

DECEMBER 2020

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



**1. Which new definition was included in the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019?**

- [A] Medical Vehicles
- [B] Aggregators
- [C] Cargo vehicles
- [D] Electric Vehicles



- ✓ **The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 has been amended by the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019 to include the definition of the term 'Aggregator'.**
- ✓ **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines 2020, to regulate shared mobility services. The ride hailing services require permission from the state governments to start operations, and states will follow the norms specified by the Centre.**

**2. Chandrabhaga beach, which is the venue of the International Sand Art Festival 2020, is located in which state?**

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Odisha
- [C] Chennai
- [D] Kerala



- ✓ **Odisha is set to celebrate International Sand Art Festival, at its Chandrabhaga Beach starting from December 1, 2020. The five-day Sand Art Festival festival also coincides with the Konark Festival that is held in the backdrop of the Sun temple in Konark. On account of COVID-19 restrictions, only Indian sand artists will showcase their art using sand, bronze or wood. Related Questions**

**3. 'Delhi Chalo' is the name of the protest being held by which category of people in India?**

- [A] Farmers
- [B] Sanitation Workers
- [C] Bank Employees
- [D] Teachers



- ✓ **Several groups of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and other parts of the country, demanding the repeal of the new agriculture reform laws passed by the Union Government, are holding protests under the name of 'Delhi Chalo'. The farmers were granted permission to hold peaceful protests at Nirankari Ground in North west Delhi. As per the farmers, the new agriculture laws will dismantle the minimum support price (MSP) system.**

4. Which organization publishes the report titled “The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020”?

- [A] World Food Programme  
 [B] Food Corporation of India (FCI)  
 [C] Chicago Council on Global Affairs  
 [D] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



- ✓ **The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has published a flagship report titled “The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020”, Overcoming Water Challenges in Agriculture as its theme”.**
- ✓ **The report states that around 1.2 billion people across the globe are under high levels of water stress, which means that one out of every 6 people in the world are facing a severe water stress or scarcity in agriculture. Around 50% of the 1.2 billion people lived in South Asia and 460 million people lived in east and southeast asia.**

5. Which state debarred its Member of Legislative Assembly and retired IPS officer Lalduhoma, from its state assembly?

- [A] Assam  
 [B] Mizoram   
 [C] Maharashtra  
 [D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Mizoram has debarred its Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and retired IPS officer Lalduhoma from the state assembly. He was in charge of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s security. In 1988, he was the first Member of Parliament to have been disqualified from the Lok Sabha, under the Anti-Defection Law. At present, the charge on him is despite being elected as an independent candidate, he declared himself as a representative of ZPM.**

6. World AIDS Day is observed all over the world on which date?

- [A] November 29  
 [B] November 30  
 [C] December 01   
 [D] December 02



- ✓ **World AIDS Day is observed on 1 December every year. The day aims to raise public awareness about AIDS. The theme of the 2019 World AIDS Day is “Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact”. Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a pandemic disease that is caused due**

to the infection of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV causes damage to the immune system.

7. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed on which date?

- [A] December 01
- [B] December 02
- [C] December 03
- [D] December 04



- ✓ **The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is a yearly event on December.2, organized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The day was first celebrated in the year 1986.**

8. On which date, National Milk Day is celebrated in India?

- [A] November 26
- [B] November 28
- [C] November 30
- [D] November 02



- ✓ **The National Milk Day is celebrated every year on 26th of November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution. The White Revolution (also known as Operation Flood) was launched in 1970. It is considered to be world's biggest dairy development programme which transformed India from a milk deficient nation to the one of the largest producers of milk in the world.**

9. Giant Metre–wave Radio Telescope, which was making news recently, is located in which Indian state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Karnataka



- ✓ **GMRT (Giant Metre–wave Radio Telescope) is an observatory located in Pune, Maharashtra. It is operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research– National Centre for Radio Astrophysics. US based technical organisation, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has granted the status of 'Milestone' to the observatory. This is the third facility to receive the milestone status in India after the works of Sir C V Raman and Sir J C Bose.**

10. Which body released the report 'The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Transitioning to a New Normal'?

[A] International Trade Centre

[B] World Trade Organization

[C] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[D] 4) International Monetary Fund



- ✓ **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a report titled 'The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Transitioning to a New Normal'. The report states that a viable novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine will not halt the spread of economic damage. The economic setback will be experienced for a long time especially by the poorest and most vulnerable countries.**
-

1. Sea Guardian drones, which were seen in the news recently, were obtained from which country?

[A] Israel

[B] United States of America

[C] United Kingdom

[D] France



- ✓ **The Indian Navy has taken two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones from an American defence company, on lease for 1 year. The unmanned aerial vehicles, manufactured by US firm General Atomics, have been obtained on lease, to enhance surveillance over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The vehicles arrived at the naval air station INS Rajali in Tamil Nadu.**

2. On Nov.29 every year, the UN observes 'International Day of Solidarity' related to which country?

[A] Israel

[B] Palestine

[C] Turkey

[D] Syria



- ✓ **'International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People' is observed every year on November 29, across the world. The day was established in the year 1977 and it marks the day in 1947 when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution partitioning Palestine into an Arab State and a Jewish State. The UN Chief called on Israel and Palestine to achieve a two-State solution.**

3. Which region of India is the most polluted in the country, as per the recent study by CPCB and IIT Delhi?

[A] Indo-Gangetic Plain

[B] Western Coastal Plain

[C] Eastern Coastal Plain

[D] All over North India



- ✓ **As per the recent study conducted by the Central Pollution control board and IIT- Delhi, Indo-Gangetic plains continue to be the most polluted region in the country, in terms of PM 2.5 levels. The study also revealed that the rate of increase in pollution levels southern and eastern India is greater than the Indo-Gangetic plains, between 2000 and 2019. It also found that air pollution in rural areas of the country increased similar to that of urban areas.**

**4. Which organisation released 'Guidelines on physical activity and sedentary behaviour'?**

- [A] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [B] World Health Organization
- [C] Indian Council of Medical Research
- [D] United Nations



- ✓ **The World Health Organisation has released 'Guidelines on physical activity and sedentary behaviour'. As per the guidelines, at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate to vigorous aerobic activity per week is recommended for all adults.**
- ✓ **It also highlights that one in four adults, and four out of five adolescents, do not get enough physical activity, which causes a significant loss in productivity.**

**5. Which city has become the world's most air connected city, as per the International Air Transport Association (IATA)?**

- [A] Chennai
- [B] New Delhi
- [C] Shanghai
- [D] Melbourne



- ✓ **As per International Air Transport Association's (IATA), recent report, China's Shanghai has become the world's most connected city, replacing London from the top spot. According to the IATA, London has witnessed a 67% fall in air connectivity due to the prevalent COVID-19 pandemic. With Shanghai added to the top list, world's four most connected cities are now in China.**

**6. 'Hualong One', which was seen in news recently, was the first domestically made nuclear reactor of which country?**

- [A] Russia
- [B] China
- [C] Israel
- [D] Germany



- ✓ **China's first domestically made nuclear reactor 'Hualong One', has started its operations, as per the China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC). The third-generation pressurised water nuclear reactor has been connected to the national grid. The reactor can generate 10 billion kw-hours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tons.**

7. Which word has been selected as the 'Top Word of 2020', by Merriam–Webster?

- [A] Lockdown  
 [B] Pandemic   
 [C] Vaccine  
 [D] Immunity



- ✓ **US based– Merriam–Webster, known for its dictionaries, has recently announced 'pandemic' as its 2020 word of the year.**
- ✓ **As per the company, when the World Health Organisation declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, the searches on the site for 'pandemic' rose hugely. The word has roots in Latin and Greek. It is a combination of pan, meaning all, and demos, meaning people.**

8. Which word is named as the 'Word of the Year 2020' as per the most searched words on the Cambridge Dictionary in 2020?

- [A] Lockdown  
 [B] Quarantine   
 [C] Vaccine  
 [D] Immunity



Cambridge  
 Dictionary

- ✓ **The Cambridge Dictionary has named 'Quarantine' as the Word of the Year 2020 based on its data which showed that the word 'Quarantine' is one of the most searched words on the Cambridge Dictionary in 2020.**

9. Which country hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> India – Sri Lanka – Maldives Trilateral Meeting on Maritime Security Cooperation?

- [A] India  
 [B] Sri Lanka   
 [C] Maldives  
 [D] Japan



- ✓ **The 4<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Meeting on Maritime Security Cooperation between India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives was hosted by Sri Lanka. It was held in Colombo and India was represented by the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The earlier such meetings were held in Maldives (2011), Sri Lanka (2013) and in India (2014).**

10. 'Technical Recession', which was making news recently refers to the contraction of GDP for how many consecutive quarters?

[A] Two

[B] Four

[C] Six

[D] Eight



- ✓ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India has contracted by 7.5% in the second quarter of the financial year 2020–21. The contraction in GDP is registered for the second consecutive quarter and hence India is said to have entered 'Technical Recession'. The real GDP in the first quarter of 2020–21 (April – June) registered a record low of 23.9% contraction.
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1. Hayabusa2, which was making news recently, is a spacecraft of which country?

- [A] Israel  
[B] Japan   
[C] United Kingdom  
[D] France



- ✓ Japan's spacecraft named 'Hayabusa2' is approaching the Earth after a year-long journey from an asteroid Ryugu, about 300 million kilometers from earth. As per the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the spacecraft will bring soil samples and data that could provide clues to the origins of the solar system and life on Earth. The agency would drop the capsule containing the samples, in southern Australia.

2. Which state received the best State award for Organ donation by the Health Ministry, for the sixth consecutive year?

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



- ✓ Every year, November 27<sup>th</sup> is observed as Indian organ donation day by the Government of India. This year marks the 11<sup>th</sup> Organ Donation Day event. Tamil Nadu received the 'Best State award' for organ donation, by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This is the sixth consecutive year of the state receiving the award.

