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THIRD WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



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1. Bureau of Energy Efficiency is a statutory body under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Rural Development
- B) Ministry of New & Renewable Resources
- C) Ministry of Power ☒
- D) Ministry of Earth Sciences



- ❖ The Union Power Ministry in partnership with Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), has recently organised the 30th "National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA)" function.
- ❖ The event was organised at Vigyan Bhawan – New Delhi and telecasted as a virtual event. BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power that has a mandate to implement policy and programs in energy efficiency and conservation.

2. Which Indian state announced free data card to college students for attending online classes?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
- B) Kerala
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Bihar



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is to provide free data cards of 2 GB per day to college students to enable them attend online classes till April 2021. The data cards will be provided to over 9 lakh students studying in government and aided Arts and Sciences colleges, engineering colleges and polytechnic institutions. The Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) will implement the scheme for self-finance college students.

3. Siruvani hills, which has been identified as a butterfly super-hotspot, is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?

- A) Theni
- B) Coimbatore ☒
- E) Tenkasi
- D) Kanyakumari



- ❖ After a six-year study conducted by 'The Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS)', the Siruvani hills in the state of Tamil Nadu has been identified as a butterfly super-hotspot. 240 out of the total 325 species found in Tamil Nadu, are from the hills between 2015 and 2020.
- ❖ As per TNBS, if 25% of the state checklist species are found in a single area, it can be identified as a hotspot. Here around 74 per cent of the total species is found in the hills, from six families.

4. What is the rank of India in the 'Digital Evolution Scorecard', prepared jointly by Mastercard?

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth ☒

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- ❖ The 'Digital Evolution Scorecard' is developed by Fletcher School, Tufts University in partnership with Mastercard. In the recently released third edition of the index, India is ranked fourth among the 'Break Out Economies', which means the countries that are digitalising very fast. China leads the index with high demand and innovation.

5. What is 'Khadi Prakritik', which was making news recently?

- A) Paint ☒
- B) Agarbatti
- C) Floor cleaner
- D) Disinfectant



- ❖ Khadi Prakritik Paint is the first-of-its-kind paint product, which has been developed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- ❖ It is an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint which is also claimed to have anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties. The paint is based on cow dung as its main ingredient and has been certified by Bureau of Indian Standards.

6. Tenzin Lekphell, the new Secretary General of BIMSTEC, is from which country?

- A) Bhutan ☒
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) India
- D) Myanmar



- ❖ Tenzin Lekphell is the newly appointed Secretary General of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).
- ❖ He was seen in the news for his visit to Bangladesh. The country is also in the process of building a new premise for the Secretariat. BIMSTEC is a regional organization with 7 countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

7. Which country's passport is declared the most powerful, as per the Henley Passport Index?

- A) Singapore
- B) Japan ☒
- C) India
- D) United States



- ❖ As per the recent report of the Henley Passport Index, Japanese passport has retained the rank of topmost powerful passport in the world. With the Japanese passport, one can travel to as many as 191 countries by visa-free or visa-on-arrival mode.
- ❖ India ranks 85th in the list while Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan remain the the countries with the worst passport to hold.

8. Which scheme of the Union Agriculture Ministry has recently crossed the 5-year mark?

- A) Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana ☒
- B) Prime Minister's Kisan Mann-Tan Yojana
- C) Prime Minister's Krishi Sinchai Yojana
- D) Prime Minister's Awas Yojana



- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) of the Union Agriculture Ministry has recently completed 5 years since its launch. It is a crop insurance scheme that was launched on January 13, 2016. The Ministry has stated that claims worth Rs.90,000 crore have so far been disbursed to farmers since the launch.

9. Which country has recently hosted the "One Planet Summit"?

- A) Belgium
- B) Sweden
- C) France ☒
- D) Australia



- ❖ France has hosted the One Planet Summit recently, in which 30 leaders, government officials and heads of international organizations participated. The summit was held in a virtual mode due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. During the summit, which focussed on protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and agroecology, 50 countries pledged to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030.

