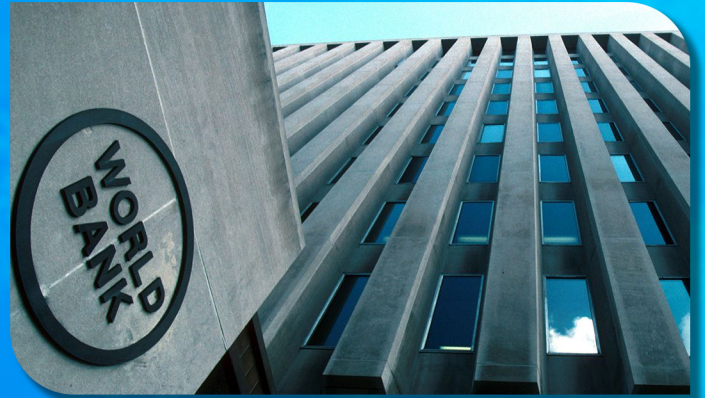


JANUARY 2021

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1. The Monpa Handmade Paper, which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which state?

- A) Meghalaya B) Telangana
C) Assam D) Arunachal Pradesh ☒



Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The 1000-year-old heritage art, which disappeared in recent years, has been recovered by the efforts

of KVIC. The fine-textured handmade paper is called Mon Shugu in the local dialect, and is made from the bark of a local tree called Shugu Sheng.

2. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor's (DFC) new section, which has been recently inaugurated, is funded by which organisation?

- A) IMF B) World Bank ☒
C) ADB D) AIIB



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to virtually inaugurate 351- km-long New Khurja-New Bhaupur section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC). An Operation Control Centre (OCC), which will act as the command centre for the entire DFC will also be inaugurated at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. This section is built at a project cost of Rs

5,750 crore and is funded by the World Bank.

3. Which country is set to join as the sixth member of the 'Five Eyes' intelligence network?

- A) India C) Japan ☒
B) Brazil D) UK



'Five Eyes' is an intelligence network of five nations namely Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US. The collaborative network was formed to respond to the threats posed

by North Korea and China. As per media reports, Japan had provided intelligence to the US and the UK on China's forceful detainment of Muslim Uyghurs, last year.

4. As a part of Mission SAGAR-III, Indian Naval Ship INS Kiltan as reached which country to deliver relief materials?

- A) Madagascar B) Phillipines
C) Cambodia ☒ D) Laos

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kiltan has recently reached the Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia to deliver 15 tonnes of disaster relief items for the flood-affected people. Due to the floods occurred in November, over 8 lakh people are affected and over 40 people have died in Cambodia.

This operation of INS Kiltan is a part of Mission Sagar-III under which humanitarian assistance and relief is provided to India's friendly countries.



5. 'Adopt a Heritage' is a scheme implemented by Ministry of Tourism in association with which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Culture ☒
B) Ministry of Home Affairs
C) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
D) Ministry of Tribal Affairs



The Ministry of Tourism implements the "Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan" project, in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of

India and State/ UTs. It aims to develop tourism amenities at heritage sites located across India to make them tourist friendly. Under the project, 27 MoUs have been signed with several companies and NGOs, also called "Monument Mitras", to develop the sites under CSR.

6. India's first pollinator park has been established in which state?

- A) Haryana B) Uttarakhand ☒
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Sikkim



India's first pollinator park has been established in the city of Nainital, Uttarakhand. It has been developed by research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department. The four-acre-park has over 40 species of butterflies, honeybees, birds and

insects. The park aims to create awareness among people about the conservation of these species. It also aims to promote research on threats to habitat and impact of pollution on these species.

7. Dulanga coal mine, which became commercially operational recently, is located in which state?

- A) West Bengal B) Jharkhand
C) Odisha ☒ D) Telangana



State-owned Electric power distribution company NTPC has announced that its Dulanga coal mine is commercially operational from October 1, 2020. The mine has an annual capacity of 7 Million Tonnes Per Annum, at its peak. Out of the ten blocks allotted to NTPC

by the Government, three mines are in operation. The PSU also incorporated NTPC mining Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary, for its coal mining business.

8. What is the name of the application of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for FASTag users?

- A) India FASTag B) Fast FASTag
C) My FASTag ☒ D) New FASTag



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently updated its mobile application "My FASTag" with a new feature to check balance status. In 2017, NHAI launched two mobile applications namely MyFASTag and FASTag Partner. While the former is for FASTag users the latter is to be used by the merchants like CSCs, banking partners and vehicle dealers.

9. Sitabani Wildlife Reserve, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

- A) Haryana B) Uttarakhand ☒
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Sikkim



The Tourism Ministry of Uttarakhand has requested the state government of Madhya Pradesh, to bring in white Tiger. Uttarakhand has made this request to bring white tigers to Nainital's Sitabani

Wildlife Reserve for a Tiger safari project. White tiger cubs are present in the Maharaja Martand Singh Judeo White Tiger Safari and Zoo in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

10. Estonia, which was seen in the news recently, is a country in which continent?

- A) South America B) Europe ☒
C) Asia D) India



Estonia is a country in Northern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland. Recently the Union Cabinet of India approved the proposal of the Ministry of External Affairs to open three new

missions. In 2021, three new missions of India would be opened in Estonia (Europe), Paraguay (South America) and the Dominican Republic (North America). This move would strengthen political relations and promote growth of bilateral trade and investment.

1. The Union Cabinet has approved the export of which missile system of India?

- A) Akash ☒
- B) Nag
- C) Amogha
- D) Prithvi



- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently approved to the sale of Akash surface-to-air missile systems to friendly foreign countries. A high-powered panel for quicker approval to export of the military equipment was also set up, with Defence minister, External affairs minister and the National security adviser.
- ❖ Indian Government has earlier set a target of achieving defence exports worth USD 5 billion by 2024.

2. Which type of Ethanol is made from sources like molasses, sugarcane, sugar beet, sorghum and edible oil seeds?

- A) 1G Ethanol ☒
- B) 2G Ethanol
- C) 3G Ethanol
- D) Clean Ethanol



- ❖ The Union Cabinet has recently approved a modified scheme to enhance ethanol distillation capacity in the country, to produce 1st Generation (1G) ethanol.
- ❖ 1G Ethanol is produced from edible seeds, molasses, sugarcane, sugar beet, sorghum among others. While 2G biofuels use non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, agriculture residue, the 3G biofuels use industrial waste, municipal solid waste.

