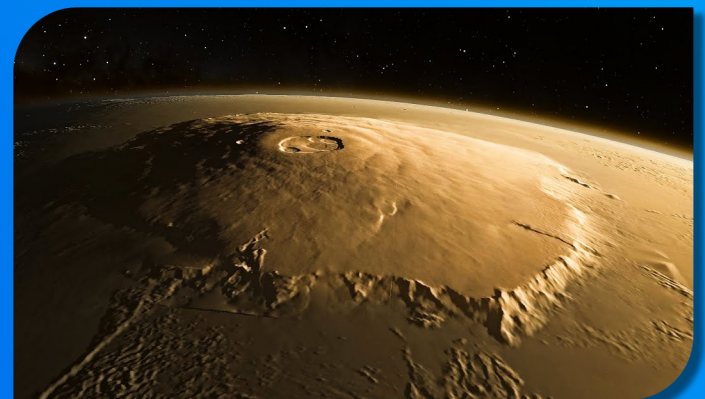


FEBRUARY 2021

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CURRENT AFFAIRS



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'?

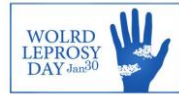
- A) United Nations ☒
B) International Monetary Fund
C) Asian Infrastructure & Investment Bank
D) BRICS Bank



- ✓ 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 ageing 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?

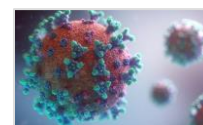
- A) UNEP ☒
- B) UNESCO
- C) World Bank
- D) UNFCCC



- ✓ 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?

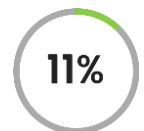
- A) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- B) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs ☒
- D) Ministry of Finance



- ✓ 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?

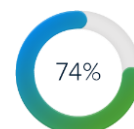
- A) 9.5% ☒
- B) 7.0%
- C) 4.0%
- D) 2.0%

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?

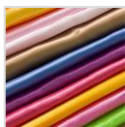
- A) Pakistan
- B) India ☒
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Russia



- ✓ 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?

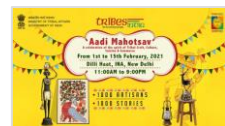
- A) Agriculture
B) Textile ☒
C) MSME
D) Banking



- ✓ 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.
-

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.
-

1. What is the theme of the International Day of Human Fraternity 2021?

- A) A Pathway to the Future ☒
- B) Let's work together
- C) Let's work for the Future
- D) A Pathway to the Fraternity



- ✓ The International Day of Human Fraternity is observed every year by the United Nations on February 4. This year the theme is: A Pathway to the Future. In the year 2019, on the same day, the document entitled "Human fraternity for world peace and living together" was signed in 2019.

2. Indian-American Bhavya Lal has been appointed as the acting chief of staff of which organisation?

- A) NASA ☒
- B) SpaceX
- C) Blue Sky
- D) JAXA



- ✓ Indian-American Bhavya Lal has been appointed as the acting chief of staff of the US space agency, NASA. She was earlier serving as a member of the research staff at the Institute for Defence Analyses-Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI). She had served in several important positions related to space sector.

3. Who is the author of the book titled 'The Little Book of Encouragement'?

- A) Sachin Tendulkar
- B) Dalai Lama ☒
- C) Malala Yousafzai
- D) P V Sindu



- ✓ 'The Little Book of Encouragement' is a book authored by the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama recently. The book includes quotes and words of wisdom to the people, to face the realities of the world posed by the pandemic. It also discusses how to combat extremism, polarity and climate change and his views on Tibet in his new book.

4. Which word is selected as the Oxford Hindi word of 2020?

- A) Aatmanirbharta ☒
- B) Nari Shakti
- C) Samvidhaan
- D) Aadhar



- ✓ The Oxford group has selected 'Aatmanirbharta' as the Oxford Hindi word of 2020. In Hindi language, it means self-reliance. Previous Hindi words of the year selected by Oxford are 'Aadhar' (2017), 'Nari Shakti' (2018) and 'Samvidhaan' (2019).

- ✓ Following the prime minister's address, there was a significant increase in the usage of 'aatmanirbharta' following the Prime minister's address.

5. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India?

- A) Siddhartha Mohanty ☒
- B) T C Suseel Kumar
- C) Vipin Anand
- D) Mukesh Gupta



- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as the new Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.

- ✓ He is currently serving as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of LIC Housing Finance. Siddhartha Mohanty has replaced TC Suseel Kumar, who retired on January 31, 2021. LIC has four Managing Directors and one Chairman.

6. India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management has been set up in which Indian city?

- A) Cochin
- B) Chennai ☒
- C) Visakhapatnam
- D) Guwahati



- ✓ India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management has been set up in Chennai. It aims to strengthen research for conservation and management of the wetlands. This has been set up as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai. The Centre would also serve as a knowledge hub and facilitate exchanges between state wetland authorities.

7. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an international non-governmental organisation based in which country?

- A) Italy
- B) India ☒
- C) United States
- D) France



- ✓ The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative is an independent and international non-governmental organisation which works towards the realisation of human rights in the Commonwealth countries.
- ✓ The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative has recently issued a statement calling for the withdrawal of sedition cases file against journalists in India. It also sought the repealing of sedition and criminal defamation laws.

8. What is the theme of the 'World Wetlands Day 2021'?

- A) Wetlands for Us
- B) Wetlands and Water ☒
- C) Wetlands and COVID-19
- D) Save Wetlands



- ✓ World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2nd February to create awareness on the importance of wetlands and its role played in the planet. This year, the theme of the World Wetlands Day is 'Wetlands and Water'. This year's theme highlights the importance of wetlands as a source of freshwater.

9. Defence Ministry has signed a deal to procure Tejas Light Combat Aircraft from which organisation?

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



- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently inaugurated a new plant at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru. It aims to double the production of the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, India's indigenous fighter jet. The Defence Ministry also signed a Rs 48000 crore deal to procure 83 Tejas LCA from HAL. This is said to be the biggest indigenous defence procurement.