3. As per the recent statement of the WHO, which country recorded the highest reduction in Malaria cases, in South-East Asia?

- [A] India   
[B] Bangladesh  
[C] Pakistan  
[D] Myanmar



- ✓ As per the recent statement, India recorded the highest reduction in Malaria cases, in the South-East Asian region. As per the 'World Malaria Report 2020', India reduced the number of cases from 20 million in 2000 to about 5.6 million in 2019. India also recorded a reduction in the number of deaths from malaria. Globally there were 229 malaria cases in 2019.

4. Petrodava Dacian Fortress is a famous archaeological landmark, located in which country?

- [A] France  
 [B] Romania   
 [C] Bulgaria  
 [D] Chile



- ✓ **The Petrodava Dacian Fortress is the oldest historical monument located in Piatra Neamt city, Romania. The fort was built around 82 BC and AD 106 by the Dacian people in ancient Europe. Days after the first mysterious metal monolith disappeared in a remote, uninhabited desert in Utah, USA, a second similar structure has been spotted in Romania, a few metres away from the fortress. The monolith which disappeared and appeared again was a triangular, shiny pillar.**

5. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to finance a USD 132.8 million loan to improve the power distribution in which state?

- [A] West Bengal  
 [B] Assam  
 [C] Meghalaya   
 [D] Odisha



- ✓ **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India has recently signed a USD132.8 million loan to modernize the distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied in Meghalaya. This project supports the state government's initiative "24x7 Power for All" initiative. This will also help the state reduce its high technical and commercial losses. Meghalaya has achieved 100 per cent electrification while there were incidents of frequent power interruptions.**

6. 'Gurupurab' is the celebration of birth anniversary of which Sikh Guru?

- [A] Guru Nanak   
 [B] Guru Gobind Singh  
 [C] Guru Tegh Bahadur  
 [D] Guru Arjan



- ✓ **The birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak is celebrated as the Guru Nanak Dev Gurpurab, commonly called as 'Gurupurab'. On this occasion, a book titled 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Government's Special Relationship with Sikhs' was launched.**

- ✓ It is published by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and was released in English, Hindi and Punjabi languages with the messages of Guru Nanak.

**7. Which state has launched an outreach programme called 'Duare Sarkar'?**

- [A] Odisha
- [B] West Bengal
- [C] Chhattisgarh
- [D] Jharkhand



- ✓ West Bengal state government has recently launched a massive outreach programme named "Duare Sarkar" or "Government at your doorstep".
- ✓ Under the programme, people can avail the benefit of over 11 schemes of the state including Kanyashree, Khadya Sathi and Sikshashree. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced to set up 'Duare Sarkar' camps in the state for redressing grievances of people.

**8. International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated on December 3 under which theme?**

- [A] Empowering persons with disabilities
- [B] Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World
- [C] Ensuring inclusiveness and equality
- [D] Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all



- ✓ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on December 3 to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.
- ✓ The annual observance of the Day was proclaimed in 1992, by a United Nations General Assembly resolution. The 2020 theme is "Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World".

9. Who has been appointed as the Ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Breakthrough Initiative?

- [A] A R Rahman
- [B] Rajinikanth
- [C] Kamalhasan
- [D] G V Prakash



- ✓ Music Composer AR Rahman was appointed as the Ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Breakthrough India 2020–21. This initiative is supported by Netflix.

10. A new species of dwarf gecko named "*Cnemaspis avasabinae*", the smallest known Indian Gekkonid has been discovered in which state in Eastern Ghats?

- [A] Tami Nadu
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ A team of researchers has discovered a new species of dwarf gecko named "*Cnemaspis avasabinae*", This is identified as the smallest known Indian Gekkonid from the Eastern Ghats.
- ✓ *Cnemaspis avasabinae* is the 12 species discovered outside the Western Ghats and the first species from the Velikonda Range, Andhra Pradesh. The new species has been given a common name "Sabin's Nellore dwarf gecko". The paper about the discovery "A new species of South Asian *Cnemaspis* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from the Eastern Ghats, India" was published in Zootaxa.
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1. 'BrahMos Aerospace' is a joint venture company set up by Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and which other company of India?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO
- [C] BHEL
- [D] HAL

- ✓ 'BrahMos Aerospace' is a joint venture company set up by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia. Recently, Indian Navy test-fired the naval version of BrahMos missile in the Bay of Bengal. The missile was test-fired from a Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, hitting a decommissioned target ship. Earlier, the Indian Army and Air Force test-fired the missile.

2. Which Indian bank co-launched a contactless debit card along with Japan's JCB International?

- [A] Punjab National Bank
- [B] State Bank of India
- [C] HDFC Bank
- [D] Axis Bank



- ✓ State Bank of India has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Japan's JCB International Co to launch new 'SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card'. This card has a dual interface feature, under which customers can use it for both contact and contactless transactions, both in the domestic market as well as overseas. The card has been launched on the RuPay network.

3. In which year, did China launch its ambitious 'One Belt and One Road' initiative?

- [A] 2000
- [B] 2005
- [C] 2013
- [D] 2017



- ✓ China launched the ambitious 'One Belt and One Road' (OBOR) initiative in 2013, to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes. During the 19th meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of the SCO, all other member

nations of SCO, except India reaffirmed their support to the OBOR project of China. India is critical of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a part of OBOR.

4. Which Indian Minister delivered key note address Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES) 2020?

[A] Piyush Goyal

[B] Nirmala Sitharaman

[C] Nitin Gadkari

[D] S Jai Shankar



- ✓ **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman delivered a Keynote Address at the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES) 2020 in virtual format. SLES is annually organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC). The theme for this year's event is "Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People –Centric Economic Revival".**

5. Which Indian PSU has launched the country's first 100 Octane petrol?

[A] HPCL

[B] IOCL

[C] ONGC

[D] GAIL



- ✓ **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has recently launched the nation's first 100 Octane petrol. Union Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the petrol. The 100–octane petrol also called as XP100 premium petrol will be initially available at select outlet of IOC in 10 cities.**
- ✓ **The fuel is manufactured at IOC's Mathura refinery in Uttar Pradesh. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) had earlier launched Octane 99. Higher the octane number of a fuel, higher will be its compression and performance.**

6. 'Balsnehi (Child–Friendly) Police Station', which was seen in the news recently, was inaugurated in which city?

[A] Chennai

[B] Pune

[C] Thiruvananthapuram

[D] Lucknow



- ✓ Pune City Police has recently inaugurated the 'Balsnehi (Child-Friendly) Police Station', on the premises of Lashkar Police Station in Pune Camp.
- ✓ The Police Station has a room designated for children, who would come to report cases to the station. It also aims to create a set-up to rehabilitate children in need. Earlier, a Child-friendly Police Station was set up in Krishna District on the premises of Machilipatnam.

7. 'Defence Geo Informatics Research Establishment' is the new lab of which organisation?

- [A] ISRO
- [B] DRDO
- [C] BHEL
- [D] HAL



- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has created a new laboratory named Defence Geo Informatics Research Establishment. It has been formed by merging two existing labs namely Manali-headquartered Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) and the Delhi-based Defence Terrain Research Establishment. The new lab will focus on research on the terrain along the borders with China and Pakistan.

8. In which state, the first ever virtual edition of Aadi Mahotsav is celebrated?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Assam



- ✓ The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has launched a virtual edition of the first ever Aadi Mahotsav celebrated in the state of Madhya Pradesh. This is a festive being celebrated for 10 days. It would be hosted by Tribes India. The key focus on this year's Aadi Mahotsav is "tribal craft and culture of Madhya Pradesh".

9. Which country's rubber plantations have been recently affected by Leaf Fall Disease?

- [A] India
- [B] Indonesia
- [C] Bhutan
- [D] Thailand



- ✓ The recent spread of Leaf Fall Disease in rubber plantations of Thailand has been a cause of worry to Indian Plantations. In November, the total affected area of rubber plantation of Thailand was 90,000 ha and there is a potential production loss of 1.30 lakh tons of rubber. It has been cited by Rubber Board officials that the disease has the potential to spread to India.

**10.** The United Nations' Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on which day?

[A] November 30

[B] December 01

[C] December 02

[D] December 03



- ✓ The United Nations Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is annually observed across the globe on 30<sup>th</sup> November to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare and to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons and promote world peace, security and multilateralism.
  - ✓ The day was first observed on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted in 1993 and came into force on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1997.
-

1. India held the inaugural meeting of the Counter–Narcotics Working Group with which country?

- [A] United States of America
- [B] Japan
- [C] Brazil
- [D] Israel



- ✓ **India and the United States attended the inaugural meeting of the Counter–narcotics Working Group (CNWG), in virtual mode. Indian delegation was represented by the Deputy Director General of Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- ✓ **The two countries also agreed to improve their data sharing operations to fight the production, distribution, and export/import of drugs and related chemicals.**

2. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to finance USD 50 million policy–based loan for Finance Management in which state?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] West Bengal
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Manila–based Asian Development Bank has signed a USD 50–million policy–based loan for the West Bengal Public Finance Management Investment Programme. The loan aims to improve financial management and operational efficiencies of the state. A centre for fiscal policy and public finance will be established along with a web–based grievance redressal system for transport corporations and urban local bodies.**

3. '737 MAX', which was making news recently, is the airliner of which famous company?

- [A] Air Bus
- [B] Boeing
- [C] Qantas
- [D] Emirates



- ✓ **'737 MAX' is the best–selling airliner of US–based leading multi–national aerospace company Boeing. It was grounded in March 2019 after two crashes in five months killing a total of 346 people. The redesigned version of the '737 MAX' airliner has recently staged its first post–**

grounding flight with media on board. It made a 45-minute flight from Texas to Oklahoma in the US. The flight's first commercial passenger flight is scheduled in the month-end of December.

