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# **SECOND WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS**



## **MARCH 2021**

**March 08-14**

1. What is the theme of the National Safety Day 2021?

- A) Sadak Suraksha ☒
- B) Nari Suraksha
- C) Social Suraksha
- D) Cyber Suraksha



- ✓ March 4 is observed every year as National Safety Day in India with the aim of creating awareness among people with respect to safety measures. This year, the focus of National Safety Day is on road safety and the theme is 'Sadak Suraksha' (road safety). The celebrations this year have also been spread over a week and National Safety Week will be observed from March 4 to March 10.

2. Which day is celebrated as International Women's Day?

- A) March 7
- B) March 8 ☒
- C) March 9
- D) March 10



- ✓ The International Women's Day is being celebrated across the world on March 8, 2021. This day is observed on March 8 every year in order to help in shaping a gender equal world. The day is being observed this year under the theme "Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world".

3. Which country has launched the satellite Arktika-M?

- A) Brazil
- B) France
- C) Russia ☒
- D) Australia



- ✓ The Russian Space Agency has launched its satellite Arktika-M. This satellite is intended to monitor the climate in the Arctic region.
- ✓ A Soyuz rocket took off from the Russian cosmodrome in Kazakhstan carrying Russia's first satellite launched for monitoring the Arctic's climate. Russia seeks to utilise the energy-rich region for the nation's developmental interest.

4. Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation on crops has been reported recently in which place?

- A) Theni, Tamil Nadu
- B) Wayanad, Kerala ☒
- C) Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
- D) Mysore, Karnataka



- ✓ Recently, Wayanad of Kerala has witnessed infestation of fall armyworm (FAW), which has caused excessive damage to crops in the place. The attack has been reported on maize and plantain cultivations.

5. Which organisation is the implementing agency for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana?

- A) Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India ☒
- B) Drugs Corporation of India
- C) Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd
- D) IFFCO



- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PM-BJP) is an initiative of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, under which quality medicines are provided to the general public at affordable cost.
- ✓ This scheme is being implemented through Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI). The organisation is celebrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Janaushadhi Diwas on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with the theme being "Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi".

6. Which country is the host of the multinational Exercise Desert Flag?

- A) UAE ☒
- B) USA
- C) UK
- D) France



- ✓ 'Desert Flag' is a multinational exercise, which is to be held in the United Arab Emirates. Ten countries are to take part in this exercise including India, France and the U.S. This exercise will be held for three weeks this month. This semi-annual exercise will involve multiple, intensive air combat sorties. IAF's Su-30-MK1 and C-17s fighter jets took off recently to participate in this exercise.

7. The fossils of Titanosaur have recently been unearthed in which country?

- A) Argentina ☒
- B) USA
- C) UAE
- D) Russia



- ✓ Titanosaur is a group of long-necked plant-eating dinosaurs that walked on four legs. Scientists have recently discovered the fossils of a dinosaur species named 'Ninjatitan zapatai' which lived 140 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period.
- ✓ The fossils which have been unearthed, is said to be the oldest-known member of the dinosaur group known as titanosaurs.

8. The Land Ports Authority of India works under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C) Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti



- ✓ The Land Ports Authority of India was founded in 2012. It is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India. It manages several Integrated Check Posts all across Borders of India. The 9<sup>th</sup> foundation day of the Land Ports Authority of India was observed on March 1, 2021.

9. Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC) has been launched in which summit?

- A) Ports India Summit
- B) Maritime India Summit ☒
- C) Shipping India Summit
- D) Indian Waterways Summit



- ✓ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 'Maritime India Summit 2021', organised by the Ministry of Sports, Shipping and Waterways. India also launched a real-time vessel tracking system called 'Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre (MMDAC)'.
- ✓ It is to be operated by DG Shipping and can also track foreign vessels as well as foreign vessels.

