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# **FOURTH WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS**



## **FEBRUARY 2021**

**February 22-28**

1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Indian Sign Language Dictionary includes how many terms?

- A) 5,000  
B) 10,000 ☒  
C) 3,000  
D) 4,500



- ✓ Social Justice & Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot released the third edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary.  
✓ This edition has 10,000 terms of daily use and technical terms including academic, legal, medical terms. The second edition of the dictionary released in 2019 had 6,000 terms and the first edition released in 2018 had 3,000 terms.

2. Who has been conferred with the SKOCH Chief Minister of the Year Award?

- A) Edappadi K Palaniswamy  
B) Pinarayi Vijayan  
C) Mamta Banerjee  
D) Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy ☒



- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award. The award has been provided based on a year-long study of results of the projects being implemented by various state governments of the country. Over 123 projects were implemented in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

3. Who has been elected as the next Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- A) Ajay Mathur ☒  
B) Upendra Tripathy  
C) Ajay Kumar Bhalla  
D) Subash Chandra Khuntia



- ✓ India nominated Ajay Mathur was elected as the next Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). He succeeds Upendra Tripathy, who has serving as DG since 2017. The Director-General has a four-year term, which can also be renewed for an additional term.  
✓ Mathur is the chief of the New Delhi-based The Energy and Research Institute, at present.

4. Giant Leatherback turtle nests in which location in India?

- A) Goa  
B) Odisha  
C) Andaman & Nicobar ☒  
D) West Bengal



- ✓ Giant Leatherback turtle are the largest of the seven species of sea turtles. They are found in all oceans except the Arctic and the Antarctic.  
✓ In the Indian ocean, they nest at Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Government's proposal for tourism promotion and port development will threaten this species, which is accorded legal protection by listing in Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

5. Mandu festival is celebrated in which state?

- A) Gujarat  
B) Madhya Pradesh ☒  
C) Andhra Pradesh  
D) Odisha



- ✓ The three-day Mandu Festival began at Mandu, the historic town of Madhya Pradesh. The state also inaugurated Dino Adventure Park & Fossils Museum. During the Mandu Utsav, Handicrafts related to handmade art are displayed to encourage local artisans.  
✓ Dinosaur Park is the country's first modern fossil park to display 24 eggs and various fossils of dinosaurs.

6. Which Union Ministry is to organise an event named 'Mushaira', in which poets across the country recite their poems?

- A) Ministry of Education  
B) Ministry of Culture  
C) Ministry of Minority Affairs ☒  
D) Ministry of External Affairs



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs is to organise a 'Mushaira' event, in which renowned poets from across the country will recite their poems. The event is to be conducted on 2021 Feb.20, on the theme 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'.  
✓ 'Mushaira', which is regarded as a poetic symposium is part of the Culture of India and Pakistan. It aims to make younger generation aware of the country's art and culture

7. 'Pey Jal Survekshan' is the initiative of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Rural Development  
B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒  
C) Ministry of Jal Shakti  
D) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare



- ✓ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched the 'Pey Jal Survekshan' survey under the Jal Jeevan Mission - Urban.  
✓ This survey is conducted on a pilot basis in 10 cities- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur. The survey would assess distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies.

8. World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit was organised in which Indian city?

- A) Mumbai  
B) Varanasi  
C) New Delhi ☒  
D) Bengaluru



- ✓ The Joint Conference of the 11th World PetroCoal Congress and World Future Fuel Summit was organised in New Delhi.  
✓ Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the joint conference. He highlighted that the Public sector companies in the oil industry have invested Rs 34,000 crore to upgrade plants for producing BS-VI fuel.

9. Who won the 'Prani Mitra' award for 2021, by the Animal Welfare Board of India?

- A) Theodore Bhaskaran  
B) S Chinny Krishna ☒  
C) Gauri Maulekhi  
D) Anjali Gopala



- ✓ S. Chinny Krishna, the co-founder of Blue Cross of India, has been conferred with the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' award for 2021 by the Animal Welfare Board of India.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh presented the award to Mr. Krishna in New Delhi, for his lifetime service to animals. It is the country's highest award for animal welfare.

