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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



FEBRUARY 2021

February 01-07

1. The Armed Forces of which country participated in the Republic Day Parade of India in the year 2021?

- A) Nepal
B) Bangladesh ☒
C) United Kingdom
D) Bhutan



- ✓ A 122-member armed forces contingent of Bangladesh participated in the Rajpath at the Republic Day parade of India. This comes as a part of celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Liberation War, by India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ While Bangladesh takes part in the parade for the first time, it is the third foreign country after France (2016) and the UAE (2017) to take part in India's Republic Day parade.

2. Which organisation releases the 'World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021'?

- A) World Bank
B) International Monetary Fund
C) United Nations ☒
D) Asian Development Bank



- ✓ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021.
- ✓ As per the report, India's economy is projected to grow at 7.3 percent in 2021 while it is estimated to contract by 9.6 percent in 2020. According to the UN, the reasons for the contraction are the lockdown and the fallen domestic consumption.

3. As per the International Monetary Fund, which is the only key country that would record a double-digit growth in FY22?

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



- ✓ The International Monetary Fund released its latest World Economic Outlook Update recently. As per the report, Indian economy would grow 11.5 percent in FY22.
- ✓ It has revised the earlier forecast of 8.8 percent growth. As per the IMF, India would be the only key country to record a double-digit growth and reclaim the status of the fastest-growing major economy of the world.

4. What is the name of the virtual intelligence tool recently launched, which can help in Government's policy decisions?

- A) Apna
B) Tejas ☒
C) Surya
D) Vishnu



- ✓ Minister of Electronics and IT and Communications has recently launched virtual intelligence tool Tejas.
- ✓ The tool can extract critical information for policy decisions thereby improving efficiency in government services. The Minister also launched a virtual portal to access routine office applications called 'Work from Anywhere' portal and 'e-Auction India'.

5. Which Indian city recently unveiled a first-of-its kind Young Readers' Boat Library?

- A) Mumbai
B) Kolkata ☒
C) Ahmedabad
D) Cochin



- ✓ The West Bengal Transport Corporation in association with a heritage book store has launched a Young Readers' Boat Library.
- ✓ Under the initiative, children can choose from a selection of 500 titles in English and Bengali on cruising on the waters of Hooghly river on a three-hour-long trip.

6. The CCEA approved hike in Minimum Support Price of Copra, in line with whose recommendation?

- A) K Santhanam
B) M S Swaminathan ☒
C) Varghese Kurian
D) Charan Singh



- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for milling copra and ball copra.
- ✓ As per M S Swaminathan recommendations, the increase in MSP has been approved. The MSP of copra was raised by Rs 375 from the previous year, 2020 to Rs 10,335 per quintal. Farmers of 12 coastal states are likely to be impacted by the price hike.

7. Who is the chairperson of the panel set up to review the proposed ban on 27 widely used pesticides?

- A) TP Rajendran ☒
B) K Vijayakumar
C) C Sylendra Babu
D) K Sivan



- ✓ As per media reports, the Government has appointed an expert panel to review industry's objections to the proposed ban on 27 widely used pesticides. Former assistant director general of ICAR, TP Rajendran is to chair the committee, which will submit the report in next three months. The Government has proposed to ban 27 pesticides, which are said to be harmful to animals and humans.

8. Which organisation released a report titled 'Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk'?

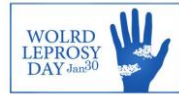
- A) United Nations ☒
B) International Monetary Fund
C) Asian Infrastructure & Investment Bank
D) BRICS Bank



- ✓ The report, titled 'Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk' was compiled by United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health.
- ✓ As per the report, over a thousand large dams in India will be almost 50 years old in 2025. It also warns about the threat posed by the aging structures across the world. As per the UN report, a large concrete dam begins to express signs of ageing at 50 years.