3. Which application has been launched by the External Affairs Ministry to connect with Indian diaspora?

- A) Bharat Connect
- B) Global Pravasi Rishta ☒
- C) Hindustan Hamara
- D) Bharat Communicate



- ❖ The External Affairs Ministry has recently launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and application to connect with the Indian diaspora across the world.
- ❖ The application and portal aim to create a three-way communication between the External Affairs Ministry, Indian missions and the diaspora, who are around 3.12-crore. While the app will be used by the diaspora, the portal will be used by the missions.

4. Leaf-Nosed Bat, which was seen in the news recently, is typically found in which state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka ☒
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal



- ❖ The Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat, which is usually found in only two caves in the Hanumanahalli village in Kolar district of Karnataka.
- ❖ Recently, the bat became extinct in one of the two caves. In response, the Karnataka Forest Department, along with the Bat Conservation India Trust (BCIT), are undertaking measures to save the remaining bats.

5. National Pension System (NPS) is managed by which organisation?

- A) IRDAI
- B) PFRDA
- C) Finance Ministry
- D) RBI ☒



- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has announced that subscribers can now use online mode also to exit from the National Pension System.
- ❖ The National Pension System (NPS) was implemented with effect from the 1st January, 2004. It was extended to all citizens of the country from 2009 on a voluntary basis. PFRDA regulates the National pension system (NPS) as well as the pension sector.

6. Dzukou Valley, which recorded a massive wild-fire, is located on which border?

- A) Manipur-Nagaland ☒
- B) Assam-Manipur
- C) Manipur-Sikkim
- D) Assam-Meghalaya



- ❖ A wildfire has recently started in the Dzukou Valley, a popular trekking destination located on the Manipur-Nagaland border. It is said to have started three days ago from the Nagaland.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force has deployed an Mi-17V5 helicopter to put off the massive wildfire in Dzukou Valley.

7. Avian influenza (Bird flu) has been found in crows in which Indian state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan ☒
- C) Punjab
- D) Gujarat



- ❖ In the Jhalawar District of Rajasthan, 50 crows had died of Avian influenza (Bird flu) recently. In response, a curfew was imposed surrounding the area. While, death of crows has also been reported from the city of Jodhpur.
- ❖ The administration ordered to sanitise the affected area and send the samples to the National High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (NHSADL), Bhopal.

8. Which financial institution has launched "Digital Payments Index (DPI)"?

- A) SBI
- B) RBI ☒
- C) IRDAI
- D) SEBI



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has developed the Digital Payments Index (DPI), to record the expansion of digitisation of payments across the country. The index has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period.
- ❖ As per the RBI, the DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 stand at 153.47 and 207.84 respectively. The index includes 5 parameters.

9. Which sportsperson has been awarded knighthood in the UK Honours list?

- A) Viswanathan Anand
- B) Rafael Nadal
- C) Lewis Hamilton ☒
- D) Valentino Rossi



- ❖ British Racing Driver Lewis Hamilton has been knighted in the traditional New Year Honours list of the United Kingdom. The list recognises outstanding achievements in various fields including business, sport and politics among others.

10. India's highest meteorological centre has been inaugurated in which state/UT?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Sikkim
- C) Ladakh ☒
- D) Jammu-Kashmir



- ❖ Union Earth Sciences Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has recently inaugurated the country's highest meteorological centre in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The centre located above 3500 metres, would provide localised weather forecasts and early warning for Leh and Kargil districts of the Union Territory as well as various tourist places.

1. What is the name of the online event launched by Agriculture Ministry, to promote innovation in agriculture?

- A) Atmanirbhar Agri
- B) Agri India Hackathon ☒
- C) Kisan Mela
- D) Krishi Sammelan



- ❖ Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Virtual Agri India hackathon 2020 in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is the largest virtual gathering to organise dialogues and promote innovations in agriculture. This year, the event organized by Pusa Krishi, ICAR – IARI, ICAR & Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare. 24 best innovations will be awarded 1 lakh cash award and incubation support.

2. What is the expansion of 'IUC', which was recently seen in the news recently?

- A) Internet usage charges
- B) Intermediate usage charges
- C) Interconnect usage charges ☒
- D) Interconnect utility charges



- ❖ As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the Interconnect usage charges (IUC) has been made zero from January 1, 2021. IUC is the charge paid by a telecom company, for every call made from its network to different service providers. Prior to this move, the telecom company has been paying 6 paise per minute as the IUC.

3. Zhong Shanshan, who replaced Mukesh Ambani as Asia's richest person, is from which country?

- A) Singapore
- B) China ☒
- C) Japan
- D) Thailand



- ❖ As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Zhong Shanshan's net worth rose to USD 70.9 billion making him the richest man in Asia above both Mukesh Ambani and China's Jack Ma. Zhong Shanshan is the founder of 'Nongfu Spring', the largest beverage company in China. He is also the owner of the Chinese pharmaceutical giant 'Wantai'.

4. Who has been appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO?

- A) A K Antony
- B) Suneet Sharma ☒
- C) Pradeep Kumar
- D) P S Mishra



- ❖ Former General Manager of the Eastern Railway, Suneet Sharma has been appointed as the new Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways). He will also serve as the ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India.
- ❖ After the completion of the term of incumbent chief V K Yadav, the appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved Suneet Sharma as the new Chairman & CEO.

5. China has completed a railway line linking the Tibetan cities of Lhasa and Nyingchi, near the border of which Indian state?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Manipur



- ❖ As per media reports, China has recently completed the track-laying work for a railway line which links the cities of Lhasa and Nyingchi in Tibet. The cities are close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh. This Sichuan-Tibet Railway is the second railway into Tibet, which starts from the capital of Sichuan Province, Chengdu and enters Tibet.

6. 'NAVARITI', which was released by the Prime Minister, is a certification course associated with which sector?

- A) Culture ☒
- B) Construction Technology
- C) AI
- D) Microbiology



- ❖ Prime Minister released a certification course on innovative construction technologies named NAVARITI (New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing).
- ❖ He also laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)- at six sites across six states.

