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FOURTH WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS



DECEMBER 2021

DECEMBER 22-31

1. Which language Day is observed on 18 December?

- A) French
B) Greek
C) Arabic ☒
D) Urdu

العربية

- ✓ World Arabic Language Day is observed on 18 December to honour the language, which is spoken by over 400 million people globally. It has been celebrated since 2012 to mark the adoption of Arabic as the sixth official language of the United Nations by the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ This year, the theme of the World Arabic Language Day is "Arabic Language, a bridge between civilisations".

2. The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Rural) till which year, from 2021?

- A) 2022
B) 2023
C) 2024 ☒
D) 2025



- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Rural) for another three years till March 2024. The extension of the scheme will help in the construction of the remaining 155.75 lakh houses. It will help achieve the target of 2.95 crore 'pucca' houses.

3. Coonoor, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?

- A) The Nilgiris ☒
B) Coimbatore
C) Dindigul
D) Theni



- ✓ An Indian Air Force helicopter with Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on board crashed in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor. Thirteen people have been confirmed dead in the incident. Group Captain Varun Singh, honoured with the Shaurya Chakra this year, who was the lone survivor of the crash, is in critical condition.

4. As per the Institute of Human Brands (IIHB) Power Couple ranking 2021, which couple topped the list?

- A) Deepika Padukone – Ranveer Singh
B) Virat Kohli – Anushka Sharma
C) Vignesh Shivan – Nayanthara
D) Mukesh Ambani – Nita Ambani ☒



- ✓ Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani and wife Nita Ambani topped the annual Power Couple ranking done by the Indian Institute of Human Brands (IIHB). The survey was conducted among over 1000 respondents across India aged 25-40 years. The couple is followed by Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh at the second place and Cricket captain Virat Kohli and his actress wife Anushka Sharma at third place.

5. Olaf Scholz, who was seen in the news recently, has been elected as the new head of which country?

- A) Australia
B) Germany ☒
C) New Zealand
D) Spain



- ✓ Olaf Scholz has been sworn in as Germany's new chancellor, officially taking over from Angela Merkel, who served historic 16 years as the

Chancellor. The 63-year-old leader steered the Social Democrats to election victory in September. He has played a key role in the Merkel government as vice-chancellor.

6. The 'Saryu Canal National project' which was seen in the news recently, is to be set up in which state?

- A) Gujarat
B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
C) Bihar
D) Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the ₹9,802 crore Saryu Canal National project in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district. The project, which is the biggest in Uttar Pradesh, connects five rivers which include Ghagra, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga and Rohin. Many sub canals with a length of 6,600kms have been linked to the 318 km long main canal.

7. Nilmani Phookan Jr, who won the 56th Jnanpith Award, is a poet in which language?

- A) Tamil
B) Malayalam
C) Assamese ☒
D) Gujarati



- ✓ Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr has won the 56th Jnanpith Award. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002. Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo has won the 57th Jnanpith Award. He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for his novel Karmelin.

8. As per the recent bills passed in Lok Sabha, the tenure of chiefs of ED and CBI can be extended up to how many years?

- A) Three
B) Four
C) Five ☒
D) Six

5

- ✓ Lok Sabha has passed the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021 for consideration and passage.
- ✓ These Bills intend to provide enabling power to the government to extend tenure of the Chiefs of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) up to five years. At present, both the officers are given a term of two years.

9. "Energy Conservation Week" is observed every year in which month?

- A) October
B) November
C) December ☒
D) January



- ✓ Ministry of Power is celebrating the Energy Conservation Week from 8th to 14th December 2021. The Celebration is led by Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- ✓ It also provides National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) for Industries and National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA) to recognize innovative energy efficiency technologies.

10. Which country hosted the 'Summit for Democracy' in 2021?

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



- ✓ US President Joe Biden inaugurated the first Summit for Democracy at White House. It was launched as a two-day virtual summit. The US President Biden warned about a global slide for democratic institutions. Over 100 participants representing governments, civil society and private-sector leaders participated in the summit.
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1. As per a recent report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), which country is the world's biggest captor of journalists?