9. When is the World Leprosy Day observed in the year 2021?

- A) January 25
- B) January 27
- C) January 29
- D) January 31 ☒



- ✓ World Leprosy Day is observed around the world on the last Sunday of January every year. This year World Leprosy Day held on 31 January.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise global awareness of this deadly ancient disease and call attention to the fact that it can be prevented, treated and cured. This year theme of World Leprosy Day 2021 is "Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and advocate for Mental Wellbeing".

10. World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day is observed on which date?

- A) January 28
- B) January 29
- C) January 30 ☒
- D) January 31



- ✓ World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day is observed on January 30, 2021. The day is observed to create awareness about the neglected tropical diseases and discuss solutions to eliminate them. Caused by parasites and bacteria, the diseases affect more than a billion across the world. World NTD Day was announced by the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi in November 2019.

1. Where is the headquarters of the World Customs Organization (WCO) located?

- A) Rome
- B) Paris
- C) Brussels ☒
- D) Berlin



- ✓ The International Customs Day is celebrated every year on January 26 across the world, led by the World Customs Organization (WCO). It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.
- ✓ It was earlier called as the Customs Cooperation Council. The Day has been celebrated since 1983. This year the theme is "Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain"

2. National Non-communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS), which was released recently, was conducted during which year?

- A) 2019-20
- B) 2018-19
- C) 2017-18 ☒
- D) 2016-17



- ✓ The Union Health Ministry released the National Non-communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS). In the survey conducted during 2017-18, it was revealed that two in five adults in India have three or more risk factors for non-communicable diseases.
- ✓ The Health Minister also launched a framework on use of telemedicine for cancer, diabetes, heart diseases and stroke in India.

3. What is the name of the rare Martian Mineral, which has been recently discovered in Antarctic ice?

- A) Jarosite ☒
- B) Carnotite
- C) Johannsenite
- D) Ilmenite



- ✓ As per the Science Magazine, Scientists have discovered a rare Martian Mineral named 'Jarosite' in the Antarctic ice. After boring more than a mile deep in the Antarctic region, the yellow-brown mineral which is rarely seen on Earth but found more on Mars was spotted.
- ✓ Mars is believed to be a dusty place and this discovery may be used to explain this theory.

4. What is the name of India's initiative to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to friendly countries?

- A) COVID Maitri
- B) Vaccine Maitri ☒
- C) Helping Hands
- D) Friends in Need



- ✓ India is set to despatch 500,000 doses of Covishield vaccines to Sri Lanka as grant assistance under its "Vaccine Maitri" initiative.
- ✓ Under the initiative, India has already delivered nearly five million doses to seven countries in the neighbourhood including Maldives, Nepal, Mauritius among others. The Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship) initiative was launched on January 20.

5. Which Indian state is to play host to the 'International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II)'?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala ☒
- C) Karnataka
- D) Telangana



- ✓ The second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II) is to be hosted in February, 2021, at the Gender Park Campus, Kozhikode, Kerala. The Chief Minister is also set to inaugurate a Gender Park at Kozhikode. It was established in 2013 under the Department of Women and Child Development. It has partnerships with various global organisations like UN Women.

6. "Global Climate Litigation Report: 2020" has been released by which organisation?

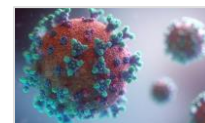
- A) UNEP ☒
- B) UNESCO
- C) World Bank
- D) UNFCCC



- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recently released a report titled - Global Climate Litigation Report: 2020 - Status Review. The report provides an overview of climate change litigation and its trends globally.
- ✓ As per the report, the number of climate litigation cases around the world has almost doubled in the last three years.

7. Which country has launched "New Variant Assessment Platform"?

- A) USA
- B) UK ☒
- C) China
- D) Brazil



- ✓ The United Kingdom (UK) has launched a New Variant Assessment Platform, which will be used to identify new variants COVID-19 viruses. It uses genomics expertise possessed by UK and has been dedicated for use by countries which does not have sufficient resources for identifying the new Covid virus strains.