**4. Which country has banned cotton imports from China citing 'slave labour'?**

[A] India

[B] United States of America

[C] Russia

[D] United Kingdom



- ✓ **The United States has issued an order to ban the cotton and cotton products from the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), one of the largest producers of China. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency issued "Withhold Release Order" to increase economic pressure on the Xinjiang region. US cites the reason for the ban as 'slave labour' of detained Uighur Muslims used by China.**

**5. India–Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held recently. Where is Suriname located?**

[A] Africa

[B] North America

[C] Europe

[D] South America



- ✓ **Suriname, officially the Republic of Suriname, is a small country on the north-eastern coast of South America. It was previously known as 'Dutch Guiana'. The 7<sup>th</sup> India–Suriname Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was recently held virtually. The JCM was co-chaired by Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and his counterpart in Suriname.**

**6. International Civil Aviation Day is being observed on which date?**

[A] December 07

[B] December 08

[C] December 09

[D] December 10



- ✓ **In 1996 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that 7 December was to be the International Civil Aviation Day. The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization since 1994 December 7, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing the Convention on**

International Civil Aviation. The purpose of the day is to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world.

7. Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on which date?

[A] December 07

[B] December 08

[C] December 09

[D] December 10



- ✓ **Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7 December. It is observed every year in India. The day is observed to honor the martyrs and the men of the Armed Forces who valiantly fought on the borders to safeguard India's honor. On this day, the three branches of the Armed Forces of India, the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Navy, organized a variety of programmes to showcase their efforts towards national security.**

8. Which is the knowledge partner of Microsoft for the India edition of the Imagine Cup 2021?

[A] National Skill Development Corporation

[B] NITI Aayog

[C] myGov

[D] Doordarshan



- ✓ **Microsoft India and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have partnered for the India edition of the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2021. Imagine Cup is an annual innovation challenge held by Microsoft for students and technology enthusiasts. It aims to empower students to apply artificial intelligence and other technologies to solve the sustainability issues of the world.**

9. What is the new repo rate after the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee meeting of December 2020?

[A] 4.2 percent

[B] 4.0 percent

[C] 3.8 percent

[D] 3.5 percent



- ✓ **The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held on December 4, 2020 decided to keep interest rates unchanged. The MPC has kept repo rate unchanged at 4% and maintained reverse repo rate at 3.35%. RBI also predicted a real GDP growth of -7.5% for FY21. MPC also expected that the inflation rate will remain high.**

10. The CLMV Countries are the group of countries belonging to which regional organisation?

- [A] ASEAN
- [B] Commonwealth
- [C] G20
- [D] G7



- ✓ **CLMV countries are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. They are also the members of the Association of South East Nations (ASEAN). During the Inaugural Session of the 6<sup>th</sup> India – CLMV Business Conclave 2020, India invited the CLMV countries to join the International Solar Alliance and the Resilient Supply Chain Initiative by India.**
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1. What is the new limit of transaction made using contactless card, as per the recent statement of the RBI?

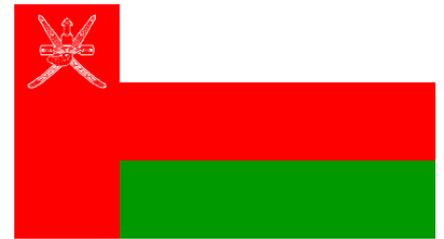
- [A] Rs 1000
- [B] Rs 2000
- [C] Rs 3000
- [D] Rs 5000



- ✓ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to increase the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 per transaction from January 1, 2021.**
- ✓ **This announcement was part of the RBI's Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, announced during the RBI's bi-monetary policy announcement. The limit for e-mandates for recurring transactions using cards and UPI is also raised to Rs 5000.**

2. Which country has announced to establish 'Friendship Association' with India, to strengthen its ties?

- [A] Saudi Arabia
- [B] Oman
- [C] Brazil
- [D] United Kingdom



- ✓ **During the India–Oman virtual dialogue recently held; Oman announced to establish Oman–India Friendship Association. This is the first such initiative in West Asia led by the Foreign Ministry. In December 2019, India and Oman signed a Maritime Transport Agreement during the visit of Foreign Minister Jaishankar to the country.**

3. Which is the headquarters of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)?

- [A] Vienna
- [B] Geneva
- [C] Rome
- [D] Washington D C



- ✓ **The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is one of the commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), headquartered at Vienna, Austria.**

- ✓ Recently, during a reconvened session of CND, 53 member states voted for removing Cannabis from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, where it was listed with deadly & addictive drugs. 27 members including India, voted for removing Cannabis from the convention.

4. DCOAS (Strategy) is the new post to be created in which Indian Armed Force?

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



- ✓ The Union Government has announced the post of a Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, or DCOAS, (Strategy), to bring about structural reforms in the army. The proposal for creating this post was initiated before two years. The DCOAS would oversee the work of the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) and the Director General Military Intelligence (DGMI), who would otherwise report to the Vice Chief of Army Staff.

5. Lesser florican birds, tagged in which Indian state, has flown to Telangana recently?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ One of the two lesser florican birds that was tagged by the Gujarat forest department has flown all the way to the state of Telangana. The bird was tagged at the Blackbuck National Park (BNNP), Velavadar, in Bhavnagar. This has confirmed a research finding that lesser florican birds migrate to peninsular India from the western part of India after their breeding season.

6. Where is the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) located?

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Nainital
- [C] Chennai
- [D] Pune



- ✓ The National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) is located in the city of Pune. The present building of NIN is called the "Bapu Bhavan".

- ✓ Gandhiji performed many Naturopathy experiments and organised various national and International activities while staying here. The Ministry of Ayush has proposed to name the upcoming new campus of National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune as "Nisarg Gram".

7. Parkash Singh Badal was the former Chief Minister of which state?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Punjab
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Himachal Pradesh



- ✓ Parkash Singh Badal, who is the former Chief Minister of Punjab and a leader of Shiromani Akali Dal party has returned Padma Vibhushan award back to the Government. He has returned the award to show his protest against Agriculture reforms brought by the Centre. He was honoured with the prestigious award in the year 2015.

8. As per the recent study by the Zoological Survey of India, which type of squirrel is on the verge of extinction?

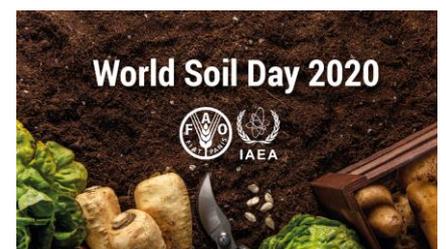
- [A] Malayan Giant Squirrel
- [B] Flying Squirrel
- [C] Indian Giant Squirrel
- [D] Green Bush Squirrel



- ✓ In the first-of-its-kind study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Malayan Giant Squirrel is at the verge of extinction.
- ✓ It has projected that the numbers of the Malayan Giant Squirrel could decline by 90 per cent in India by 2050. If steps are not taken by the Govt., the species could become extinct in the country.

9. What is the theme of the 'World Soil day 2020'?

- [A] Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity
- [B] Life of Soil
- [C] Soil and Nature
- [D] Conserve Soil to Conserve World



- ✓ Every year December 5 is celebrated as World Soil Day across the world since 2014, to create awareness about the importance of healthy soil and sustainable management of soil resources.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) campaign, the theme of World Soil day 2020 is "Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity". International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) recommended it in 2002 recommended to celebrate this day in 2020.

**10.** Mamit district, which topped the NITI Aayog's October rankings of aspirational districts, is in which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Sikkim
- [C] Mizoram
- [D] Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ **Mamit district of the state of Mizoram has topped the rankings of aspirational districts by Niti Aayog for October. Banka of Bihar and Dhenkanal of Odisha have been placed at the second and third positions, respectively. NITI Aayog assesses the incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas.**

1. When is the 'International Day of Banks' celebrated by the UN for the first time in 2020?

[A] December 2

[B] December 4

[C] December 6

[D] December 8



- ✓ In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly designated December 4 as the International Day of Banks. It is celebrated for the first time in 2020. The day is celebrated to recognise the importance of multilateral development banks and international development banks in financing sustainable development. It also recognises the role of the banking systems in improving the standard of living.

2. Which start-up has partnered with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch India's private remote-sensing satellite?

[A] Pixxel

[B] Bellatrix Aerospace

[C] Agnikul

[D] Vesta Space



- ✓ Leading space start-up Pixxel has signed an agreement with the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch the country's first private remote-sensing satellite. The satellite is to be launched on an ISRO PSLV rocket in early 2021. Earlier, regulatory body under the Department of Space called 'IN-SPACe' was established to enable private players undertake space activities in India.

3. Which Ministry has issued advisory guideline to private satellite channels on online gaming and betting?

[A] Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

[B] Ministry of Home Affairs

[C] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[D] Ministry of Information Technology



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has recently issued an advisory to all the private satellite channels to ensure that no advertisements that promote prohibited activities are telecasted. The advisory mentioned that advertisements on online gaming, betting and fantasy sports were misleading and are inconsistent with the Ministry's Advertising Code.

