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FOURTH WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS



DECEMBER 2020

December 22-31

1. Which is the 1st launch vehicle of the ISRO, that will entirely carry the satellites of private players?

- [A] PSLV C31
- [B] PSLV G7
- [C] PSLV C51 ☒
- [D] PSLV Mark II



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch satellites of private players onboard PSLV C51. The first of its kind mission would launch an earth observation satellite 'ANAND', fully built by a start-up named Pixel India. Two more satellites named 'SATISH SAT', built by 'Space Kids India', and 'UNIT-SAT', built by consortium of universities would also be sent.

2. 'Bengaluru Mission 2022', which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which projects?

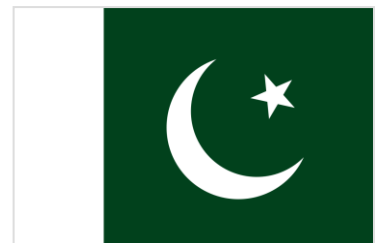
- [A] Health
- [B] Infrastructure ☒
- [C] Sports
- [D] Climate Change



- ✓ The Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa launched the 'Bengaluru Mission 2022', to enhance the infrastructure facilities in the city in next two years to mark 75 years of independence. The Focus areas in infrastructure renovation for Bengaluru will be providing Faster commute, Green City, Access to services and Culture and heritage. Facilities for Electric Vehicles, Suburban rail, Tree parks are also being planned.

3. Which country has approved a law for Chemical castration of rapists?

- [A] China
- [B] United Arab Emirates
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] Pakistan ☒



- ✓ The Government of Pakistan has approved a legislation that permits chemical castration of rapists. This new legislation is applicable to repeat as well as first-time offenders. This provision has been added to the Anti-Rape Ordinance 2020. As per the ordinance, it is the discretion of the trial judge to order chemical castration.

4. What is the name of the e-booklet that has been launched by the Government highlighting the success stories of farmers?

- [A] Farmer's Friend
[B] Putting Farmer First ☒
[C] Height of Farmers
[D] Mera Kisan



- ✓ The central Government has released an e-book named 'Putting Farmers First'. It is a 106-page book that portrays the success stories of farmers who have benefited from contract farming, after enactment of the three farm legislations / reforms. The book has been released in Hindi as well as in English.

5. When is the International Migrants Day observed every year?

- [A] December 18 ☒
[B] December 19
[C] December 20
[D] December 21



- ✓ Every year, 18th of December is observed as the International Day of Migrants by the United Nations. This decision was made by the United Nation General Assembly in the year 2000, taking into consideration large and increasing number of migrants around the world. The theme for this year's Migration day is "Reimagining Human Mobility".

6. On which date, the International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) was observed recently?

- [A] December 18
[B] December 19
[C] December 20 ☒
[D] December 21



- ✓ The International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed every year on December 20 to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity. This day aims to celebrate unity in diversity and remind people of the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty.
- ✓ It is a day to encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including poverty eradication.

7. What is the India's rank in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 report?

- [A] 85
- [B] 72
- [C] 63 ☒
- [D] 56



- ✓ India has been ranked 63rd among 190 countries, as per latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2020) of World Bank (WB). As per report, the World Bank (WB) has recognized India as one of the top 10 improvers for the third consecutive year.
- ✓ India's recovery rate under resolving insolvency has improved significantly from 26.5% to 71.6%. The time taken for resolving insolvency has also come down significantly from 4.3 years to 1.6 years. India has reduced the number of procedures in granting construction permits. Apart from this, India continues to maintain its first position among South Asian countries.

8. ASTRA Mk-I Missile, IMSAS and BOSS System, which were handed over to the Armed Forces, were developed by which organisation?

- [A] DRDO ☒
- [B] OFB
- [C] BHEL
- [D] HAL



- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over three indigenously developed Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) systems to Army, Navy and Air Force. Rajnath Singh handed over the Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS) to the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, ASTRA Mk-I Missile to Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria and Border Surveillance System (BOSS) to the Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane.

9. Couscous, the staple food of which region, has been included in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List?

- [A] Australia
- [B] North Africa ☒
- [C] North America
- [D] South Asia



- ✓ The staple food of the North African region, Couscous has been included in the UNESCO list of the world's intangible cultural heritage. The rival countries Algeria and Morocco along with Tunisia and Mauritania had submitted the petition to add the dish in the UNESCO list, in March 2019. Couscous is also known as Seksu, Kusksi and Kseksu, in the North African region.

10. Which state launched Public Welfare Portal or Jan Kalyan Portal, to consolidate all information about the state schemes?

