



[winmeen.com](https://winmeen.com)

# **FOURTH WEEK**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**



# **JANUARY 2021**

**January 22-31**

1. The birth anniversary of which freedom fighter is to be celebrated as "Parakram Diwas" every year?

- A) Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel
- B) 'Netaji' Subash Chandra Bose ☒
- C) Tiruppur Kumaran
- D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak



- ❖ The Union Culture Ministry announced that the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, January 23, would be celebrated as "Parakram Diwas" every year. It means the 'Day of courage'.
- ❖ The Ministry also said that the government is to celebrate the leader's 125th birth anniversary year starting from January 23, 2021. A series of events from January 23 till January 23, 2022 is also planned.

2. Which state has raised the number of working days under MGNREGA from 100 to 150 days?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Uttarakhand ☒
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Gujarat



- ❖ Uttarakhand Government announced that the number of working days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) will be increased from 100 to 150. As per the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, the entire cost will be borne by the state government. He also launched the 'Uttarakhand Aajeevika App' to help unemployed people in the state to search for job opportunities.

3. As per the Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules-2021, which authority has the power to grant Inter Country Transport Permit?

- A) Ministry of Road Transport
- B) State Transport Authority ☒
- C) Regional Transport Office
- D) National Highways Authority of India



- ❖ Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has recently notified Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules, 2021. As per the rules, the State Transport Authority can grant the Inter Country Transport Permit, which will remain valid for a period of one year.
- ❖ The new rules regulate the movement of passenger and goods vehicles between India and its neighbouring countries.

4. Tepesia, which was making news recently, is located in which Indian city?

- A) Assam ☒
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Manipur
- D) Tripura



- ❖ The Assam Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of Science City at Tepesia, in the outskirts of Guwahati. It would be built at a total expenditure of Rs. 184 crores. The main building is being built by National Council of Science Museum, Union's Cultural Affairs department and state's Science and Technology Department.

5. As per the RBI's recent announcement, how many banks in India are classified as Domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs)?

- A) Two
- B) Three ☒
- C) Four
- D) Five



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has retained State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs), by data collected as on March 31, 2020. D-SIBs are also called as the banks which are considered as "too big to fail" meaning its failure will impact the country significantly.

6. Which famous commercial passenger train has been renamed as the 'Netaji Express'?

- A) Howrah - Kalka Mail ☒
- B) Mumbai - Thane Mail
- C) Lucknow - Delhi Mail
- D) Kanpur - Delhi Mail



- ❖ The Indian Railways has recently renamed one of the oldest trains, the Howrah-Kalka Mail, as the 'Netaji Express'. The Mail was started in the 19th Century as one of the early commercial passenger train services in India. This has been announced as a part of the 125th birth anniversary of Subash Chandra Bose. It is said Netaji took this train from Bihar, when he escaped from his house in Kolkata in 1941.

7. What is the name of the veteran oncologist and Chairman of the Adyar Cancer Institute, who recently passed away?

- A) Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy
- B) Dr V Shanta ☒
- C) Dr Anandi
- D) Dr Kadambini



- ❖ India's senior oncologist and chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute Dr V Shanta passed away at the age of 93. She was known for serving the poor and downtrodden at the institute during her 50 yearlong medical service career.
- ❖ The veteran was presented various awards Padma Shri, Magsaysay Award, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.

8. 'Dragon Fruit', which was making news recently, is native to which region?

- A) Australia
- B) United States of America ☒
- C) Europe
- D) Asia



- ❖ Dragon fruit is a wild cactus species native to the Americas and it is called pitahaya in those regions. The fruit-bearing species was first introduced to India after 1990. Many states of India including Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal cultivate the fruits.
- ❖ However, India imports the fruit to meet its demand. Recently, Gujarat state government proposed to rename dragon fruit as 'Kalamam'.