10. In which state, the Kailveli Lake is located?

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



- ✓ The Kailveli Lake is a coastal lake and a wet land, situated in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The lake is near the Bay of Bengal and is the second-largest brackish water lake in Southern India after the lake Pulicat. The district administration has recently issued the 1st declaration under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to declare the wetlands as a bird sanctuary.

1. Which Union Ministry has launched a unified portal for 'Gobardhan' scheme?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Power
- C) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒
- D) Ministry of Agriculture



- ✓ The Union Jal Shakti Ministry has recently launched a unified portal on the 'Gobardhan' scheme. The portal aims to monitor the progress made under the scheme. The 'Gobardhan' scheme was launched by the Government of India to manage cattle and biodegradable waste and also help enhance farmers' income. It is being implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen-Phase 2.

2. 'Pragyan Bharati' and 'Bhasha Gourab' are the recent initiatives of which Indian state?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Assam ☒
- C) Telangana
- D) Odisha



- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal recently launched two schemes named 'Pragyan Bharati' and 'Bhasha Gourab'.
- ✓ Under Pragyan Bharati scheme, funds are provided to college students for purchasing text books while under the Bhasha Gourab scheme, the state government provides financial assistance to 21 Sahitya Sabhas (literary bodies).

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

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



- ✓ 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.

4. What is the classification of Fishing Cat, as per IUCN Red list?

- A) Least Concern
- B) Endangered
- C) Vulnerable ☒
- D) Extinct



- ✓ Fishing Cat is a special cat species that is found in wetland and mangrove ecosystems.
- ✓ The cat species is classified as 'Vulnerable' as per IUCN Red list. A team named Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance has been formed that comprise of conservationists, researchers and enthusiasts across the world working to conserve and protect Fishing Cat species.

5. Which technology entrepreneur has been appointed to the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)?

- A) Rajni Bector
- B) Rattan Lal
- C) Sridhar Vembu ☒
- D) Ali Manikfan



- ✓ The founder of the Indian multinational Software company Zoho, Sridhar Vembu has been appointed to the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).
- ✓ The board is led by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Other new members are former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, academic member Anshuman Tripathy and former ambassador Arun K Singh.

6. Praveen Sinha has been appointed as the Acting Chief of which Indian organisation?

- A) Intelligence Bureau
- B) Central Vigilance Commission
- C) Central Bureau of Investigation ☒
- D) Election Commission of India



- ✓ The Additional Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Praveen Sinha has been appointed as the acting chief of CBI.
- ✓ After Rishi Kumar Shukla who retired recently, the acting Chief has been appointed till a decision on a New Director is taken. This is the third time in last five years that an interim chief will head CBI.

7. India's first thunderstorm research testbed is to be set up in which state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Odisha ☒
- C) West Bengal
- D) Maharashtra



- ✓ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that the country's first thunderstorm research testbed is to be set up in Balasore, Odisha.
- ✓ The testbed will be established in a collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, IMD, DRDO and ISRO. It aims to reduce human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.

8. Which global digital payment company has announced to shut down its payment operations in India?

- A) PayPal ☒
- B) Capital One
- C) American Express
- D) AeroPay



- ✓ American digital payments major, PayPal Inc. announced that it will shut down its payment operations in the country.
- ✓ PayPal, which was offering its payment gateway to Indian brands and online merchants, will shut down its domestic payment services in India, from April 1. It was also providing international remittance services for small and medium enterprises.

9. 'KAPILA' programme, which was making news recently, is associated with which sector?

- A) Science
- B) Politics
- C) Business
- D) Intellectual Property Rights ☒



- ✓ In October 2020, the Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually launched the 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.
- ✓ Under the programme students of higher educational institutions will get information about the system of application process for

patenting their invention. It aims to create awareness about the Intellectual Property Rights.

10. India recently participated in the first meeting of Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy, with which country?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Bahrain ☒
- C) France
- D) Japan



- ✓ The first meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain was held recently in virtual format.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Bahrain in July 2018, for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. The meeting focussed on enhanced cooperation in the field of solar, wind and clean hydrogen.

1. 'National Safety Council' was set up by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B) Ministry of Labor ☒
- E) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D) Ministry of Heavy Industries



- ✓ National Safety Council (NSC) was set up by the Ministry of Labour in 1966 as a not-for-profit body on Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) at the national level. As per a press statement by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, S.N. Subrahmanyam, CEO and Managing Director of L&T Ltd, has been recently appointed as Chairman of the National Safety Council, for a period of three years.

2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, which crossed 1.75 crore beneficiaries, is a scheme under which Union Ministry?

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



- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a scheme under Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in the year 2016.
- ✓ Under this scheme, pregnant women and lactating mothers receive Rs 5,000 on the birth of their first child in three instalments. The Ministry recently announced that the scheme has crossed over 1.75 crore beneficiary women till 2020.

3. What is the capital city of Barbados, which recently received COVID-19 vaccines from India?

- A) Bridgetown ☒
- B) Churchtown
- C) Oistins
- D) Bathsheba



- ✓ Barbados is an island country located in the Caribbean region of North America. It is an independent British Commonwealth nation with Bridgetown as its capital.
- ✓ Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has thanked the Indian government for donation of COVID-19 vaccine doses. The country has a population of over 2.87 lakhs with 1641 coronavirus cases.

4. As per the third round of the Sero survey by ICMR, how many Indians out of every five were infected by the coronavirus?

- A) 0.5
- B) 1
- C) 2
- D) 5 ☒



- ✓ As per the third round of the serological survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) finds that nearly one in five Indians were infected by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.
- ✓ This nation-wide survey found the affected cases till December 2020. A serological test detects whether a person has antibodies to the Sars-Cov-2, which indicates the occurrence of past infection.