8. In which country is Mount Merapi located?

- A) Japan
- B) South Korea
- C) Indonesia ☒
- D) North Korea



- ✓ The Mount Merapi is located in Indonesia. It is an active volcano which is located in the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta. This volcano has erupted again recently. Indonesia is located on the "Ring of Fire" and hence has the greatest number of active volcanoes in the world.

9. The Environment Ministry recently released a National action plan for conservation of which species?

- A) Marine Turtle ☒
- B) Great Indian Bustard
- C) Brahmaputra Dolphin
- D) Black Buck



- ✓ The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently released 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' and 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan'.
- ✓ The documents contain framework for handling stranded animals on shore, entangled animals in the sea or boat, management actions for reducing threats to marine species and their habitats, rehabilitation of degraded habitats, among others.

10. India launched the 'Year of Environment' with which friendly country?

- A) Nepal
- B) France ☒
- C) Brazil
- D) Japan



- ✓ Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Indo-French year of Environment along with his French counterpart.
- ✓ India and France have environment projects being undertaken in Assam, Rajasthan and a project to be started in Jharkhand. The objective of this event is to strengthen Indo-French cooperation in sustainable development.

1. Which international organisation conducted the event on 'Restoring Cross Border Mobility'?

- A) United Nations
- B) World Economic Forum ☒
- C) World Bank
- D) World Trade Organisation



- ✓ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare addressed the event on Restoring Cross Border Mobility, through video conference.
- ✓ The event was organised by World Economic Forum's Common Trust Network, to discuss the policies and partnerships required to reopen borders and enable essential travel, tourism and commerce in a safe and sustainable method.

2. Which Indian monument was lit on January 30, to observe the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day?

- A) India Gate
- B) Qutub Minar ☒
- C) Taj Mahal
- D) Golden Temple



- ✓ The second annual World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day is observed on January 30, 2021. India is home to the world's largest absolute burden of 11 of the major NTDs.
- ✓ To celebrate the day, more than 50 landmarks representing 25 nations across the world will be lit up. India joins the celebration by lighting up the UNESCO world heritage site Qutub Minar, Delhi.

3. 'Amrut Mahotsav', which was seen in the news recently, is the celebration of which event?

- A) 125th birth anniversary of Netaji
- B) 75th year of India's Independence ☒
- C) 50th year of 1971 War
- D) 50th year of Kargil War



- ✓ The Budget Session of Parliament recently began with the address of President Ram Nath Kovind to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.
- ✓ During the address, the President mentioned that the 'Amrut Mahotsav' will be observed in the country from this year, to mark commencement of the celebrations towards the 75th year of India's Independence.

4. India conducted a joint forum meet with which country, under its 'Act East Policy'?

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



- ✓ India conducted the 5th Act East Forum (AEF) meet with Japan and both the countries reviewed progress of various ongoing projects in the North-eastern region.
- ✓ India's 'Act East Policy' and Japan's vision for a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' are realised through the Act East Forum, which also provides a collaborative platform in the North Eastern Region. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

5. As per a report released by Alvarez & Marsal India, what is the average time taken for resolution in India under IBC, as on Sep'20?

- A) 330 days
- B) 360 days
- C) 400 days
- D) 440 days ☒



- ✓ As per a recent report by Alvarez & Marsal India, as at September 2020, it took an average of 440 days for resolving 277 cases approved by the NCLT under the IBC.
- ✓ The report stressed on the need for time-bound resolution of stressed assets and enhancing the resolution processes under Insolvency and Bankruptcy code as recovery percentages fell sharply to 15-25% whenever there is an increase in time taken for resolution.

6. Which Ministry has recently introduced changes to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Rules?

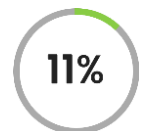
- A) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- B) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs ☒
- D) Ministry of Finance



- ✓ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has recently introduced several changes to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Rules. It includes mandatory "Impact Assessment" for big CSR projects.
- ✓ It also includes mandatory disclosure of all CSR projects and the CSR Committee's composition on the company's website.

