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# **SECOND WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS**



## **JANUARY 2022**

**JANUARY 08-14**

1. Which institution released the 'Women and girls left behind: Glaring gaps in pandemic responses' report?

- A) World Economic Forum
- B) World Bank
- C) UN Women ☒
- D) NITI Aayog



- ✓ United Nations Women recently released a new report titled "Women and girls left behind: Glaring gaps in pandemic responses". As per the report, women were less likely to receive COVID-19 relief from government. At least 29% of working mothers living with children lost their jobs compared to 20% of working men living with children. Single women living with children were left behind more, as per the report.

2. Which Indian Pace bowler achieved the milestone of 200 Test wickets recently?

- A) Mohammed Shami ☒
- B) Ravichandran Ashwin
- C) Ravindra Jadeja
- D) Jasprit Bumrah



- ✓ Mohammed Shami recently achieved the milestone of 200 Test wickets, during the first Test against South Africa.
- ✓ The 31-year-old bowler is third-fastest among Indian pacers to reach the landmark, as he achieved this feat in his 55<sup>th</sup> Test match. He is only behind Kapil Dev (434), Ishant Sharma (311), Zaheer Khan (311), and Javagal Srinath (236), at present.

3. Which state has unveiled the draft of 'New Policy for Women 2021'?

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



- ✓ Tamil Nadu Government recently unveiled "New Policy for Women 2021", which includes features such as compulsory martial arts training for school and college females. The policy also seeks to make all modes of transportation women-friendly.

4. The Indian Army's 'Quantum computing laboratory and a centre for artificial intelligence (AI)' has been set up in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh ☒
- D) Haryana



- ✓ The Indian Army has set up a 'Quantum computing laboratory and a Centre for artificial intelligence (AI)' at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. The centres will carry out research in developing transformative technologies to be used by the armed forces. It has been established by the Indian Army, with support from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

5. Which country is the world's top producer of 'Rare earth material'?

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



- ✓ China is the world's top producer of rare earth material. Recently, the country has 3 state-owned rare earth mining companies to form a

new entity named 'China Rare Earths Group'. China has been strengthening its supply chain of rare earth materials. Rare earth is a combination of 17 minerals used as vital ingredients in the production of consumer electronics as well as military equipment.

6. Which Union Ministry has released draft National Air Sports Policy?

- A) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- B) Ministry of Civil Aviation ☒
- C) Ministry of Renewable Energy
- D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs



- ✓ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) for public feedback. The policy seeks to promote India's potential for air sports and focuses on ensuring international best practices in safety. The vision of the policy is to make India as one of the top air sports nations by 2030.

7. 'PM's Excellence Award' is being awarded for which sector?

- A) Sports
- B) Public Administration ☒
- C) Entrepreneurship
- D) Education



- ✓ The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) awards the "Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration" since 2006. Union Minister Jitendra Singh has recently launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award, whose registrations began. The prize money was doubled this year from 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees.
- ✓ The Scheme was restructured in 2020, to recognize the performance of District Collectors towards economic development of the District.

8. What is the annual export target of India, for the year 2021-22?

- A) \$100 billion
- B) \$200 billion
- C) \$400 billion ☒
- D) \$500 billion



- ✓ India exported goods worth 37.29 billion in December 2021, the highest ever in a month, as per the data released by the commerce and industry ministry. India's merchandise export in April-December was nearly 300 billion, which is an increase of 48.85 percent year-on-year and 26 percent against the same period in 2019.
- ✓ Hence, India has achieved three-fourths of its annual export target of \$400 billion in the first 9 months of FY22. This is due to the high demand for engineering products, petroleum items, and gems and jewellery.

9. What is the theme declared for the DRDO Day 2021?

- A) Atmanirbhar Bharat
- B) Export ☒
- C) Critical defence technologies
- D) Strength and Science



- ✓ DRDO observed the 63rd Foundation Day of its establishment on January 01, 2021. DRDO was established in 1958 with 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in Defence sector.
- ✓ At present, DRDO is working with several areas including aeronautics, combat vehicles, electronics, instrumentation, advanced computing, simulation among others. DRDO Chairperson declared 'Export' as the

theme of DRDO for 2021.

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10. INSACOG is the forum set up by which country to monitor genome sequencing and variation of Covid strains?

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



- ✓ Union Health Ministry of India set up the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) in 2020, to monitor genome sequencing and variation of Covid strains. INSACOG is jointly initiated by the Union Health Ministry, along with Department of Biotechnology, CSIR and ICMR. An INSACOG Lab has asked States to temporarily pause sending COVID-19 positive samples.
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1. 'Seema Bhawani' is the name of which team of the Border Security Force (BSF)?