5. India held its first High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment with which association?

- A) EU ☒
- B) BRICS
- C) ASEAN
- D) BIMSTEC



- ✓ India held its first High Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment with the European Union. The dialogue was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.
- ✓ During the 15th India-EU Leader's Summit held in July 2020, the leaders from both the sides committed to establish this dialogue. It aims to provide ministerial-level guidance for promoting the bilateral trade and investment relations.

6. Srivilliputhur – Megamalai Tiger Reserve, which was recently approved, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ The Central government has given its approval for the creation of Srivilliputhur – Megamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This is the fifth tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu and will include the Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries. The State government will notify its fifth tiger reserve, after the notification from the Centre.

7. Which Union Ministry is to set up 'Investment Clearance Cell' single window clearance system?

- A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B) Ministry of Labor
- C) Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒
- D) Ministry of Heavy Industries



- ✓ As the Union Commerce and Industry, the Central Government is working on establishing a Single Window System for clearances and approvals of industries in the country.
- ✓ A centralized Investment Clearance Cell was proposed last year, to prevent the investors from visiting various IT platforms and offices to obtain clearances. This one-stop digital platform will enable them receive all central and state clearances and approvals required.

8. Who is the first cricket player to score a double century in the 100th test match?

- A) Joe Root ☒
- B) Virat Kohli
- C) M S Dhoni
- D) Ben Stokes



- ✓ The England Cricket Team Captain Joe Root has become the first cricket player to score a double century in the 100th test match. Joe Root achieved this feat during the test match against India at Chennai. He scored fifth double century of his career.

9. *Brookesia nana*, which was making news recently, is one of the smallest species of which family?

- A) Chameleon ☒
- B) Frog
- C) Lizard
- D) Turtles



- ✓ A German-Madagascan expedition team has discovered a chameleon subspecies in Madagascar, which might be the smallest reptile on earth. Named as *Brookesia nana*, the male reptile has a body of only 13.5 mm and top to tail length of 22mm.

- ✓ As per the Scientists, the species native to northern Madagascar rainforest might be threatened by extinction.
-

10. Which state has launched a project called 'Thozhi'?

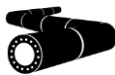
- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
B) Kerala
C) Telangana
D) Karnataka



- ✓ A unit called 'Thozhi' has been set up at the Chennai Police to provide direct and psychological assistance and counseling to children, women and their families affected by sexual offenses in their place of residence.
-

1. Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline, a part of Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project, is located in which state?

- A) Assam
- B) West Bengal ☒
- E) Odisha
- D) Bihar



- ✓ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi dedicated the 348 km Dobhi – Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section. The LPG import terminal is a part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.
- ✓ He also laid the foundation stone of the 2nd Catalytic-Isodewaxing unit of Haldia Refinery in the state.

2. 'Asom Mala' programme has been launched in which Indian state?

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



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a programme in the state of Assam named 'Asom Mala'. It aims to improve state highways and major district roads.
- ✓ The programme also aims to provide quality inter-linking roads between the National Highways and the Rural roads. Another objective of the scheme is to promote 'Multi-modal transportation' in the state.

3. India's first geothermal field development project is to be established in which state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Ladakh ☒
- C) Punjab
- D) Rajasthan



- ✓ India's first-ever geothermal field development project is to be established in Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✓ A tripartite agreement regarding the project has been signed between Union Territory Administration Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

4. Which Indian documentary film won the audience award at the Sundance Film Festival 2021?

- A) Writing with Fire ☒
- B) The Pink Cloud
- C) I was a simple Man
- D) The Changing same



- ✓ An Indian documentary film titled "Writing with Fire", won the audience award in the World Cinema Documentary category at the Sundance Film Festival 2021. The film narrates the rise of India's only newspaper run by Dalit women, the 'Khabar Lahariya'.
- ✓ The festival is presented by US-based Sundance non-profit institute, which has been recognising independent artists across the world.

5. Education Ministry is to rename Samagra Shiksha Scheme-funded residential schools and hostels after whose name?

- A) Mahatma Gandhi
- B) 'Netaji' Subash Chandra Bose ☒
- C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D) B R Ambedkar



- ✓ The Education Ministry is set to name the 383 residential schools and 680 hostels funded under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme as 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools'.
- ✓ Under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to States and UTs to open and run residential schools, to promote schooling in less populated areas and tribal areas.

6. 'Business Confidence Index', which was making news recently, is released by which institution?

- A) RBI
- B) NABARD
- C) NCAER ☒
- D) SEBI



- ✓ The Business Confidence Index (BCI) is developed by the Delhi-based economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). As per the recent edition, the index increased 29.6 percent between second and third quarter of the current financial year. The survey findings are based on the responses from 500 companies.

7. "Al-Amal", which was making news recently, is the unmanned space probe of the country?

- A) Israel
- B) UAE ☒
- C) Qatar
- D) Oman



- ✓ "Al-Amal" ('Hope' in Arabic), is the unmanned space probe of the United Arab Emirates. The ambitious space programme is the first interplanetary mission of the Arab countries.
- ✓ It is expected to reach the orbit of Mars and study on its weather. UAE launched the probe from Japan last year. It also has plans to launch an unmanned rover to the moon by 2024.

8. Which country clinched the ATP Cup tennis tournament?

- A) Italy
- B) Russia ☒
- C) Switzerland
- D) France



- ✓ Russia defeated Italy to clinch the ATP Cup tennis tournament, held recently in Melbourne. Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev won their singles matches in straight sets. With this win, the two Russian players head into the Australian Open.
- ✓ Ashleigh Barty also enters the Australian Open by winning her ninth WTA singles title by winning the Yarra Valley Classic final.

9. Tapovan hydel project, which was making news recently, is located in which Indian state?

- A) Uttarakhand ☒
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Nagaland



- ✓ After the Glacier burst occurred in the state of Uttarakhand, over hundred persons are missing in the massive flash flood.
- ✓ The flood washed away two hydel power projects namely the Rishiganga small hydro project and National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) Tapovan project. The projects are located on the banks of the Dhauliganga river in the state.

