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FIRST WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS



NOVEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER 01-07

1. What is the theme of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2023'?

- A. Integrity and ethics
- B. Say no to corruption, commit to the Nation ☒
- C. Stay Vigilant; Stay Honest
- D. Information is Power



- ✓ The Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023 is being observed by the Central Vigilance Commission and all institutions across the country from 30th October till 5th November. This year the theme is Say no to corruption, commit to the Nation. Every year Vigilance Awareness Week is observed as an outreach measure to create greater awareness about the importance of integrity and ethics in public life.

2. 'Operation Seshu', which was launched recently, aims to curb the illegal trade of _:

- A. Tortoises
- B. Timber ☒
- C. Exotic Birds
- D. Tusk



- ✓ Union Finance Minister launches phase IV of 'Operation Seshu' to curb the illegal trade of Timber, including Red Sanders. She launched this during the inaugural session of the first ever Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCCEM) in New Delhi. Delegates representing over 40 Custom Organisations participated in the event.

3. Saleemul Huq, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?

- A. Scientist
- B. Climate Change Expert ☒
- C. Economist
- D. Writer



- ✓ Professor Saleemul Huq, the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in Dhaka, passed away at the age of 71. He was an esteemed expert in the fields of climate change, environment, and development. Professor Huq dedicated his work to establishing connections between climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development, with a focus on developing countries, especially the least developed nations (LDCs).

4. Which institution has mandated 'penny drop' verification for NPS fund withdrawal?

- A. IRDAI
- B. PFRDA ☒
- C. SEBI
- D. RBI



- ✓ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has made 'penny drop' verification mandatory for the withdrawal of funds by subscribers of the National Pension System (NPS), Atal Pension Yojana and NPS Lite as well as modifications in bank account details. Under the process, Central Recordkeeping Agencies (CRA) check the active status of the savings bank account and match the name in the bank account number with the name in the PRAN or according to the documents submitted.

5. As of 2023, which cricket team is the most successful in ODI World Cups?

- A. India
- B. Australia ☒
- C. England
- D. South Africa



- ✓ India surpassed New Zealand with its 59th win to become the second-most successful team in the ODI World Cups, only behind Australia. Australia holds the record with 73 wins.

6. Sultan of Johor Cup is associated with which sports?

- A. Cricket
- B. Hockey ☒
- C. Basketball
- D. Football



- ✓ The Indian junior men's hockey team defeated New Zealand 6-2 to enter the semifinals of the Sultan of Johor Cup. Indian player Amandeep Lakra hit a hat-trick. The Sultan of Johor Cup is an annual, international under-21 men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia.

7. According to a recent WHO report, 188.3 million people in India suffer from which health condition, while only 37% get diagnosed for it?

- A. Diabetes
- B. Hypertension ☒
- C. Arthritis
- D. Asthma



- ✓ The first district-level study on hypertension in India has identified disparities in healthcare, emphasizing the need for a more targeted approach to address this condition. It estimated that at least 4.6 million deaths in India can be prevented by 2040 if half of those with the condition manage to keep their blood pressure under control. According to a recent WHO report, 188.3 million people in India suffer from hypertension but only 37% get diagnosed, only 30% start treatment, and only 15% manage to keep their blood pressure under control.

8. The 'Hiroshima AI process', which was seen in the news, is associated with which bloc?

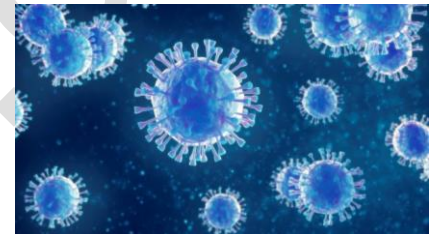
- A. SAARC
- B. G7 ☒
- C. G20
- D. ASEAN



- ✓ The Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations officially adopted a code of conduct for companies involved in the development of advanced artificial intelligence systems. Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) economies as well as the European Union, kicked off the process in May at a ministerial forum dubbed the 'Hiroshima AI process'. The code aims to promote safe, secure, and trustworthy AI worldwide and will provide voluntary guidance for actions by organizations developing the most advanced AI systems.