9. Road Transport and Highways Ministry has partnered with which organisation for Geo-hazard management?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO ☒
- C) BARC
- D) CSIR



- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed an agreement with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to collaborate in sustainable geo-hazard management.
- ❖ The expertise of one of the DRDO labs, Defence Geo Informatics Research Establishment (DGRE), would be used. This move aims to ensure Road safety of users on National highways (NHs) against the effects of landslides and other natural calamities.

10. 'Chintan Baithak' is the Brainstorming Conference cum Review Meeting of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Communication
- B) Ministry of Culture
- C) Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways ☒
- D) Ministry of Tourism



- ❖ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has organised a three-day Ports Review Meeting named 'Chintan Baithak' at Kutch, Gujarat. Chairpersons of Major Ports and Officials of the Ministry will participate in the brainstorming conference.
- ❖ The resulting ideas from the meeting will be used to finalise the Maritime Vision – 2030. Improving Port performance, infrastructure and Ease of Doing Business are focus areas.

1. India signed an agreement with which country for Submarine Rescue Support and cooperation between the Navies?

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore ☒
- C) France
- D) Sri Lanka



- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the 5<sup>th</sup> India-Singapore Defence Ministers Dialogue along with the Minister for Defence, Singapore. During the dialogue, the Implementing Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and cooperation between the Indian Navy and Singapore Navy were signed.

2. Which Public sector Unit has joined hands with Himachal Pradesh, to improve telecom connectivity in the hilly areas?

- A) PFC Ltd
- B) PowerGrid ☒
- C) REC Ltd
- D) GAIL Ltd



- ❖ The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), PSU under Ministry of Power, has recently signed an agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.
- ❖ Under the agreement, the PSU aims to provide telecom connectivity in the hilly areas of the state including Kangra, Una, Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur, Sirmour, Palampur, Sundernagar among others. The state has been facing limited telecom connectivity due to rough weather conditions and landslides.

3. What is the name of the military exercise that would involve assets of Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard?

- A) Exercise HimVijay
- B) Exercise Kavach ☒
- C) Exercise Kapil
- D) Exercise Darshan



- ❖ 'Exercise Kavach' is a large and joint military exercise that would involve technical, electronic and human intelligence and assets of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard. This exercise is conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), which is the only Joint Forces Command of the country.

4. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is a Mini Ratna company under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Textiles ☒
- B) Ministry of Agriculture
- C) Ministry of MSME
- D) Ministry of Environment & Forests



- ❖ The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Textiles. It is a Mini Ratna company headquartered at Mumbai.
- ❖ The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) announced recently that it has planned to export at least 10 lakh bales of cotton during the current cotton season (October 2020-September 2021). Bangladesh would be the main focus country.

5. Which is the venue of the first Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports Festival?

- A) Ladakh ☒
- B) Shimla
- C) Udagamandalam
- D) Dehradun



- ❖ The Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the first Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports Festival in Zaskar of Kargil district, Ladakh. The 13-day festival festival, organised by the Ladakh UT Administration, aims to promote Zaskar as an important destination for the winter tourists. The Sports Ministry is to promote Ladakh as a centre for Ice Hockey.

6. What is the name of the OTT Channel managed by the Union Science and Technology Ministry?

- A) India Knowledge
- B) New India
- C) Indian Science
- D) India Science ☒



- ❖ The OTT (Over-the-top) channel managed by the Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organization of the Department of Science & Technology, was launched in 2019. The OTT Channel 'India Science', has completed two years since its launch. It aims to create scientific awareness amongst the citizens of the country. The channel was also started on the DTH (Direct to Home) mode.

7. Which state has launched the door delivery programme for supply of ration to general public?

- A) Kerala
- B) Andhra Pradesh ☒
- C) Telangana
- D) Bihar



- ❖ The Government of Andhra Pradesh headed by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the door delivery programme for ration, wherein 9,260 "Mobile Dispensing Units" / vehicles will supply ration (rice and other essential commodities) at the door steps of ration cardholders in the State.
- ❖ This move aims to eliminate adulteration of food commodities and also prevent formation of long queues at the fair price shops.