[A] Gujarat

[B] Rajasthan ☒

[C] Punjab

[D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has launched 'One Stop Shop' facility, to make available over 100 types of clearances and services, required by investors. The Chief Minister also launched Public Welfare Portal or Jan Kalyan Portal, to consolidate the information of eligibility, benefits of the state schemes, useful circulars and orders etc. It also highlights the efforts of the Government in two years.
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1. Which Union Ministry presents the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards?

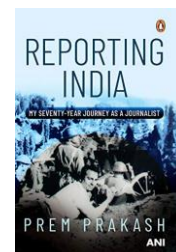
- [A] Ministry of Skill Development
- [B] Ministry of Power
- [C] Ministry of Communication ☒
- [D] Ministry of Electronics and IT



- ✓ **Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication presents the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards. The Award scheme was originally launched in the year 2017, to recognise the successful telecom skilled people and to enable them apply telecom related solution in various fields like health and Education. This year's awards were recently presented by the Communications Minister.**

2. Who is the author of the book 'Reporting India', which was recently launched?

- [A] S Jaishankar
- [B] Prem Prakash ☒
- [C] Sushant Sareen
- [D] Sheela Bhatt



- ✓ **Union External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar recently launched a book titled 'Reporting India' in Delhi. It describes the history of India since independence. The book is written by Prem Prakash, Chairman of the Leading news agency, the Asian News International (ANI). He established the agency in the year 1971 and it was the first agency in India to syndicate video news.**

3. Who has been conferred with the 'ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award'?

- [A] Adi Godrej
- [B] Mukesh Ambani
- [C] Ratan Tata ☒
- [D] Uday Kotak



- ✓ **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at ASSOCHAM Foundation Week 2020 via video conferencing. During the occasion, he presented the 'ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award' to Ratan Tata, who received the award on behalf of the TATA Group. Ratan Tata served as the Chairman of Tata Sons and Tata Group. He is now heading various Charitable Trusts of the Group.**

4. As per IUCN's recent assessment, which species in the Indian EEZ, are classified as Critically Endangered (CE)?

[A] Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras ☒

[B] Great Indian Bustards

[C] Black Buck Antelopes

[D] Blackshell Turtles and Himalayan Serow



- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Shark Specialist Group conducted an assessment of sharks, rays and chimaeras in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). As per the assessment, out of the 170 species found across the oceans of the country, 19 species, which is about 11%, are classified as Critically Endangered (CE) and are facing high risk of extinction.

5. What is the name of the automobile fuel that has 20% ethanol and 80% gasoline?

[A] Aviation Turbine Fuel

[B] Petrol

[C] Bio – Petrol

[D] E20 Fuel ☒

Ethanol



- ✓ The Government of India has recently proposed to adopt E20 fuel in Indian automobiles. The E20 fuel is a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% gasoline. This move is aimed at reducing the vehicular emissions and at the same time bring down the crude oil import cost of the country.

6. What is "Shinkansen" that was making the news recently?

[A] Buddhist Monument

[B] High Speed Train ☒

[C] COVID Vaccine

[D] New Planet



- ✓ Recently, the Embassy of Japan in India has rolled out some images of E5 series Shinkansen – High speed bullet trains used in Japan, which would be modified for use in Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. Once the project is completed, the travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad would be reduced to 2 hours. The project is expected to be completed by 2023.

7. Which is the state bird of Uttar Pradesh, that has been adopted as new logo of NOIDA international airport?

[A] Sparrow

[B] Lesser Falcon

[C] Sarus Crane ☒

[D] Peacock



- ✓ The new green field airport that is being constructed at Jewar of Uttar Pradesh has been named NOIDA international airport. The new logo of the airport contains a Sarus Crane, which is the state bird of Uttar Pradesh. The contract to construct the airport has been awarded to Zurich Airport International AG. The first phase of the airport is expected to be functional by 2024.

8. The National Farmers' Day is celebrated on which date?

[A] December 21

[B] December 22

[C] December 23 ☒

[D] December 24



- ✓ The National Farmer's Day is celebrated every year in India on December 23 to acknowledge the role of farmers in India's socio-economic development and to mark the birth anniversary of 5th Prime Minister Late Chaudhary Charan Singh. He used to be referred to as the 'Champions of India's peasants' for his strive for the betterment of farmer's lives in the country. The day is popularly known as 'Kisan Diwas'.

9. Which state government has inaugurated 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) Portal for farmers?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Himachal Pradesh

[D] Karnataka ☒



- ✓ The state government of Karnataka has inaugurated the 'Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS)', an e-Governance Portal for farmers. It aims to create a single repository of all details of the farm lands and farm loans of all farmers of the state. Farmers

will be given an identification number on the portal, using which banks can access the details before lending. Canara Bank is set to run FRUITS portal on a pilot basis.