10. When is the World Pulses Day observed, across the world?

- A) February 8
- B) February 9
- C) February 10 ☒
- D) February 11



- ✓ In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly announced 10 February as the World Pulses Day. This was followed by the celebration of the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP), across the world, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization.
 - ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the nutritional values of pulses and ways to tackle malnutrition through pulses. In this year 2021, World Pulses Day was celebrated on social media with the hash tag #Love_Pulses.
-

1. When is the 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science' observed?

- A) February 10
- B) February 11 ☒
- E) February 12
- D) February 13



- ✓ International Day of Women and Girls in Science' is observed every year on February 11, across the world. This year, the day will mark the sixth International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly. United Nations leads the observance of the day. This year, the theme is 'Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19'.

2. Which Indian airport has bagged the World's 'Voice of the Customer' award from the Airports Council International?

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



- ✓ The Bangalore International Airport Limited's (BIAL) has won the World's 'Voice of the Customer' award from the Airports Council International. The award recognises airports which continued to prioritise the customers during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. As per the council, the airport showed significant efforts in collecting passenger feedback.

3. 'World Sustainable Development Summit' is organised by which institution?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) UNDP
- C) The Energy and Resources Institute ☒
- D) World Economic Forum



- ✓ 'World Sustainable Development Summit' is the flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI). The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Earth Sciences are key partners of the summit.
- ✓ TERI is a New Delhi-based non-profit research institute. The 20th edition of the summit is to be inaugurated by the PM. The theme of the summit is 'Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All'.

4. Who won the 'Business reformer of the year award' at the Economic Times Awards?

- A) Urjit Patel
- B) Raghuram Rajan
- C) Shaktikanta Das ☒
- D) Amitabh Kant



- ✓ In this year's Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das won the Business reformer of the year. The jury was led by the Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai.
- ✓ Lifetime Achievement Award was won by former HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri. Entrepreneur of the year award was won by Adar Poonawalla.

5. Which cricket player recently became the 6th Indian to take 300 wickets in test cricket?

- A) Jasprit Bumrah
- B) Ishant Sharma ☒
- C) Ravichandran Ashwin
- D) Bhuvaneshwar Kumar



- ✓ India fast bowler Ishant Sharma became the sixth Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in Test cricket. He achieved this feat in his 98th test against England at Chennai. Previously, Anil Kumble, Kapil Dev, Ravichandran Ashwin, Harbhajan Singh and Zaheer Khan are the other Indian bowlers who had taken over 300 wickets in tests.

6. 'The India Toy Fair' was launched in which year?

- A) 2018
- B) 2019
- C) 2020
- D) 2021 ☒



- ✓ The Government of India has launched the 'The India Toy Fair 2021', to promote domestic manufacturing of toys. It is to be held as a digitally accessible exhibition and platform to connect various stakeholders of Toy industry. The programme is scheduled from 27th February to 2nd March 2021. Webinars by State Governments, Knowledge sessions and Competitions are being planned.

7. Which organisation released the "India Energy Outlook 2021"?

- A) International Energy Agency ☒
- B) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
- C) International Energy Forum
- D) Bureau of Energy Efficiency



- ✓ In accordance with the International Energy Agency's (IEA) "India Energy Outlook 2021", India will surpass European Union as the world's third-biggest energy consumer by 2030.
- ✓ In this regard, India energy demand growth share will be maximum at 25% in the next two decades. India needs to spend an additional \$1.4 trillion, to adopt clean energy technologies over the next 20 years.

8. What is the theme of RBI's Financial Literacy Week - 2021 that was celebrated from February 8 to 12?

- A) KYC, Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redressal and Going Digital
- B) Consumer Protection
- C) Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions ☒
- D) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India observes Financial Literacy Week (FLW) annually since 2016, to promote and spread awareness about financial education messages. 'FLW 2021' is being celebrated from Feb.8 to 12.
- ✓ Theme of FLW - 2021 is, "Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions". The strategy recommends the '5C' approach to disseminate financial education in the country. 5C - Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.

9. What is the theme of National Horticulture Fair - 2021?

- A) Horticulture for Start-up and Stand-up India ☒
- B) Making Farming an Enterprise
- C) Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life
- D) Horticulture for Promotion of Rural Entrepreneurship



- ✓ A 5-day National horticulture fair is to be held here by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore from Feb.8. The national fair would be organised under the theme "Horticulture for Startup & Standup India".

10. Who authored the book, 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life'?

- A) Pratibha Patil
- B) Ram Nath Kovind
- C) L K Advani
- D) Hamid Ansari ☒



- ✓ Former Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari has authored a book titled 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life'. It describes the unplanned happenings that took place in the life of Mohammad Hamid Ansari. Mohammad Hamid Ansari has twice served as the Vice President of India.
-

1. The foreign grants received by NGOs in the country are regulated by which act?

- A) Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) ☒
- B) Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)
- C) Anti-money Laundering Act
- D) Non-Government Organisations Act



- ✓ Foreign grants received by NGOs are regulated by the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 or FCRA.
- ✓ After registering with the Home Affairs Ministry, the NGO would be provided a unique FCRA registration number, to be renewed every five years. As per the recent Government data, the FCRA licences of over 20,600 NGOs were cancelled in the last 10 years, on violation of the provisions of FCRA act.

2. As per the recent CAG data, what is the profit earned by 247 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) during 2018-19?

- A) Rs 56,000 crore
- B) Rs 98,000 crore
- C) Rs 1.78 lakh crore ☒
- D) Rs 3.20 lakh crore



- ✓ The Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) announced that 247 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) earned profit of Rs 1.78 lakh crore during 2018-19. Out of the total profit, 73% was contributed by 63 companies in the fields of petroleum, coal and lignite and power.
- ✓ It also revealed that 189 CPSEs had suffered losses of Rs 1.4 lakh crore as on March 31, 2019.

