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FOURTH WEEK

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JANUARY 2022

JANUARY 22-31

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.
-

1. Which film won the 'Best picture (drama)' award at the Golden Globes 2022?

- A) The Power of a Dog ☒
- B) King Richard
- C) Belfast
- D) Coda



- ✓ The Power of a Dog' was named the 'Best picture (drama)' at the Golden Globes 2022. The Benedict Cumberbatch-starring movie also won the best director for Jane Campion and best supporting actor for Kodi Smit-McPhee. Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story' won the best picture (musical or comedy), best actress in a motion picture (musical or comedy) and best supporting actress in a motion picture awards.
- ✓ Will Smith, (King Richard) won the Best actor in a motion picture, drama award.

2. Which country is the first to successfully conduct a human heart transplant from a genetically modified pig?

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



- ✓ Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center, USA has successfully conducted a human heart transplant from a genetically modified pig. David Bennett, 57 became the first person in the world to get such a heart transplant.

3. 'Rojgar Mission' is the recent initiative of which state?

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



- ✓ The Chhattisgarh government has decided to set up an employment mission headed by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The Chhattisgarh Rojgar Mission will have chief secretary and principal secretary as the Vice Chairman and CEO respectively. It aims to create around 15 lakh job opportunities in the state in the next five years, by leveraging expertise of premiere institutions such as IITs and IIMs.

4. Pandit Birju Maharaj, who passed away recently, was associated with which dance?

- A) Kathak ☒
- B) Bharatanatyam
- C) Kuchipudi
- D) Mohiniyattam



- ✓ Legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away recently at the age of 83. He is also known as Panditji and Maharaj-ji by his disciples. He is regarded as one of India's best-known artistes.
- ✓ He was awarded the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' in 1964 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1986. He was also awarded the National Film Award for Best Choreography.

5. As per Standards for Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EV), who can set up a Public Charging Station (PCS)?

- A) DISCOMs
- B) Individuals ☒
- C) Ministry of Power
- D) State Governments



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Power promulgated the revised Guidelines & Standards for Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EV). As per the guidelines, any individual/entity is free to set up public charging stations without the requirement of a licence provided that, such stations meet the technical, safety standards and protocols.

6. India's Commemorative postal stamp on Covid-19 vaccination features which vaccine?

- A) Covishield
- B) Covaxin ☒
- C) COVOVAX
- D) ZyCoV-D



- ✓ India released a commemorative postal stamp on Covid-19 vaccination to mark the first anniversary of the country's national immunization programme. The stamp shows a health worker inoculating a senior citizen with Covaxin. Within a span of one year, India has administered more than 156 crore doses.
- ✓ Covaxin was developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

7. Who is the first Black woman to appear on US coin?

- A) Maya Angelou ☒
- B) Phillis Wheatley
- C) Wanda Coleman
- D) Gwendolyn Brooks



- ✓ Poet and activist Maya Angelou has become the first Black woman to appear on the US coin. The coin is part of the African Women Quarters program. For the last 90 years, the first US President George Washington was seen on one side and an eagle on the other.

8. 'Daniel Ortega' sworn in as which country's President, for his fourth consecutive term?

- A) Nicaragua ☒
- B) El Salvador
- C) Peru
- D) Argentina



- ✓ Daniel Ortega was sworn in as the President of the Central American country 'Nicaragua' for his fourth consecutive term. The United States and European Union imposed sanctions on several persons in his government after the elections. Ortega's government has been in power since 2007.

9. Orang National Park is located in which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Assam ☒
- C) Bihar
- D) Himachal Pradesh



- ✓ Orang National Park is located in the state of Assam at the north bank of the river Brahmaputra. It was previously called as the 'Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park'. The Government has recently issued notification to make Orang National Park more than thrice its existing size.

10. Which state launched the 'Smart Township' scheme?

- A) Andhra Pradesh ☒
- B) Odisha
- C) Gujarat
- D) Kerala



- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy recently launched the website for Jagananna Smart Township scheme. Under the scheme, the Government aims to give land with litigation-free titles and at a reasonable price.
- ✓ The state government has already distributed 31 lakh house pattas to the middle-class families and started the construction of 15.6 lakh houses in the first phase.

1. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act came into effect from which year?

- A) 2000
B) 2005
C) 2010
D) 2020 ☒



- ✓ The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 came into effect from January 2020. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked prison authorities to make separate facilities for trans men and trans women to preserve the right to privacy and dignity of the inmates.
- ✓ The guidelines are released considering the Transgender Persons Act, 2019. According to a National Crime Records Bureau, there were 70 transgender prisoners in jails across the country in 2020.

2. Which state government notified the 'Regional Plan Rules, 2021'?

- A) Tamil Nadu ☒
B) Kerala
C) Manipur
D) Andhra Pradesh



- ✓ The state government of Tamil Nadu notified the 'Regional Plan Rules, 2021'. The rules are notified for preparing plans for 12 regions covering 1.36 lakh sq km in the State. Under the new rules, the State will constitute a regional planning authority to prepare land and building use maps over the next 18 months.
- ✓ The regional plan is an inter-settlement plan, while master plans and detailed development plans are intra-settlement plans.

3. Which state/UT played host to the '25th National Youth Festival' in 2022?

- A) Goa
B) Lakshadweep
C) Puducherry ☒
D) Assam



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry via video conference. The Prime Minister also inaugurated a technology centre of the MSME Ministry and Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam, an auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry, to be used for educational purposes.

4. Which country proposed 'P3 (Pro-Planet People) movement' during the WEF Davos Agenda 2022?

- A) USA
B) Russia
C) India ☒
D) UK



- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the "P3 (Pro-Planet People) movement" to underline India's climate change commitments at World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda 2022. The World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda Virtual Summit hosted world leaders and heads of important institutions around the world to discuss climate action, pandemic recovery, and socio-economic resilience.

5. Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt is the new Chairman & Managing Director of which organisation?

- A) Air India ☒
B) Life Insurance Corporation
C) Central Electronics Ltd
D) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of Air India Ltd. Vikram Dev Dutt was a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre and is at present Principal Secretary (Tourism) in Delhi Government.
- ✓ He has been appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, as per the order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

6. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India'?

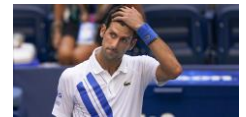
- A) Ministry of Science and Technology
B) Ministry of Earth Sciences ☒
C) Ministry of Environment, Forest
D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs



- ✓ The first of its kind 'Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India' has been recently released by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences. As per the report, the Sunderbans in West Bengal, neighbouring districts of Odisha, and Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu are the most vulnerable to high storm surges of as much as 8.5 to 13.7 metres that are induced by cyclones.

7. Which Tennis star was deported from Australia, after his unvaccinated status?

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



- ✓ Ace Tennis player Novak Djokovic has been deported from Australia after Judges rejected a challenge by the unvaccinated tennis star.
- ✓ The Australian Government cancelled his visa on "health and good order" grounds.

8. Which Ministry initiated a Comprehensive Review of India's criminal laws?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs ☒
B) Ministry of Law and Justice
C) Ministry of Mines
D) Ministry of Earth Science



- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the process for a "comprehensive review" of India's criminal laws. Union Home Minister Amit Shah sought suggestions from within the judiciary, including the Chief Justice of India, MPs and Chief Ministers for amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act.
- ✓ Suggestions were invited from Chief Justices of High Courts, Administrators of Union Territories, Bar Councils and law universities.

9. India signed an agreement with which country for implementing "2 Vs 2" Agri market access issues?

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



- ✓ India's Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed an agreement for implementing the "2 Vs 2 Agri market access" issues.

- ✓ The export of Indian mangoes and pomegranates to the US is in accordance with the recent agreement. India also signed agreements to allow import of cherries, Alfalfa hay, US pork and pork products to India.

10. Who is the head of the Supreme Court appointed Inquiry Committee to probe Prime Minister security breach?

- A) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- B) Justice Indu Malhotra ☒
- C) Justice P Sathasivam
- D) Justice K G Balakrishnan



- ✓ The Supreme Court appointed an inquiry committee under its former judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab. The committee will also include the Registrar General of the Punjab and Haryana Court, the Director General of the National Investigation Agency or an officer nominated by him and ADGP (Security) of Punjab Police.
- ✓ The committee will look into the reasons for security breach and suggest safeguards are necessary for the security of the PM and Constitutional functionaries.