8. When is the International Day of Education observed every year?

- A) January 21
- B) January 22
- C) January 23
- D) January 24 ☒



- ❖ January 24 is observed as the International Day of Education every year by UNESCO. It celebrates the role of education for Development and Peace. The theme for this year's International Day of Education is "Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation".
- ❖ On December 2018, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution, which declared January 24 as 'International Day of Education'.

9. What is the theme of the 2021 National Voters Day?

- A) Proud to be a voter – Ready to vote
- B) Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed ☒
- C) No Voter to be Left Behind
- D) Proud to be a voter



- ❖ The National Voters Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25 since 2011 to enhance participation of citizens in the electoral process. The day also marked the foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950.
- ❖ The main purpose of the celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters. "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed" has been selected as the theme for the 11<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day.

10. Which country has rejoined the "Paris climate agreement" recently?

- A) Australia
- B) United States of America ☒
- C) India
- D) Japan

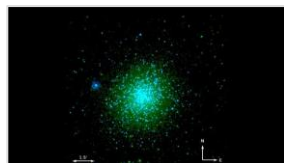


- ❖ The United States of America (USA) has rejoined the Paris Agreement on climate change. The new President Joe Biden reversed his predecessor Donald Trump's order to exit the agreement.
- ❖ The Paris Agreement on climate change is an international treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that came into effect in 2015.



1. Scientists have spotted rare hot UV-bright stars in a cluster, using the telescope onboard which satellite?

- A) AstroSat ☒
- B) CartoSat-2
- C) Risat-7E
- D) Insat- 4E



- ❖ Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, have spotted rare hot UV-bright stars in a massive cluster in our Galaxy called NGC 2808.
- ❖ The Astronomers have used the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) onboard the first multi-wavelength space satellite of India, AstroSat.

2. Namrup, which was recently making news for its Urea Plant, is located in which state?

- A) Assam ☒
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttarakhand



- ❖ Namrup is a town located in the southeastern part of Assam state. Recently a meeting was held by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers regarding the upcoming urea plant at Namrup.
- ❖ The 12.7 lakh MMTPA capacity project is to be implemented jointly by the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Oil India Limited (OIL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) and Assam government.

3. What is Abell 370, whose picture was recently shared by the NASA?

- A) Black Hole
- B) Exoplanet
- C) Galaxy Cluster ☒
- D) Meteor



- ❖ NASA has recently posted a picture of Abell 370, a massive cluster of galaxies, captured through its Hubble Space Telescope.
- ❖ As per the statement of NASA, the massive gravity of the cluster makes the light to bend as it passes through. This phenomenon distorts the view of the galaxies behind Abell 370, which is located at 4.9 billion light-years away from the Earth.

4. The '1776 Commission report', which was making news recently, is associated with which country?

- A) Japan
- B) China
- C) United States of America ☒
- D) Germany



- ❖ The White House has recently released the 1776 Commission report, which was initiated by former US President Donald Trump in September last year.
- ❖ Trump signed an order to set up a National commission to promote patriotic education in the country, also called as the '1776 Commission'. This was seen as a counter to 1619 Project, The New York Times initiative, to mark the completion of 400 years since the enslaved Africans arrived.

5. When is the statehood day of the three states of Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura celebrated?

- A) January 19
- B) January 21 ☒
- C) January 23
- D) January 25



- ❖ Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura celebrated their 49th statehood day on January 21, 2021.
- ❖ On January 21, 1972, these three states became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act of 1971. It also led to the formation of the Union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, which were declared as states on February 21, 1987.

6. Hawk-I platform, which was making news recently, is owned by which organisation?

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



- ❖ The Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) has been indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's research centre Imarat.
- ❖ Recently, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) successfully test fired a Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from a Hawk-I aircraft, off the coast of Odisha. HAL deploys its Hawk-I platform for certification of systems and weapons.