7. Which State was awarded the first place for excellence in implementation of PMAY (U) Mission?

- A) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Punjab
- D) Gujarat



- ❖ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced the annual awards for excellence in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) Mission.
- ❖ In the best performing states category, Uttar Pradesh bagged the first place, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. In the North East region and Hilly states, Tripura bagged the first place. Vishakhapatnam was named the best performing Municipal Corporation.

8. Which Union Ministry releases the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)?

- A) Ministry of Labor & Employment
- B) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation ☒
- C) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- D) Ministry of Home Affairs

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- ❖ As per the recent quarterly PLFS, the unemployment rate in urban areas increased to 9.1 per cent in January-March 2020 from 7.9 per cent in October-December 2019. Labour force participation rate increased to over a five-quarter high of 37.5 per cent.

9. Which Indian city is to play host to the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- A) Goa ☒
- B) Chennai
- C) Cochin
- D) Kolkatta



- ❖ The 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa from 16th to 24th of January, 2021.
- ❖ Recently, the registrations have commenced for media delegates, who desire to attend the event, which will be held in a hybrid mode, on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. The registration will be open till January 10, 2021.

10. K-9 Journal, which was recently released, is associated with which field?

- A) Medicine
- B) Policing ☒
- C) Pandemic
- D) Robotics



- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the inaugural issue of the National Police K-9 Journal in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is the India's first such publication on the subject of Police Service K9s, which is the name given for Police Dogs. A special Police K9 Cell was set up in November 2020. The biannual journal will be released in April and October, with sections in Hindi and English.

1. Which Indian armed force has created a 'Human rights cell'?

- A) Indian Navy
B) Indian Army ☒
C) Indian Coast Guard
D) Indian Air Force



- ❖ The Indian Army has created a new human rights cell for the first time in the history. Its aims is to provide more transparency and probity in its functioning in disturbed areas like Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast.
- ❖ Major General Gautam Chauhan has taken charge as the first additional Director General (human rights) and will report directly to the Army vice-chief.

2. Sambalpur, where the Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of IIM, is located in which state?

- A) West Bengal
B) Odisha ☒
C) Bihar
D) Uttarakhand



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus in the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur in Odisha. The institute has been functioning in a makeshift campus for more than five years, since it was launched as a third-generation IIM, in the year 2015-16.

3. Asian Waterbird Census 2021, which was seen in the news recently, is to be conducted in which state?

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



- ❖ The annual waterbird census is to be conducted in the state of Andhra Pradesh, by the state forest department.
- ❖ The regions included are the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, areas near Godavari estuary, Kolleru Lake, Atapaka Bird Sanctuary and Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Krishna estuary. Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Wetland International will provide technical support.

4. Deepor Beel, which was seen in the news recently, is the only Ramsar site of which state?

- A) Sikkim
B) Assam ☒
C) Arunachal Pradesh
D) Manipur



- ❖ Deepor Beel is the only Ramsar site of the state of Assam. It is located in the south-western edge of Guwahati. The site, which houses of a variety of aquatic life forms along with 219 species of birds, was designated a Ramsar site in the year 2002. The District officials has banned Community fishing at the site.

5. Lal Pahari, where the first hilltop Buddhist monastery of the Gangetic Valley has been found, is in which state?

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



- ❖ The first hill-top Buddhist monastery of the Gangetic Valley has been found at Lal Pahari in Lakhisarai district of Bihar.
- ❖ This is the first monastery located at the top of a hill. This is discovered during a joint collaboration of Bihar Heritage Development Society and the Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal. It was a Vihara, named as Srimaddharmaviharik aryabhiksusanghasya.

6. Sagarmala Development Company, which was seen in the news recently, will function under Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
B) Ministry of Shipping ☒
C) Ministry of Communications
D) Ministry of Defense



- ❖ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is set to commence Seaplane services on select routes. It is called the Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS).
- ❖ It is to be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named the Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL), which will function under the administrative control of the Shipping Ministry. The SPV will also include airline operators.

7. Which Indian city has the maximum CCTV coverage, according to recent report published in South Asia Journal?

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



- ❖ According to a recent report published in South Asia Journal, Chennai has the maximum CCTV coverage per square kilometre and per 1,000 population. The report records the prevalence of CCTV cameras in 130 of the most populous cities in the world.
- ❖ The report also highlights that China and India have the highest densities of CCTV surveillance cameras in urban areas.

8. What is the cap imposed on Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) in oils and fats for the year 2021?

- A) 10%
B) 5%
C) 3% ☒
D) 1%



- ❖ India's food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the quantum of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021. The cap is further reduced to 2% for 2022.
- ❖ Trans fat are found to increase the risk of heart attacks and death from coronary heart disease. The WHO has called all its members to eliminate trans-fat by 2023.

9. Prayaas is the new initiative adopted by which PSU in India?

- A) NTPC
B) IOCL ☒
C) ONGC
D) HAL



- ❖ Prayaas is the new community helping initiative adopted by Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL). Under this scheme, employees of IOCL Delhi Office would visit the night shelters located near IOCL's fuel stations for distribution of blankets and essentials.

- ❖ These night shelters are being run by the Government of Delhi and some NGOs to help the weaker section of the society.

10. Britain has recently ended taxation on which product?

- A) Mobile Phones
- B) Sanitary Products ☒
- C) Laptops
- D) Paracetamol Tablets



- ❖ Britain became the latest nation that has eliminated taxation on women's sanitary products. These taxes were called "tampon tax" and have been completely abolished in the country.
- ❖ This decision was earlier announced in the country's annual budget by its Treasury chief, but has been implemented only now, when Britain has left the European Union.

1. A three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar delivered verdict on which case, by 2:1 majority?

- A) Hathras Case
- B) Central Vista Project Case ☒
- C) Ayodhya Land Case
- D) Covid-19 vaccination case



- ❖ The Supreme Court's three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar delivered its verdict on Central Vista Project Case.
- ❖ The bench approved the re-development project by a 2:1 majority and upheld the exercise of power by the Centre as just and valid. It also confirmed the modifications in the change in land use and the recommendations of the environmental committee.

2. As per the recent statement of UNICEF, which country recorded the highest number of births on the New Year's Day?

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



- ❖ According to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), over 371,500 babies were born on New Year's Day across the world. It also revealed that India has recorded the highest number of births at around 60,000.
- ❖ India is followed by China, Nigeria and Pakistan. It also estimated that 140 million children are estimated to be born in 2021 with average life expectancy of 84 years.

