**Current Affairs Set 12**

**Q1:** Which among the following has recently approved $500 million for the STARS program in India?

1. World Economic Forum
2. World Bank
3. International Monetary
4. Asian Development Bank

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

The World Bank has approved $500 million for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS) to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states namely Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan. The main objective here is to focus on the ‘learning outcome’ challenge in the country.

**Q2:** Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the President of which among the following countries?

1. Iceland
2. Ireland
3. Malaysia
4. Maldives

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the President of Iceland. This is his second four-year term as the head of the country. Johanesson has clinched the recently-held national elections in the country with around 92% vote which was also the second-largest win in the Presidential elections in the country.

**Q3:** Which among the following states has launched the ‘Skill Connect Forum’ in India?

1. Delhi
2. Karnataka
3. Kerala
4. Uttarakhand

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Karnataka government has launched an online portal named as ‘Skill Connect Forum’ with the objective of connecting the jobseekers with the employers in the state. The platform will also provide necessary information to the jobseekers regarding the availability of jobs in the state. Both the employers and the jobseekers will be able to register on the platform.

**Q4:** Food delivery app Swiggy has recently partnered with which bank for its digital wallet ‘Swiggy Money’?

1. HDFC Bank
2. ICICI Bank
3. Axis Bank
4. Kotak Mahindra Bank

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Swiggy has launched its digital wallet ‘Swiggy Money’ in partnership with the private sector lender ICICI Bank to provide its users with a single-click checkout experience. The food delivery app has used the ‘insta wallet service’ of ICICI Bank built on its cloud platform in order to provide this service to the users of the app.

**Q5:** Who among the following has been awarded with the first-ever PC Mahalanobis Award given in 2020?

1. C Rangarajan
2. Bimal Jalan
3. Dr. Manmohan Singh
4. Dr. Abhijeet Banerjee

**Answer:** A

**Solution:**

Former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Chakravarthi Rangarajan has been bestowed with the inaugural Prof. PC Mahalanobis Award in the year 2020. The award has given for his lifetime achievements in the field of providing solution to the issues related to the national income of the country. The award has been constituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India.

**Q6:** The 36th ASEAN Summit was held in which among the following countries?

1. Malaysia
2. Maldives
3. Sri Lanka
4. Vietnam

**Answer:** D

**Solution:**

The 36th edition of the biennial ASEAN Summit was held virtually in video conferencing mode in Hanoi, Vietnam, in July 2020. The theme of the summit was ‘Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN.” The main agendum of the meeting was the response to the COVID 19 pandemic by the member countries.

**Q7:** The first-ever plasma bank in the country was set up in which city?

1. Mumbai
2. New Delhi
3. Chennai
4. Thiruvananthapuram

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

The Delhi government set up the first-of-its-kind plasma bank in the national capital in order to treat the patients of COVID 19. The main idea behind this is that the plasma will be donated by them who have already recovered from COVID 19 and that will be transplanted in the new patients so that they can also build the required immunity in their body. The second such plasma bank has been set up in Tamil Nadu.

**Q8:** Who among the following has been appointed as the first ever female Lt. General in the Pakistan Army?

1. Hina Rabbani Khar
2. Nigar Johar
3. Salma Khan
4. Sadiqa Khan

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Pakistan Army has appointed Major General Nigar Johar as its first-ever female Lt. General and she is also the first lady officer to be elevated to this coveted rank in the armed forces of the Muslim-majority country. She has been appointed as the Surgeon-General in the Army of the country.

**Q9:** Who among the following has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation?

1. SM Vaidya
2. SK Mehra
3. Ashutosh Singh
4. Pallavi Kumari

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). He was serving as the Director (Refineries) on the board of this Maharatna Company since October 2019. Vaidya is going to replace Sanjiv Singh, who superannuated from his post on June 30.

**Q10:** Who among the following has been appointed as the new envoy of India to the UN Bodies and also other international organizations in Geneva?

1. Rajiv Bhushan
2. Indra Mani Pandey
3. UK Sinha
4. Ashil Gupta

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed by the Government of India as the next envoy to the United Nations bodies and also all the other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland. He is going to be the representative of our country in more than 25 organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), etc. Pandey is going to replace Rajiv K Chander who has recently completed his stipulated three years in this post.

**Q11:** Which among the following banks has launched ‘e-Kisaan Dhan’ Application for the welfare of farmers?

1. HDFC Bank
2. ICICI Bank
3. Axis Bank
4. IDFC Bank

**Answer:** A

**Solution:**

The largest private sector in India, HDFC Bank, has launched the ‘e-Kisaan Dhan’ application for the farmers from across the country. The farmers will be able to access the services of both banking and agriculture through their mobile phones, without any hassle.

**Q12:** Who among the following has been named as India’s ‘Most Valuable Player’ by Wisden?

1. Virat Kohli
2. Hardik Pandya
3. Krunal Pandya
4. Ravindra Jadeja

**Answer:** D

**Solution:**

Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been named as the ‘Most Valuable Player’ by Wisden, for the 21st century. Jadeja is mainly known for his spin bowling, left-hand batting and also fielding skills. Till date, he has represented India in 49 test matches, 165 ODIs and 49T20Is.

**Q13:** Edouard Philippe who has resigned recently was the Prime Minister of which among the following countries?

1. France
2. Italy
3. Ireland
4. Greenland

**Answer:** A

**Solution:**

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has resigned from the post just ahead of a government reshuffle by the sitting President Emmanuel Macron. This comes as the country is bracing itself to become a green-energy powerhouse within the next decade. Philippe is expected to continue in office till a new cabinet is put in place.

