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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2021

JULY 01-07

1. India intends to achieve land degradation neutral status by which year?

- A) 2030 ☒
 B) 2035
 C) 2037
 D) 2040



- ✓ India is signatory to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). It intends to achieve land degradation neutral status by 2030.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently addressed a high-level virtual conference on desertification, land degradation and drought. PM Modi was President of 14th session of Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at New Delhi in 2019.

2. Which country is the largest producer of bananas in the world?

- A) USA
 B) Ecuador
 C) India ☒
 D) South Africa



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Commerce has stated that India has exported a total of 1.91 lakh tonne worth Rs 619 crore, during the financial year 2020-21. In the previous FY 2019-20, the banana exports stood at a higher quantum of 1.95 lakh metric tonne banana valued at Rs 660 crore. India is the largest producer of Banana, with a share of 25% of world output.

3. What is AY.1, which is seen in news recently?

- A) Coronavirus variant ☒
 B) Space Mission
 C) COVID Vaccine
 D) Infrastructure Project



- ✓ B.1.617.2.1, is a new Coronavirus variant and is denoted as AY.1 for simplicity. This variant is found to be rapidly spreading in several countries including India. This corona virus variant has immune escape properties, thereby making it partially or fully resistant to the body's immune response, vaccines and antibody therapies.

4. The 'Crash course programme for Covid-19 frontline workers' launched by the PM, is designed under which scheme?

- A) PM Atma Nirbhar Bharat Yojana
 B) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 ☒
 C) PM Swachh Bharath Abhiyan
 D) PM Cares



- ✓ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has launched a customized crash course programme for COVID-19 frontline workers, which would make available trained health workers across the country to assist the battle against COVID.
- ✓ The course has been launched with a financial outlay of Rs.276 crore under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0.

5. India has launched a trilateral with which two countries, for Indo-Pacific stability?

- A) Italy - Japan ☒
 B) France - Australia
 C) UAE - New Zealand

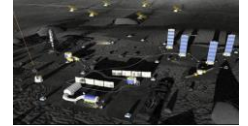


D) Germany - South Korea

- ✓ India, Italy and Japan have launched a trilateral, through a virtual meeting in which India was represented by the Union Ministry of External Affairs. This trilateral aims to create stability and a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region, which is based on "consent of all" and not "power of the few".

6. Which two countries recently unveiled a roadmap for a joint International Lunar Research Station?

- A) USA and UAE
 B) USA and UK
 C) Russia and China ☒
 D) Russia and UAE



- ✓ Russia and China recently unveiled a roadmap for a joint International Lunar Research Station. The International Lunar Research Station is a comprehensive scientific experiment base with the capability of long-term autonomous operation.
- ✓ The ILRS will become operational from 2036 onwards, providing a range of scientific facilities and equipments.

7. *Paraceratherium*, that was recently in news, is an extinct genus of which animal?

- A) Rhinoceros ☒
 B) Crocodile
 C) Dinosaur
 D) Snake



- ✓ *Paraceratherium* is an extinct genus of hornless rhinoceros. It is one of the largest terrestrial mammals.
- ✓ The exact size of *Paraceratherium* is unknown because of the incompleteness of the fossils. It lived in habitats ranging from arid deserts with a few scattered trees to subtropical forests.

8. *Stygarcus keralensis*, that was recently making news, was discovered in which Indian state?

- A) Goa
 B) Maharashtra
 C) Kerala ☒
 D) Manipur



- ✓ *Stygarcus keralensis* was discovered in Kerala by a research team which consisted of Vishnudattan, Jayachandran, and Bijoy Nandan, professor, Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry, Cochin University of Science and Technology, J G Hansen, University of Copenhagen. It is the eighth species named under the genus *Stygarcus*.

9. Critically endangered grass species *Lophopogon prasannae* has recently been found in which Indian state?

- A) Manipur
 B) Rajasthan
 C) Andhra Pradesh ☒
 D) Haryana



- ✓ The new grass species, "*Lophopogon prasannae*" has recently been discovered in the Nigidi forest of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh. This grass species has been named after Dr PV Prasanna. This species has been marked as 'critically endangered' on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's 'red list' criteria.