3. 'Freight Business Development Portal', which was making news, was launched by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B) Ministry of Railways ☒
- C) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- D) Ministry of MSME



- ❖ Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal has recently launched the Freight Business Development Portal.
- ❖ The portal aims to reduce the costs for logistics providers, provide online tracking facility for suppliers and to simplify the process of goods transportation. The portal, which aims to improve ease of doing business, can be accessed via the Indian Railways website.

4. What is the name of the webinar series launched by the Commerce Ministry, along with NPC and QCI?

- A) Atmanirbhar Industries
- B) Udyog Manthan ☒
- C) MSME Manthan
- D) Self-Reliance Series



- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is organizing 'Udyog Manthan', in association with Quality Council of India, National Productivity Council, and major Industry bodies. It is a series of sector-specific webinars to promote the quality and productivity in Indian Industries.
- ❖ The webinar marathon focussing on both manufacturing and services is being held from January 4, 2021 to March 2, 2021.

5. Which organisation has issued a Statement on Climate of India during 2020?

- A) India Meteorological Department ☒
- B) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- C) Indian Institute of Tropical Studies
- D) DRDO



- ❖ The Climate Research and Services (CRS) of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released a Statement on Climate of India during 2020. As per the statement, the annual mean land surface air temperature over India was above normal during the year 2020. The year 2020 was also named the eighth warmest year on record.

6. Which country has passed the "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Bill" recently?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) United States of America ☒
- D) Afghanistan



- ❖ The US Congress has recently passed the "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Bill".
- ❖ The bill makes it mandatory for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to award 50% of scholarships to Pakistani Women under a Pakistan-based higher education scholarship programme. The scholarships are to be awarded from 2020 to 2022.

7. Omkareshwar dam, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

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



- ❖ The world's largest floating solar energy project is set to be constructed at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river, Madhya Pradesh. The 3,000-crore project, which will construct a 600 MW plant, will begin power generation by 2022-23.
- ❖ World Bank's IFC and Power Grid will provide the financial assistance to this project, which includes installing solar panels in the dam.

8. What is 'Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya', that was seen in the news recently?

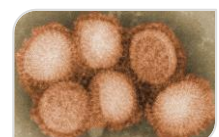
- A) COVID-19 Vaccination Framework
- B) Certified Reference Material ☒
- C) Space Technology Framework
- D) Cryptocurrency Technique



- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) has adopted an international practice for production of Indian Certified Reference Material (CRMs).
- ❖ The CRM, which is branded as 'Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya', supports the testing and calibration of laboratories, for assuring quality at par with international standards.

9. Kottayam, where H5N8 - avian influenza has been confirmed recently, is located in which state?

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



- ❖ Several ducks in Kottayam city of Kerala state have been found to be infected with Avian influenza – H5N8.
- ❖ The state and district administration have initiated war-footing steps to prevent further spread of the disease. It has been stated that the virus killed 1,700 ducklings in the city which are around 70 days old.

10. India's 40th Scientific Expedition to which destination is being fuelled by Indian Oil?

- A) Antarctica ☒
- B) Arctic Ocean
- C) Mt. Everest
- D) Sentinel Islands



- ❖ Researchers of National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) are on a voyage to Antarctica, which marks the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition.
- ❖ Fuel for the expedition is provided by the Indian Oil. The expedition is flagged off from Mormugao Port, Goa with 43 members on board the expedition vessel. Jet A1 fuel, lubes and Marine Gas Oil (MGO) have been offered by Indian Oil.

1. The first Khelo India Sports school of the North-East India, is situated in which city?

- A) Shillong ☒
B) Imphal
C) Guwahati
D) Gangtok



- ❖ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has recently launched the Assam Rifles Public School in Shillong. This school has become the first Khelo India Sports school of the North-East India. At present, nine Sports Schools have been approved across the country.
- ❖ The schools aim to integrate sports with education with the Government bearing the expenses of the athletes of the school.

2. Which research body has organized the National Metrology Conclave 2021?

- A) CSIR ☒
B) DRDO
C) ICMR
D) ICAR



- ❖ The National Metrology Conclave 2021 has been organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi.
- ❖ This research organization has entered its 75th year of inception. The theme of the function was 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'. The inaugural function was attended by the Prime Minister of India via video conferencing.

3. 'Thai Poosam' is a festival celebrated in which Indian state?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
B) Kerala
C) Nagaland
D) Arunachal Pradesh



- ❖ People of Tamil Nadu celebrate the 'Thai Poosam' festival, which is dedicated for the worship of the Tamil God Lord Muruga. After the devotees requested to declare the day as a public holiday, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami issued an order for the same.
- ❖ It is also celebrated in some parts of Kerala and in other countries like Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius and Indonesia

4. What is the accuracy of 'National Atomic Timescale', which was recently launched?

- A) 2.7 Nano seconds
B) 2.8 Nano seconds ☒
C) 2.1 Nano seconds
D) 2.0 Nano seconds



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'National Atomic Timescale', during the inauguration of the National Metrology Conclave. With this move, the Indian Standard Time is aligned with the International Standard Time, only by less than 3 nano seconds.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the 'National Environmental Standards Laboratory'.

5. The Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline that is seen in news recently is constructed by which PSU?

- A) ONGC
B) GAIL ☒
C) IOCL
D) CIL



- ❖ The 450 km long Natural Gas Pipeline between Kochi in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka is constructed by GAIL (India) Ltd. The 3000-crore project has been inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, for commercial operations. The pipeline has the transportation capacity of 12 million metric standard cubic metres per day.

6. When is World Braille Day observed every year, across the world?

- A) January 2
B) January 3
C) January 4 ☒
D) January 6



- ❖ World Braille Day is observed annually on 4 January, after it was established by the UN General Assembly in December 2018.
- ❖ The date also marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who invented the system for reading and writing, used by people who are visually impaired. This year, the UN highlights the importance of the universal touch-based communication system.

7. The PM CARES Fund Trust has allocated Rs 201 crores for installation of which equipment?

- A) Oxygen Generation Plants ☒
B) Air Purifiers
C) RO- Water Purifiers
D) Make Shift Hospitals



- ❖ The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund Trust has allocated Rs 201.58 crore rupees for installation of 162 dedicated Medical Oxygen Generation Plants.
- ❖ The Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants are to be procured by the Central Medical Supply Store, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The PSA plants are source of medical-grade oxygen.

