



winmeen.com

THIRD WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



DECEMBER 2021

DECEMBER 15-21

1. What is the theme of the "International Universal Health Coverage Day" 2021?

- A) Sustainable Health Coverage
- B) Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in Health Systems for All ☒
- C) Universal access to healthcare
- D) Equitable and healthy society

- ✓ Every year December 12th is observed as the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day by the World Health Organisation. UHC ensures that all people get access to quality health services without any financial hardships.
- ✓ Universal health coverage has been inducted as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations. This year's (2021) is "Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in Health Systems for All".

2. Island Territory of New Caledonia recently voted to stay part of which country?

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



- ✓ Voters in the French island territory of New Caledonia chose to stay part of France, in a referendum, hailed by French President Emmanuel Macron. Sonia Backes, President of the Southern Province region, announced the results, which showed 96 percent of those who took part chose to stay in France. The vote was monitored by the UN and regional powers.

3. 'Commercial Space Astronaut Wings program' is associated with which country?

- A) USA ☒
- B) China
- C) Russia
- D) Australia



- ✓ Commercial Space Astronaut Wings Program is implemented by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The program comes under the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984 and was designed to recognize pilots and flight crew. Recently, FAA announced that it will no longer issue Commercial Space Astronaut Wings, the pins given to individuals reaching space but instead recognise on its website.

4. As per the updated DICGC Act, account holders can access their insured deposit amount within days?

- A) 30
- B) 45
- C) 90 ☒
- D) 180



- ✓ Indian Government passed an amendment to the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act to ensure that account holders can access their insured deposit amount within 90 days.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a bank deposit insurance programme and said that Rs 1,300 crore had been paid to over 1 lakh depositors whose banks faced financial crises. 3 lakh such depositors were set to receive funds stuck in such accounts.

5. Buxa tiger reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

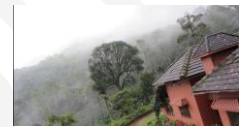
- A) West Bengal ☒
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Bihar
- D) Meghalaya



- ✓ A Royal Bengal Tiger has been spotted in Buxa tiger reserve in West Bengal, after at least 23 years, as per the West Bengal government. A picture of a tiger was captured on a trap camera in the forest of East Damanpur of Buxa tiger reserve. It was in 1998 that images of a Royal Bengal Tiger were captured at the reserve earlier. The reserve had lost its identity as a tiger reserve from the National Wild Life Board.

6. Noney Valley, where the world's tallest railway bridge pier is being constructed, is located in which state/UT?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Manipur ☒
- D) Ladakh



- ✓ Railways is constructing the world's tallest railway bridge pier at Noney Valley in the state of Manipur with a height of 141 metres. It is a part of the 111 Kilometre long Jiribam–Imphal railway line, which aims to connect the capital of Manipur with the broad-gauge network of the country.
- ✓ The bridge at Noney Valley will surpass the Mala – Rijeka viaduct's existing record of 139 meters, located in Montenegro, Europe.

7. 'Hornbill Festival' is a cultural festival celebrated in which state/UT?

- A) Assam
- B) Nagaland ☒
- C) West Bengal
- D) Bihar



- ✓ Nagaland's iconic Hornbill Festival, called as the "festival of festivals", will be held in its traditional format, starting on December 1. This year is the 22nd edition of the festival. Last year, it was held virtually last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The 10-day cultural and tourism annually begins at the start of December and coincides with Nagaland's statehood day.

8. Archaeological ruins of Liangzhu City, a World Heritage site, is located in which country?

- A) Japan
- B) China ☒
- C) Greece
- D) South Korea



- ✓ Archaeological ruins of Liangzhu City are a World Heritage site. Archeologists have resolved the mystery of the Liangzhu culture in the Yangtze River Delta. It was among the world's most advanced Neolithic cultures. In recent research, a layer of clay points to a possible connection between the demise of the civilisation and floods of the Yangtze River or floods from the East China Sea.

9. Who is the author of the book "Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism"?

- A) Dinyar Patel ☒
- B) Milan Vaishnav
- C) Ornit Shani
- D) Jairam Ramesh



- ✓ Writer Dinyar Patel won the prestigious Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021 for his book Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism. The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize was instituted in 2018. It honours non-fiction literature from writers of all nationalities.
- ✓ The book is a biography of Naoroji, the 19th-century leader who founded the Indian National Congress. He was the first British MP of Indian origin.

