

SEPTEMBER 2020

# GENERAL AWARENESS

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## GENERAL AWARENESS

SEPTEMBER 2020

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## FIGURES TO REMEMBER

REPO RATE	4.00%
REVERSE REPO RATE	3.35%
MARGINAL STANDING FACILITY RATE	4.25%
BANK RATE	4.25%
STATUTORY LIQUIDITY RATIO	18.00%
CASH RESERVE RATIO	3.00%
BASE RATE(s) (of various banks)	8.15 to 9.40%

## INDIA'S RANK IN

Budget Transparency Index	53 <sup>rd</sup>
Global Energy Transition Index	7 <sup>th</sup>
Global Press Freedom Index	142 <sup>nd</sup>
Inclusive Internet Index	46 <sup>th</sup>
World Happiness Report	144 <sup>th</sup>
Intellectual Property Index	40 <sup>th</sup>
Sustainability Index	77 <sup>th</sup>
Flourishing Index	131 <sup>st</sup>
Climate Change Performance Index	9 <sup>th</sup>
Global Talent Competitive Index	72 <sup>nd</sup>
Carbon Disclosure Project Report	5 <sup>th</sup>
Democracy Index 2019	51 <sup>st</sup>
Corruption Perception Index	80 <sup>th</sup>
Social Mobility Index	76 <sup>th</sup>
Hanley Passport Index	84 <sup>th</sup>
Climate Change Performance Index	9 <sup>th</sup>
Human Development Index	129 <sup>th</sup>
Gender Gap Index	112 <sup>th</sup>
Global Climate Risk Index	5 <sup>th</sup>
World Talent Ranking	59 <sup>th</sup>
TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix	78 <sup>th</sup>



# NATIONAL NEWS

JULY

## INDIA'S TIGER CENSUS SETS WORLD RECORD



India's tiger census of 2018-19 has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest ever camera-trap wildlife survey conducted anywhere in the world. Camera traps (outdoor photographic devices fitted with motion sensors that start recording when an animal passes by) were placed in 26,838 locations across 141 different sites and surveyed an effective area of 121,337 sq km. According to the survey, the country was home to an estimated 2,967 tigers, accounting for nearly 75 percent of the global population. Of all the big cats, 2,461 (around 83 per cent) have been photo-captured.

## RAILWAYS ACHIEVES 100% PUNCTUALITY

For the first time in the history of Indian Railways, all trains run on a particular day, achieved 100 percent punctuality. The Ministry of Railways said all the 201 that ran on 1st July were on time. Due to restrictions and lockdown, Indian Railways is running on a restricted capacity.

## WORLD'S FIRST EVER ONLINE B.Sc. DEGREE

The Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science. Data Science is one of the fastest growing sectors that is predicted to create 11.5 million jobs by 2026.

This programme is open to anyone who has passed class 12th, with English and Maths at the class 10th level, and enrolled in any on-campus UG course. This unique offering removes all barriers of age, discipline or geographic location and provides access to a world-class curriculum in data science which is in huge demand for skilled professionals.



## MODI ADDRESSES UN ECOSOC



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address at the high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) on July 17. The session was held on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. In his speech PM Modi focused on the UN's role and how the expectations of the member countries have grown from the organization as the UN brings together 193 member countries for the event. He highlighted the medical assistance given by India to 150 countries in a fight against COVID-19.

*The ECOSOC was established in 1946 as one of the six principal organs of the UN and has been mandated to undertake the coordination of and to offer direction to, the social, economic, and cultural activities of the United Nations.*

## FM PARTICIPATES IN FM MEET OF G-20

The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the 3rd G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors meet held at Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, on July 18. In the meeting, the Finance Minister discussed the global economic outlook in the evolving COVID-19 crisis as well as other priorities of the group for the year. Saudi Arabia is the chairperson of the G-20 group for the year 2020.

## INDIA FARES WELL IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

More than 270 million people in India were lifted out of poverty from 2005 to 2016 — the largest by any country in that period — says a study by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.

The study that covered 75 nations was based on a global multidimensional poverty index (MPI) which measures the complexities of poor people's lives, individually and collectively, each year.

*The MPI is calculated based on indicators such as deprivation of nutrition, schooling, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, housing and assets. According to the study, 55.1 percent of the population in India lived under multidimensional poverty in 2005-06. In 2015-16, it came down to 27.9 per cent.*

## INDIA GOOD LOCATION FOR MANUFACTURING

India ranks third in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions. China and the US retained the first and second positions in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index. The Index compiled by the US based global real estate consultants - Cushman & Wakefield, assesses the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific. It scores each country against 20 variables that make up the three final weighted rankings that cover conditions, cost and risk.

