



winmeen.com

THIRD WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



JANUARY 2022

JANUARY 15-21

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 25th National Youth Festival in 2022?

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



- ✓ Puducherry Union Territory government is making arrangements to host the 25th 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".

1. Which is the first state/UT to provide the caste certificate based on the mother's credentials?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Delhi ☒
- D) Assam



- ✓ Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia handed over the first caste certificate based on the mother's credentials to a single mother. Earlier, SC/ST caste certificates were issued only based on the fathers' caste certificates or paternal side certificates. Hence, this is considered as a landmark move

2. As of 2022, how many banks are classified as Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in India?

- A) 2
- B) 3 ☒
- C) 4
- D) 5

3

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India announced that SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). These banks are Too big to fail and they need to maintain an additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital, in addition to the capital conservation buffer. The update is based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2021.

3. Nalabana Bird Sanctuary is located in which state/UT?

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



- ✓ Nalabana Bird Sanctuary is the core area of the Ramsar designated wetlands of Chilika Lake, Odisha. Chilika Lake is the largest brackish water lake in India. As per the water bird status survey-2022 conducted in the Chilika, a total of 10,74,173 birds of the 107 water bird species and 37,953 individuals of 76 wetland dependent species were counted.
- ✓ A total of 3,58,889 birds of 97 species were counted in Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.

4. 'Plan Bee', which was seen in the news recently, is associated with which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Railways ☒
- B) Ministry of Environment, Forest
- C) Ministry of Agriculture
- D) Ministry of MSME



- ✓ 'Plan Bee' was first implemented by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) as a unique method to keep elephants away from railway tracks. Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw informed that the Railways is set to implement 'Plan Bee' throughout the country. It uses an amplifying system to imitate the buzz of a swarm of honey bees.

5. Which country recently fired a "hypersonic missile", after its first test in September?

- A) Israel
- B) North Korea ☒
- C) Iran
- D) UAE



- ✓ North Korea recently fired a "hypersonic missile" that successfully hit a target. The test-fire was detected by several militaries in the region, and drew criticism from the United States, South Korea, and Japan.
- ✓ North Korea first tested a hypersonic missile in September. Hypersonic weapons can achieve more than five times the speed of sound – or about 6,200 km per hour.

6. 'Electric Bike Taxi Scheme' is the initiative of which Indian state/UT?

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



- ✓ The 'Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme' was launched in Karnataka six months ago. It allowed private players, individuals, firms, and aggregators to run electric bike taxis in Bengaluru. Citizens can avail of the service for a maximum distance of 10 km.
- ✓ However, the Transport Department has received only one application for a licence. The state has not yet fixed the bike taxi fares.

7. India's first RT-PCR kit to detect the Omicron variant, named 'Omisure' is developed by which company?

- A) TATA MD ☒
- B) Piramal
- C) Sun Pharma
- D) Apex Pharma



- ✓ India has recently approved a new RT-PCR test kit that can detect whether a sample is Covid-19 positive and if the variant is Omicron. The kit, called Omisure has been developed by TataMD, in partnership with ICMR. It detects Sars-CoV-2, and it has two specific targets for the S gene that are Omicron-specific.

8. Bharath Subramaniam, who was seen in the news, is associated with which sports?

- A) Tennis
- B) Chess ☒
- C) Table-Tennis
- D) Weightlifting



- ✓ Fourteen-year-old Bharath Subramaniam became India's 73rd chess Grandmaster, after he secured the third and final GM norm at an event in Italy. He also touched the requisite 2,500 (Elo) mark. Fellow Indian player M R Lalith Babu emerged winner in the tournament, winning the title. Mitrabha Guha had become the country's 72nd GM in November last, two days after Sankalp Gupta became the 71st GM.

9. UNESCO agreed to publish descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on its website in which language?

- A) Tamil
- B) Hindi ☒
- C) Sanskrit
- D) Telugu

हिन्दी

- ✓ The UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the WHC website.
- ✓ The information was shared by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO announced this news, to be implemented on the occasion of World Hindi Day. It is observed on January 10 across the world.