10. Sindhu Netra satellite has recently been successfully launched using which PSLV?

- A) PSLV-C51 ☒
- B) PSLV-C52
- C) PSLV-C53
- D) PSLV-C54



- ✓ Sindhu Netra satellite was successfully launched into space recently. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to boost India's surveillance capability and improve monitoring of activities in the Indian Ocean Region. The launch was made using ISRO's PSLV-C51. The satellite is capable of automatic identification of warships and merchant ships in IOR.
-

1. Which country is building the world's first Platypus Sanctuary?

- A) India  
B) Sri Lanka  
C) Pakistan  
D) Australia ☒



- ✓ The New South Wales State government and the Taronga Conservation Society of Australia announced that they are building the world's first Platypus Sanctuary. This first-of-its kind refugee centre aims to promote breeding and rehabilitation of the duck-billed mammal, which has been facing extinction due to climate change. The facility is to be created in a zoo which is over 390 km from Sydney.

2. What is the theme of World Hearing Day 2021?

- A) Hearing care for All ☒  
B) Save Hearing  
C) Care for hearing  
D) Hearing care



- ✓ World Hearing Day is observed on 3 March to raise awareness about the measures that can be taken to prevent hearing loss. It is a campaign held each year by Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO). The theme of the campaign for 2021 is Hearing Care for All.

3. The International Waste Pickers' Day is observed on which date?

- A) March 1 ☒  
B) March 2  
C) March 3  
D) March 4



- ✓ International Waste Pickers' Day is observed on March 1 to mark the Colombian massacre that led to the brutal death of 11 workers. This day seeks to give voice and recognition to waste pickers/recyclers across the world.

4. What is the theme of World Wildlife Day 2021?

- A) Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet ☒  
B) For people, For planet, For ecosystem  
C) Forests – Pillars for people and planet  
D) None of the above



- ✓ World Wildlife Day is observed on March 3 across the world to celebrate wildlife and create awareness about the adverse impact of human activities and climate change on the wildlife.  
✓ This year, it is being celebrated under the theme- Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet.

5. What is the full form of NADMP?

- A) National Agriculture Disaster Management Plan ☒  
B) Ninth Agriculture Disaster Management Plan  
C) New Agriculture Disaster Management Plan  
D) Ninth Agriculture Disaster Mitigation Planning



- ✓ National Agriculture Disaster Management Plan (NADMP) seeks to guide the Union Agriculture Ministry in ensuring timely response to natural disasters like drought, floods and sudden crisis like COVID-19 pandemic.  
✓ It identifies 34 hazards posing threats to the agriculture sector. These include heat waves, earthquakes, animal attacks, desertification, agricultural fires, cyclones and overdependence on chemicals.

6. Which strategy has recently been launched with the objective of revamping the Indian maritime sector?

- A) Maritime India Vision 2030 ☒  
B) Maritime India Vision 2032  
C) Maritime India Vision 2035  
D) Maritime India Vision 2040



- ✓ Maritime India Vision 2030 is a 10-year strategy with the objective of revamping the Indian maritime sector. It seeks to attract Rs.3 lakh crore investment and generate employment for 20 lakh individuals. The plan also seeks to augment the annual revenue potential worth Rs.20,000 crore from major ports.

7. Which herb is being cultivated in Jammu as part of the Aroma Mission?

- A) Lavender ☒  
B) Parsley  
C) Mint  
D) Basil



- ✓ Lavender is being cultivated in Jammu as part of the Aroma Mission that was launched in 2016. Lavender is an aromatic herb with medicinal properties. It is a commercially important crop cultivated mainly for production of essential oils. Each litre of lavender essential oil is sold for INR 10,000.

8. What is the full form of ICLED?

- A) Inter-band cascade light emitting device ☒  
B) Interior-based cascade light emitting diode  
C) Intern link- band inter-band cascade light emitting  
D) None of the above



- ✓ ICLED or inter-band cascade light emitting device is a new type of high-powered light emitting diode that are used in quantitative analysis of several chemicals. It emits light in the mid IR wavelength regions. It was recently used to develop low-cost sensors to detect methane emission with high accuracy.

9. Which rare species of native Australian bee was recently spotted along the east coast of Australia?

- A) *Pharohylaeus lactiferous* ☒  
B) *Apis dorsata*  
C) *Apis florea*  
D) *Apis cerana indica*



- ✓ *Pharohylaeus lactiferous* is a rare species of native Australian bee that was recently spotted along the east coast of Australia. It was last spotted a century ago in 1923 in Queensland and only 6 individuals have ever been found. The invertebrate is threatened by wildfires, land fragmentation and climate change.