10. Which Union Ministry is associated with the 'Dam Safety Bill, 2019' passed recently?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒
- C) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



- ✓ The Rajya Sabha passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 recently. The union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat clarified that the Bill was not intended to encroach upon the states' rights on their waters, dam ownership or maintenance, or even resources like power. The bill seeks to ensure the safety of dams across the country and prevent dam-related disasters, which cause great loss to life and property.

1. What is the Global GDP Growth for this year, as forecasted by OECD's latest economic outlook?

- A) 9.5%
B) 8%
C) 5.6% ☒
D) 2.3%



- ✓ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said in its latest economic outlook that global growth is set to hit 5.6% this year. It also highlighted that the Global GDP growth would moderate to 4.5% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023.

2. Which Union Ministry is associated with the 'Dam Safety Bill, 2019' passed recently?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
B) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒
C) Ministry of Agriculture
D) Ministry of Environment, Forest



- ✓ The Rajya Sabha passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 recently. The union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat clarified that the Bill was not intended to encroach upon the states' rights on their waters, dam ownership or maintenance, or even resources like power. The bill seeks to ensure the safety of dams across the country and prevent dam-related disasters.

3. Which institution released the publication titled 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22'?

- A) NITI Aayog
B) Finance Ministry
C) RBI ☒
D) ADB



- ✓ The Reserve Bank's annual publication titled 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22' was released recently. As per the report, the combined debt-to-GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at 31 per cent by end-March 2022 which is higher than the target of 20 per cent to be achieved by 2022-23 (FY23).

4. 'GJ 367 b', which was discovered recently, is a

- A) Black-hole
B) Exoplanet ☒
C) Asteroid
D) Meteor



- ✓ Scientists have recently discovered Mercury-like exo-planet 'GJ 367 b' where a year is only eight hours long. It's believed to be a rocky planet like Mercury and has half the mass of Earth. GJ 367 b also belongs to the 'ultra-short period' (USP) group of exo-planets that orbit their star in less than 24 hours. Planet GJ 367b was discovered by scientists at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) Institute of Planetary Research.

5. To mark 75 years of which company / group, commemorative postage stamp has been released by the Government of India?

- A) TATA Group
B) Reliance Group
C) Mahindra and Mahindra Group ☒
D) Godrej Group



- ✓ To mark 75 years of Mahindra and Mahindra Group, the Government of India has released commemorative postage stamps.

- ✓ The Indian conglomerate was founded by KC Mahindra & his brother JC Mahindra in the year 1945. Soon in 1947, the company started manufacturing Willys Jeeps.

6. What is the theme of 'World Aids Day' 2021?

- A) Know your Status
B) Communities Make the Difference
C) Global Solidarity Shared Responsibility
D) End inequalities. End Aids. End pandemics ☒



- ✓ 'World Aids Day' is observed every year on December 1, across the world. It was first observed in 1988. "End inequalities. End Aids. End pandemics." is the theme for this year's World Aids Day.

7. What is the theme of the 'International Volunteer Day' in 2021?

- A) Volunteer now for our common future ☒
B) World needs Volunteers
C) Volunteering during Pandemic
D) Welcoming Volunteers



- ✓ Every year, International Volunteer Day is observed on December 5 to encourage the role of volunteers at national and international level for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). This day recognises the contribution of volunteers across the globe.
✓ UNGA signified 2001 as International Year of Volunteers (IYV). The theme of this year's 'International Volunteer Day' is 'Volunteer now for our common future'.

8. When is the 'World Soil Day' observed every year?

- A) December 3
B) December 5 ☒
C) December 7
D) December 9



- ✓ World Soil Day is celebrated every year on December 5, to highlight people's attention to the importance of soil and its sustainable management. This year's campaign is based on the theme of "Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity".

9. 'Ciprian Foias Prize' is associated with which field?

- A) Space Science
B) Mathematics ☒
C) Virology
D) Business



- ✓ Eminent Indian-American mathematician Nikhil Srivastava, has been jointly selected for the inaugural \$5,000 Ciprian Foias Prize. He was awarded for his contribution in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

10. Who is the author of the book titled 'Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat'?

- A) Prabhat Kumar ☒
B) Vijay Kumar
C) Irai Anbu
D) Ajay Bhushan Pandey



- ✓ The Vice President recently released a book titled, 'Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat' written by Prabhat Kumar, former Governor of Jharkhand and former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India.