7. 'MASCRADE 2021', which was making news, is an initiative of which Indian body?

- A) CII
- B) FICCI ☒
- C) CAIT
- D) ASSOCHAM



- ❖ The 7th Edition of 'MASCRADE 2021'- Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade has been organised by FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy.
- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family welfare Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the event, which aims to discuss innovative policy solutions to curb counterfeit and smuggled products.

8. Which meeting was recently conducted under the theme of "The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism"?

- A) Asia Cooperation Dialogue – Ministerial Meeting ☒
- B) BRICS – Ministerial Meeting
- C) G20 – Ministerial Meeting
- D) G7 – Ministerial Meeting



- ❖ The 17th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was recently organised under the theme, "The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism" virtually. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary of the Union Ministry of External Affairs represented India at the meeting.
- ❖ She highlighted about the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

9. The agencies of which organisation released 'Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition' report?

- A) World Economic Forum
- B) United Nations ☒
- C) Asian Development Bank
- D) World Bank



United Nations

- ❖ The United Nations agencies namely the UNICEF, FAO, WFP and WHO jointly released the 'Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition' report. It is the third annual report on nutrition in the Asia and Pacific region. 24 million in the Asia and Pacific region are likely to suffer food insecurity.

10. Which is India's first gas exchange to be authorised by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board?

- A) India Gas Exchange ☒
- B) India Oil Exchange
- C) India Natural Gas Exchange
- D) India Petroleum Exchange



- ❖ India Gas Exchange (IGX) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX). It is the first gas exchange in the country to be authorised from Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board under Gas Exchange Regulations 2020.
- ❖ Adani Total Gas and Torrent Gas have recently acquired five percent equity stake each in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX).

1. Which city has announced to remove the Statues of William Beckford and Sir John Cass, associated with slavery trade?

- A) Washington
- B) London ☒
- C) Rome
- D) Moscow



- ❖ London approved the removal of the Statues of William Beckford and Sir John Cass from its iconic Guildhall home of statues. After the Black Lives Matter protests, the city corporation set up a task force on tackling racism, which recommended removing the statues of the two figures. The city's elected representatives voted for the decision.

2. According to the recent "Global Risks Report" of the World Economic Forum, which is the biggest long-term risk?

- A) Business threats
- B) Climate threats ☒
- C) Weapon threats
- D) Medical threats



- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) recently released the 15th edition of its report titled "Global Risks Report". For the first time in the history, Climate threats accounted for all of the top long-term risks in the report.
- ❖ Other long-term risks include technological risks such as Cyber attacks and data theft, Political risks like Global governance failure and Societal risks like water crisis. 'Economic confrontations' and 'Domestic political polarization' were reported to be the top short-term risks.

3. SAMVAD conference, which was seen in the news recently, is held between India and which country?

- A) Japan ☒
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Australia

# SAMVAD

- ❖ India and Japan have been organising SAMVAD conference series for the past five years, in many places including New Delhi and Tokyo.
- ❖ This series of conference aims to highlight the shared values of the two countries. During the 6th India-Japan Samvad conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the creation of a library of Buddhist literature and scriptures.

4. 'District Development Council (DDC)', is a local government body of which state/UT?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Nagaland
- C) Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- D) Assam



- ❖ 'District Development Council (DDC)' is a local government body of the Jammu and Kashmir Union territory. It was first introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs in October 2020. It is facilitated by the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 and created under Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rule, 1996 of the constitution of India. Recently, the first DDC polls of the UT was held successfully.

5. The country's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility was inaugurated in which city?

- A) Chennai
- B) Mumbai
- C) Hyderabad ☒
- D) Thiruvananthapuram



- ❖ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility to Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO's) Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad.
- ❖ India is the third country to have such a large HWT Test facility. The system, which has been developed in collaboration with Indian industries, will play a major role on futuristic Aerospace and Defence Systems.