10. A Committee to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, is to be constituted under which Minister?

[A] Rajnath Singh

[B] Amit Shah ☒

[C] S Jai Shankar

[D] Piyush Goyal



- ✓ **The Indian Government has decided to constitute a High-Level Committee to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah will work on the activities for a yearlong commemoration starting 23rd January, 2021. Other members of the Committee will include historians, authors, family members of Netaji, as well as persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj-INA.**
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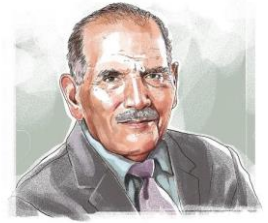
1. Which Indian research institution is to set up Dr FC Kohli Centre of Excellence for Research?

[A] Chennai Mathematical Institute ☒

[B] TATA Institute of Fundamental Research

[C] Indian Statistical Institute

[D] Indian Institute of Science



- ✓ **Chennai Mathematical Institute is a premier research and education institute, which was founded in 1989. It was granted 'University' status in 2006. This institute is set to establish Dr FC Kohli Centre of Excellence for Advanced Research in Mathematical and Computing Sciences. Dr Faquir Chand Kohli was the founder and first CEO of Tata Consultancy Services and considered the father of Indian IT Industry.**

2. Which Indian Bank has partnered with Defence Forces for providing customised banking services?

[A] State Bank of India

[B] Bank of Baroda ☒

[C] Punjab National Bank

[D] Canara Bank



- ✓ **Leading Public sector lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. Under the MoU, the bank is to offer customised services along with a several facilities to the account holders.**
- ✓ **The bank has also renewed its MoU with the Indian Army to offer customised banking services through 'Baroda Military Salary Package'.**

3. India signed an agreement with which country, to cooperate in health and medicine and support 'Green healthcare'?

[A] France

[B] Brazil

[C] Italy

[D] Israel ☒



- ✓ **India and Israel have recently signed an agreement to cooperate in the fields of health and medicine, replacing the old agreement signed in September 2003. The two countries also agreed to share their expertise in building climate resilient infrastructure and support 'Green healthcare'.**

4. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the 'Legion of Merit' honour by which country?

[A] Russia

[B] United States of America ☒

[C] United Kingdom

[D] United Arab Emirates



- ✓ **The 'Legion of Merit' honour of the United States has been conferred on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The prestigious award has also been conferred on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. It recognises the efforts of the people of India & the US to improve bilateral ties, reflected in the bipartisan consensus in both countries about the Indo-US Strategic Partnership.**

5. When is National Consumer Day observed?

[A] December 22

[B] December 23

[C] December 24 ☒

[D] December 25



- ✓ **The National Consumer Day is observed on 24th December each year. Its objective is to highlight the importance of consumer movement and promote awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities. This year's theme is "The Sustainable Consumer". This was the day when the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted.**

6. When is "Good Governance Day" observed?

[A] December 22

[B] December 23

[C] December 24

[D] December 25 ☒



- ✓ **The Good Governance Day is observed on 25th December each year. It was initiated in 2014 to honor PM Vajpayee. Its objective is to spread awareness to the public about the accountability of the government and governance.**

7. Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) functions under which Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
[B] Ministry of Science and Technology
[C] Ministry of Tribal Welfare
[D] Ministry of Culture ☒



- ✓ **Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) is the apex organisation, functioning under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It is headquartered in Kolkata. It is involved in anthropological studies and field data research for human and cultural aspects. Recently AnSI in a policy document warned that any commercial activity in North Sentinel islands would be a threat to the tribals.**

8. 'Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST)', which was seen in the news recently, is located in which country?

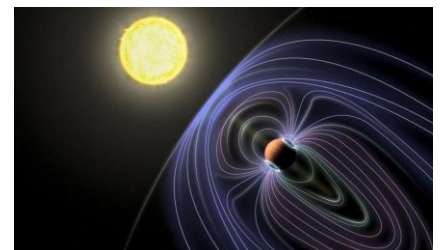
- [A] Argentina
[B] France
[C] China ☒
[D] Russia



- ✓ **After the collapse of the historic Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, China has opened the biggest radio telescope in the world to international scientists. The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) is located in Guizhou province of China. The construction of FAST Telescope was completed in the year 2016. Now, the telescope is being open to the doors to astronomers from across the world.**

9. What is 'Tau Bootes', which was making news recently?

- [A] COVID Vaccine
[B] Corona Virus Strain
[C] Star System ☒
[D] High-speed Bullet Train



- ✓ **An international team of scientists has recently collected the first possible radio signal from a planet beyond our solar system. Emission bursts have been observed which are originating from exoplanet 'Tau Bootes' star-system, which is about 51 light-years away. This was observed using the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR), a radio telescope in the Netherlands.**