9. Scientists have detected which disease in Antarctic region for the first time in Antarctica?

- A. Avian Flu ☒
- B. Anthrax
- C. Foot-and-mouth disease
- D. Bluetongue virus



- ✓ Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) have made a significant discovery by detecting the presence of avian flu in the Antarctic region for the first time. This development has raised concerns about the health of remote populations of penguins and seals in the area. The discovery came after reports of potentially symptomatic birds and unexplained deaths, and subsequent tests confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

10. As per a recent study, which planet may have undergone tectonic activity, 4.5 billion to 3.5 billion years ago?

- A. Venus ☒
- B. Mars
- C. Mercury
- D. Jupiter



- ✓ A recent study suggests that Venus, frequently described as Earth's sister planet, may have undergone tectonic activity approximately 4.5 billion to 3.5 billion years ago. It is proposed that plate tectonics could have played a crucial role in the formation of Venus's carbon dioxide- and nitrogen-rich atmosphere.

11. 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission' is associated with which Union Ministry?

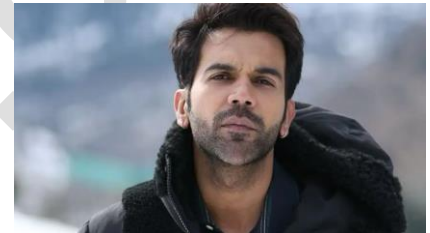
- A. Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of MSME
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying ☒



- ✓ **Rashtriya Gokul Mission, India's flagship program aimed at enhancing indigenous cattle breeds, was launched in 2014. Instead of enhancing the quality of all indigenous breeds as originally intended, the scheme has predominantly promoted one specific indigenous variety, the Gir cow, nationwide. This trend, if left unaddressed, could pose a risk to the genetic purity of indigenous cattle breeds throughout the country.**

12. Which Indian Actor has been recognised as National Icon for voter awareness for the Election Commission of India (ECI)?

- A. Rajinikanth
- B. Kamalhassan
- C. Rajkummar Rao ☒
- D. Vidya Balan



- ✓ **Actor Rajkummar Rao has been recognised as National Icon for voter awareness and education for the Election Commission of India (ECI). The collaboration will encompass a range of activities, including promoting voter awareness in various TV talk shows and digital campaigns by the actor. Last month, the Commission recognised Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar as the National Icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections, M.S. Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom had been the ECI National Icons.**

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1. India's first-ever Lavender Farm is constructed in which state/UT?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Jammu and Kashmir ☒
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Sikkim



- ✓ India's first-ever Lavender Farm is coming up at Challa village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. It is spread over two hectares of land owned by the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare. A native of Europe, lavender was introduced by the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in the temperate regions of the Jammu division under the CSIR-Aroma Mission in 2018, and Doda became the birthplace of India's purple revolution.

2. What is the name of the platform launched by Prime Minister on the National Unity Day?

- A. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform ☒
- B. PM YUVA Platform
- C. Meri Maati Platform
- D. Kartavya Platform



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Amrit Vatika and Amrit Mahotsav Memorial and launched the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform, designed for the country's youth. It was launched at an event marking the culmination of the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign's Amrit Kalash Yatra at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.

3. Project Kusha, India's long-range air defense system project, is under the purview of which institution?

- A. HAL
- B. DRDO ☒
- C. L&T
- D. BHEL



- ✓ India is on track to operationally deploy its own long-range air defense system by 2028-29. This indigenous system is designed to detect and destroy a wide array of threats, including stealth fighters, aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and precision-guided munitions at ranges of up to 350 km. The ambitious project, known as Project Kusha, is under the purview of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

4. Which institution was tasked with the preparation of 'Vision India@2047' plan?

- A. NASSCOM
- B. NITI Aayog ☒
- C. RBI
- D. Election Commission of India



- ✓ A vision document aimed at making India a developed country is in its final stages and a draft is expected to be ready by December, as per NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam. NITI Aayog was tasked with the consolidation of the ten sectoral thematic visions in July this year including infrastructure, welfare, commerce and industry, technology, and governance. NITI Aayog has also forecasted that India's economy will be worth \$30 trillion in 2047, with a per capita GDP of \$17,590.

5. India launched an 'Innovation Platform' and 'Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Innovation Dialogue', along with which country?

A. Sweden ☒

B. Switzerland

C. Australia

D. Finland



- ✓ India and Switzerland launched the Indo-Swiss Innovation Platform. The platform's launch included an Indo-Swiss Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Innovation Dialogue in Bengaluru. The platform began with a pilot project on antimicrobial resistance. The platform's launch was intended to deepen bilateral collaboration on innovation and make it more strategic.

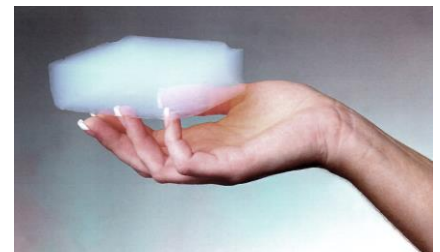
6. Which institution along with Tel Aviv University, Israel developed an aerogel adsorbent to remove trace pollutants from wastewater?