## NICARAGUA JOINS SOLAR ALLIANCE

The Central American country, Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement. The ISA is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India and France in Nov. 2015 to promote and harness use of solar energy. Its headquarters are located in Gurugram, Haryana. Most of them are sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

## CBDT AND CBIC SIGN MoU FOR DATA SHARING

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to facilitate smoother bilateral exchange of data on an automatic and regular basis. They will also share any information available in their respective databases which may be useful for the other organisation.

## INDIA TO SET FISH PROCESSING PLANTS

India and Maldives signed a contract for setting up Neighbourhood Fish Processing Plants at two of the islands in the Maldives. These fish-processing plants are the first in a series of High Impact Community Development (HICDP) projects that India and Maldives have committed to execute together under a total grant of \$ 5.5 million. HICDPs constitute an important dimension of the dynamic development partnership between India and the Maldives. These projects are driven by the needs of communities on the islands.

*Maldives is a tiny group of islands, located some 700 km south of Kanya Kumari. It is one of the lowest lying nations of the world with average elevation of just 1.5 meters above sea level.*





## BHUTAN OPENS NEW TRADE ROUTE FOR INDIA



India and Bhutan opened up a new trade route on July 15 between Pasakha in Bhutan and Jaigaon in West Bengal. A new Land Customs Station has been opened up at Ahllay, Pasakha by the Indian government. The new land route for movement of industrial raw materials and goods destined for Pasakha Industrial Estate will boost bilateral trade and commerce and lead to decongestion of vehicular traffic along the Jaigaon-Phuentsholing route.

## COUNTRY'S "1st CABLE-STAYED" RAIL BRIDGE

The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge – the magnificent AnjiKhad Bridge across Chenab River will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir. The Bridge has a single pylon, standing at a height of 331 metres above the river bed and has a total length of 473.25 metres. It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. It is being constructed by Konkan Railway Corporation, a Government of India undertaking.

## RAILWAY LAUNCHES 'POST COVID COACH'

The Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala launched a new state-of-the-art, 'Post COVID Coach' in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus infection. The coach has hands free amenities, copper-coated handrails & latches, plasma air purification and titanium di-oxide coating for COVID free passenger journey.

## B'DESH OPENS MONGLA & CHATTOGRAM PORTS

The first trial container ship from Kolkata port to Agartala through Chattogram port (Bangladesh) was flagged off by the Shipping Minister Mansukh Madaviya on July 16. According to the SoP (Standard Operating Procedures), goods that reach Chattogram and Mongla sea ports (both in Bangladesh), will be carried by road, rail, and water ways to Agartala (Tripura) via Akhaura; Dawki (Meghalaya) via Tamabil; Sutarkandi (Assam) via Sheola, and Srimantapur (Tripura) via Bibir Bazar.

The SoP covers waterways, roads and railways. It will allow the landlocked Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura states to access open sea trade routes through Chattogram and Mongla ports.

## INDIA'S 1<sup>st</sup> NPNT COMPLIANT DRONE FLIGHT

Pune-based Quidich Innovation Labs, along with Asteria Aerospace, Bengaluru, completed the first 'no-permission, no-takeoff' or NPNT-compliant drone flight in Tumakuru, Karnataka, marking the first such operation since the drone regulations policy came into effect in December 2018.

*In March this year, six green zones received security clearance from the government under the Digital Sky scheme for unhindered operations of NPNT-compliant drones. At present, flying drones in other zones is illegal and any drone more than 250 grams (Nano drone) requires NPNT compliance.*

## \$400 MILLION WB SUPPORT FOR GANGA RIVER

The World Bank announced \$400 million (about Rs. 300 Crore) support for India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga river and stem pollution in the river. The funding will help in strengthening the management of the river basin which is home to some 50 crore people. According to the World Bank's statement, over 40% of India's GDP is generated in the densely populated Ganges basin and that makes it essential to the country's water and food security.

## INDIA 34<sup>th</sup> IN REAL ESTATE TRANSPARENCY

Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), Chicago based global real estate services provider, released its biennial Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRET). The Index is topped by the UK, followed by the USA and Australia. India was placed at 34th rank. It is a unique benchmark of real estate market transparency and an essential guide for companies operating in foreign markets. It covered 163 cities in 99 countries based on 210 indicators related to urban life.

## 59 CHINA BASED MOBILE APPS BANNED

For safety, security, defence, sovereignty & integrity of India and to protect data & privacy of people of India, the Government on June 29 banned 59 mobile apps that were based in China. The ban has been proclaimed under section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.

*Banned apps include some of the popular ones like TikTok, Shareit, UC Browser, Weibo, Xender, We Chat, Club Factory, Vmate, Bigo Live, among others. TikTok had nearly 119 million active users in India and was among the top 10 apps on Google Play store and Apple App store.*



## INDIA DROPPED FROM CHABAHAR RAIL PROJECT



Iran has dropped India from the Chabahar rail project which comprises the rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan. The Iranian government cited delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project, as the reason for its decision of dropping India from the project. The project will now be completed with local Iranian funds.