10. West African Countries announced to cut their ties with which African country, over delayed elections?

- A) Mali ☒
- B) Egypt
- C) Peru
- D) South Africa



- ✓ West African nations will close their borders with Mali, cut diplomatic ties and impose tough economic sanctions in response to delay in holding elections. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the 15-state regional bloc announced this stance.
-

1. India set a bilateral trade target of \$50 billion before 2030, with which country?

- A) South Korea ☒
- B) USA
- C) Japan
- D) UAE



- ✓ India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of USD 50 billion before 2030. South Korea's Trade Minister Yeo Han-Koo and Indian Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held bilateral talks in New Delhi.

2. 'National Innovation Week' is organised in which month in India?

- A) January ☒
- B) February
- C) March
- D) April



- ✓ Ministry of Education (MoE), AICTE, and Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT) is organising 'National Innovation Week' from January 10 to 16, 2022. During the innovation week, various initiatives undertaken by these agencies to spread awareness to promote innovation and entrepreneurship will be highlighted.
- ✓ An e- symposium on 'Building Innovation Ecosystem in educational institutions was held by the Ministry of Education.

3. Which payments bank has been granted the status of a Scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A) Airtel Payments Bank ☒
- B) Aditya Birla Payments Bank
- C) NSDL Payments Bank
- D) Jio Payments Bank



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently granted the status of a scheduled bank to Airtel Payments Bank. After the status of a scheduled bank, Airtel Payments Bank can now apply for Government-issued requests for primary auctions. It can also take up central and state government-level businesses.

4. Which Central Asian country's government resigned recently after massive protests due to fuel price increase?

- A) Kazakhstan ☒
- B) Kyrgyzstan
- C) Uzbekistan
- D) Turkmenistan



- ✓ Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev accepted the government's resignation, after nation-wide protests against fuel price increase. Thousands of citizens were involved in the protests and a state of Emergency was declared earlier by the Government.

5. Which Indian state is set to host the next edition of Khelo India Games in 2023?

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



- ✓ Karnataka Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports announced that Karnataka will host the next Khelo India Games in 2023. He also

announced that over 75 sports students are being trained in the State to take part in the next Olympics. The 2021 edition of Khelo India is postponed due to the pandemic and is to be held in Haryana.

6. What was India's target in installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources, to be achieved by 2030?

- A) 30%
- B) 40% ☒
- C) 50%
- D) 100%



- ✓ As a part of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at COP-21, India committed to achieve 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030. India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has said that India has achieved its non-fossil fuel-based energy target in November 2021.
- ✓ At present, India has over 40.1 percent of the total installed energy capacity of 392.01 GW.

7. Which organisation has partnered with Akshaya Patra Foundation for effective implementation of PM-POSHAN scheme?

- A) IMF
- B) World Bank
- C) United Nations - WFP ☒
- D) UNICEF



- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has joined hands with the Akshaya Patra Foundation for effective implementation of Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme. The World Food Programme has more than 6 decades of experience in supporting school feeding and improving nutrition among children.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

8. Kuno Palpur National Park, which was seen in the news recently, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ Around 8 to 12 Cheetahs, which became extinct in independent India since 1950s, are set to be translocated from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana to Kuno Palpur National Park - Madhya Pradesh. In this regard, the union minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has released an 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'.

9. Which South-American country is drafting a new Constitution?

- A) Chile ☒
- B) Brazil
- C) Argentina
- D) Bolivia



- ✓ South American nation Chile is in the process of drafting a new constitution for the nation. In this regard, the constitution assembly has recently elected epidemiologist Maria Elisa Quinteros as the new President to replace the body's inaugural president Elisa Loncon.

- ✓ The country has decided to replace its previous Magna Carta which was produced during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.
-

10. Darvaza gas crater, also known as the 'Gateway to Hell', is located in which country?

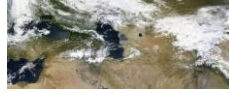
- A) USA
- B) Russia
- C) Indonesia
- D) Turkmenistan ☒



- ✓ Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov has ordered experts to find a method to extinguish a fire in the Darvaza gas crater. Also known as the 'Gateway to Hell', it is a huge natural gas crater.
 - ✓ It is located in the Karakum desert, 260 kilometres away from Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat. The Gas Crater has been burning for the last 50 years.
-

1. Western disturbance, which was seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- A) Culture
- B) Meteorology ☒
- C) Economy
- D) Politics



- ✓ A western disturbance is an extra-tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region. It is said to bring winter rain to the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted an intense Western Disturbance to affect Northwest India, triggering rainfall.
- ✓ Later, it also predicted 2 western disturbances would bring rain across northwest India and the western Himalayan region for a few days.