10. India's largest ground-based optical telescope has been installed in which state?

- A) Uttarakhand ☒  
B) Goa  
C) Karnataka  
D) Punjab



- ✓ The telescope is the product of an Indo-Belgian collaborative effort, assisted by the Russian Academy of Sciences, that was kicked off in 2007. It is going to be operated by the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous research body under the Department of Science and Technology.

1. What is the full form of ADFOSC?

- A) Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera ☒  
 B) Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Scanning Camera  
 C) Aries-Devasthal Faded Object Scanning Camera  
 D) None of the above



- ✓ ADFOSC or Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera is a low-cost optical spectroscopy that was designed and developed by the scientists of ARIES, Nainital.  
 ✓ This spectroscopy will help the Devasthal Optical telescope use event faint light to locate distant quasars, galaxies, etc.

2. Which organisation has released the report named 'World Report on Hearing'?

- A) WHO ☒  
 B) FAO  
 C) IMF  
 D) ADB



- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the first World Report on Hearing recently. It was launched ahead of World Hearing Day on March 3. As per the report, nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide, which is almost 1 in 4 people, will be living with some degree of hearing loss by 2050. The report also warns that at least 700 million of these people will require access to hearing care and rehabilitation services.

3. Which state is to conduct its first survey of the social and educational conditions of people from backward classes?

- A) Haryana  
 B) Odisha ☒  
 C) Madhya Pradesh  
 D) Maharashtra



- ✓ The Odisha government is set to begin its first state survey of the social and educational conditions of people from backward classes. In the state there are nearly 209 communities identified as socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs). The classes comprise around 54 percent of the state's population. A proposal by the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) was approved in this regard.

4. Which publishing company was named as the 'Champion Publisher of the Year 2020', by WAN IFRA?

- A) The Hindu ☒  
 B) Express Publications  
 C) Daily Thanthi  
 D) None of the above



- ✓ The Hindu Group won two golds and two silvers at WAN IFRA's South Asian Digital Media Awards. The World Association of News Publishers or WAN-IFRA, is a global organisation of the world's press.  
 ✓ The company was named as the 'Champion Publisher of the Year'. The Hindu #KeepTheHabit campaign won a gold in 'Best Native Advertising / Branded Content Campaign'. Sportstar's website won a gold in 'Best in Lifestyle, Sports, Entertainment Website or Mobile Services'.

5. UNGA has declared 2023 as which special year, based on the resolution led by India?

- A) International Year of Millets ☒  
 B) International Year of Egg  
 C) International Year of Milk



D) International Year of Rice

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly has unanimously declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The unanimously adopted resolution was sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations. The co-sponsors of the declaration include Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal, and all Member States of the UN.

6. The Simlipal biosphere reserve is located in which Indian state?

- A) Odisha ☒  
 B) Uttarakhand  
 C) Rajasthan  
 D) Goa



- ✓ Simlipal biosphere reserve comprises of the Simlipal national park cum tiger reserve along with its adjoining areas. It is located in the eastern end of the Eastern Ghats, in Odisha. The name 'Simlipal' is derived from 'Simul' meaning silk cotton tree. Recently, there was a wildfire in the National Park and is raging for nearly a week.

7. Which city emerged as the best city according to the "Ease of Living Index-2020", in the million-plus population category?

- A) Pune  
 B) Chandigarh  
 C) Chennai  
 D) Bengaluru ☒



- ✓ Bengaluru emerged as the best city according to the "Ease of Living Index-2020", released by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The rankings were announced for cities for which the assessment exercise was conducted in the year 2020. It is noteworthy that Chennai ranks fourth and Coimbatore seventh from Tamil Nadu in this list.  
 ✓ Around 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise. Shimla topped the category of cities with population of less than million.

8. Bao dhaan is a variety of rice cultivated in which Indian state?

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



- ✓ 'Bao dhaan' is a variety of red rice that is rich in iron. It is cultivated in the alluvial soil in the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam. Recently, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the United States of America (USA). The unique feature of the rice is that it is grown without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

9. According to recently published Municipal Performance Index, which city ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the category of million-plus cities?