10. Sweden's Autoliv Inc. has proposed to establish its manufacturing unit in which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Arunachal Pradesh



- ❖ Autoliv Inc., headquartered in Sweden has proposed to establish its manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu. The company is to invest a sum of Rs.100 crore for its plant and is expected to create 400 job opportunities. The company is involved in design, manufacturing and marketing of air-bags, seat belts and steering wheels.

1. The Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was organised in which state recently?

- A) Nagaland
B) Manipur ☒
C) Himachal Pradesh
D) Sikkim



- ❖ The Annual Cherry Blossom Festival event was organised at Mao of Manipur recently. The event was held in a virtual format. The entire Mao town was adorned with cherry blossom flowers and it was streamed live on Face book, YouTube, Instagram etc. Traditional folk dances and Special ballet named Cherri Nachom was also a part of the event.

2. Where is the headquarters of the 'National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)' located?

- A) Mumbai
B) Delhi ☒
C) Hyderabad
D) Kolkata



- ❖ The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) organised its first ever Red Ribbon club Quiz Competition. NACO was established in 1992 as a division of Health Ministry. Headquartered in New Delhi, it is implementing the 'Adolescence Education Programme' in schools, in association with NCERT. It has also established 12,500 Red Ribbon Clubs (RRCs) to create awareness among the college youth.

3. Ministry of Minority Affairs has decided to geo-tag all Waqf properties in which Indian state/UT?

- A) Delhi
B) Puducherry ☒
C) Goa
D) Sikkim



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs announced that it has decided to geo-tag all Waqf properties in the Union Territory of Puducherry. This step follows many complaints being received on illegal occupation of the properties by local goons.
- ❖ The Ministry is also working to constitute a Waqf Board in the UT. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram, the Centre will also finance to construct socio-economic infrastructure.

4. Which organization has launched a portal regarding tax evasion, foreign undisclosed assets and benami properties?

- A) Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
B) Enforcement Directorate
C) Central Board of Direct Taxes ☒
D) Reserve Bank of India



- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a dedicated portal for receiving and processing complaints related to regarding tax evasion, foreign undisclosed assets and benami properties. This step is seen a move to enhance e-governance and to involve public participation to abolish tax evasion.

5. 'Resolution 1373 on counter terrorism', that is seen in news recently, is associated with which organization?

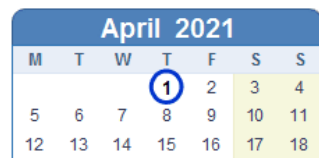
- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) UNSC ☒
D) ICJ



- ❖ The resolution 1373 on counter terrorism was adopted by the United Nations Security Council unanimously on 28 September 2001. This was adopted following the 11 September terrorist attacks on the USA.
- ❖ Recently, an open debate was held at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) titled '20 years after the adoption of resolution 1373' that focused on combating terrorism on a globally. India was represented virtually by External affairs Minister Dr.S.Jaishankar.

6. When will India's New Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect?

- A) 2021 February 01
B) 2021 March 01
C) 2021 April 01 ☒
D) 2021 May 01



- ❖ The new Foreign Trade Policy of India, is set to take effect from 1st April 2021. The policy will be in effect for 5 years from 2021 to 2026. It aims to make India a leader in international trade. It is also known that the District Export Hubs initiative will form an important component of the new Foreign Trade Policy.

7. Which company has been ranked at the top in the "2020 Hurun Global 500" list?

- A) Apple ☒
B) Amazon
C) Samsung
D) Google



- ❖ As per the '2020 Hurun Global 500' list, Apple is the world's most valuable company with a value of USD 2.1 trillion followed by Microsoft and Amazon with USD 1.6 trillion each.
- ❖ The 2020 Hurun Global 500 is a list of 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world. 11 Indian firms are a part of the list, which is led by Reliance Industries worth USD 169 billion.

