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# **FOURTH WEEK**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**



# **MARCH 2021**

**March 22-31**

1. Who has been appointed as the Director General of National Security Guard?

- A) Swapan Dasgupta
- B) M. A. Ganapathy ☒
- C) P.K. Sinha
- D) A P Maheshwari



- ✓ Senior IPS officer M.A Ganapathy was appointed as the Director General of National Security Guard (NSG). The 1986 batch officer is currently serving as the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). Another IPS officer Kuldip Singh was appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force.

2. The tenth schedule, known as the Anti-defection law was added in the constitution in which year?

- A) 1972
- B) 1985 ☒
- C) 1992
- D) 2005



- ✓ The Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution in the year 1985. As per the anti-defection law, Nominated MP Swapan Dasgupta resigned from Rajya Sabha, a year before completion of his term.
- ✓ He has been named as candidate in the West Bengal Assembly elections. After his nomination to Rajya Sabha in 2016, he did not join a political party within the mandatory period of six months.

3. PK Sinha, who was making news recently stepped down from which position?

- A) Economic Affairs Secretary
- B) Principal Advisor to PM ☒
- C) Finance Secretary
- D) NITI Aayog CEO



- ✓ The Prime Minister's Principal adviser, PK Sinha, recently stepped down from his position. In the first tenure of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government, he served as the Cabinet secretary.

4. India's envoy in which country has handed over training kits worth Rs 81 lakhs, for capacity building?

- A) Nepal
- B) Myanmar
- C) Maldives
- D) Sri Lanka ☒



- ✓ India's envoy in Sri Lanka has recently handed over training aids worth about Rs 81,00,000 to the country's Navy for capacity building. High Commissioner Gopal Baglay formally handed over the training aids, during a visit to the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ He also handed over Kindle e-book readers and books to the library of the Naval and Maritime Academy.

5. Where is the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India (HHEC) located?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- C) Gujarat
- D) Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Cabinet recently approved the closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India (HHEC), located at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. HHEC is a government-owned company under the administrative control of the Union Textile ministry. It is said to have incurred losses since 2015-16 continuously.
- ✓ The employees in the company will be given the option of Voluntary Retirement.

6. Which institution publishes the 'State of the World's Indigenous People' report?

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



- ✓ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) publishes the latest edition of the State of the World's Indigenous People report. As per the report, the world's indigenous peoples live in areas around 80% of the planet's biodiversity.
- ✓ But many of them still struggle to maintain their legal rights to lands and resources.

7. Where is the headquarters of the 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' located?

- A) Geneva
- B) Paris
- C) New Delhi ☒
- D) Jakarta



- ✓ The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is a global coalition of countries, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, private sector, and academia, that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure. It is headquartered in New Delhi. CDRI, in partnership with member countries and institutions, hosted the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure – ICDRI 2021.

8. Under which project, CSIR is set to map genetic diversity in the Indian Ocean?

- A) Project IOR
- B) Project Bio
- C) Project TraceBioMe ☒
- D) Project 21



- ✓ Under the Project TraceBioMe, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR–NIO) – Goa has initiated to map the genetic diversity of organisms in the Indian Ocean. The project involves large scale sampling of water, sediments, planktons and various organisms in different location of the ocean to arrive at the genetic map.

9. Where or using which mode was the IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) Women's Forum meeting held?

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Brazil
- D) Virtual Mode ☒



- ✓ The IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) Women's Forum meeting was held recently in a virtual format. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the meet.
- ✓ The delegation from India was led by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. A joint declaration was issued during the meet.

which highlights IBSA goals and commitments for achieving gender equality in all spheres of life.

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10. Pritzker Prize is associated with which field?

- A) Literature
- B) Journalism
- C) Architecture ☒
- D) Science & Technology



- ✓ Pritzker Prize is the highest international honour given in the field of Architecture. The 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize, has been granted to Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal.
  - ✓ The French duo winners are the founders of Lacaton & Vassal. Chairman of The Hyatt Foundation announced the winners and Anne Lacaton became the first French female architect to ever win the award.
-

1. What is the name of the telemedicine service offered by the Union Health Ministry?

- A) e-Aarogya
- B) e-Swasthya
- C) e-Suraksha
- D) e-Sanjeevani ☒



- ✓ The Union Health Ministry's tele-medicine service called e-Sanjeevani is operational in 31 States/Union Territories. The digital service has crossed a recent milestone of 3 million consultations, with an average of 35000 patients across the country. The Service includes two variants: one for doctor to doctor and one for outpatient services. Tamil Nadu tops the number of consultations.