A. IISc Bengaluru

B. IIT Madras ☒

C. IIT Delhi

D. IIT Kharagpur



- ✓ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and Tel Aviv University, Israel, have developed an aerogel adsorbent that can remove trace pollutants from wastewater. The aerogel is made of graphene-modified silica and can remove small particles and microorganisms from wastewater.

7. Mayurakshi River flows through which Indian state?

A. Jharkhand ☒

B. Assam

C. Karnataka

D. Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, inaugurated the longest bridge in the state over the Mayurakshi River in Dumka. The bridge, which cost Rs 198 crore to build, is 2.34 km long and 16 meters wide. It will reduce the distance between various districts and improve connectivity. The river has its source on Trikut Hills in Jharkhand. It flows through Jharkhand and flows into the Hooghly River through two districts of West Bengal.

8. Which Indian city was ranked the fourth most polluted cities in the world, according to IQAir?

- A. Chennai
- B. Delhi ☒
- C. Kolkata
- D. Varanasi



- ✓ Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata were ranked the 4th, 7th, and 10th most polluted cities in the world, according to IQAir. Mumbai's air quality has been unhealthy for more than three consecutive days. Based on the 2022 annual average PM2.5 concentration, India was 8th among the world's top 10 most polluted countries. Internationally, in the IQAir survey, Lahore and Beijing were among the top five most polluted cities.

9. Two ancient temple caves were recently discovered near Rajapur, Ratnagiri in which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra ☒
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala



- ✓ Two ancient temple caves were discovered near Rajapur, Ratnagiri, in the state of Maharashtra. The caves are believed to have been created in the 5th or 6th century CE. They are older than the Elephanta caves. Ratnagiri is also home to the Ratnagiri Caves, a Buddhist center. The Buddhist monuments were constructed from the 5th century CE onwards, with the last work in the 13th century.

10. Which country is associated with the 'B61-13' Nuclear bomb?

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. USA ☒
- D. China



- ✓ The United States is planning to build a new nuclear bomb that will be 24 times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima during World War II. The B61-13 would also be almost 14 times bigger than the 25-kiloton bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki.

11. National Unity Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of which leader?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ☒
- D. Dr B R Ambedkar



- ✓ National Unity Day is celebrated in India on October 31, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India. Vallabhbhai Patel was born on October 31, 1875. He is credited with merging over 560 princely states into the Union of India after independence.

12. Which country is associated with the 'Shenzhou-16' mission?

- A. Japan
- B. China ☒
- C. South Korea
- D. Israel



- ✓ Three Chinese astronauts, who were in orbit for five months, returned to the Earth. The astronauts were part of the Shenzhou-16 crewed flight mission. They spent their time conducting scientific experiments and carrying out a nearly eight-hour spacewalk. The mission was the last of 11 missions required to assemble the station. The station is expected to operate for around a decade and run experiments in near-zero gravity. The astronauts have successfully grown lettuce, cherry tomatoes, and green onions in the Tiangong space station.

13. 'Meendum Manjappai' is a scheme launched by which Indian state, to curb plastic usage?

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



- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched 'Meendum Manjappai' scheme to reduce the use of plastic bags, replacing them with cloth bags in 2021. Recently, the Tamil Nadu state environment department has opened a 'Meendum Manjappai' kiosk worth 25 lakh at Besant Nagar beach, Chennai, to create awareness on plastic pollution and to enforce the ban on single-use plastic. It has a cloth bag vending slot and a plastic bottle-crushing machine.

14. 'Rajaji Tiger Reserve' is located in which state/UT?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Uttarakhand ☒
- D. West Bengal



- ✓ The Uttarakhand Cabinet gives nod to set up Rajaji Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation. The primary aim of this foundation is to expedite and facilitate ecological, economic, social, and cultural development within the regions encompassing the Rajaji Tiger Reserve. It also aims to provide alternative livelihood opportunities to the local communities to reduce their dependence on forests.

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1. India procured 'S-400 air defence missile squadron' from which country?

- A. USA
- B. Israel
- C. Russia ☒
- D. France



- ✓ The Indian Air Force has successfully operationalized three of its S-400 air defense missile squadrons along its borders with China and Pakistan. In 2018-19, India agreed with Russia to procure S-400 missiles worth 35,000 crore. Out of five squadrons that were to be delivered, three were delivered.

2. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) aims to connect Kolkata Seaport with which country?

- A. Thailand
- B. Myanmar ☒
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Cambodia



- ✓ Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) aims to connect the seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar by sea. It also includes Inland Water Transport between Sittwe to River Kaladan. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that a cross-border road, part of the ambitious Kaladan Project, which connects South Mizoram's Lawngtlai district with Myanmar's Sittwe port, is on track to be completed by November of this year.

3. Which institution regulates the Co-operative banks in India?

- A. RBI ☒
- B. NABARD
- C. Ministry of Cooperation
- D. NITI Aayog



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that District Central Co-operative Banks now have the authority to close their unremunerative branches without the necessity for prior permission from the reserve bank of india. However, approval from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the respective state will still be required. The cooperative banks were brought under the regulatory framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2020.

4. Which country is associated with 'Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscope Experiment (INFUSE)'?

- A. USA ☒
- B. UK
- C. China
- D. Germany



- ✓ **NASA conducted a sounding rocket mission known as the Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscope Experiment (INFUSE). This mission was launched from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico with the aim of studying a stellar event within the Cygnus Loop, a supernova remnant that occurred approximately 20,000 years ago.**

5. With reference to Indian military, what is 'Prachand'?

- A. Drones
- B. Light Combat Helicopter ☒
- C. Anti-ship missile
- D. Submarine



- ✓ **The Indian Army's Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), known as 'Prachand,' has achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting live firing exercises with 70mm rockets. These exercises were conducted in both day and night conditions at a firing range located near Likabali in Assam, showcasing the LCH's capabilities and versatility.**

6. 'New Bhandu-New Sanand section', which was recently inaugurated, is a part of which Freight Corridor?

- A. Central Dedicated Freight Corridor
- B. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor ☒
- C. Southern Dedicated Freight Corridor
- D. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor



- ✓ **Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 77-kilometer New Bhandu-New Sanand section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. This infrastructure development will expedite the transportation of goods from ports and manufacturing hubs in the region. This initiative has resulted in the relocation of sixty goods trains that previously utilized passenger rail routes to the freight corridor.**

7. Which North-East institution received a 5G Laboratory from the Government of India?

- A. NIT Mizoram ☒
- B. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology
- C. NIT Sikkim
- D. North East Institute of Management and Technology



- ✓ The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Mizoram has received a 5G Laboratory from the Government of India. The primary objectives of this 5G Lab at NIT Mizoram will be to develop competencies and advance 5G and beyond technologies. The focus will be on benefiting students and startup communities across the country, with a particular emphasis on the State of Mizoram.

8. 'Agartala-Akhaura cross-border rail link project' connects India with which country?

- A. Nepal
- B. Bangladesh ☒
- C. Myanmar
- D. Thailand



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina together inaugurated the Agartala-Akhaura cross-border rail link project. This railway connection is expected to enhance cross-border trade and substantially decrease the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka.

9. As per the Annual Report on 'Road Accidents in India-2022', which state recorded the highest number of persons killed in road accidents?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Uttar Pradesh ☒
- D. Kerala



- ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published its Annual Report on "Road Accidents in India-2022." A total of 4,61,312 road accidents occurred in 2022, which claimed 1,68,491 lives, while 4,43,366 people were injured. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents on National Highways in 2022, followed by Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of persons killed in road accidents.

10. 'Block Proving by Axle Counter (BPAC) system' is associated with which institution?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Railways ☒
- C. Election Commission of India
- D. Indian Air Force



- ✓ The Central Railway has successfully implemented the Block Proving by Axle Counter (BPAC) system in the Vasind-Asangaon section of Mumbai Division. This BPAC system plays a crucial role in ensuring the highest level of safety for train operations.

11. Which country has dispatched a new scientific expedition team to build its fifth research station in Antarctica?

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



- ✓ China has dispatched a new scientific expedition team to build its fifth research station in Antarctica. The expedition includes two Chinese icebreaker research ships and a cargo ship carrying more than 460 personnel. The team will conduct climate change studies and help complete construction of the station. The station will provide communications for China's scientific polar observation satellites.

12. According to official data, what percent of rural households in India were provided tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission?

- A. 60%
- B. 70% ☒
- C. 85%
- D. 95%



- ✓ According to official data, 70% of rural households in India have been provided tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission. This means that 13,47,50,894 households out of the 19,24,26,914 rural households in the country have been provided tap water connections. The Jal Jeevan Mission is an initiative of the Government of India under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The main objective of the project is to provide functional tap connections to each household.