7. As per the Economic Survey 2020-21, what would be India's GDP growth rate in FY 2021-22?

- A) 5%
- B) 10%
- C) 11% ☒
- D) 15%



- ✓ In the Economic Survey 2020-21 tabled in the budget session of the Parliament recently, the Government has pegged in the country's GDP growth rate for FY 2021-22 at 11%.
- ✓ The GDP growth for the current financial year has been estimated at -7.7%. Economic survey is an annual document prepared by the Ministry of Finance under the guidance of Chief Economic Advisor. Krishnamurthy Subramanian is the present Chief Economic Advisor.

8. Which organization has released the Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2021?

- A) UNEP
- B) German Watch ☒
- C) NITI Ayog
- D) WWF



- ✓ The Germany-based think tank Germanwatch has recently released Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2021. The index ranks countries as per their vulnerability to climate risks both in terms of fatalities and economic losses. As per the report, India is the 7th worst-hit country on account of extreme weather events in the year 2019.

9. What is India's rank in Corruption Perception Index (CPI) – 2020?

- A) 83
- B) 84
- C) 85
- D) 86 ☒

86

- ✓ The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for the year 2020 has been released recently by Transparency International (TI).
- ✓ The index uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rate countries, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. India slipped six places and has been ranked at 86th position out of 180 countries.

10. What is the rank of India, in the COVID-19 performance index released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute?

- A) 83
- B) 84
- C) 85
- D) 86 ☒

86

- ✓ According to the performance index compiled by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, New Zealand handled the pandemic the most effectively. India is ranked 86th in the index comprising 98 countries, which measures several key indicators including confirmed cases, deaths, cases per million people and deaths per million people.
- ✓ New Zealand is followed by Vietnam and Taiwan while Brazil is the worst performing country.

1. The Tableau of which state was adjudged best at the Republic Day parade?

- A) Assam
- B) Tripura
- C) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- D) Gujarat



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh's tableau at this year's Republic Day parade in New Delhi was adjudged the best and awarded by Union minister Kiren Rijiju.
- ✓ The theme of Uttar Pradesh's tableau depicting the Ram Temple was "Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh". Department of Biotechnology is the best tableau among the Central Ministries, departments, the CAPF and other auxiliary forces.

2. As per the NSO's revised estimates released recently, what was India's GDP growth rate for 2019-20?

- A) 1.3%
- B) 3.2%
- C) 4.0% ☒
- D) 5.2%

4.0

- ✓ The National Statistical Office recently released its revised national account data. As per the data, the economic growth rate for 2019-20 was revised downwards to 4 percent.
- ✓ The decrease from the previous estimate of 4.2% was mainly due to contraction in secondary sectors like manufacturing and construction. Real GDP growth of 2018-19 is estimated at 6.5%, against the 6.1 percent revealed in January estimate.

3. Chauri Chaura is a town located in which Indian state?

- A) Punjab
- B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal



- ✓ Chauri Chaura is a town located near Gorakhpur, in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to inaugurate the Chauri Chaura Centenary celebrations.
- ✓ The historic Chauri Chaura incident took place on 5 February 1922 at the Chauri Chaura town in the United Province in British India. After a clash between the Police and a group of volunteers, the Police opened fire and the group torched the Police station. Gandhi withdrew the Non-cooperation movement after this incident.

4. What was 'IN FAC T-81', which was seen in the news recently?

- A) COVID Vaccine
- B) Naval Craft ☒
- C) Super Computer
- D) Virtual Intelligence Tool



- ✓ 'IN FAC T-81' is the Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft of the MK II class, which served the nation successfully for more than 20 years in surveillance and Search & Rescue. It was recently decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. It was built at Goa Shipyard Ltd in collaboration with an Israel manufacturer. The INFAC was commissioned into the Navy in 1999.