- A) India
- B) North Korea
- C) China ☒
- D) Pakistan



- ✓ A recent report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has said China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters detained at present. The report titled 'The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China' reveals China's violations against its international commitments to freedom of opinion and expression.
- ✓ At least ten journalists were arrested in 2020 for informing public about the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Who is the first Indian male badminton player, to reach the finals of BWF World badminton championship?

- A) K Srikanth ☒
- B) Parupalli Kashyap
- C) Sai Praneeth
- D) Nandu Natekar



- ✓ Indian badminton champion K Srikanth has become the very first Indian man to reach the final match of BWF World badminton championship. But unfortunately, K Srikanth lost against Singapore's Loh Kean Yew at the final match and ended up winning a silver-medal. K Srikanth was ranked world number 1 at the BWF ranking in April 2018 and is the recipient of Arjuna award in 2015 and Padma Shri in 2018.

3. Which space agency had launched Yusaku Maezawa, the first private passenger to the international space station, recently?

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



- ✓ Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese billionaire was launched to the international space station by Russian space agency, ROSCOSMOS on December 8 in a Soyuz Spacecraft. He has returned to earth after spending 12 days on the International Space Station.
- ✓ The landing completed a successful test run for his 2023 flight to the Moon with Elon Musk's SpaceX.

4. The week from December 20-25, 2021 would be observed in India as?

- A) Good Governance Week ☒
- B) Anti-Corruption Week
- C) Banking Awareness Week
- D) Panchayati Raj Week



- ✓ The Government of India would be celebrating December 20-25, 2021 as 'Good Governance' week. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance (DARPG), in association with various departments and ministries, would convene many events to create awareness about 'Good Governance'. Also, a campaign named 'Prashashan Gaon Ki Aur', is planned as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration, aimed at improving service delivery and redressal of public grievances.

5. Under how many themes, the Nadi Utsav 2021 is being celebrated in India?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four ☒
- D) Six



- ✓ The Nadi Utsav (River Festival) is being celebrated in India across 16 states and 41 districts from Uttarakashi to Kerala, under the four chosen themes of Cleanliness, Patriotism, Nature and Ecology, Devotion and Spirituality.
- ✓ The festival is being conducted from 16th Dec to 23rd Dec 2021. This is in line with the Prime Minister's speech in Man Ki Bath, urging all people living near rivers to celebrate a river festival at least once in a year.

6. Gabriel Boric, has been selected as the youngest President of which country?

- A) Chile ☒
- B) Argentina
- C) New Zealand
- D) Israel



- ✓ 35-year-old leftist millennial Gabriel Boric became the youngest President of Chile. He is also the second millennial to lead in Latin America, after El Salvador's Nayib Bukele.

7. What is the name of the treatment which uses viruses that are harmless to humans but kill bacteria?

- A) Phage therapy ☒
- B) Viral therapy
- C) Antibiotic therapy
- D) Microbe therapy



- ✓ Phage therapy is the concept of using viruses (known as phage) that are harmless to humans but kill bacteria. As per new research, this therapy can be used in combination with antibiotics to cure infections more effectively. It will in turn reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance.

8. Which scheme provides Community Investment Fund to Self help groups?

- A) PM Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission ☒
- C) PM Gati Shakti Yojana
- D) PM SHG Samridhhi Abhiyan

- ✓ Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Self help groups (SHGs) receive the Community Investment Fund (CIF). Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi transferred ₹1,000 crore to bank accounts of self-help groups to benefit around 16 lakh women. This transfer is being done under the DAY-NRLM scheme.

9. 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme' is a scheme implemented by which state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Uttar Pradesh ☒



- ✓ 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme' is implemented by the state of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme provides conditional cash transfer of a sum of Rs 15000, to a girl child at different stages of her life. The sum of ₹ 15,000 per beneficiary are provided at various stages including at birth, on completing one-year complete vaccination, on admission in class-I, class-VI and class-IX, on admission in any degree/ diploma course after passing class X or XII.

10. Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumukedima are the newly created districts of which state?

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



- ✓ Nagaland government has created three new districts in the state- Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumukedima, taking the total number of districts to 15. The Governor of Nagaland Jagdish Mukhi announced the Tseminyu subdivision under Kohima district, Niuland subdivision under Dimapur district, and Chumukedima sub-division into three new districts.