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1. Which Indian city has been added to the 'UNESCO Creative Cities Network', in Literature category?

A. Madurai

B. Kozhikode ☒

C. Mysuru

D. Kurnool



- ✓ **Two Indian cities, Gwalior and Kozhikode, have recently become part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior made the cut in the 'Music' category, while Kerala's Kozhikode has earned its place in the list in the 'Literature' category. Globally, 55 cities joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network on World Cities Day, which was observed on October 31.**

2. Which organisation released the 'Impact of Disaster on Agriculture and Food Security'?

A. NABARD

B. NITI Aayog

C. FAO ☒

D. UNEP



- ✓ **According to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) titled 'The Impact of Disaster on Agriculture and Food Security,' there has been a significant increase in the frequency of extreme disaster events over the past five decades. In the 1970s, the world experienced approximately 100 disaster events per year. However, in the last two decades, that number has risen to around 400 disasters annually on a global scale. This trend highlights the growing challenges and risks that disasters pose to agriculture and food security worldwide.**

3. Which football player has won the Ballon d'Or prize for the best player?

A. Lionel Messi ☒

B. Erling Haaland

C. Kylian Mbappe

D. Cristiano Ronaldo



- ✓ **Lionel Messi won the eighth Ballon d'Or of his career, while Spain's World Cup-winning star Aitana Bonmati took the women's prize. 36-year-old Messi won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009. He is now three counts ahead of his old rival Cristiano Ronaldo. Norway's Erling Haaland and French footballer Kylian Mbappé were placed second and third in the list.**

4. Which organisation released a report, which states that Indian Farmers faced \$169 Billion Implicit Tax due to Export Measures in 2022?

- A. NABARD
- B. OECD ☒
- C. IMF
- D. World Bank



- ✓ The most recent assessment on agricultural policy and support worldwide by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has highlighted that in 2022, Indian farmers incurred an implicit tax of \$169 billion. This tax was a result of export bans, duties, or permits imposed on various commodities, including wheat and rice, in an effort to stabilize prices for consumers. As a consequence of these measures, the overall market price support (MPS) for farmers in 2022 turned negative.

5. Which is the first country to successfully sterilize and vaccinate its entire stray dog population?

- A. Nepal
- B. Indonesia
- C. Bhutan ☒
- D. Thailand



- ✓ Bhutan proudly announces its status as the world's first nation to successfully sterilize and vaccinate its entire stray dog population. This achievement comes after a 14-year-long dog population control initiative known as the National Dog Population Management and Rabies Control Project, which has effectively sterilized and vaccinated more than 150,000 stray dogs since its inception.

6. Lucy Spacecraft was launched by NASA, to observe which celestial body?

- A. Moon
- B. Jupiter
- C. Asteroids ☒
- D. Meteors



- ✓ Lucy is a NASA space probe on a twelve-year journey to eight different asteroids. Lucy Spacecraft came within 430 kilometers of the small asteroid named Dinkinesh. Dinkinesh is less than 1 kilometer wide, making it so small that it is nearly imperceptible from Earth. The first images returned by Lucy reveal that the small main belt asteroid Dinkinesh is actually a binary pair. The team estimates that the larger body is approximately 790 metres at its widest, while the smaller is about 220 metres in size.

7. Ganymede is the largest moon of which planet?

- A. Jupiter ☒
- B. Saturn
- C. Mars
- D. Mercury



- ✓ **NASA's Juno mission has achieved a notable milestone by detecting mineral salts and organic compounds on the surface of Ganymede, which is Jupiter's largest moon. This important data was collected using the Jovian InfraRed Auroral Mapper (JIRAM) spectrometer during a close flyby of Ganymede. These findings are of great significance because they will provide valuable insights into Ganymede's origins and the composition of its deep ocean.**

8. Which state released the draft State Energy Efficiency Action Plan?

- A. Kerala ☒
- B. Goa
- C. West Bengal
- D. Assam



- ✓ **The draft State Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Kerala suggests that the state has the potential to achieve significant energy savings by the year 2030. This can be accomplished through various measures such as increasing the adoption of electric vehicles, promoting green buildings, and enhancing energy efficiency in households and industries.**

9. Which institution launched the net-zero transition charter for private sector?

- A. UNEP
- B. FAO
- C. COP-28 ☒
- D. NITI Aayog



- ✓ **The COP-28 Presidency launched 'Net-Zero Transition Charter: Accountability Mobilisation for the Private Sector', it recognises the important role the private sector must play in combating climate change. COP28 Presidency has called for a collaborative approach to reduce emissions by 43 percent in the next seven years. COP28 will be held in Dubai between Nov.30 and Dec.12.**

10. India signed a MoU with which gulf country to strengthen Education Ties?

- A. Oman
- B. Bahrain
- C. UAE ☒
- D. Saudi Arabia



- ✓ In Abu Dhabi, India's Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, and his UAE counterpart signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The main objective of this MoU is to strengthen the existing educational cooperation between the two countries. It aims to facilitate the mobility of students and faculty, thereby promoting collaboration in the field of education.