10. What is the theme of the India International Science Festival 2020?

[A] Science for Self–Reliant India and Global Welfare ☒

[B] Aatma Nirbhar Vigyanika

[C] Science and COVID–19

[D] Bharat Vigyan



- ✓ **Ministries of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati organise the India International Science Festival. Launched in the year 2015, the festival aims to promote scientific temper in the society and encourage students to take up scientific career. This year, the theme of the 4–day long India International Science festival is ‘Science for Self–Reliant India and Global Welfare’.**
-

1. The Prime Minister released a postage stamp during the centenary celebrations of which University?

[A] Aligarh Muslim University ☒

[B] Jawaharlal Nehru University

[C] University of Delhi

[D] Banaras Hindu University



- ✓ **Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is a Central university in Aligarh. It was originally established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1875. After the Aligarh Muslim University Act, its original name of 'Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College' was changed to Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. The Prime Minister addressed the Centenary celebrations of the University and also released a postage stamp dedicated to AMU.**

2. As per a Lancet report, which issue has caused 1.7 million deaths and economic loss of 1.4% of the GDP, in India?

[A] COVID-19

[B] Air Pollution ☒

[C] Non Communicable Diseases

[D] Smoking



- ✓ **As per a recent study on Health and economic impact of air pollution in the States of India published in the Lancet journal, 1.7 million deaths were regarded to have caused due to air pollution in 2019 in India. This figure is 18% of the total deaths in the country. The economic loss due to the lost output was 1.4% of the GDP in India, which is equivalent to 260,000 crores. The study was funded by the UNEP, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and ICMR.**

3. Which Indian bank has launched contactless 'RuPay Select' debit card in association with NPCI?

[A] State Bank of India

[B] Central Bank of India ☒

[C] Punjab National Bank

[D] ICICI Bank



- ✓ **Central Bank of India has recently launched contactless 'RuPay Select' debit card in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Through this card, the users can avail**

membership and access to golf courses, gyms, spas and restaurants. The users can also avail discounted health check-ups with the National Common Mobility Debit Card (NCMC).

4. Where was India's 1st Mega Leather Park planned to be established?

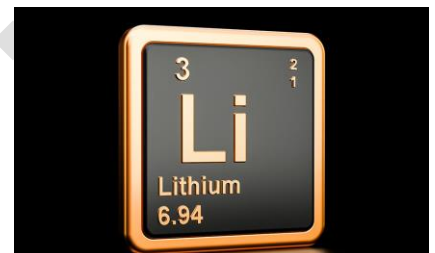
- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Kanpur ☒



- ✓ **The Government of Uttar Pradesh is set to establish India's First Mega Leather Park in Kanpur. The Union Ministry of Commerce has given approval to the project. The project is set to be built across 235 acres in Ramaipur village, Kanpur at an expense of Rs.5850 crores.**

5. Where was India's 1st Lithium refinery planned to be established?

- [A] Gujarat ☒
- [B] Jharkhand
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Telangana



- ✓ **The 1st Lithium refinery of India is to be set up in Gujarat. It will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material. More than Rs 1,000 crore will be invested by Manikaran Power Limited to set up this refinery. India has set an ambitious goal of increasing the Electric Vehicle numbers to 30% by 2030.**

6. Which state government has adopted Bodo as its associate official language?

- [A] Nagaland
- [B] Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Assam ☒
- [D] Meghalaya

बर' राव

- ✓ **On December 22, 2020, Assam Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal approved the 'Assam Official Language Amendment Bill' for making Bodo (Devanagari script) also known as 'Boro' as an associate official language of the state.**

- ✓ According to the census 2011, There are ~ 14.16 Lakh Bodo speakers in Assam. It is one of the 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. It is spoken in the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya & West Bengal.

7. Where is South India's first, Rescue and Rehabilitation Center for Monkey located?

- [A] Telangana ☒
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Karnataka



- ✓ The first rescue and rehabilitation center for monkeys was launched in Telangana's northern district of Nirmal. The Forest department has spent Rs 2.25 crore in setting up the center, which is only the second such facility in the country after the one available in Himachal Pradesh.

8. On which date India Navy celebrated the Submarine Day?

- [A] December 08 ☒
- [B] December 12
- [C] December 18
- [D] December 22



- ✓ The Submarine Day is celebrated every year by the Indian Navy on December 08 to commemorate the induction of the first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari, into the Indian Navy on this day in 1967. The Foxtrot class submarine was decommissioned on the 31st May, 1996, after 29 years of service.