5. What is the expansion of BNI, mentioned in the Economic Survey 2020-21?

- A) Broad Necessities Index
- B) Bare Necessities Index ☒
- C) Base Necessities Indicator
- D) Base National Indicator



- ✓ The Economic Survey for 2020-21 has mentioned "Bare Necessities Index" (BNI), to describe the inequalities in access to bare necessities like drinking water, sanitation and housing conditions between urban and rural India.
- ✓ The index lists 26 indicators on five dimensions namely water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and other facilities. It also classifies the regions in three levels namely high, medium, low.

6. NaBFID, the new bank which is proposed to be set up, is to finance which sector?

- A) Agriculture
- B) Infrastructure ☒
- C) MSME's
- D) Fisheries



- ✓ The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021 is to be introduced in the Budget session.
- ✓ The government is set up a National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), which will facilitate the infrastructure financing of the country. The developmental financial institution (DFI) will act as a principal financial institution and development bank to support infrastructure projects.

7. Which country is to introduce a bill to ban all private cryptocurrencies and create a sovereign digital currency?

- A) China
- B) India ☒
- C) Japan
- D) New Zealand



- ✓ The Indian Government is to introduce a bill in Parliament to ban all private cryptocurrencies and create a sovereign digital currency by the Reserve Bank of India. The bill is to allow certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses.
- ✓ A legislative framework on official digital currency is also expected to be created.

8. Which country has the highest share in global basmati rice trade?

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



- ✓ India exported 4.45 million tonnes basmati rice (worth USD 4.33 billion) in financial year 2019-20. It has a 65 percent share in global basmati trade. Pakistan makes the rest of the global trade.
- ✓ Recently, Pakistan's basmati rice has received a Geographical Indication (GI) registration within the country. India has applied to the EU for the GI tag for its basmati rice in September 2020. Both countries are exporting basmati to the EU without a GI tag from it.

9. Which Indian personality started the 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal in 1896?

- A) Swami Vivekananda ☒
- B) Bala Gangadhar Tilak
- C) Bhagat Singh
- D) Dayananda Saraswati Swami



- ✓ Swami Vivekananda started the 'Prabuddha Bharata', a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna order in 1896, to spread the message of India's spiritual knowledge. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 125th Anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata' organized by Advaita Ashrama in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ It is the place of publication of the journal. Several leaders like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Sri Aurobindo have contributed to the journal.

10. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the National Health Authority (NHA)?

- A) Indu Bhushan
- B) R S Sharma ☒
- C) Praveen Getam
- D) Mukesh Kumar Khetan



- ✓ Former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), RS Sharma is appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of National Health Authority (NHA).
- ✓ He is to replace Indu Bhushan after his 3 year term. NHA is responsible for implementing the public health insurance scheme 'Ayushman Bharat' or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Sharma is also the Chairperson of an empowered committee on Co-WIN platform.

1. As per the 'India Justice Report', which state has employed most women in its police force?

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



- ✓ The 'India Justice Report' was an initiative of Tata Trusts, along with the Centre for Social Justice and some other social agencies.
- ✓ The report analysed expenditure, vacancies, representation of women and members of SC, ST and OBCs across large, mid-sized states and smaller states. Bihar has employed most women in its police force at 25.3%. Tamil Nadu has the highest percentage of women police officers.

2. Which tournament would be conducted this year by the BCCI in place of Ranji Trophy?

- A) Irani Trophy
- B) Deodar Trophy
- C) Vijay Hazare Trophy ☒
- D) Duleep Trophy



- ✓ The BCCI has decided to conduct Vijay Hazare Trophy in place of its first-class domestic tournament Ranji Trophy.
- ✓ BCCI has stated that the decision has been made as per the wishes of majority of the state units. Additionally, BCCI would also be hosting U-19 National One Day tournament for the Vinoo Mankad Trophy and a Women's national 50-over tournament.