11. India resumed negotiations for Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ECTA), with which country after five years?

A. Sri Lanka ☒

B. Indonesia

C. Singapore

D. Malaysia



- ✓ India and Sri Lanka have resumed negotiations for the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ECTA) after a five-year hiatus. The 12th round of negotiations took place in Sri Lanka recently, signalling renewed efforts to advance economic and technological cooperation between the two countries.

12. Which city is the host India-US 2+2 meeting in 2023?

A. New Delhi ☒

B. Chennai

C. New York

D. Chicago



- ✓ The India-US 2+2 meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in November 2023. The meeting will be held amid global turbulence and it will address differences over Canada's allegations against India. US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin will be visiting India next week for the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host the two visiting US Cabinet ministers.

13. 'Bletchley Declaration', which was released recently, is associated with which field?

A. Cryptocurrency

B. Artificial Intelligence ☒

C. Economy

D. Climate Change



- ✓ The India-US 2+2 meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in November 2023. The meeting will be held amid global turbulence and it will address differences over Canada's allegations against India. US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin will be visiting

India next week for the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host the two visiting US Cabinet ministers.

14. What is India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in October 2023?

- A. Rs 1.65 lakh crore
- B. Rs 1.72 lakh crore ☒
- C. Rs 1.82 lakh crore
- D. Rs 1.92 lakh crore



- ✓ India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in October 2023 increased by 13.4% to Rs. 1,72,003 crores. The growth was driven by a rebound in imports. The GST revenue collection for October 2023 is second highest ever, next only to April 2023.

15. Which state/UT has established fact-checking unit (FCU), after Kerala and Karnataka?

- A. Tamil Nadu ☒
- B. Odisha
- C. Punjab
- D. New Delhi



- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order to establish a fact-checking unit (FCU) as a measure to counter the dissemination of misinformation, hate speech, and fake news. As per the Government Order, this unit will consist of 80 staff members and will have the primary objective of addressing misleading content across various media platforms, with a particular focus on addressing such issues on social media platforms. Iyan Karthikeyan has been appointed as the Project Director of this fact-checking team.

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1. Which city is the host of 'World Food India 2023'?

- A. Chennai
- B. New Delhi ☒
- C. Coimbatore
- D. Gandhi Nagar



- ✓ The Prime Minister of India officially opened World Food India 2023 at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital, New Delhi. During the event, the PM disbursed seed capital assistance to over one lakh self-help groups (SHGs) and inaugurated a "food street". The first edition of the event was held in 2017.

2. Which institution released the '2023 Adaptation Gap Report'?

- A. World Bank ☒
- B. UNEP
- C. IMF
- D. WEF



- ✓ In 2021, climate adaptation funding from public multilateral entities (such as the World Bank) and bilateral sources (from developed to developing nations) experienced a 15% decrease, as revealed in the 2023 Adaptation Gap Report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This decline occurred despite the commitments made at the 26th COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These commitments aimed to double the support for adaptation finance from 2019 levels, targeting an annual sum of approximately \$40 billion by 2025.

3. 'State of Climate Services' is an annual report released by which institution?

- A. FAO
- B. WMO ☒
- C. UNEP
- D. IEA



- ✓ The World Meteorological Organization's annual report on the State of Climate Services for this year centers its attention on the topic of health. The report emphasizes the critical requirement for customized climate-related information and services to assist the healthcare sector in coping with increasingly severe weather conditions, deteriorating air quality, changing patterns of infectious diseases, and challenges related to food and water security.

4. Which institution launched a Market study on Cement sector in India?

- A. NHA
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Competition Commission of India ☒
- D. RBI



- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI), chief national competition regulator in India, is initiating a pan-India comprehensive nationwide Market Study on the Cement sector. It aims to study the market trends including inter alia trends in cement price, cost, production, capacity, capacity utilisation and profitability among others.

5. Which country hosted the 'International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards' in 2023?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Germany
- C. India ☒
- D. Australia



- ✓ The Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, held the International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS) in New Delhi. This event was organized by the India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards and hosted by QCI in partnership with the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS).