8. Which organisation recently deployed its all-women team for contingency duties?

- A) Central Armed Police Force
B) Indo-Tibetan Border Police
C) National Disaster Response Force ☒
D) Central Industrial Security Force



- ❖ An all-female team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was recently deployed for contingency duties in Uttar Pradesh's Garh Mukteshwar town, on the banks of the Ganga river.
- ❖ The team who are professionally trained handled the rescue boats and related equipment. The first batch of over a hundred women disaster combatants and rescuers was also inducted in the NDRF.

9. 'SwasthVayu', a Non-invasive Ventilator, which was seen in the news recently, was developed by which organisation?

- A) DRDO
B) CSIR ☒
C) ISRO
D) BARC



- ❖ Scientists at the CSIR - National Aerospace Laboratories recently developed a non-invasive ventilator named Swasthya Vayu.
- ❖ The scientists have collaborated with the medical professionals from CSIR-IGIB, to develop the ventilator. It has been certified by the Health

Ministry's Expert Committee to be used for Covid-19 patients who require oxygen supplementation up to 35%.

10. How many Ministries have partnered for the Toycathon Initiative, which was recently launched?

- A) 5
- B) 6 ☒
- C) 7
- D) 8



- ❖ The Government of India has launched a new initiative called the 'Toycathon', to promote indigenous toy industry and reduce imports.
- ❖ Six Ministries, including Education, Women & child development, Textile, Commerce and industries, MSME, I&B and AICTE are collaborating for this initiative. Students, Teachers, Design experts and start-ups will work together to develop indigenous toys and games.

1. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI)' report?

- A) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ☒
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of MSME



- ❖ Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the India report on Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1.
- ❖ LASI is a nation-wide survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social factors and consequences of the ageing population in India. The report will be used as a basic framework for developing programmes in national and state-level.

2. How many wildlife species are under recovery programme for critically endangered species in India?

- A) 12
- B) 16
- C) 22 ☒
- D) 35



- ❖ The Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has recently approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the country.
- ❖ The Committee also approved the inclusion of Caracal, a wild cat found in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, in the list of critically endangered species. At present, there are 22 wildlife species under recovery programme for critically endangered species.

3. 'Angamaly-Azhutha Sabari rail project', which was making news recently, is to be constructed in which state?

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



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved to use funds from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), for the Angamaly-Azhutha Sabari rail project. The Railways will undertake the construction and maintenance of the project, while development of station will be through public-private partnership and a special purpose vehicle.
- ❖ The income will be shared between the State Government of Kerala and the Railways after deducting the expenses.

4. Which High Court recently ruled that advertisement of any article using the name of any God as illegal?

- A) Madras High Court
- B) Bombay High Court ☒
- C) Gujarat High Court
- D) Guwahati High Court



- ❖ The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has declared that advertisement of any article using the name of any God and claiming that it has supernatural qualities, is illegal.
- ❖ This practice falls under the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act. A petition was filed to prevent advertisements that promote the sale of articles like Hanuman Chalisa Yantra, Lakshmi Yantra, Meru Ring etc.

5. Which institution is to conduct the National Cow Science Examination?

- A) PeTA
- B) Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog ☒
- C) National Animal Welfare Institute
- D) Blue Cross



- ❖ Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) is set to conduct a national level Cow Science Exam, to educate students on the importance of cows. Called as the 'Kamdhenu Gau Vigyan Prachar Prasara Examination', it will be held annually across the country. RKA is a government body set up for cow welfare under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

6. DRDO is to establish Biodigester Mk-II Technology in which state's metro rail network?

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



- ❖ State-owned research agency, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is to install its eco-friendly bio-digester units across the network operated by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA-METRO).
- ❖ DRDO will provide technical support to implement advanced bio-digester Mk-II technology for treating the human waste in the metro rail network.

7. UJALA and SLNP schemes, which has completed six years, is implemented by which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B) Ministry of Power ☒
- C) Ministry of Rural Development
- D) Ministry of Communications



- ❖ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in 2015.
- ❖ The two programmes are being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power. Under the schemes, EESL distributed LED bulbs and LED street lights across the country, to save energy.

8. Which is the first Urban Cooperative Bank in India, to be converted into a Small Finance Bank?

- A) Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-operative Bank
- B) Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank ☒
- C) Goa Urban Co-operative Bank
- D) Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh-based Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB) has received a license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Small Finance Bank (SFB).
- ❖ With this, SMCB became the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) in the country to make a transition to a Small Finance Bank, under the voluntary transition scheme. The Shivalik Small Finance Bank is set to commence business by April 2021.

9. Which two states are the first to complete three out of four citizen-centric reforms directed by the Finance Ministry?

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



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have become the first states to complete three out of four citizen-centric reforms directed by the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The two states completed the One Nation, One Ration Card reforms, Ease of Doing Business reforms, and Urban Local Bodies reforms. Hence, the Ministry is to provide an additional financial assistance of Rs 1,004 crore for Capital Expenditure.

10. Which state launched 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to promote the income of farmers?

- A) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh



- ❖ The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath launched Kisan Kalyan Mission, to promote the income of farmers. The scheme aims to double the income of the farmers in Uttar Pradesh by 2022.
- ❖ The Chief Minister also ensured that the development schemes for farmers will be launched in 825 localities across the state.

1. The Indian Government has set up a control room to control the spread of Bird Flu in which state/UT?

- A) Delhi ☒
- B) Karnataka
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Telangana



- ❖ The Central Government has set up a control room in the national capital, amidst the spread of the bird flu or avian flu viruses across the country in four states. The control room aims to monitor the situation and record the preventive and control measures undertaken by the state authorities, on a daily basis.

2. India recently signed an MoU with which country regarding the partnership in "Specified Skilled Worker"?

- A) Japan ☒
- B) USA
- C) South Korea
- D) Australia



- ❖ The Indian Government has approved the memorandum of cooperation on a framework for partnership related to "Specified Skilled Worker" between India and Japan.
- ❖ As per the agreement, the skilled Indian workers, who have qualified the skill test and Japanese language test, will be granted a new status of residence of 'Specified Skilled Worker' by the Government of Japan. They will work in fourteen specified sectors in Japan.