- A) Indore ☒  
 B) Lucknow  
 C) Surat  
 D) Bhopal



- ✓ The Central govt recently published the Municipal Performance Index (MPI). In this index, Indore was ranked first in the category of Million-plus cities. It is followed by Surat and Bhopal. While in the 'less-than-million category', New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has been ranked first and is followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

10. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is celebrated on which date?

- A) March 05
- B) March 08
- C) March 10 ☒
- D) March 11



- ✓ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10. On this day, in 1969, the CISF was set up under an act of the Parliament of India with a strength of 2,800.
- ✓ It is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarters are at New Delhi.

✓



1. Which organization recently published the "Food Waste Index Report, 2021"?

- A) UNEP ☒
- B) UNESCO
- C) UNCTAD
- D) FAO



- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published the "Food Waste Index Report, 2021". As per the UNEP report, estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted across the world 2019. The agency also highlighted that 61% of the total food wasted came from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail.

2. Which is the headquarters of the UN's Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)?

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



- ✓ The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ As per the recent report published by the UNECE, trapping and storing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil power generation and industry is needed to achieve carbon neutrality.

3. OPELIP, a tribal livelihood development program is funded by which organisation?

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



- ✓ Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP) is a programme funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).
- ✓ The objective is to improve living conditions and reduce poverty among particularly vulnerable tribal groups through capacity building and improved agricultural practices.

4. Where is the headquarters of ICRISAT situated?

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



- ✓ The International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organisation involved in agricultural research for rural development. Its headquarters is located at Patancheru, Hyderabad. It was recently roped in by the Odisha government for providing capacity-building initiatives for the state's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups via OPELIP scheme.

5. Where is the headquarters of CARICOM?

- A) South Africa
- B) Guyana ☒
- C) Zimbabwe
- D) Namibia



- ✓ CARICOM stands for Caribbean Community, which was founded in 1973 and headquartered in Georgetown, Guyana. It is also called Caribbean Community and Common Market.
- ✓ CARICOM is a grouping of twenty countries with fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. It aims to establish economic integration and cooperation among its members.

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

- A) Vaccine Maitri ☒
- B) Vaccine to Mitron
- C) Bharat Vaccine Mitra
- D) India contributes



- ✓ The Vaccine Maitri or the Vaccine Friendship initiative was started on January 20, 2021. Under the initiative, India supplies Made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines to its neighbouring countries. Bhutan and Maldives were the first country to get the vaccines. They are followed by Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles. Recently, consignment of Covid vaccines were airlifted for Guyana, Jamaica and Nicaragua.

7. Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is situated in which Indian state?

- A) Karnataka ☒
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Goa



- ✓ Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarhole) National Park, is a wildlife reserve in Karnataka. It is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It is named after the river Nagarhole, which is the Kannada term for 'Serpent River'.
- ✓ The reserve was recently engulfed in a major forest fire, leading to the destruction of several acres of forest covers.

8. The "space hurricane", which was discovered recently, was spotted in which region of the Earth?

- A) North Pole ☒
- B) South Pole
- C) Inter-tropical Convergence Zone
- D) Karnataka



- ✓ The scientists have discovered a "space hurricane" for the first time. The hurricane swirled for eight hours over the North Pole in the upper atmosphere of Earth. The team of scientists from USA, Norway, China and United Kingdom observed and produced the image of space hurricane using the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellites and a 3D magnetosphere modelling.

9. Which organisation releases the 'World food price Index'?

- A) World Bank
- B) Food and Agriculture Organization ☒
- C) International Monetary Fund
- D) IFAD



- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) releases the Food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar. As per the recent January figure, the world food prices rose for a ninth consecutive month in February. The index hit its highest level since July 2014 and the rise is led by the rise in sugar and vegetable oils.

10. 'Maitri Setu' bridge has been constructed over which river?