6. Which institution released 'Hunger Hotspots Outlook Report'?

- A. FAO-WFP ☒
- B. UNEP-FAO
- C. FAO-NABARD
- D. World Bank-NABARD



- ✓ The report, titled 'Hunger Hotspots' for the period between November 2023 and April 2024, was published recently. The new report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) indicates that acute food insecurity is expected to deteriorate in 18 hunger hotspots until April 2024. These hotspots encompass 22 countries or territories, including two regional clusters.

7. 'Kepler-385', which was seen in the news, is a?

- A. Asteroid
- B. Seven-planet System ☒
- C. Satellite
- D. Star



- ✓ Astronomers used NASA's retired Kepler space telescope data to find an intriguing seven-planet system, Kepler-385, where all planets are bigger than Earth but smaller than Neptune. Such planets are uncommon in the universe, and Kepler-385 is one of the few systems known to have more than six confirmed planets or planet candidates.

8. Which South-Indian state cleared to take up a comprehensive caste-based census?

- A. Andhra Pradesh ☒
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Assam



- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has cleared a proposal to take up a comprehensive caste-based census in the State. The cabinet decided to implement a new land allotment policy for setting up industries. It also ratified the State Investment Promotion Board's (SIPB) approval of fresh investments worth 19,037 crore in various sectors.

9. Srihari Nataraj, who is seen in the news, is associated with which sports?

- A. Cricket
- B. Swimming ☒
- C. Chess
- D. Tennis



- ✓ Olympian Srihari Nataraj finished the 37th National Games with eight golds, including four in the team relays. Karnataka's Dhinidhi Desinghu (100m free) and Kerala's Harshitha Jayaram (100m breaststroke) also broke Games' record in individual events.

10. India recently signed a Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement with which country?

- A. Oman
- B. Bahrain
- C. Italy ☒
- D. Saudi Arabia



- ✓ India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration. Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers, students. With a population of around 1,80,000, the Indian diaspora in Italy is the third-largest in Europe, following the UK and the Netherlands.

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<https://wp.me/p7JanY-ag8>

1. Which country is the host of World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) 2024?

A. India ☒

B. China

C. Bangladesh

D. Saudi Arabia



- ✓ India is going to host the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) next year, said Union Communication & IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw. Held every four years, the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) is the governing conference of the ITU Standardisation Sector (ITU-T), one of the three world conferences of the International Telecommunication Union and as such, the United Nations system.

2. Saima Wazed, the next Regional Director for the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region, is from which country?

A. India

B. Bangladesh ☒

C. UAE

D. Myanmar



- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, was nominated as the next Regional Director for the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region. Saima Wazed defeats Shambu Acharya, a public health veteran from Nepal, in a vote held during the 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region.

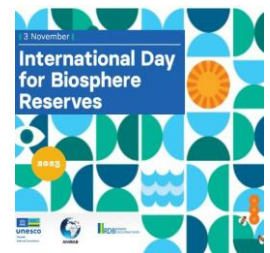
3. When is the 'International Day for Biosphere Reserves'?

A. November 1

B. November 3 ☒

C. November 5

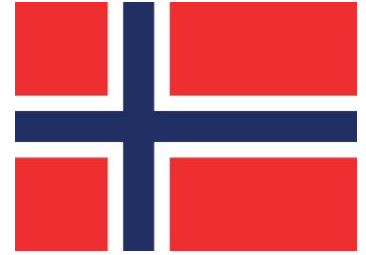
D. November 7



- ✓ In the year 2022 at the 41st Session of UNESCO's general Conference, it was decided that November 3 would be celebrated worldwide as the International Day for Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserves are protected areas, meant for the conservation of plants and animals. Human beings also depend on these protected areas for their livelihood activities. There are 738 biosphere reserves in 134 countries and there are 18 notified biosphere reserves in India.

4. Which country is funding India's 'Hunger Project' and promote food security in Uttarakhand?

- A. France
- B. UK
- C. Canada
- D. Norway ☒



- ✓ Norway will help fund India's 'Hunger Project' and help strengthen women leaders to protect the environment and promote food security in Uttarakhand. The duration of the project would be three years, until September 2026 with a budget of 44.7 million. The project organizes capacity-building training for elected women representatives and federations, focusing on strengthening van panchayats (forest councils).