1. Kumbalangi, India's first-ever sanitary napkin-free village, is located in which state?

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



- ✓ Kumbalangi became the first-ever sanitary napkin-free village in the country. It is located in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. It is part of 'Avalkayi' (for her) campaign being implemented in the Ernakulam constituency, under which menstrual cups are distributed to women aged 18 and above.
- ✓ Kumbalangi was declared a model village by the Kerala Governor. It also holds the title of India's first model tourist village.

2. Which country has developed Tu-160M / White Swan Bomber?

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



- ✓ Russia has developed and unveiled its Tu-160M strategic bomber also known as White Swan. Recently, the debut flight of the bomber was conducted successfully.
- ✓ As per the Russian Military sources, the newly built Tu-160M strategic missile-carrying bomber has 80% of its equipment upgraded and is capable to strike enemy targets in remote areas with nuclear and conventional weapons.

3. Which type of LED uses an organic compound as film which emits light in response to an electric current?

- A) QLED
- B) OLED ☒
- C) Beta LED
- D) Meta LED



- ✓ Organic light-emitting diode (OLED) is a type of LED (Light-Emitting Diode) in which emissive electroluminescent layer is a film of organic compound that emits light in response to an electric current. This is a competitive alternative to liquid crystal displays (LCDs).
- ✓ Recently, team of researchers from University of Minnesota, MIT, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology and Pusan National University have demonstrated a printing technique which produces fully 3D-printed flexible OLED displays.

4. Which Indian has been roped in as the Ambassador for ICANN-supported Universal Acceptance Steering Group?

- A) Vijay Shekhar Sharma ☒
- B) Sachin Bansal
- C) Bhavish Aggarwal
- D) Deepinder Goyal



- ✓ Global internet body ICANN-supported Universal Acceptance Steering Group has roped in Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador.
- ✓ The Group works on developing and recommending standards for languages script that are not currently used to access the internet.

5. Dimitar Kovacevski is the new Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Greece
- B) North Macedonia ☒
- C) Egypt
- D) Argentina



- ✓ North Macedonia's Parliament elected a new cabinet under a new Social Democratic leader, Dimitar Kovacevski. He succeeds his Social Democratic predecessor, Zoran Zaev.
- ✓ The new Prime Minister announced that his immediate tasks are tackling the ongoing energy crisis and key talks with Bulgaria. The Republic of North Macedonia is a country in Southeast Europe.

6. Which Indian state has joined hands with the World Food Programme (WFP) to improve food security of farmers?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Odisha ☒
- C) Telangana
- D) Assam



- ✓ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Odisha government have joined hands to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers. The agreement aims to strengthen the farmers' resilience to climate change.
- ✓ The WFP and the Agriculture Department will develop toolkits and guidelines to provide services to small farmers.

7. Roberta Metsola is the youngest President of which multilateral institution?

- A) European Parliament ☒
- B) UNESCO
- C) UNICEF
- D) World Bank



- ✓ Centre-right lawmaker Roberta Metsola has been selected as the third woman to head the European Parliament. The 43-year-old from the European Union's smallest nation Malta is also the youngest President of the European Parliament.

8. Which country initiated the 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure'?

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



- ✓ India announced 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' at UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day is annually marked on January 19. NDRF was formed on the same day in 2006. NDRF functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

9. Which is the first country to approve purchase of BrahMos Missiles from India?

- A) Philippines ☒
- B) Israel
- C) Russia
- D) Australia



- ✓ The Philippines has given a \$374 million contract to BrahMos Aerospace to supply shore-based anti-ship missiles for the country's navy. BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces Supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos' that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

10. Which institution recently released report on 'Pandemic Billionaires'?

- A) Pratham Foundation
- B) Oxfam ☒
- C) Amnesty International
- D) UNICEF



- ✓ As per a recent Oxfam report, 20 people in Asia (from India, China, Hong Kong, and Japan) mostly associated with the field of pharmaceuticals, saw their wealth zoom during the pandemic period.
- ✓ As per the report, the richest 1 percent owned more wealth than the poorest 90 percent in the region. The total number of billionaires grew by almost a third from 803 in March 2020 to 1,087 by November last year, whom the report calls "Pandemic Billionaires".