9. On which date, the 2018 International Anti-Corruption Day is observed?

- [A] December 09 ☒
- [B] December 15
- [C] December 19
- [D] December 25



- ✓ The International Anti-Corruption Day is observed every year on December 09 to raise public awareness about corruption and how to fight it. The day is also observed in recognition of the United Nations Convention against corruption which was signed in Mexico in 2003. This year's theme is, "United Against Corruption".

10. On which date, the 2020 National Mathematics Day was observed in India recently?

[A] December 21

[B] December 22 ☒

[C] December 23

[D] December 24



- ✓ **The National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year in India on December 22 to commemorate the birth anniversary of great mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan and to recognize his contribution to mathematics. It was in 2012 that then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day.**
 - ✓ **In 1917, Ramanujan was elected to be a member of the London Mathematical Society. In 1918 he also became a Fellow of the Royal Society, becoming the youngest person to achieve the feat. He passed away on April 6, 1920.**
-

1. The MRSAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile), which was test-fired recently, was developed in association with which country?

[A] Russia

[B] Israel ☒

[C] United States

[D] France



- ✓ India has successfully conducted the first Army version test of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) from a test range off Odisha coast. This advanced missile has been jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries. The new generation MRSAM can neutralise airborne threats including projectiles.

2. National Film Development Corporation which was making news recently, is based at which city?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Mumbai ☒

[C] Ahmedabad

[D] Pune



- ✓ National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) is a Central Public Sector Undertaking, based at Mumbai. It was incorporated in the year 1975. The objective of the agency is to promote the integrated development of Indian Film industry. Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved to merge four of its film media units, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India with NDFC.

3. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is to establish a Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) at which institution?

[A] IIT- BHU ☒

[B] IIT- Guwahati

[C] IISC, Bengaluru

[D] IIT- Roorkee



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is to establish a Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) at Indian Institute of Technology (BHU). The Academic Centre would be set up to facilitate short- and long-term projects at the institute, to promote the culture of research and

development among students. Capacity building programmes like conferences, exhibitions will also be organised.

4. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, along with which Ministry launched a contest to strengthen CoWIN?

[A] Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

[B] Ministry of Electronics and IT ☒

[C] Ministry of External Affairs

[D] Ministry of Education



- ✓ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Electronics and IT have jointly launched a contest to strengthen digital platform CoWIN. The contest has been developed to invite solutions from IT companies and start-ups the platform, which will be used for rolling out COVID vaccine distribution across the country. The top 5 applicants will be provided CoWIN Application Programming Interface.**

5. What is the share of the Centre in the recently approved Post Matric Scholarship for SC students?

[A] 40%

[B] 50%

[C] 60% ☒

[D] 90%



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet has recently approved ₹59,000 crore Post Matric Scholarship for more than four crore Scheduled Caste (SC) students. In the scheme, which is to be implemented in the next five years, the total investment is ₹59,048 crore, out of which 60% will be borne by the Central Government. The rest will be spent by the state Government. Transfer of financial assistance to the students would be on DBT method.**

6. As per the 'Status of Leopard in India 2018' released recently, which state has the highest number of leopards?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Gujarat



- ✓ The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released the Status of Leopard in India 2018' report. As per the report, the population of leopard in India has increased by 60 per cent with 12,852 leopards. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of leopards (3421). It is followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

7. National Startup Awards was first launched in which year?

[A] 2017

[B] 2018

[C] 2019 ☒

[D] 2020

#startupindia

- ✓ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry had initiated the first National Start up Awards in 2019. The Award aims to reward outstanding start-ups that build innovative products or solutions and have a social impact. The second edition of the award NSA 2021 has been recently launched. The awards will be presented in 49 areas classified into 15 broad sectors.

8. On which date, the International Human Solidarity Day was observed recently?

[A] December 20 ☒

[B] December 21

[C] December 22

[D] December 23



- ✓ The International Human Solidarity Day is observed every year on December 20 to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity. This day aims to celebrate unity in diversity and remind people of the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty. It is a day to encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including poverty eradication.

9. Where did PM Narendra Modi virtually launch India's 1st Driverless operated train?

[A] Chennai

[B] Delhi ☒

[C] Mumbai

[D] Bengaluru



- ✓ On December 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's 1st ever Driverless Train Operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line which connects Janakpuri West and Botanical Garden in Noida. Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated the fully operational National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) services on the Airport Express Line of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

10. Who received "Scientist of the Year Award-2018" by DRDO?

[A] Hemant Kumar Pandey ☒

[B] Tessy Thomas

[C] Sudhir Kamath

[D] Pravin K Mehta



- ✓ Dr Hemant Kumar Pandey has been conferred 'Scientist of the Year Award – 2018' by Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) for his contributions towards developing herbal medicines which includes 'Lukoskin' a drug for treatment of leucoderma. Pandey has been undertaking research at DRDO's Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand for 25 years.
-

1. Which Union Ministry launched 'Swachhata Abhiyan' mobile application to geotag insanitary latrines and manual scavengers?