1. Which country launched 'National Oxygen Stewardship Programme' to prevent wastage of Medical Oxygen?

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



- ✓ The Indian government launched "National Oxygen Stewardship Programme" to train health care workers in rational utilisation of medical oxygen to prevent wastage. Under the Programme, at least one oxygen steward will be identified and trained in each district across the country, as per the Union health ministry. OxyCare, a dashboard to publish information on the oxygen stock, was also set up.

2. Which institution launched the 'Vernacular Innovation Program' in India?

- A) ISRO
- B) NITI Aayog ☒
- C) BARC
- D) NSIL



- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog launched the 'Vernacular Innovation' Program which enables entrepreneurs to have access to innovative ecosystem in 22 mother tongue languages. Atal Innovation Mission will train a Vernacular Task Force in each of the 22 scheduled languages.
- ✓ Each task force includes vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers, and the leadership of regional Atal Incubation Centres.

3. The Annual Growth rate of production of Spices in India has followed a trend from 2014 to 2020

- A) Upward ☒
- B) Downward
- C) Zigzag
- D) Similar



- ✓ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has released the book titled 'Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021'. It includes all statistics like area, production, productivity, export, import, price and value of output.
- ✓ The book has been published by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development. Spices production in the Country has grown from over 67 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to over 106 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 with an annual growth rate of 7.9 percent.

4. In the process of Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixation, what is the minimum margin of profit of farmers?

- A) 20%
- B) 25%
- C) 50% ☒
- D) 75%



- ✓ The fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). It assures a minimum of 50 percent as margin of profit for farmers. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given approval to increase the minimum support price (MSP) of milling copra by Rs 255 per quintal and ball copra by Rs 400 per quintal.

5. Which country is the largest producer of the 'Jade' mineral, used in jewellery?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Myanmar ☒
- C) Nepal
- D) Laos



- ✓ Myanmar, earlier known as Burma, is the world's biggest source of jade. It is a green-coloured mineral used in jewellery. Recently, after a jade mine in Myanmar was hit by a landslide, over 100 people are feared missing and one person is confirmed dead.

6. Which Indian state has launched "Safe and Responsible Migration Initiative (SRMI)"?

- A) Jharkhand ☒
- B) Odisha
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Bihar



- ✓ Jharkhand has launched an initiative called the Safe and Responsible Migration Initiative (SRMI). It aims for a systemic registration of migrant workers in the source as well as destination districts. This programme will help the state to analyse the movement of people through a formal structure. The state government has also decided to set up two "labour consulates" in Ladakh and Kerala.

7. Rishihood University was inaugurated in which state/UT?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) New Delhi ☒
- D) Puducherry



- ✓ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Rishihood University, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Rajya Sabha MP, Founder and Chancellor of Rishihood University Suresh Prabhu was also present during the occasion. The university has launched many initiatives to promote social impact such as the Center for Water, Center for Innovation in Governance, etc.

8. India signed a loan agreement with which bank for Surat Metro Rail project?

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



- ✓ The Government of India and the Germany Development Bank -KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) signed a 442.26-million-euro loan pact for Surat Metro Rail project. The total cost of the project is estimated to be Euro 1.50 billion (₹12,020 crore), of which KfW bank is financing Euro 442.26 million.
- ✓ Surat Metro Rail Project was launched in January this year. The project is being co-financed by French Development Agency, AFD.

9. In which state, DRDE is to set up Advanced Biological Defence Research Centre (ABDRC)?

- A) Bihar
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh ☒
- D) Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ The Defence Research Development Establishment (DRDE) is to set up an advanced biological defence lab to study viruses dangerous to humans, at Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior. The proposed Advanced Biological Defence Research Centre (ABDRC) will focus on dangerous viruses, their effect on humans and it will come up with safeguards and develop equipment to fight them.
-

10. Which state topped the 'Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy'?

- A) Assam
B) Sikkim
C) West Bengal ☒
D) Arunachal Pradesh



- ✓ The 'Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy', an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years was released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The Index was prepared by 'Institute for Competitiveness'. West Bengal (58.95) topped the chart and Bihar was placed at the bottom in the 'large states' category. In the 'small states' category, Kerala (67.95) grabbed the top spot. Lakshadweep (52.69) and Mizoram (51.64) are top-scoring regions in the UT and Northeast state category, respectively.
-

1. 'Red umbrella' is a symbol for the rights of which section of the population?