1. Which country topped the Asian Power Index for 2021?

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



- ✓ Asian Power Index is prepared by the Lowy Institute of Sydney. In the recently released index of 2021, the United States ranked at the top spot, for exerting influence over the region.
- ✓ The Index, which ranks 26 nations and territories in Asia, ranks India as the 4th most powerful country. India has retained its 4th position, on the basis of several measures of power such as economic capability, military capability, resilience and cultural influence.

2. Which city has become the world's first government to turn completely paperless?

- A) Moscow
B) Dubai ☒
C) New York
D) Abu Dhabi



- ✓ Dubai has become the world's first government to turn completely paperless, said the Emirate's Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The Government announced that it provided a savings of 1.3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours. "The Dubai Paperless Strategy" was implemented in five phases. The strategy was implemented across all 45 government entities in the emirate, to provide than 1,800 digital services.

3. The 'Nupi Lal Day' is observed every year in which state/UT?

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



- ✓ The Nupi Lal Day is observed to pay rich homage to the brave women of Manipur who fought for justice against the British Government. It is observed every year on December 12.

4. What is the name of the therapy involving the use of light-sensitive medicine?

- A) Photodynamic therapy ☒
B) Photovoltaic therapy
C) Photogeneric therapy
D) Photology



- ✓ Photodynamic therapy involves the use of light-sensitive medicine, which is activated by a light source. The treatment is used to treat certain cancers, and patients report a side effect due to the treatment. Many people claim to have better night vision and also vision of unusual patterns and silhouettes in the dark. Researchers discovered Rhodopsin, a light-sensitive protein found in retinas, interacts with chlorin e6, a photosensitive used in cancer treatment.

5. River Seine, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which country?

- A) Russia
B) France ☒
C) Australia
D) China



- ✓ The Seine is a 777-kilometre-long river situated in northern France. The opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics on July 26, 2024, will be held on the River Seine. Athletes and officials from more than 200 countries will sail almost 6 kilometres (4 miles) between the Pont d'Austerlitz and Pont d'Iena bridges in Paris.

6. Yutu-2 moon rover, which was making news recently, was launched by which country?

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



- ✓ Yutu-2 is a robotic lunar rover which was launched in 2018, as a part of Chang'e 4 mission to the Moon. The rover has recently detected a strange-looking, cube-shaped object on the surface of the Moon. The rover spotted the object as it crossed the Von Karman crater on the far side of the Moon. The object has been dubbed "mystery house".

7. Which airlines is set to be the first to use sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)?

- A) British Airways ☒
B) Air India
C) Qantas
D) Air Emirates



- ✓ British Airways will become the first airline to use sustainable aviation fuel produced on a commercial scale in the UK after signing the agreement with Phillips 66 Limited. Sustainable aviation fuel-SAF is a lower carbon-intensity fuel that can be produced from renewable feed-stocks such as waste vegetable oils, fats and greases.

8. With reference to Space science, what is 'Leonard'?

- A) Asteroid
B) Comet ☒
C) Exoplanet
D) Satellite



- ✓ A bright comet in northern skies was spotted in November this year. It is Comet C/2021 A1, also known as Leonard. The comet was first discovered around Jupiter in January 2021. The comet was picked up by the telescope, with a greenish coma, at the heart of NGC 4631 also known as the Whale Galaxy. The comet Leonard will grow brighter in the month of December.

9. When is the 'Armed Forces Flag Day' observed every year?

- A) December 7 ☒
B) December 8
C) December 10
D) December 15



- ✓ The 'Armed Forces Flag Day' is observed every year on December 7. The day is meant to honour martyrs, and the brave soldiers who serve this country. It is also known as India's Flag Day and is dedicated to raising funds from Indian citizens for the welfare of the Indian Army. India has been celebrating this day every year since August 1949.

10. Which country is to play host to the multi-nation disaster management exercise 'PANEX-21'?

- A) USA
B) India ☒
C) Japan
D) China



- ✓ The Indian Army is organising a multi-nation disaster management exercise been called PANEX 21. The exercise will involve BIMSTEC countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and India. The Exercise PANEX 21 is planned to be conducted at Pune from December 20-22, with a special focus on relief in the background of Covid-19 pandemic.
-

1. What is the average national income of the Indian adult population, as per the 'World Inequality Report 2022'?

- A) Rs 1.04 lakh
- B) Rs 2.04 lakh ☒
- C) Rs 4.04 lakh
- D) Rs 6.04 lakh



- ✓ The 'World Inequality Report 2022', which was released recently, was authored by Lucas Chancel and co-ordinated by renowned economists Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman. As per the report, India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and an affluent elite.
- ✓ The report highlights that the top 10% and top 1% in India hold 57% and 22% of the total national income respectively.