3. Where is the headquarters of the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals -cals Ltd located?

- A) Hyderabad
- B) Jaipur
- C) Gurgaon ☒
- D) Bengaluru



- ✓ Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) is a state-owned pharmaceutical, bulk drug manufacturing and drug discovery company headquartered in Gurgaon. Recently, it was announced that IDPL and Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (RDPL) would be closed.
- ✓ The Government is to disinvest Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd (HAL), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (BCPL), and Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceutical Ltd (KAPL).

4. Which top populous country recorded over 15% dip in registered births year on year?

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



- ✓ The number of registered births in 2020 was 10.04 million, which is over 15 percent down from the number of registered births of the last year.
- ✓ As per the data, this is the fourth consecutive year to register a decline in birth rate. China launched the one-child policy in the late 1970s to slow rapid population growth. It was reversed only in the year 2016.

5. Which body has set up a sub-group for preparing the 'National Action Plan for Migrant Workers'?

- A) NITI Aayog ☒
- B) RBI
- C) NABARD
- D) Ministry of Labour



- ✓ The NITI Aayog has constituted a sub-group to prepare the 'National Action Plan for Migrant Workers', as per the recent announcement of Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar. The sub-group includes members from various ministries, experts, NGOs and other organisations. The Labour Bureau under the Labour Ministry will also begin to conduct an All-India Survey on Migrant workers.

6. 'SVAMITVA' scheme, which was making news recently, is implemented by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Rural Development
- B) Ministry of Panchayati Raj ☒
- C) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- D) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment



- ✓ 'SVAMITVA' is a new scheme launched under the Panchayati Raj Ministry in 2020. It aims to provide the property cards to the property owners through drone survey by Survey of India.
- ✓ Out of the total budget allocation to the Ministry, a provision of Rs.200 crores has been made for the 'SVAMITVA' scheme. The pilot phase of the scheme was approved with Budget outlay of Rs.79.65 crore, to be implemented in 9 States.

7. As per the International Energy Agency's (IEA) latest report, what is the position of India, in Energy consumption?

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



- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) released the 'India Energy Outlook 2021' recently. As per the report, India is the world's fourth-largest energy consuming country.
- ✓ The report also highlighted that India will have the biggest share of energy demand growth at 25% over the next two decades. It will overtake EU as the third largest energy consumer by 2030. India's energy consumption could touch USD 8.6 trillion by 2040.

8. Which Indian state has topped the list of beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Yojana, as of 2020?

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



- ✓ As per the information provided by the Health Ministry, Tamil Nadu tops the beneficiaries list with around 25.56 lakh people getting treatment worth Rs 3,239.5 crore, since 2018.
- ✓ Till Feb.4 this year, there were around 1.6 crore hospital admissions worth Rs 19, 714 crores under the scheme. Tamil Nadu is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. The scheme aims to provide a health assurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year to poor families.

9. Soyuz-2 carrier rocket is the flagship launch vehicle of which country?

- A) China
- B) Russia ☒
- C) Israel
- D) United States



- ✓ Soyuz-2 is a flagship 3 stage launch vehicle of Russia, which places satellites in the low Earth orbit. It is the modernised form of the Soyuz rocket. Recently, it was announced that the country has planned to launch around 40 satellites from over 12 countries using the Soyuz-2 rocket. It includes the CAS500-1 (Compact Advanced Satellite 500) of South Korea.

10. India signed a MoU with which country to build the 'Lalandar or Shatoot dam'?

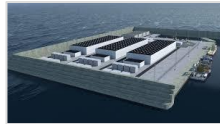
- A) Afghanistan ☒
- B) Tajikistan
- C) Japan
- D) South Korea



- ✓ India recently signed an agreement with Afghanistan for building Lalandar or Shatoot dam. The MoU was signed by Union External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Afghan counterpart.
- ✓ The dam is expected to provide water supply to almost two million people in Kabul city. The dam would also provide irrigation water to nearby areas. This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the 'Friendship Dam' or Salma dam.

1. Which country is set to build the world's first energy island?

- A) Netherlands
- B) Denmark ☒
- C) Australia
- D) United States of America



- ✓ Denmark has recently approved a plan to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea. The artificial island will be linked to offshore wind turbines. The island would provide power to households and green hydrogen to shipping and aviation industries.
- ✓ It is claimed that the park can produce and store green energy to cover the electricity needs of 3 million households.

2. Which is the largest combat exercise of the Indian Navy, which is being held in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)?

- A) INDRA
- B) MALABAR
- C) TROPEX ☒
- D) MILAN



- ✓ Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX-21) is the Indian Navy's largest exercise. It is being held in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). This month-long drill also includes joint exercises by ships and aircraft and other assets of the Indian Air Force, Army and the Indian Coast Guard in the IOR and the waters in the adjacent regions.

3. As per the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, how many manual scavengers have been identified across country?

- A) 22,292
- B) 44,492
- C) 66,692 ☒
- D) 88,892



- ✓ As per the data given by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, as many as 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across the country. As of February 2021, the highest number of manual scavengers have been identified in Uttar Pradesh at 37,379. It is followed by Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Assam. It was also announced that 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last five years.

4. Which country proposed the observance of the World Pulses Day?

- A) Chile
- B) Burkina Faso ☒
- C) Niger
- D) Benin



- ✓ The UN General Assembly adopted 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in West Africa proposed the observance of World Pulses Day.
- ✓ February 10 was announced as the World Pulses Day in 2019. It aims to increase awareness and access to pulses across the world and to recognise Pulses as a global food. The theme of the year is I love pulses.

5. Government is to frame design for Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFV), to implement which scheme?

- A) PM Kisan Yojana
- B) PM Matsya Sampada Yojana ☒
- C) PM Fishery Kisan Scheme
- D) PM Machili Vikas Yojana



- ✓ The Government has set up a Nodal Authority to frame Approved Standardised Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels Design and Specifications (ASDDS).
- ✓ This step aims to help state fisheries departments to fast track the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Those vessels constructed in compliance with Shipping Ministry shall be eligible for subsidy under PMSSY scheme.