8. The researchers of Durham University have developed a supercomputer simulation to explain the formation of which space body?

- A) Sun
B) Moon ☒
C) Mars
D) Mercury



- ❖ Recently, researchers of Durham University have developed a supercomputer simulation to explain the formation of moon.
- ❖ The researchers have stated that Earth collided with a Mars like planet named Theia about 4.5 billion years ago. The resulting debris is found to be a self-gravitating body, which has a great resemblance to moon in term of mass and ferric properties.

9. Which arm of the Indian Army is to recruit women as Pilots for the first time from next year?

- A) Corps of Signals
B) Armoured Corps
C) Army Aviation Corps ☒
D) Corps of Engineers



- ❖ As per the recent announcement of the Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane, women will be inducted as Pilots in the Army Aviation Corps from next year.

- ❖ Prior to this, women were being allotted only ground duties in the Army Aviation Corps. Women pilots would fly helicopters and be part of operations at the borders.

10. The NASSCOM has partnered with which state's AI mission, to launch an Innovation Factory?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Telangana ☒



- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has collaborated with Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (T-AIM) to launch an Innovation Factory.
- ❖ It aims to recognise and promote innovative Artificial intelligence (AI) solutions for challenges in agricultural sector. The start-ups, companies and institutions winning the challenge will get Rs 1 lakh prize money along with mentorship from state entities.

1. Which country's Mars Digger probe named the 'Mole' was declared dead recently?

- A) China
- B) UAE
- C) USA ☒
- D) Israel



- ❖ The Mars Digger probe named the 'Mole' was deployed on the Mars by NASA's InSight Lander. The probe has been recently declared dead by the Scientists, as it failed to burrow deep into the Mars. The heat probe was developed and built by the German Aerospace Center (DLR). It has been trying since 2019, to dig deep and find the internal temperature of the Mars. The InSight lander will continue working till 2022.

2. Which Listed Large Company won the ICSI National Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance?

- A) PFC
- B) ITC ☒
- C) NTPC
- D) ONGC



- ❖ ITC Limited has been named the 'Best Governed Company' at the 20th Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, in the 'Listed Segment: Large Category'.
- ❖ The award was announced by a jury chaired by Former Supreme Court Judge, Justice A K Sikri. ITC's company secretary, Rajendra Kumar Singhi was also adjudged 'Governance Professional of the Year'.

3. What is 'MINUSMA', which was making news recently?

- A) UN Peacekeeping Mission in Mali ☒
- B) Name of the New Planet
- C) Name of the New Star
- D) USA Federal Tax Act



- ❖ UN - Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) is a peace keeping mission of the United Nations in Mali, which was established in 2013. It is considered to be the most dangerous UN operations in the world.
- ❖ Recently, the peacekeepers' convoy was attacked by an improvised explosive device (IED) by unidentified gunmen of Mali. The attack led to death of 4 peacekeepers and 5 were wounded.

4. Which company has manufactured India's first driverless metro cars?

- A) BEML ☒
- B) BHEL
- C) HAL
- D) DRDO



- ❖ India's first state of the art driverless metro cars have been manufactured by BEML Limited. It has been manufactured at its manufacturing facility at Bangalore and was unveiled by the Union Defence Minister.
- ❖ The unit is made up of stainless-steel body that has a carrying capacity of 2280 passengers. BEML has obtained orders for manufacture of 576 such cars for Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)'s MRS1 project.

5. Indian Institute of Spices Research, which was seen in the news, is headquartered in which state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala ☒
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Karnataka



ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Kozhikode-673012, Kerala, India

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) is an autonomous organization and a subsidiary of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under the Ministry of Agriculture, India.
- ❖ It is engaged in agricultural research related to spices in India and is headquarters in Kozhikode, Kerala. Recently Principal Horticulture Scientist J Rema assumed charge as the new Director of Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR).