10. Which Union Ministry has unveiled the draft blue economy policy?

- A) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- B) Ministry of Earth Sciences ☒
- C) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D) Ministry of External Affairs



- ✓ The Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled the draft blue economy policy in the public domain, inviting suggestions and inputs from various stakeholders. The draft policy document highlights the strategy that can be adopted by the government to utilise the oceanic resources available in the country.
- ✓ It also has recognised seven thematic areas.

1. The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 was approved recently, after the proposal of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- B) Ministry of Women & Child Development ☒
- C) Ministry of Law
- D) Ministry of Social Justice



- ✓ The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a set of amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. This was the proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ✓ The amendments include empowering the District Magistrates (DM) and the additional DMs to monitor the functioning of agencies, which are implementing the act.

2. Which Union Ministry conducts all-India surveys including on migrant and domestic workers?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Skill Development
- C) Ministry of Labor & Employment ☒
- D) Ministry of Rural Development



- ✓ Union Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar is to launch software applications for five all India surveys, being conducted by the Labour Bureau.
- ✓ The Ministry will also release instruction manuals with questionnaire for five All India Surveys including All India Survey on Migrant workers, All India Survey on Domestic Workers, All India Survey on Employment Generated by Professionals, All India Survey on Employment Generated in Transport Sector, and All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey.

3. Which is the only Indian city to have been recognised as a 2020 Tree City of the World?

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



- ✓ The Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization have recognised Hyderabad as the 2020 Tree City of the World. This is the only city in India to have earned this honour, along with 51 cities globally. Haritha Haram is the tree plantation drive of the Telangana state, which made the city to grow and maintain urban forests.

4. Which country holds the presidency of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-26)?

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



- ✓ The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, also known as COP26, is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2021. The event is to be held under the presidency of the United Kingdom. British MP and President-designate of COP-26, Alok Sharma called on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

5. Kiran Bedi has been removed as the Lieutenant Governor of which UT?

- A) Puducherry ☒
- B) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- C) Lakshadweep
- D) Ladakh



- ✓ As per a communication issued by the President Ramnath Kovind, Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi was removed from her post. This step has been taken amid a political crisis in the Puducherry Union territory. The additional charge of the UT has been given to the Telangana Governor Tamlisai Soundhararajan.

6. Which multi-national company is to start its 1<sup>st</sup> manufacturing line in India, along with a subsidiary of Foxconn?

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



- ✓ Amazon has announced that it is set to begin manufacturing devices in India. This is the first Amazon manufacturing line in India. Amazon will begin manufacturing with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, in Chennai. Beginning later this year, the programme aims to manufacture several lakhs of 'Fire TV Stick' devices every year, generating additional jobs in Tamil Nadu.

7. What is the target year of the Jal Jeevan Mission, to provide tap water connection to every rural household?

- A) 2022
- B) 2023
- C) 2024 ☒
- D) 2030



- ✓ The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. It aims to provide tap water connection to every rural household by 2024. Recently, the scheme has reached a new milestone by providing 3.53 Crore rural household tap water connections. 35.24% of rural households receive potable water through taps, against only 17% in 2019.

8. Demeke Mekonnen, who arrived in New Delhi recently, was the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of which country?

- A) Nigeria
- B) Ethiopia ☒
- C) Chad
- D) Bolivia



- ✓ Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen Hassen arrived in New Delhi. He inaugurated the new Chancery and Residence at Ethiopian Embassy in New Delhi along with External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar.

9. Who succeeded Ghulam Nabi Azad as the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha?

- A) Mallikarjun Kharge ☒
- B) Anand Sharma
- C) Jairam Ramesh
- D) A K Antony



- ✓ Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah has granted recognition to Mallikarjun Kharge as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. The Indian National Congress Leader succeeds Ghulam Nabi Azad whose term has ended recently. Mallikarjun Kharge was a former Union minister and had been Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, earlier.

10. The Union Government approved the Production Linked Incentive scheme for how many sectors, as of February 2021?

- A) 10
- B) 11
- C) 12
- D) 13 ☒



- ✓ The Union Cabinet recently approved a Rs 12,195–crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products.
- ✓ The products include switches, routers, radio access network, wireless equipment and other internet of things (IoT) access devices. With this, the total number of sectors stand at 13, for which incentives of 4 to 6 percent would be provided by the Government.