- ❖ *India and Bhutan signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan. The project is located on the lower course of the Kholongchu River in eastern Bhutan.*
- ❖ *India-European Union Summit was held in a virtual mode on July 15 to focus on further strengthening the economic and cultural relations between India and Europe. Prime Minister Modi took part in the summit.*

## JUNE

### FATAL CLASHES REPORTED IN GALWAN VALLEY

A violent face-off reportedly took place between Indian and Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15 during the de-escalation process. One Indian Army Colonel and nineteen soldiers were martyred. Senior military officials of both nations hosted talks at the place of conflict to defuse the situation. This unprecedented escalation at the border is the first between the two sides along the India- China border since 1975. It is reported that the Chinese side also suffered casualties during the physical clash.



## FIRST VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH AUSTRALIA

For the first time, a bilateral summit between India and Australia was held in virtual mode on June 4 between the two prime ministers. Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison was scheduled to visit India this year but the visit could not take place due to the Corona crisis. It was then agreed to hold the virtual summit. The two countries signed seven MoUs in various fields like defence, science and technology, mining and education etc.

*India and Australia share extremely warm and friendly relations, which have only been growing steadily with years. The two nations have a shared approach to a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. Australia supports India's global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative. Australia also supports India's demand for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council (UNSC).*

## NATIONAL REPORT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) released India's first ever National Report on the state of the Climate Crisis titled "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region". The report analyses the status of India regarding long-term changes in climate patterns, and their attendant risks.

## INDIA ELECTED TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term after winning an overwhelming 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. The UN Security Council is the most powerful organ of the UNO. India's two year term will begin on January 1, 2021. This is the eighth time that India will sit at the UN high-table, which comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members. Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the non permanent seat in the Security Council.

## INDIA JOINS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON AI

India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France and others on June 15 to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). By joining GPAI as a founding member, India will actively participate in the global development of Artificial Intelligence, leveraging its experience around use of digital technologies for inclusive growth.

GPAI is a first initiative of its type for evolving better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around Artificial Intelligence using the experience and diversity of participating countries. It aims to guide responsible development and use of Artificial Intelligence, grounded in human rights, diversity, inclusion, innovation, and economic growth.



## ONLY 8 INDIAN INSTT IN QS RANKINGS



Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2021 has ranked Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the top, followed by Stanford University and Harvard University at second and third rank, respectively. All the three are American institutions. Only eight Indian institutes managed to feature in the top 500 of QS World University Ranking 2021. IIT Bombay has the best ranking among Indian institutes at 172nd place. IISc Bangalore stands at 185th rank, followed by IIT- Delhi at 193rd rank.

*Quacquarelli Symonds, London is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector. The QS rankings provide methodical evaluations of key areas of higher education institutions, ultimately offering potential students expert advice proven to align students with their chosen path.*

## IIT MADRAS IS THE BEST INSTITUTE

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The rankings help institutions to improve their performance on various ranking parameters and identify gaps in research and areas of improvement.

### Overall Best Institute: IIT, Madras

Best University: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru  
Best Management Institute: IIM, Ahmedabad  
Best Engineering Institute: IIT, Madras  
Best Medical Institute: AIIMS, New Delhi  
Best Dental Science Institute: Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi

**Best College:** Miranda House (for girls), Delhi

**NIRF** rankings are awarded based on the following parameters - Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception.

- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Beijing approved a loan of \$750 million to Indian government to strengthen its response to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on millions of people.

MAY

## MEGA STIMULUS PACKAGE RELEASED

Government announced the first tranche of stimulus packages on May 13, amounting to 20 lakh crore rupees, equaling roughly to 10 percent of the national GDP, under the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self Reliant India Mission). The Prime Minister stressed on the local products and urged his countrymen to be "Vocal About Local". Some major highlights of the first three tranches of package announced on 13,14 and 15 May are:

- Rs. 3 lakh crore collateral free - guarantor free loans, with a moratorium of 12 months for 45 lakh units in MSME sector.
- Rs. 20 thousand crore for stressed MSMEs benefiting 2 lakh units
- Rs. 50,000 crore rupees to be infused in the MSMEs through the equity channel.
- Rs 1,500 cr interest subvention for MUDRA-Shishu loans of up to Rs 50,000.
- Government bodies and PSUs directed to clear all pending dues of MSMEs within next 45 days.
- Definition of MSME expanded to cover more units:
  - Micro Units: Companies with Investments up to Rs 1 crore & Turnover of below Rs 5 crore.
  - Small Units: Companies with Investment of up to Rs 10 crore & Turnover of below 50 crore
  - Medium Units: Companies with Investment of up to Rs 20 crore & Turnover of below Rs 100 crore
- Tenders for government procurement up to 200 crore rupees will no longer be through the Global Tender route to encourage local producers.
- Rs 2 lakh crore of concessional credit to benefit 2.5 crore farmers.
- Rs 30,000 crore additional emergency working capital fund to be provided through NABARD to small, marginal farmers
- Rs 3,500 crore for providing 10 kg foodgrain and 2 kg pulses free for the next two months for 8 crore migrants, even with no ration cards.
- Rs 5,000 crore for supporting 50 lakh street vendors
- Affordable rental housing accommodation and complexes to be constructed through PPP mode for urban poor and migrants
- Affordable housing scheme for middle income families with Rs 6 lakh to Rs 18 lakh annual income to be extended till March 2021
- Date to file Income Tax returns extended from July 31 to November 30
- PF contribution of employees, employers reduced to 10%
- TDS/TCS reduction of 25% in existing rates from May 14 till March 31, 2021
- Vivaad se Vishwas scheme extended till Dec 31, 2020, without penalty
- Rs 90,000-crore liquidity infusion in discoms to help them pay the power-generating companies.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> TRANCHE FOR ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 16 announced the fourth tranche of Atma Nirbhar Bharat economic package. The focus of the fourth tranche was on structural reforms in the eight key infrastructure areas that include coal, mining, defence, civil aviation, space, atomic energy, power discoms and social infrastructure sector, where growth is possible and employment is generated. In Defence, the FDI limit has been raised from 49 percent to 74 percent. Private sector will now be allowed to enter coal mining. Rs. 50,000 crore will be invested in this sector.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> TRANCHE FOR ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

On May 17, the Finance Minister unveiled the fifth and final tranche of financial stimulus and policy measures to help build a self-reliant India under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It outlined structural reforms with focus on seven areas -- MNREGA, Health and Education, Business during Covid, Decriminalisation of Company Act, Ease of doing business, Policy related to Public Sector Units, State government and resources related to it. Under the MNREGA scheme, an additional 40 thousand crore rupees has been allocated for employment generation in the rural areas to help the returning migrants.



#### INDIA TOPS IN PPE KIT PRODUCTION

India has become the second largest manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) body suits in just two months. The number one spot is ruled by China. The country is producing more than three lakh PPEs and N95 masks per day. The announcement was officially made by the Textiles Ministry. It may be noted that before the COVID-19 pandemic began, not a single PPE kit was being produced in India. The PPE body coveralls or suits are essential for protection against the COVID-19 especially for healthcare personnel.

#### BRO OPENS DHARCHULA-LIPULEKH ROAD

The Border Roads Organisation successfully completed road connectivity from Dharchula to Lipulekh famously known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route. The road is an extension of Pithoragarh-Tawaghat-Ghatiabagarh road. It originates from Ghatiabagarh and terminates at Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to Kailash Mansarovar. The road connects the border villages by road for the first time and Kailash Mansarovar Yatris can now avoid the difficult 90 kilometre trek and move up to China border in vehicles.

#### AIIB GIVES \$50 Mn SUPPORT FOR COVID-19



India and the AIIB - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Beijing, signed a 500 million dollar "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project" in New Delhi to strengthen public health preparedness in India.

The fund will support the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies. This is the first ever health sector support from the Bank to India.

*The AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and adjoining Indo Pacific region by providing funding for vital infrastructure projects. Headquartered in Beijing, it began operations in January 2016 and has now grown to 78 approved members worldwide.*

#### INDIA FACED LARGEST DISPLACEMENTS

Nearly five million people were displaced in India in 2019 — the highest in the world so far — according to a recent report titled 'The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)' from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. The centre is a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

The displacements in India were prompted by increased hazard intensity, high population and social and economic vulnerability, the report stated. More than half of displacements were caused by heavy rains and severe tropical storms.

Globally, around 33.4 million people faced new internal displacements because of conflicts and disasters in about 145 countries in 2019. Over 95 percent of displacements took place due to weather hazards like storms and floods.





### **'MISSION SAGAR' FOR ISLAND NATIONS**

India had launched Mission Sagar on May 10 to provide assistance to the five island nations of Eastern Indian Ocean Region amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The five island nations are Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Comoros. The naval ship INS Kesari will provide the COVID related medicines such as HCQ tablets, special Ayurvedic medicines, and food items along with the medical assistance teams to the islands.

### **WB APPROVES \$1 BILLION SUPPORT**

The World Bank cleared \$ one billion assistance for supporting the social protection measures in India. The funding will be in two phases- an allocation of \$750 million before the end of June 2020 and a second allocation of \$250 million by June 2021.

### **NDB TO GIVE \$ 1 Bn FOR FIGHTING CORONA**

The BRICS's New Development Bank has decided to provide \$ 1 billion emergency assistance loan to India to support its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic, contain its spread and reduce human, social and economic losses.

### **"RAMAYAN" TOPS THE GLOBAL VIEWERSHIP**



Popular TV serial Ramayan has created the world record of highest viewed entertainment programme globally. Prasar Bharati, the national broadcasting agency informed that 77 million people watched the show in one day on the 16th of this month, creating a world record. The television series is being re-telecasted on Doordarshan National from the 28th of March, this year.