2. Which aircraft of the Indian Air Force met with a fatal accident and crashed in Central India?

- A) MiG-21 Bison ☒
- B) Mirage 2000
- C) Sukhoi Su-30
- D) Rafale



- ✓ A MiG-21 Bison aircraft of the Indian Air Force was involved in a fatal accident, while taking off for a combat training mission at an airbase in central India. The IAF Group Captain Ashish Gupta died in the accident. The indigenously designed and manufactured Light Combat Aircraft Tejas were to replace the ageing fleet of the MiG 21. The MiG 21s have been continuously involved in accidents.

3. Who is the head of the experts advisory committee set up for the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme?

- A) Injeti Srinivas
- B) Gita Gopinath
- C) H K Mittal ☒
- D) S C Khuntia



- ✓ The government has constituted an experts advisory committee for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. As per the DPIIT, the committee would be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology. The other members are from DPIIT, Department of biotechnology, science and technology, electronics and IT, NITI Aayog, and experts from startup ecosystem.

4. Which Indian public sector bank has incorporated a new wholly owned subsidiary for its credit card business?

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



- ✓ Punjab National Bank has recently incorporated PNB Cards & Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank. This new entity will carry out non-financial support service related to the credit card business of the bank. PNB Cards & Services has authorised capital of ₹25 crore and paid-up capital of ₹15 crore. The Bank has merged United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce with itself.

5. The newly formed Indian Oil Corporation- Phinergy JV is to replace lithium with which metal, to make batteries for electric vehicles?

- A) Silver
- B) Copper
- C) Aluminium ☒
- D) Mercury



- ✓ State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Israeli battery developer Phinergy formed a joint venture to manufacture ultra-lightweight metal-air batteries for electric vehicles (EVs).
- ✓ The joint venture will replace lithium with aluminium to make batteries that will charge faster and work for a longer time. The first customers of the company are Maruti Suzuki and Ashok Leyland. IOC had acquired a minority stake in Phinergy Ltd last year.

6. Which country has rolled out larger-denomination banknotes due to hyperinflation?

- A) Iran
- B) Venezuela ☒
- C) Sudan
- D) Nigeria



- ✓ Venezuela has recently rolled out larger-denomination banknotes due to hyperinflation. The bolivar currency of the South American country is losing its value tremendously. Bills worth 200,000 and 500,000 bolivars, which are worth just 10 and 27 US cents, respectively, began to circulate in the country. Venezuela's central bank has also planned to roll a bill worth 1 million bolivars, worth just 50 US cents.

7. What is the name for the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and converting it into solar fuel, called?

- A) Artificial photosynthesis ☒
- B) Natural photosynthesis
- C) Energy Conversion
- D) Energy Production



- ✓ Recently, researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed a system that can capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert it into solar fuel. This process is called Artificial Photosynthesis (AP). This process produces oxygen as by product. This process is said to mitigate the harmful effects of emissions made by use of fossil fuels.

8. As per which policy, more than 20-year-old personal vehicles would be de registered from June 1 2024?

- A) New Vehicle Policy
- B) Emission Control Policy
- C) Bharat Stage - 7
- D) Vehicle Scrapping Policy ☒



- ✓ As per the new Vehicle Scrapping Policy announced by the Union Ministry of Road Transport, more than 20 years old personal vehicles would be de registered from June 1 2024, in case they fail in automated physical fitness test. In case of commercial vehicles, 15 years old vehicles would be de registered from April 1 2023.