1. Which is the first African country with which India signed a Trade Agreement?

- A) Mauritius ☒
- B) Madagascar
- C) South Africa
- D) Egypt



- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius. This is the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in Africa.
- ✓ The agreement aims to liberalise norms covering Rules of Origin, Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Telecom, Financial services and Customs Procedures among others.

2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is a scheme implemented under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Food Processing Industries ☒
- B) Ministry of Agriculture
- C) Ministry of Rural Development
- D) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying



- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is a flagship scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ The Union Food Processing Industries Ministry cleared 20 projects worth Rs 363.4 crore for two schemes under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana. The government will provide a grant-in-aid of Rs 102.91 crore for these projects.

3. Motera stadium, the world's biggest cricket stadium, is located in which city?

- A) Melbourne
- B) Ahmedabad ☒
- C) Sydney
- D) Adelaide



- ✓ The world's largest cricket stadium, Motera stadium was rebuilt and renovated. It is the venue for the third day-night India-England Test. The stadium has a capacity of 1,10,000. On account of COVID-19 pandemic, only 55,000 persons are allowed inside the stadium.

4. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and FICCI organised a CEO forum with which country?

- A) Japan
- B) United States of America
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Singapore ☒



- ✓ India-Singapore CEO Forum was recently organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and FICCI. The India-Singapore CEO Forum was launched in November 2018.
- ✓ Union Minister Piyush Goyal addressed the forum and expressed that both the countries can work together in areas such as e-commerce, fintech, smart manufacturing and healthcare.

5. India signed amended MoU for space cooperation with which country recently?

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



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Australian Space Agency signed an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding, for space cooperation with Australia.
- ✓ The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison last year.

6. Who won the Australian Open 2021 women's title recently?

- A) Naomi Osaka ☒
- B) Jennifer Brady
- C) Karolína Muchová
- D) Ashleigh Barty



- ✓ Naomi Osaka of Japan defeated Jennifer Brady and clinched the Australian Open 2021 women's title. With this victory, she claimed her 4th Grand Slam title in her career. The 23-year-old player became the 3rd player after Monica Seles and Roger Federer to win their first four major finals. She is presently ranked No.2 in tennis ratings.

7. What is "Helina" which is seen in news recently?

- A) Missile System ☒
- B) Anti-vessel Missile
- C) Unmanned Aircraft
- D) Military Tank



- ✓ The trials of Helina - Indian Army version of a Missile system was carried out recently from an Advanced Light Helicopter. Additionally, Dhruvastra - the Indian Air Force Version of the same missile system was also tested. These systems were designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

8. Which country is set to register Himalayan pink salt as Geographical Indications (GI)?

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



- ✓ Pakistan has decided to register Himalayan pink salt as Geographical Indications (GI), to curb the unauthorised use of the product by other countries. The rare salt is extracted from the Salt Range in Punjab which extends along the mountains of Pakistan and the north of the Jhelum River. Pakistan is fighting a case in the European Union against India's move to register Basmati rice as GI.

9. Which country hosts the defence exercises 'NAVDEX 21' and 'IDEX 21', which are to be participated by the Indian Navy?

- A) France
- B) New Zealand
- C) United Arab Emirates ☒
- D) Canada



- ✓ Annual naval defence and maritime security exhibitions 'NAVDEX' and 'IDEX' are to be scheduled in the United Arab Emirates.

- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Pralaya arrived at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to participate in the exercises from February 20 to Feb.25. 'INS Pralaya' is the second ship of the indigenously built Prabal Class Missile Vessels.

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10. What is Mission Indradhanush 3.0, which was seen in the news recently?

A) Warfare Exercise

B) Vaccination Campaign for Children & Pregnant Women ☒

C) Agricultural Scheme

D) Pure form of energy Project



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Mission Indradhanush 3.0.
- ✓ It aims to vaccinate children and pregnant women who have missed their regular vaccination due to COVID-19 and national lockdown. This campaign will have two rounds of vaccination. Women and children of migration areas and hard to reach terrains would be targeted first.



