

Current Affairs Quiz, October 2020

Oct 01

1) Statement of Intent on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda' is signed between India and

- a) Malaysia
- b) Netherlands
- c) China
- d) France

Answer: b

- NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands sign Statement of Intent on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda'.
- Key elements include i) lowering the net carbon footprint in industrial and transport sectors ii) realise the target potential of natural gas and promote bio-energy technologies iii) adopt clean air technologies from monitoring to reducing actual particulates iv) adopt next-generation technologies, such as hydrogen, carbon capture utilization, and storage for sectoral energy efficiency v) financial frameworks to deliver and adopt climate change finance.

2) "It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section. It flies almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8. It was jointly developed by India and Russia." Which among the following is being mentioned in the above statement?

- a) Agni
- b) Nag
- c) Aakash
- d) Brahmos

Answer: d

- "BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems was successfully flight tested for designated range" at 10.30 am from the integrated test range at Balasore in Odisha, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. "It is one more major step in enhancing the indigenous content."

3) Government of India has declared November 18 as Naturopathy Day. This day is selected in commemoration to an event by

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Winston Churchill
- d) Lord Mountbatten

Answer: a

- Government of India has declared November 18 as Naturopathy Day in commemoration of the commitment made by Mahatma Gandhi to Nature Cure on that day in 1945.

4) Zombie fires, recently heard in news, is happening in

- a) Antarctica
- b) Arctic region
- c) Galapagos
- d) Andaman Nicobar Islands

Answer: b

- A zombie fire is a fire that continues to burn underground and then reignites on the surface after a period of time. 'Zombie fires' becoming more frequent in Arctic in addition to fires occurring in the once-frozen tundra.

5) Government borrows through issue of government securities called

- a) G-secs
- b) Certificate of deposits
- c) Treasury Bills
- d) Both (a) and (c)

Answer: d

- Borrowing is a loan taken by the government and falls under capital receipts in the Budget document. Usually, Government borrows through issue of government securities called G-secs and Treasury Bills.
- The Finance Ministry has said that the government will borrow Rs 4.34 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to meet its expenditure requirement amid COVID-19 crisis afflicting the country's economy.

Oct 02

1) Every year, International Day of Older Persons is observed on

- a) 1st October
- b) 2nd October
- c) 14th November
- d) 31st March

Answer: a

- International Day of Older Persons is observed on 1st October every year. It is designated in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly.

2) RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020 is an initiative of government of India with the help of

- a) Ministry of Science and Technology
- b) Niti Aayog
- c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- d) Both (b) and (c)

Answer: d

- It is organized by Government of India along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog. AISE 2020 is India's first Artificial Intelligence summit to be organized by the Government in partnership with Industry & Academia.

3) The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, recently heard in news, aims to combine

- a) Trade Union Act, 1926
- b) Industrial Employment Act, 1946
- c) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- The Industrial Relations Code 2020 is seen as one that would energise industry and spur economic activity. It aims to free employees from the constraints of earlier labour laws. The Industrial Relations Code combines the features of three erstwhile laws.

4) To test launch their Agnibaan rocket, Indian aerospace start-up AgniKul Cosmos has signed a memorandum of agreement with

- a) ISRO
- b) NASA
- c) Alaska Aerospace Corporation
- d) SpaceX

Answer: c

- Indian aerospace start-up AgniKul Cosmos has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Alaska Aerospace Corporation to test launch their Indian-made Agnibaan rocket from the Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaska (PSCA) on Kodiak Island in the United States. The company is targeting commercial rocket launches from 2022 onwards.

5) World Vegetarian Day, observed to bring awareness about the social, health and environmental benefits of going meat-less, is celebrated on

- a) 1st October
- b) 30th September
- c) 31st October
- d) 5th July

Answer: a

- 1st October commences the celebration of Vegetarian Awareness Month. Established by the North American Vegetarian Society in 1977 and endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978, this day is observed to bring awareness about the social, health and environmental benefits of going meat-less.

Oct 03

1) PathashreeAbhijan, a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers will be repaired, is an initiative by the government of

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) West Bengal

Answer: d

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday launched the PathashreeAbhijan, a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers across the state will be repaired

2) In a bid to promote sustainable and healthy lifestyle in rural areas, a special refinance facility to support the government's Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme was initiated by

- a) NABARD
- b) Ministry of Jal Shakthi
- c) SBI
- d) Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare

Answer: a

- In a bid to promote sustainable and healthy lifestyle in rural areas, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on Thursday announced a special refinance facility to support the government's Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme. An amount of Rs 800 crore has been earmarked for this purpose for the financial year 2020-21, NABARD said in a statement.

3) C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft, recently heard in news, is bought from

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The Pentagon has approved India's request to buy USD 90 million worth of equipment, spare parts and logistical support for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft.