- A) Camel Contingent
- B) Creek Crocodile
- C) All-women Biker Team ☒
- D) All-women Creek Crocodile



- ✓ 'Seema Bhawani' is the all-women biker team of the Border Security Force (BSF). The team will showcase their talent on the Republic Day. Over 100 female troops from different ranks are taking part in the event. Seema Bhawani team was formed in the year 2016 and they participated in the Republic Day parade in 2018, for the first time.

2. Atal Tunnel, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which state/UT?

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



- ✓ Atal Tunnel is located in the hilly state of Himachal Pradesh. It is all-weather 9km road under the Rohtang Pass on the Leh-Manali Highway. The Tunnel saw a record number of vehicles crossing on the first day of 2022. As per officials, a total of 7,515 vehicles crossed the tunnel on January 1, 2022. This is the highest ever count since it was inaugurated on October 3, 2020.

3. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), which was making news recently, is located at which state?

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



- ✓ Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) was established by the Government of India in the year 1986 at Fursatganj Airfield. It is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh. IGRUA is an Autonomous Body and it is administered by a Governing Council under Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- ✓ During 2021, IGRUA recorded 19000 hours of flying as against an average yearly flying output of 15000 per year during the previous five years. It also targets 25000 flying hours in 2022.

4. "Blue Book" which was seen in the news, is the manual of which armed force / group?

- A) Central Reserve Police Force
- B) Special Protection Group ☒
- C) National Security Guard
- D) Indian Coast Guard



- ✓ "Blue Book" is the name of the manual of the Special Protection Group (SPG), which exclusively protects India's Prime Minister. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent 20 minutes on a Punjab highway blocked by protesting farmers in a security breach.
- ✓ Usually, the PM's plan is shared with the state's top leadership including the Chief Minister, Home Minister and police chief. SPG coordinates with State Police and other officers for a security plan.

5. Which state/UT recognised Takht Damdama Sahib, as the fifth Takht of Sikhs?

- A) Punjab
- B) Delhi ☒
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttar Pradesh



- ✓ Delhi Assembly passed an amendment Bill to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971, to recognise Takht Damdama Sahib as the fifth Takht of Sikhs. A Takht, or a throne, is a seat of temporal authority for Sikhs. There are five Sikh Takhts, three in Punjab and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar.

6. Novak Djokovic, who was named the 'Best Balkan Athlete of the year' 2021, is from which country?

- A) Bulgaria
- B) Siberia
- C) Serbia ☒
- D) Greece



- ✓ Ace Tennis Player Novak Djokovic from Serbia was named the Best Balkan Athlete of the year for a record seventh time. The 34-year-old player is ranked No. 1 in the world and won three of the four Grand Slam tournaments this year. Greek basketball player Giannis Antetokounmpo was second in the poll, followed by another Greek long jumper Miltiadis Tentoglu.

7. Which country launched the 'Simorgh' satellite carrier rocket with research devices?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Iran ☒
- C) Israel
- D) UAE



- ✓ Iran has launched a satellite carrier rocket 'Simorgh' bearing three research devices into space, as per the country's media. 'Simorgh' translates to 'Phoenix' in Iran language. The country has launched the devices at an altitude of 470 kilometres (290 miles). United States unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal in May 2018 and re-imposed sanctions against Iran.

8. Which Indian state recorded the highest Tiger deaths in 2021?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Madhya Pradesh ☒
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat



- ✓ As per the data available in the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'s website, a total of 126 tiger deaths were recorded in the country in 2021. It is said that out of 126 reported tiger deaths, 60 were due to poachers, accidents, animal-human conflict outside protected areas. The maximum tiger deaths took place in Madhya Pradesh (44), followed by Maharashtra (26) and Karnataka (14).

9. Which city has the longest metro rail network in the world?

- A) Chennai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Shanghai ☒
- D) Tokyo



- ✓ China's Shanghai has maintained its position as having the longest metro rail network in the world by adding two new lines that went into operation recently. The new lines took the total length of the city's metro network to 831 km. Shanghai's Metro network is followed by Beijing, and Delhi was ranked third.

10. 'Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA)' is located in which country?

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



- ✓ A team of Scientists used the Atacama Large Millimeter / submillimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile to observe a newborn star (protostar) in the WB89-789 region.
  - ✓ It is located in the extreme outer Galaxy. Scientists have detected carbon-, oxygen-, nitrogen-, sulfur-, and silicon-bearing molecules were detected. The protostar and the associated cocoon of chemically-rich gas was detected at the edge of our Galaxy, for the first time.
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1. The subsidiary of which Indian company signed agreements on jointly developing the Trincomalee oil tank farm?