1. Recently, Scientists have discovered the oldest DNA on record from the fossil of which ancient animal?

- A) Dinosaur
- B) Whale
- C) Mammoth ☒
- D) Tiger



- ✓ Recently, Scientists have recovered the oldest DNA on record. It has been extracted from teeth of mammoths found in north-eastern Siberia that existed to 1.2 million years. This is seen as a major breakthrough in understanding the evolution of species and determine the characteristics of extinct species.

2. The Dhubri Phulbari bridge which was making news recently, is to be built over which river?

- A) Brahmaputra ☒
- B) Kopili
- C) Teesta
- D) Lohit



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone for Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge over Brahmaputra river. It is a 19 km long 4-lane bridge to be laid from Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya.
- ✓ The bridge will improve transport connectivity in the Barak valley. It also reduces the distance between the four North eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Assam.

3. Who is the only Indian activist to feature in the 2021 TIME100 Next, TIME magazine's annual list of 100 emerging leaders?

- A) Chandrashekhkar Azad ☒
- B) Kailash Satyarthi
- C) Disha Ravi
- D) Safoora Zargar



- ✓ The TIME magazine's annual list of 100 "emerging leaders who are shaping the future", named the "2021 TIME100 Next", was released recently. Chandrashekhkar Azad, the leader of the Bhim army, which runs school to educate Dalit children and works to curb caste-based violence, featured in the list.
- ✓ Other 5 Indian origin personalities are UK finance minister Rishi Sunak, Twitter lawyer Vijaya Gadde, Instacart founder and CEO Apoorva Mehta, ED of nonprofit Get Us PPE Shikha Gupta and founder of nonprofit Upsolve Rohan Pavuluri.

4. Which organisation delivered the 100<sup>th</sup> K9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzer to the Indian Army?

- A) DRDO
- B) OFB
- C) L&T ☒
- D) HAL



- ✓ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has built and delivered the 100th K9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzer. This is the last howitzer of the contract awarded in 2017. This system has been built with technology transfer from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense.
- ✓ The howitzer was flagged off at the Indian Army's armoured system complex at Hazira in Gujarat.

5. 'QUAD' is a group of four countries: India, United States, Japan and .....?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Australia ☒
- C) Canada
- D) France

QUAD

- ✓ External Affairs S. Jaishankar participated in a virtual ministerial meeting of the QUAD, which is a group of four countries: India, United States, Japan and Australia. The QUAD association was revived in the year 2017, to tackle the aggression of China and enhance the strength of the Indo-Pacific regions. President Joe Biden has reiterated the US commitment for the same issue.

6. Jiling-Langlota Iron ore Block and Guali Iron ore Block are situated in which Indian state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Odisha ☒
- D) Chhattisgarh



- ✓ Union Minister for Mines, Pralhad Joshi and Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik jointly inaugurated the production in two new iron ore mines of Odisha namely Jiling-Langlota Iron ore Block and Guali Iron ore Block.
- ✓ These mines will generate approximately Rs 5000 crores of annual revenue for Odisha and a wide variety of employment opportunities.

7. Which country chaired the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting on the legal aspects of COVID-19?

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



- ✓ The Commonwealth High-Level Law Ministers Meeting on the Legal aspects of COVID-19 was chaired by the Law Minister of Sri Lanka. It was organised in virtual mode by Commonwealth Secretariat. Anoop Kumar Mendiratta, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice represented India on behalf of Union Minister for Law & Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- ✓ He said that India used video-conferencing to dispose the cases in a timely fashion during the pandemic.

8. What is the name of the fund set up by Government of India to complete stalled housing projects?

- A) SWAYAM
- B) SVAGRUH
- C) SWAMIH ☒
- D) AHAM



- ✓ Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects' (SWAMIH) fund was set up by the Government of India with a corpus of Rs.250 billion.
- ✓ The fund was established to complete stalled housing projects in India. SBICAP Ventures Ltd is the fund manager. It is proposed to handover 16 projects in the current financial year.



9. 'Kala Namak Rice' or Buddha Rice, which was making news recently, is associated with which Indian state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is set to export a consignment of 20 tonnes of Buddha Rice, also known as "Kala Namak" Rice to Singapore. This variety of rice is one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice in India.
- ✓ This will boost the farm exports of the states with more focus on the Buddhist countries. The state Government has declared it as the 'One District One Product' of Siddharth Nagar district.