6. Which type of Steel has been included under the Production Linked Scheme (PLI)?

- A) Speciality Steel ☒
- B) Stainless Steel
- C) Carbon Steel
- D) Alloy Steel



- ✓ The Government has approved inclusion of 'Specialty Steel' under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.
- ✓ A financial outlay of Rs 6322 Cr has been made to promote the domestic manufacturing of 'Specialty Steel'. It aims to attract capital investment, generate employment and enhance technology up-gradation in the steel sector.

7. Which state has inaugurated the office for Digital Economy Mission office?

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka ☒
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Bihar



- ✓ Karnataka recently launched the office of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM). It aims to increase the digital economy contribution to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to 30 percent.
- ✓ The state also launched the "Beyond Bengaluru" to achieve this target. 51 percent stakes of the mission are given to industry associations and the remaining is kept by the state government.

8. 'BioAsia' is a flagship summit hosted by which Indian state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Telangana ☒
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Bihar



- ✓ 'BioAsia' is a flagship summit hosted by the state of Telangana. It is a global summit which unites the scientists and businesses in various fields with special focus on Life Science.
- ✓ The 18th edition of BioAsia is scheduled to be held during February 22-23, 2021. The theme of the summit is 'Move the Needle', with focus on Covid-19, global health, pharma and medtech.

9. Which day is observed on February 10 and August 10 every year in India?

- A) National Deworming Day ☒
- B) National Anemia Day
- C) National Diabetes Day
- D) National Cancer Day



- ✓ In India, every year February 10 and August 10 are observed as the National Deworming Day (NDD). The day aims to eradicate intestinal worms within the age bracket of 1-19 years, which are also referred to as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH).

- ✓ As per the World Health Organisation, about 241 million children in India between 1–14 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms.

10. World Pangolin Day 2021 was observed on _____?

- A) February 10
B) February 15
C) February 18
D) February 20 ☒



- ✓ World Pangolin Day is observed annually on the third Saturday in February. This day is observed to create awareness about Pangolin and to protect these unique creatures from extinction. The 10th World Pangolin Day will be observed on Feb.20, 2021.

1. 'Swavalamban Sashakt - Mega Campaign' has been launched by Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE) and?

- A) DRDO
- B) SIDBI ☒
- C) ECGC
- D) LIC



- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), in partnership with the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE), has launched the 'Swavalamban Sashakt - Mega Campaign'. It is a webinar series to promote the 'Stand Up India' scheme.
- ✓ Loan between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore to at least 1 SC or ST borrower and at least 1 woman borrower is provided per bank per branch, to set up a new enterprise.

2. Where is the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL) located?

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



- ✓ Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, previously the Namrup Fertilizer Complex, is located on the bank of Dilli river, Assam.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Grant-in-aid of Rs.100 crore to BVFCL, Namrup (Assam) for smooth operations of its urea manufacturing units.

3. The Indian Navy has partnered with which institution for research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems?

- A) IIT Delhi ☒
- B) NIT Trichy
- C) IIT Guwahati
- D) IISC Bengaluru



- ✓ The Indian Navy and IIT Delhi has recently signed an MoU on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems. The key technologies for Navy in underwater electronics have been developed by the Centre for Applied Research in Electronics (CARE) at IIT Delhi since 1970s.

4. Which Indian bank has signed pact with Indian Oil Corporation under its 'e-Dealer' scheme?

- A) Indian Bank
- B) Punjab National Bank ☒
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Union Bank of India



- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed an agreement with Indian Oil Corporation to provide up to Rs 2 crore to the dealers of the Oil company. Under the MoU, the bank would provide credit facilities at lower interest rates, nil margin, and with minimum or zero collateral requirements. These measures are to be undertaken under the PNB e-Dealer scheme.

5. Which country has unveiled a draft "Humans in space policy 2021"?

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



- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently unveiled the draft "Humans in space policy 2021".
- ✓ The policy will be sent to the government for approval. The policy seeks to facilitate start-ups and the local industry to build technologies for its human space programme. ISRO has also set up a two-member team to study the technologies needed for the mission.

6. What is the new upper ceiling for family pension, as per the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions?

- A) Rs 50,000
- B) Rs 75,000
- C) Rs 1,00,000
- D) Rs 1,25,000 ☒



- ✓ Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that the upper ceiling has been raised from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1.25 lakh per month.
- ✓ This increase is in accordance with the increase of salary as per the recommendations of the seventh pay commission. This step will ensure that the family members of the deceased employees get access to adequate financial security.

7. Which Union Ministry announces the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- A) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation ☒
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D) Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). As per the recent edition of the data, the IIP measure grew 1 per cent for December 2020. The Consumer Price Index inflation (CPI) decreased to 4.06 per cent in January 2021, due to the decline in vegetable prices.

8. Which country records the world's highest number of Road crash deaths?

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



- ✓ India records the highest number of Road crash deaths, across the world. The World Bank recently released a report titled "Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society".
- ✓ Union Transport minister Nitin Gadkari released the report. Over 75% of the poor households in India reported a decline in their income after a road traffic crash.

9. In which state the Chittaura Lake is situated?

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



- ✓ Chittaura Lake is situated in Uttar Pradesh. A river named Teri Nadi originates from this lake. It is known for many migratory birds during August - October months. It is also an important Hindu Pilgrimage site in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the development works of the Chittaura Lake.

10. When is the 'World Radio Day' celebrated across the world?

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



- ✓ 'World Radio Day' is celebrated on Feb.13 every year, across the world. It was first proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011. The UN General Assembly adopted the proposal in 2012.
 - ✓ The 2021 edition of World Radio Day is based on 3 main sub-themes namely Evolution, Innovation and Connection. UNESCO released a video named "New World; New Radio".
-

1. When will Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2021 begin?

- A) March 1
B) April 1 ☒
C) May 1
D) April 30



- ✓ The Uttarakhand government has decided to limit Kumbh Mela 2021 to just 30 days from earlier three months. This was informed by Chief Secretary Om Prakash. This time the Kumbh, which is one of the most sacred events for Hindus, will be held from April 1 to April 30.