- A) Brahmaputra
- B) Yamuna
- C) Kosi
- D) Feni ☒



- ✓ The 'Maitri Setu' is a 1.9 km long bridge that has been constructed over the river Feni in the state of Tripura.
  - ✓ This bridge connects India and Bangladesh. The bridge has been constructed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd at a project cost of Rs. 133 Crores.
-



1. India has commemorated the 'Chabahar Day' on which date?

- A) 2021 March 2  
B) 2021 March 4 ☒  
C) 2021 March 6  
D) 2021 March 8



- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that, India commemorates the 'Chabahar Day' on March 4, 2021 along the lines of the Maritime India Summit 2021 held in Delhi from March 2 to March 4. The virtual event witnessed the participation of ministers from Afghanistan, Iran, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

2. Which country has recently signed pact with India for purchase of BrahMos Missile?

- A) Pakistan  
B) Philippines ☒  
C) Sri Lanka  
D) Indonesia



- ✓ BrahMos is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by India's DRDO and Russia's Mashinostroyeniya. It can be launched from submarines, ships, planes or land-based platforms.
- ✓ Philippines signed pact with India recently for possible purchase of this missile.

3. What is the theme of the International Women's Day 2021?

- A) Educate Organise and Agitate  
B) Gender Equality: March against Patriarchy  
C) Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world ☒  
D) Impact of COVID-19 on women



- ✓ International Women's Day is observed every year on March 8 across the world, to highlight the achievements and problems faced by women.
- ✓ The theme for this year is "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." As per the United Nations Women, women remain under-represented in leadership roles and decision making across the world.

4. Singorgarh Fort, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra  
B) Madhya Pradesh ☒  
C) Odisha  
D) Kerala



- ✓ The President of India Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh. During the program organised by Ministry of Culture and the state's Tribal Affairs Department, the President inaugurated the newly formed Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India.

5. Indian Naval Ships INS Kulish and INS Sumedha visited the port of which country, for the first time?

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



- ✓ Indian Naval Ships INS Kulish and INS Sumedha recently arrived at the port city of Mongla in Bangladesh. They are visiting Bangladesh to

commemorate the ongoing 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' (Liberation War of 1971). INS Sumedha is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel and INS Kulish is an indigenously built guided missile corvette.

6. Which Badminton player won gold in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300?

- A) P V Sindhu  
B) Carolina Marin ☒  
C) Naomi Osaka  
D) Saina Nehwal



- ✓ Olympic champion Carolina Marin won gold in the BWF Swiss Open Super 300 tournament. She defeated India's ace badminton player PV Sindhu 12-21, 5-21, in the final match of the women's singles event. This was the first final appearance of the reigning world champion P V Sindhu since the World championships here in 2019.
- ✓ Kidambi Srikanth exited from the semi-final of the tournament by star Viktor Axelsen.

7. Which Indian wrestler has regained top spot in world ranking recently?

- A) Vinesh Phogat  
B) Bajrang Punia ☒  
C) Yogeshwar Dutt  
D) Sakshi Malik



- ✓ Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has regained the top spot in the world rankings after he clinched a second successive gold medal at the Matteo Pallicone Ranking Series. In the 65 kg freestyle event final in Rome, he defeated his Mongolian counterpart to win gold. Bajrang Punia also won gold in the tournament last year.

8. How many scholars have been selected for India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021?

- A) 2  
B) 5  
C) 17  
D) 40 ☒

40

- ✓ For the India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021, 40 scholars have been selected. These research scholars belong to six countries and have been awarded fellowship to conduct research in science and technology in various Indian institutes and universities.
- ✓ The selection has been based on the scholar's research proposal, experience, academic merit and publication record.

9. Which country is the host of UN Congress on crime prevention?

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



- ✓ The United Nations Congress on crime prevention commenced in Kyoto, Japan. Japan is hosting the congress for the first time since 1970. Key issues pertaining to criminal justice, crime prevention and international cooperation to promote rule of law are placed as agendas for discussion during the meeting.

10. The World Kidney Day is celebrated in which month, across the world?

- A) January
- B) February
- C) March ☒
- D) April



- ✓ The World Kidney Day is celebrated on the second Thursday of the month of March every year, across the world. This year's theme is 'Living Well with Kidney Disease'.
  - ✓ Two international bodies namely the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) jointly organise the global campaign.
-

1. Which country topped the Economic Freedom Index 2021?

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



- ✓ Singapore topped the Economic Freedom Index 2021 released by the US think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. With 89.7 points, Singapore is followed by New Zealand in second place, Australia, Switzerland and Ireland in the top-5. India is ranked 26th in Asia-Pacific.