- A) Indian Oil Corporation ☒
- B) Bharat Petroleum
- C) Hindustan Petroleum
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation



- ✓ Lanka IOC, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and the Government of Sri Lanka signed lease agreements on jointly developing the Trincomalee oil tank farm. Indian Oil Corporation's subsidiary Lanka IOC is set to run the 14 oil storage tanks while CPC would run 24 tanks. Trinco Petroleum Terminal Pvt. Ltd would develop the remaining 61 tanks, in a joint venture where 51% stakes will be held by CPC and 49% by Lanka IOC.

2. 'Khuntkatti' law, which was seen in the news recently, is practised in which Indian state/UT?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Jharkhand ☒
- C) Sikkim
- D) Uttarakhand



- ✓ A man was beaten by some villagers for allegedly cutting off trees illegally and selling them. The man was burned alive in front of police, for violating the 'Khuntkatti' law. The 'Khuntkatti' system is a tribal lineage-based system of joint holding of land.
- ✓ According to the system, the Munda tribals would clear the trees and prepare the land for farming, which would then belong to the entire clan instead of a single person.

3. Japan recently signed 'Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)' with which country?

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



- ✓ Japan recently signed a historic Defence Agreement with Australia, to ensure a secure and stable Indo-Pacific region. This agreement has been signed amidst the expansion of China's military and economic influence in the region. Called the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), this is Japan's second such agreement. Japan's only other military pact is with the United States.

4. 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future' has been declared as the theme of which special day?

- A) World Science and Technology Day
- B) National Science Day ☒
- C) World Research and Development Day
- D) National Innovation Day



- ✓ The theme for this year's National Science Day is announced as 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future'. Union Science and technology Ministry has announced this recently. The theme has been chosen for raising public awareness of the scientific issues. National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman.

5. As per APEDA, which is the top exported commodity in India in 2020-21?

- A) Non-Basmati Rice ☒
- B) Tomato
- C) Cotton
- D) Milk



- ✓ As per Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Non-Basmati Rice, Basmati Rice and Buffalo Meat are the top 3 exported products from India in the year 2020-21. As per APEDA, the total export basket has increased more than Rs.15 lakh crore in 2020-21 in comparison to Rs.83 thousand crore in 2011-12.

6. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board?

- A) Shobhit Tripathi
- B) Vinay Kumar Tripathi ☒
- C) Rajesh Arora
- D) Kumar Verma



- ✓ The Appointments Committee of Union Cabinet has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board. Presently, he is serving as the General Manager, North Eastern Railway. He is a 1983 batch Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE).

7. Padhe Bharat campaign is launched by which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B) Ministry of Education ☒
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Defense



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Education has launched a reading campaign named Padhe Bharat campaign for 100 days starting from January 1, 2022. This campaign is aimed to improve the reading capabilities, vocabulary and thinking abilities of students studying between Balvatika and Class 8. The Government has released a comprehensive guideline on Reading Campaign for the states / UTs to follow.

8. Which State team clinched the Vijay Hazare Trophy title in 2021-22?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Himachal Pradesh ☒
- C) Odisha
- D) Karnataka



- ✓ Himachal Pradesh defeated Tamil Nadu by VJD method to clinch their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title in 2021-22 edition, held at Jaipur. Tamil Nadu has been the most successful team with 5 title wins. Vijay Hazare Trophy, also known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy, was started in 2002-03. It is named after the legendary Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare.

9. China has recently released a list of "standardised names" for 15 places in which Indian state?

- A) Mizoram
- B) Nagaland
- C) Tripura
- D) Arunachal Pradesh ☒



- ✓ China's Ministry of Civil Affairs announced the "standardised" names of 15 places in Arunachal Pradesh. China has been claiming around 90,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory. It had even called the state as "South Tibet" back in 2017.

- ✓ India, in response announced that the renaming does not take away the sovereignty of India from the state.

10. Environment Ministry released Guidelines on 'Extended producer responsibility (EPR)' for which product?

- A) Bio-medical Waste
- B) Waste Tyres ☒
- C) Plastic Waste
- D) e-waste



- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change released the draft notification for regulations for the extended producer responsibility (EPR) for Waste Tyres. If finalised, the draft will be effective from the new fiscal year.
- ✓ India discards around 275,000 tyres each year but the country does not have a comprehensive plan for that. Producer of tyres to ensure environmentally safe management of waste tyres.

