



winmeen.com

THIRD WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2021

JULY 15-22

1. Which is the top state of India in production of Coal?

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



- ✓ As per the provisional statistics of 2020-21 of the Coal Ministry, India's total coal production registered a decline of 2.02 per cent to 716.084 million tonnes during 2020-21. Of the total production, 671.297 MT was non-coking coal and 44.787 MT was coking coal. Chhattisgarh registered highest coal production of 158.409 MT, followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal.

2. NEOWISE, which got for two-year mission extension, is the telescope of which space agency?

- A) ISRO
B) NASA ☒
C) Roscosmos
D) JAXA



- ✓ NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) was recently given a two-year mission extension.
✓ It is a near-Earth object (NEO) hunting space telescope, which searches for asteroids and comets – including objects that could pose a hazard to Earth. The telescope has provided an estimate of the size of over 1,850 near-Earth objects.

3. Which country has recently become 15th nation to be part of the world's largest weapons project, Joint Strike Fighter program?

- A) South Africa
B) Netherlands
C) Switzerland ☒
D) Germany



- ✓ F-35 Lightning II is a next generation fighter jet developed by the US-based Lockheed Martin. This stealth multirole aircraft is capable of conducting airstrikes, reconnaissance missions and air-to-air combats. Its development was funded by the US and several of its NATO allies.
✓ Switzerland has ordered these fighter jets, making it the 15th nation to be part of the world's largest weapons project, Joint Strike Fighter program.

4. Which is the largest milk producing country in the world?

- A) India ☒
B) United States
C) China
D) Denmark



- ✓ India is the largest producer of milk globally, with an estimated production of 208 million tonnes in FY2021.

5. Virachey National Park, that was recently making news, is located in which country?

- A) Thailand
B) Malaysia
C) Cambodia ☒
D) Singapore



- ✓ Virachey National Park is one of the two Cambodian ASEAN Heritage Parks located at the northeastern part of the country and spanning across more than 3,000 square kilometres. It overlaps Ratanakiri and Stung Treng Provinces.
✓ Illegal logging is a major concern in this national forest since the 2000s, leading to a vast expanse of forest being degraded at an exponential scale. However, this situation has improved over the recent years. The rare sighting of giant muntjac in the recent months is the outcome of this progress.

6. Valmiki National Park, which was seen in the news recently, is the only National Park of which state?

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



- ✓ Valmiki National Park and Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the India-Nepal border in Bihar, on the bank of river Gandak. It is the only National Park in the state of Bihar.
✓ The Authorities of the Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) have identified 150 vultures in different ranges of the protected area. A proposed plan for vulture conservation is sent to the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).

7. What is the name of the tropical storm that has hit Cuba recently?

- A) Elsa ☒
B) Bill
C) Danny
D) Erin



- ✓ Tropical storm Elsa recently hit Cuba. It subsequently exited Cuba, east of the city of Havana, towards Florida. Cuba faced heavy rains due to the storm, causing light flooding in the capital in lower lying coastal areas.

8. Which Ministry launched 'Ayurveda dataset on Clinical Trials Registry- India CTRI Portal'?

- A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
B) Ministry of AYUSH ☒
C) Ministry of Science and Technology
D) Ministry of Electronics and IT



- ✓ Union AYUSH Ministry recently launched Ayurveda dataset on The Clinical Trials Registry- India CTRI Portal. The Ayurveda Dataset of CTRI has been jointly developed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of AYUSH. Union AYUSH Minister also launched four more portals namely AMAR, SAHI, e-MEDHA and RMIS.

9. Which country hosted the CoWIN Global Conclave?

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



- ✓ India recently hosted the CoWIN Global Conclave. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the virtual conclave. As per the CEO of the National Health Authority (NHA), Dr RS Sharma, about 50 countries have shown interest in adopting CoWIN.