2. The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is an autonomous body under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Culture
- B) Ministry of External Affairs
- C) Ministry of Education ☒
- D) Ministry of Tourism



- ✓ The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Education. Professor Raghuvendra Tanwar has been recently appointed as Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), for a period of three years or until further order. The aim of the council is to give directions to historical research and to encourage objective and scientific writing of history.

3. 'Ibonia', which was seen in the news recently, is a similar version of Ramayana found in which country?

- A) Nepal
- B) Madagascar ☒
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Mauritius

ibonia

- ✓ Indian Poet and Diplomat Abhay K has found that the 'Ibonia' of Madagascar resembles the Indian epic 'Ramayana' in its grand plot. Ibonia is an epic poem of Madagascar, which narrates the story of birth, betrothal, struggle and death of its hero Ibonia. His betrothed wife Rampela was abducted by Ravato in similar lines with Ramayana.
- ✓ There are over 300 similar words between Sanskrit and the Malagasy Language.

4. India's first Open Rock Museum is located in which city?

- A) Hyderabad ☒
- B) Mysuru
- C) Trivandrum
- D) Varanasi



- ✓ Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Museum displays around 35 types of rocks from various parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.

5. India approved signing of MoU with which country, on Cooperation in Disaster Management?

- A) France
- B) Turkmenistan ☒
- C) Australia
- D) New Zealand



- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.
- ✓ At present, India has signed agreements of Cooperation for cooperation in the field of Disaster Management with Switzerland, Russia, SAARC, Germany, Japan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Bangladesh and Italy. The Union Cabinet also approved the signing of Agreement between India and Spain on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.

6. 'Mission Jeewan Raksha' is associated with which institution?

- A) Indian Army
- B) Indian Navy
- C) Railway Police Force ☒
- D) National Security Guard



- ✓ Railway Police Force personnel saved 601 persons across Indian Railways in the year 2021. They have saved 1650 lives from the wheels of the running trains at railway stations across India in the last four years under 'Mission Jeewan Raksha'.
- ✓ Indian Railways has returned left behind luggage with value at 23 crores to over 1.2 lakh rightful passengers.

7. Who is the head of the committee set up by Union Home Ministry, to probe on Prime Minister's Security Lapse?

- A) Sudhir Kumar Saxena ☒
- B) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- C) Surjit Bhalla
- D) Ranjan Gogoi



- ✓ The Union Home Affairs Ministry constituted a three-member committee to probe into the lapses in the security arrangement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab's Ferozepur. The Committee will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, secretary (security), Cabinet Secretariat.

8. The 'Artificial Sun' is an ambitious project of which country?

- A) India
- B) China ☒
- C) Russia
- D) Sri Lanka



- ✓ China's 'Artificial sun' recently set a new world record after superheating to temperatures five times hotter than the sun for more than 17 minutes (1,056 seconds). The EAST (Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak) nuclear fusion reactor maintained a temperature of 158 million degrees Fahrenheit (70 million degrees Celsius). In 2003 France's Tore Supra tokamak, maintained similar temperatures for 390 seconds.

9. How many states are covered in the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor scheme?

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

7

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor scheme. Under the scheme, over 20 GW of Renewable energy projects will be installed across seven states namely Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh in this phase.

- ✓ The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs 12,031 crore, and 33 percent of the project cost will be provided as central financial assistance.

10. What is the objective of 'Clairvoyant', the AI-based patented system launched recently?

- A) Tackle Air Pollution
- B) Water Purification ☒
- C) Mine Cryptocurrency
- D) Disinfection



- ✓ Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up named 'Swajal Water Private Limited' started by IIT alumni for water purification.
- ✓ The company's patented system, 'Clairvoyant' uses Artificial Intelligence to optimise purification systems and predict future breakdowns. They have also developed clean drinking water solutions in the form of Water ATMS, which combines Internet of Things technology with solar energy.