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

- A) Assam - Meghalaya
- B) Jharkhand - West Bengal
- C) Manipur - Nagaland ☒
- D) Jharkhand - Odisha



- ✓ 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 a Mi-17V5 helicopter to put off the massive wildfire in Dzukou Valley.

4. Vaccination against which disease was conducted recently as a National Vaccination Day?

- A) Hepatitis
- B) Polio ☒
- C) Pneumonia
- D) BCG



- ✓ On the Polio National Immunization Day scheduled on January 31, 2021, around 89 lakh children were given polio drops under National Polio Immunisation drive across the country. President Ram Nath Kovind launched the first round of Pulse Polio Programme 2021.
- ✓ Over seven lakh booths were set up for implementing the drive. A house-to-house surveillance will also be provided to vaccinate the remaining children.

5. The death anniversary of which national leader was observed as the Martyrs' Day on January 30 in India?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Mahatma Gandhi ☒
- C) Bhagat Singh
- D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel



- ✓ On 30th Jan 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the year 1948.
- ✓ On this day, India observes Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas, to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi and all martyrs who sacrificed their life for the nation's freedom. The 73rd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed as Martyrs' Day recently.

6. Which Indian company is to launch a new COVID-19 vaccine under the brand name Covovax?

- A) Dr Reddy's
- B) Serum Institute of India ☒
- C) Biocon
- D) Sun Pharma

NOVAVAX

- ✓ Serum Institute of India has announced that it would launch a new COVID-19 vaccine under the brand name Covovax.
- ✓ It would be developed in partnership with American vaccine developer Novavax, by the month of June. The company's Covishield has been developed in partnership with the Oxford University and British-Swedish firm AstraZeneca.

7. What is the expansion of "OPC", which is seen in the Union Budget 2021-22?

- A) Over the Port Counter
- B) One Person Company ☒
- C) On Port Company
- D) On the go Private Company



- ✓ As per the Union Budget 2020-21, the government would be incentivizing the incorporation of One Person Companies (OPC) in order to boost the ease of doing business. The Government has reduced the time limit for Indian citizen to start an OPC from 182 days to 120 days. This move allows NRIs to incorporate OPCs in India.

8. As per the Budget 2021-22, what is the estimated Fiscal Deficit for the current financial year?

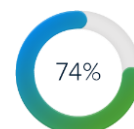
- A) 9.5% ☒
- B) 7.0%
- C) 4.0%
- D) 2.0%

9.5%

- ✓ As per the latest Budget presented by the Union Finance Minister, the Fiscal Deficit of our economy is estimated at 9.5% of GDP for the current financial year. The same is expected to be at 6.8% of GDP for FY 2021-22. The budget estimate of expenditure for next FY (2021-22) is Rs.34.83 lakh crore.

9. What is the new FDI limit in insurance companies, as proposed in Union Budget 2021-22?

- A) 26%
- B) 51%
- C) 74% ☒
- D) 100%



- ✓ The Union Budget 2021–22 contain that the permissible Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in Insurance Companies would be increased from 49% to 74%. Foreign ownership with safeguard would be allowed in this segment. Insurance Act of 1938 would be amended to make effect to the proposed hike in FDI limit.

10. According to the WHO, which country has the highest number of new Leprosy cases in the world annually?

- A) Pakistan
- B) India ☒
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Russia



- ✓ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India has the highest number of new cases of leprosy in the world annually. India is followed by Brazil and Indonesia in the largest number of cases.
- ✓ In India, more new cases are reported from the rural belts of Bihar, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. January 31 is observed as World Leprosy Day.

1. What is the rank of India in the production of silk, globally?

- A) 1
B) 2 ☒
C) 3
D) 5



- ✓ China is the largest producer of silk, in the world. It is followed by India in the second place.
- ✓ India is the only country in the world which produces all four major varieties of silk namely – Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga. Recently, the Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated India's biggest silk fair, the 8th India International Silk Fair. It is held on the virtual platform of Indian Silk Export Promotion Council.