- ✓ India is set to provide the open-source version of the platform to the interested countries. CoWIN is a digital platform, developed by India, to efficiently run its vaccination drive.
-

10. Which country hosted the 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in 2021?

- A) India
- B) France ☒
- C) South Africa
- D) Australia



- ✓ The French Navy hosted the 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). It was concluded at Réunion island, a French department in the Indian Ocean. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium is a biennial event, which was conceived by the Indian navy in 2008. IONS includes 24 member nations that touch or lie within the Indian Ocean Region and 8 observer nations.
-

1. Which is the highest ranked Indian city in Global Startup Ecosystem Index – 2021?

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



- ✓ Bengaluru is the highest ranked Indian city in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021, released by StartupBlink. It is on the 10th position worldwide and on 1st position in India. India was placed at 20th place. New Delhi and Mumbai were at 14th and 16th position (worldwide).
- ✓ 43 Indian cities got placed in the list of 100 countries. The top five countries are USA, UK, Israel, Canada and Germany. The top five cities in the Index are San Francisco, New York, Beijing, Los Angeles and London.

2. Who has been named the flag bearer of the Indian contingent in Tokyo Paralympics 2021?

- A) Mariyappan Thangavelu ☒
- B) Sundar Singh Gurjar
- C) Varun Singh Bhati
- D) Devendra Jhajharia



- ✓ Mariyappan Thangavelu is announced as the flag bearer of the Indian contingent in Tokyo Paralympics 2021. Mariyappan Thangavelu is India's first Paralympian gold medallist since 2004.
- ✓ He won gold medal in the 2016 Summer Paralympic games in High jump. He was awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award for Para-Atheletics, Arjuna Award for Para-Atheletics and Padma Shri.

3. Who won the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess title 2021?

- A) Vladimir Artemiev
- B) Magnus Carlsen
- C) Ding Liren
- D) Levon Aronian ☒



- ✓ Levon Aronian won the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess title 2021. Levon Grigori Aronian is an Armenian-American chess grandmaster.
- ✓ He won the title after defeating Vladimir Artemiev. Magnus Carlsen, the current world champion was on the 3rd position. The Goldmoney Asian Rapid is the seventh tournament of the Champions Chess Tour 2021 or Meltwater Champions Tour.

4. Which sports federation has been granted recognition as the National Sports Federation by the Sports Ministry recently?

- A) WAKO India Kickboxing Federation ☒
- B) Taekwondo India Federation
- C) Freestyle Boxing Federation
- D) None of the above



- ✓ WAKO India Kickboxing Federation has been granted recognition as the National Sports Federation by the Sports Ministry recently.
- ✓ Popularly known as "WAKO India", it was formed in 1993 and its Headquarter is in Faridabad. It is affiliated to World Association of Kickboxing Organization (WAKO).

5. Which state recently became the 5th Indian state and 125th global state to join the "Under2 Coalition"?

- A) Haryana
- B) Goa
- C) Bihar
- D) Maharashtra ☒



- ✓ Maharashtra has become the 5th state in India and 125th global state to join the "Under2 Coalition" to fight the climate change.
- ✓ The other four states are: Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana and West Bengal. The Under2 Coalition is a global community of state and regional governments committed to ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement. It started as a MoU which was signed by 12 founding jurisdictions in 2015 in Sacramento, California.

6. Which racing driver won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021?

- A) Valtteri Bottas
- B) Lewis Hamilton
- C) Max Verstappen ☒
- D) Lando Norris



- ✓ Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021. Max Verstappen is a Belgian-Dutch racing driver currently competing in Formula One, under the Dutch flag, with Red Bull Racing. The race was the ninth round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
- ✓ Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas was the runner-up. McLaren's Lando Norris and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton were on the 3rd and 4th positions respectively.