6. Kalaripayattu, which was seen in the news recently, is a famous game originating from which state?

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



- ❖ In the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 Games scheduled to take place in Haryana, four games including Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba will be included along with Yogasana. Kalaripayattu originated from Kerala and has been practised across the world.
- ❖ Mallakhamba is practised more in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, while Punjab's Gatka and Manipur's Thang-Ta are also included.

7. Which Indian mathematician has been named the winner of the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize?

- A) Kannan Soundararajan
- B) Akshay Venkatesh
- C) Nikhil Srivastava ☒
- D) Neena Gupta



- ❖ Nikhil Srivastava, a young Indian mathematician, has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize. He has been named the co-winner of the USD 100,000 award, along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs. The mathematician is Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of California, at present.

8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a four-tier regulatory framework for which type of financial institutions?

- A) Payment Banks
- B) NBFCs ☒
- C) Small Finance Banks
- D) Foreign Banks

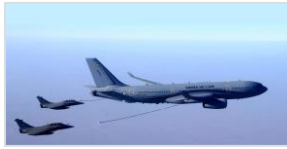


- ❖ Reserve Bank of India recently released a discussion paper on revised regulatory framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- ❖ As per the paper, the regulatory and supervisory framework of NBFCs shall be based on a four-layered structure namely Base Layer, Middle Layer, Upper Layer and a possible Top Layer. RBI also recommended more power for the NBFC Boards on capital and risk management.



9. Which is the venue of the 'Exercise Desert Knight 21'?

- A) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- B) Goa
- C) Jodhpur ☒
- D) Kolkata



- ❖ The first edition of the exercise Desert Knight-21 was organised at Jodhpur Air Force Station, Rajasthan, from January 20 to 24, 2021.
- ❖ Four French Rafale fighters, Airbus A-330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT), A-400M Tactical Transport aircraft participated from the French side. Mirage 2000, Su-30 MKI, Rafale, IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft, AWACS and AEW&C aircraft participated from the IAF.

10. Road Transport Ministry signed MoU with which institution for Research and Development?

- A) IIT Roorkee ☒
- B) NIT Warangal
- C) Central Institute of Road Transport
- D) IIT Chennai



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to continue the MoRTH Professorial Chair focusing on research and development.
- ❖ The Chair focusses on teaching and training in the field of Development of Highway Infrastructure. The Ministry aims to develop indigenous technologies to lower cost of construction and reduce construction period of transport projects.

1. The Land Allotment Policy 2021–30, which was making news recently, was released by which state/UT?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Kerala
- C) Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- D) Gujarat



- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir administration approved the adoption of a new policy named 'Land Allotment Policy 2021–30'. The policy aims to lay down a framework to regulate zoning of industrial areas.
- ❖ It will also cover land allotment for health institutions and educational institutions. The policy aims to promote fair industrial growth in the UT.

2. 'Ooceraea joshii', is an Ant species recently discovered in which state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Kerala ☒
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Karnataka



- ❖ Two new species of a rare ant genus have been recently discovered in Kerala and Tamil Nadu by a team of scientists from Punjabi University. One of the two species which was discovered found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala has been named Ooceraea joshii, to honour the veteran biologist 'Amitabh Joshi'.

3. "Operation Sard Hawa", which was making news recently, was organised by which organisation?

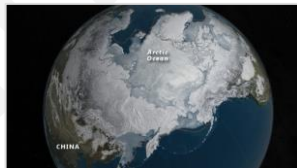
- A) DRDO
- B) ISRO
- C) BSF ☒
- D) ITBP



- ❖ Border Security Force (BSF) organises the Operation "Garam Hawa" in summer season and operation "Sard Hawa" during the winter season every year. BSF has recently launched "Operation Sard Hawa" of this year, under which it aims to increase security on the borders in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. This operation was scheduled from January 21 to 27, coinciding with the Republic Day.