4) International day of Non-violence is observed annually on the birth anniversary of

- a) Martin Luther King Jr.
- b) Mahatma Gandhi
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Nelson Mandela

Answer: b

- The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. On 15 June 2007 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence.

5) 'Kritagyata', an online pension submission and tracking system, is an initiative by the government of

- a) Assam
- b) India
- c) Gujarat
- d) Kerala

Answer: a

- To ensure convenience to the pensioners to dispose their pension-related claims, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today launched a 'Kritagyata', an online pension submission and tracking system.

Oct 05

1) Atal tunnel, recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister, is located in

- a) Ladakh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: d

- Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the world's longest highway tunnel (above 10,000 feet)—Atal Tunnel—situated at an altitude of 3,000 metres from the mean sea level (MSL) in Himachal Pradesh.

2) Chardham Project, recently heard in news, doesn't go through

- a) Kedarnath
- b) Yamunotri
- c) Gangotri
- d) Amarnath

Answer: d

- The project will connect Badrinath Dham, Kedarnath Dham, Gangotri, Yamunotri, and part of the route leading to Kailash Mansarovar yatra.

3) In India, who among the following is not eligible for postal ballot?

- a) People with disabilities
- b) People over 80 years of age

- c) Convicts in prison
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- EC announces new rules for postal ballot: The rules aim to make it more convenient for those above 80 years of age and people with disabilities to vote.

4) Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh is an area of dispute between

- a) Armenia and Azerbaijan
- b) Sudan and Egypt
- c) Israel and Palestine
- d) China and Japan

Answer: a

- Territorial disputes and ethnic conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Central Asia have impacted the Nagorno-Karabakh region in the South Caucasus.

5) PM SVANidhi Scheme, implemented by Small Industries Development Bank of India, is aimed at

- a) Farmers
- b) Street Vendors
- c) Micro, Small Enterprises
- d) All of the above

Answer: b

- Foodtech major Swiggy has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs or MoHUA to bring India's street food vendors on to its online platform. The initiative under PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi or PM SVANidhi Scheme will help these vendors grow their business which was severely hit and are still struggling due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Oct 06

1) Which among the following countries are not full-time members of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Russia

Answer: a

- FATF is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status in a virtual meeting scheduled later this month. It had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018. Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

2) Supreme Court recently asked the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India about the steps taken to implement the K.V. Kamath Committee report. It deals with

- a) Post COVID economy
- b) OBC sub-categorisation
- c) Cricket
- d) Women safety

Answer: a

- The Supreme Court recently asked the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India about the steps taken to implement the K.V. Kamath Committee report on recommendations to bail out sectors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3) 2020 Nobel for Medicine is given for the discovery of

- a) Method for genome editing
- b) Vaccine for COVID-19
- c) Hepatitis C virus
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

4) Amazon Basin in South America is not shared by

- a) France
- b) Brazil
- c) Columbia
- d) Chile

Answer: d

- The basin is shared by eight countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname), as well as the overseas territory of French Guiana.

5) SMART Missile, indigenously developed by India, is a

- a) Sub-sonic missile
- b) Super-sonic missile
- c) Hyper-sonic missile
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- India has successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from a test range off Odisha coast.

Oct 07

1) Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity in

- a) Manufacturing sectors
- b) Services sectors
- c) Primary sectors
- d) Both (a) and (b)

Answer: d

- PMI is an indicator of business activity- in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.

2) 'Gupkar Declaration II', recently heard in news, deals with

- a) Rising crime against women
- b) Abrogation of Article 370
- c) Power sharing in Afghanistan
- d) Rising environmental pollution

Answer: b

- The statement has come to be known as Gupkar Declaration II. The first Gupkar Declaration was made on August 4, 2019, when political parties in Jammu and Kashmir had met and vowed to protect its autonomy and special status, guaranteed under Article 370.

3) National Startup Awards 2020 had invited applications across 12 sectors. Which among the following is not one among them?

- a) Industry 4.0
- b) Space
- c) Tourism
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- The government will announce the results of the National Start-up Awards on Tuesday that will recognise and reward start-ups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.
- 12 sectors included Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry 4.0, Space, Security, Tourism and Urban Services.

4) Wildlife week is celebrated all over the country in the month of October from 2nd to 8th October every year with the view to preserve India's fauna. Theme for 2020 is

- a) RoaR - Respect and Revive
- b) Big Cats-Predators under threat
- c) Learning, loving and living with wildlife
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- First conceptualised in 1952, the idea behind celebrating the Week is to take steps to save the animal species of India from extinction. Wildlife Day was observed from 1955 and it was upgraded to Wildlife Week in 1957.