7. In which city, India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre has been established?

- A) Pune ☒
- B) Chennai
- C) Mumbai
- D) Thiruvananthapuram



- ✓ India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre has been established in Pune. It will work as a one-stop centre for the exporters in agricultural sector.
- ✓ The centre was established by the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

8. In which city, new centre of National Horticulture Board has been recently inaugurated?

- A) Gwalior ☒
- B) Bhopal
- C) Kolkata
- D) Lucknow



- ✓ A new centre of National Horticulture Board (NHB) has been inaugurated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh by Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers welfare. National Horticulture Board (NHB) was set up by Government of India in April 1984 on the basis of recommendations of the "Group on Perishable Agricultural Commodities", headed by Dr M. S. Swaminathan.

9. Which country hosted the BRICS Education Ministers 2021?

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



- ✓ India hosted the BRICS Education Ministers 2021. This meeting is being held as part of the 13th BRICS Summit being hosted by India this year. Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, chaired the meeting of the 8th BRICS Education Ministers in virtual mode.

- ✓ Education Ministers from the five BRICS member states resolved to enhance academic collaboration in higher education.

10. Stan Swamy, the tribal rights activist, who passed away recently, was booked under which act?

- A) Unlawful Activities Prevention Act ☒
- B) Prevention of Terrorism Act
- C) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act
- D) None of the above



- ✓ Stan Swamy, the Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist spent nine months in custody after being booked under the UAPA, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. UAPA is the primary counter-terror law in India. Though it was originally enacted in 1967, the law has undergone over 6 amendments, the last one in 2019.
- ✓ Stan Swamy was among the 16 activists, academics, and lawyers booked and arrested for their alleged links to Maoists in connection with the Bhima Koregaon violence.

1. India joined OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS. What is the expansion of BEPS?

- A) Base Erosion and Profit Shifting ☒
- B) Business Erosion and Profit Shifting
- C) Business Expansion and Profit Shifting
- D) Base Expansion and Profit Shifting



- ✓ India joined the global tax deal under the G20-OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS). It seeks to reform international tax rules and ensure that multinational companies pay their fair share wherever they operate. However, when the global tax regime is implemented, India will have to roll back the equalisation levy that it imposes on MNCs such as Google, Amazon and Facebook.

2. What is the priority sector lending target for Micro Enterprises, as mandated by the RBI?

- A) 5%
- B) 7.5% ☒
- C) 10%
- D) 12%



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India mandated that 7.5% of the bank's total credit (ANBC or CIOBE) should be provided to Micro enterprises. Recently, the Union MSME Ministry announced the inclusion of retail and wholesale trade under MSMEs (Micro, small and medium enterprises).
- ✓ As per this categorisation, the traders will now get the benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines. They will also be eligible for availing immediate-term finance as part of the schemes announced under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

3. Which institution gave its approval to implement 'Satellite TV classrooms' in India?

- A) DRDO
- B) ISRO ☒
- C) CDAC
- D) NASSCOM



- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) gave its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in India. This aims to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown.
- ✓ ISRO scientists made a presentation before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education, MEITY and Doordarshan, about the proposed satellite TV classroom for students.

4. Which country's Investment agency won the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global?

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



- ✓ Invest India, has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global. Invest India was set up in 2009, as a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and act as the first point of reference for investors in India.

5. Which Union Ministry is associated with the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021?

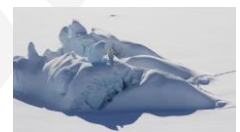
- A) Ministry of Women and child development ☒
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Law and Justice
- D) Ministry of Education



- ✓ The Ministry of women and child development has invited suggestions for the draft of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021.
- ✓ The objective of the bill is to prevent and counter trafficking in persons, especially women and children. According to the draft bill, a person found guilty of trafficking can be imprisoned for seven years to 10 years. Those convicted shall be imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh to 5 lakhs.

6. "Last Ice Area", which was seen in the news, is located in which Ocean?

- A) Arctic Ocean ☒
- B) Antarctic Ocean
- C) Pacific Ocean
- D) Indian Ocean



- ✓ A part of the Arctic's ice is known as the 'Last Ice Area' and is located north of Greenland. Recently, researchers have found that the region has melted before expected. Scientists had earlier believed this area was strong enough to withstand global warming.
- ✓ But as per a recent research paper, the area where the Last Ice Area (LIA) is located, experienced a record low concentration of sea ice. The thinning of sea ice is due to climate change.