### **INDIA NOT GOOD IN BUDGET TRANSPARENCY**

The Open budget survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) has placed India at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget accountability and transparency. IBP is a global policy think tank based in Washington DC, USA.

*The survey rates the level of transparency in budget across nations on a scale of 0-100. The rating of the countries is based on various normative and internationally comparable indicators. New Zealand was ranked on top in terms of budget transparency.*

### **INDIA STILL LOW IN ENERGY TRANSITION**



The Global Energy Transition Index compiled by the World Economic Forum (WEF) has placed India at 74th rank, up two positions from last year. With a better ranking, India has shown improvement in key parameters of economic security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

Sweden continues to acquire the top position for the third consecutive year and has been followed by Finland and Switzerland in the top three. The index benchmarks 115 economies on the current performance of their energy systems across economic development and growth, environmental sustainability, and energy security and access indicators- and their readiness for transition to secure, sustainable, affordable, and inclusive energy systems.

## **NEWS FROM STATES**

**JULY**

### **UP CREATES NEW RECORD IN TREE PLANTATION**

In Uttar Pradesh, a new record was created on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day. Various institutions and government departments took part in this 'Van Mahotsav' drive while maintaining social distancing due to the corona crisis. More than 8 lakh sites were identified for this drive and each one was geo-tagged for getting the accurate data. The government had identified 201 varieties of saplings for the drive which included fruits, Ayurvedic plants, and other environment friendly varieties. Last year, the state went for a plantation drive of 22 crore saplings, and 11 crore saplings in 2018.



## ASIA'S LARGEST ULTRA MEGA SOLAR PLANT



The Prime Minister inaugurated the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar plant on July 10. It is being established in the Rewa district of Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh, with a total installed capacity of 750 MW. Spread over 1590 acres of land, it is one of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia. The total cost of the project is expected to be around Rs 4000 crore.

## COUNTRY'S FIRST PLASMA BANK IN NEW DELHI

India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in Delhi on June 2 by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The facility has been set up at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi. Plasma therapy involves transfusion of plasma from a convalescent coronavirus patient to a critical patient. The blood of a convalescent patient is rich in antibodies that are expected to help the critical patient recover. Plasma donation does not cause any adverse effect on the donor.

## INDIA'S FIRST PUBLIC EV CHARGING PLAZA

India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza was inaugurated on July 20 at Chelmsford Club in central New Delhi. The EV charging plaza is a new avenue for making e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India. The plaza has been developed by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited, EESL, a government of India undertaking jointly with New Delhi Municipal Corporation. The plaza can host five electric vehicle chargers of different specifications.

## INDIA'S FIRST LICHEN PARK IN UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand forest department has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari park in Pithoragarh district. Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels. A lichen is a composite organism that arises from algae or cyanobacteria living among filaments of multiple fungi species in a mutualistic relationship. They come in many colours, sizes and forms.

## FIRST CARGO TRAIN LEAVES FOR BANGLADESH

The first parcel cargo train with red chillies for export to Bangladesh was flagged off from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh on July 10. The Special Parcel Express from South Central Railway is carrying 384 tonnes of dried red chillies over the distance of 1372 kilometre from Reddipalem in Guntur to Benapole in Bangladesh.

## KAKRAPAR PLANT BECOMES OPERATIONAL

Unit 3 of the Kakrapar nuclear power plant in the Surat district of Gujarat attained criticality (a sustained chain reaction) for the first time on July 22. It is the country's first indigenously-designed 700 MWe pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR) to reach the commissioning milestone.

*A nuclear reactor is said to have attained criticality when every nuclear fission event releases a sufficient number of neutrons in order to sustain an ongoing series of reactions or a self-sustaining chain reaction.*

## MP TOPS IN PM SVA-NIDHI SCHEME

Madhya Pradesh has emerged on top in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbharNidhi-PM SVaNidhi scheme for providing easy finance to the street vendors to continue their business.

Apart from urban street vendors, a scheme to provide interest free assistance of Rs. 10,000 is also being implemented for the street vendors of rural areas in the state. So far, 15,500 cases have been approved in the state covering interest free loans of around 15 crore 50 lakh.

*Under the scheme, interest free working capital of 10,000 rupees will be provided for one year. Interest subsidy of 7 percent will be borne by the Central Government and the remaining amount will be borne by the State Government.*

## HP PROVIDES LPG CONNECTION TO ALL

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections. The feat was achieved by the state with the help of 'Himachal GrihiniSuvidhaYojana' under which the state covered the left out families who were not covered under the Central government's Pradhan MantriUjjawalaYojna.