5) CAWACH is an initiative by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST). It deals with

- a) Missile testing
- b) Satellite re-routing
- c) Corona crisis
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- CAWACH supports innovations in the areas of diagnostics, devices, informatics including bio-informatics & information management systems, any intervention for the control of COVID-19 and/or startup ideas to address/mitigate various challenges faced by country/society due to the severe impact of COVID-19.
- It offers funding to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs to selected startups.

Oct 08

1) Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report, recently released, is an initiative of

- a) Niti Aayog
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) World Bank
- d) Both (a) and (b)

Answer: c

- It is a biennial report of the World Bank. It provides a global audience with the latest and most accurate estimates on trends in global poverty and shared prosperity.

2) Which among the following constituents will be measured by National Air Quality Index, developed by the CPCB in consultation with IIT-Kanpur?

- a) Ozone (O₃)
- b) Ammonia (NH₃)
- c) Lead (Pb)
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely: Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), Ammonia (NH₃), and Lead (Pb).

3) Abortelphusa Namdaphaensis is a new freshwater crab species found recently on the edge of a small stream in Namdapha Tiger Reserve. Where is the reserve located?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

Answer: c

- Abortelphusa Namdaphaensis is a tribute not just to Namdapha, the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot, but also to Abor Hills, another rich biodiversity hotspot in Arunachal Pradesh.

4) New Development Bank has approved infrastructure projects worth 741 million dollars in India. It is headquartered in

- a) Fortaleza, Brazil
- b) Shanghai, China
- c) Beijing, China
- d) New Delhi, India

Answer: b

- It was established in 2014, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil, headquartered in Shanghai, China.

5) Which among the following is not one of the "Cotton- 4" Countries?

- a) Benin
- b) Burkina Faso
- c) Chad
- d) India

Answer: d

- Second World Cotton Day was observed on 7th October 2020. This event stems from the Cotton-4's official application for the recognition of a World Cotton Day by the United Nations General Assembly. Cotton- 4 Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.

Oct 09

1) Rapid Action Force (RAF), raised to deal with riots, riot like situations, crowd control, rescue and relief operations, and related unrest, is a specialised wing of

- a) Telangana Police
- b) Indian Army
- c) CRPF
- d) BSF

Answer: c

- It is a specialised wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). RAF stands for 'Rapid Action Force' is a specialized force. It was raised in October 1992 with 5 more units added w.e.f January 2018. These units were instituted to handle riots and similar

situations and be responsible for internal security. Today, India is celebrating the 28th anniversary of Rapid Action Force.

2) The Indian Air Force now is the fourth largest in the world. It celebrates Air Force Day on

- a) 8th October
- b) 8th August
- c) 5th October
- d) 26th January

Answer: a

- October 8 is celebrated as the Air Force Day because on this day, the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.

3) Who has been selected for Nobel Prize in Literature for the year 2020?

- a) Peter Handke
- b) Kazuo Ishiguro
- c) Olga Tokarczuk
- d) Louise Glück

Answer: d

- American poet Louise Gluck has won the 2020 Nobel Literature Prize.

4) Graded Response Action Plan to tackle air pollution is prepared by

- a) Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority
- b) Central Pollution Control Board
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority has directed Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to implement air pollution control measures under “very poor” and “severe” category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan from October 15.

5) Second World Cotton Day was observed on

- a) 5th October
- b) 7th October
- c) 3th October
- d) 7th August

Answer: b

- Second World Cotton Day was observed on 7th October 2020. This event stems from the Cotton-4's official application for the recognition of a World Cotton Day by the United Nations General Assembly. Cotton- 4 Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.

Oct 10

1) Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2020 is awarded to

- a) World Food Programme (WFP)
- b) Abiy Ahmed Ali
- c) Denis Mukwege
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has won the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger around the world and improve conditions for peace in areas affected by conflict.

2) Which among the following is the first state to have an independent 'Tree Transplantation Policy'?

- a) Delhi
- b) Kerala
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

Answer: a

- Delhi Cabinet has given its nod for 'Tree Transplantation Policy'. With this, Delhi has become the first State in India to pass this policy.

3) "The missile has been designed for suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD). It has a strike range of around 100 to 150 km. It is the first indigenous air-to-ground missile developed by the DRDO."

Which among the following missiles is being mentioned in the above passage?

- a) Brahmos
- b) Rudram
- c) Agni
- d) Nag

Answer: b

- The Rudram missile is launched from a Sukhoi-30 MKI. India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile, Rudram, developed for the Indian Air Force, was successfully flight-tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet off the east coast on Friday.

- It is the first indigenous air-to-ground missile developed by the DRDO, after the supersonic BrahMos, which has been developed jointly with Russia.

4) Which among the following countries is often referred to as 'Central Asia's only democracy'?