3. As per the NSO's first advanced estimates, what would be the GDP growth/contraction in India, in FY 2020-21?

- A) + 3.2%
- B) + 1.2%
- C) - 6.4%
- D) - 7.7% ☒



- ❖ As per the first advanced estimates of the national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY 2020-21 is estimated to contract by 7.7%.
- ❖ This is against the growth rate of 4.2% in the fiscal year 2019-20. There is an estimated contraction in all sectors except the agriculture in the current fiscal. While manufacturing sector is likely to contract by 9.4%, Agri sector is estimated to grow by 3.4% compared to the last year.

4. Who is the head of the panel constituted by the Health Ministry, to look into the adverse findings of the NFHS-5?

- A) Harsh Vardan
- B) Preeti Pant ☒
- C) Radha Krishnan
- D) Abhinav Gupta



- ❖ The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a technical expert group to study the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5. The committee, chaired by Joint Secretary Preeti Pant, will also recommend policy interventions to improve the factors associated with malnutrition, stunting, anaemia, and C-section.
- ❖ The panel includes experts from medicine and nutrition and State programme officers.

5. Indian-American Dr Raj, has been named the first Chief Information Officer of the Army of which country?

- A) Singapore
- B) USA ☒
- C) Japan
- D) UK



- ❖ Indian-American Dr Raj has been named as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army. The position is equivalent in rank to a three-star General, and it was created in July 2020.
- ❖ He will supervise an annual budget of USD 16 billion for the IT operations of the US Army. He will also direct the execution of policies and programmes to modernise the US Army. He serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army.

6. 'Fatah-1', which was successfully tested, is the indigenous Rocket system of which country?

- A) UAE
- B) Israel
- C) Pakistan ☒
- D) Afghanistan



- ❖ Pakistan has successfully conducted the test-flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System.
- ❖ Named as 'Fatah-1', the system is capable of hitting targets up to a range of 140 km. The Guided Multi Launch Rocket System can deliver conventional warheads with utmost precision, as per the Army sources of the country.

7. Who is the head of the panel for conserving Ladakh's land and culture?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) G Kishan Reddy ☒
- C) Rao Inderjit Singh
- D) Jitendra Singh



- ❖ The Government of India has decided to form a committee to protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh. The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.
- ❖ It will also include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

8. Which organisation releases the World Food Price Index?

- A) UNICEF
- B) FAO ☒
- C) WWF
- D) WFP



- ❖ The United Nations food agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization releases the World Food Price Index. As per the latest edition, the World food prices increased for a seventh consecutive month in December at 107.5 points against 105.2 in November. All major categories of the food index recorded rise, except sugar.

9. Which country launched the world's first double stack long-haul container train?

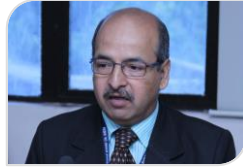
- A) Japan
- B) China
- C) India ☒
- D) Russia



- ❖ India recently launched the world's first double stack long-haul container train. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the train on the 306 km-long Rewari-Madar section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC).
- ❖ One such train carries freight equivalent to 270 high-capacity trailer trucks. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India is constructing the Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.

10. Who is the Chairperson of the academic advisory council, recently set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

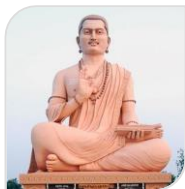
- A) B P Kanungo
- B) R Gandhi
- C) N S Vishwanathan ☒
- D) Urjith Patel



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an academic advisory council to advise the full-time director of the RBI's College of Supervisors (CoS). Former RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan has been named the chairperson of the council.
- ❖ This move aims to strengthen supervision over regulated entities and supervisory skills among its regulatory and supervisory staff.

1. 'Basaveshwara' is a famous statesman-saint of which Indian state/UT?

- A) Delhi
- B) Karnataka ☒
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Telangana



- ❖ Basavanna also called as 'Basaveshwara' was a 12th century statesman, Lingayat saint during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty. He is considered a famous icon of the Lingayat community in Karnataka.
- ❖ Recently, the Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa laid the foundation stone for the Rs 500-crore project 'New Anubhava Mantapa' in Basavakalyan. It is considered as the place where the philosopher lived.

2. Which Indian state/UT has introduced a new "School-bag Policy"?

- A) Delhi ☒
- B) Karnataka
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Telangana



- ❖ The Delhi Government has introduced a new "School bag policy", to reduce the weight of school bags of the students, in line with the National Education Policy. The Government also directed the schools in the National Capital Region to implement the policy soon.
- ❖ As per the policy, the weight of school bags for students between classes 1-10 should not be more than 10 per cent of their body weight.

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

- A) Stingless Honeybee Farming ☒
- B) Seedless Fruits Production Method
- C) Featherless Poultry Farming
- D) Seedless Vegetables Production Method



- ❖ Karshaka Vidyapeedam, a farmers' university headquartered in Kasaragod, has launched a meliponiculture project in Champeri. A four-month training course on meliponiculture, which means stingless honeybee farming, was also launched.
- ❖ 'Indigenous beehives' designed by the research forum of the University will also be provided in the course along with follow-up assistance.

4. As per the recent announcement of the Lok Sabha speaker, which campaign is to be undertaken in schools and colleges?

- A) Know your MLA
- B) Know your MP
- C) Know your Constituency
- D) Know your Constitution ☒



- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently chaired the event organised by the Uttarakhand Panchayati raj department.
- ❖ During the occasion, he announced that the Central Government would soon undertake a campaign named "Know your Constitution" in schools, colleges and universities across the country. It aims to create awareness about various aspects of the Constitution.

5. Trade Policy Review (TPR), which was making news recently, is associated with which organisation?

- A) World Bank
- B) WTO ☒
- C) IMF
- D) FAO



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

- ❖ Trade Policy Review (TPR) is a mechanism under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in which trade and related policies of members are examined, to improve compliance to its rules. Recently, India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR) at the WTO concluded in Geneva.
- ❖ India's previous TPR was conducted in the year 2015. India backed a set of measures to increase manufacturing capacity and timely availability of new diagnostics and vaccines for Covid-19.

6. IREDA, which was making news recently, is an organisation under which Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Power ☒
- B) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- C) Ministry of Communication
- D) Ministry of MSME



- ❖ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Mini Ratna company under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ❖ Recently, IREDA has signed an agreement with the Power Ministry's PSU, NHPC Limited, to collaborate in renewable energy (RE) projects. IREDA will also provide knowledge and technology transfer, and consultancy services.