10. On which date, World Crocodile Day is observed?

- A) June.15
- B) June.16
- C) June.17 ☒
- D) June.18



- ✓ June 17 is celebrated as World Crocodile Day to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.
 - ✓ Three crocodilian species are found in India viz. mugger or marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*); Estuarine or saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*). Of these, Gharial is endangered.
-

1. Which Union Ministry is set to launch 'Jaan Hai to Jahaan Hai' COVID vaccination awareness campaign?

- A) Health Ministry
- B) Rural Development Ministry
- C) Minority Affairs Ministry ☒
- D) Social Justice Ministry



- ✓ The Minority Affairs Ministry is set to launch an awareness campaign 'Jaan Hai to Jahaan Hai' in rural and remote areas to curb rumours against the COVID vaccination drive in the country. The campaign is to be launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs along with various Socio-Educational Organisations, NGOs and Women Self Help Groups (SHGs).

2. CSS, a new software released by the Union Health Ministry, stands for?

- A) Coronavirus Science Software
- B) COVID Severity Score ☒
- C) COVID Serious Score
- D) COVID Scientific Score



- ✓ The Union Health Ministry released information about a software named 'Covid Severity Score', which will identify Covid patients who may require ventilation, based on an algorithm. The Foundation for Innovations in Health, Kolkata with support from the Department of Science & Technology, in collaboration with IIT Guwahati, have developed an algorithm. It allocates a Covid Severity Score (CSS), using the measures of symptoms, signs, vital parameters, test reports etc.

3. What is the theme of the International Day of Yoga 2021?

- A) Yoga and Science
- B) Yoga amid COVID
- C) Yoga for Wellness ☒
- D) Yoga for World



- ✓ The International Yoga Day has been celebrated every year on June 21 since 2015. PM Modi proposed to observe an International Yoga Day, in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This year, the theme of the International Day of Yoga is 'Yoga for Wellness'. The focus will be on practicing yoga for physical and mental well-being.

4. When is the Sustainable Gastronomy Day observed every year?

- A) June.5
- B) June.10
- C) June.18 ☒
- D) June.26



- ✓ The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year on 18th of June to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. It also reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors of sustainable development.

5. On which date, World Sickle Cell Day is observed?

- A) June.19 ☒
- B) June.20
- C) June.21
- D) June.22



- ✓ The World Sickle Cell Day is observed every year on 19th of June to raise public awareness about the sickle cell disease and its treatment

methods. Sickle cell disease is an inherited form of anaemia in which red blood cells are not able to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body. The 2021 theme is "Shine the Light on Sickle Cell".

6. When is the 'International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict' observed?

- A) June.19 ☒
- B) June.20
- C) June.21
- D) June.22



- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed every year on June 19 to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict related sexual violence, to honor the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.

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

- A) Every Action Counts
- B) Anti-racism wins
- C) Rights of Refugees
- D) Together we heal, learn and shine ☒



- ✓ World Refugee Day is observed annually on June 20, to create awareness of the situation of refugees across the world. The theme of this year's observance is "Together we heal, learn and shine".
- ✓ On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly decided that June 20 would be celebrated as World Refugee Day. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol protect the refugees, who are present throughout the world.

8. Which water body is also called the Gulf of Berbera?

- A) Gulf of Mannar
- B) Gulf of Aden ☒
- C) Palk Strait
- D) Rann of Kutch



- ✓ The Indian Navy, for the first time is participating in a joint exercise with the European Union Naval Force, which is set to take place in the Gulf of Aden, also known as the Gulf of Barbera. This exercise would involve some of the most advanced air defence, anti-submarine exercises, cross deck helicopter operations, tactical manoeuvres etc.

9. Who was the first Indian to win individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games?

- A) P T Usha
- B) Milkha Singh ☒
- C) Dhyan Chand
- D) Paan Singh Tomar



- ✓ Milkha Singh, who is also called as the "Flying Sikh", passed away recently due to COVID. He was 91 years old.
- ✓ Milkha Singh won India's first individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, in 1958 in Wales. Milkha Singh was a soldier and a track and field sprinter, who represented India in various international events and brought laurels to the country.