2. Which country hosted the eighth Indian Ocean Dialogue recently?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) India ☒
- C) Myanmar
- D) Philippines



- ✓ India's External Affairs Ministry, along with the Indian Council of World Affairs hosted the eighth Indian Ocean Dialogue. The theme for this year's edition was "Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association Member States".

3. Which Indian journalist has been named by Columbia Journalism School as the 2022 alumni award winners?

- A) N Ram
- B) Malini Parthasarathy ☒
- C) Raja Mohan
- D) Soli J Sorabjee



- ✓ Malini Parthasarathy, the chairperson of The Hindu Group Publishing, is among four veteran journalists who are named by US-based Columbia Journalism School as the 2022 alumni award winners. The other winners include Eric Marcus, founder and host of "Making Gay History" podcast, Stuart Scheer, American Jewish World Service, and Thomas Maier, investigative journalist. Wendy Lu (HuffPost) and Mukhtar Ibrahim (Sahan Journal), jointly bagged the First Decade Award.

4. Cabinet approved a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, with which country?

- A) Switzerland
- B) Poland ☒
- C) USA
- D) Russia



- ✓ Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the India-Poland treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The treaty will enhance capability of both countries in investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes related to terrorism through mutual legal assistance. It will also increase India's effectiveness in tackling criminal activities involving Poland.

5. World Trade Organization (WTO) panel asked which country to withdraw its subsidies in the sugar sector?

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



- ✓ World Trade Organization (WTO) panel has asked India to withdraw its subsidies under the 'Production Assistance, the Buffer Stock, and Marketing and Transportation Schemes.' Australia, Brazil and Guatemala raised complaints against India over its policy measures in the sugar sector, at WTO in the year 2019.
- ✓ WTO also asked India to conform to its obligations under the Agreement on Agriculture and the SCM Agreement.

6. Manohari Gold Tea, which was seen in the news, is associated with which state?

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



- ✓ Manohari Gold Tea, a rare variety of tea in Assam has recently created history as it was sold for Rs 1 lakh per kilogram at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre. The Tea variety broke its own record of 2020, when the tea was auctioned at Rs 75,000 per kg.
- ✓ The North Eastern Tea Association has planned to increase the production of such tea and started making different types of tea like white tea, green tea, yellow tea.

7. Which organisation released the 'State of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture (SOLAW 2021) report?

- A) IMF
- B) FAO ☒
- C) World Bank
- D) WEF



- ✓ The state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture (SOLAW 2021) report was released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). From 8 to 9 December 2021, the Land and Water Days are hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The central theme of SOLAW 2021 is "Systems at breaking point".

8. Which institution released the "Tracking Universal Coverage - 2021 Global Monitoring Report"?

- A) WTO
- B) WHO ☒
- C) FAO
- D) WEF



- ✓ The World Health Organization recently released the "Tracking Universal Coverage - 2021 Global Monitoring Report". On the occasion of Universal Health Coverage Day, World Bank also released the "Global Monitoring Report on Financial Protection in Health 2021". The report showed that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to halt two decades of global progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

9. "bob World Wave", launched by Bank of Baroda is a?

- A) Global Debit Card
- B) Wearable Device ☒
- C) AI Chatbot
- D) Investment Platform



- ✓ Bank of Baroda has launched a solution for digital banking payments, named 'bob World Wave'. The bob World Wave is a wearable device, which will allow customers to monitor their SpO2, body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure. BoB has partnered with NPCI to offer

the wearable payment solution.

10. Researchers at which institution have developed an RT-PCR based kit to detect Omicron variant?

- A) IISC
- B) IIT – Delhi ☒
- C) NIV
- D) AIIMS



- ✓ Researchers at IIT Delhi's Kusuma School of Biological Sciences have developed an RT-PCR based kit for detection of the Omicron (B.1.1.529.1) variant of SARS-CoV-2. The assay is based on detecting specific mutations, which are present in the Omicron variant and absent in other currently present variants of SARS-CoV-2. Globally, the detection of the Omicron variant requires over 3 days.