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative in which state?

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



- ✓ PM Narendra Modi launched the 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative in Assam with an aim to provide seamless connectivity to Eastern Parts of the country. The initiative was launched with the inauguration of Ro-Pax vessel operations between Neamatighat-Majuli, North-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari.

3. Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and which country?

- A) Canada
B) Malaysia
C) Mauritius ☒
D) Singapore



- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius. The Agreement will cover trade in Goods & Services, Telecom, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Rules of Origin, Dispute Settlement, Financial services, and cooperation in other areas.

4. Which organisation has planned to launch the World Solar Bank?

- A) United Nations
B) International Solar Alliance ☒
C) SAARC
D) World bank



- ✓ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) to launch the World Solar Bank. The launch will likely be announced at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021.

5. On which date, the Indian Coast Guard raising day is celebrated?

- A) February 01 ☒
B) February 02
C) February 03
D) February 04



- ✓ Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 43rd raising day on Feb.1. The ICG was raised on 1977 February 1, with the enactment of Coast Guard Act 1978, as a full-fledged independent Armed Force of the Union under the Ministry of Defence. Its primary task is to protect the country's vast maritime zones.

6. What is the theme of the 'World Wetlands Day 2021'?

- A) Wetlands for Us
B) Wetlands and Water ☒
C) Wetlands and COVID-19
D) Save Wetlands



- ✓ World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2nd February to create awareness on the importance of wetlands and its role played in the planet. This year, the theme of the World Wetlands Day is 'Wetlands and Water'. This year's theme highlights the importance of wetlands as a source of freshwater.

7. What is the theme of the World Cancer Day 2021?

- A) We can. I can
B) I am and I will ☒
C) Not Beyond Us
D) Cancer can be prevented



- ✓ The World Cancer Day is observed every year on 4th February to raise awareness about cancer, its treatment and to encourage methods of its prevention. The theme of the 2021 Cancer Day is 'I Am and I Will', which is being continued since 2019.

8. World Unani Day is celebrated in which date?

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



- ✓ World Unani Day is observed every year on 11th February, to mark the birth anniversary of the Unani scholar and social reformer Hakim Ajmal Khan. He was the founder of scientific research in Unani System of Medicine. The Unani system of medicine originated in Greece and its foundation was laid by Hippocrates.

9. What is the theme for this year's International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation?

- A) End Female Genital Mutilation
B) Unleashing Youth Power
C) No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation ☒
D) Intensify Global Efforts



International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed annually on Feb.6, across the world. Genital Mutilation, or altering the female genitalia for non-medical reasons is prevalent in 30 countries in Africa the Middle East and other parts of the world.

In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated Feb.6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and the UN works for the complete eradication of the practice by 2030.

10. When is the 'World Radio Day' celebrated across the world?

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



- ✓ 'World Radio Day' is celebrated on Feb.13 every year, across the world. It was first proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011. The UN General Assembly adopted the proposal in 2012.
- ✓ The 2021 edition of World Radio Day is based on 3 main sub-themes namely Evolution, Innovation and Connection. UNESCO released a video named "New World; New Radio".

1. What is Arjun Mk1A, which was seen in the news recently, with reference to Indian Defence?

- A) Anti-tank Guided Missile
- B) Main Battle Tank ☒
- C) Fighter jets
- D) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the Arjun Main Battle Tank Mk-1A to the Indian Army, at a function held at Chennai. The battle tank has been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by the DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai.

2. Prime Minister dedicated the Rs 6000-crore petrochemical complex of BPCL in which state

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



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Bharat Petroleum's Propylene Derivatives petrochemical complex at Kochi Refinery.
- ✓ The Rs 6,000 crore worth Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project (PDPP) will produce Acrylic Acid, Oxo-Alcohol and Acrylates, which are mainly imported in India. He also inaugurated the Ro-Ro vessels of Inland Waterways Authority in Kochi, Kerala

3. Grand Anicut Canal system, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ Grand Anicut Canal, also called as 'Kallanai' is said to be the oldest water regulating structure in the world, constructed in the 2nd century A.D by the Chola King Karikal Cholan.
- ✓ Recently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the extension, renovation and modernization of the Grand Anicut Canal System. The project is to be taken up at a cost of Rs 2,640 crores.

4. Olympus Mons, which was making news recently, is the largest in the solar system?

- A) Volcano ☒
- B) Crater
- C) Asteroid
- D) Lake



- ✓ Olympus Mons is the largest volcano in the solar system present in the planet of Mars. It is a large shield volcano, which is over two times the height of Mount Everest above sea level.
- ✓ The UAE's "Hope" Mars probe sent back its first image of Mars, after the spacecraft successfully entered the planet's orbit. The probe recently captured the Olympus Mons volcano, taken from an altitude of 24,700 kilometres above the Martian surface.

5. Bayern Munich, which won the final of the FIFA Club World Cup in Qatar, is the football club of which country?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Germany ☒
- C) France
- D) Italy



- ✓ Germany based professional football club Bayern Munich beat Mexico's Tigres UANL in the final of the FIFA Club World Cup in Qatar. This is the 6th title won by the club in less than nine months. Benjamin Pavard of the German team scored the only goal of the final match in the 59th minute.

6. Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme has been launched by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Rural Development
- B) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship ☒
- C) Ministry of Labor & Employment
- D) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



- ✓ The Union Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship programme. This nation-wide programme has been launched in partnership with nine Indian Institutes of Management across India.
- ✓ It has been launched under the SANKALP (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) scheme.