9. What is "Baikal-GVD" that has been in news recently?

- A) Space Shuttle
- B) Russian Telescope ☒
- C) Cryptocurrency
- D) New Planet



- ✓ Scientists from Russia have developed and deployed a telescope named "Baikal-GVD". The telescope has been placed into the depths of Lake Baikal in southern Siberia, which is the deepest lake known in earth. Using this telescope, Scientists are in search of Neutrinos - the tiniest known particles in the universe.

10. In which country, the world's first baby with antibodies against the novel coronavirus is reported to be born?

- A) Russia
- B) USA ☒
- C) Brazil
- D) Italy



- ✓ It has been reported that the world's first baby with antibodies against the novel coronavirus is born in the USA. The mother was vaccinated against COVID-19 during 36<sup>th</sup> week of her pregnancy which resulted in development of antibodies in both mother and the baby.
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1. What is the cost of LED bulbs under the GRAM UJALA Programme, launched by Convergence Energy Services Ltd?

- A) Rs.5  
B) Rs.10 ☒  
C) Rs.25  
D) Re.1



- ✓ A new scheme GRAM UJALA Programme for providing LED bulbs at a price of Rs.10 per bulb has been launched by Power and New and renewable energy minister Raj Kumar Singh. The scheme has been launched from Bihar. These bulbs are priced lowest in the world and are manufactured by Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) - a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL).

2. Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), that was seen in news, is a public sector enterprise under which Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ☒  
B) Ministry of Home Affairs  
C) Ministry of Power  
D) Ministry of Textiles



- ✓ Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) is a central public sector enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The CPSE was seen in news as it has recently released a tender that invited agencies to provide solutions and services related to fact verification and detection of misinformation on social media platforms. BECIL seeks to empanel the agencies.

3. What is India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2021?

- A) 139 ☒  
B) 145  
C) 108  
D) 5

139

- ✓ The World Happiness Report 2021 has been released recently by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.  
✓ The report measures the well-being by relying on three main indicators: life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions. Out of 149 countries, India has been ranked at 139. Finland is adjudged as the world's happiest country as per the report.

4. India recently launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) research and development initiative with which country?

- A) Japan  
B) France  
C) USA ☒  
D) Finland



- ✓ The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) launched the US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) initiative, in the presence of the Department of Science & Technology Secretary. IUSSTF is a bilateral organisation established by the two countries in 2000, to promote Science, Technology and innovation through mutual interactions. Under the USIAI initiative, new R&D areas and opportunities will be identified.

5. The Indian Navy inducted a landing craft utility ship L58, built by which organisation?

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



- ✓ The Indian Navy inducted a landing craft utility ship L58 at an event in Port Blair. It is the eighth and last of the landing craft utility (LCU) mark-IV class ship. The ship was indigenously designed and built by

state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata. It will be used for several activities like transporting battle tanks and heavy weapons systems.

6. Indian Navy carried out Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with which country in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp?

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



- ✓ Indian Navy carried out Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Bahrain Naval Force in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp. PASSEXs are conducted regularly by the Indian Navy with the navies of friendly foreign countries. Maritime Security Operations, code-named Op Sankalp were initiated in the Gulf in 2019.

7. As per the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021, what is the new FDI limit in the insurance sector?

- A) 26%  
B) 49%  
C) 74% ☒  
D) 100%

74%

- ✓ The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was approved by the Rajya Sabha recently. It seeks to increase foreign direct investment limit in the insurance sector to 74 per cent from the current 49 per cent. As per the bill, majority of those in board of directors and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of directors being independent directors.

8. NITI Aayog has partnered with which technology major to train students on Cloud Computing?

- A) HP  
B) Amazon ☒  
C) Samsung  
D) Huawei



- ✓ NITI Aayog has partnered with IT major Amazon Web Services (AWS) to train students on the fundamentals of cloud computing through Atal Tinkering Labs. Under the program, AWS will introduce the concepts of cloud computing such as cloud storage, web hosting, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and virtual reality (VR) to students.

9. Which institution developed the 'Energy Swaraj Yatra' bus?

- A) IIT Bombay ☒  
B) IIT Madras  
C) IIT Guwahati  
D) IISc, Bangalore



- ✓ The Union Education Minister Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' took a ride in the Energy Swaraj Yatra' bus. This bus has been designed and developed by Dr Chetan Singh Solanki, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. It is a vehicle that runs on solar energy.