5. Which Indian state bagged the Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023?

- A. Assam
- B. Kerala ☒
- C. Goa
- D. Uttarakhand



- ✓ Kerala bagged the prestigious Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023, for its sustainable and women-inclusive initiatives successfully promoted by the state's Responsible Tourism Mission. The Global Responsible Tourism Awards, which cater to Africa, India and Latin America regions, were given in six categories including Tackling Plastic Waste; Meaningful Connections; Local Sourcing - Craft and Food; Addressing Climate Change; Diversity and Inclusion and Nature-Positive Tourism.

6. Which is the first foreign company that has bagged 100% FDI in India's defence projects?

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Saab ☒
- D. General Dynamics



- ✓ Sweden's Saab has become the first foreign company that has bagged 100% FDI in India's defence projects. According to a report, Sweden's Saab will set up a new facility in the country that will manufacture shoulder-fired rockets. Currently, India allows only 74% FDI in the defence sector under the automatic route. Beyond that, clearance can be obtained on a case-by-case basis.

7. *Cnemaspis rashidi* is the name of which new species discovered in the Western Ghats recently?

- A. Spider
- B. Turtle
- C. Gecko ☒
- D. Butterfly



- ✓ A new species of gecko has been discovered in the Western Ghats near Rajapalayam in Viridhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. Senior scientist Amit Sayyed of Wildlife Protection and Research Society, Maharashtra, who led a team of researchers from different parts of the country, has named the previously undocumented species as *Cnemaspis rashidi* after his father, Prof. Rashid Sayyed.

8. Which country is associated with 'Arrow missile defense system'?

- A. Israel ☒
- B. Italy
- C. Russia
- D. USA



- ✓ Israel's Arrow missile defense system has intercepted a ballistic missile launched by Iranian proxies in Yemen, marking a significant achievement in missile defense technology. Developed in collaboration with the US and Israel, the system demonstrated its capability to defend against a range of ballistic missiles.

9. As of 2023, which country is the world's largest supplier of rare earths?

- A. India
- B. Brazil
- C. China ☒
- D. Australia



- ✓ China, the world's largest supplier of rare earths, has been promoting the development of the rare earths industry for over 60 years. China has raised its rare-earth metal production quota for 2023 by 14% over last year to 240,000 tonnes. It aims to support its booming electric vehicle (EV) industry. China has the world's largest reserves of rare earths.

10. 'M-Kavach 2' is a bot removal tool developed by which institution?

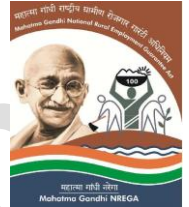
- A. NIC
- B. C-DAC ☒
- C. HAL
- D. EIL



- ✓ The name of C-DAC, Hyderabad developed Android devices bot removal tool is 'M-Kavach 2'. The name of e-Scan developed bot removal tool for Android devices is 'eScan CERT-In Bot Removal'. Bots are automated software programs that are designed to perform repetitive tasks automatically. They can be used for various purposes, such as spamming, data scraping, or performing malicious activities.

11. What is the FY24 budget outlay for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)?

- A. 40,000 crore
B. 60,000 crore ☒
C. 80,000 crore
D. 90,000 crore



- ✓ The Finance Ministry released 10,000 crore in urgent assistance for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The funds were released to meet unexpected increased expenditure under the rural job guarantee scheme. The funds will be available until the first batch of supplementary demands for grants is approved by parliament at its next session. The unusual move came after 95% of the FY24 budgetary outlay of 60,000 crore for the MGNREGS was exhausted well before the commencement of the winter session of parliament.

12. Which country won the Sultan of Johar Cup title in 2023?

- A. India
B. Pakistan
C. Germany ☒
D. Australia



- ✓ Germany lifted their second Sultan of Johar Cup trophy after 11 years by beating Australia 3-1. Goalkeeper HS Mohith made a crucial save in the penalty shootout as the Indian junior hockey team edged arch-rival Pakistan 6-5 to bag the bronze medal at the Sultan of Johar Cup.

13. Who has been sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner of India?

- A. Praveen Kumar Srivastava
B. Heeralal Samariya ☒
C. Nitin Agarwal
D. R Hari Kumar



- ✓ Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Heeralal Samariya was currently serving as the Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

14. Which institution inaugurated its Zanzibar (Africa) campus in Tanzania?

- A. IISc Bengaluru
- B. IIT Madras ☒
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. BITS



- ✓ IIT Madras (IIT-M) formally inaugurated its Zanzibar (Africa) campus. Zanzibar is an island. off the Eastern coast of Africa and belongs to Tanzania. The island has been a key port in the trading routes between the West and the East for centuries. Preeti Aghalayam is the Dean of the School of Engineering and Science and Director-in-charge, Zanzibar Campus, IIT Madras.

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