

1. Which public sector unit has recently been accorded "Maharatna" status?

- A) Power Finance Corporation ☒
- B) Airports Authority of India
- C) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- D) BEML Limited



- ✓ The Central Government has accorded "Maharatna" status to Power Finance Corporation (PFC). PFC is the 11<sup>th</sup> state-owned entity to get the status, joining the elite group of ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation, SAIL among others.
- ✓ "Maharatna" status is granted to a company which has recorded more than ₹5,000 crore of net profit for three consecutive years.

2. What is the theme of the 'World Arthritis Day 2021'?

- A) Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work ☒
- B) Leaving No one behind
- C) Misdiagnosis in Arthritis
- D) 25 years of Arthritis Day



- ✓ World Arthritis Day is observed every year on October 12 to spread awareness about the existence and impact of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. The day was first observed in 1996 and this year the theme of the day is "Don't Delay, Connect Today: Time2Work".

3. Union Home Ministry began tripartite talks with Gorkha representatives and which state government?

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



- ✓ The Union Home Ministry began tripartite talks with Gorkha representatives from the Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars region and the Government of West Bengal. The talks were held with the objective of resolving the demand of statehood in the North Bengal region.
- ✓ The talks were chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah. The second round of talks with the officials of the Government of West Bengal is scheduled in November 2021.

4. Which animal species is also called as 'Dhole'?

- A) Asiatic Wild Dog ☒
- B) Hyena
- C) Aardwolf
- D) African Elephant



- ✓ The 'Dhole' (Cuon alpinus) is an animal native to Central, South, East, and Southeast Asia. Other names for the species include Asiatic wild dog, Indian wild dog, whistling dog, red dog, and mountain wolf. It is a Schedule II species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ A recent study has identified 114 priority tehsils where habitats can be consolidated to enhance population connectivity for the dhole or Asiatic Wild Dog. The animals are found across India.

5. Which institution has formed a Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins on Novel Pathogens (SAGO)?

- A) UNICEF
- B) World Health Organisation ☒
- C) FAO
- D) John Hopkins



- ✓ The Director-General of the World Health Organisation has set up the WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins on Novel Pathogens (SAGO). The SAGO will advise the Secretariat on technical and scientific considerations on emerging and re-emerging pathogens.
- ✓ An Indian epidemiologist, Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, will be part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Scientific Advisory Group for determining the origin of covid-19 pandemic.

6. Malabar series of exercises began as a bilateral naval exercise between India and which country, in 1992?

- A) USA ☒
- B) France
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Bangladesh



- ✓ The Malabar series of exercises, which began as an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992. The Indian Navy is set to participate in the Second Phase of Multilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar along with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy. It is being conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 12 - 15 Oct 2021. First Phase of the exercise was conducted in the Philippines Sea in August.

7. Which institution releases the 'Fiscal Monitor' Report?

- A) World Bank
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) International Monetary Fund ☒
- D) World Trade Organization



- ✓ As per the International Monetary Fund's 'Fiscal Monitor' Report, the global debt has jumped to a new high of USD 226 trillion. Advanced economies and China contributed more than 90 per cent to the accumulation of world-wide debt in 2020.
- ✓ India's debt increased from 68.9 per cent of its GDP in 2016 to 89.6 per cent in 2020. It is projected to jump to 90.6 per cent in 2021.

8. As per Government's recent notification released in 2021, what is the gestational limit for termination of pregnancy?

- A) 12 weeks
- B) 18 weeks
- C) 20 weeks
- D) 24 weeks ☒



- ✓ As per the government's new rules, the gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy in India has been increased to 24 weeks. Earlier the limit was 20 weeks.
- ✓ Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021, the women including survivors of sexual assault, rape or incest, minors, those whose marital status changes during pregnancy (widowhood and divorce) and those with physical disabilities are included for the new limit.

9. Sela tunnel, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which Indian state?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Sikkim
- C) Arunachal Pradesh ☒
- D) Assam



- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually conducted the final breakthrough blast of the Sela tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, recently. The construction of the tunnel is expected to be over by June 2022.

Sela tunnel is expected be the world's largest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude of more than 13,000 feet.

- ✓ The construction is being undertaken by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The tunnel goes through Sela Pass and will cut down the distance to the China border through Arunachal Pradesh by 10 km.

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10. Henrietta Lacks, who received WHO Director-General's Award, was from which country?

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



- ✓ The Chief of the World Health Organisation honored the late Henrietta Lacks with the Director-General award. She an American woman whose cancer cells were taken without her knowledge during the 1950s. The cells provided the foundation for vast scientific inventions, including research about the coronavirus.
  - ✓ The 'HeLa' cell line, derived from the 1<sup>st</sup> two letters of Henrietta Lacks, helped in the development of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.
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