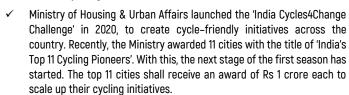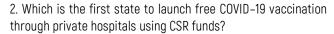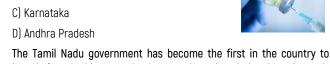1. Which Ministry is associated with 'India Cycles4Change Challenge'?

A) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

B) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs ☑

C) Ministry of Science and Technology

D) Ministry of Agriculture

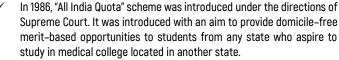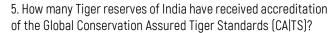✓ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched the 'India Cycles4Change Challenge' in 2020, to create cycle-friendly initiatives across the country. Recently, the Ministry awarded 11 cities with the title of 'India's Top 11 Cycling Pioneers'. With this, the next stage of the first season has started. The top 11 cities shall receive an award of Rs 1 crore each to scale up their cycling initiatives.

2. Which is the first state to launch free COVID-19 vaccination through private hospitals using CSR funds?

A) Tamil Nadu ☑

B) Kerala

C) Karnataka

D) Andhra Pradesh

✓ The Tamil Nadu government has become the first in the country to launch free Covid-19 vaccination at private hospitals. The scheme is being funded by Corporate Social Responsibility funds of various companies. Under the scheme, 130 private hospitals have been identified to provide free Covid vaccines to the people.

✓ The Union government procures 75% of the vaccines produced and the remaining 25 percent is available for private hospitals, which is largely under-utilised.

3. What is the name of 'India's first indigenous physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients'?

A) COVID BEEP ☑

B) COVID SYS

C) C19- MONITOR

D) C19- CHECK

✓ "COVID BEEP" is India's first indigenous, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients, developed by ESIC Medical College Hyderabad in collaboration with Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL) and Department of Atomic Energy.

✓ A proposal has been recently submitted to Ministry of Labour & Employment for large scale deployment of the system.

4. With reference to Medical College Admission, "All India Quota" scheme was introduced in which year?

A) 1975

B) 1980

C) 1986 ☑

D) 1990

✓ In 1986, "All India Quota" scheme was introduced under the directions of Supreme Court. It was introduced with an aim to provide domicile-free merit-based opportunities to students from any state who aspire to study in medical college located in another state.

✓ The scheme comprises 15% of UG seats and 50% of PG seats in government medical colleges. The Union Health Ministry has recently announced that 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) will be offered under the All-India Quota scheme for Undergraduate and Postgraduate medical and dental courses from 2021-22 onwards.

5. How many Tiger reserves of India have received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS)?

A) 5

B) 3

C) 11

D) 14 ☑

✓ On the occasion of International Tiger Day, Bhupendra Yadav (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate change) stated that 14 Tiger reserves of India have received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).

✓ The 14 accredited tiger reserves are Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam; Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh; Pench in Maharashtra; Valmiki tiger reserve in Bihar; Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh; Sunderbans in West Bengal; Parambikulam in Kerala; Bandipur in Karnataka and Mudumalai & Anamalai in Tamil Nadu.

✓ CA|TS is a set of criteria that sets best practice and standards to manage tigers and their conservation. It is a globally accepted conservation tool. CA|TS was launched in 2013. It was developed by tiger and protected area experts. It is an important part of T*2, the global goal to double the number of tigers by 2022. The long-term goal of CA|TS is to ensure safe heavens for Tigers.

6. Who won the Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2021?

A) Sachin Tendulkar

B) Lata Mangeshkar

C) Asha Bhosle ☑

D) Ratan Tata

✓ Under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee selected Asha Bhosle for the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2021. It was announced by Amit Deshmukh, the cultural affairs minister of Maharashtra.

✓ Maharashtra Bhushan is the highest civilian award of Maharashtra. It is given for the outstanding achievement in the fields of literature, art, sport, science, social work, journalism and public administration.

✓ It is presented annually by the Government of Maharashtra. It was first awarded in 1996. Purushottam Laxman Deshpande was the first person to won this award. Cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, a memento and citation is given to the winner of the Maharashtra Bhushan Award.

7. Which company collaborated with CBSE and Ministry of Education for "AI For All" initiative?

A) Microsoft

B) Intel ☑

C) Wipro

D) Dell

✓ Intel, CBSE and Ministry of Education announced the launch of the "AI For All" initiative on July 29, 2021.

✓ The main aim of this initiative is to create a basic understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for everyone in India. AI for All is a 4-hour, self-paced learning programme.

8. When is the 'International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem' observed annually?

A) July.23

B) July.26 ☑

C) July.28

D) July.30

- ✓ The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015. UNESCO celebrates International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on July 26 annually.

- ✓ It aims to raise awareness about mangrove ecosystems and to promote their sustainable management and conservation. According to UNESCO, mangroves are disappearing at a rate that is 3-5 times faster than overall losses of global forest cover. The main reasons are infrastructure development, urbanisation and agricultural land conversion.

9. The Ministry of Science and Technology is to set up North–East's first Centre of Excellence in which state?

A) Assam

B) Sikkim

C) Arunachal Pradesh ☑

D) Meghalaya

- ✓ The Ministry of Science and Technology is setting up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast, at Kimin in Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh.

- ✓ The project to establish the Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development as a Centre of Excellence was sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology. The construction of the new building and other infrastructure has been completed at a cost of nearly Rs 50 crore.

10. By what %, the e-waste generated in India has increased in 2020, compared to the previous year?

A) 12.6%

B) 24.6%

C) 31.6% ☑

D) 42.6%

31.6%

- ✓ Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey has stated that India has generated 10,14,961.2 tonnes of e-waste in the year 2020. This is approximately 31.6 per cent increase from the quantum of e waste generated the previous year. Also, it has been stated that, the national level data pertaining to e waste is available only form the year 2017-18 onwards.