6. 'Jallikattu' is an event celebrated in which Indian state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
- B) Karnataka
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Telangana



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami flagged off the famous jallikattu event at Alanganallur in Madurai District of the state. Jallikattu is a bull-taming sport traditionally organised in the state, as an important part of the Pongal Festival called the 'Maatu Pongal'. This event is continued after the state passed an ordinance to conserve the tradition.

7. PMKVY is implemented under the aegis of which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- B) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- C) Ministry of Skill Development ☒
- D) Ministry of Coal



- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) was launched in the year 2015 and is implemented by the Union Ministry of Skill Development. The 3rd Phase of the scheme has been launched recently, that aims to impart training to of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs 949 crore.

8. What is the term "Bojjannakonda" that is seen in news recently?

- A) Heritage Buddhist site ☒
- B) Heritage Jain site
- C) Cave temple
- D) Memorial Hall



- ❖ "Bojjannakonda" is a Buddhist rock-cut cave situated near a village Sankaram near Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The sites are said to date between 4th and 9th Century A.D, when Buddhism is the majority religion of Sankaram village. Recently, annual Buddha Mela was celebrated in the Buddhist heritage site, which is generally celebrated a day after Sankranti festival.

9. With reference to STARStreak Air Defence system, India has recently teamed up with which country?

- A) Germany
- B) Israel
- C) Japan
- D) United Kingdom ☒



- ❖ India's Bharat Dynamics and the global Aerospace company Thales have signed an agreement to collaborate on the STARStreak Air Defence system.
- ❖ To be undertaken with the support of both the Governments of India and the United Kingdom, the project will enable the export of the system to various customers including the UK Armed Forces. With this, BDL can also offer the system to Indian Armed Force with 60% indigenous content.

10. Who is/was the first U.S President to be impeached twice?

- A) Bill Clinton
- B) Andrew Johnson
- E) Donald Trump ☒
- D) Ronald Reagan



- ❖ United States House of Representatives has voted to impeach President Donald Trump after the riots at the Capitol building.
- ❖ With this round of impeachment, the Donald Trump becomes the only US president to be impeached a second time. The House impeached him on the charge of incitement of insurrection for his role in the recent riot by his supporters, at the US Capitol.

1. India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in which state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala ☒
- C) West Bengal
- D) Andhra Pradesh



- ❖ India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in the Houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha in the state of Kerala. The Museum aims to showcase the history of world labour movement, by showcasing the important documents of the World Labour movement and the exhibits of Kerala's labour movement. Conservation architect Dr Benny Kuriakose is leading the project of outlay Rs 9.95 Crore.

2. Which Union Ministry won the SKOCH Challenger Award under "Transparency in Governance" category?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Panchayati Raj ☒
- C) Ministry of Law
- D) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development



- ❖ Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj won the SKOCH Challenger Award under "Transparency in Governance" category. Transformational initiatives of the Ministry include the launch of SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, e-GramSwaraj, mActionSoft, AuditOnline and ServicePlus.

3. Who is the Author of the book titled "The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform"?

- A) Ram Sewak Sharma ☒
- B) Nandan Nilekani
- C) A K Sikri
- D) Kris Gopalakrishnan



- ❖ Ram Sewak Sharma, the first Director-General of the Unique Identification Development Authority of India (UIDAI), has authored a book titled "The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform". The book comprises of technical details regarding the legal, governance and social aspects of the Aadhar system.

4. Which Indian Union Minister was conferred with the "Sahitya Gaurav Samman" award by the Hindi Writers Guild, Canada?

- A) S Jai Shankar
- B) Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' ☒
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Jitendra Singh



- ❖ Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' was honoured by the Hindi Writers Guild, Canada for his contribution to Hindi Literature. The Minister was conferred with the "Sahitya Gaurav Samman" award, in a ceremony conducted virtually.
- ❖ The award was presented in the presence of India's High Commissioner in Canada Ajay Bisaria.