[A] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

[B] Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ☒

[C] Ministry of Rural Development

[D] Ministry of Road Transport and Highways



- ✓ **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot launched a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan". The application aims to identify and geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers. With this, the insanitary latrines can be replaced with sanitary latrines and rehabilitate all the manual scavengers.**

2. What is the name of the online learning platform for it is, launched by the Skill Development Ministry?

[A] Bharatskills ☒

[B] India Skills

[C] Skill on line

[D] Skill on board



- ✓ **The Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched an online learning platform called the Bharatskills, for the students and teachers of Industrial Training Institutes (ITI). The DGT joined hands with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation to provide digital employability skilling program for nearly 1.2 lakh ITI students in around 3000 ITI's across India.**

3. Which Indian state has announced Rs 10,000 crore worth development projects to be completed in 100 days?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Kerala ☒

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ **The state government in Kerala has announced Rs 10,000 crore worth development projects would be completed or launched in the next 100 days. The Chief Minister also announced that nine new**

industrial units, including the Defence Park in Palakkad would be inaugurated. The state also targets job openings through poverty eradication mission, Kudumbashree.

4. The 'Brahmaputra Aamantran Abhiyaan', which was seen in the news recently, is to be held in which two states?

- [A] Arunachal Pradesh and Assam ☒
- [B] Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya
- [C] Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram
- [D] Assam and Meghalaya



- ✓ **Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has flagged off the "Brahmaputra Aamantran Abhiyaan", a river rafting expedition. The 917 km long expedition cum public outreach programme is to be held in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The month-long expedition is organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & NDRF.**

5. Which Indian company has developed the country's first indigenous vaccine against pneumonia?

- [A] Serum Institute of India ☒
- [B] Dr Reddy's
- [C] Sun Pharma
- [D] Cipla Ltd



- ✓ **India's first indigenous vaccine against pneumonia has been developed by Serum Institute of India (SII), for active immunisation against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by 'Streptococcus pneumonia' in infants. This vaccine is expected to be more affordable than existing vaccines manufactured by two foreign companies – Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline.**

6. Exercise Yogdan is associated with which category of association?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] National Cadet Corps ☒
- [C] Red Cross
- [D] Intelligence Bureau



- ✓ **The DGNCC Digital Forum was launched recently in New Delhi. This Forum will provide a platform to National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets across the country to share their experiences of various NCC activities. Since April 2020, over one lakh NCC Cadets served as the frontline volunteers in the fight against COVID-19 across the country under Exercise NCC Yogdan.**

7. Which organisation released report on the State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries (SoMFi 2020)?

- [A] IMF
- [B] FAO ☒
- [C] World Bank
- [D] WTO



- ✓ The State of the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries – 2020 (SoMFi 2020) was released by the Food and Agricultural Organisation's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). As per the report, 75 percent of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine ecosystems were subject to overfishing. But the number of such overfished stocks has decreased for the first time in the past decades.

8. In which year, did the Consumer Protection Act come into effect?

- [A] 1995
- [B] 1986 ☒
- [C] 1984
- [D] 1996



- ✓ On December 24, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act received the approval of the President of India and came into effect. To mark the occasion, the National Consumer Day is observed every year on December 24 in India, to spread awareness about consumer importance, their rights and responsibilities. The theme of the National Consumer Day is 'The Sustainable Consumer'.

9. The 100th Kisan Rail of India has been flagged off between Maharashtra and which other state?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] West Bengal ☒
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal. The multi-commodity train service will carry vegetables and fruits. The Government of India has also extended a subsidy of 50% on transportation of fruits and vegetables. Kisan Rail enables the farmers to transport their agricultural produce across the country.

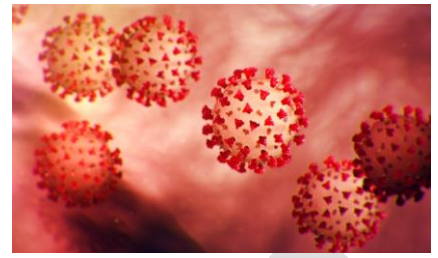
10. When was the 1st ever 'International Day of Epidemic Preparedness' observed globally by the United Nations?