- a) Kyrgyzstan
- b) Tajikistan

- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Uzbekistan

Answer: a

- Street protests erupted in Kyrgyzstan earlier this week following recent parliamentary election. The opposition has alleged that the vote was rigged.

5) Maru Mani is a unique and innovative social media campaign launched to support

- a) Musicians
- b) Street Vendors
- c) Weavers
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

- The campaign seeks to raise financial support for the famed musicians of desert districts of Rajasthan who are suffering severe hardships due to prolonged Corona crisis and accompanying lockdown (Particularly the Langa-Manganiyar folk artistes of western Rajasthan).

Oct 12

1) "Beaten or Broken? Informality and COVID-19 in South Asia" report is released by

- a) World Food Programme
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) World Health Organisation

Answer: b

- The report analyses the impact of school closures because of Covid on children.

2) Which among the following is the first beach to complete the "Blue Flag beach" tag certification process?

- a) Chandrabhaga(Odisha)
- b) Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat)
- c) Ghoghla (Diu)
- d) Kappad (Kerala)

Answer: a

- Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha's Konark coast is the first to complete the tag certification process

3) 50th annual Skal International Asia Area (SIAA) congress in 2021 is being hosted by

- a) Andaman Nicobar
- b) Jammu Kashmir
- c) Puducherry
- d) Gujarat

Answer: b

- UT of Jammu & Kashmir will host the 50th annual Skai International Asia Area (SIAA) congress in 2021. It is an Affiliated Member of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

4) '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' Campaign is an initiative of Delhi government to control

- a) COVID 19
- b) Dengue
- c) Malaria
- d) Tuberculosis

Answer: b

- It is an anti- dengue campaign by Delhi Government

5) Which state has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household?

- a) Kerala
- b) Gujarat
- c) Goa
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: c

- Goa has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household.

Oct 13

1) Which among the following countries hold the highest shareholding in Asian Development Bank (ADB)?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) Japan
- d) Australia

Answer: c

- As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

- ADB, India sign \$270 million loan to improve urban services in 64 Madhya Pradesh small cities.

2) The official language of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is

- a) Chinese
- b) English
- c) Russian
- d) Both (a) and (c)

Answer: d

• The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese. 7th Justice Ministers' Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States to be hosted by Union Law Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on 16th October, 2020.

3) GausatvaKavach, recently heard in news, is a

- a) Chip
- b) Vest
- c) Cattle fodder
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

• It is a chip made of cow dung. Manufactured by Rajkot-based Shrijee Gaushala. It is claimed that this chip reduces radiation from mobile handsets.

4) Line of Credit towards Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) signed by India to Maldives is for

- a) \$ 400 million
- b) \$ 900 million
- c) \$ 4 million
- d) \$ 40 million

Answer: a

• Delhi, Male ink \$400-mn pact for connectivity. The line of credit (LoC) will fund the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).

5) "Tech For Tribals", is a programme by TRIFED, in collaboration with ministry of

- a) Electronics and Information Technology
- b) Tribal Affairs
- c) Small and Medium Enterprises
- d) Commerce and Industry

Answer: c

• It is a programme by TRIFED, in collaboration with the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) under the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) programme.

Oct 14

1) Chushul valley, often heard in news, is located in

- a) Sikkim
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Ladakh
- d) Nagaland

Answer: c

- It is a village in Leh, Ladakh. It is close to Rezang La and Pangong Lake at a height of 4,360 metres.

2) Earthshot Prize offers £50m (US\$65m) in funding for solutions to the environmental and climate crises. It is centred around the issue of

- a) Clean our air.
- b) Revive our oceans.
- c) Build a waste-free world.
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- The prize is centred around five Earthshot challenges:

- o Protect and restore nature.
- o Clean our air.
- o Revive our oceans.
- o Build a waste-free world.
- o Fix our climate.

3) The report titled "A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths" is released by

- a) UNICEF
- b) World Health Organization
- c) World Bank Group
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- The document is the first-ever joint estimate about stillbirths and was recently released by Unicef, World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank Group and the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

4) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is partnering with which company in order to empower students and educators with future-ready skills?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Microsoft
- d) Amazon

Answer: c

- The All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) on Monday announced that it has partnered with Microsoft to empower students and educators with future-ready skills.

5) Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the book 'DehVechavaKarani'. It is the autobiography of

- a) Ram Manohar Lohia
- b) Jaswant Singh
- c) BalasahebVikhe Patil
- d) LK Advani

Answer: c

- PM Narendra Modi releases autobiography of Dr BalasahebVikhe Patil, says 'his work will inspire generations'

Oct 15

1) 'Sujal - Drink from Tap Mission' is aimed to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption from the pipe, to over 15 lakh people in 15 towns. It is an initiative by the government of

- a) Kerala
- b) Bihar
- c) Odisha
- d) Maharashtra

Answer: c

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Drink from Tap Mission Sujal. Naveen Patnaik announced that by March, 2021, another 50 towns, and by March, 2022, all 114 urban centres in the State will have 100 per cent piped water connection.