#### 4. Waqf Boards and Waqf Council are administered under which Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Women and Child Development  
 [B] Ministry of External Affairs  
 [C] Ministry of Minority Affairs   
 [D] Ministry of Home Affairs



**Central Waqf Council**  
 Ministry of Minority Affairs  
 Government of India

- ✓ **Waqf Boards and Waqf Council is administered under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The central Waqf council has decided recently that the Waqf Boards will be set up in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, soon. This is the first time, Waqf Boards will be established in the J&K and Leh–Kargil areas of India.**

#### 5. Which High Court in India has the highest number of Women Judges, as of 2020?

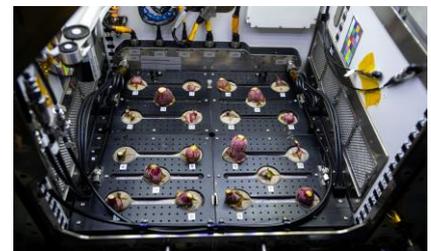
- [A] Madras   
 [B] Bombay  
 [C] Ahmedabad  
 [D] Thiruvananthapuram



- ✓ **The Madras High Court has the highest number of women Judges among all the High Court of India. Among the additional 13 Judges who sworn in recently, 4 were women. As of now, the total number of women judges in Madras High Court stands at 13. Justice AP Sahi is the present Chief Justice of Madras High Court.**

#### 6. First ever radish crop has been grown in space by which organisation?

- [A] ISRO  
 [B] NASA   
 [C] European Space Agency  
 [D] Russian Space Agency



- ✓ **NASA astronaut Kate Rubins has for the first–time harvested radish crop at the International Space Station. This is a part of NASA’s planet experiment named Plant Habitat–02 (PH–02), which is aimed to understand the plant growth in micro gravity conditions. The crops have been harvested in a time of 27 days.**

7. India Empowerment Fund is set to be launched by which body?

[A] NABARD

[B] RBI

[C] IIT Alumni Council

[D] Institute of Engineers



- ✓ **India Empowerment Fund is set to be launched by the IIT Alumni Council for investing a sum of Rs.50,000 crore in India's research system. The fund would be invested in a period of 10 years. The fund will be operated as IIT Angel Fund and would be regulated under Angel Investor Funds.**

8. The "Sikandra to Taj Gate" corridor, which is to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, is a part of which Metro Rail service?

[A] Delhi Metro

[B] Noida Metro

[C] Meerut Metro

[D] Agra Metro



- ✓ **The Government of India is set to inaugurate the construction of 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Agra Metro. The first phase of the metro would connect Sikandra to Taj Gate. The estimated project cost for the first phase construction is Rs.8379 crore. This project would have 6 stations.**

9. Which Union Ministry is the organiser of the India Mobile Congress?

[A] Ministry of Education

[B] Ministry of Science and Technology

[C] Ministry of Electronics and IT

[D] Ministry of Communication



- ✓ **The India Mobile Congress (IMC) is organised by the Department of Telecommunications, Communication Ministry and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at the Mobile Congress. The event is to be held in virtual mode from December 8 to 10. The theme for IMC 2020 is "Inclusive Innovation – Smart, Secure, Sustainable".**

10. Hampi Chariot is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in which state?

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



- ✓ **The famous stone chariot in front of the Vijaya Vittala Temple in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi, has been covered by a protective ring by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). This chariot is among three famous stone chariots in India while the other two are in Konark, Odisha, and Maamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. Hampi chariot, was built during the dynasty of Vijayanagara rulers who ruled from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century CE.**
-

1. As per the IUCN's latest report on World Heritage, which region of India is of great concern?

- [A] Sundarbans
- [B] Indo–Gangetic Plain
- [C] Western Ghats
- [D] Northeastern Mountains



- ✓ **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3. It uses the data of the previous reports from 2014 and 2017 to track whether the conservation efforts of the world's 252 natural world heritage sites are on track. The report revealed that the conservation outlook of mountain chain of the Western Ghats is of great concern.**

2. Which organisation developed the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)?

- [A] BHEL
- [B] DRDO
- [C] OFB
- [D] ISRO



- ✓ **The Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS). The indigenously made Howitzer, which was developed in partnership with a private sector industry, is undergoing trials in Maharashtra. As per DRDO, over 200 of these guns can be delivered to the Army within 18–24 months of the order.**

3. Gaofen–14 earth observation satellite has been sent to space by China using which launch vehicle?

- [A] PSLV C51
- [B] GSLV Mark III
- [C] Long March 3B
- [D] Fat Boy 1A



- ✓ **The Chinese space agency has recently launched an optical stereo mapping Earth Observation satellite named Gaofen–14. The satellite was placed in its designated orbit using Long March–3B carrier rocket. The satellite can capture high resolution images of ground objects across the globe.**

4. Which state is set to organise first ever migratory bird festival this year?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Meghalaya
- [C] Sikkim
- [D] Bihar



- ✓ Bihar state is set to organise the first ever migratory bird festival this year. This three-day long festival is aimed to enhance the awareness about migratory birds among common public and to check cases of poaching in the region. The festival would be jointly organised by Bhagalpur forest division, Bombay Natural History Society and Mandar Nature Club of Bihar.

5. Mahaparinirvana Diwas is observed to mourn the death of which national leader?

- [A] Mahatma Gandhi
- [B] B R Ambedkar
- [C] Jawaharlal Nehru
- [D] Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel



- ✓ Every year 6<sup>th</sup> December is observed as Mahaparinirvana Diwas, which marks the death anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar. He died in this date in the year 1956 and this year marks the 64th death anniversary. Parinirvana is one of the important principles of Buddhism which means release or freedom after death.

6. Which country is selected as the host of the World Economic Forum 2021 annual meeting?

- [A] Malaysia
- [B] Singapore
- [C] India
- [D] United Arab Emirates



- ✓ The World Economic Forum has announced that it will hold its 2021 annual meeting in Singapore instead of its traditional venue of Davos, Switzerland. As there is a surge in coronavirus infections observed in the country of Switzerland, the venue has been shifted. In the year 2022, the annual meeting will return to Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

7. Nepal has announced the revised height of which famous peak, as 8848.86 metres?

[A] Mount Everest

[B] Mount Kanchenjunga

[C] Mount Makalu

[D] Mount K2



- ✓ Nepal has recalculated the height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest. The country along with China announced the revised height of the peak as 8,848.86 metres. This height is almost 86 centimetres higher than the previous measurement done by the Survey of India in 1954. The new height is also four metres higher than the China's recent measurement. The Nepal–China border passes through the summit.

8. What would be the GDP growth of India in the current fiscal year FY21, as per the Fitch ratings in December 2020?

[A] -4.4

[B] -6.4

[C] -9.4

[D] -11.4

FitchRatings

- ✓ In its Global Economic Outlook, the Fitch ratings has raised India's GDP forecast to -9.4 per cent in the current fiscal year. Earlier, Fitch had estimated that Indian economy would contract by 10.5 per cent in current fiscal 2020–21. Now, the firm says that the outlook is brighter due to an expected rollout of vaccines in 2021.

9. What is the headquarters of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network?

[A] New York

[B] Geneva

[C] Paris

[D] Beijing



- ✓ The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) works under the UN to mobilise the global efforts in SDGs. It is headquartered in New York. UN SDSN and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) published the Europe Sustainable Development Report 2020. It reports the progress of the European Union, its member states, and other European countries towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10. Who is the first Indian Army Chief to visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia?

- [A] M M Naravane
- [B] Bipin Rawat
- [C] V K Singh
- [D] Ajit Doval



- ✓ **India's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Manoj Mukund Naravane has undertaken a "historic" six-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. This is first such visit by the Indian Army Chief to the two Gulf countries. This visit aims to strengthen the strategic and defence cooperation between the two countries. Saudi Arabia is India's fourth-largest trading partner.**
-

1. The “Go for Zero” policy, which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which country?

- [A] United Kingdom  
 [B] New Zealand  
 [C] Australia   
 [D] Germany



- ✓ “Go for zero” is a policy proposal released by Grattan Institute, a non-profit think tank that advises the government. As a part of the policy, the Australian Government introduced several measures with the goal of eventually reaching zero new cases and not just to flatten the curve. As a result, the country passed three weeks without any local transmission of Covid-19.

2. ‘Art of Life’ methodology, which was seen in news recently, is associated with which state?

- [A] Odisha  
 [B] Gujarat  
 [C] Rajasthan   
 [D] Punjab



- ✓ The Rajasthan state Tourism department has tied up with UNESCO and implementing a project by adopting ‘Art of Life’ methodology. Around 10 cultural tourism hubs are being created in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Barmer districts. The project aims to connect the performing artists and handicraft artists with the admirers of the art and culture.

3. Which institution has created a technology to harvest water from air?

- [A] IIT Madras  
 [B] IIT Guwahati   
 [C] NIT Tiruchirapalli  
 [D] NIT Warangal



- ✓ Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati claimed to have developed a new technology to harvest water from the air. The researchers have used the concept of hydrophobicity, which is the property of a material to repel water. Slippery liquid-infused porous surfaces or SLIPS material is chemically patterned and used.

4. 'Starship', which was seen in the news recently, is the rocket-ship of which space company/organisation?

[A] Blue Moon

[B] Space X

[C] NASA

[D] ISRO



- ✓ 'Starship' is the futuristic rocket-ship of SpaceX, the private space company owned by billionaire Elon Musk. It is being designed to carry people to Mars. The first high-altitude test flight of the Starship was aborted at the last second, due to an automatic engine abort just ahead of the count-down. SpaceX has conducted five Starship test flights but not at high altitude.

5. The 'Department of integrated medicine' is proposed to be setup by Ministry of Ayush and which institution?

[A] NITI Aayog

[B] AIIMS

[C] IIT Bombay

[D] National Siddha Institute



- ✓ The Department of Integrative Medicine has been proposed to be set up by the Union Ministry of AYUSH in association with AIIMS. The department is to be set up at AIIMS. Also, it has been decided to develop a protocol for "Study on Post COVID treatment" with Ayurveda and Yoga, by Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research – AIIMS.

6. Companies of which two countries are leaders in global arms market, as per the recent SIPRI report?

[A] India and Israel

[B] USA and China

[C] Russia and China

[D] USA and Japan



- ✓ The companies of USA and China have dominated the global arms market in the year 2019, as per a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The arms industry of USA accounts for nearly 61% of the sales by top 25 arms manufacturers. Chinese firms account for 15.7% of the sales by top 25 arms manufacturers.