10. Which organisation has extended its support for India's H2Ooooh! - Waterwise Program?

- A) World Bank  
B) UNESCO ☒  
C) UNICEF  
D) OECD



- ✓ UNESCO has partnered with United Schools Organization India (USO India), Water Digest magazine and Toonz Media Group for water conservation awareness programme.

- ✓ The H2Ooooh! - Waterwise Program is conducted for school students, in partnership with National Mission for Clean Ganga. The animation videos created by students will be launched on March 22, the World Water Day.



1. SAAMAR campaign has been launched by which state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Jharkhand ☒
- C) Haryana
- D) Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The state Government of Jharkhand launched a campaign named SAAMAR [Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction]. It aims to tackle malnutrition in the state by identifying anaemic women and malnourished children.
- ✓ It would converge various state departments and agencies to effectively reduce anaemia in the state.

2. Which Indian film won the 'Best Feature Film' award in the 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards?

- A) Asuran
- B) Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea ☒
- C) Otha Seruppu
- D) Soorai Potru



- ✓ The 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards were announced to honour the films from the year of 2019. The event was organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ Director Priyadarshan's Malayalam war epic Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea, starred by Mohanlal, won the Best Feature Film. The best actor award was given to Manoj Bajapayee for Bhonsle, Dhanush for Tamil film Asuran.

3. Which country is to conduct airborne radar surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers?

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



- ✓ India is set to conduct airborne radar surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers. A pilot study is to be conducted in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh. After the pilot project, similar studies will be conducted in Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra sub-basins.
- ✓ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences proposed this survey.

4. Which state has recently launched 'Dial 112' ERSS and State Emergency Response Centre?

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



- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 'Dial 112' Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) worth Rs 157-cr. People can call the toll-free number for all emergency services including police, fire and health in the state.
- ✓ The State Emergency Response Centre and the emergency response vehicles fitted with mobile data terminals were also inaugurated.

5. As per the National Accounts Statistics 2021, the private final consumption expenditure of which sector had the steepest rise?

- A) Education
- B) Restaurants
- C) Health ☒
- D) Alcoholic Beverages



- ✓ As per the National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2021, released by MoSPI, the private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) on health, education and restaurants recorded an increase in 2019-20.
- ✓ The highest increase is recorded in the field of health at 9.5%, followed by education and restaurants. The PFCE on Alcoholic beverages, clothing and foot wear recorded a steep fall during the said period.

6. When is the International Day of Happiness celebrated across the world, as proclaimed by the UN?

- A) March 18
- B) March 20 ☒
- C) March 22
- D) March 24



- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly, in the year 2012, proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness. It has been celebrated across the world since 2013, to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.
- ✓ This year, Finland was declared the happiest country in the world, as per the World Happiness report.

7. Which organisation has launched 'Sahi Disha' campaign to promote women's entrepreneurship in rural India?

- A) World Bank
- B) UN Development Program ☒
- C) Asian Development Bank
- D) New Development Bank



- ✓ The United Nations Development Program-UNDP has launched 'Sahi Disha' campaign to promote women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in rural India. The initiative is a five-year collaboration between UNDP and the IKEA Foundation. It has already supported one million women to access job and livelihood opportunities across five states including Delhi NCR and Maharashtra.

8. INSACOG Consortium is in the news recently. What does IN stand for?

- A) Integrated
- B) Indian ☒
- C) Inspection
- D) Innovation



- ✓ INSACOG stands for Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium. It has been set up by the Government of India for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 across the country. The consortium is made up of 10 Regional Genome Sequencing Laboratories (RGSs) present in Bhubaneswar, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and New Delhi.

9. Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan, Sutirtha Mukherjee who were in the news recently for qualifying for the Olympics, are the players of which sports?

- A) Badminton
- B) Table Tennis ☒
- C) Wrestling
- D) Fencing



- ✓ In the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament held recently in Doha four Indian Table Tennis players sealed Tokyo Olympic seats. Veteran paddler Sharath Kamal will participate in the Olympics for the fourth time. Other three players are G Sathiyan, Manika Batra and Sutirtha Mukherjee.