2) International Debt Statistics (IDS) report, recently released, is an initiative of

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) BIS
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The total external debt of the world's poorest countries climbed 9.5 per cent to a record 744 billion US dollars in 2019, according to the World Bank Group's latest International Debt Statistics (IDS) report released Monday.

3) Exercise Suraksha Kavach is Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise conducted by Indian Army and state police of

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Gujarat

- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- The exercise involved participation of Quick Reaction Teams, Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of Army as well as Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Quick Reaction Team of Maharashtra Police.

4) International e-waste day is celebrated by Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) on

- a) 14th October
- b) 15th October
- c) 13th September
- d) 14th December

Answer: a

- As we celebrate the third international E-waste day October 14, 2020, let's move a step back and take stock of the stark reality of E-waste.

5) The committee constituted under MS Ananth by AICTE is for drafting report on

- a) Feasibility of making new IITs
- b) Professional Engineers Bill
- c) Converting existing NITs into IITs
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has informed K. Somaprasad, MP, that the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has constituted a committee for preparing the Professional Engineers Bill.

Oct 16

1) By signing Ship Recycling Act, 2019, India has acceded to Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling under

- a) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- b) International Maritime Organization
- c) Permanent Court of Arbitration
- d) International Seabed Authority

Answer: b

- Under Ship Recycling Act, 2019, India has acceded to Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling under International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Centre has notified the directorate general of shipping as the National authority for recycling of ships.

2) India has been designated the 'Vice-Chair' of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). It is a working group of

- a) G20
- b) FATF
- c) OECD
- d) WEF

Answer: c

- India has been designated the 'Vice-Chair' of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Working Group of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

3) "Five Eyes" group of nations is a global alliance to fight against

- a) Covid-19
- b) Encrypted online messages
- c) ISIS
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- The UK and India are joined by the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan in a joint international statement addressed to all tech companies to ensure they do not blind themselves to illegal activity on their platforms, including child abuse images.

4) Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) has revived its innovative 'Adopt-An-Animal' programme to mobilise resources for animals. It is located in

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

Answer: c

- The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) in Bhubaneswar, which suffered a huge loss following its closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has revived its innovative 'Adopt-An-Animal' programme to mobilise resources for animals.

5) Taiwan Strait or Formosa Strait connects South China sea with

- a) Philippine Sea
- b) East China Sea
- c) Yellow Sea
- d) Andaman Sea

Answer: b

- The Taiwan Strait makes up part of the South China Sea, and its northern portion is linked to the East China Sea. U.S. warship in Taiwan Strait enrages China. China claims sovereignty over the island and surrounding seas.

Oct 17

1) Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated on the same day as and when UN celebrates 'International Day of Rural Women'. When is it celebrated?

- a) October 2nd
- b) October 15th
- c) October 30th
- d) June 5th

Answer: b

- Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana, organised a webinar on "Role of women in dairy farming" to celebrate MahilaKisanDiwas on October 15.

2) Which among the following organisation confers the awards such as Visvesvaraya award, Kalpana Chawla award and Diwaker award?

- a) International Solar Alliance
- b) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- c) International Energy Agency
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer: a

- The third assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held virtually recently.

3) Global Hunger Index, 2020 released by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide ranks India at

- a) 94
- b) 88
- c) 104
- d) 21

Answer: b

- India ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Index, lower than her neighbours such as Bangladesh (75) and Pakistan (88).

4) New START treaty, recently heard in news, is between

- a) China and Japan
- b) North Korea and South Korea
- c) India and Pakistan
- d) US and Russia

Answer: d

- President Vladimir Putin has proposed a one-year extension without conditions of the last major nuclear arms reduction accord- the New START treaty- between Russia and the U.S.

5) The Zojila which is set to be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel connects

- a) Srinagar and Leh
- b) Leh and Manali
- c) Manali and Shimla
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Union Transport Ministry has launched the first blasting for construction-related work at the Zojila tunnel that will provide all-year connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh.

Oct 19

1) Pakistan and Nepal were recently re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council. It is headquartered in

- a) Geneva
- b) Venice
- c) New York
- d) London

Answer: a

- UNHRC was reconstituted from its predecessor organisation, the UN Commission on Human Rights to help overcome the "credibility deficit" of the previous organisation. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

2) "Skinks of India" is a recent publication by the

- a) Zoological Survey of India
- b) Biodiversity Authority of India
- c) Biological Survey of India
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer: a

- "Skinks of India" is a recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

3) Sadhna Pass, previously called as Nastachun pass, is a mountain pass in

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Sikkim
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Sadhna Pass, previously called as Nastachun pass, is a mountain pass in Jammu and Kashmir.