[A] 25th December, 2020

[B] 15th December, 2020

[C] 27th December, 2020 ☒

[D] 22nd December, 2020



- ✓ **The United Nations observed the first ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness across the globe on 27th December 2020. The day recognises the role of government and other stakeholders like healthcare workers in controlling and managing the outbreak of epidemic. to promote the importance of the prevention of, preparedness for and the partnership against epidemics.**
-

1. Tso Kar Wetland Complex, which was declared a Ramsar site, is located in which Indian state/UT?

[A] Punjab

[B] Ladakh ☒

[C] West Bengal

[D] Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ Tso Kar Wetland Complex located in Ladakh has been declared as India's 42nd Ramsar site i.e as wetland of international importance. This is the highest number of such sites in South Asia. The high-altitude wetland complex Changthang region is of two connected lakes, the freshwater Startsapuk Tso and the hypersaline Tso Kar, in Ladakh.

2. Veteran writer and conservationist Sugathakumari, who recently passed away, was from which state?

[A] Kerala ☒

[B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Karnataka

[D] Maharashtra



- ✓ Renowned Malayalam poet, conservationist and women's rights activist Sugathakumari (86) has passed away recently. She has released 15 collections of much-acclaimed poems. Sugathakumari was also the first chairperson of the Kerala State Women Commission and led the launch of Kudumbashree Missions. She had received various awards including the Padma Shri, the Saraswati Samman among others.

3. India's largest hockey stadium is planned to be setup in which state?

[A] Punjab

[B] Odisha ☒

[C] West Bengal

[D] Karnataka



- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that India's biggest hockey stadium is to be built in the city of Rourkela in the state. The upcoming facility is likely to host matches of men's Hockey World Cup in 2023. The stadium with a 20000-seat capacity, will be constructed in the Biju Patnaik University of Technology campus.

4. The Gender Park, which was seen in the news recently, is an autonomous body of which Indian state?

[A] Arunachal Pradesh

[B] Assam

[C] Mizoram

[D] Kerala ☒



- ✓ **The Gender Park is an autonomous body under the Kerala state government, organises various projects and programmes on gender equality in the state. Recently, the agency announced that it is set to partner with UN Women to promote women empowerment and function as a South Asia hub for gender equality, in association with the New Delhi based UN Women Multi–Country Office.**

5. Which is the first private sector Defence company to be granted Green channel status?

[A] TATA Group

[B] L&T Defense ☒

[C] Kalyani Group

[D] SSS Defense



- ✓ **The Defence Ministry has recently granted 'Green channel status' to L&T Defence, which became the first private sector defence company to be granted this status. If a company is granted this status, it would have several benefits. The Green Channel Policy was introduced in 2017 by the Defence Ministry, as part of the 'Make in India' initiative.**

6. India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari has been launched in which state?

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[C] Gujarat

[D] Maharashtra



- ✓ **India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari in a tiger reserve has been launched in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. The Tiger Reserve is situated in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Under the programme, people can watch tigers, leopards, Indian sloth bear and other wild animals from a height, in restricted buffer areas.**

7. Which Indian player has been appointed as the Chief selector of the national men's cricket team?

- [A] Harbhajan Singh
- [B] V V S Laxman
- [C] Chetan Sharma ☒
- [D] Mohammad Kaif



- ✓ **Former India pacer Chetan Sharma has been appointed Chief selector of the national men's cricket team. The Cricket Advisory Committee also selected two more members to the All-India Senior Selection Committee. The CAC will review the candidates after one year and make recommendations to the BCCI.**

8. PRADAN portal, which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which organisation?

- [A] DRDO
- [B] ISRO ☒
- [C] UPSC
- [D] UGC



- ✓ **The Indian Space Research Organisation announced that it has released the first set of data from the Chandrayaan-2 mission, for the general public. India's second mission to the moon was launched on July 22, 2019 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. The data has been released through the 'PRADAN' portal hosted by Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC), the nodal centre of data archive for ISRO missions.**

9. Which Indian state has recently launched 'Fasal rahat yojana' and 'Pasudhan yojana'?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] Jharkhand ☒
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ **The Jharkhand government in its recent cabinet meeting has decided to waive all agriculture and farm loans up to Rs 50,000. The Cabinet also approved 'Fasal rahat yojana' to provide relief to the farmers who have faced crop loss and 'Pasudhan yojana' to improve income of the families involved in cattle farming.**

10. The fighter jets of India and which other country is to organise an exercise named 'SKYROS'?

[A] Israel

[B] France ☒

[C] Russia

[D] Australia



- ✓ **The Rafale fighter jets of India and France are set to carry out wargames named 'SKYROS' in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The exercise is to be organised in the third week of January next year. This would be the first major wargame of the Indian Air Force involving the Rafale fighters which were inducted into the service in August 2020.**
-

1. Which state cabinet has approved Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020?

[A] Andhra Pradesh

[B] Madhya Pradesh ☒

[C] Odisha

[D] Jharkhand



- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh cabinet has recently approved the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020. This ordinance outlaws the marriages which are done with an aim of religious conversions. Under the new Bill, forcing religious conversion on someone will attract 1–5 years of imprisonment and a minimum Rs 25,000 fine. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh cabinet passed a similar ordinance.**

2. Which state has been permitted by the Finance Ministry to borrow Rs 2731 after it achieved 'Ease of doing business reform'?