1. Which country has built an 'Artificial Moon' project?

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



- ✓ Chinese scientists have built an "artificial moon" research facility, to simulate low-gravity environments using magnetism. The facility, which is to be officially launched this year, will use powerful magnetic fields inside vacuum chamber to make gravity disappear. This effect is called 'Diamagnetic levitation'.

2. When is the 'National Start-up Day' celebrated?

- A) January 1
B) January 16 ☒
C) January 17
D) January 25



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that January 16 will be celebrated as National Start-up Day every year. The prime minister also said this decade is the 'techade of India'.
- ✓ With over 61,000 recognised startups by the Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT), the government acknowledges India as the world's 3rd largest start-up ecosystem.

3. As per the India State of Forest Report 2021, the country's forest cover increased to of India's geographical area.

- A) 19.71%
B) 21.71% ☒
C) 25.71%
D) 30.71%



- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021. As per the report, the forest cover has increased to 7,13,789 sq km, or 21.71% of India's geographical area. It is an increase of 1,540 sq km.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka and Jharkhand contributed the most to increase in forest cover.

4. 'I4F Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund' is a collaboration between India and which country?

- A) Indonesia
B) Israel ☒
C) Germany
D) France



- ✓ 'I4F- India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund' is collaboration between the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and the Israel Innovation Authority. It aims to promote joint Industrial R&D between India & Israel.
- ✓ The two countries have recently approved three joint R&D projects worth \$5.5 million including 'Centrally monitored IoT nano-sensors for diagnostics in healthcare; 'NoMoreMos' – a mosquito control biological solution; and 'IoT enabled satellite communication for real-time collection of agriculture and environment data across India'.

5. Which country has inaugurated the 'India-assisted social housing units project'?

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



- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius virtually. They also laid foundation stone for Civil Service College and an 8 MW Solar PV Farm, undertaken with India's support
- ✓ They also signed agreement for the extension of USD 190M Line of Credit from the India to Mauritius for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects, and an MoU on the implementation of small development projects.

6. Which Indian state has launched the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the state and decided to set up 'Infrastructure Financing Authority'?

- A) Tamil Nadu
B) Arunachal Pradesh ☒
C) Telangana
D) Assam



- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh government will establish 'Arunachal Pradesh Infrastructure Financing Authority', to fast-track infrastructure development. Chief Minister Pema Khandu commemorated the launch of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh as an independent identity. The Cabinet also decided to formulate District Level Good Governance Index.

7. Which Union Ministry released revised 'Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines'?

- A) Ministry of Rural Development
B) Ministry of Panchayati Raj ☒
C) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



- ✓ Ministry of Panchayati Raj released the revised 'Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines'. The newly introduced Rural guidelines aim to transform rural India and to promote rural prosperity. It would supplement the efforts of the Centre such as the SVAMITVA scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and RURBAN Mission of Ministry of Rural Development.

8. Which institution released the 'Climate of India during 2021' Report?

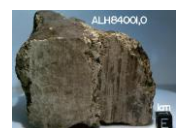
- A) NABARD
B) India Meteorological Department ☒
C) NITI Aayog
D) Environment Ministry



- ✓ India Meteorological Department (IMD) recently released its 'Climate of India during 2021' report. As per the report, 2021 was the fifth warmest year in India since nation-wide records commenced in the country in 1901. It also shows that the country reported loss of 1,750 lives due to extreme weather events last year and Maharashtra was the most adversely affected state.

9. 'ALH 84001' meteorite which was making news, landed on the Earth from which planet?

- A) Jupiter
B) Mars ☒
C) Venus
D) Saturn



- ✓ A meteorite called (ALH) 84001 landed on the Earth from Mars in 1984. For more than four decades scientists have debated if the organic compounds found on the surface of the meteorite were proof of ancient life on Mars.