## MIZORAM GETS ITS FIRST MEGA FOOD PARK



The first mega food park in Mizoram, Zoram Mega Food Park, started operations on July 21. It is expected to provide direct and indirect employment up to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers. Set up at a cost of Rs 75 crore, it is expected to leverage an additional investment of about Rs 250 crore in about 30 food processing units, leading to an annual turnover of about Rs 450-500 crores. The 55-acre food park is located at Khamrang village in Kolasib District, Mizoram.

## U'KHAND TO MAKE ELECTRICITY FROM WASTE

In a novel initiative, the Uttarakhand government plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity. Named 'Waste to Energy', the initiative aims to generate up to 5 megawatts of electricity and curb pollution. Average 900 tonnes of waste is generated every day in the hill state. The scheme also aims to solve the problem of unavailability of landfills to dispose of the solid waste across the hill state.

## AFSPA EXTENDED IN NAGALAND TILL DEC 2020

Union Government has declared the whole of Nagaland as "disturbed area" till the end of December 2020 by exercising its powers under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA). The decision was taken considering the fact that the entire Nagaland is in dangerous and disturbed condition and it has become imperative to use armed forces to help the civilians. Under AFSPA, Armed forces get special powers to act in civil areas and stay there for longer periods.

## TRAVANCORE ROYALS TO RUN KERALA TEMPLE

The Supreme Court, in its landmark ruling on July 13, has upheld the rights of Travancore royal family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The order reversed the Kerala High Court's January 31, 2011 direction to the Kerala state government to set up a body or a trust to manage and administer the affairs and assets of the Temple.

The ruling has cleared away the dispute over the administration of the Temple which is regarded as one

of the richest temples in the world. The Temple was rebuilt in its present form by the Travancore Royal House in the 18th century.

## WORLD BANK LOAN FOR STARS PROGRAMME

The World Bank has approved a \$500 million loan for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS) to improve the quality and governance of school education. The programme will cover six states - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan. The program will help India in renewing focus on addressing the 'learning outcome' challenge. It will also help the students in preparing for the jobs of the future via a series of reform initiatives.

- ❖ *Madhya Pradesh Tourism launched "IntzaarAapKa" campaign on social media platforms to attract tourists to the places of tourist interest in the state.*
- ❖ *The World Bank approved two loans, \$50 million and \$200 million for the Tamil Nadu to provide access to affordable housing to low-income groups in the state.*

**JUNE**

## HP WINS E-PANCHAYAT PURASKAR-2020

Himachal Pradesh state Panchayati raj department won 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj. All the 3,226 panchayats of the state have been provided with internet facilities and people can access online various services such as family register, registration of birth, death and marriages.

## STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX RELEASED

The FSSAI, food safety regulator of India released the second 'State Food Safety Index' on June 7 on the occasion of World Food Safety Day. Gujarat topped the index among larger states, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Among smaller States, Goa is at the top, followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among UTs, Chandigarh topped followed by Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Index ranks states on five parameters of food safety through a rigorous evaluation process every year.



## ODISHA GETS ISO FOR TRIBAL HOSTELS



Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students. The State had earlier launched last year the 'Mission Suvidya' to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources.

## CHHATTISGARH TO PROCURE COW DUNG

Chhattisgarh announced the launch of 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' to make animal husbandry commercially profitable, prevent open grazing by cattle and solve the problem of stray animals on roads and for environment conservation.

Under the scheme, the Chhattisgarh government will procure cow dung from livestock owners at a fixed procurement rate. This will encourage the livestock owners to provide proper fodder-water to their cattle and keep them tied at their place.

*The procured cow dung will be utilised for the production of vermicompost fertilizer, which will then be sold through cooperative societies to meet the fertilizer requirement of the farmers as well as that of the Agriculture, Forest, Horticulture and Urban Administration Department for various plantation campaigns.*

## KERALA TO PROVIDE FREE INTERNET TO POOR

Kerala has become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizens. The state launched the "Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project" project to provide quality high speed internet free of cost to the poor and at affordable rates to others.

*The K-FON network would provide internet connectivity to schools, hospitals, government offices and other institutions. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 1500 crore and it will kickstart from December 2020.*



## SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE PORT

The central government approved to rename the Kolkata Port Trust as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust on its 150th anniversary. Sh Mookerjee was the founder of Jan Sangh, initial mother party of today's BJP. He was the first Minister for Industry and Supply of Independent India.

*The Kolkata Port is the oldest and first major port and the only riverine port in India. Built on the River Hooghly, it is some 230 km away from the sea.*

## ASIATIC LIONS GROW BY 29% IN 5 YEARS

India has recorded a 29% increase in the population of Asiatic Lions in the last five years. The count has increased from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020, indicating a rise of 29% in lion's population. Asiatic Lions are found in the wild in the Gir sanctuary in western Gujarat. Asiatic Lions are an endangered species and are mostly confined to Gir forests in south west Gujarat.