4. Which country has recently revealed a "Draft Arctic Policy"?

- A) China
- B) United States of America
- C) India ☒
- D) South Africa



- ❖ A new draft 'Arctic' policy has been released recently by the Government of India. The draft policy would be available for public opinion till Jan 26, 2021. It has been prepared after deliberations with several Ministries. The policy aims to expand India's scientific research, sustainable tourism and mineral oil and gas exploration in the Arctic region.

5. As per the release by Department of Science and Technology, what is India's position in number of scientific publications?

- A) 2
- B) 3 ☒
- C) 4
- D) 5



- ❖ Department of Science and Technology has stated recently that the number of scientific publications from India has increased exponentially over the last ten years and that India stands at 3<sup>rd</sup> position globally in number of scientific publications.
- ❖ China and USA are ahead of India in the list. In the year 2017–18, 1,937 out of the total 13,045 patents were filed by Indians.

6. Which organization has adopted a resolution titled "Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites"?

- A) WHO
- B) WTO
- C) United Nations ☒
- D) WIPO



- ❖ A resolution titled "Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites" has been adopted in the United Nations General Assembly recently. The resolution calls for efforts to promote a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels.
- ❖ It also invites the Secretary General to convene a global conference to advance the UN's "Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites".

7. Which is the venue of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers Conclave, to be hosted by India in 2021?

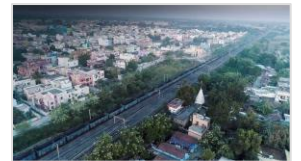
- A) Chennai
- B) Bengaluru ☒
- C) New Delhi
- D) Madurai



- ❖ India is to host the Defence Ministers of the countries of the Indian Ocean Region in Bengaluru city on February 4, 2021. This conclave will be organised alongside the upcoming Aero India in Bengaluru. The theme of the conclave will be 'Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean'.

8. The train named 'Vasuki', that is seen in news recently, is associated with railway zone?

- A) South East Central Railway ☒
- B) Central Railway
- C) Southern Railway
- D) Western Railway



- ❖ The freight train named 'Vasuki' operated by South East Central Railway has created a new record for longest ever freight train. This train has been formed by amalgamation five rakes of goods trains as a single unit of around 3.5 km. The train has covered a total distance of 224 km between Bhilai and Korba.

9. Union Environment Ministry has installed "Firefly bird diverter" initiative to save which species?

- A) White Stork
- B) Hornbill
- C) Great Indian Bustard ☒
- D) Alexandrine Parakeet



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has launched a unique initiative named a "firefly bird diverter", to save Great Indian Bustard. The diverter is a flap installed on overhead power lines in areas where GIB populations are found in the forests.

- ❖ They look like fireflies and act as reflectors for bird species like the GIB, which can spot them from distance and change their path of flight without colliding on power lines.

---

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

- A) Madras University
- B) Aligarh University ☒
- C) Banaras University
- D) Anna 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.

1. Rajendra Kumar Bhandarim, who was seen in news recently, is the winner of which award?

- A) Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar ☒
- B) Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar
- C) Jeevan Raksha Awards
- D) Ashoka Chakra



- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently announced the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2021.
- ❖ As per the notification, Rajendra Kumar Bhandari has been selected in the individual category of the award, while the Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) has been selected for the award in the institutional category.

2. Ayushman CAPF scheme is a joint initiative of National Health Authority (NHA) and which Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Education
- D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment



- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched Ayushman CAPF scheme, which will benefit around 10 lakh personnel of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and their family members.
- ❖ The scheme is a joint initiative of National Health Authority (NHA) with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Cashless and paperless medical treatment will be given to the beneficiaries at 24,000 hospitals in the country.

3. Mohammed Ishtaye, who was seen in the news recently, is the Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Palestine ☒
- B) Israel
- C) Peru
- D) Argentina



- ❖ Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtaye was seen in the news recently as he had a discussion with the new UN envoy on reviving the stalled peace process.
- ❖ The UN envoy Tor Wennesland, is the Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Process. He also highlighted the openness of the country on any political process sponsored by the Quartet, comprising of the US, the UN, Russia and the European Union.