1. Which institution has developed the supersonic missile assisted torpedo system, recently launched by India?

- A) DRDO ☒
 B) ISRO
 C) NSIL
 D) BHEL



- ✓ India launched the supersonic missile assisted torpedo system developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The next-generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system was launched from Wheeler Island in Odisha, from a ground mobile launcher.

2. VIHANGAM, an internet-based platform, is associated with which field?

- A) Mining ☒
 B) Excise
 C) GST collection
 D) Semiconductor Manufacturing



- ✓ An internet-based platform called 'VIHANGAM' integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) was inaugurated at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). The system enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities from mines to the platform which can be accessed through VIHANGAM portal by authorized personnel.

3. Who won the 'Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award' from The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)?

- A) Ratan Tata
 B) Kumar Mangalam Birla ☒
 C) Uday Kotak
 D) Adi Godrej



- ✓ The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) has named Aditya Birla Group Chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla, as the Global Entrepreneur of the Year in Business Transformation, for his leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. He is also the first Indian industrialist to receive this award.
- ✓ Other awardees are Elon Musk (Global Entrepreneur of the Year-Immigrant Entrepreneur), Jeff Bezos (Global Entrepreneur of the Year-First Generation) and Satya Nadella (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - Entrepreneurial CEO).

4. Which institution announced a \$93 billion package, to help poor countries deal with Covid crisis?

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



- ✓ The World Bank has announced a \$93 billion package of the International Development Association (IDA) to help the poor countries tackle Covid crisis and boost economic growth.
- ✓ The latest pledge includes \$23.5 billion of contributions from 48 high-and middle-income countries, raised in the capital markets, repayments, and the World Bank's own contributions.

5. Avani Lekhara, who took the 'Best Female Debut' at Paralympic Sport Awards, is associated with which sports?

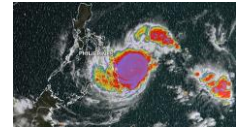
- A) Tennis
 B) High-Jump
 C) Shooting ☒
 D) Table-Tennis



- ✓ Tokyo Paralympics champion Avani Lekhara won the 'Best Female Debut' award at the 2021 Paralympic Sport Awards. Czech Republic's Boccia player Adam Peska won the Male Debut accolade. Indian shooting Para sport athlete Avani Lekhara became the first-ever female Paralympic gold medallist from India. She also became the first Indian female to win two medals in the Paralympics.

6. Which typhoon recently hit Philippines?

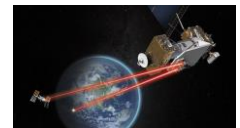
- A) Rai ☒
 B) Fai
 C) Norte
 D) Siargao



- ✓ Typhoon Rai hit Philippines and rapidly intensified to a Category 5 storm and made landfall in the southern Philippines. Rai is the 15th typhoon to enter Philippines this year. It has hit the island of Siargao with sustained winds of up to 195 km (121 miles) per hour.
- ✓ This is set to be the second-most powerful typhoon to strike the nation this year.

7. Which space agency launched its 'Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)'?

- A) ISRO
 B) NASA ☒
 C) JAXA
 D) ESA



- ✓ On December 7, NASA launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). It is the agency's first-ever laser communications system from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The LCRD will help the NASA to test optical communication in space. At present, most NASA spacecraft use radio frequency communications to send data.

8. Which country is the first to announce a working week of 4.5 days?

- A) Sweden
 B) Australia
 C) UAE ☒
 D) Austria



- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced its new working week of 4.5 days, with Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday forming the new weekend for government employees. The UAE currently has a Friday-Saturday weekend, which corresponds with other countries in the region. The UAE is the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week.

9. Which institution launched a capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker'?

- A) NITI Aayog
 B) National Commission for Women ☒
 C) Reserve Bank of India
 D) Council of Science and Industrial Research



- ✓ National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a pan-India capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker'. The programme has been launched for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers. It aims to improve leadership skills, decision making and communication skills of women political leaders.

10. Which UN Body organises the "International Anti-Corruption Day"?

- A) UNCTAD
- B) UNDP ☒
- C) UNESCO
- D) UNICEF



- ✓ The "International Anti-Corruption Day" is observed on December 9 every year, across the world. It is organised by the United Nations Development Program. The Day aims to raise awareness on the importance of getting rid of corruption, which prevents the progress towards sustainable development goals. The UNCAC United Nations Convention Against Corruption was drafted in 2003.
-

1. India, recently test-fired the air version of the BrahMos, a?

- A) Supersonic cruise missile ☒
- B) Anti Tank missile
- C) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
- D) Guided Rocket System



- ✓ India successfully test-fired the air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the integrated test range of Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. The air version of the missile was test-fired from supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I. BrahMos is a Joint Venture between India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM) for the development, production and marketing of the supersonic cruise missile.