10. What is the Government's target to reduce road accident deaths by year 2024?

- A) 20%
- B) 25%
- C) 50% ☒
- D) 75%



- ✓ The Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari recently said that the Government's target is to reduce road accident deaths by 50% by year 2024. The World Bank and ADB have sanctioned a scheme by which the Government is allocating Rs.14,000 crores for states and NHAI to remove accident black spots.
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1. Which institution released the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction–Special Report on Drought 2021?

- A) FAO
- B) UNDRR ☒
- C) WFP
- D) UNESCO



- ✓ The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has released the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction–Special Report on Drought 2021. As per the assessment, Drought has directly affected 1.5 billion people so far this century, more than any other disaster. This increased number is due to climate change, environmental degradation and demographic shifts.

2. What is 'ICMED 13485 PLUS', which was seen in the news recently?

- A) Quality Certification Scheme ☒
- B) Poverty Allevation Scheme
- C) Road Project
- D) Vaccination Scheme



- ✓ ICMED is the name of the scheme that was launched for Certification of Medical Devices in the year 2016. Recently, the Quality Council of India (QCI), and the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) have added some features to the scheme. The new scheme is renamed as ICMED 13485 PLUS. It will undertake verification of the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices.

3. Which organisation has proposed to set up an International Carbon Price Floor?

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



- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has proposed to set up an International Carbon price floor to help limit global warming. It aims to achieve the transition toward low carbon growth over this decade. As per the IMF chief, limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees will require emissions to be cut by a quarter to a half by 2030.

4. Which crop has been identified as an alternate feedstock source for Ethanol production in India?

- A) Cotton
- B) Jute
- C) Cassava ☒
- D) Potato



- ✓ ICAR–Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) has found cassava (tapioca) as a promising raw material for bioethanol production. As a biofuel crop, cassava has several advantages compared to sugarcane. Cassava has high starch content and ability to grow under low management conditions. This will help meet India's Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) programme target of 2025.

5. Great Barrier Reef, which was seen in the news recently, is a famous coral reef situated in which country?

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



- ✓ Great Barrier Reef spans for 2300 km off Australia's north-east coast. It gained World Heritage ranking in 1981 due to its scientific and intrinsic importance. Recently, UNESCO recently said the Great Barrier Reef should be put on a list of World Heritage Sites.

6. M–Yoga application, launched by India recently, was developed in association with which organisation?

- A) UN
- B) WHO ☒
- C) CDC
- D) John Hopkins University



- ✓ India Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of M–Yoga app, which will host training videos to be available worldwide in different languages.
- ✓ The app is a collaborative work between the World Health Organisation and Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ministry of AYUSH), Government of India.

7. Laurel Hubbard, who is selected as the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics, is from which country?

- A) USA
- B) Russia
- C) New Zealand ☒
- D) South Africa



- ✓ 43-year-old Laurel Hubbard from New Zealand has been selected as the first transgender athlete to compete at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Hubbard will be the first Trans Olympian when she takes part in the super-heavyweight women's competition. She will compete in the super-heavyweight 87-kg category after testosterone levels required by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are met.

8. What is the name of the Engine which can be used with 100 percent crude oil or 100 percent ethanol?

- A) Multi fuel Engine
- B) Flex fuel Engine ☒
- C) Alternative Engine
- D) Sustainable Engine



- ✓ The union minister for Road Transport and Highways announced that the Ministry will make the Flex-fuel engines, mandatory for the automobile industry. In a flex fuel engine, there will be choice for the people to use 100 percent crude oil or 100 percent ethanol. India has earlier preponed the cut-off date for mixing 20 per cent ethanol in petrol from 2030 to 2025.

9. Which organization has released the World Investment Report 2021?

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



- ✓ The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has recently released the World Investment Report 2021. The report noted that global FDI has fallen by 35% due to COVID pandemic.
- ✓ UNCTAD has stated that India is the fifth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the world for 2020 and its value stood at USD 64 billion.

10. Which state is set to form an economic advisory council composed of Esther Duflo and Raghuram Rajan?

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



- ✓ The state Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to set up an Economic advisory council, which would comprise of eminent economists like Nobel laureate Esther Duflo, former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan, Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian, development economist Jean Dreze and former Union Finance secretary S Narayan.
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1. Which Indian airport has won the Airport Council International's (ACI) honour for Airport Service Quality?