1. Which state is associated with 'Nirbhaya Kadhi' campaign?

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



- ✓ Odisha's Ganjam has declared itself the state's first child marriage free district. It has undertaken a campaign named Nirbhaya Kadhi (Fearless bud). Through the campaign, the district administration has counselled over one lakh teen-agers and stopped over 450 child marriages. They implemented various steps like providing incentives for informing child marriages, making Aadhaar card mandatory for marriages etc.

2. Which state launched the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP) 2.0?

- A) Telangana  
B) Gujarat ☒  
C) Maharashtra  
D) Odisha



- ✓ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP) 2.0, at the International Conference of Academic Institutions (ICAI-2022). It aims to financially support school students in innovation and will be implemented for the next five years till March, 2027. The financial support has been increased from Rs 200 of the previous edition to Rs 500 crore.

3. 'Olaf Scholz' is the recently appointed head of which country?

- A) USA  
B) Germany ☒  
C) Brazil  
D) Russia



- ✓ Olaf Scholz has been appointed as the Chancellor of Germany from December 2021. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a discussion with his German counterpart and congratulated on his appointment as Chancellor. They reviewed the capacities of ongoing cooperation initiatives, including investment and trade links. They also discussed to diversify cooperation and exchanges in new areas.

4. Which Union Ministry implements the 'UJALA' programme?

- A) Ministry of Power ☒  
B) Ministry of Environment  
C) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas  
D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs



- ✓ The Power Ministry successfully completed seven years of distributing LED lights under its flagship UJALA programme. It is one of the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programmes with more than 36 crore LEDs distributed across the country. Launched in 2015, UJALA stands for Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All.

5. Which institution appointed the technical committee to look into the Pegasus malware issue?

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT  
B) Supreme Court of India ☒  
C) Madras High Court  
D) NITI Aayog



- ✓ The Supreme Court of India appointed the technical committee to look into the Pegasus malware issue. The technical committee issued a public notice asking citizens to contact the panel if they suspected

that their mobile devices are infected by Pegasus malware. The committee would request the person to allow examination of the device, if reasonable.

6. Nodirbek Abdusattorov, the youngest ever World Rapid Chess champion, is from which country?

- A) Switzerland  
B) Russia  
C) Uzbekistan ☒  
D) Ukraine



- ✓ Nodirbek Abdusattorov from Uzbekistan became the youngest ever World Rapid Chess champion, at 17 years three months. Magnus Carlsen had won the 2009 World Blitz Title at the age of 18.  
✓ He also defeated the Ace player Magnus Carlsen to win the World Rapid championship in Warsaw, Poland. France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave won the World Blitz title.

7. Which Indian company has commissioned India's largest solar power project at Rajasthan?

- A) Adani Power  
B) Azure Power ☒  
C) TATA Power  
D) ReNew Power



- ✓ Indian solar power producer Azure Power has fully commissioned its largest project, a 600-MW solar park in the state of Rajasthan. The solar park is located in Bikaner. It will supply its power to Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) over 25 years.

8. Who is the head of the 'Energy Transition Advisory Committee', which was recently set up?

- A) Tarun Kapoor ☒  
B) Ramesh Chand  
C) V K Paul  
D) Amitabh Kant



- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has set up Energy Transition Advisory Committee headed by former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor. The panel includes representatives of all public-sector oil and gas companies and it will energy transition roadmap for the oil and gas sector. India has committed for net-zero emissions by the year 2070. The committee will recommend a transition roadmap by middle of 2022.

9. Which is the first state/UT to have 'District-level Good Governance Index'?

- A) Mizoram  
B) Puducherry  
C) Tripura  
D) Jammu & Kashmir ☒



- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir is set to become the first Union Territory to have a district-level Good Governance Index. The Department of administrative reforms and public grievances will carry out this task in association with the Jammu and Kashmir government.  
✓ The framework will have 58 indicators to assess different aspects of development and district administration such as agriculture, commerce and industry, public safety, public health among others.



10. The Social reformer Savitribai Phule, founded India's first girls' school in which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Maharashtra ☒
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Kerala



- ✓ Social reformer Savitribai Phule was born on January 3, 1831 in Maharashtra. Her birth anniversary was observed across the country. In 1848, Savitribai along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, founded one of India's first girls' schools in Pune, Maharashtra.
  - ✓ She also became the first Indian woman to become a teacher. She also opened women's shelter for widows and Home for Prevention of Infanticide. She strongly opposed child marriage and Sati tradition.
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1. How many women MPs are present in the Parliamentary panel, which was set up to examine the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill?