1. PARAKH, which was seen in the news recently, is a portal associated with which field?

- A) Student Learning Assessment ☒
 B) Defence Acquisition
 C) Investment Advice
 D) Customs Clearance



- ✓ The National Education Policy introduced a national assessment centre named PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development). Recently, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched a portal of Student Learning Assessment (PARAKH), which will conduct assessments of students and faculty members of higher educational institutes and schools.

2. Gulabo, which recently passed away at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal is a

- A) One-horned Rhino
 B) Sloth Bear ☒
 C) Bengal Tiger
 D) Giant Tortoise



- ✓ India's oldest sloth bear, named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal. The female bear was rescued from a street performer in 2006 at the age of 25 years. The autopsy determined that failure of internal organs due to old age is the cause of death of the sloth bear.

3. 'Central Institute of Classical Tamil', is located in which city?

- A) Madurai
 B) Chennai ☒
 C) Coimbatore
 D) Tiruchirappalli



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new building of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Perumbakkam on the outskirts of the Chennai city. CICT was formerly known as the Centre of Excellence for Classical Tamil (CECT), is an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Education. It was functioning at the campus of the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore from 2006 to 2008.

4. Which state won the first prize in Third National Water Awards-2020 in the best state category?

- A) Tamil Nadu
 B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
 C) Gujarat
 D) Maharashtra



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has been awarded the first prize in Third National Water Awards-2020 in the best state category. It is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti gives 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories. It encourages stakeholders to adopt holistic approach in water management and motivate people to adopt best water usage practices.

5. Which state signed agreement with 'National Dairy Development Board' to create a Rs 2,000 Cr Dairy joint venture?

- A) Punjab
 B) Assam ☒
 C) Gujarat
 D) Arunachal Pradesh



- ✓ The Assam government and National Dairy Development Board signed an agreement to create a Rs 2,000-crore joint venture for holistic development of the sector in the state. As per the MoU, a joint venture company will be set up for Rs 2,000 crore with a target of processing 10 lakh litres of milk from six new units in seven years. Foundation stone of Dairy's expansion initiative under the World Bank-funded 'Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transportation Project' was also laid.

6. As per NSO First Advance Estimates, what is the GDP Growth forecasted for FY 2021-22?

- A) 8.5%
 B) 9.2% ☒
 C) 10%
 D) 11.5%



- ✓ The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the First Advance Estimates of GDP Growth for FY 2021-22 as 9.2 per cent, as compared to the contraction of 7.3 percent in 2020-21.
 ✓ As per the estimates, the Indian economy remains on track to regain its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecast the growth at 9.5 percent.

7. In which year, the first Start-up India 'Innovation Week' was launched?

- A) 2015
 B) 2017
 C) 2019
 D) 2021 ☒



- ✓ The Indian Government is organising the first-ever Startup India 'Innovation Week' from January 10, 2021. It aims to bring together the startups, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, funding entities, banks and policymakers under one platform to promote innovation. It also aims to showcase the spread of entrepreneurship across India.
 ✓ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organising the virtual week-long innovation celebration.

8. Which Technology company is the service provider for Passport Seva Programme 2.0?

- A) Tech Mahindra
 B) TCS ☒
 C) Accenture
 D) Wipro



- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has selected Tata Consultancy Services for the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme. TCS had successfully implemented its first phase, which was introduced in 2008. The programme aimed to improve delivery of passport-related services, digitise processes, fast-track the timelines, and improve transparency.

9. What is the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha elections, as per recent notification of Election Commission?

- A) Rs 95 lakhs ☒
 B) Rs 75 lakhs
 C) Rs 60 lakhs
 D) Rs 50 lakhs



- ✓ The Election Commission announced a hike in expenditure limit for candidates to Rs 95 lakh, up from Rs 70 lakh for Lok Sabha elections. The Election Commission had formed a committee to study cost factors and other related issues.

- ✓ For Assembly elections, the revised expenditure limit for candidates is Rs 40 lakh for big states, up from Rs 28 lakh. Candidates in smaller states can spend a maximum Rs 28 lakh instead of the earlier limit of Rs 20 lakh.