## NEW FISH FOUND IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH



A new fish species named as "Schizothorax sikusirumensis" has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. The Fish species was discovered near Gakang area under Mebo circle of East Siang District, at the confluence of River Siku and Sirum.

- ❖ *The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has become the 1st airport in India, to have an indigenously-developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) at its new runway on both ends.*
- ❖ *The World Bank has given Rs. 1,950 crore loans to the West Bengal Government for tackling COVID situation and developmental work in the State.*

**MAY**

## MIZORAM DECLARES SPORTS AS INDUSTRY

In a significant move to give a boost to the sports sector in the state, the Mizoram government granted "industry" status to sports to generate employment and increase its return value. With this move, the sports and its infrastructure will be eligible to avail the facility of subsidy, loan and assistance from the private and government sources.





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## KONARK SUN TEMPLE TO BE SOLARISED



Union Government has launched a scheme for 100 per cent solarization of Konark Sun Temple and Konark town in Odisha to develop the historical Konark as Surya Nagri. The scheme envisages setting up of 10 Megawatt grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications like solar trees and solar drinking water kiosks. *The Sun Temple was erected in the mid 13th century by King Narasinghdeva I. It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984.*

## MANIPUR'S KHUDOL GETS UN PAT

The United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth has mentioned Manipur's 'Khudol' initiative in the top 10 global initiatives. Ya\_All, an Imphal based NGO started Khudol project to take care of health, hygiene and food for LGBTQI+ community, daily wage earners, people living with HIV, adolescents, and children. The NGO has also been responsible for creating India's first transgender football team.

**LGBTQI** stands for Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities

## COUNTRY'S FIRST FIR AT DOORSTEP FACILITY

The Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal. 'FIR Aapke Dwar' Yojana has been started as a pilot project in 23 Police Stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters. For this Yojana "Dial 100" vehicle would have trained Head Constables to lodge FIR.

## STAR RATING OF GARBAGE FREE CITIES

The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced the results of star rating of garbage free cities. It declared six cities - Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysore, Indore and Navi Mumbai as five-star garbage free cities. The 65 other cities have been rated 3 star and 70 cities rated 1 Star. The star rating protocol was launched by the Ministry in January 2018 to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve garbage free status and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.

## OLIVE RIDLEYS START THEIR JOURNEY TO SEA

Thousands of newly born Olive Ridley turtles along the Odisha coast, have started their journey back to sea. As of late March, Olive Ridley turtles settled in the Gahirmatha and Rushikulya rookery (a breeding colony) in the Odisha coast laid their eggs in the sand. From the start of May, the tiny hatchlings begin emerging from the sand and start their journey towards the sea water without facing any human interference. It is expected that more than two crore hatchlings will make their way to sea.

## WEST BENGAL TO UTILISE BARREN LANDS

With a view to generate income from the vacant barren lands of the state, West Bengal government launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to start income generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture in those areas. The scheme will benefit around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal, covering 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts which otherwise cannot produce anything naturally.



- ❖ *Telangana has become the first Indian state to regulate the cultivation of crops in the state. To begin with, growing paddy crops will be limited to just 50 lakh acres and the cultivation of Red Gram to 10 lakh acres.*
- ❖ *The Kashmir Saffron has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The saffron cultivated in Kashmir valley has a natural deep red colour and high aroma. It is processed without any chemicals.*
- ❖ *The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, AIIB signed a loan agreement for \$145 million to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area in West Bengal.*
- ❖ *The Asian Development Bank approved a \$177 million loan to upgrade 450 km of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.*
- ❖ *The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$ 346 million loan to Maharashtra to provide reliable power connections in rural areas of the state.*



# GOVT. INITIATIVES

JULY

## NEW CONSUMER ACT, 2019 NOTIFIED



The revised and enlarged Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into force on July 20. The Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said that this new Act will empower consumers and help them in protecting their rights through its various notified Rules and provisions. The New Act introduces the concept of product liability and brings within its scope, the product manufacturer, product service provider and product seller, for any claim for compensation.

*The Act includes establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority, CCPA to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. The CCPA will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints or prosecution. It can order recall of unsafe goods and services, order discontinuance of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements. It can also impose penalties on manufacturers or endorsers or publishers of misleading advertisements.*

## NEW RULES FOR E-COMMERCE PLAYERS

The government has notified new rules and regulations for e-commerce companies under the Consumer Protection Act 2019. It made it mandatory to display the 'country of origin' on their products stating that any non-compliance will attract penal action. Now the e-commerce players will have to display the total price of goods and services offered for sale along with the break-up of other charges.

*The 'Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020', notified on 23rd July are part of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.*

*The new norms aim to protect the rights of consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' disputes. They empower the central government to act against unfair trade practices in e-commerce and direct selling.*

## NEW SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme on 29th June as a part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan". The Scheme would attract a total investment of Rs 35,000 crore and generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment and benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training, better exposure and formalization.