2. 'Dustlik' is a military exercise between India and which country?

- A) France  
B) Myanmar  
C) Uzbekistan ☒  
D) Japan



- ✓ 'Dustlik' is a military exercise between India and Uzbekistan. The second edition of the joint military exercise "Dustlik-2" started at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand. Around 45 military personnel of armies of both the countries are participating in the exercise. The first edition of the joint military exercise was carried out in Tashkent in November 2019.

3. Who is the head of the committee formed to commemorate the 75 years of India's independence?

- A) Prime Minister ☒  
B) President  
C) Home Minister  
D) Defence Minister



- ✓ The Central government formed a committee to commemorate the 75 years of India's independence, headed by the Prime Minister. The committee held its first meeting recently. It will discuss procedures related to activities for the celebrations. The committee consists of 259 members including former President Pratibha Patil, former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and HD Devegowda.

4. When is the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed?

- A) March 10  
B) March 12  
C) March 14 ☒  
D) March 16



- ✓ International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on March 14. This year, it is the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of Action for Rivers. It is a day dedicated to save, celebrate and make people around us aware about our life-giving source of water. The theme of International Day of Action for Rivers - 2021 is 'Rights of Rivers'.

5. Which telescope is being manufactured in collaboration between NASA, ESA and CSA, as a successor of Hubble Telescope?

- A) James Webb Space Telescope ☒  
B) Kepler Space Telescope  
C) Spitzer Space Telescope  
D) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite



- ✓ The James Webb Space Telescope is being manufactured in collaboration between European Space Agency (ESA), Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and NASA. It is a successor of NASA's Hubble Telescope

and will complement its discoveries. The telescope is scheduled for launch from French Guiana on an Ariane 5 rocket on 31 October 2021.

6. What is the name of the All-Women's Art Exhibition inaugurated by the Minister of Culture and Tourism?

- A) Nari Shakti  
B) Akshya Patra ☒  
C) Shakti Kala  
D) Nari Samriddhi



Ministry of Culture  
Government of India

- ✓ Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlaad Singh Patel inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra'.  
✓ The exhibition was inaugurated at Lalit Kala Akademi on International Women's Day. The exhibition will and showcase more than 250 artworks from over 12 countries.

7. What is the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in India, as per the PLFS and Annual survey by the Labour Bureau?

- A) 27.3%  
B) 37.3%  
C) 47.3% ☒  
D) 57.3%

**47.3%**

- ✓ As per the results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted during 2017-18 and 2018-19 and the Annual Employment-Unemployment surveys conducted by the Labour Bureau, the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is 47.3 per cent while the unemployment rate is 5.8 per cent. This information was given by the Union Labour Ministry in the Lok Sabha.

8. 'SMS scrubbing', which was making news recently is related to which organisation?

- A) TRAI ☒  
B) RBI  
C) Telecom Ministry  
D) Finance Ministry



- ✓ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a guideline that the verification process of every SMS content should be done before it is delivered. The process is known as SMS scrubbing.  
✓ Recently, when the telecom service providers (TSPs) started implementing the second phase of SMS regulation, several unverified and unregistered SMS messages were blocked.

9. National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is being operated by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT  
B) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒  
C) Ministry of Defence  
D) Ministry of Law and Justice



MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS

- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs launched the 'National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' in 2019, to provide a centralised mechanism for online reporting of cybercrime incidents. Recently, the Union Home Ministry announced that a total of 3,17,439 cybercrimes and 5,771 FIRs were registered online through the portal in the last 18 months.

- ✓ Maharashtra and Karnataka registered a significant number of cases.

10. What is the name of the Health reserve fund from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi ☒
- B) Pradhan Mantri Arogya Nidhi
- C) Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Nidhi
- D) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Nidhi



- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN).
  - ✓ It is a single non-lapsable Health reserve fund from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Finance Act, 2007. It ensures that the amount does not lapse at the end of the financial year.
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