2. 'Neptune Declaration', which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which sector?

- A) Astronomy
B) Maritime ☒
C) Planetary Research
D) Galaxy Research



- ✓ The 'Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change', is a declaration released by the global maritime industry recently.
- ✓ The declaration focusses on recognising seafarers as key workers by all governments in line with the UNGA resolution adopted recently. The Maritime Union of India urged the Centre to consider the declaration while formulating 'Maritime India Vision 2030'.

3. Who won the men's singles final at badminton World Tour held in Bangkok?

- A) Anders Antonsen ☒
B) Viktor Axelsen
C) Kidambi Srikanth
D) Wang Tzu-wei



- ✓ Anders Antonsen of Denmark won the men's singles final at badminton World Tour held in Bangkok recently. In the final match, he defeated Viktor Axelsen of Denmark. The tournament contained no spectators, to guard against the pandemic.

4. Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is associated with which sport?

- A) Hockey
B) Cricket ☒
C) Basketball
D) Badminton



- ✓ In this year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 cricket tournament held at Ahmedabad, Tamil Nadu team defeated Baroda to win the trophy title. During this year's tournament, Tamil Nadu remained unbeaten till the final match. At the finals, the team chased Baroda's with 7 wickets remaining.

5. Soma Mondal is the new Chairperson of which Public sector enterprise?

- A) SAIL ☒
B) ONGC
C) NTPC
D) GAIL



- ✓ Soma Mondal has recently taken charge as the new Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Prior to this, she was the Director (Commercial) of the Public Sector enterprise.
- ✓ She replaces the incumbent Chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary. Soma Mondal also had served as the Director (Commercial) at the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), before her venture in SAIL.

6. Who has taken charge as the Vice Chief of Army Staff in India?

- A) M M Naravane
B) C P Mohanty ☒
C) Yogesh Kumar Joshi
D) Anil Chauhan



- ✓ Lieutenant General C P Mohanty assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff. Prior to this appointment he was the Army Commander of the Southern Army.
- ✓ The area of responsibility of the Southern Army includes 11 states and four Union Territories. C P Mohanty has replaced the previous Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General Satinder Kumar Saini.

7. 'MITRA' scheme, which was announced in the recent Union Budget is related to which sector?

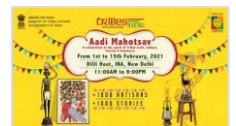
- A) Agriculture
B) Textile ☒
C) MSME
D) Banking



- ✓ In the Union Budget 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a scheme of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA).
- ✓ The scheme is to be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive scheme. It aims to help the industry become competitive, attract investments and boost employment generation. Under the scheme, 7 Textile Parks will be established over 3 years.

8. Aadi Mahotsav is an initiative of which Union Ministry?

- A) Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry
B) Tribal Affairs Ministry ☒
C) Culture Ministry
D) Tourism Ministry



- ✓ Vice President M. Venkaiah inaugurated Aadi Mahotsav, a National Tribal Festival at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The event is scheduled to be held from Feb.1 to Feb.15, this year.
- ✓ Aadi Mahotsav is a national-level tribal festival and a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). The event showcases traditional art, handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country. It has been organised from 2017.

9. Pattachitra, which was making news recently, is a popular art form of which state?

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



- ✓ Pattachitra is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha. It is a traditional style of painting performed on a cloth-based scroll. This unique artform is known for its intricate artistic work and details about the mythological stories.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the name of a Orissa student in his Mann ki Baat radio programme, for practising the art form during COVID-19.
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10. Which Indian city is the venue of the Global Air show 'Aero India'?

- A) Cochin
- B) Chennai
- C) Bengaluru ☒
- D) Mumbai



- ✓ The 13th edition of Aero India, the Global Air show 'Aero India' is being organised at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru.
 - ✓ The exhibition is hosted by the Ministry of Defence's Defence Exhibition Organisation. This show enables the manufacturers and service providers from the Indian aviation industry meet buyers.
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