- A) 01 ☒  
B) 02  
C) 03  
D) 04



- ✓ Trinamool Congress MP Sushmita Dev is the only woman in the 31-member parliamentary panel assigned to examine the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill. The seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women to 21.
- ✓ At present, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 and for women is 18. The proposal to increase the marriage age of women was recommended by the NITI Aayog task force headed by Jaya Jaitley.

2. Researchers at which Institution has developed "5<sup>th</sup> generation microwave absorbers"?

- A) IIT Madras  
B) IIT Bombay  
C) Kerala University ☒  
D) IISc, Bengaluru



- ✓ A Professor and Research Scholar Department of Physics at Kerala University, have developed fifth-generation (5G) microwave absorbers, which can be used as an effective shield against electromagnetic radiation. The electromagnetic interference (EMI) is known to be dangerous to the health of living organisms. It also affects the high-end electronic devices. They used new shielding material 'mayenite electride' for microwave absorption in high frequency region.

3. The Special Protection Group Act, 1988 was passed to provide security to.....

- A) Nuclear Power Plants  
B) Prime Minister and former Prime Ministers ☒  
C) India's land borders  
D) India's water borders



- ✓ The Special Protection Group Act, 1988 was passed by the parliament after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It aimed to provide for regulation of an armed force of the Union for providing security to the Prime Minister of India and the former Prime Ministers of India and members of their immediate families. It was extended to all former Prime Ministers and their immediate families after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated.

4. "Abilympics" are the competitions held for Persons with Disabilities, in which field?

- A) Sports  
B) Coding  
C) Skill Demonstration ☒  
D) Business Administration



- ✓ The National Competition of IndiaSkills 2021 has been organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). NSDC is the nodal agency for skill and entrepreneurship development, working under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ✓ The event included 'Abilympics', a Skill Demonstration by Persons with Disabilities. IndiaSkill 2021 also introduced three new skills – Yoga, Shoe Making (Leather) and Garment Making (Leather).

5. 'Hyderabad declaration', which was seen in the news, is associated with?

- A) Climate Change  
B) E-Governance ☒  
C) Women Empowerment  
D) Covid-19 Protocol



- ✓ The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Government of Telangana organized the 24th National Conference on e-Governance at Hyderabad.
- ✓ The theme of this Conference is "India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World".

6. Sanjay Lake is a wetland located in which state/UT?

- A) Karnataka  
B) New Delhi ☒  
C) Himachal Pradesh  
D) Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is being carried out across seven wetlands in the NCR – Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Dhanauri and Surajpur wetlands in Greater Noida, Delhi Zoo and Sanjay Lake, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Najafgarh Jheel and the Yamuna River.
- ✓ The census recorded only 13 species in the Sanjay Lake, down from 17 species recorded from 2019 to 2021.

7. Which group of countries participate in 'Sea Dragon 22' Military Exercise?

- A) Indo-Pacific countries ☒  
B) QUAD Group  
C) Indian Ocean Rim Countries  
D) Balkan Countries



- ✓ The US Navy announced that the Sea Dragon 22 exercise began along with the navies of India, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea. It is a multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Pacific Ocean, participated by six Indo-Pacific nations.
- ✓ India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the 'QUAD' group, and also participate in the Malabar exercise.

8. Which state/UTs Buddhist community celebrates Losar festival as the traditional New Year?

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



- ✓ Ladakh is celebrating Losar, the traditional new year. Losar festival is being celebrated by Buddhist Community in the region. The festival began with the celebration of Birth and Nirvana Anniversary Je Tsongkhapa. People celebrated the festival at religious places like Monasteries, Stupas and other places. The festival is celebrated in Tibetan Buddhism in the month of February or March.

9. Khurnak Fort, which was historically a part of India, is under the control of which country, at present?

- A) Pakistan
- B) China ☒
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Afghanistan



- ✓ Khurnak Fort, which was historically a part of India has been under Chinese control since 1958. Near to the Fort, China is building a new bridge. The bridge is being constructed on Pangong Tso, near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.
- 

10. Which global association / body recently released a statement with a view to avoid nuclear war?

- A) UNSC ☒
- B) BRICS
- C) G20
- D) G7



- ✓ The five permanent members of United Nations Security Council, namely Russia, Britain, China, the United States and France released a statement recently. The countries are of the view that a further spread of nuclear arms and a nuclear war should be avoided. The statement seeks to avoid war between the nuclear states and reduce strategic risks. China has a "no first use" policy on nuclear weapons.
-