[A] Gujarat

[B] Kerala

[C] Rajasthan ☒

[D] Odisha



- ✓ **The Finance Ministry has recently permitted Rajasthan to borrow an additional Rs 2,731 crore after the state achieved ease of doing business reforms. Rajasthan has now joined the five other states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, which were granted additional borrowing permission, through open market borrowings.**

3. Which Municipal Corporation has been selected as the best performing civic body in the country?

[A] Chennai

[B] Visakhapatnam ☒

[C] Cochin

[D] Mysuru



- ✓ **Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has been selected as the best performing civic body in the country. Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced this under the Annual awards for excellence, for its contribution of PMAY–Urban scheme in 2019. Andhra Pradesh has secured the third position in the best performing State category.**

4. Which Indian organisation is developing 'Green propulsion' technology, that was seen in the news recently?

- [A] DRDO
- [B] ISRO ☒
- [C] BARC
- [D] OFB



- ✓ **Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K Sivan announced that the organisation was developing 'Green propulsion' for its human space flight mission, 'Gaganyaan'. He also said that all the propulsion stages may adopt green propulsion in the future. ISRO has developed space grade lithium-ion batteries also used for mass adoption of electric vehicles.**

5. Thoubal Multipurpose Project has been inaugurated in which Indian state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Manipur ☒
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Bihar



- ✓ **The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently inaugurated Thoubal Multipurpose Project (Thoubal Dam) in Imphal, Manipur through virtual mode. The project was originally launched in the year 2014. The 462-crore project aims to irrigate 35,104 hectares in the state. The Minister also laid foundation stone for projects including an Integrated Command and Control Center.**

6. Which state announced that it will include the History of Sikh gurus in school curriculum?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh ☒
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Punjab



- ✓ **The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the history of Sikh gurus will be included in the school curriculum. He also declared that 'Sahibzada Diwas', which marks the martyrdom of four sons of 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh and his mother, will be celebrated in all schools.**

7. As per the notification of MoRTH, the validity of expiring Motor Vehicle Documents is extended till which date?

[A] January 31, 2021

[B] March 31, 2021 ☒

[C] June 30, 2021

[D] August 31, 2021



- ✓ As per the Road Transport and Highways Ministry, the validity of expiring driving licences (DL) and motor vehicle documents has been extended till 31 March, 2021. This move has been taken in view of the COVID-19 crisis. The documents including Driving Licenses, which expired on or after 1 February, but could not be renewed due to the pandemic, will remain valid till the mentioned date. This is the fourth extension by the Centre.

8. An archaeological site named Pompeii, which was making news recently, is located in which country?

[A] France

[B] Italy ☒

[C] Germany

[D] Greece



- ✓ Archaeologists have discovered a 2000-year-old food and drinks shop in the site of Pompeii, the site which was buried in a volcanic eruption in 79 AD. They have also found traces of food in some of the deep terra cotta jars containing hot food in the shop known as termopolium (Latin for hot drinks counter). It was discovered in the archaeological park's Regio V site, near the coast of Bay of Naples, in Italy.

9. Which is the 38th district of Tamil Nadu?

[A] Tenkasi

[B] Chengalpattu

[C] Mayiladuthurai ☒

[D] Kallakurichi



- ✓ Mayiladuthurai district became the 38th district of Tamil Nadu on December 28. Mayiladuthurai has been formed as a new district by dividing it from Nagappattinam district and incorporating

four revenue circles from the Mayiladuthurai revenue division. Agriculture and Fishing are the main occupations of Mayiladuthurai district. The total area of the district is 1172 SqKms.

- ✓ Following the formation of Mayiladuthurai district, Sirkazhi Taluk in Mayiladuthurai district has been declared as Sirkazhi division. Mayiladuthurai district has 4 Taluks namely Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi, Kuthalam and Tharangambadi; Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi and Poompuhar are the constituencies present in Mayiladuthurai; 5 Panchayat Unions; 2 Municipalities namely Sirkazhi and Mayiladuthurai are also located in this district.

10. What is the name of the application launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, for ocean data management?

[A] Digital Ocean ☒

[B] Ocean Digital

[C] Ocean Data

[D] Data Ocean



- ✓ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched a web-based application for ocean data management. Named 'Digital Ocean', the platform aims to share information on marine data and forecast services. The platform provides data for several sectors like research institutions, academic community, maritime industry and the public.