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



- ✓ The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) won the Airport Council International's (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Airport Service Quality.
- ✓ Those airports which have consistently delivered excellent services in the Airport Service Quality Survey, in the opinion of the passengers, are provided with the Roll of Excellence recognition by ACI.

2. Which country has launched the world's first exclusive 'Green rating system for High-Speed Rail'?

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



- ✓ India has launched the world's first exclusive green rating system for High-Speed Rail. CII-Indian Green Building Council has launched the IGBC Green High-Speed Rail Rating System. IGBC has collaborated with the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL).
- ✓ This rating system will enable new High-Speed Rail (HSR) stations to apply energy efficient concepts during operations.

3. Which scheme of providing additional food-grain to NFSA beneficiaries, has been extended till November?

- A) PM KISAN
- B) PM Garib Kalyan Yojana ☒
- C) PM Atmanirbhar Yojana
- D) PM Food grain Yojana



- ✓ The cabinet has recently approved further allocation of additional foodgrain to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (Phase IV) till November.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government will provide 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost to maximum 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

4. Which country is home to the world's largest variety of butterflies, as per a recent study?

- A) Colombia ☒
- B) Fiji
- C) Papua New Guinea
- D) New Zealand



- ✓ As per a recent study published by the Natural History Museum, Colombia is home to the world's largest variety of butterflies. The South American country has approximately 20% of all known species.
- ✓ An international team of scientists prepared a document titled "Checklist of Colombian Butterflies." Over 200 butterfly species are found only in Colombia

5. Ingenuity, the NASA's robotic helicopter, operating on which astronomical body?

- A) Moon
- B) Mars ☒
- C) Venus
- D) Jupiter



- ✓ Ingenuity, the NASA's small robotic helicopter operating on the Mars, as a part of the Mars 2020 Mission of the American Space Agency. The helicopter completed its eighth flight to land on another new location. In its latest flight, Ingenuity flew 160 meters south to a new location, previously not surveyed by the helicopter or the Perseverance rover.

6. Which country plays host to the BRICS summit on Green Hydrogen initiatives?

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



- ✓ India's state-owned power sector major NTPC Ltd is anchoring a two-day summit on Green Hydrogen initiatives. The event would involve participation from BRICS nations.
- ✓ This summit creates a platform to share Green Hydrogen initiatives by the nations across the globe and present detailed road maps to take green energy to the next levels. The event is proposed to be held in a virtual format.

7. Which organisation released the 'Annual report on children and armed conflict'?

- A) UN ☒
- B) UNESCO
- C) UNICEF
- D) IUCN



- ✓ As per the UN chief Antonio Guterres' annual report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict, more than 8,500 children were used as soldiers last year in various conflicts across the world. The most violations in 2020 were committed in Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

8. When is World Music Day observed every year?

- A) June.20
- B) June.21 ☒
- C) June.22
- D) June.23



- ✓ Every year, the 21st of June is celebrated as World Music Day. This day was first celebrated in the year 1982 in France. The day coincides with the summer solstice and is aimed to bring people out on the streets and enjoy themselves listening to the music.

9. What is the rank of India in the 'Digital News Report 2021', on levels of overall trust in news?

- A) 11
- B) 21
- C) 31 ☒
- D) 41



- ✓ The 10th edition of Digital News Report for the year 2021 has been released by Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. It details

the impact of COVID 19 pandemic on news consumption across the globe.

- ✓ The report has been compiled based on the data collected from six continents and 46 markets, which includes India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, Colombia, and Peru for the first time. India ranked 31 out of 46 countries on levels of trust in news.

10. Which institution has launched a 'Centre for research on start-ups and risk financing' (CREST)?

- A) IIT Chennai ☒
- B) IIT Mumbai
- C) IIT Ahmedabad
- D) IIT Bengaluru



- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Madras launched a 'Centre for research on start-ups and risk financing' (CREST). It would also create a data repository on Indian start-ups to address a major hurdle for engaging in high-quality research.
 - ✓ This information would be made accessible for researchers and policymakers that can result in international publications.
-

1. Who is the head of the Delimitation commission on Jammu and Kashmir?

- A) AK Sikri
B) Ranjan Gogoi
C) Ranjana Desai ☒
D) K V Kamath



- ✓ The Delimitation commission was set up six months after the abrogation of Article 370 and withdrawal of J&K's special status in August 2019. The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai.
- ✓ Recently, the Commission held a meeting with deputy commissioners (DCs) of all 20 districts in J&K. This is ahead of the all-party meeting called by the Prime Minister, with the leaders from J&K.