4. 'National Girl Child Day' has been celebrated in India from which year?

- A) 2000
- B) 2004
- C) 2008 ☒
- D) 2012



- ❖ 'National Girl Child Day' has been celebrated in India on January 24 from the year 2008. To mark National Girl Child Day, the Indian Government organises awareness campaigns under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme.
- ❖ This Day is an initiative of the Ministry of women and child development. It aims to focus on solutions for gender bias and the challenges faced by girls in Indian society. It also aims to create awareness on girl education, health and nutrition of girls.

5. By which year, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) is set to complete National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) programme?

- A) 2022
- B) 2024 ☒
- C) 2025
- D) 2030



- ❖ The central government has recently stated that, Geological Survey of India (GSI) is in the process of expediting some of its important national level surveys. The GSI has proposed to complete its National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) programme by 2024.
- ❖ The GSI has also commenced an initiative named National Geoscience Data Repository for collecting all the geoscience data of the country.

6. What is the name of the public awareness campaign program on Ayurveda organised recently by the All-India Institute of Ayurveda?

- A) Ayush Veda
- B) Ayu Samvad ☒
- C) Arogya Setu
- D) Covishield



- ❖ Recently, the All-India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi has conducted a large public awareness campaign program on Ayurveda and COVID-19 pandemic and it has been named as "Ayu Samvad". This campaign is supported by Ministry of Ayush.
- ❖ More than five lakh lectures were organised across the country by Ayurveda Physicians, during the campaign.

7. Which organisation has released the report titled "The Inequality Virus"?

- A) WHO
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) IMF
- D) Oxfam International ☒



- ❖ The report titled "The Inequality Virus" has been released recently by Oxfam International. The report has found that the COVID pandemic has deepened the existing inequalities. The report has made a comparison that during the national lockdown in India its top 100 billionaires saw their fortunes increase by Rs 12.97 trillion while 70,000 people lost their jobs every hour in the month of April 2020.

8. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is awarded by which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Women & Child Development ☒



- ❖ 32 children across the country have been recently awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2021.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has been giving away this award to children with outstanding abilities and accomplishments in the fields of innovation, scholastics, sports, arts & culture, social service and bravery. Prasiddhi Singh, a resident of Tamil Nadu, has been awarded the Social Service Award.

9. Carolina Marin, who won the singles women title at the Thailand Open badminton tournament, is from which country?

- A) Spain ☒
- B) Brazil
- C) Thailand
- D) South America



- ❖ Reigning Olympic champion, Carolina Marin from Spain and former World Champion Viktor Axelsen from Denmark recently claimed their second Thailand Open badminton men's and women's singles titles respectively. Carolina Marin went into the final without losing a single game across both tournaments.

---

10. What is AMPHEX – 21, that was seen in the news recently?

- A) Tri-service Joint Exercise of India ☒
- B) Indian Air Force Exercise
- C) Indian Navy Exercise
- D) Meeting of Indian Entrepreneurs



- ❖ AMPEX – 21 is India's tri-service joint amphibious exercise which was conducted in the Andaman & Nicobar group of islands. It involved the participation of Naval vessels, Army's amphibious troops and flying machines of the Air force.
- ❖ The aim of conducting this exercise is to validate the security force's capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity and enhance interoperability among the three forces.



1. As per the recent publication of ZSI, which region of India is home to as many as 428 species?

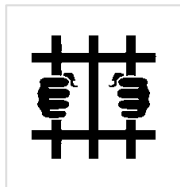
- A) Western Ghats
- B) Sunderbans ☒
- C) Deccan Plateau
- D) Himalayan Region



- ❖ As per a recent publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) named "Birds of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve", the region is home to 428 species of birds.
- ❖ The Indian Sunderbans one of the largest mangrove forests in the world, also comprises of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve. Some birds like Masked Finfoot and Buffy fish owl are found only in the Sunderbans.