7. Saiga, which was seen in the news sometimes, is a rare type of which species?

- A) Antelope ☒
- B) Snake
- C) Bandicoot
- D) Bull



- ✓ According to the first aerial survey in two years, the number of Saiga in Kazakhstan has increased from 334,000 to 842,000. Saiga is a rare type of antelope, which was considered to be at the brink of extinction following a mass die-off in 2015.
- ✓ After a series of conservation measures, the population of the rare antelope has more than doubled since 2019.

8. Taal Volcano, which was seen in news recently, is situated in which country?

- A) Thailand
- B) Philippines ☒
- C) Indonesia
- D) Japan



- ✓ Taal Volcano is the second most active volcano of Philippines, and is located on the Luzon island of the country. Recently, the Taal volcano emitted lava and ash clouds up to nine miles into the air. Several lakhs of people are being evacuated from the capital city of Philippines Manila, fearing a major and explosive volcanic eruption.
- ✓ The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has made the alert level to four, the highest being five.

9. Which organisation/body organised the Indo-Pacific Business Summit 2021, in association with the External Affairs Ministry?

- A) FICCI
- B) CII ☒
- C) NASSCOM
- D) ASSOCHAM



- ✓ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised the first edition of Indo-Pacific Business Summit 2021, in association with the ministry of External Affairs. The Business Summit, organised over virtual platform, had participation of Governments, Enterprises & Business Chambers from the countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

10. Which multilateral association recently held a Conference on Biodiversity?

- A) BRICS
- B) G20
- C) ASEAN ☒
- D) G7



- ✓ The third ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Conference on Biodiversity was held recently.
- ✓ The fifth and the final session of the Conference focussed on the theme of 'Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature.' As per the ASEAN nations, developing countries will need resources for proper implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ✓ The ASEAN includes 10 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

1. Experts from which state have identified native grasses and trees to improve elephant habitats?

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



- ✓ A group of experts from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and its Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI) has undertaken a project to identify native grasses and trees, suitable for elephants. This project aims to standardise mass multiplication techniques.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the Forest Department set up the eight-member team, which recently submitted a report after identifying 29 native grass species and 14 fodder tree species that are eatable for elephants and other herbivores. The team have started a nursery to grow these species.

2. In which Olympics, International Olympic Committee made provisions for flagbearers from both genders at the opening ceremony?

- A) Tokyo 2020 ☒
- B) Rio De Janeiro 2016
- C) London 2012
- D) Beijing 2008



- ✓ The International Olympic Committee, for the first time, had made provisions for flagbearers from both genders at the opening ceremony only last year. This will be made effect from the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- ✓ Indian Boxer M.C. Mary Kom and men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh will be flagbearers for India at the opening ceremony of Tokyo Olympics. Wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flagbearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.

3. What is the expansion of ONDC, a recent project initiated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?

- A) Open Network for Digital Commerce ☒
- B) Outsourced for Digital Commerce
- C) Open Network for Development Commerce
- D) Output Network for Development Commerce



- ✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recently appointed an advisory committee for its Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) project. It aims to promote Open networks developed in open-source methodology.
- ✓ This can also make e-commerce processes open source. National Health Authority CEO RS Sharma and Infosys non-executive chairman Nandan Nilekani are appointed in this council.

4. Haribhanga mangoes, which were making news, are grown in which country?

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



- ✓ The Haribhanga mango variety is grown in Bangladesh, especially in the Rangpur district. Recently, the Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sent 2,600 kg mangoes as gift for PM Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The consignment of the famous 'Haribhanga' mangoes was sent across the land border via the Benapole checkpoint. This is also dubbed as 'Mango Diplomacy'.

5. What is the maximum fine, to be imposed by the Department of Telecommunications, for fraud messages with fake headers?