2. Which country supplied Dragunov sniper rifles to the Indian Army?

- A) USA
B) Russia ☒
C) Israel
D) Japan



- ✓ Indian Army procured Dragunov sniper rifles from Russia in the 1990s. The rifles have fallen behind contemporary snipers used across the world. Recently, Russia agreed to offer the Indian Army, a comprehensive upgrade of the Dragunov sniper rifle.

3. Indian Air Force and Indian Navy have participated in a 'Passage-Exercise' south of Thiruvananthapuram, with which country's Naval force?

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



- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in a passage exercise with the carrier strike group (CSG) of the US Navy. This exercise was carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram on the western seaboard. On Indian front, Sukhoi aircraft, Jaguars, IAF refuelling aircraft and warships and maritime patrol aircrafts participated.

4. As per Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation report, who is the world's biggest philanthropist of the last century?

- A) Jamsetji Tata ☒
B) Mukesh Ambani
C) Bill Gates
D) Rajinikanth



- ✓ As per Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation report, India's industrialist and Tata Group founder Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata has been declared to be world's biggest philanthropist of the last century.
- ✓ He has made donations worth \$102.4 billion. Bill and Melinda Gates have been ranked the second. Wipro Founder and Chairman Azim Premji has been ranked at 12th position in the list.

5. Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd (CRWC) is set to be merged with which entity?

- A) Central Warehousing Corporation ☒ B) IRCTC
C) GSRE Ltd D) NTPC



- ✓ The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the merger of Government owned Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd (CRWC), with its holding company Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). This decision has been made in line with the 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' policy of the Government, as spelt out in Budget 2021-22.

6. MSDC, an apex advisory body, formed in 1997, is associated with which Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Skill Development
B) Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways ☒
C) Ministry of Education
D) Ministry of Electronics and IT



- ✓ Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) is an apex advisory body formed in 1997, for the development of the Major and non-Major Ports. Recently, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Port, Shipping and Waterways Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the 18th meeting of MSDC through a video conference.
- ✓ He highlighted that the 'Indian Port Bill 2021' will ensure optimum management and utilization of the coastline.

7. Who is the composer of the official theme song of the Indian Olympic Team of Tokyo 2020?

- A) A R Rahman
B) Mohit Chauhan ☒
C) Vishal Dadlani
D) Shankar Mahadevan



- ✓ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju launched the official theme song of the Indian Olympic Team of Tokyo 2020. The song has been composed and sung by popular playback singer Mohit Chauhan. Over 100 athletes are expected to represent India at the Tokyo Games.

8. Which country won the inaugural ICC World Test Championship?

- A) India
B) New Zealand ☒
C) Australia
D) England



- ✓ New Zealand beat India in the inaugural ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final to become the first World Test Champion. This is New Zealand's first ICC title in two decades.
- ✓ New Zealand chased down the 139-run target with eight wickets in hand on the reserve day of the final.

9. As per the UN data, what is the estimated number of widows across the world, as of 2021?

- A) 25 million
B) 258 million ☒
C) 56 million
D) 568 million

258

- ✓ To empower women and safeguard the rights of widows, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution and declared June 23 as International Widows Day. International Widows Day is aimed at showing solidarity with women who have lost their partners. As per the United Nations, there are an estimated 258 million widows around the world, and nearly one in ten live in extreme poverty.

10. 'Tax Inspectors Without Borders' is an initiative of UNDP in association with which organization?

- A) OECD ☒
- B) IMF
- C) UNESCO
- D) UNICEF



- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have launched a joint initiative named Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) in Bhutan. For this initiative, India has been chosen as a Partner Jurisdiction. This programme aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration.
-

1. Which space agency launched Baby Squids into space for experimental purposes?

- A) ISRO
- B) ESA
- C) ROSCOSMOS
- D) NASA ☒



- ✓ American space agency NASA has sent a few numbers of squids into space for experimental and research purposes. These Hawaiian bobtail squids were raised at the University of Hawaii – Kewalo Marine Laboratory and have been sent to space in a SpaceX resupply mission to the International Space Station.