10. Who is set to be head of the Government committee for manufacturing in the high technology area?

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Piyush Goyal ☒
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Narendra Modi



- ✓ The Government of India is set to form an empowered committee for manufacturing in high technology areas. As per the official notification, the committee is to be headed by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. This move is expected to improve investments and promote manufacturing in technology intensive sectors.



1. NDHM Sandbox environment has been seen in the news recently. What does H in NDHM stand for?

- A) Health ☒
- B) Horticulture
- C) Hurricane
- D) Hospital



- ✓ NDHM stands for National Digital Health Mission. NDHM sandbox is open to everyone from Health care providers to app builders. The sandbox service of NDHM hosts the building block environment that are useful to any one who wishes to create software services and apps meant to be integrated with NDHM services.

2. 'Threadit' is a standalone website created by which tech major?

- A) Intel
- B) Microsoft
- C) Samsung
- D) Google ☒



- ✓ Threadit is a standalone website that has been created by Google for its workspaces. This new tool has been built to make remote working more efficient. Threadit enables users to record and send small videos to team members on work related issues. It has been developed in lines of Tik Tok.

3. Which organisation has inaugurated 3 space incubator centres at NITs?

- A) NASA
- B) DRDO
- C) ISRO ☒
- D) BARC



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently inaugurated three space incubation technology centres in NIT – Nagpur, Bhopal and Rourkela. This is aimed to encourage and give a platform for space entrepreneurs in India. ISRO has already opened three such centres at NIT Agartala, Trichy and Jalandhar.

4. "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021", a joint anti-terrorism exercise is to be held by which organisation?

- A) United Nations
- B) SCO ☒
- C) BIMSTEC
- D) ASEAN



- ✓ Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) including India, Pakistan and China will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise this year. The joint exercise 'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021' was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure held in Uzbekistan. SAARC is an 8-membered multilateral association headquartered at Kathmandu.

5. Where was the 116<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan held?

- A) Lahore
- B) New Delhi ☒
- C) Jaipur
- D) Jalandar



- ✓ The 116<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission meeting between India and Pakistan was held recently in New Delhi. This meeting took place after a gap of more than two and half years.
- ✓ This meeting coincided with the National Day of Pakistan. It is a 2-day meeting which on the Indian side is headed by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena.

6. What is the theme of "International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021"?

- A) Disqualify Racism
- B) Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration
- C) Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies
- D) Youth standing up against racism ☒



- ✓ The United Nations observes March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to raise awareness about equality and to end all forms of racism and racial discrimination. The theme for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021 is "Youth standing up against racism".

7. When is the World Meteorological Day observed every year?

- A) March 20
- B) March 21
- C) March 22
- D) March 23 ☒



- ✓ Every year, World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It commemorates the formation of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on March 23, 1950. This day also highlights the role played by humans and organizations in protecting Earth's atmosphere. The theme for 2021 World Meteorological Day is, "The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather".

8. When is the World Tuberculosis Day observed every year?

- A) March 21
- B) March 22
- C) March 23
- D) March 24 ☒



- ✓ Every year, the World Health Organisation commemorates World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, to raise awareness among the general public about the disease.
- ✓ On the same day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes Tuberculosis. This year, the theme of the World Tuberculosis Day is "The Clock is Ticking".

9. When the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed?

- A) March 23
- B) March 24
- C) March 25 ☒
- D) March 26



- ✓ Every year on 25<sup>th</sup> March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed by the United Nations. This day remembers those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. It also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice. The 2021 is, "Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice".