- A) Rs.10000 ☒
- B) Rs.5000
- C) Rs.2500
- D) Rs.1000



- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will impose a fine of up to Rs 10,000 per violation of commercial SMS senders who send fraudulent SMS with fake headers.
- ✓ Apart from the fine of Rs 1000 to Rs 10000 per violation, the DoT will also undertake permanent suspension of the sending mobile number or sender ID, depending on the number of violations.

6. Which country releases the Trafficking in Persons report, annually?

- A) USA ☒
- B) Sweden
- C) Norway
- D) Australia



- ✓ The Trafficking in Persons report is an annual study released by the U.S. State Department. As per the report, the pandemic caused an increase in vulnerability to human trafficking and damaged existing anti-traffic efforts.
- ✓ The U.S. has also determined that governments of twelve countries, including China, had a policy of trafficking in the reporting period.

7. As of 2021, which actor holds the record of receiving most Filmfare Awards for Best Actor?

- A) Dilip Kumar ☒
- B) Rajinikanth
- C) Vijay
- D) Ajith



- ✓ Legendary actor Dilip Kumar died recently at the age of 98. He holds the record of receiving most Filmfare Award for Best Actor, by winning the award for 8 times.
- ✓ He had won various awards during his 5-decade journey in Cinema, including Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994, Padma Bhushan (1991), Padma Vibhushan (2015) and Pakistan's Nishan-e-Imtiaz (1998). He was nominated as the Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra in 2000-2006.

8. Which institution released the report titled "The Hunger Virus Multiplies"?

- A) World Bank
- B) UNICEF
- C) Oxfam ☒
- D) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



- ✓ Oxfam has recently released a new report titled "The Hunger Virus Multiplies". As per the report, eleven people die every minute of hunger. The report also found that the number of those facing famine-like conditions globally has increased by six times over the past year. It highlighted that famine outpaces COVID-19, which kills about seven people per minute.

9. Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021 is associated with which country?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan ☒
- C) Afghanistan
- D) Kuwait



- ✓ Pakistan passed the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021, which aims to protect women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups from domestic violence.
- ✓ The bill states that any act of domestic violence will be punishable with imprisonment of a maximum period of three years and not less than six months, along with fines up to Rs 1 lakh. It was also passed by the Senate and awaiting presidential assent.

10. Who has been appointed as the first Union Minister of the new 'Ministry of Cooperation'?

- A) Kiren Rijiju
- B) Amit Shah ☒
- C) Anurag Thakur
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman



- ✓ Union Minister Amit Shah, has been appointed as the first Union Minister of the newly-set up Ministry of Cooperation along with his current Home Affairs portfolio. The setting up of the Ministry of Cooperation was aimed at providing more focus to the cooperative movement in the country.
- ✓ "Sahkar se samriddhi" (Prosperity from cooperation) is its vision statement, according to a release from the Cabinet Secretariat. This ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal, and policy framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

1. What is 'Matsya Setu', which was released by the Union ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying?

- A) GPS Application
- B) Online Course Application ☒
- C) Fishing Robot
- D) AI-powered Boat



- ✓ Union ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the Online Course Mobile App named "Matsya Setu".
- ✓ The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar. Matsya Setu app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules. It also teaches the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

2. Which Article in the Indian Constitution is associated with 'Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States'?

- A) Article 123
- B) Article 169 ☒
- C) Article 69
- D) Article 196



- ✓ Article 169 of the Indian constitution is associated with 'Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States'. West Bengal Assembly has recently passed a resolution to set up Legislative Council with a two-thirds majority. The resolution moved under the Article 169, was favoured by 196 and opposed by 69. The Legislative Council existed till 1969 till a resolution was passed for its dissolution.

3. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has been shifted to which Union Ministry, from the Heavy Industries Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B) Ministry of MSME
- C) Ministry of Finance ☒
- D) Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ The Union Government has brought Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Finance Ministry, to facilitate its ambitious disinvestment programme. Earlier, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) was under the aegis of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- ✓ This will be the sixth department under the Finance Ministry. Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises will be called the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

4. Jovenel Moise, who was assassinated recently, was the President of which country?

- A) South Africa
- B) Haiti ☒
- C) Papua New Guinea
- D) Iraq



- ✓ Haiti Prime Minister Jovenel Moise, a 53-year-old who took office in 2017, was shot dead recently by a group of heavily armed assassins, at his home. Subsequently, the country's Security forces in Haiti have shot dead four suspected killers of President Jovenel Moise and captured two others. Haiti is a Caribbean country near to the Dominican Republic.

5. Which Indian military ship participated in the Military exercise with Italian Navy?

- A) INS Tabar ☒
- B) INS Talwar
- C) INS Trishul
- D) INS Trikand



- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Tabar participated in military exercises with the Italian Navy after entering the Port of Naples. The ship also undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with ITS Antonio Marcegaglia, a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy, in the Tyrrhenian Sea.
- ✓ Indian Army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane is on a four-day visit to the UK and Italy.

6. Dashly Island, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which Sea?

- A) Mediterranean Sea
- B) Caspian Sea ☒
- C) Black Sea
- D) Arabian Sea



- ✓ Dashly ada or Dashly Island is one of the islands of Baku Archipelago, located in the Caspian Sea. The volcanic island is also called as the Ignaty Stone Island. Recently, an explosion occurred near an oil field in the Caspian Sea off Azerbaijan.
- ✓ As per media reports, a mud volcano is the cause of the explosion. Mud volcanoes are driven by hot water and natural gas. They tend to occur where layers of water-saturated clay rocks, in Earth's interior, are under pressure from the layers above.

7. Which country issued a commemorative coin marking the centenary of the Chinese Communist Party?

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



- ✓ Sri Lanka's Central Bank announced that it has minted two coins in gold and silver, in connection with the Party's 100th anniversary, and 65 years of Sri Lanka-China relations.
- ✓ One of the coins, bears the words 'Communist Party of China' in Sinhala, Tamil and English, while the other has a view of the China-built Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre, located in Colombo and the words 'Sri Lanka-China 65 Years'.

8. India adopted 2030 Roadmap and held its inaugural meeting of Financial Markets Dialogue with which country?

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



- ✓ India and the UK held the inaugural meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue. It was established at the 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in October 2020.
- ✓ Financial Cooperation is a key pillar of the 2030 Roadmap adopted by the two countries during the recent meeting of the two Prime Ministers. The Dialogue focused on four themes: (1) GIFT City 2) banking and payments, (3) insurance, and (4) capital market

9. As per the WWF-UNEP report, 35% of the ranges of which Indian animal lie outside protected areas?

- A) Elephant
- B) Tiger ☒
- C) Lion
- D) Leopard



- ✓ A new report by WWF and UNEP has found that 35 per cent of India's tiger ranges currently lie outside protected areas. The report was titled "A Future for All – A need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence".
- ✓ 40% of the African lion range and 70% of the African and Asian elephant ranges fall outside protected areas. As the protected areas disconnected from each other, many animals depend on human-dominated spaces for their survival.

10. ICESat-2 is a satellite of which country?

- A) USA ☒
- B) China
- C) Germany
- D) Israel



- ✓ As per a recent study, NASA's 'Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite 2' or ICESat-2, allowed scientists to precisely map the sub-glacial lakes. The satellite measures the height of the ice surface. ICESat-2 maps the elevation changes of the ice surface with a precision, using a laser altimeter system that can measure Earth's surface, with more details.
-

1. Satkosia Tiger Reserve, which was making news recently, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ Paradoxurus hermaphrodites, the common palm civet has been spotted in Odisha after 129 years, in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR). It is also called as the Asian palm civet, found in southern and south-eastern Asia. It is a small mammal belonging to the family Viverridae. Their long body is covered with coarse hair, which is usually grey in colour.