7. Koilwar bridge, which was making news recently, is inaugurated in which Indian state?

- [A] Odisha  
[B] Gujarat  
[C] Rajasthan  
[D] Bihar



- ✓ Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently inaugurated the Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar. This 1.5 km long bridge has been laid in parallel to the 138-year-old two-lane rail-road bridge. A six-lane bridge is being constructed with the outlay of Rs 266 crore. The three-lane carriageway has been opened for public.

8. Which state topped the Urban Governance Index (UGI)-2020?

- [A] Tamil Nadu  
[B] Kerala  
[C] Odisha   
[D] Chhattisgarh



- ✓ The Urban Governance Index-2020 has released by the Mumbai-based non-profit organisation Praja Foundation. As per the index, Odisha tops the list of states in urban governance followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. The study assessed the urban governance reforms across 40 cities in 28 states and NCT of Delhi.

9. Which Indian grabbed the highest rank in India, in the Forbes' ranking of 100 most powerful women in the world?

- [A] Nirmala Sitharaman   
[B] Roshni Nadar Malhotra  
[C] Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw  
[D] Kiran Bedi



- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is ranked at 41st rank in the Forbes' ranking of 100 most powerful women in the world, grabbing the highest place. HCL Corporation CEO and Executive Director Roshni Nadar Malhotra in the 55th spot and Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw in the 68th rank. German Chancellor Angela Merkel is placed at the first spot.

10. Which country rolled out the first COVID-19 vaccine in the world?

- [A] United Kingdom
- [B] New Zealand
- [C] Australia
- [D] Germany



- ✓ **The United Kingdom became the first country in the world to start using the COVID–19 vaccine. The vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was approved by the regulators. Several hubs across the country are vaccinating the people. The vaccine is given as two injections with 21 days apart. The complete immunity is said to be reached seven days after the second dose.**
-

**1. Which country topped the Climate Change Performance Index?**

- [A] United Kingdom  
[B] Denmark  
[C] Sweden   
[D] Germany



- ✓ **The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) has been released by Germanwatch and NewClimate Institute together with the Climate Action Network (CAN International). India came one rank down from ninth in 2019, to tenth position this year. No country bagged the first three ranks. The fourth rank is presented to Sweden, followed by the UK and Denmark. The index assesses the performances of 57 countries and European Union in four categories.**

**2. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous body functioning under which Ministry?**

- [A] Ministry of Culture  
[B] Ministry of Tourism  
[C] Ministry of External Affairs   
[D] Ministry of Home Affairs



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

- ✓ **The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an autonomous body under the administrative control of Ministry of External Affairs. It was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. As per the ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabudde, the body is surveying the textbooks taught in the schools of more than 200 countries, under the "Global understanding of India project", to understand what is taught about India globally.**

**3. Which state Police has recently bought 'Crawler' software from Interpol, to tackle Child pornography?**

- [A] Gujarat  
[B] Maharashtra   
[C] Uttar Pradesh  
[D] Bihar



- ✓ **The cyber wing of the Maharashtra state Police has recently acquired the 'Crawler' software from Interpol. It is the first Indian agency to acquire the software, which will help them tackle Child pornography in the state.**

- ✓ The software enables the Police to track down child pornography uploaded online, as it has advanced features to detect nudity, look for key-words and recognise age etc.

4. "Organochlorine" that is seen in news recently, is commonly used as which product?

- [A] Vaccine
- [B] Food additive
- [C] Pesticide additive
- [D] Fuel additive



- ✓ Some Indian organizations are investigating "organochlorines" used as pesticides or in mosquito as the cause for a mysterious illness in Andhra Pradesh. The illness has led to the death of one person and more than 400 people being hospitalized. Organochlorines are cancer causing agents and researches have proved that it causes multiple human ailments.

5. Which special Day is observed on December 10 with the theme of 'Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights'?

- [A] Doctors Day
- [B] Human Rights Day
- [C] Social Justice Day
- [D] Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination



- ✓ Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December across the world. It commemorates the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. This year, the day was observed with the theme of 'Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights'.

6. What is the theme of the 'International Civil Aviation Day' from 2020 to 2023?

- [A] Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
- [B] Leaving No Country Behind
- [C] Flying Around the Globe
- [D] COVID-19 Free World



- ✓ In 1996 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed that 7 December was to be the International Civil Aviation Day. The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization since 1994 December 7, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing the Convention on

International Civil Aviation. The purpose of the day is to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world.

7. Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ At the recent meeting of Central Zoo Authority chaired by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, two new zoos were granted recognition. They are the Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar and Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. With this, the state of Uttar Pradesh has a total of 9 zoos.

8. Who was the most searched personality on Google this year, as per Google India?

- [A] Narendra Modi
- [B] Joe Biden
- [C] Sushant Singh Rajput
- [D] Nayanthara



- ✓ Google India has recently released its annual 'Year in Search' results, which highlighted the most popular searches on Google. As per the report, US President-elect Joe Biden was the most searched personality on Google this year. The IPL was the top trending search of the year and Searches about Covid-19 pandemic featured the most in the list.

9. What is the name of the Moon-landing Mission of the NASA, for which it has chosen the first-ever woman?

- [A] Persistence
- [B] Discovery
- [C] Artemis
- [D] Hope



- ✓ NASA has named the 18 astronauts group half of them being women, who will train for its Moon-landing Mission by 2024, named 'Artemis'. From this set of astronauts, the first woman to set foot

on the moon and the next man on the moon will be picked up. The group includes Christina Koch and Jessica Meir, who performed the world's first all-female spacewalk.

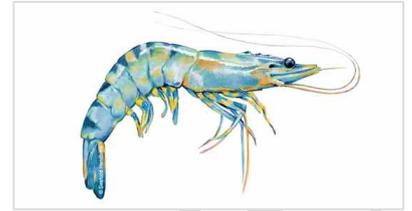
**10. Which country exempted import inspection for Indian black tiger shrimps?**

[A] United Kingdom

[B] Australia

[C] Japan

[D] South Korea



- ✓ **Recently, Japan has exempted import inspection for the Indian black tiger shrimps. Japan is the second largest market for Indian black tiger shrimps after the US. This decision has been taken by the country after the export consignments were found totally free from any residue of synthetic anti-bacterial drug 'Furazolidone'. This will enhance the farming and export of the shrimps from West Bengal and Kerala.**
-

1. Which country under its 'Data Sonification' program, extracted the sound of important phenomena of the universe?

[A] United States of America

[B] Denmark

[C] Sweden

[D] Germany



- ✓ **The NASA is implementing a program for "Data sonification", which involves the use of non-speech data to be translated into sound. Recently, the Researchers at the Chandra X-ray center has used three important phenomenon of the universe and translated the frequencies of light into different pitches of sound. Crab Nebula, Bullet Cluster and Super nova are the three iconic images.**

2. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has been re-elected as the President of which country?

[A] Namibia

[B] Kenya

[C] Ghana

[D] Tunisia



- ✓ **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo who is the present President of Ghana has been re-elected as the President of the country for the second time. He has secured 51.2 percent of the vote as against his rival – the former President John Mahama, who secured 48% votes.**

3. Cattle meat has been discovered in the remains of the settlements of which civilization?

[A] Mohenja – daro Civilization

[B] Indus Valley Civilization

[C] Keeladi Civilization

[D] Nile River Civilization



- ✓ **Recently, researchers have found the presence of animal products, such as the meat of pigs, cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat in the remains of Indus Valley Civilization. This has been conformed from the Lipid residue analysis of ceramic vessels found in the urban and rural settlements of the civilization in North and western part of India.**

4. In which city was the national poet 'Subramania Bharathi' born?

- [A] Ettayapuram
- [B] Nagalapuram
- [C] Tiruchendur
- [D] Cuddalore



- ✓ 'Mahakavi' Subramania Bharathiar was born in Ettayapuram, Thoothukudi. He was an Indian independence activist, journalist and a pioneer in Tamil Literature. International Bharati Festival is organized by the Vanavil Culture Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to honour the poet. His 138<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary was observed on December 11, 2020. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated and presented the Bharati Award to the writer Seeni Viswanathan.

5. When is the Universal Health Coverage Day observed every year?

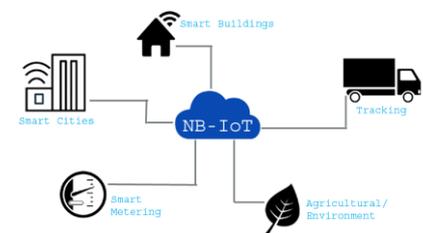
- [A] December 11
- [B] December 12
- [C] December 13
- [D] December 14



- ✓ Every year December 12<sup>th</sup> is observed as the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day by the World Health Organisation. UHC ensures that all people get access to quality health services without any financial hardships. Universal health coverage has been inducted as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations. This year's (2020) is "Health for All: Protect Everyone"

6. Which Indian telecom company has rolled out world's first satellite-based narrowband-IoT network?

- [A] Jio
- [B] BSNL
- [C] Airtel
- [D] V!



- ✓ Indian state-owned telecommunications company BSNL in partnership with machine connectivity solutions company Skylotech India, to launch a satellite-based narrowband IoT network in India. The solution will connect with the satellite ground infrastructure of BSNL. This is the world's first satellite-based narrowband-IoT network. The IoT connectivity is already tested in Indian Railways and fishing vessels among others.

7. What is the name of the national–level summit organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga and cGanga?