10. When the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed?

- A) March 23
- B) March 24
- C) March 25 ☒
- D) March 26



- ✓ Every year on the March 25<sup>th</sup>, "International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members" is observed by the United Nations. It is marked every year on the anniversary of abduction of a former journalist – Alec Collett. He was working for the UN – Relief and Works Agency in Palestine when he was abducted by armed gunman in 1985.
-

1. Which PSU has launched an e trading portal named "PRANIT"?

- A) Power Grid ☒
- B) NTPC
- C) HAL
- D) IOL



- ✓ The Union Power Ministry's Maharatna PSU – Power Grid has launched an e-tendering portal – "PRANIT". This portal is aimed to make the tendering process by power grid more transparent and decreases the paperwork in the process. This portal has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

2. PEPSU Muzara movement was a farmers' movement that happened in which Indian state?

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



- ✓ The Muzara movement had started in the 1930s in Punjab villages. The province was called PEPSU after Independence before being named Punjab. Muzara means landless farmers who worked on someone's land. This movement was started to take ownership rights of the land after tilling it for years. Finally, people got ownership rights in 1952 after paying one-time compensation. The movement was remembered in Punjab and farmer protest sites in New Delhi recently.

3. Which state shares a 510-kilometer border with Myanmar?

- A) Assam
- B) Mizoram ☒
- C) Manipur
- D) Meghalaya



- ✓ Mizoram shares a 510-kilometer border with Myanmar. The Chief Minister of Mizoram Zoramthanga asked the Centre to grant political asylum to "political refugees" from Myanmar. Earlier, the Home Ministry had directed that State governments have no powers to grant refugee status to any foreigner and India is not a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

4. 2011 Istanbul Convention, which was making news recently, is associated with which issue?

- A) Domestic violence and Gender Equality ☒
- B) Climate Change
- C) Financial Inclusion
- D) Non-Communicable Disease



- ✓ The Council of Europe accord, created in Istanbul, pledged to prevent, prosecute and eliminate domestic violence and promote equality. Turkey President Tayyip Erdogan pulled Turkey out of an international accord designed to protect women.
- ✓ However, people who see the pact as key to combating rising domestic violence, have been expressing their concerns.

5. Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan, who were in the news recently, are associated with which sports?

- A) Tennis
- B) Shooting ☒
- C) Athletics
- D) Table Tennis



- ✓ India's young shooters Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup, which is being held in Delhi.
- ✓ Another Indian shooter Ganemat Sekhon won the bronze medal in the women's Skeet event. Earlier, the Indian women and men's teams won gold medals in the 10m Air Pistol events at the ongoing ISSF World Cup being held in New Delhi.

6. 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko', the first indigenous knowledge system school, has been inaugurated at which state?

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



- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated the state's 1<sup>st</sup> formal indigenous language and knowledge system school.
- ✓ Named as 'Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko', the school will help in promoting and preserving indigenous traditions, culture and language. Rs 3 crore has been allocated for the development and maintenance of the school.

7. Which country is to hold the 'Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise' near Gulf of Oman?

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



- ✓ The US Navy announced that it is set to hold a major naval exercise along with Belgium, France and Japan in the Mideast.
- ✓ The 'Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise' will include ships from the four countries to conduct drills in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. This exercise has been planned amid tensions over the nuclear programme of Iran in the region.

8. Which day is celebrated by the UN this year on March 21, with the theme "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being"?

- A) International Day of Insects
- B) International Day of Species
- C) International Day of Forests ☒
- D) International Day of Trees



- ✓ March 21 is observed by the United Nations as the International Day of Forests. This day commemorates the importance of green forest cover around the world. The theme for this year's International Day of Forests is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being". This day was first proclaimed by UN in 2012.

9. Which Union Ministry is set to implement the Ken-Betwa project?

- A) Ministry of Defense
- B) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Environment



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Jal Sakthi is all set to implement the first river interlinking project in India – Ken Betwa Project. The project aims to link Ken river in Madhya Pradesh with Betwa in Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ The Ministry has sought for Public Investment Board's approval for implementing the project as a national project.

10. Which institution is to assist the states/UTs in preparing the annual export ranking index of districts?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) Commerce Ministry ☒
- C) Planning Commission
- D) National Development Council



- ✓ The Union Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will assist states and union territories to prepare an annual export ranking index of different districts. The index will rank each district on its export competitiveness. A district export action plan that will include identification of goods and services with export potential in the district.

1. Which Indian organisation demonstrated 'Free space quantum communication' for the first time?

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



- ✓ For the first time, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 300 m. It demonstrated live videoconferencing using quantum-key-encrypted signals.
- ✓ The free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) was demonstrated at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.

