

1. The new COVID variant named IHU (B.1.640.2), has been discovered in which country?

- A) USA  
B) India  
C) France ☒  
D) Italy



- ✓ The new COVID variant named IHU (B.1.640.2) has been discovered at the IHU Mediterranean Infection Institute in France. The new variant is said to have 46 mutations more than Omicron. The first case was reported from a person who had come from the African country of Cameroon. As per the Scientists, the new strain carries E484K mutation making it vaccine-resistant.

2. 'KABIL' is a joint venture company created by which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Mines ☒  
B) Ministry of Steel  
C) Ministry of MSME  
D) Ministry of Power



- ✓ The Mines Ministry has created a joint venture company called 'Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL)'. The equity participation of National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation (MECL) is 40:30:30. India is working to acquire mines of strategic minerals such as lithium and cobalt in countries like Australia, Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

3. Alka Mittal has been appointed as the first female Chairman and MD of which Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)?

- A) ONGC ☒  
B) SAIL  
C) PFC  
D) NTPC



- ✓ Alka Mittal has been appointed as the first female Chairman and MD of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). ONGC is the country's largest oil and gas producer. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for this appointment.

4. India's first Mobile Honey Processing Van was launched in which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh ☒  
B) Gujarat  
C) Karnataka  
D) Kerala



- ✓ India's first Mobile Honey Processing Van was launched at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. It was inaugurated by the Chairman of KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena. The Mobile Van has been designed by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokehra, at a cost of INR 15 lakh. It can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours and also comprises of with a testing laboratory, which would examine the quality of honey.

5. 'Ecowrap' is the flagship report released by which institution?

- A) Asian Development Bank  
B) NITI Aayog  
C) Reserve Bank of India  
D) State Bank of India ☒



- ✓ 'Ecowrap' is the report released by the Research Team of the State Bank of India. As per the latest edition of the report, India's real GDP is expected to grow at around 9.5 per cent in 2021-22. The NSO released the First Advance Estimates of National Income for financial year 2021-22. It estimated the GDP Growth in 2021-22 as 9.2 per cent.

6. What is the maximum limit of Aadhaar-enabled cash withdrawal transactions, per customer, per terminal per day, as per NPCI?

- A) Two  
B) Three  
C) Five ☒  
D) Seven



- ✓ National Payments Corporation of India has introduced limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements. It states that the maximum limit of five Aadhaar enabled cash withdrawal transactions, per customer, per terminal per day. The issuers will also implement a limit of a minimum of five mini statement transactions per customer per month. This has to be implemented by January 15, 2022.

7. The New Jan Shatabdi Express inaugurated between Agartala and Jiribam connects Tripura with which state?

- A) West Bengal  
B) Manipur ☒  
C) Sikkim  
D) Assam



- ✓ Union Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the Jan Shatabdi Express between Agartala and Jiribam connecting two northeastern states, Tripura and Manipur. The Jan Shatabdi Express will run thrice a week and the journey will take six hours.

- ✓ Besides this, Tripura has Rajdhani Express, Kanchanjungha Express, Humsafar Express among others.

8. Wolf Volcano, which was seen in the news, is the highest peak in which island group?

- A) Hawaiian Islands  
B) Galápagos Islands ☒  
C) Mariana Islands  
D) Caroline Islands



- ✓ Wolf Volcano, also known as Mount Whiton, is the highest peak in the Galápagos Islands. It is a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. The volcanic mountain recently erupted, spewing lava and clouds of ash over the Pacific Ocean. The islands are part of the province of Ecuador.

9. Nandur Madhmeshwar bird sanctuary is situated in which state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu  
B) Kerala  
C) Karnataka  
D) Maharashtra ☒



- ✓ Nandur Madhmeshwar bird sanctuary is a wetland situated in Niphad in Maharashtra's Nashik. With the beginning of winter, a large number of migratory birds have flocked to the bird sanctuary.

- ✓ As per the Forest Department, more than 30,000 birds including flamingos, cranes, golden plovers, blue chicks and many others have come to the place. Birds from Siberia, Europe migrate here to escape

the harsh winter conditions.

10. Which state/UT is set to host the 25<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival in 2022?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Puducherry ☒
- C) Goa
- D) Karnataka



- ✓ Puducherry Union Territory government is making arrangements to host the 25<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival on January 12. The Day marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ✓ Over 7,000 youth from across the country will take part in the events, held in association with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Minister also unveiled the festival logo and mascot, "Saksham Yuva-Shashakt Yuva".