7. Who is the head of the Labour Ministry's commission, which recommended a basic living wage?

- A) Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- B) C V Ananda Bose ☒
- E) Apoorva Chandra
- D) Alok Kumar Mathur



- ❖ A one-member commission was created under the Labour Ministry's Central Advisory Contract Labour Board (CACLB), to prepare an action plan for the welfare and development of guest and contract workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Veteran IAS officer C V Ananda Bose, who was in-charge of the commission, has recommended payment of a basic living wage in the event of employment loss. He also sought to establish Labour Authority of India as a nodal body.

8. 'Pioneers' is a programme of which country's space agency?

- A) India
- B) USA ☒
- C) Britain
- D) Germany



- ❖ The Pioneers Program was started by US space agency NASA in 2020, which aims to research on astrophysics science using smaller hardware. Recently, NASA has approved four small-scale astrophysics missions as a part of the Pioneers Program.
- ❖ The concepts include small satellites named Aspera, Pandora and StarBurst and a balloon mission named PUEO. These missions will help study about cosmic phenomena.

9. Which state has announced to launch the country's first Solar Electric RO-RO service?

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



- ❖ The country's first Solar Electric RORO service will be introduced during the year 2021-2022, the Kerala Governor announced in the Assembly. He also announced that the state's first amphibious water bus will also be launched. The state has planned to launch barge service for cargo movement and high-speed tourist services.

10. Which civic body of India has launched the 'Period room' initiative, for improving menstrual hygiene of women?

- A) Tiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation
- B) Thane Municipal Corporation ☒
- C) Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation
- D) Bengaluru Municipal Corporation



- ❖ The Thane Municipal Corporation has taken a step and introduced a 'period room' in a toilet block located in the corporation. One out of the ten stalls of the toilet block has been converted into a 'period room' with all required amenities. This step is taken to improve menstrual hygiene.

1. Union Home Minister is to launch the 'Single Window Clearance System' in which sector?

- A) Coal Mines ☒
- B) DISCOMs
- C) Steel Plants
- D) Copper Mines



- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to launch the 'Single Window Clearance System', for coal mines. It is an online platform to obtain clearances for smooth and seamless functioning of coal mines. Union Minister of Coal Pralhad Joshi will also attend the virtual ceremony.

2. The first edition of National Youth Parliament Festival was held in which year?

- A) 2015
- B) 2017
- C) 2019 ☒
- D) 2020



- ❖ The first National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) was organised in February 2019 at District, State and National levels. The second edition of the festival was launched in the month of December 2020.
- ❖ After District and State-level events, the final event was held recently Central Hall of Parliament. Youth between 18 to 25 years will speak before the National jury and out of them, three will be declared winners.

3. The LiDAR survey was started for which high speed rail project, from Noida?

- A) Delhi-Varanasi High-Speed Rail Corridor ☒
- B) Delhi-Patna High-Speed Rail Corridor
- C) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor
- D) Chennai-Bengaluru High Speed Rail Corridor

- ❖ The Light Detection and Ranging Survey (LiDAR) for Delhi-Varanasi High-Speed Rail (DVHSR) Corridor was recently started from Greater Noida.
- ❖ Under the survey, a helicopter is fitted with the Aerial LiDAR and imagery sensors. The first flight captured the data and details related to ground survey in three-four months. The survey uses 60-megapixel cameras, to capture minute details.

4. World Hindi Day commemorates the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference held in which city?

- A) Varanasi
- B) Nagpur ☒
- C) Pune
- D) Delhi



- ❖ World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on January 10. Also known as the Vishwa Hindi Divas, it commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur on the same day in 1975.
- ❖ World Hindi Day was first celebrated in the year 2006. Hindi is not most-spoken language of the country, and also the third most-spoken language in the world.

5. As per Geological Survey of India (GSI), which Indian state could contain Vanadium Deposits?

- A) Jharkhand
- B) Bihar
- C) Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- D) Odisha



- ❖ Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been exploring the state of Arunachal Pradesh and said that it could be India's prime producer of vanadium.
- ❖ Vanadium is a high-value metal used for strengthening steel and titanium. The Geologists assured that a deposit will be soon identified. It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected during the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores.

6. Which Indian bank has collaborated with IIT Kanpur to set up a Fintech Innovation Centre (FIC)?

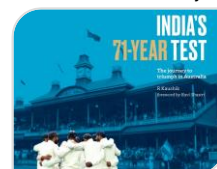
- A) State Bank of India
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank ☒
- D) ICICI Bank



- ❖ The country's second largest public sector bank, Punjab National Bank has partnered with IIT Kanpur and FIRST (Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology), to establish Fintech Innovation Centre (FIC).
- ❖ The Innovation centre will be set up at the IIT campus, which will facilitate research and development in technological solutions used in the Banking and Finance Sector.

7. Who is the author of the book titled 'India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia', which was released recently?

- A) R Kaushik ☒
- B) VVS Lakshman
- E) Harbajan Singh
- D) Sunil Gavaskar



- ❖ The head coach of Indian cricket team and former India all-rounder Ravi Shastri launched a book titled 'India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia'. The book is authored by the cricket journalist R Kaushik and it is an initiative of Bradman Museum.
- ❖ It describes the first 12 tours of India to Australia. It also includes over 200 rare pictures from the Bradman Museum. A portrait of former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar was unveiled at the Sydney Ground.

8. What is the theme of the 16th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas?

- A) Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat ☒
- B) Redefining engagement with the Indian diaspora
- C) Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India
- D) Contributing to New India

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is inaugurating the 16th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9, virtually.
- ❖ It aims to encourage the Indian diaspora to be part of socio-economic development in India. The theme of this year's convention is "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat". President of the Republic of Suriname is to deliver the key note address.

9. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has taken charge as the new Director General of which armed force?

- A) CISF ☒
- B) CRPF
- C) ITBP
- D) NSG



- ❖ Veteran IPS Officer Subodh Kumar Jaiswal took charge as the new Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ❖ He was serving as the DGP heading the Maharashtra Police since 2019. He had earlier served with the Special Protection Group (SPG) of the country, securing the Prime Minister.