- A) Sex workers ☒
- B) LGBT Activists
- C) Environmental Activists
- D) Animal Activists



- ✓ International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers is observed every year on December 17. It seeks to highlight the hate crimes committed against sex workers all over the globe. 'Red umbrella' is an important symbol for sex worker rights and is used for events which are held on December 17. The red umbrella symbol was first used by sex workers in Venice, Italy, in the year 2001.

2. Which state recently issued Child Labour (prohibition and regulation) (amendment) Rules 2021?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Telangana ☒
- C) West Bengal
- D) Odisha



- ✓ The Telangana State Government has issued the Telangana Child Labour (prohibition and regulation) (amendment) Rules 2021. It seeks to initiate stringent action against those employing child labour in different works. As per the rules, children would not perform any tasks during school hours and between 7 p.m and 8 a.m the next day.

3. The Union Cabinet passed a proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for women to years

- A) 19
- B) 20
- C) 21 ☒
- D) 25

21

- ✓ The Union Cabinet passed a proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years – the same as men. This step is based on recommendations submitted to NITI Aayog in December 2020 by the task force headed by Jaya Jaitly.

4. Which language's calligraphy has been added to UNESCO heritage list?

- A) Tamil
- B) Arabic ☒
- C) Urdu
- D) Japanese



- ✓ 'Arabic Calligraphy: Knowledge, Skills and Practices' has been officially added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This was done after collaboration between 15 Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia and under the supervision of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

5. Which city hosted the "National Conference on Tuberculosis"?

- A) Chennai
- B) New Delhi ☒
- C) Patna
- D) Varanasi



- ✓ Ministry of Women and Child Development has organised a National Conference on Tuberculosis at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest, along with Minister

of Women & Child Development Smriti Irani and Minister of Health & Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya.

- ✓ Prime Minister of India announced the government's vision to eliminate TB by 2025, ahead of the SDG timeline of 2030.

6. Which publishing company/ website has named 'Allyship' as the word of the year?

- A) Dictionary.com ☒
- B) Collins
- C) Oxford
- D) Wren and Martin



- ✓ Allyship has been named as Dictionary.com's word of the year. It is an old noun made new again, in the recent years. As per the website, though "allyship" first surfaced in the mid-1800s, in the past few decades, the term has evolved to take on a nuanced and specific meaning.

7. India signs agreement for procurement of 6 lakh AK-203 rifles from which country?

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



- ✓ A contract for procurement of quantity 6,01,427 Assault Rifles AK-203 was signed on December 06, 2021 between Ministry of Defence and Russia, in the share holding of 50.5% and 49.5% respectively. These rifles will be produced by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at Korwa, Uttar Pradesh.

8. As per the recent data from Environment Ministry, which state has recorded the highest deaths of elephants due to electrocution during 2009 and 2019?

- A) Odisha ☒
- B) Maharashtra
- C) West Bengal
- D) Gujarat



- ✓ As per the data given by Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 600 elephants have died due to electrocution across the country between 2009 and 2019. Of this, 117 deaths have taken place in Odisha, 116 in Karnataka and 105 in Assam. Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Maharashtra are the only states which recorded zero elephant deaths due to electrocution.

9. 'Shakti Criminal Laws Bill' is associated with which state?

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



- ✓ Maharashtra government tabled a report with recommendations of a joint selection committee, to amend the Shakti Bill. The Maharashtra government's Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020, proposes to increase the punishment for offences such as rapes, acid attacks.