2. Pakyang and Soreng, are the two new districts, to be formed in which state?

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



- ✓ The Sikkim Assembly passed Sikkim (Re-Organisation of Districts) Bill, 2021 bill, for the creation of two more districts named Pakyang and Soreng. Sikkim will have six districts after Governor Ganga Prasad gives his assent to the bill.
- ✓ The House also passed an amendment bill to rename Sikkim State University after Mt Kanchenjunga, the guardian deity of the people.

3. In the recent monetary policy, Repo and reverse repo rates were fixed atand respectively

- A) 4 percent and 3.35 percent ☒
- B) 4.75 percent and 4 percent
- C) 5 percent and 4.5 percent
- D) 5 percent and 4.75 percent



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the Monetary Policy Committee had opted to keep the rates unchanged. With this Repo and reverse repo rates currently stand at 4 percent and 3.35 percent, respectively. This is the 9th policy meeting where committee has maintained the key lending rate, in a row. Projection for real GDP growth is retained at 9.5% and CPI inflation at 5.3% in FY22.

4. Which country announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in China?

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



- ✓ The United States has announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in China. The White House announced that no official delegation would be sent to the Games because of concerns about China's human rights record. It also said that US athletes could attend and would have the government's full support. China called this move as a 'self-directed political farce'.

5. Which country hosts the 'World Petroleum Congress' in 2021?

- A) USA ☒
- B) UAE
- C) UK
- D) Uzbekistan



- ✓ 'World Petroleum Congress', the largest gathering in the industry, began in Houston, the largest city of south-central U.S. state Texas. More than 300 speakers are set to participate in the programme and technical forums, from about 70 countries and regions. The World Petroleum Congress is organized every three years by the London-based World Petroleum Council which includes 65 member countries.

6. Which Racing Driver won the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix Tournament?

- A) Lewis Hamilton ☒
- B) Valtteri Bottas
- C) Daniel Ricciardo
- D) Max Verstappen



- ✓ 36-year-old Top British Racing Driver Lewis Hamilton won the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix Tournament. He passed Max Verstappen with six laps remaining in the race on the street circuit on the 30-kilometer coastal resort area in Jeddah. With this victory, Hamilton also levelled points with Red Bull rival Max Verstappen.

7. Covovax is produced by the Serum Institute of India under the licence from which vaccine?

- A) Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine
- B) Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
- C) Johnson & Johnson Vaccine
- D) Novovax Vaccine ☒



- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has granted emergency approval to the India-manufactured coronavirus vaccine Covovax. The vaccine is produced by Serum Institute of India under licence from the U.S.-based Novavax. WHO listed the Covovax as the ninth COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use.

8. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently fined Rs 202 crores on which company?

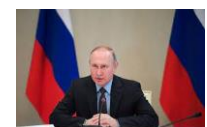
- A) Flipkart
- B) Amazon ☒
- C) Reliance Industries
- D) D-Mart



- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) suspended its over two-year-old approval for Amazon's deal to acquire stake in retailer Future Coupons Private Limited. The CCI also imposed a ₹ 202 crore penalty on the US-based e-commerce major for hiding facts and making false statements while seeking regulatory approvals in 2019. Amazon objected to Future's deal with Reliance, citing the 2019 deal.

9. Which country has published a draft agreement to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to ensure security?

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



- ✓ Russia has proposed a draft agreement to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on measures to ensure the security of both sides. It suggested that Russia and NATO reaffirm that they do not consider each other as adversaries. Russia asked NATO to stop further enlargement, the accession of Ukraine, and to cease any military activity in Ukraine and other countries in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

10. Who is the author of the "Tamil Thai Vaazhthu", declared as the State Song of Tamil Nadu?

- A) Subramania Bharathi
- B) Bharathidasan
- C) 'Manonmaniam' Sundaranar ☒
- D) U Ve Swaminathar



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has declared 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' as the State Song, by issuing a Government Order (GO). It is usually sung at the beginning of functions in all educational institutions and public events. The song is taken from 'Manonmaneeyam', the famous Tamil drama written by Sundaranar. The order directs everyone who is present during the rendition of the song, barring differently abled persons, should remain standing.
-