5. Cornwall, the host of this year's G7 Summit, is located in which country?

- A) Switzerland
- B) Italy
- C) Brazil
- D) United Kingdom ☒



- ❖ The G7 Summit of this year is to be held in Cornwall, a peninsular country in the south-west region of the United Kingdom, during June 11 to 13. Being the President of G7 this year, the United Kingdom has extended its invitation to India, Australia and South Korea to participate in the Summit as Guest countries.
- ❖ The Heads of Government of member states, and the representatives of the EU, usually meet at the G7 Summit.

6. Mahananda wildlife sanctuary, which is to conduct the 'Bird Festival', is located in which state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) West Bengal ☒
- D) Odisha



- ❖ The Mahananda wildlife sanctuary in West Bengal is to organise a first-of-its kind Bird Festival from February 20-23 this year. The Darjeeling Wildlife Division will organise the event, which will enable the applicants visit several bird-watching spots like Rongdong and Latpanchor.
- ❖ The Sanctuary is designated as 'important bird area', as it is rich in fauna with more than 300 species of birds including Rufous-necked hornbill.

7. A drawing of which famous comic has set the record for the most expensive comic book art in history, recently?

- A) Harry Potter
- B) Popeye
- C) Tom and Jerry
- D) Tin Tin ☒



- ❖ A Tintin drawing, created by the Belgian artist Herge, is sold recently for €2.6 million at Paris, France. This makes the artwork the most expensive comic book art in history. The art contains a red dragon drawn on a black background by the frightened character's face.

8. Nazhat Shameem Khan, who has been elected as the President of UN Human Rights Council, belongs to which country?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Fiji ☒
- D) Nepal



- ❖ Fiji's ambassador in Geneva, Nazhat Shameem Khan - has been elected as the President of UN Human Rights Council for 2021. She has served the UN Human Rights Council as the Vice President in 2020. The election was conducted using a "secret ballot" method, and registered 29 out of 47 votes in favour of Nazhat Shameem Khan.

9. Yoweri Museveni, who is seen in news recently, is the President of which country?

- A) Nigeria
- B) Uganda ☒
- C) Congo Democratic Republic
- D) Syria



- ❖ Yoweri Museveni, has been re-elected as the President of Uganda, a land locked country in East Africa. He won almost 59% of the votes.

- ❖ This makes Yoweri Museveni assume President's office for the 6th term since 1986.

10. Which social media giant has delayed the implementation of a new privacy policy by 3 months?

- A) Facebook
- B) WhatsApp ☒
- C) YouTube
- D) Telegram



- ❖ The Facebook owned social communication giant "WhatsApp" has announced that, the implementation of its new privacy policy has been delayed by 3 months.
- ❖ The privacy policy was to originally come into force on Feb 8, 2021. The new privacy policy has come under severe criticism from public and has led to massive migration of users from WhatsApp to other platforms like Signal and Telegram.

1. The first-ever National Road Safety Month was observed in which year, in India?

- A) 2010
- B) 2015
- C) 2017
- D) 2021 ☒



- ❖ The Union Road Transport Minister and Union Defence Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first-ever National Road Safety Month on January 18, 2021. The campaign seeks to build awareness on road safety and reduce road accidents in India.
- ❖ In the recent past, only 'Road safety week' was being organised. The Minister also presented various awards including best performing State in Road Safety works, Good Samaritan award, Best State Transport Corporations, among others.

2. With reference to DRDO, what is 'Rakshita', which was making news recently?

- A) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- B) Bike-based Ambulance ☒
- C) Air Ambulance
- D) Water Ambulance



- ❖ A bike-based ambulance named 'Rakshita' has been developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ It has been handed over to the Central Reserve Police Force. It seeks to provide quicker medical support to those living in narrow populous streets and remote locations.