- [A] India Ganga Summit  
 [B] India Water Impact Summit   
 [C] Ganga Rejuvenation Summit  
 [D] Clean Ganga Summit



- ✓ **The 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) has recently commenced with a focus on Arth Ganga – river conservation synchronised development. The theme of the summit is comprehensive analysis and holistic management of rivers and water bodies. It is being organised virtually by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga).**

8. Which Union Ministry organises the ABTO International Convention?

- [A] Ministry of External Affairs  
 [B] Ministry of Tourism   
 [C] Ministry of Culture  
 [D] Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ **The ABTO (Association of Buddhist Tour Operators) International Convention is an event organised by ABTO in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism. ABTO is a body consisting of over 1500 members in India and overseas. It has been organising the ABTO convention and International Buddhist Travel Mart (IBTM) since 2018, in Bodh Gaya in the state of Bihar.**

9. Which campaign of India has been recently appreciated by the World Health Organisation (WHO)?

- [A] Fitness Ka Dose Aadha Ghanta Roz   
 [B] Fit Hai to Hit Hai  
 [C] Khelo India  
 [D] Run India Run



- ✓ **The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently appreciated India's initiative of 'Fitness Ka Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz'. The campaign, which aims to promote physical activity, was launched as part of the nation–wide Fit India Movement. It urges all Indians to follow at least 30 minutes of fitness activities every day. This is on the lines with the WHO fitness campaign.**

10. International Mountain Day is observed on which date?

[A] December 11

[B] December 12

[C] December 13

[D] December 14



- ✓ **The International Mountain Day is observed every year on December 11 to celebrate and bring awareness to the world's mountain environments and the people and cultures that inhabit them. The 2020 theme is "Mountains biodiversity".**
-

1. A new species of Indian Muraina grasses has been spotted in which state?

- [A] Goa
- [B] Assam
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Maharashtra



- ✓ **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, has recently spotted a new species of Murainagrass. Ischaemum is a genus of grass, widespread in tropical and semitropical regions. It is commonly called as Murainagrass. A new and tolerant species has been spotted in Goa in the Western Ghats. It was named Ischaemum janarthanam in honour of Goa University's Botany Professor M. K. Janarthanam.**

2. As per the recent study of CEEW, what is the per centage of Indian districts that are hotspots of extreme climate events?

- [A] 55
- [B] 65
- [C] 75
- [D] 85



- ✓ **According to a study released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), over 75% districts in India are hotspots of extreme climate events.**
- ✓ **The districts, which are home to more than 63.8 crore people, are hotspots of extreme climate events such as cyclones, floods, droughts, heat and cold waves. This is the first time the extreme weather event hotspots in the country are being mapped.**

3. HIMS – Hospital Management Information System has been launched by which organisation?

- [A] Indian Railways
- [B] Indian Air Force
- [C] Indian Navy
- [D] AIIMS



- ✓ **The Indian Railways has recently launched Hospital Management Information System (HMIS). This aims to provide enhanced health care facilities to its employees. The trial version of the project has been launched in South Central Railway. This is expected to improve the health care system of the Railways and improve the utilisation of resources.**

4. "Heroes of 2020" is published by which organisation?

- [A] Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
 [B] UNESCO  
 [C] TIMES Magazine   
 [D] NDTV



- ✓ The "Heroes of 2020" is published by the TIMES Magazine. It honours those people who have "went above and beyond the call of duty". Rahul Dubey who is an Indian-American has been listed in the Heroes of 2020, who opened the doors of his Washington DC home to over 70 people demonstrating against the killing of George Floyd.

5. International Anti-Corruption Day is being observed on December 9, 2020 under which theme?

- [A] The Power of People's pressure  
 [B] Recover with Integrity   
 [C] Fight Corruption  
 [D] End of corruption



- ✓ International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9 December. The day aims to raise awareness about corruption and the measures that can be taken to combat corruption. The theme for the year 2020 is "Recover with Integrity".

6. When is the 'National Energy Conservation Day' observed in India?

- [A] December 11 [B] December 12  
 [C] December 13 [D] December 14



- ✓ The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on December.14. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under Union Ministry of Power spearheads the celebrations of the day every year since 1991.

7. "The Presidential Years", which was seen in the news recently, is the memoir of which Indian President?

- [A] Pratipa Patil [B] Pranab Mukherjee   
 [C] Ramnath Govind [D] APJ Abdul Kalam



- ✓ **“The Presidential Years”** is an upcoming book authored by the late former President of India Pranab Mukherjee. This memoir is the fourth volume of the memoirs, that will be released globally in January 2021. The third volume of former President’s autobiography titled **“The Coalition Years — 1996–2012”** in the year 2017.

**8. Which country has spotted the Royal Bengal Tiger at an altitude of over 3000 m above sea level?**

- [A] India
- [B] Nepal
- [C] Brazil
- [D] South Africa



- ✓ **Nepal has recently spotted the majestic Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera Tigris), at an altitude of 3,165 m above sea level for the first time. The largest of all Asian big cats has been spotted by a camera trap set up by the Forest Department. The country is to provide special attention to the Kanchenjunga Landscape in eastern Nepal. It provides connectivity to India’s Singalia National Park and Doars floodplains.**

**9. The Sustainable Mountain Development Summit is organized by which organization?**

- [A] International Mountain Institute
- [B] Indian Mountain Initiative
- [C] WHO
- [D] UNESCO



- ✓ **Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI) organized the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit in Dehradun. The summit has been organized in a Virtual Mode, on account of the COVID 19 pandemic. It is a 4–day long summit where issues like migration, water security, climate resilience would be discussed by delegates.**

**10. Which pharma company has developed India’s first mRNA vaccine?**

- [A] Gennova Biopharmaceuticals
- [B] Serum Institute
- [C] Cipla Pharma
- [D] Ranbaxy



- ✓ **Gennova Biopharmaceuticals has developed India’s first Covid–19 vaccine candidate based on mRNA. It has recently received approval from drug regulators of the country for entrusting it to clinical trials. HGCO19 is the name of the mRNA vaccine candidate developed by the Pune based institution, using the seed grant received under Ind–CEPI mission of the department of biotechnology of the Union Ministry of science and technology**

1. The Exim Bank of India has extended a USD 448–million line of credit (LOC) for infrastructure projects of which country?

- [A] Chile  
 [B] Myanmar  
 [C] Uzbekistan   
 [D] Kazakhstan



- ✓ The Export–Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has recently extended a USD 448–million line of credit (LOC) for various infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan. Extended on behalf of the Indian government, the LoC would be used in various projects in transport, water and technology sectors in the country. EXIM Bank has so far extended 266 LOCs to various countries.

2. What is the name of the initiative of India, to launch movie series for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation diplomats?

- [A] CinemaSCOpe   
 [B] IndiaSCOpe  
 [C] KaleidoSCOpe  
 [D] SCOre



- ✓ The Indian Embassy in Beijing recently launched a movie series "CinemaSCOpe", for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Under the programme, over two dozen Indian films dubbed in Russian, will be screened on a monthly basis. The screening will continue till India's chairmanship of the SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023.

3. Which country has test launched the Heavy lift space rocket– 'Angara A5'?

- [A] China  
 [B] Russia   
 [C] Israel  
 [D] UAE



- ✓ Russia has successfully test–launched its heavy lift Angara A5 space rocket for the second time, the first launch having undertaken in 2014. As per the state space agency Rocosmos, these Angara rockets do not use aggressive and toxic propellants, thereby increasing environmental safety in the areas adjacent to the launch complex and in the drop zones.

4. As per FAO, more than 5 million population of which country would head into hunger in 2021?

- [A] Oman
- [B] Kenya
- [C] Somalia
- [D] Yemen



- ✓ **The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) has stated that more than 5 million people of Yemen would head towards hunger in the year 2021. Also, FAO has estimated that more than 50,000 people in the country would be living in famine conditions by next year. Yemen has been in a civil war since 2014 and the normal life of the Arab country has been severely hurt.**

5. By what name, the United Nations has declared the year 2021?

- [A] International Year of Creative Economy
- [B] International Year of Pandemic Research
- [C] International Year of Peace
- [D] International Year of Vaccination



- ✓ **The year 2021 has been declared as the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, by the United Nations. This has been decided in the UN General Assembly meeting held in December 2020. The proposal was sponsored by Indonesia and was presented by a group of nations including China, India, Australia, Philippines and Thailand.**

6. Which organisation has launched the "Operation Oliva"?

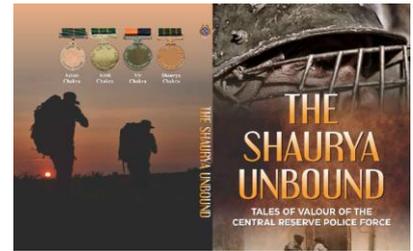
- [A] National Biodiversity Authority
- [B] Indian Coastal Guard
- [C] WWF India
- [D] Indian Air Force



- ✓ **The Indian Coast Guard has recently launched an operation named "Operation Oliva". This operation aims to protect the Olive Ridley turtles of the Odisha coast, which are endangered. The Coast Guard has launched two ships near the major nesting sites, to prevent entry of fishing vessels. Aircrafts of the coast guard have also been deployed as a part of this operation.**

7. The book titled 'The Shaurya Unbound', which was released recently, is about which incident?

- [A] 2001 Indian Parliament Attack
- [B] 2005 Delhi Blast
- [C] 2008 Mumbai Attacks
- [D] 2016 Pathankot Attack



- ✓ **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released a book on occasion of 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indian Parliament attack. The book titled 'The Shaurya Unbound' (English Version) and 'Samundar Samawe Boond Mein' (Hindi Version) were released on the 2001 incident. As many as 14 people including the five terrorists died during the incident.**

8. Which country's Prime Minister is to attend India's Republic Day parade as Chief Guest?

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



- ✓ **Britain Prime Minister Boris Johnson accepted the invitation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on 26 January, 2021 in New Delhi. With this, Boris Johnson becomes the second UK prime minister to attend the celebrations after John Major in 1993. Moreover, UK Prime Minister has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join the UK-hosted G7 summit next year.**

9. Which country has announced referendum to add climate goals in its Constitution?

- [A] France
- [B] United Kingdom
- [C] New Zealand
- [D] Germany



- ✓ **French President Emmanuel Macron has announced a referendum to add the efforts against climate change and the need to protect the environment in the French Constitution. Earlier, the EU leaders including Macron agreed to achieve at least 55 percent compared with 1990 levels, by 2030.**

10. What is the name of the promotional activity of the India International Science Festival, which is in the news recently?