7. As per a recent report, start-ups founded in which Indian city is more than in San Francisco, in the past five years?

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



- ✓ As per the recent report released by Tracxn, a company which tracks investments and financials, the number of start-ups founded in Bengaluru has been higher than in San Francisco, United States in the past five years. In 2015, 3,080 firms were founded in the Indian city, as against 2,040 companies in San Francisco.
- ✓ Similarly, in 2020, 805 firms were founded in Bengaluru, whereas the US city's count was 619. Bengaluru has around 13,000 active start-ups, at present.

8. Which Indian state has launched the 'Maa' scheme, to provide meal at Rs 5 to the poor people?

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



- ✓ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has virtually launched the 'Maa' scheme under which the state government would provide meal at Rs 5 to poor people. A platter of food including vegetable and egg curry is to be provided at Rs 5.

9. Who has been awarded with the Sanctuary Nature Foundation's "Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020"?

- A) Theodore Baskaran ☒
- B) Sundarajan
- C) Azhagar Ramanujam
- D) Anuradha Ramanan



Theodore Baskaran, a leading Writer, historian, naturalist, and activist has been awarded with the Sanctuary Nature Foundation's "Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020". This award has been conferred upon him for his dedicated works in wildlife conservation and for his writings in Tamil - English regarding the same.

10. Sigur plateau, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ A group of six black storks (*Ciconia nigra*), were spotted recently in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The species is classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the "Least Concern" category. The sighting of the black stork in this region is considered to be extremely rare.
-

1. What is 'INS Karanj', which was making news recently, with reference to Indian Defence?

- A) Anti-tank Guided Missile
- B) Scorpene Submarine ☒
- C) Military Tank
- D) Supersonic Cruise Missile



- ✓ The Indian Navy got its third Scorpene submarine, which will be commissioned in Mumbai as 'INS Karanj'. This is a part of the six submarines, which are being constructed under Project 75. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has delivered three Scorpene submarines to the Indian Navy named Khanderi, Kalvari and Karanj.

2. 'Abhyudaya' scheme is the initiative of which state?

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



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 'Abhyudaya' scheme. It aims to provide coaching facilities to the interested candidates for competitive exams like NEET and IIT-JEE. Over 50,000 students are selected under the scheme.

3. Who is the head of the committee formed by the RBI to study the consolidation of urban cooperative banks?

- A) Michael D Patra
- B) N S Vishwanathan ☒
- C) B P Kanungo
- D) Usha Thorat



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an eight-member expert panel to lay down a regulatory road map for urban co-operative banks. The committee will be headed by former deputy governor of RBI, N. S. Vishwanathan. The group will also study the consolidation prospects in the sector. The expert committee has been asked to submit its report within three months.

4. The Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM), which was in news recently, was developed by which organisation?

- A) HAL
- B) BEL
- C) ISRO
- D) DRDO ☒



- ✓ The final production batch of Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) was recently flagged off at DRDL, A P J Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Hyderabad. The missiles have been designed and developed by DRDO in collaboration with various industry partners.
- ✓ The missile system provides defence against aerial targets including fighter aircrafts and missiles.

5. Which institution is to provide Rs 100 crore to Gurgaon-based hospital chain Medanta, to fight COVID-19 pandemic?

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



- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that it will provide Rs 100 crore loan to Gurgaon-based hospital chain Medanta.

- ✓ The financial assistance would aid the multi-speciality hospital chain in enhancing healthcare services and medical equipment to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes staff training programmes on infection control.

6. 'Arribada' is a term related to which species?

- A) Snake
- B) Sea Turtle ☒
- C) Frog
- D) Spider



- ✓ 'Arribada' is a term used to describe the mass migration of sea turtles, where large groups of females assemble at a nesting site on the beach. Recently, the Olive Ridley turtles have started laying eggs in the beach in this nesting season.
- ✓ The nesting season which usually begins in November was delayed by a few weeks this year, due to changes in climate conditions due to the cyclones Nivar and Burevi.

7. Which manufacturing group has proposed to setup Rs 5000 crore phone component manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu?

- A) TATA Electronics ☒
- B) TCS
- C) Infotel
- D) Lenovo



- ✓ The Tata Electronics has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government in order to establish a facility to manufacture the mobile components.
- ✓ The project by the Tata Electronics will cost Rs 4684 crores. It will be established in Krishnagiri. The project can help in creating jobs for 18,250 people. Tamil Nadu has also signed a MoU with the Grasim Industries in order to establish a paint manufacturing unit at Cheyyar. It will be established with an investment of Rs 750 crore. In total, the Tamil Nadu states has signed 28 MoUs for the projects for which the budget outlay is Rs 28,000 crore.

8. 'Heritage corridor project', which was making news recently, is associated with which state?

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



- ✓ The Jagannath Temple Management Committee, has recently approved a Rs 800-crore heritage corridor project. This project aims to revamp and redevelop the temple and its surrounding areas.
- ✓ The Lord Jagannath Temple is an important twelfth century temple located in Puri, Odisha. The temple was built by the King Anantavarman Chodaganga of Ganga dynasty.

9. Nigerian American economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has been appointed as the director-general of which organisation?

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



Nigerian American economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has been appointed as the new director-general of World Trade Organization (WTO).

With this appointment, she becomes the 1st African women to be the Chief of WTO. WTO is an intergovernmental organization that is regulates the trade between nations. It is headquartered at Geneva.

10. What is the name of electric two-wheeler that has been launched by IIT Madras-incubated start-up Pi Beam?

- A) Electro
- B) Ampere
- C) Voltabike
- D) PiMo ☒



- ✓ Pi Beam – an IIT Madras incubated start-up has recently launched a 2-wheeler named PiMo. This vehicle can be charged faster than a smart mobile phone. It has a range of 50 km and is priced at Rs.30,000/-. This vehicle does not require registration and is targeted at personal and commercial users.
-

1. The 3rd 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 1st 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 15th 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.

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) Chandrashekhar 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. Chandrashekhar 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 100th 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 16th 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 16th 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 21st 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 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution in 1986. On 20th January 1972, the North East Frontier Agency was renamed as Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh and on 20th 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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