10. Paxlovid, which was seen in the news recently, is the first authorised pill against which disease?

- A) COVID-19 ☒
- B) Pneumococcal Disease
- C) Cardiovascular Disease
- D) AIDS



- ✓ US health regulators have authorised the first pill against COVID-19. Named Paxlovid, it is a Pfizer drug that has been approved by Food and Drug Administration. The drug has been authorised for adults and children ages 12 and older at home with a positive COVID-19.
-

1. Gujarat's Chief Minister launched the Gujarati version of which micro-blogging site?

- A) Twitter
- B) Koo ☒
- C) Chingari
- D) Reddit



- ✓ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the Gujarati version of Indian multilingual micro-blogging site 'Koo'.
- ✓ The application enables people to share content and connect with others using their mother tongue. With Gujarati launch Koo is now available in 10 languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Assamese, Punjabi, Bengali and English.

2. SilverLine, is a semi high-speed railway project being constructed in which state?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Kerala ☒
- C) Gujarat
- D) Odisha



- ✓ SilverLine, is a semi high-speed railway project being constructed in the state of Kerala. The project includes deploying trains running at 200 km/h between the state's northern and southern ends. Protests are taking place across Kerala against SilverLine, being executed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL). The estimated cost of the project Rs 63,940 crores. The deadline of the project is 2025.

3. "Pillar of Shame" memorial, which was seen in the news, is located in which country/region?

- A) USA
- B) Hong Kong ☒
- C) Taiwan
- D) Russia



- ✓ "Pillar of Shame" is a statue commemorating those killed in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. It is a eight-metre high statue located in University of Hong Kong's (HKU) campus since 1997.
- ✓ The memorial features 50 anguished faces and tortured bodies and commemorates democracy protesters killed by Chinese troops around Tiananmen Square in 1989. Hong Kong's oldest university launched an overnight operation to dismantle the statue.

4. Which country passed the 'Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women'?

- A) India
- B) China ☒
- C) Russia
- D) Saudi Arabia



- ✓ China's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) announced the draft amendment to the 'Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women'. This law aims to protect women's rights at the workplace and at home.

5. Which Union Ministry is associated with implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of External Affairs



D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- ✓ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has proposed some strict norms in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The MCA proposed that the IBC should provide the adjudicating authority with 30 days for approving or rejecting a resolution plan. The government has sought public comments on the proposal by January 13.

6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently extended the tokenization rules till which date?

- A) January 1, 2022
- B) April 1, 2022
- C) June 30, 2022 ☒
- D) September 30, 2022



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently extended the tokenisation rules till June 30, 2022. The deadline for wiping off card data on merchant sites and applying tokenisation has been extended by another six months. This step has been taken by the Central Bank as merchants and payment companies expressed their inability to meet the earlier deadline of December 31, 2021. Card on file tokenisation (CoFT) is used to register card data with a merchant site.

7. When is the 'National Consumer Rights Day' observed across India?

- A) December 20
- B) December 22
- C) December 24 ☒
- D) December 25



- ✓ December 24 is celebrated annually across India as National Consumer Rights Day. It is also called National Consumer Day. The Day commemorates December 24, 1986, the date when the Consumer Protection Act received assent of the President of India.
- ✓ The purpose of the day is to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated annually on March 15.

8. Which institution is implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)?

- A) KVIC ☒
- B) NSIC
- C) NABARD
- D) SIDBI



- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP). Recently, KVIC launched a series of self-employment activities in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Minister of State for MSME distributed electric potter wheels, bee boxes and Agarbatti making machines to the rural artisans of Jhansi district and some areas of the Bundelkhand region.

9. Which state government is set to launch the 'happiness curriculum' in primary schools (after Chhattisgarh and Delhi)?

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



- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to launch the 'happiness curriculum' in 150 primary schools of Uttar Pradesh under a pilot

project. It aims to make the students more sensitive towards nature, society and the country.

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh will be the third state in the country after Chhattisgarh and Delhi to implement the curriculum. The happiness curriculum will be introduced to the students of Classes 1 to 8.

10. Which country has recently announced to end censorship in films?

- A) UAE ☒
- B) Bahrain
- C) Oman
- D) Iran



- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that it will no longer censor films released in cinemas. It is seen as an effort of the kingdom to boost its brand as a liberal hub attractive to foreigners. As per the authorities, "The movies will be screened in cinemas according to their international version".