10. India recently undertook a 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' in the Bay of Bengal with which country?

- A) Australia
- B) Japan ☒
- C) France
- D) Sri Lanka



- ✓ Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) ships Uraga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal. The Maritime Partnership Exercise included several maritime operations including Flying Operations and Tactical Manoeuvres. It aims to further strengthen the wide-ranging strategic partnerships between the navies.

1. Which is the first Indian scheduled commercial bank to issue public Formosa USD bonds?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) State Bank of India ☒
- C) Canara Bank
- D) HDFC Bank



- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has raised \$300 million through "Regulation S" Formosa Bonds for five years. It is the first Indian scheduled commercial bank to issue public Formosa Bonds. The bonds have been benchmarked against five-year US Treasury notes.

2. India recently granted \$900 mn loan to which country to tackle forex crisis?

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



- ✓ India has announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, Sri Lanka is also negotiating a USD one billion loan from India to import goods from the country. There has been a shortage of almost all essential commodities in the island nation, due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports.

3. As of January 2022, what is the minimum number of airbags compulsory for vehicles carrying up to eight passengers?

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



- ✓ A driver airbag was made compulsory for all passenger vehicles since July 1, 2019. Dual airbags (driver and passenger in front row) became mandatory on all vehicles from January 2022. Road Transport ministry recently approved a draft notification to make a minimum of six airbags compulsory for vehicles carrying up to eight passengers. The aim is to minimise the impact of "frontal and lateral collisions".

4. When is the 'Army Day' observed every year in India?

- A) January 15 ☒
- B) January 20
- C) January 25
- D) January 30



- ✓ January 15 has been celebrated as Army Day every year, to mark the day General KM Cariappa (who later became Field Marshal) took over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from Gen F R Roy Bucher.

5. Which country has organised the 'Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation'?

- A) India
- B) Malaysia ☒
- C) UK
- D) Sri Lanka



- ✓ Government of Malaysia and Global Tiger Forum (GTF) jointly organised the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation. India's Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Bhupender Yadav delivered India's statement at the Conference on Tiger Conservation.

- ✓ India will facilitate Tiger Range Countries towards finalisation of New Delhi declaration for Global Tiger Summit to be held in Russia.

6. Which Union Ministry launched the "Koyla Darpan" portal?

- A) Ministry of Steel
- B) Ministry of Coal ☒
- C) Ministry of Power
- D) Ministry of Rural Development



- ✓ Union Ministry of Coal launched the "Koyla Darpan" portal, to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to the Coal Sector. At present, the portal has 9 KPIs including Coal/Lignite Production, Status of Coal Stock in Thermal Power Plants, Infrastructure Projects, Allocation of Blocks, Monitoring of Major Coal Mines and Coal Price.

7. Ayesha Malik became the first-ever woman judge of the Supreme Court of which country?

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



- ✓ High Court Justice Ayesha Malik has been appointed as Pakistan's first-ever woman judge of the Supreme Court. Pakistan President Arif Alvi gave his approval to the elevation of the Judge, who was serving as Lahore High Court Justice since 2012. She will now work as a Supreme Court Judge until her superannuation in June 2031.

8. Repos, one of the winners of the National Startup Award 2021, is associated with which field?

- A) Energy Distribution ☒
- B) Health Innovation
- C) Fintech
- D) Skill Development



- ✓ Ministry of Commerce and Industry named the top 46 Indian startups and presented them National Startup Award 2021. 150 entrepreneurs presented their policy recommendations at the virtual gathering presided by PM Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Pune-based Repos won this award in the Energy distribution category, for their door-to-door delivery of fuel.

9. Where is India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' pilot plant located?

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



- ✓ Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey inaugurated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant at Hyderabad. This 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL. It is producing methanol with purity of more than 99 per cent from high-ash Indian coal.

10. Who is the first Indian to win an Indian Open men's singles title on debut?

- A) K Srikanth
- B) Lakshya Sen ☒
- C) P Kashyap
- D) Sai Praneeth



- ✓ Lakshya Sen became the first Indian to win an Indian Open men's singles title on debut as he defeated the reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew in the final. This is Lakshya's first Super 500 title on the BWF tour. He had earlier won bronze in the 2021 World Championships.
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1. 'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)' is the flagship publication of which institution?