2. Which country is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> parliamentary election in the last two years?

- A) Venezuela  
B) Tanzania  
C) Israel ☒  
D) Chile



- ✓ Israel held its 4<sup>th</sup> parliamentary election in the last two years. The exit polls conducted did not show any clear winner. This election was triggered in December 2020, when the country's parliament failed to agree a budget. It ended a seven-month power sharing arrangement between Netanyahu and his main rival Benny Gantz.

3. Which country successfully launched 38 foreign satellites from 18 countries using its Soyuz-2.1, a carrier rocket?

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



- ✓ Russia successfully launched 38 foreign satellites from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The satellites were from 18 countries including South Korea, Japan and Germany. The Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket placed all 38 spacecraft in the orbit. Among the satellites was the Challenge-1, the first satellite made completely in Tunisia.

4. The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation between which country in water cooperation?

- A) Nepal  
B) Japan ☒  
C) Australia  
D) Germany



- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between the Jal Shakti Ministry of India and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. The MoC was signed for development of a long-term cooperation in the field of Water and Delta management. It also encourages implementation of joint projects between the two countries and exchange of information, knowledge, technology and scientific allied experience.

5. Which international organisation has released the report titled 'COVID-19 and Tourism'?

- A) NITI Aayog  
B) NCAER  
C) UNCTAD ☒  
D) TERI



- ✓ The United Nations trade and development body, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) has recently

released a report 'COVID-19 and Tourism'. As per the report, the world's tourism sector could lose at least USD 1.2 trillion or 1.5% of the global gross domestic product (GDP).

- ✓ If the break in international tourism lasts for 8 months, the loss could rise to USD 2.2 trillion or 2.8% of the global GDP.

6. Which Union Ministry is set to launch Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly?

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



- ✓ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced that it aims to launch a Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly. The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities are the implementing agencies of the Scheme. It will provide nutrition support to the elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition.

7. What is the title of the UN World Water Development Report 2021?

- A) Valuing Water ☒  
B) Water and Sanitation for All  
C) Water is Prime  
D) Water during COVID



- ✓ Every year, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March is celebrated by the United Nations as World Water Day. The main focus for celebrating this day is "support the achievement of sustainable development goal (SDG) 6 – water and sanitation for all by 2030". A resolution in this regard has been passed by the UN General Assembly on Dec 22, 1992.

8. Who are the heads of two high level task forces formed by the Government of India to lay roadmaps for enforcement of contracts and conciliation mechanisms?

- A) Narendra Modi & Rajnath Singh  
B) Nirmala Sitharaman & Amit Shah  
C) Rajiv Kumar & Amitabh Kant ☒  
D) Y M Deosthalee & Urjit Patel



- ✓ The Government of India has set up two high-level task forces to lay roadmap for enforcement of contracts and conciliation mechanisms respectively. One of the task forces is headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and the other is being chaired by the NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. These task forces are aimed to fast-track implementation of infra development in the country.

9. Which state / UT has lowered the age for alcohol consumption from 25 to 21?

- A) Uttar Pradesh  
B) Madhya Pradesh  
C) Delhi ☒  
D) Rajasthan



- ✓ The Government of Delhi has approved its new excise policy. Under the policy, the minimum age for alcohol and liquor consumption in Delhi has been reduced from 25 years to 21 years.

- ✓ This has been implemented based on the recommendations of a panel set up by the Government of Delhi.

10. With reference to Defence, what was 'Vajra', that was seen in news recently?

- A) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- B) Offshore patrol vessel ☒
- C) Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- D) Remote Controlled Gun



- ✓ Indian Coast Guard ship Vajra, the offshore patrol vessel was formally commissioned into service. It was indigenously designed and built by Larsen and Toubro.
  - ✓ This is the sixth of the seven offshore patrol vessels. The ship is fit with state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems including Stabilised Remote-Controlled Gun and Pollution response equipment.
-



1. Which country is set to re-establish the Homeland Security Dialogue with India?

- A) Japan  
B) USA ☒  
C) United Kingdom  
D) Russia



- ✓ India and the U.S. have recently agreed to re-establish the U.S.- India Homeland Security Dialogue, as per the announcement of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Dialogue aims to discuss important issues such as cybersecurity and emerging technology. It also aims to address violent extremism. The first Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries was held in 2011.