10. Which Indian state hosts the famous 'Khajuraho Dance Festival'?

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



- ✓ Khajuraho city in the state of Madhya Pradesh has several ancient Hindu and Jain temples. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ✓ The six-day Khajuraho Dance Festival began on the temple premises after 44 years. ASI had cancelled the permission as there were reports of destruction of monuments and defacement of idols. For the last 44 years, the festival was organised in open grounds.

1. Which is the world's first country to ban all Vulture-Toxic Drugs known so far?

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



- ✓ Bangladesh has recently banned the painkiller ketoprofen used widely to treat the cattle. With this it became the first country to ban all the drugs known so far to be toxic to vultures. Over 10 years ago, the country banned the veterinary drug diclofenac.

2. Narayanasamy, who recently resigned, was the Chief Minister of which state/Union territory?

- A) Puducherry ☒  
B) Andhra Pradesh  
C) Karnataka  
D) Ladakh



- ✓ After the Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy lost the confidence vote on the Legislative Assembly, the UT's Congress-DMK government collapsed. The Chief Minister tendered his resignation to the Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, with only around four months remaining for completion of its tenure.

3. Karlapat wildlife sanctuary, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ In the month of February, it was reported that six female elephants and a calf were found dead in the Karlapat wildlife sanctuary, Odisha. Recently, a three-member Central team found the decomposed carcass of an elephant calf near the wildlife sanctuary, making the number of elephant deaths in the sanctuary seven. It is said that the spread of haemorrhagic septicemia (HS) is the reason for the elephant deaths.

4. The 'Yudh Abhyas' is a joint military exercise between India and which country?

- A) Japan  
B) United States of America ☒  
C) Sri Lanka  
D) France



- ✓ This year (2021), the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of India-USA joint military exercise - Yudh Abhyas held between February 8 and 21. This year's exercise was conducted at Indio-Pakistan border. The exercise aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries and will have a special focus on counter-terrorism operations.

5. Which state assembly played the National Anthem after almost 60 years?

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



- ✓ The national anthem was played inside the Nagaland state assembly for the first time, almost 60 years after Nagaland attained statehood. Nagaland was accorded statehood on December 1, 1963, and it was the 16<sup>th</sup> state of the Indian Union.
- ✓ Though playing the national anthem is not mandatory in state assemblies, the practice is usually followed in many states.

6. "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society" is the theme of which special day, celebrated on February 21?

- A) International Languages Day  
B) International Press Day  
C) International Mother Language Day ☒  
D) International Day of Literature

தமிழ்

- ✓ International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on February 21. The theme for this year is "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society".
- ✓ In 1999, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had declared 21<sup>st</sup> Feb as International Mother Language Day. It was on the same date, Bangladesh fought for their Bangla language, which transformed into a language-based national movement.

7. Which country reported the world's first case of bird flu strain H5N8 being transmitted to human beings?

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



- ✓ Russia has recently registered the first case of a strain of bird flu virus named A(H5N8) being passed to humans from birds. The country has reported the matter to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ✓ Recently, the outbreaks of the H5N8 strain were reported in several countries like Russia, Europe, China, the Middle East and North Africa, in recent months but only in poultry so far.

8. In which state / UT, Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy is to be set up?

- A) Tamil Nadu  
B) Andaman & Nicobar Islands ☒  
C) Odisha  
D) Lakshadweep



- ✓ A Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy would be set up in Port Blair of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Commander in Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command - Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande laid the foundation stone for the Damage Control Simulator. It would be established by Goa Shipyard Ltd.

9. When is the 'Central Excise Day' celebrated every year in India?

- A) February 22  
B) February 23  
C) February 24 ☒  
D) February 25



- ✓ The 'Central Excise Day' is celebrated every year in India on February 24. The day is celebrated to encourage the employees of excise department to perform their duties more efficiently.

- ✓ Various seminars, workshops and cultural events are organized all over the country, to mark the event. It is also observed to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.