2. Which institution released a report titled 'Suffering in Silence', to highlight the plight of Niger during Covid-19?

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



- ✓ UNICEF has recently released a report titled 'Suffering in Silence', to highlight the plight of Niger during Covid-19. As per the report, more than 2.1 million children need humanitarian help in the country. In 2021, 3.8 million people will need humanitarian assistance in Niger. In addition to the armed conflict, displacement, floods, diseases and malnutrition, Niger has also been affected by the impacts of Covid-19 recently.

3. Cambridge-1, which was making news recently, is the supercomputer of which country?

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



- ✓ The UK's most powerful supercomputer, named Cambridge-1 is operational now. It is expected to make the process of preventing, diagnosing and treating disease faster and cheaper.
- ✓ It is a \$100m investment by US-based computing company Nvidia. Cambridge-1 can integrate different datasets. It collaborates with various pharma companies and start-ups for data.

4. Indian biologists have identified a new plant species named 'Bryum bharatiensis', in which continent?

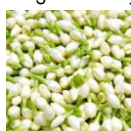
- A) Africa
- B) Antarctica ☒
- C) Asia
- D) Europe



- ✓ Indian biologists have identified a species of moss during an expedition to Antarctica in 2017. This has been published in an international journal recently. The biologists, based in the Central University of Punjab, have named the species as Bryum bharatiensis. Bharati is the name of one of India's Antarctic research stations. The most astonishing fact is how the moss survives in the landscape of rock and ice.

5. GI-certified jasmine flowers, which were making recently, belong to which state?

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



- ✓ Geographical Indications (GI) certified Madurai jasmine and other traditional flowers such as button rose, lily, chamanthi, and marigold

were exported to the US and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ As per the Commerce & Industry Ministry, this export initiative generated employment for 130 women workers. The flowers sourced from places near Madurai are processed in APEDA registered centre.

6. Nihal Sarin, who was seen in the news recently, is associated with sports?

- A) Tennis
- B) Table Tennis
- C) Chess ☒
- D) Swimming



- ✓ 16-year-old Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin recently became champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade.
- ✓ This is the second consecutive tournament victory for Nihal Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open tournament. Sarin became a Grandmaster in 2018 at the age of 14. In this tournament, he won six games and drew three, to remain unbeaten.

7. Bhalia variety of wheat, which is a GI tagged product, belongs to which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Gujarat ☒
- C) Assam
- D) Uttarakhand



- ✓ The Bhalia variety of wheat, which has a high protein content and a peculiar sweet in taste was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in the year 2011. This is grown across the Bhal region of Gujarat. Recently, the Government of India has commenced the exports of Bhalia variety of wheat to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.

8. The world's tallest sandcastle has been built in which country?

- A) Denmark ☒
- B) Scotland
- C) France
- D) Norway



- ✓ In the seaside town of Blokhus - Denmark, the world's tallest sandcastle has been built. The castle is more than 20 metres in height and has been built using nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand. This is 3 metres taller than one built in Germany in 2019, which was previously the tallest sand castle to be built on earth.

9. Where is the National Forensic Science University located in India?

- A) Ahmedabad ☒
- B) Mumbai
- C) Mysuru
- D) Chennai



- ✓ National Forensic Science University, erstwhile known as 'Gujarat Forensic Science University' is dedicated to forensic and investigative science. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the newly built Center of Excellence for Research & Analysis of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances of the National Forensic Science University in Ahmedabad. Virtual training on Investigation of Crimes Against Women was also inaugurated.

10. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) issued framework to set up ITFS Platform. What does ITFS stand for?

- A) Indian Trade Finance Services
- B) International Trade Finance Services ☒
- C) Indian Trade Finance Secretariat
- D) International Trade Finance Secretariat



- ✓ International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) was set up to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs). IFSCA has issued a framework for setting up and operating International Trade Finance Services Platform (ITFS).
 - ✓ This will help the Exporters and Importers to avail various types of trade finance facilities for their international trade transactions.
-