2. Which Indian State/UT launched a new initiative named 'Jail Tourism'?

- A) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- B) Maharashtra ☒
- C) Gujarat
- D) West Bengal



- ❖ The Maharashtra government is launching a new initiative named Jail Tourism in the state. As a part of the programme, jails where many freedom fighters were jailed will be developed as Tourism sites.
- ❖ From January 26, 2021 the state has launched the programme starting with the 150-year-old Yerawada Jail. It will also include Nagpur, Thane, and Ratnagiri Jails.

3. The 'Union Budget' Mobile application has been developed by which institution?

- A) National Informatics Centre ☒
- B) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team
- C) Department of Telecommunications
- D) National Technical Research Organisation



- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently launched the 'Union Budget Mobile' ahead of the Union Budget 2021. As this year's budget will be completely paperless, the mobile application will enable members of the parliament and general public, to access budget documents.
- ❖ It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Finance Ministry.

4. The 'Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons' was approved by the UN General Assembly in which year?

- A) 2000
- B) 2003
- C) 2012
- D) 2017 ☒

2017

- ❖ The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017. Recently, this first treaty came into force and in response, India announced that it does not support the treaty. None of the nine countries said to possess nuclear weapons and the NATO alliance supported the treaty.

5. Which Union Ministry has launched an e-magazine named 'Shauryawaan'?

- A) Ministry of Defense ☒
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Tribal Affairs



- ❖ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched a revamped website, which provides information about gallantry awards in India and their recipients.
- ❖ The portal has all the important information, which will be available throughout the day. The Minister also launched an e-magazine named 'Shauryawaan' and a gallantry award quiz competition.

6. Which Indian state has launched the new M-Sand Policy-2020?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Rajasthan ☒
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra



- ❖ Rajasthan state has launched the new M-Sand Policy-2020 recently. The state Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the state government aims to meet the quantity of sand needed for construction work in the state. This would encourage the production of manufactured sand or M-sand and reduce the dependence on traditional sand.

7. Which country hosted online international Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS Online)?

- A) Sweden
- B) Netherlands ☒
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Australia



- ❖ The Netherlands government played host to an online international Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS Online) on 25 January 2021, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mark Rutte.
- ❖ It aims to help the countries build a climate-resilient ecosystem back after the pandemic. Indian Prime Minister participated in the virtual conference and addressed the members.

8. Which Union Ministry organises the 'Bharat Parv' event every year on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations?

- A) Ministry of Defense
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Tourism ☒



- ❖ Union Ministry of Tourism organises 'Bharat Parv' every year, on the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations from 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of January.
- ❖ Since 2016, the event has been conducted near the Red Fort, New Delhi. The event aims to showcase the rich cultural diversity of the country. States and UTs will display their tourism destinations, cuisine, handicraft and unique features.

9. Which Union Ministry proposed a 19000 Crore- 'National Mission on Edible Oil'?

- A) Ministry of Food Processing
- B) Ministry of Agriculture ☒
- C) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- D) Ministry of Rural Development



- ❖ The Union Agriculture Ministry has proposed a Rs 19,000 crore National mission on edible oil for approval in the upcoming budget.
- ❖ The mission seeks a five-year plan to achieve self-sufficiency in cooking oil production along with cutting its import. India spends almost Rs 75,000 crore annually in importing edible oil which will also promote local production and cut its cost.

10. Which Indian Economist has been chosen to be a part of UN high-level advisory board on socio-economic challenges in post-COVID-19 world?

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Amartya Sen
- C) Jayati Ghosh ☒
- D) Raguram Rajan



- ❖ India's economist Jayati Ghosh has been chosen to be a part of UN high-level advisory board on socio-economic challenges in post-COVID-19 world.
- ❖ The board would make recommendations to UN Secretary-General for making response to the future, especially after the post COVID era. Ms. Jayati Ghosh is presently a professor of economics at University of Massachusetts.