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank
- C) United Nations ☒
- D) Reserve Bank of India



- ✓ World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) is the flagship publication of United Nations. Recently the 2022 edition was launched. As per the report, the global output is projected to grow by only 4 per cent in 2022 and 3.5 per cent in 2023.

2. Pench Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

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



- ✓ Pench Tiger Reserve is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It was seen in the news, as its most famous tigress named 'Collarwali' recently passed away. The tigress (T-15) was born on September 22, 2005. She is also fondly called as 'Supermom' as held the distinguished record of giving birth to five cubs in a litter. She also birthed 29 cubs totally and successfully raised 25 of them.

3. 'Mana ooru, mana badi' programme is implemented in which state?

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



- ✓ Telangana Cabinet recently approved 'Mana ooru, mana badi' programme, which is to be implemented in three years with a budget of ₹7,289 crore. It aims to provide overall development and creation of effective basic infrastructure in schools across the State.
- ✓ The programme is expected to benefit 19.84 lakh children of over 26000 schools in the state of Telangana.

4. Which Union Ministry launched the 'Open Data Week'?

- A) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Science & Tech
- D) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the launch of the Open Data Week. It aims to encourage the adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.
- ✓ Open Data Week is part of the pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data, for the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference to be held in Surat, during February 2022.

5. 'Yogyata' mobile phone application was launched by

- A) Common Services Centers ☒
- B) National Green Tribunal
- C) Election Commission of India
- D) Supreme Court of India



- ✓ The Common Services Centers (CSC) has recently launched the 'Yogyata' mobile phone application. It aims to provide vocational

education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and other citizens in rural areas. It includes the access to courses like Cyber Security, CAD and 3D printing, to increase employability.

6. Which state/UT launched India's 1st District Good Governance Index?

- A) Kerala
- B) Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- C) Goa
- D) Sikkim



- ✓ India's first ever District Good Governance Index (DGGI) was released in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In the composite ranking of the index, the Jammu district tops the list followed by districts of Doda, Samba, Pulwama and Srinagar in the UT.
- ✓ The Index is a framework document which assesses the performance under ten governance sectors with 58 indicators.

7. "Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)" is a scheme of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Science and Technology
- B) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare ☒
- C) Ministry of Rural Development
- D) Ministry of Electronics and IT



- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched a Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) in 2014-15, to increase the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where farm power availability is low.
- ✓ As per recent guidelines of SMAM, a grant of up to 100 percent of the cost of agriculture drone or Rs 10 lakh is provided for purchase of drones by the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, KVKs and State Agriculture Universities for demonstrations of this technology the farmers' fields. FPOs can get up to 75 percent of the cost of agriculture drone.

8. 'Spices Board' is a regulatory and export promotion agency under which Ministry?

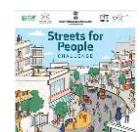
- A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry ☒
- C) Ministry of MSME
- D) Ministry of Tribal Affairs



- ✓ 'Spices Board' is a regulatory and export promotion agency of Spices, working under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is headquartered at Kochi, Kerala. Spices Board launched the country's first virtual platform for spice exports "Spice Xchange India".
- ✓ India exports 225 different spices and spice products to more than 180 countries. It is a 3D virtual platform which aims to connect India's spice exporters with buyers from around the world, using AI.

9. 'Streets for People Challenge' is an initiative of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ☒
- C) Ministry of Science & Tech
- D) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



- ✓ Streets for People Challenge is the flagship initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Recently the Ministry announced eleven winning cities for the Streets for People Challenge, and ten winning cities for the pilot stage of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge.

- ✓ The Ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change and Streets for People Challenges and a book titled 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field'.

10. 'Grama One' programme is an initiative of which state?

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



- ✓ Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the ambitious 'Grama One' programme will be implemented from Republic Day in rural areas of 12 districts. The programme is aimed at providing services of various departments at the citizens' doorsteps.
- ✓ As many as 30000 'Grama One' service centre would be opened across the states to provide various government services.