1. INS Kesari has recently delivered Food aid and Defence Aid to which country?

- A) Madagascar
- B) Mozambique ☒
- C) Maldives
- D) Myanmar



- ✓ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari has reached Port of Maputo, Mozambique to deliver 500 tonnes of food aid under Mission Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- ✓ INS Kesari is also carrying two Fast Interceptor Craft and self-defence equipment to be handed over to the Armed Forces of Mozambique. Earlier INS Kesari delivered humanitarian and medical assistance to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.

2. "P.N. Panicker", whose statue was recently unveiled by the President, was associated with which movement?

- A) Women Empowerment
- B) Literacy and Library ☒
- C) Child Development
- D) Clean Water



- ✓ President of India Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the statue of P N Panicker at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. P.N. Panicker started the 'Granthashala Sangam' in 1945 to promote literacy movement and libraries in the state. He was famous for the message of - "Vayichu Valaruka" which means "Read and Grow". He made the literacy movement into a popular socio-cultural movement

3. What is the name of the Disintegrated Neutron Star with the most intense magnetic field?

- A) Meteor
- B) Magnetar ☒
- C) Blazar
- D) Quasar



- ✓ When giant stars collapse, they form neutron stars, and some of these neutron stars form a small group with the most intense magnetic field, known as Magnetars.
- ✓ Led by Institute of Astrophysics (IAA-CSIC), astronomers have recently studied a flash 'GRB2001415', which occurred on April 15, 2020 and lasted only around one tenth of a second. As per the study, the energy that was released is equivalent to the energy that our Sun radiates in 1,00,000 years.

4. Which Union Ministry launched the "Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities- Toolkit 2022"?

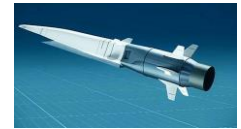
- A) Ministry of Rural Development
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Agriculture
- D) Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change



- ✓ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the "Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities- Toolkit 2022". On 1st October 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, to create "Garbage Free Cities" (GFC).
- ✓ The aim of the programme is to make every urban local body at least 3-star Garbage Free as per the Star Rating protocol.

5. Which country has recently launched the 'Tsirkon hypersonic missile system'?

- A) China
- B) Russia ☒
- C) UK
- D) Israel



- ✓ Russia's Defence forces have successfully test-launched the Tsirkon hypersonic missile system that can strike both naval and ground targets. The launch was undertaken amidst the continuing tensions on the Ukraine border.

6. Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant has been appointed as the brand ambassador of which state?

- A) Uttarakhand ☒
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal



- ✓ Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant has been appointed the brand ambassador of the state of Uttarakhand, to promote sports and create mental health awareness among the state's youth. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made the announcement regarding the same. The 24-year-old was born in the state's Haridwar district.

7. Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?

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



- ✓ The California Coastal Commission in the United States has approved a plan for air dropping rat poison on the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. This is an attempt to save rare seabirds, by helping to curb the mice population on the islands.

8. When is the International Migrants Day observed?

- A) December 18 ☒
- B) December 21
- C) December 24
- D) December 27



- ✓ The International Migrant Day is observed every year on December 18, to tackle the problem and challenges of global migration. The United Nations General Assembly in the year 1999 created the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The theme for the year 2021 is 'Harnessing the potential of human mobility'.

9. Which country has announced to donate 1 million coronavirus vaccines to the U.N.-backed COVAX programme?

- A) Russia
- B) Israel ☒
- C) India
- D) France



- ✓ The Israeli government has announced to donate 1 million coronavirus vaccines to the U.N.-backed COVAX programme. Italy's Foreign Ministry said the AstraZeneca vaccines would be transferred in the

coming weeks. This decision is seen as a part of Israel's strengthening ties with the African countries.

- ✓ Israel has close ties with several African nations, including Kenya, Uganda & Rwanda. Last year, Israel established relations with Sudan.