3. Which country chaired the recent session of Executive Board of WHO, held in January 2021?

- A) United States
- B) India ☒
- C) China
- D) Australia



- ❖ Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chaired the 148th session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, through video conference. He also said that the year 2020 is described as the Year of Science, while the Year 2021 would be the year of global solidarity and survival. He also sought for fair and equitable distribution of the COVID vaccines.

4. The Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), which was making news, functions under which Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Jal Sakthi ☒
- C) Ministry of Agriculture
- D) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change



- ❖ The Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS) is an attached office of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Jal Shakti ministry.
- ❖ Based at New Delhi, it deals with investigations and research in Geotechnical engineering, construction materials and river valley projects. It helps in development of water resources sector in the country, through Central Water Commission. Minister of State Jal Shakti conducted a Review Meeting of CSMRS recently.

5. 'Davos Agenda', which was making news recently, is the online event of which organisation?

- A) International Monetary Fund
- B) World Economic Forum ☒
- C) G7 Association
- D) International Olympic Committee



- ❖ Davos Agenda is the online event of World Economic Forum's annual meeting held at Davos, Switzerland. The rich and powerful of the world are said to be the participants.
- ❖ This year, the five-day meeting is scheduled to be held between January 25 and 29, in the virtual mode, on account of COVID pandemic. WEF's 'Great Reset Initiative' is also to be launched during the meeting. Several Union Ministers and top businesspersons from India are to attend the event.

6. Siang River, which was making news with reference to Red Panda species, is located in which state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) West Bengal
- D) Odisha



- ❖ As per the recent study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Both the species of Panda, namely Himalayan red panda (Ailurus fulgens) and the Chinese red panda (Ailurus styani) are present in India.
- ❖ It also revealed that the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh serves as the boundary by splitting the red panda into these two genetic species. As per another study, the Himalayan red panda was affected more during the Pleistocene glaciation.

7. Who is the Chairperson of the task force set up by Government of India on "age of marriage for women"?

- A) Menaka Gandhi
- B) Usha Thorat
- C) Jaya Jaitley ☒
- D) G Rohini



- ❖ The Government of India had earlier set up a task force under the chairmanship of Jaya Jaitley, to revisit the apt age for marriage of women.
- ❖ This committee was set up in accordance to the Prime Ministers Independence Day speech on "right age of marriage for women". Recently, the panel has submitted its findings in the form of a report to the Ministry of Women & Child Development and to the Prime Minister's Office.

8. Who is the first woman Fighter pilot of India at the Republic Day parade?

- A) Bhawana Kanth ☒
- B) Mohana Singh
- C) Avani Chaturvedi
- D) Shivangi



- ❖ Flight lieutenant Bhawana Kanth is to become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in India's Republic Day parade. She will be a part of the Indian Air Force's tableau which will showcase the light combat aircraft, light combat helicopter and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane. In 2016, She was declared as the first combat pilot along with two other pilots Mohana Singh, and Avani Chaturvedi.

9. 'Desert Knight-21', which was making news recently, is the Military exercise between India and which country?

- A) Brazil
- B) France ☒
- C) Japan
- D) United Kingdom



- ❖ The bilateral Air Exercise, 'Desert Knight Exercise' between Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force is scheduled to be held this month. To participate in the exercise, A-400M tactical aircraft from France arrived at Jodhpur.
- ❖ Indian Air Force's Mirage 2000, Su-30 MKI, Rafale, and IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft will feature in the exercise. The two countries have organised six editions of air exercises named Garuda.

10. Which institution releases the 'India Innovation Index'?

- A) NITI Aayog ☒
- B) CSIR
- C) RBI
- D) ISRO



NITI Aayog

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the second edition of its India Innovation Index, which ranks different states and UTs based on the basis of their support to innovation.
- ❖ The first edition of the index was launched in October 2019. The states and UTs have been divided into 17 'Major States', 10 'North-East and Hill States', and 9 'City-States and UTs'. Karnataka retained the first spot in this year's index followed by Maharashtra.