
- [C] Nation towards Anti-corruption
- [D] Corruption free India

'Vigilant India-
Prosperous India'



- ✓ National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption would be held from October 27 on the theme "Vigilant India, Prosperous India". The conference is to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, through video conferencing. The three-day conference is organized by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). This is a part of the Vigilance Awareness week.

3. The typhoon 'Molave' has hit which coastal country recently?

- [A] Sri Lanka
- [B] South Africa
- [C] Cuba
- [D] Philippines ☒



- ✓ A fast-moving cyclone named Molave has hit the southern provinces of the Philippines. It has resulted in heavy flood in rural villages of the country. The typhoon was blowing towards the South China Sea with sustained winds of 125 kilometres per hour. Nearly 25,000 villagers were displaced from the villages taking shelters in schools and Government buildings.

4. Which defence force would hold a four-day commanders' conference in October 2020?

- [A] Indian Navy
- [B] Indian Air Force
- [C] Indian Coastal Guard
- [D] Indian Army ☒



- ✓ The Indian Army would hold a 4-day commanders' conference from October 26th to 29th, 2020. During the conference, all strategic and human resource issues would be discussed. It is an apex biannual event that is held for policy formulation and decision making. The Union Defence Minister would deliver the inaugural address.

5. Which country has recently adopted the "No Mask, No Service" policy?

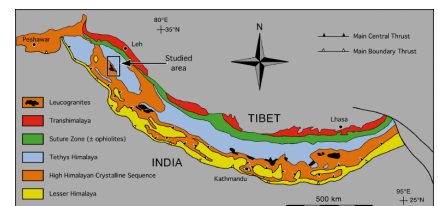
- [A] Pakistan
- [B] China
- [C] USA
- [D] Bangladesh ☒



- ✓ The Government of Bangladesh has adopted the "No Mask, No Service" policy in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 disease. As per the new regulation, wearing mask at all public and private institutions, market places and other places of worship is compulsory. Also, no public and private offices will serve anyone who is not wearing a mask.

6. The Indus Suture Zone (ISZ), which was seen in news recently, is found in which state/UT?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Ladakh ☒



- ✓ As per a recent study conducted by a group of scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, the Indus Suture Zone (ISZ) in the Ladakh region, has been found to be tectonically active. The zone, where the Indian and Asian Plates are joined, has been till date considered as a locked zone. WIHG is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology. The study has been published recently in the journal 'Technophysics'.

7. Which country has issued warning to its citizens about a mysterious cloud of 'Yellow dust'?

- [A] Philippines
- [B] Japan
- [C] North Korea ☒
- [D] India



- ✓ The authorities of North Korea have urged the citizens to avoid contact with a mysterious cloud of 'yellow dust'. As per the authorities, the yellow dust blowing in from China could bring SARS CoV-2 with it. The country has directed its citizens to remain indoor to avoid contact with the dust storm, which is expected to land in the country.

8. Which airport is the first to launch 'e-boarding facility' for international passengers?

- [A] Mumbai International Airport
- [B] Hyderabad International Airport ☒
- [C] Delhi International Airport
- [D] Cochin International Airport



- ✓ Hyderabad International Airport has introduced contactless e-boarding facilities for international flyers, in addition to domestic passengers. It has become the 1st airport in the country to introduce contactless e-boarding for passengers flying out of India. It uses an indigenously developed digital solution, using which passengers can avoid all queues & waiting time.

9. India signed Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) with which country?

- [A] Russia
- [B] France
- [C] United States of America ☒
- [D] Brazil



- ✓ During the third edition of the 2+2 talks held between India and the United States, the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement or BECA was signed. The agreement gives India access to classified geo-spatial data as well as critical information having significant military applications from the United States. This is a long-negotiated defence pact.

10. Shipping Ministry inaugurated 'Direct Port Entry Facility' at which major port?

[A] V O Chidambaranar Port ☒

[B] Cochin Port

[C] New Mangalore Port

[D] Paradip Port



- ✓ **Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the 'Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility' of V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tamil Nadu. 'Direct Port Entry (DPE)' will help in increasing Ease of Doing Business for the exporters. The facility is expected to lower tariff cost and improve the competitiveness of shipper in the international trade. This will also align it on the lines of 'Maritime Vision 2030' of Ministry of Shipping.**
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