

1. Which country launched an inter-city train service using Indian-funded coaches?

- A) Afghanistan
B) Sri Lanka ☒
C) Nepal
D) Bangladesh



- ✓ Sri Lanka recently launched an inter-city train service, using the Diesel Multiple Units procured from India. The train service will run across the country, connecting the capital city of Colombo with Kankesanthurai of the Yaazhpaanam Peninsula, which has a Tamil-majority population.

2. What is the name of the new Department created by the Reserve Bank in 2022?

- A) Department of Digital Currency
B) Department of Fin-tech ☒
C) Department of Data Science
D) Department of AI



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has created a new department named "Department of Fin-Tech", to promote innovation in the fin-tech sector. It also aims to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it. In 2018, RBI created a financial technology within its Department of Payment Settlement Systems.
- ✓ The new fintech department will also provide framework for further research on the subject and help in policy interventions of RBI.

3. Which Union Ministry released the 'Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021'?

- A) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
B) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
C) Ministry of Law and Justice
D) Ministry of Home Affairs



- ✓ The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released the Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021. This is a revision to a set of guidelines for barrier-free environment released in 2016.
- ✓ It has been drafted by a team of the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee and the National Institute of Urban Affairs of the MoHUA.

4. Which state constituted the Justice Hema Commission?

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



- ✓ In 2017, the Kerala Government formed a three-member commission headed by Justice K Hema (retired), former bureaucrat KB Valsalakumari and veteran actress Sharada as members.
- ✓ The commission was formed to scrutinise problems faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. The Government in Kerala recently formed a three-member panel to study and work out a plan to implement the recommendations of the Justice Hema Commission report.

5. '*Xylophaga nandani*', which was recently identified, is a species of ____?

- A) Mollusc ☒
B) Fish
C) Turtle
D) Snake



- ✓ A team of researchers from Kerala and Brazil have identified a new species of a rare, deep-sea mollusc named '*Xylophaga nandani*'. The mollusc belonging to the family Xylophagidae has been identified from the eastern Arabian Sea. The wood-boring, tiny species has been named after Professor Bijoy Nandan, Dean, faculty of Marine Sciences, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)

6. 'Magh Mela' is an annual religious fair held in which state?

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



- ✓ The 47-day annual religious fair 'Magh Mela-2022' has been inaugurated with thousands of pilgrims taking holy dip on the banks of the Sangam in Prayagraj. Sangam is a sacred confluence of the three rivers namely Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. The fair is usually held to mark the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

7. '*Hydrophis gracilis*', a rare sea snake has been spotted in which state/UT?

- A) Kerala ☒
B) Maharashtra
C) Goa
D) Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ During a water bird census, an uncommon sea snake was spotted by a team of bird watchers. *Hydrophis gracilis*, the small-headed sea snake, was spotted at the Perumathura coast in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Members of the Thiruvananthapuram-based forum of bird watchers and nature lovers, Warblers and Waders, were carrying out the survey as part of the yearly water-bird census.

8. What is the main objective of the 'James Webb space telescope'?

- A) To find out about the Surface of the Sun
B) To find out about the origin of the Universe ☒
C) To study the most distant known galaxies
D) To explore the structure of planetary system



- ✓ NASA launched the James Webb space telescope on December 25, 2021. It is a joint collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency. The telescope recently completed its final deployment which was of the primary mirror.
- ✓ The mission of the James Webb telescope is the largest space telescope ever built and its mission is to help scientists find out more about the origin of the universe. It will capture infrared light from celestial objects with high resolution.

9. What is the present status of China at the World Trade Organization?

- A) Upper Middle-Income country
B) Developed Country
C) Developing Country ☒
D) Least Developed Country



- ✓ China completed 20 years at the World Trade Organisation and its present status at the 'World Trade Organization (WTO)' is 'Developing Country'. A number of countries are raising concerns that China being an upper middle-income nation deriving benefits reserved for developing countries under WTO norms.

10. Which Union Ministry announced a dedicated Grievance Cell, for uninterrupted supply of essentials?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Food Processing Industries ☒
- C) Ministry of Textiles
- D) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways



- ✓ Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched a dedicated grievance cell for the food and food-related industry to ensure smooth operations and uninterrupted supply of essentials for all citizens. The Ministry had set up a similar grievance cell during the first wave when the national lockdown was imposed in the country.
 - ✓ The Ministry said that industry players and people can send their concerns and queries on covidgrievance-mofpi@gov.in.
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