10. India's first multi-dimensional 'adventure sports expedition' was carried out in which country?

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



- ✓ India's first multi-dimensional 'adventure sports expedition' was flagged off on October 27, 2021. It was conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in France. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition.
- ✓ The team, which included 8 Army personnel and 4 youths of Arunachal Pradesh, carried out over 250 kilometres of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges, paragliding, 975 kilometres of cycling and 12 deep scuba dives in the Mediterranean Sea.

1. Which zone received maximum share of complaints under Ombudsman schemes, as per recent RBI Report?

- A) South Zone
- B) East Zone
- C) North Zone ☒
- D) West Zone



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) witnessed a 22.27 per cent rise in the volume of complaints under various ombudsman schemes during April 2020-March 2021, at 4,04,143. Chandigarh, Kanpur and Delhi got the maximum number of complaints and the North zone accounted for the maximum share of complaints (43.10 per cent) in 2020-21.
- ✓ It was followed by the West zone and the South zone. East zone continued to have the least share of complaints. ATM and debit cards, mobile banking and credit cards accounted for the most reasons of complaints.

2. Which country recently launched formal Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India?

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



- ✓ With an aim of doubling the trade between India and the United Kingdom (UK) by 2030, the countries launched formal Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. Bilateral trade between the countries is worth about \$50 billion per year.
- ✓ Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said both countries had agreed to sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy sectors.

3. Who is the head of the Working group set up to strengthen television rating point (TRP) services?

- A) Shashi Shekhar Vempati ☒
- B) Anurag Singh Thakur
- C) L Murugan
- D) Sukant Vatsa



- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has asked television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council India (Barc) to release viewership ratings of news channels with immediate effect.
- ✓ The Ministry has also set up a Sukant Vatsa under the chairmanship of Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati to study different aspects of capturing data and to strengthen television rating point (TRP) services.

4. What is the Crew capacity of the Gaganyaan programme?

- A) 2
- B) 3 ☒
- C) 4
- D) 5

3

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the qualification test of the Cryogenic Engine for the Gaganyaan programme for a duration of 720 seconds. The test was conducted at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. This long-duration test is a major milestone for the three-crewed Human Space Programme Gaganyaan.

5. Murree is a popular hill station of which country?

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

- ✓ Pakistan's popular hill station Murree was declared a calamity-hit area after at least 21 people, froze to death due to unprecedented

snowfall. Murree is a mountain town, located in the Pir Panjal Range, in the Rawalpindi District of Punjab, Pakistan.

6. When is the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas' observed in India?

- A) January 9 ☒
- B) January 10
- C) January 11
- D) January 12



- ✓ On Jan,9, the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is observed to strengthen the engagement of Indian community overseas with the India government, Jan.9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion as, in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.

7. Which Tennis player won the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event Title?

- A) Roger Federer
- B) Rafael Nadal ☒
- C) Daniil Medvedev
- D) Novak Djokovic



- ✓ Tennis Player Rafael Nadal won the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event title recently. The 20-time Grand Slam champion defeated American Maxime Cressy. It was also Rafael Nadal's 89th tour-level crown.

8. Which Indian has been appointed as the New Vice President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Fund (AIIB)?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) Urjit Patel ☒
- C) D Subbarao
- D) Y V Reddy



- ✓ Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed Vice-President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). He will serve a three-year term as one of the five Vice-Presidents Beijing-based multilateral bank.

9. 'Mission Parvarish' is associated with which state?

- A) Assam ☒
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Maharashtra



- ✓ Cachar district of Assam carried out 'Mission Parvarish', which recovered 704 out of 800 children aged six months to five years from severely acute malnourishment. The mission, which involved Government agencies, local civic bodies, NGOs and businessmen recently, won the SKOCH Award.

10. Which is the first city in India to have a water metro project?

- A) Chennai
- B) Kolkata
- C) Kochi ☒
- D) Mumbai



- ✓ Kochi city of Kerala became the first city in India to have a water metro project, after it launched battery-powered electric boats. The project aims to develop an integrated water transport system with 15 identified routes. It is operated by Kochi Metro Rail Ltd.