4) SLINEX 20 is a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the navy of

- a) South Korea
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Singapore
- d) Thailand

Answer: b

- It is a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy. The latest edition will be held off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

5) Grand ICT Challenge was launched by National Jal Jeevan Mission in partnership with Ministry of

- a) Electronics & Information Technology
- b) Commerce and Industry
- c) Jal Shakthi
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

- It was launched by National Jal Jeevan Mission in partnership with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

Oct 20

1) Country's first ever multi-modal logistic park will be built in

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Punjab
- d) Maharashtra

Answer: a

- India's first Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP) that will come up at Jogighopa, about 155 kilometres west of Guwahati, is poised to be a game-changer for the entire Northeast, as well as neighbours Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

2) Asafoetida, or heeng, is a common ingredient in most Indian kitchens. It is cultivated in the state of

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- Heeng is not cultivated in India. India imports Rs 600 crore worth of this pungent flavoured herb every year. It is a perennial plant. The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots.

3) Which among the following countries is not a part of Malabar naval exercise?

- a) Australia
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) USA

Answer: b

- Amid the ongoing stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh, the Ministry of Defence on Monday announced that Australia would join the Malabar 2020 naval exercise, consisting of India, Japan and the U.S., to be held next month, more than three years after Australia first requested to join.

4) Pink dolphins are making a comeback in the delta of river

- a) Ganga
- b) Indus
- c) Pearl
- d) Yangtze

Answer: c

- Chinese pink dolphins are making a comeback in the Pearl river estuary, one of the most heavily industrialised areas on Earth.

5) Which is the first state that aims to connect all its villages with high-speed internet by March 31, 2021 under 'GharTak Fibre' scheme?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Bihar
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Answer: b

- The government's ambitious 'GharTak Fibre' scheme — which aims to connect all the villages with high-speed internet — is off to a slow start in poll-bound Bihar, the first state that aims to connect all its 45,945 villages by March 31, government data obtained by The Indian Express showed.

Oct 21

1) Country's first ever multi-modal logistic park will be built in

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Punjab
- d) Maharashtra

Answer: a

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state that aims to connect all its 45,945 villages by March 31, government data obtained by The Indian Express showed.

Oct 22

1) The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the

- a) Governor
- b) President
- c) Prime Minister
- d) Chief Justice of India

Answer: a

- The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor. The provisions of Article 243K of the Constitution, which provides for setting up of SECs, are almost identical to those of Article 324 related to the EC. In other words, the SECs enjoy the same status as the EC.

2) Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, proposed a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing, is a part of

- a) National Policy on Electronics
- b) National Manufacturing Policy
- c) National Policy for Science and Technology
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Enthused by initial response of industry with regard to the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Economic Affairs Secretary said the government is considering an extension of the scheme to 7-8 more sectors to promote domestic manufacturing.

3) India's first seaplane service in Gujarat connecting Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia will be operated by

- a) Air India
- b) Spicejet
- c) Indigo
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- India's first seaplane service in Gujarat is set to begin from 31 October, the anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with the aim of providing air connectivity from the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia. The service will be operated by Spicejet Airlines.

4) COVIRAP is a diagnostic machine for COVID-19 detection developed by the researchers in

- a) AIIMS Delhi
- b) IIT Kharagpur
- c) IISc Bangalore
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- A diagnostic machine to carry out tests to detect coronavirus infection, developed by researchers from IIT-Kharagpur – COVIRAP – has received approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The test has been validated for its efficacy in Covid-19 detection by the ICMR.

5) "Life in Miniature" project is a collaborative project between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Microsoft
- d) TATA Group

Answer: a

- It is a collaborative project between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture.

Oct 23

1) Saudi Arabia is hosting the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) virtually. Which among the following is not a member to the group?

- a) India
- b) New Zealand
- c) Turkey
- d) South Korea

Answer: b

- In June 2010 at the Toronto Summit, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group's (ACWG) was set up. Its primary goal is to prepare "comprehensive recommendations for consideration by leaders on how the G20 could continue to make practical and valuable contributions to international efforts to combat corruption".

2) Agar International Trade Centre, the first-of-its-kind in the country, is coming in the state of

- a) Sikkim
- b) Assam
- c) Kerala
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- Assam to come up with Agar International Trade Centre, which is the first-of-its-kind in the country at Dabidubi in Golaghat district.

3) Uttarakhand inaugurated Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana) in the state in partnership with

- a) NABARD
- b) SIDBI
- c) NHB
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Wednesday inaugurated Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana) in the state in partnership with NABARD. "Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme is a concept which will prove to be a milestone in strengthening the economy of farmers and doubling their income," Rawat said while launching the scheme at Doiwala near here.

4) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project, constructed by India has been awarded the Brunel Medal 2020 conferred by UK's top engineering body — Institute of Civil Engineers. It is located in

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Bhutan
- d) Nepal

Answer: c

- The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan, constructed by India has been awarded the Brunel Medal 2020 conferred by UK's top engineering body — Institute of Civil Engineers.

5) Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) compiled by Labour and Employment Ministry revised its base year to

- a) 2020
- b) 2019
- c) 2017
- d) 2016

Answer: d

- The Labour and Employment Ministry has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016.

Oct 26

1) Recently released 2020 Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranks India at

- a) 94
- b) 54
- c) 104
- d) 124

Answer: a

- India has been ranked 94 out of 107 countries, lower than neighbours like Bangladesh and Pakistan.

2) Who has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020 to June 2021?

- a) Apurva Chandra
- b) Juan Somavia
- c) Michel Hansenne
- d) Francis Blanchard

Answer: a

- Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour and Employment) has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020 to June 2021.

3) Scientists have reported the discovery of the first room-temperature superconductor, after more than a century of waiting. Which among the following elements are not used for the discovery?

- a) Gold
- b) Carbon
- c) Hydrogen
- d) Sulphur

Answer: a

- The superconductor was formed by squeezing carbon, hydrogen and sulfur between the tips of two diamonds and hitting the material with laser light to induce chemical reactions.

4) Himalayan red bear, isabelline bear or Dzu-Teh is the largest carnivore in the highlands of Himalayas. It is categorised by IUCN as

- a) Endangered
- b) Critically Endangered
- c) Extinct in wild
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- While the brown bear as a species is classified as Least Concern by the IUCN, this subspecies is highly endangered and populations are dwindling. It is Endangered in the Himalayas and Critically Endangered in Hindu Kush.

5) Mount Girnar where 22nd Tirthankar Lord Neminath attained Nirvana is located in

- a) Junagadh
- b) Mysore
- c) Pikhlihal
- d) Aurangabad

Answer: a

• A 2.3-km-long ropeway project was recently launched by PM Modi on Mount Girnar in Junagadh city.

Oct 27

1) The entire coal industry in India was nationalised during

- a) 1973
- b) 1983
- c) 1993
- d) 2004

Answer: a

• A special CBI court has sentenced former Union Minister Dilip Ray and three other individual convicts to three years of jail term for irregularities in the allocation of the Brahmadaha coal block in Jharkhand in 1999.

2) Which among the following is not a major mineral?

- a) Coal
- b) Dolomite
- c) Diamonds
- d) Bauxite

Answer: b

• The list of 31 minerals to be notified as minor minerals include: Agate, Ball Clay, Barytes, Calcareous Sand, Calcite, Chalk, China Clay, Clay (Others), Corundum, Diaspore, Dolomite, Dunite/pyroxenite, Felsite, Felspar, Fireclay, Fuschite Quartzite, Gypsum, Jasper, Kaolin, Laterite, Limekankar, Mica, Ochre, Pyrophyllite etc.

3) World Polio Day is observed on

- a) August 24
- b) October 29
- c) October 24
- d) August 29

Answer: c

• World Polio Day was established by Rotary International on 24th October to celebrate the birth of Jonas Salk, who developed a vaccine against poliomyelitis.

4) Which among the agreements are yet to be signed between India and USA?

- a) BECA
- b) LEMOA
- c) CISMOA
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

• India and the U.S. will sign the last foundational agreement, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA) during the upcoming 2+2 ministerial dialogue.

FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS		
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide logistic support, refuelling & berthing facilities for each other's warships & aircraft on barter/equal-value exchange basis ➤ Will not involve stationing of US troops on Indian soil. Nor will India extend support if US goes to war with "a friendly country" ➤ Good for US forces re-balancing to Asia Pacific. Indian forces rarely operate far away from their shores but access to Djibouti & Diego Garcia could be useful 	Communication Interoperability & Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology enabler to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication & electronic systems to India ➤ US says CISMOA will boost 'interoperability' as well as ensure security of its C4ISR (command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems ➤ But fears that US will be able to track & snoop on Indian warships/aircraft equipped with such systems 	Basic Exchange & Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ US says BECA will help India with advanced satellite & topographical data for long-range navigation & missile-targeting ➤ But India, which has its own satellite imaging capabilities, unwilling for American digital sensors to be positioned on its soil

5) India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) is launched by

- a) Atal Innovation Mission
- b) CSIRO
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: c

• I-ACE will focus on identification and development of innovative technology solutions by bright-minded students, startups and MSMEs of both nations.