10. Which bank has partnered with NABFOUNDATION to assist self-help groups?

A) State Bank of India

B) Canara Bank

C) Central Bank of India ☒

D) ICICI Bank



- ❖ Central Bank of India (CBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABFOUNDATION.
- ❖ As per the MoU, CBI will provide collateral-free working capital to those self-help groups having an account with it and are undertaking the Nabard-sponsored 'My Pad My Right' project. NABFOUNDATION, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD.

1. Which organisation is to adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Labs across the country, to promote 'STEM' Education?

- A) DRDO
- B) ISRO ☒
- C) BARC
- D) Indian Air Force



- ❖ Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) jointly announced that ISRO will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.
- ❖ This step aims to provide mentorship, promote education in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Space Education among the young students of the country.

2. 'The Heritage Conversation Committee', which was in the news recently, is headed by the official of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Culture
- D) Ministry of Tourism



- ❖ The Heritage Conversation Committee' (HCC) is headed by the Additional Secretary of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Committee has recently cleared the proposal of the Central Government for the new Parliament building.
- ❖ The Supreme Court approved the Central Vista project and mandated the clearance from HCC for developing the project. The Committee also includes officials from other departments.

3. What percent of the total geographic area of India is occupied by the Protected Areas?

- A) 2.5%
- B) 5% ☒
- C) 7.5%
- D) 10%



- ❖ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 146 National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries as well as that of the zoos in the Country. At present, India has 903 Protected Areas, which covers about 5% of the total geographic area of the country.
- ❖ 10 best National Parks, 5 coastal and Marine parks and top five Zoos in the country will be ranked and awarded every year.

4. 'Sea Vigil-21' is a Defence Exercise undertaken by which country?

- A) India ☒
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) China
- D) United Kingdom



- ❖ The Indian Navy is undertaking a two-day military exercise, also claimed to be India's largest coastal defence drill. The exercise is to cover India's coastline spanning over 7500 kilometers, involving 13 coastal States and Union Territories. The second edition of the exercise aims to enhance maritime security and surveillance.

5. Which is to be the country in focus at the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa?

- A) France
- B) Russia
- C) Bangladesh ☒
- D) Sri Lanka



- ❖ Bangladesh is to be the focus country at the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled from January 16 to 24, this year. Four films from Bangladesh have been included in the focus section, to recognise the cinematic contribution of the country. It is noteworthy that the 51st Indian International Film Festival has included Tamil films Asuran and Then in the list of Indian films selected for 2020.

6. Which is the first North-Eastern state to complete urban local bodies reforms and was approved for additional borrowing?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Manipur ☒
- D) Tripura



- ❖ Manipur has become the fourth State in the country to complete urban local bodies reforms. It is also the first North-Eastern state, joining the list of three states namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ In response, the state also received the Union Finance Ministry's approval to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs 75 crore through open market borrowings.

7. NITI Aayog has partnered with which e-commerce major to launch "revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform"?

- A) Amazon
- B) Flipkart ☒
- C) Myntra
- D) Snapdeal



- ❖ The nation's premier think tank NITI Aayog has partnered with e-commerce major Flipkart, to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform. This is seen as an effort to enhance the community experience for women entrepreneurs in India.
- ❖ This portal brings together women from different parts of India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations.

8. The Financial Stability Report (FSR) is released by which organisation?

- A) World Bank
- B) IMF
- C) Reserve Bank of India ☒
- D) Asian Development Bank



- ❖ The Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by Reserve Bank of India has predicted that gross non-performing assets of Banks in India, may rise to 13.5% by September 2021 from the level of 7.5% in September 2020. The report has also stated that in case of a severe stress scenario, the Gross NPA may further worsen to 14.8%.

9. On which date, 'Armed Forces Veterans Day' celebrated across India?

- A) January 11
- B) January 12
- C) January 13
- D) January 14 ☒



- ❖ The Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated on January 14 every year and was instituted in the year 2017, to commemorate the retirement date of the first Indian Chief of Army Staff, K M Cariappa. He served as the Chief of Army Staff from 1949 to 1953.

10. When is the Army Day celebrated across India, every year?

- A) January 12
- B) January 13
- C) January 14
- D) January 15 ☒



- ❖ Army Day is celebrated every year on January 15, across the country to honour the contributions made by the soldiers to the country. The 73rd Army day was recently observed on January 15, 2021. On January 15, 1949, General KM Cariappa became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army after Independence. This day is being commemorated every year as Army Day.

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

4

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

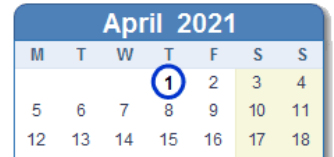
- A) RBI
- B) SEBI
- C) UNSC ☒
- D) ICJ



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

- A) Sun
- B) Moon ☒
- C) Mars
- D) Mercury



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



NEW FRONTIERS. NEW DREAMS

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



NITI Aayog

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

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 5th 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, 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 25th 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 11th National Voters' Day.

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

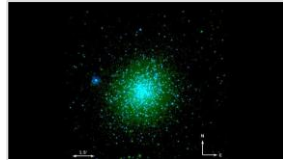
- A) Australia
- B) United States of America ☒
- C) India
- D) Japan



- ❖ 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?

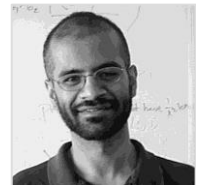
- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala ☒
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra



- ❖ 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?

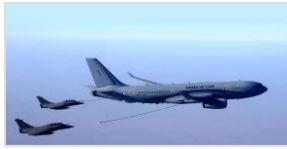
- A) Payment Banks
- B) NBFCs ☒
- C) Small Finance Banks
- D) Foreign Banks



- ❖ 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?

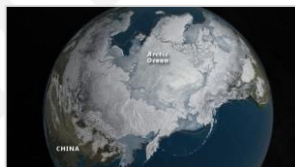
- A) DRDO
- B) ISRO
- C) BSF ☒
- D) ITBP



- ❖ 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 3rd 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?

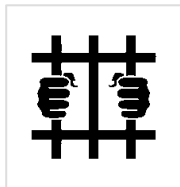
- A) Western Ghats
- B) Sunderbans ☒
- C) Deccan Plateau
- D) Himalayan Region



- ❖ 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 26th to 31st 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.