10. Which festival has been added to UNESCO Cultural Heritage List, for the first time in Asia?

- A) Taiwan Lantern Festival
- B) Arudra Darshan, Thillai Natarajar Temple
- C) Onam Festival
- D) Durga Pooja ☒



- ✓ The UNESCO has added Durga Puja to its 'Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'.
 - ✓ The 16th Committee of UNESCO for safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) at its meeting held in Paris added Durga Puja in Kolkata on the Representative List. This is the first festival of Asia, to be included in the prestigious list.
-

1. Keechant Sewell, is the first female head of the Police Force of which country?

- A) Australia
- B) Germany
- C) United States of America ☒
- D) Finland



- ✓ Keechant Sewell has been named the New York City's next police commissioner, making her the first woman to lead the nation's largest police force. Keechant Sewell was a Long Island police official. The 49-year-old will also be the third Black person to serve as New York Police Department commissioner.

2. Who is the most admired man in the world, as per the international survey carried out by YouGov?

- A) Elon Musk
- B) Rajinikanth
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Barack Obama ☒



- ✓ Former US President Barack Obama has retained his position at the most admired man in the world as per an international survey carried out by YouGov. For this survey, 42,000 people from 38 countries were asked who they admired most. Bill Gates is in second spot among men while Chinese President Xi Jinping is on third place. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was listed as 8th most admired man. Among women, Michelle Obama bagged the top spot.

3. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana is a flagship programme of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒
- B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- C) Ministry of Food Processing
- D) Ministry of Rural Development



- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs.93,068 crore. PMKSY was launched in 2015-16. The three components: Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet ko Paani (HKKP) and Watershed Development components have been approved for continuation during 2021-26.
- ✓ AIBP is implemented by Ministry of Jal Shakti; Per Drop-More Crop and Micro Irrigation scheme of Agriculture Ministry and Watershed Development by Rural Development Ministry.

4. Lakhwar Multipurpose Project is coming up in which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand ☒
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Punjab



- ✓ The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister of India has approved the construction of the Lakhwar Multipurpose Project in Uttarakhand, on the Yamuna River. The project includes construction of a dam and a underground power house, to be constructed by Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. This project would benefit Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

5. Who has been appointed as the Chief of Staff Committee, following the demise of General Bipin Rawat?

- A) M M Naravane ☒
- B) Karambir Singh
- C) R K S Bhadauria
- D) Vijay Kumar Singh



- ✓ The Government of India has appointed Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, following the demise of General Bipin Rawat.

6. Jaitapur, where six nuclear power reactor is to be set up, is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra ☒
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal



- ✓ The Centre has given 'in-principle' approval to set up six nuclear power reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra. The six nuclear power reactors, which will have a capacity of 1,650 MW each, will be established with technical cooperation from France.
- ✓ It will be India's largest nuclear power generating site with a total capacity of 9,900 MW.

7. Which city hosted the "All India Mayors' Conference" in 2021?

- A) Chennai
- B) Tiruvananthapuram
- C) Varanasi ☒
- D) Nagpur



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the All-India Mayors' Conference at Varanasi via video conferencing.
- ✓ As many as 120 mayors from various states of the country participated in the conference, which was conducted with the theme of "New Urban India".

8. Which country has developed the world's first 'AI Prosecutor'?

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



- ✓ Chinese scientists have developed the world's first machine that can charge people with crime using artificial intelligence. As per the scientists, the AI "prosecutor" can charge people with over 97 per cent accuracy and it works on verbal description.

9. "India Out" campaign is associated with which country?

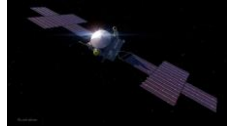
- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Myanmar
- C) Maldives ☒
- D) Nepal



- ✓ "India Out" campaign was led by former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen. Recently, political parties in the Maldives have opposed the campaign. "India Out" slogan has been witnessed on social media over the past three years. The "India Out" campaign centres around the allegations that India is seeking to establish a military presence in the Maldives through ongoing security cooperation.

10. Psyche mission, which was seen in the news, is being developed by which country?

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



- ✓ NASA is working on the Psyche mission, which is to be launched in the year 2022. The target of the mission is a metal-rich asteroid, also called Psyche, in the main belt between Mars and Jupiter. This place has never been visited by any other spacecraft.
 - ✓ The spacecraft would arrive at the asteroid belt in 2026. From radar data, it has been observed that the asteroid is shaped like a potato and it spins on its side.
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1. 'Renukaji Dam project', seen in the news, is to come up in which Indian state?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Himachal Pradesh ☒
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the Rs 6,700-crore Renukaji Dam project from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi. Once completed, the project on the Giri river is expected to generate 200 million units of energy in a 40 MW surface power house. The storage capacity of the dam would be 498 million cubic meters which would fulfil about 40 per cent of drinking water requirement of Delhi.