- [A] Vigyan Yatra
- [B] Vigyan Parikshit
- [C] Vigyan Sammelan
- [D] Vigyan Festival



- ✓ **Vigyan Yatra is the name of the promotional activity of the India International Science Festival. Mobile science exhibition vans were flagged off from many cities as a part of the activity, to promote the culture of science among the people.**
  - ✓ **The sixth edition of the India International Science Festival to be organised from December 22 to 25 on a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
-

1. San Isidro Movement, which was seen in the news, is associated with which country?

- [A] Italy
- [B] Cuba
- [C] Germany
- [D] France



- ✓ In the year 2018, artists, journalists and activists gathered in the San Isidro region of Cuba, to protest against the country's rules on censorship of cultural activities. Hence, it came to be known as the Movimiento San Isidro, or the San Isidro Movement (MSI). After a member of MSI was arrested in November this year, its members began a hunger and then were arrested. The Government name the protestors as agents of Imperialism.

2. Point Calimere Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, that is seen in news recently, is located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ Several bar-headed geese have recently migrated to Point Calimere Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located on the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu. These birds have the ability to fly in extreme weather and very high altitudes. They might have flown thousands of miles from Tibet, Central China and Mongolia. They breed in these countries and migrate to India during winter.

3. Which Indian state launched a project to set up 2000 Mini Clinics to provide basic medical treatment to the poor?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Odisha



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has recently launched a project to set up 2,000 mini-clinics across the state. They will be known as 'Amma Mini Clinics', after the former late Chief Minister J Jeyalalitha. The clinics aim to provide essential healthcare services to the poor and downtrodden. Minor ailments will be treated and this step will reduce the burden of Government hospitals.

4. Utah Mink, the first wild animal to be infected by coronavirus, belongs to which country?

- [A] Japan  
 [B] China  
 [C] United States of America   
 [D] Australia



- ✓ **The United States Agriculture Department has recently confirmed the first known case of the coronavirus in a wild animal, a mink. Earlier, Denmark decided to cull several farmed minks after they were infected by the virus. The virus was also found in zoo tigers and household cats and dogs. But this is the first free-ranging and native wild animal being confirmed with the infection.**

5. Which type of wave move across the Bay of Bengal and target Tamil Nadu and Kerala, to give rains?

- [A] Westerly Waves  
 [B] Easterly Waves   
 [C] Rosby Waves  
 [D] Jet Streams



- ✓ **As per the recent announcement from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), widespread rain or thundershowers will come back to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and regions over the South Peninsula. The Easterly waves move fast across the Bay of Bengal and usually target the south peninsula region. Also called as the tropical wave or tropical easterly wave, it is an area of relatively low air pressure, which moves from east to west across the tropics and causes cloudiness and thunderstorms.**

6. Which company has been awarded Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020, in the Steel Sector?

- [A] SAIL   
 [B] RNML  
 [C] NMDC  
 [D] TATA Steel



- ✓ **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector. SAIL has been the winner of this prestigious award for successive two years.**

- ✓ Steel Authority of India Limited is an Indian state-owned steel making company based in New Delhi. Various measures of the company to preserve environment have been recognised.

**7. Prime Minister Modi laid foundation stone for the country's largest renewable energy park in which state?**

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Punjab
- [D] Rajasthan



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Gujarat and laid the foundation stones for various developmental projects. The Hybrid Renewable Energy Park in the district of Kutch will be the country's largest renewable energy generation park, when completed.
- ✓ Foundation stones were also laid for a fully automated milk processing and packing plant and a Desalination plant in Mandvi, Kutch.

**8. What type of military vehicle is C-454, which was recently commissioned at Surat?**

- [A] Interceptor boat
- [B] Sea Drone
- [C] Offshore Patrol Vessel
- [D] Hover craft



- ✓ An indigenously built interceptor boat C-454 of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at Hazira port in Surat, Gujarat. This Interceptor boat is built by L&T Jetty, Hazira and is capable of operating in shallow water with very high speed. The boat is fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment.

**9. What is the name of the new digital payment application launched by India Post Payments Bank?**

- [A] Post Pay
- [B] Dak Pay
- [C] IPPB Pay
- [D] Dak Digital



- ✓ The Department of Posts and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have launched a new digital payment application named 'DakPay'. It is a suite of digital banking services provided through their

postal network, across the country. The features include Domestic Money Transfers – DMT, Virtual debit card, UPI payment, AePS and Bill payment.

### 10. Who chairs the meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?

[A] Prime Minister

[B] Finance Minister

[C] RBI Governor

[D] NITI Aayog CEO



- ✓ **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 22nd Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) and reviewed the current global and domestic macro-economic situation and financial stability in the nation. Union Finance Minister is the chairperson of FSDC, an autonomous regulatory body set up in the year 2010.**
  - ✓ **Besides the ten members which includes the RBI Governor, Finance Secretary, Chief Economic Adviser, Chairpersons of SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, IBBI among others, the Finance Minister may invite any other required person.**
-

1. T-Fiber project, which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which Indian state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu  
[B] Telangana   
[C] Tripura  
[D] Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ **T-Fiber, Telangana Fiber Grid Project is a state-wide project, which aims to establish optical fiber network and to provide high-speed broadband service in Telangana. Recently, the Telangana state government has declared the T-Fiber project a 'Vital Public Purpose Project'. This means, the project need not get permission from several state departments for implementation.**

2. Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and which country, for exchange of information in the electricity sector?

- [A] France  
[B] USA   
[C] UAE  
[D] Germany



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding between India and United States for exchange of information in areas of mutual interest in the electricity sector. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), India and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), USA would join hands for this arrangement. The MoU will help to improve regulatory framework in power sector.**

3. What is the IUCN Status of black softshell turtles?

- [A] Critically Endangered  
[B] Extinct in the Wild   
[C] Least Concerned  
[D] Vulnerable



- ✓ **22 hatchlings of black softshell turtles that were reared at a temple in Assam have been released into the wetlands of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve recently. These species of turtles are considered 'Extinct in the wild', as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature. A very few numbers of them are left in some temple ponds, mostly in Assam.**

4. What amount of financial assistance has been approved for sugarcane farmers of the country?

- [A] Rs.1000 Cr
- [B] Rs.2000 Cr
- [C] Rs.3000 Cr
- [D] Rs.3500 Cr



- ✓ **The Prime Minister headed Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a financial assistance amounting Rs.3500 crore to sugarcane farmers of the country. The funds are to be credited directly into the bank accounts of the farmers. The decision is expected to benefit 5 crore sugarcane farmers and 5 lakh workers employed in the sugar mills.**

5. As of 2020, When was the most recent Spectrum auction held in India?

- [A] 2015
- [B] 2016
- [C] 2017
- [D] 2018



- ✓ **The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister has recently approved the next round of auctioning of the telecommunication spectrum. A total of 2251.25 MHz is being offered for auction valued at Rs.3,92,332.70 crore. The most recent Spectrum auction in India was held in the year 2016, with the government raising Rs 65,789.12 crore in revenue.**

6. What new parameters have been incorporated into 2020 Human Development Index?

- [A] COVID Preparedness
- [B] CO<sub>2</sub> emission and Material footprint
- [C] Monetary Policy and Inflation
- [D] Pandemic Preparedness and Vaccination



- ✓ **The Human Development Index for the year 2020 has been released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As per the report, India has been ranked at 131 out of 189 countries. Last year, India was ranked at 130.**
- ✓ **HDI is measured with three parameters namely life expectancy, education and per capita income. This year's index has incorporated new parameters namely CO<sub>2</sub> emission and Material footprint and introduced Planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index (PHDI).**

7. Which animal has been sighted for the first time in Himalayan cold desert region?

- [A] Black Buck
- [B] Great Indian Bustard
- [C] Himalayan Serow
- [D] Lion-tailed Macaque



- ✓ **The Himalayan serow has been spotted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region, in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. These are herbivores animals and are found between 2000 m and 4000 m altitude. They have an appearance similar to that of a goat, but with long ears. They have a habit of standing with fore legs stretched.**

8. The Young Champions of the Earth prize is awarded by which organization?

- [A] UNEP
- [B] UNESCO
- [C] UNFCCC
- [D] NASA



- ✓ **The Young Champions of the Earth prize is given every year by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to seven scientists, entrepreneurs, engineers and activists, who have contributed ideas for sustainable environment change. Every prize awardee would receive a prize amount of \$10,000 as seed fund for development and incubation of their ideas.**

9. The 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' has been lit by the Prime Minister of India to commemorate which historic event?

- [A] Indo-Pak War
- [B] World War 2
- [C] Indian Independence
- [D] Indo-China War



- ✓ **The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi lit the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' at the National War Memorial in Delhi. This has kick started the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the 1971 India-Pakistan war. In December 1971, the Indian Armed Forces won a battle against the Pakistan counterpart, which resulted n creation of a new nation called Bangladesh.**

10. Robert Lewandowski, who won the FIFA Best Men's Player Award, is from which country?

[A] Spain

[B] Croatia

[C] Poland

[D] Brazil



- ✓ Captain of the Poland National Football Team, Robert Lewandowski won The FIFA Best Men's Player Award 2020. This Poland player beat the previous winners Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, who were in the short-list. He was also named the 2019–20 UEFA Men's Player of the Year in October. English footballer Lucy Bronze won the Best Women's player award.
-

1. The North East Power Project, NERPSIP which was seen in the news recently, is implemented by which organisation?

[A] REC

[B] POWERGRID

[C] Tripura

[D] Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ **The North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) was approved in 2014 as a Central Sector Scheme and is being funded with the assistance of World Bank fund. It is being implemented through POWERGRID, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power in association with six beneficiary North Eastern States namely, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura. The Union Cabinet has approved the Revised Cost Estimate of the scheme at Rs 6700 crore.**

2. Union External Affairs Ministry has launched which category of website, to highlight 'Brand India'?

[A] Economic Diplomacy website

[B] Counter Terrorism website

[C] Cyber Diplomacy website

[D] Cultural Growth website



- ✓ **The Ministry of External Affairs has recently launched an Economic diplomacy website, to project 'Brand India' to global investors. It is managed by the Economic Diplomacy Division of the Ministry. The website will also showcase India's economic, regional and state-wise trends, the economic and policy profiles of state/ UTs. It connects the Indian businesses and the interested investors through agencies like APEDA.**

3. Which is the first Indian zoological park to receive ISO Certification?

[A] Arignar Anna Zoological Park

[B] Nehru Zoological Park

[C] Thiruvananthapuram Zoo

[D] Alipore National Park



- ✓ **Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, recently received the ISO Certification, after an assessment from the UK-based accreditor ASCB. The park became the first zoological park in India to acquire**

the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification. The standards followed in the Park in the area of sanitation, food processing, animal breeding, among others were assessed.