**Q14:** Who among the following has been honoured as the ‘Great Immigrants 2020’ by a US-based think-tank?

1. Amy Bera
2. Bobby Jindal
3. Shweta Singh
4. Raj Chetty

**Answer:** D

**Solution:**

Indian-American Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty have been included in list of 38 immigrants named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as the ‘Great Immigrants’ for the year 2020. They have been chosen for their contribution towards mitigating the COVID 19 pandemic. While Mukherjee has been chosen for educating and creating public awareness regarding the pandemic, Chetty has been honoured for launching a real-time data tracker to measure the economic impact of the pandemic.

**Q15:** Which among the following has launched ‘Mobile Masterjee’, a teaching setup?

1. IIT Gandhinagar
2. IIT Kanpur
3. IIT Kharagpur
4. IIT Delhi

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

IIT Kanpur has developed a classroom-to-home teaching setup named as ‘Mobile Masterjee’. It is going to be very helpful for the students in the rural parts of the country. It can record the lectures or instructions by the teachers while using their available smartphones and can also capture the videos of the classroom lecture in various positions.

**Q16:** Who among the following has authored the book ‘The Future of Higher Education: Nine Mega Trends’ released recently by the Vice President of India?

1. VP Ram
2. Omkar Sethi
3. Prince Kumar Upadhyay
4. Aaditya Vikram Parmar

**Answer:** A

**Solution:**

The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has recently released a book ‘Future of Higher Education: Nine Mega Trends’, authored by CA V Pattabhi Ram. This is based on a survey of around 5000 educators across the country who were part of the ‘SkyCampus’ Digital Knowledge Series.

**Q17:** Which among the following has launched the Global Bharat Program for the MSME Sector in India?

1. IBM India
2. SAP India
3. Wipro
4. Tata Consultancy Services

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

German technology firm, SAP India, has recently launched the Global Bharat Program in order to equip the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country with digital technology so that these firms can become more competitive. The technology major will also provide access to the MSME companies to their Enterprise Resource Software (ERP) under this new program.

**Q18:** Coal India has tied up with which among the following to develop solar and thermal power assets in the country?

1. National Thermal Power Corporation
2. NLC India
3. Power Grid Corporation
4. Power Finance Corporation

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

The government-owned mining majors NLC India and Coal India have formed a joint venture company in order to develop solar and thermal power assets in the country. This has been set as a 50:50 venture by these companies.

**Q19:** Which among the following has been launched as the first-ever social media super-app in India?

1. Elyments
2. Facebook India
3. Milan
4. Saathi

**Answer:** A

**Solution:**

The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the first social media application made in India, known as ‘Elyments’. It is the first ever indigenously developed social media super-app and it has been developed by Sumeru Software Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru. It is available in eight languages including Tamil, Telegu, Kannada, English, etc.

**Q20:** Which among the following banks has started ‘ZipDrive’ in order to provide instant online auto loans?

1. ICICI Bank
2. HDFC Bank
3. Axis Bank
4. State Bank of India

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

HDFC Bank has started offering instant car loans to the existing customers through an initiative known as ‘ZipDrive’ in 1000 cities in the country. Through this move, the bank is offering a pre-approved loan offer to avail an auto loan through net banking or via assistance from the phone banking feature of the bank. The credit appraisal is done by the banking software for this product.

**Q21:** Who spotted first time the Comet NEOWISE in March 2020?

1. NASA
2. ISRO
3. JAXA
4. U.S

**Answer:** A

**Solution:**

Comet NEOWISE (C/2020 F3) was spotted for the first time by NASA in March 2020 with the help of its Near-earth object wide-field infrared survey explorer (NEOWISE) telescope. Comets are dusty snowballs which orbit the sun. they are made of ices, such as water, carbon di oxide, ammonia and methane, mixed and dust etc.

**Q22:** Dhruvastra anti-tank guided missile is in news recently. Who developed it?

1. ISRO
2. DRDO
3. HAL
4. Garisson

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

Dhruvastra Anti tank guided missile is a helicopter launched NAG missile Helina (HELINA) also known as Dhruvastra. It is a third generation fire and forgot class missile and uses an imaging infrared seeker in lock-on-before launch mode. It is indigenously developed by Defence research development organization (DRDO).

**Q23:** Which country is keen to join World health organization Gavi-vaccine alliance?

1. Pakistan
2. India
3. Nepal
4. Bhutan

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

India has expressed its interest in joining Covax, the WHO Gavi vaccine covid-19 vaccine alliance, that aims to bring countries and companies together to pool resources and share vaccine. It aims to deliver 2 billion of doses of effective, covid -19 vaccines by 2021 end. Gavi (Global alliance for vaccines and immunization) is an international organization, bringing together public and private sector. .

**Q24:** On which anniversary of the formation of USIBC council India ideas summit 2020 hosted?

1. 50th anniversary
2. 20th anniversary
3. 10th anniversary
4. 45th anniversary

**Answer:** D

**Solution:**

India Idea summit 2020 was hosted by the US-India business council (USIBC) marking the 45th anniversary of the formation of the council. USIBC is a business advocacy group focused on strengthening bilateral trade and commerce between India and USA. The 2020 theme was ‘Building a better future’.

**Q25:** RBI estimate that digital transaction could reach Rs15 trillion by which year?

1. 2030
2. 2025
3. 2026
4. 2050

**Answer:** B

**Solution:**

As per estimates payment through digital modes are expected to jump to 1.5 billion transactions worth Rs15 trillion a day in five years. Recently payment infrastructure development fund was setup to encourage acquirers to deploy point of sale infrastructure in tier 3 to tier 6 centers and North- eastern states. The reason for the growth are

* Regulatory support from RBI
* Quick onboarding on ease of use of technology
* Government policies focusing on cashless economy
* Increased awareness, especially post-demonetization
* Smartphone proliferation and internet expansion