2. 'Narcotics Control Bureau' functions under the aegis of which Union Ministry?

- A) Union Finance Ministry
- B) Union Home Ministry ☒
- C) Union External Affairs Ministry
- D) Union Defence Ministry



- ✓ The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has asked all the states to form and notify a dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) in their respective jurisdictions, with an aim to eradicate drugs from the country. As per the official notification, these ANTF can act as Narco Coordination Centre (NCCORD) secretariat at the state level.

3. Which state is the first state in India to observe Sahibzada Diwas?

- A) Uttar Pradesh ☒
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Assam
- D) Nagaland



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has recently observed Sahibzada Day in remembrance of martyrdom of four sons (Sahibzadas) of Guru Gobind Singh. Uttar Pradesh is the first state in India to observe Sahibzada Diwas since the year 2020 when chief minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the sacrifice of the Sikh Gurus should be part of the school curriculum.

4. Where is Indravati Tiger Reserve located?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Chhattisgarh ☒
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal



- ✓ The Indravati Tiger Reserve is located in the state of Chhattisgarh with a total area of approximately 2799.08 square km. Recently, tiger counting was carried out in the reserve covering more than 400 square kilometers. As per the latest data, the reserve had 3 tigers.

5. Who was Edward O Wilson, who has been in news recently?

- A) Biologist ☒
- B) Cosmonaut
- C) Cricketer
- D) Dancer



- ✓ Edward O Wilson, who was known affectionately as 'the ant man' was a Harvard biologist and an entomologist. He died recently at the age of 92. The biologist is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author and

gained widespread attention across the world for his book, "Sociobiology: The New Synthesis" released in 1975.

6. How many non-European countries are part of Europol?

- A) 0
- B) 10 ☒
- C) 20
- D) 30



- ✓ South Korea has recently become the 10th country outside of Europe to join the Europol. It is the European Union (EU) law enforcement cooperation agency that fights terrorism and other international crimes. The National Police Agency (NPA) of South Korea joined Europol by signing agreement, which was approved unanimously by the 27 EU nations.

7. What is 'Pralay', which was test-fired recently off the Odisha coast?

- A) Short-range Ballistic Missile ☒
- B) Intercontinental Missile
- C) Air-launched Ballistic Missile
- D) Sub-marine launched Ballistic Missile



- ✓ The first successful test flight of short-range surface-to-surface Pralay ballistic missile was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed the short-range solid-fuel surface-to-surface missile. It can hit the target at a range of 150 to 500 kilometres. The missile, which can be launched from a mobile launcher, has efficient navigation mechanisms and integrated avionics.

8. As per UN Office on Drugs and Crime, which country is the top producer of Opium?

- A) Afghanistan ☒
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Israel
- D) Iran



- ✓ As per UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Afghanistan is the top producer of Opium poppy. By 2021, Afghanistan's harvest will account for more than 90% of worldwide illegal heroin production. Since 2001, the country has been the world's biggest illicit drug producer.

9. Which state recently passed Bill to recover property damages from protesters?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Madhya Pradesh ☒
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Punjab



- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh Government recently passed a Bill to recover property damages from protesters. The bill also provides for setting up a tribunal which would look into the claims of property damage during riots or public protests. The State Assembly also passed a resolution that panchayat elections will not be held without Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation.

10. "Radio Ujala Punjab," is the radio channel of which Central Jail?

- A) Patiala Central Jail
- B) Ludhiana Central Jail ☒
- C) Amritsar Central Jail
- D) Jalandhar Central Jail



- ✓ Punjab's Ludhiana Central Jail now has recently inaugurated its own radio channel, "Radio Ujala Punjab,". Only jail inmates will be running the radio channel and prisoners who work as 'Radio Jockeys' have undergone training. Six other jails of Punjab would also get their own radio channels in the coming days. This programme aims to rehabilitate the prisoners and provide welfare opportunities.
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