10. Which Asian country has recently appointed a Minister for Loneliness?

- A) Bhutan
- B) Pakistan
- C) Japan ☒
- D) China



- ✓ The Government of Japan headed by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has recently appointed Tetsushi Sakamoto as the country's first ever Minister for Loneliness. This decision has been made to tackle the rise in suicide rates due to COVID-19 crisis. Also, the minister is responsible for managing the fall in birth rate in the country.
-

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought which bank covered under Article 371F, under its regulatory purview?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) State Bank of Sikkim ☒
- D) Indian Bank



- ✓ State Bank of Sikkim was established in 1968, five years before Sikkim acceded to the Indian Union. The state-owned bank provides treasury operations for the state government of Sikkim. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview. Though the bank will be regulated on par with other banks, the bank's ownership structure will not change.

2. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram celebrate their Statehood day on which date?

- A) February 15
- B) February 20 ☒
- C) February 25
- D) February 28



- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram received their statehood on February 20, 1987, following the 53<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Indian Constitution in 1986. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 1972, the North East Frontier Agency was renamed as Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh and on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1987 statehood was granted to Arunachal Pradesh. Mizoram was also a Union Territory from 1972 to 1987 before achieving statehood.

3. Which is the most trafficked mammal in the world?

- A) Blue Whale
- B) Pangolin ☒
- C) Bat
- D) Platypus



- ✓ Pangolins are the most trafficked mammals in the world. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified all eight species of pangolin as "threatened".
- ✓ The World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of February, to raise awareness on their importance. This year, it has been celebrated on Feb.20. Pangolins are considered as the pest controllers in the ecosystem.

4. "Atal Paryavaran Bhavan" has been inaugurated in which UT?

- A) Puducherry
- B) Ladakh
- C) Lakshadweep ☒
- D) Delhi



- ✓ The Union Minister for Forests, Environment, Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated Lakshadweep forest department's headquarters as 'Atal Paryavaran Bhavan'. He stated that as per NITI Aayog's scheme for three islands of India, many permits have been issued for different tourism projects in Lakshadweep that are aimed at growth and increase employment opportunities in the island.

5. Who is the new Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)?

- A) Porika Naik Balram
- B) Vijay Sampla ☒
- C) Arun Halder
- D) Anju Bala



- ✓ Vijay Sampla, former Union Minister recently took charge as the chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), after being appointed by the President of India. He served as the Union Minister of state for Social Justice and Empowerment from 2014 to 2019. Ram Shankar Katheria was earlier the head of NCSC.

6. 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 varshon ki Swarnim Gatha' which was released recently, is a book narrating which armed force?

- A) CRPF ☒
- B) ITBP
- C) Indian Coast Guard
- D) SSB



- ✓ Home Minister Amit Shah released a book narrating the history of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ✓ Titled as the 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha', it includes thorough-researched articles on the journey, challenges and successes of CRPF, since 1939, the year of its raising.

7. Which state has passed an ordinance giving co-ownership rights to women in husband's ancestral property?

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



- ✓ In a landmark move, the state government of Uttarakhand has passed an ordinance, which gives co-ownership rights to women in their husband's ancestral property. This ordinance amends the Uttarakhand Zamindari abolition and land reforms act.

8. Which country hosted the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave in February 2021?

- A) India ☒
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Indonesia



- ✓ India hosted the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave on February 4, 2021 on the side-lines of Aero India 2021 event. The broad theme of the conclave is 'Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean'. During the conclave, India announced that it is ready to supply missile systems, LCA and other weapons systems to the countries in Indian Ocean Region.

9. Which is the first country to have captured and released the audio from Mars?

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) United States of America ☒
- C) United Kingdom
- D) India



- ✓ The US space agency NASA released the first audio from Mars, captured by the Perseverance rover. The audio sounded like a faint crackling recording of a gust of wind in the red planet.

- ✓ Though a microphone did not work during the rover's descent to the surface, it could capture audio after it landed on Mars. NASA also released the first video of the landing of the rover.

10. What is the theme of the 'National Science Day' 2021?

A) Children in Science

B) Youth in Science



C) Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work ☒

D) Artificial Intelligence in Science

- ✓ National Science Day is celebrated across the country on February 28 each year, to commemorate the discovery of the great Indian physician C V Raman – the Raman's effect. Raman had received the Nobel Prize for the effect, which he discovered in 1928.
  - ✓ This year (2021), the theme of the National Science Day is, "Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work".
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