**4. What is the rank of India in the Human Development Index, if the new metric 'PHDI' is taken into account?**

- [A] 101  
[B] 108  
[C] 121  
[D] 123



- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme introduced a new measure named called the Planetary Pressures-adjusted HDI, or PHDI. It assesses the impact caused by each country's per-capita carbon emissions and its material footprint. While India stands at 131<sup>st</sup> rank in the Human Development Index, when this metric is considered, India is placed at 123<sup>rd</sup> rank in the list, which is topped by Ireland.

**5. Chilahati-Haldibari is a railway link between which two countries?**

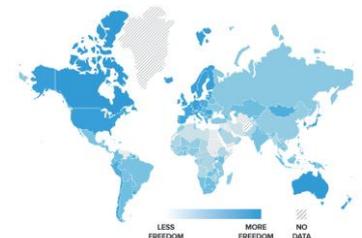
- [A] India – Pakistan  
[B] India – Bangladesh   
[C] India – Bhutan  
[D] India – Nepal



- ✓ The pre 1965 rail link between India and Bangladesh – Chilahati-Haldibari rail link has been inaugurated. In order to enhance the rail connectivity between the two countries, it was decided that six number of pre 1965 rail routes would be reopened. With the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link declared opened, five out of the said six routes are operational between India and Bangladesh.

**6. What is India's rank in the Human Freedom Index 2020?**

- [A] 110  
[B] 111   
[C] 112  
[D] 113



- ✓ The Human Freedom Index 2020 is released by the Cato Institute in the United States and Fraser Institute in Canada, which measures the state of Human Freedom in the world. Out of 162 countries that were ranked in the index, India has been placed at 111<sup>th</sup> rank. India was ranked 110

in terms of personal freedom and 105 on economic freedom. An overall score of 6.43 out of 10 was given to India, with the global average score being 6.93.

7. Communication satellite CMS-01, which was launched recently, was launched by which organisation?

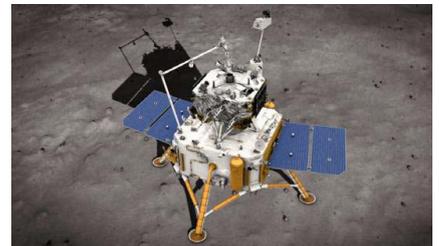
- [A] NASA
- [B] ISRO
- [C] JAXA
- [D] ROSCOSMOS



- ✓ India's communication satellite CMS-01 was successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The satellite was launched aboard the launch vehicle, PSLV-C50, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. The vehicle injected the satellite into its planned orbit. PSLV-C50 is the 52<sup>nd</sup> flight of PSLV and this was the 77<sup>th</sup> launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR.

8. Chinese spacecraft Chang'e 5 has returned to the Earth, carrying samples from which astronomical body?

- [A] Jupiter
- [B] Saturn
- [C] Moon
- [D] Sun



- ✓ Chinese spacecraft Chang'e 5 probe has returned to Earth with the first samples of rock and debris from the moon. The modules of the probe landed on the moon and collected about 2 kilograms of samples by drilling the surface of the moon. After Soviet Union's Luna 24 robot probe in 1976, only this probe brought fresh samples of lunar rocks.

9. Which country offered official recognition to Yogasana as a competitive sport?

- [A] India
- [B] Pakistan
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] China



- ✓ The Government of India has recently offered official recognition to Yoga as a competitive sport, as a push to make it a part of the Olympic Games. Recently, India established the National

Yogasana Sport Federation of India (NYSFI) for the development of yoga as a competitive sport. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of AYUSH are collaborating in this regard.

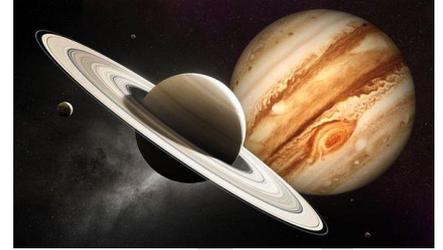
**10.** 'Great Astronomical Conjunction', which was seen in the news recently, is the closer appearance of which two planets?

[A] Jupiter and Saturn

[B] Saturn and Venus

[C] Jupiter and Venus

[D] Mercury and Venus



- ✓ **An Astronomical Conjunction, which is the closer appearance of the heavenly bodies from the Earth's perspective, is to occur on the night of December 21. The planets will appear extremely close to each other, making them look like one bright dot in the sky. However, the actual distance from each other will be around 735 million kms. The planets were seen very close only in 1623.**
-

1. Which is the 1<sup>st</sup> 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?

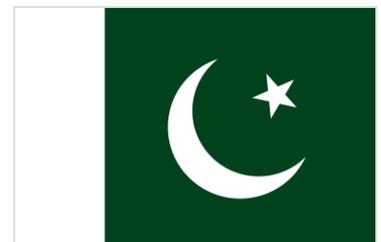
- [A] Health
- [B] Infrastructure
- [C] Sports
- [D] Climate Change



- ✓ 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?

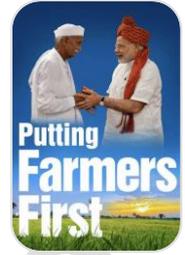
- [A] China
- [B] United Arab Emirates
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] Pakistan



- ✓ 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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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.
-

**1. Which Union Ministry presents the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards?**

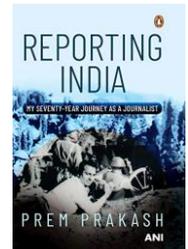
- [A] Ministry of Skill Development  
[B] Ministry of Power  
[C] Ministry of Communication   
[D] Ministry of Electronics and IT



- ✓ **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)?

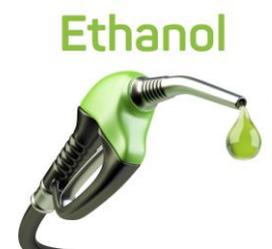
- [A] Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras
- [B] Great Indian Bustards
- [C] Black Buck Antelopes
- [D] Blackshell Turtles and Himalayan Serow



- ✓ **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



- ✓ **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, is to be constituted under which Minister?

[A] Rajnath Singh

[B] Amit Shah

[C] S Jai Shankar

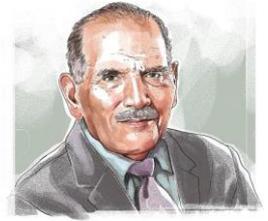
[D] Piyush Goyal



- ✓ **The Indian Government has decided to constitute a High-Level Committee to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> 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.**
-

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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?

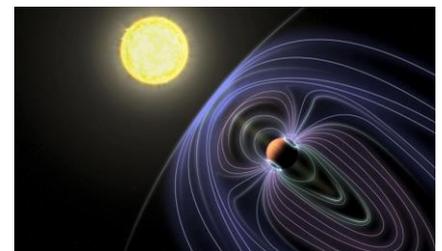
- [A] Argentina  
 [B] France  
 [C] China   
 [D] Russia



- ✓ **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 1<sup>st</sup> Mega Leather Park planned to be established?

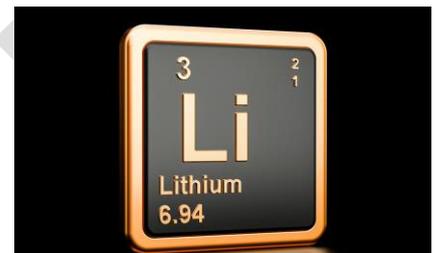
- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Chennai
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Kanpur



- ✓ **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 1<sup>st</sup> Lithium refinery planned to be established?

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



- ✓ **The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 (IIT) Bombay. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Driverless operated train?

- [A] Chennai  
[B] Delhi   
[C] Mumbai  
[D] Bengaluru



- ✓ On December 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Rijju 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 100<sup>th</sup> Kisan Rail of India has been flagged off between Maharashtra and which other state?

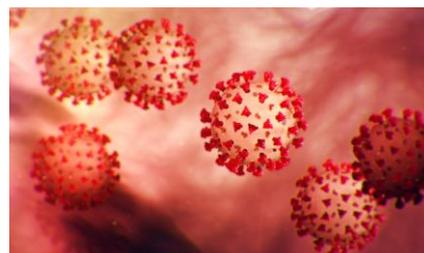
- [A] Bihar  
 [B] West Bengal   
 [C] Karnataka  
 [D] Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently flagged off the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> ever 'International Day of Epidemic Preparedness' observed globally by the United Nations?

- [A] 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2020
- [B] 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2020
- [C] 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2020
- [D] 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020



- ✓ **The United Nations observed the first ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness across the globe on 27<sup>th</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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.
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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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 38<sup>th</sup> district of Tamil Nadu?

[A] Tenkasi

[B] Chengalpattu

[C] Mayiladuthurai

[D] Kallakurichi



- ✓ Mayiladuthurai district became the 38<sup>th</sup> 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.
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