Oct 28

1) October 27 celebrated as Infantry Day on account of

- a) 1965 Indo-Pak war
- b) 1947 Indo-Pak war
- c) 1962 Indo-China war
- d) 1971 Indo-Pak war

Answer: b

• It was on this day that first Indian infantry soldiers took part in an action to defend Indian territory from external aggression. On October 26, 1947 the then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, signed the instrument of accession, making his state a part of Indian dominion, and thus paving the way for Indian troops to be deployed in the state to fight against Pakistani invaders.

2) Harpoon, recently heard in news, is a

- a) Temperate cyclone
- b) Digital currency
- c) Tropical cyclone
- d) Anti-ship missile

Answer: d

- The Harpoon is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile, developed and manufactured by McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing Defense, Space & Security).U.S. to sell Harpoon defence systems worth \$2.4 billion to Taiwan.

3) 'NatyaTarangini' – Performing Arts Centre was started with an idea to globally popularize which classical dance form?

- a) Bharatanatyam
- b) Mohiniyattam
- c) Kathakali
- d) Kuchipudi

Answer: d

- 'NatyaTarangini' – Performing Arts Centre was started with an idea to globally popularize Kuchipudi style of Indian classical dance.

4) Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) recent rule put Future-Reliance deal on hold. It was based on a plea from

- a) Amazon
- b) Google
- c) Reliance
- d) Flipkart

Answer: a

- SIAC rules in Amazon's favour, puts Future-Reliance deal on hold.This order came on a plea from global e-commerce giant Amazon.

5) ASER surveys are conducted by

- a) Ministry of Education
- b) Pratham NGO
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) OECD

Answer: b

- ASER is a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills.It has been conducted by the NGO Pratham for the last 15 years. This year, the survey was conducted via phone calls.

Oct 30

1) Central Vigilance Commission comes under the administrative control of

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Lokpal
- c) Department of Justice
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.
- CVC has decided to receive through email, from November 1 onwards, all vigilance clearance proposals for the Board level, all-India and Central services officials for appointment, empanelment, promotion and other related issues. No hard copies of documents will be accepted.

2) Which among the following lakes can be traced its origin to Tethys geosyncline?

- a) Lonar lake
- b) Tso moriri
- c) Pangong Tso
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- Pangong Tso literally translates into a "conclave lake". It is formed from Tethys geosyncline.

3) Which among the following is the world's largest producer of raw jute and jute goods?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Pakistan
- c) India
- d) China

Answer: c

- India is the world's largest producer of raw jute and jute goods. Cabinet approves Extension of Norms for Mandatory Packaging in Jute Materials.

4) Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project in India is externally aided by

- a) World Bank
- b) New Development Bank
- c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- d) Both (a) and (c)

Answer: d

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.

5) Which among the following sector has the lowest weightage in index of eight core sector industries?

- a) Natural Gas
- b) Cement
- c) Fertilizers
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.
- India's eight core industry sectors shrank just 0.8% in September on a year-on-year basis, recording their lowest contraction since March 2020, with electricity and steel output clocking positive growth for the first time since March, and coal production rising for the second month in a row.

Oct 31

1) Operation "Meri Saheli" initiative was recently launched for focused action on security of women by

- a) Indian Railways
- b) Airport Authority of India
- c) Kerala Police
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Indian Railways has launched "Meri Saheli" initiative for focused action on security of women across all zones with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.

2) Which among the following are smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world?

- a) Olive ridley sea turtle
- b) Leatherback sea turtle
- c) Red-crowned roofed turtle
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The Olive ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- The Odisha government has requested the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to conduct a fresh study for identifying the movement of Olive Ridley sea turtles, which would help the State renew its conservation efforts along its coast.

3) Which among the state governments issued an executive order assuring 7.5% horizontal reservation for government school students in medical admissions?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

Answer: c

- A day after the state government issued an executive order assuring 7.5% horizontal reservation for government school students in medical admissions in this academic year, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit too granted his assent to the Bill—which had been pending for approval for over a month.

4) Which among the following state governments signed an MoU with GAME (Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship) in association with LEAD at Krea University to support MSMEs?

- a) Haryana
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Punjab

Answer: d

- Initial results of a six-month survey that is underway by GAME (Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship) in association with LEAD at Krea University covering 1,500 micro enterprises also reveal that 40 per cent tried to borrow money to cover expenses. However, only 14 per cent of the overall borrowing was from formal borrowing sources.

5) Commission for Air Quality Management, recently announced statutory body, is headquartered at

- a) New Delhi
- b) Kerala
- c) Maharashtra
- d) West Bengal

Answer: a

- "The ordinance may be called the Commission for Air Quality Management In National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020. It shall apply to the national capital region and also adjoining areas in so far as it relates to matters concerning air pollution in the NCR. It shall come into force at once," it said.