2. The Union Minister of Education has inaugurated the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in which state/UT?

- A) Punjab  
B) New Delhi ☒  
C) Uttar Pradesh  
D) Haryana



- ✓ The University of Delhi organized a programme to commemorate 90 years of martyrdom of the leaders: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru on 'Shaheed Diwas'.  
✓ Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurated the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak. The existing collection of books on freedom fighters in the Bhagat Singh Smarak has been announced to be converted into "Shaheed Smriti Pustakalaya".

3. Which global rating agency releases report titled 'Global Economic Outlook' GEO?

- A) Fitch Ratings ☒  
B) CRISIL  
C) Standard & Poor  
D) Ind-RA



- ✓ American credit rating agency Fitch releases the report titled 'Global Economic Outlook GEO'. In its recent edition, it has revised India's GDP growth estimate to 12.8% for next fiscal. Earlier, the ratings agency had estimated a growth rate of 11%. The reasons stated are a stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment. Fitch also expects GDP growth to ease to 5.8% in Fiscal Year 2023.

4. Which Indian state has recorded a huge decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis, at a rate of 7.5%?

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



- ✓ In the state of Kerala, the estimated incidence of tuberculosis (TB) went down by 37.5% between 2015-20. With this, the southern state has registered an annual decline rate of 7.5%. As the global reduction rate would only be 2-3% and hence the state's reduction rate is very significant. The state has also won the bronze medal in the Health Ministry's Certification of Efforts Towards Elimination of TB.

5. What is the rank of India in the latest International Intellectual Property (IP) Index?

- A) 20  
B) 30  
C) 40 ☒  
D) 50

40

- ✓ India has been ranked 40 on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index. The IP index is released annually by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). It assesses the Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies in several areas from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets etc.

6. What is "Manyamkonda Jatara", that is seen in the news recently?

- A) Ancient Harappan Site  
B) Buddhist Vihara  
C) Interstate Religious Festival ☒  
D) Pre-Independence Movement



- ✓ Manyamkonda Jatara is an interstate religious festival of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. This festival involves shifting idols from Odisha to Andhra at Polluru village in Mothugudem mandal of East Godavari District. Incidents of untoward incidents and left-wing extremisms have been reported in the past during this festival.  
✓ But, due to abundant precautionary measures, this year's festival went on peacefully.

7. Union Cabinet has approved MoU between UPSC of India and its counterpart in which country?

- A) Sri Lanka  
B) Bangladesh  
C) Afghanistan ☒  
D) Pakistan



- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) of India and Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCS) of Afghanistan.  
✓ This MoU is aimed to share experience, expertise between the two agencies in recruitment of civil servants.

8. Where was the 116<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan held?

- A) Lahore  
B) New Delhi ☒  
C) Jaipur  
D) Jalandar



- ✓ The 116<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission meeting between India and Pakistan was held recently in New Delhi. This meeting took place after a gap of more than two and half years. This meeting coincided with the National Day of Pakistan.  
✓ It is a 2-day meeting which on the Indian side is headed by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena.

9. Commemorative stamp of which Indian leader's visit to Odisha in 1921 has been released recently?

- A) Netaji Subash Chandra Bose  
B) Babasaheb Ambedkar  
C) 'Mahatma' Gandhi ☒  
D) 'Karmaveer' Kamarajar



- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi visited Odisha for the first time in the year 1921 (100 years ago) and had addressed a massive gathering of people as a part of his non-cooperation movement.

- ✓ To commemorate this event, a commemorative postage stamp on '100 years of first visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha' has been released recently.

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10. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India?

- A) Pankaj Kumar
- B) Guruprasad Mohapatra
- C) Arun Kumar
- D) Sanjeev Kumar ☒



- ✓ Sanjeev Kumar, a 1991 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), it said. As per the order issued by the Personnel Ministry, Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. As many as 22 bureaucrats have been appointed to different ministries.