2. India has recently signed a MoU with which country, in the field of agriculture and allied sectors?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Fiji ☒
- C) Australia
- D) South Africa



- ✓ The Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors with the government of Fiji, in a virtual mode.
- ✓ The MoU aims to increase the cooperation of both the countries in Dairy Industry, Rice Industry, Root crop diversification, Water Resources Management, Coconut Industry, etc.

3. In which Indian state the field trials of the world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber has commenced?

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka
- C) Assam ☒
- D) Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Rubber Board of India has launched the field trials of the world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber in Rubber Board's Sarutari research farm – Guwahati, Assam.
- ✓ This variant has been developed by the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in Puthuppally, Kottayam, Kerala. The Government of Kerala had earlier denied the field trials of GM crops in the state.

4. Which is the only state to have all three species of crocodiles?

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



- ✓ Odisha has recently witnessed the first natural nesting of gharials. With this, it has become the only state to have all the three species of the reptile: freshwater gharials, muggers, and saltwater crocodiles.
- ✓ Gharials were first introduced in 1975 in Odisha. They are considered as the most critically endangered and genetically weak species, compared to saltwater crocodiles and muggers.

5. What type of satellite is 'Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich, which was making news recently?

- A) Ocean Observing Satellite ☒
- B) Communication Satellite
- C) Remote Sensing Satellite
- D) Navigation Satellite



- ✓ The Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich was launched in November 2020. It is an Ocean-Observing Satellite, dedicated to measuring sea-level rise. After six months of calibration works, the satellite has recently started functioning.
- ✓ It was a mission of the European Union, being implemented along with ESA, NASA and CNES French Agency. The Copernicus Sentinel-6B satellite will be launched in 2025.

6. When is the World Olympic Day celebrated every year?

- A) June.23 ☒
- B) June.24
- C) June.25
- D) June.26



- ✓ Every year, the 23rd of June is celebrated as the World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day across the globe.
- ✓ This day was first introduced in the year 1948, to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on June 23, 1894, at the Sorbonne in Paris. This day aims to promote participation in sport across the globe irrespective of age, gender, or athletic ability.

7. Which organization has released the "Suicide Worldwide 2019" report?

- A) WHO ☒
- B) UN
- C) UNICEF
- D) Amnesty International



- ✓ Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report titled "Suicide Worldwide 2019". As per the report 7 lakh people die due to suicide every year. The report reveals that nearly 77% of global suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries and suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in 15-19-year-olds.

8. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is reported to be associated with which vaccine?

- A) AstraZeneca-Oxford Vaccine ☒
- B) Covaxin
- C) Sputnik
- D) Sinovac



- ✓ Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a rare neurological disorder, in which the body's immune system attacks its own protective coatings on nerve fibres. This syndrome was first reported in Europe and the UK among some patients who undertook AstraZeneca-Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, but such a probability is found to be small.
- ✓ The syndrome may start with extreme weakness that can eventually paralyse the entire body. The vaccine is traded as Covishield in India, which also reported some cases.

9. What is the turnover limit of small and medium companies, as per the definition issued by the Corporate Affairs Ministry?

- A) Rs 50 crore
- B) Rs 100 crore
- C) Rs 250 crore ☒
- D) Rs 500 crore



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has enlarged and expanded the definition of small and medium companies (SMC). As per the new definition, small and medium companies are unlisted entities which are not banks, financial institutions or insurance firms.

- ✓ They should have a turnover of up to Rs 250 crore and borrowings up to Rs 50 crore in the immediately preceding accounting year.
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10. Which organization has released the report titled World Drug Report 2021?

- A) OECD
- B) IMF
- C) UNODC ☒
- D) UNICEF



- ✓ World Drug Report 2021 has been released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The report states that 275 million people used drugs worldwide in the year 2020 and that 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.
 - ✓ The report further reveals that, in the last 24 years, the cannabis potency has increased by about 4 times.
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