

1. 'Mes Aynak site' and 'Buddhas of Bamiyan', which were seen in the news, are located in which country?

- A) Nepal
- B) China
- C) Afghanistan ☒
- D) India



- ✓ 'Mes Aynak site' and 'Buddhas of Bamiyan' are located in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has announced that it would protect the ancient Buddha statues in Mes Aynak.
- ✓ When Taliban ruled Afghanistan, they destructed the centuries-old Buddha statues in Bamiyan using artillery, explosives, and rockets. UNESCO included the remains of the Bamiyan Buddhas in its list of world heritage sites in 2003.

2. 'Ambedkar Young Entrepreneur (AYE)-Mentor program' is a new scheme of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment ☒
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D) Ministry of Education



- ✓ The venture capital fund (VCF) scheme was implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to help aspiring entrepreneurs belonging to SCs and OBCs new businesses. As the performance of the scheme is not satisfactory, the Ministry is set to launch a "mentorship" programme.

3. India signed a MoU with which country to set up Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC)?

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



- ✓ India and Sri Lanka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Indian public sector Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a state-of-the-art Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo.
- ✓ The agreement is a part of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region) initiative in the Indian Ocean.

4. Which state won the 'best state' award at the National Water Awards 2022?

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



- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind recently awarded the 'best state' award at the National Water Awards 2022.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh topped among all Indian states in terms of water conservation while Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu secured the second and third place, respectively.
- ✓ Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, East Champaran district of Bihar and Indore in Madhya Pradesh

topped in the Best District Category for the north zone, south zone, east zone and west zone respectively.

5. 'Varuna' is the bilateral naval exercise between India and which country?

- A) France ☒
- B) Japan
- C) Oman
- D) UAE



- ✓ India and France recently commenced their 20th edition of the bilateral naval exercise named 'Varuna' in the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ Naval ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies are participating in the exercise. The bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were initiated in the year 1993. The exercise was christened as 'Varuna' in 2001.

6. 'Prakriti', which was recently launched, is mascot to create awareness on which field?

- A) Plastic pollution ☒
- B) Gender Equality
- C) LGBTQ Rights
- D) Skill Development



- ✓ Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched "Prakriti", mascot that spreads awareness about small changes in life that can curb plastic pollution.
- ✓ It also highlights various green initiatives taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.

7. As per the update of World Health Organization's air quality database, what percentage of the world breathes unhealthy air?

- A) 25
- B) 49
- C) 75
- D) 99 ☒



- ✓ The 2022 update of the World Health Organization's air quality database highlights that 99 per cent of the world population breathes air that exceeds WHO air quality limits. As of now, over 6,000 cities in 117 countries are monitoring air quality.

8. Which country has started a pilot project to produce 'Green' Steel by burning hydrogen?

- A) Australia
- B) Sweden ☒
- C) Poland
- D) Italy



- ✓ Sweden has launched a pilot project to reduce the carbon emissions involved in steel production by switching some of that process from burning coking coal to burning hydrogen.

- ✓ HYBRIT or Hydrogen Breakthrough Iron-making Technology – is a joint venture between steel giant SSAB, mining company LKAB and Swedish state-owned power firm Vattenfall. As per World Steel Association, every metric ton of steel produced emitted twice that much carbon dioxide.

9. The Blue Nile River, which was seen in the news, originates in which country?

- A) Ethiopia ☒
- B) Chile
- C) Mexico
- D) South Africa



- ✓ The Blue Nile, a subsidiary of the Nile River originates at Lake Tana in Ethiopia and travels through Ethiopia and Sudan.
- ✓ A shipwreck on the Blue Nile River happened in Sudan's Sennar province has killed 23 people, all of them female. The Blue Nile is an important transport route for people and goods in the African nations.

10. 'Wagner Group', is a private military company of which country?

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



- ✓ 'Wagner Group', is a private military company of Russia. As per British military intelligence, 1,000 mercenaries from the 'Wagner Group' are being deployed to eastern Ukraine.
- ✓ The group has been active over the past eight years in Ukraine, Syria and African countries. It has repeatedly been accused of war crimes and human rights abuses. The Wagner Group first went into operation during Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.