*The Scheme will operate on One District One Product approach to reap benefits of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.*

## CABINET APPROVES AGRICULTURE INFRA FUND

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. The scheme will provide a medium and long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

Under the scheme, one lakh crore rupees will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations, Self Help Group, Farmers, Startups and Centre and State agencies, among others. The duration of the Scheme will be for ten years from Fiscal year 2020 to 2029.

## 'PRAGYATA' FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION

Union HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for Digital Education. As per the guidelines, online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes. It further mentions that two online sessions of up to 30-45 minutes each should be conducted for classes 1 to 8 and four sessions for classes 9 to 12.

*The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online education -- Plan, Review, Arrange, Guide, Yak(talk), Assign, Track, and Appreciate. The guidelines have been developed from the perspective of learners, with a focus on online, blended, digital education for students who are presently at home due to the lockdown.*



## 'NISHTHA' LAUNCHED IN VIRTUAL MODE



Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched the first online National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme in virtual mode. The programme covered 1,200 key resource persons of Andhra Pradesh. Launched under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan in August, last year, it aims to cover all the states and UTs. Till now it was being conducted in face to face mode.

*The NISHTHA programme focuses on the holistic development of children and includes the curriculum of education also. Various modules of NISHTHA include personal social qualities, art integrated learning, initiatives in school education, subject-specific pedagogies, ICT in teaching-learning, leadership, pre-school education, and pre-vocational education.*

## FISH CRYOBANKS TO BE SET UP IN THE COUNTRY

Government has decided to set up Fish Cryobanks in different parts of the country. This will facilitate all time availability of fish sperms of desired species to fish farmers. This will be the first time in the world that Fish Cryobank will be established. This will bring a revolutionary change in the fisheries sector in the country for enhancing fish production and productivity. A Cryobank is a facility for freezing and preserving semen at low temperatures (usually  $-196.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for future use.

## PORTAL TO MATCH SKILLS WITH JOBS

Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help



skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. The portal will map details of workers based on regions and local industry demands and will bridge the demand-

supply gap of skilled workforce across different sectors. It will be used as a match-making engine to match skilled workers with the jobs available.

## ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT APP CHALLENGE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 4 launched the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' to help the local developers to create indigenous apps. The innovation challenge aims at encouraging tech and startup communities to create world-class Made in India Apps. Under the challenge, innovators are invited to develop apps in eight categories. The Challenge has been launched jointly by the Ministry of Electronics & IT and NitiAayog's Atal Innovation Mission.

## 'ACCELERATE VIGYAN' TO PROMOTE RESEARCH

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has launched a new scheme called 'Accelerate Vigyan' to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country. The scheme aims to encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower, which can lead towards research careers and knowledge-based economy. SERB is a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology.

## 'ASPIRE' TO PROMOTE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Manesar (Haryana) based International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), a unit under ministry of heavy industry, has launched an e-Portal named ASPIRE -- Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education, to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector. It will facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise among the players of the vehicle industry to make them self reliant and to enable the growth of the automobile sector.

## UNICEF TO TRAIN 1 CRORE VOLUNTEERS

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has partnered with UNICEF, Paris to strengthen its resolve to mobilise 1 crore youth volunteers to achieve goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The ministry signed a memorandum of intent with YuWaah (a multi-stakeholder platform formed by UNICEF) to work in partnership to promote volunteerism among India's youth. The partnership will leverage both the ministry and UN efforts to work with young people to co-create and implement solutions for issues related to education, skilling and unemployment challenges.

## HELPLINE LAUNCHED FOR STUDENTS-TEACHERS

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishak virtually launched the Mano-darpan initiative under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to provide psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents and address their issues related to mental health and emotional well being during the current Corona crisis. The initiative will provide strength, suggestions and support to the students, teachers and families in the difficult situation. The helpline number 8448440632 has been launched to provide the consultation from morning 8 AM to 8 PM.



## CBSE LAUNCHES AI PROGRAM WITH IBM



The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21. The curriculum has been developed in collaboration with IBM, New York as a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program. The program will be introduced in around 200 schools, across 13 states in India.

## NSDC JOINS HANDS WITH MS FOR DIGI SKILLS

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Microsoft to offer digital skills to India's youth in the next 12 months amid the COVID-19 crisis. Microsoft will provide free access to learning resources and conduct digital skilling awareness drives. As a part of the partnership, "Microsoft Learn" a learning resource center of Microsoft, will be integrated with the eSkill India digital platform of NSDC and offer access to personalized learning paths and resources which will prepare India's workforce for jobs of the future.

## BILATERAL AIR BUBBLES: FUTURE OF FLYING

India is about to finalise the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany as a new way to resume international travel amid the Covid-19 pandemic with certain conditions. A travel bubble or a bilateral air bubble is a travel corridor between two countries that wish to reopen their borders and re-establish connections with each other. This is an exclusive partnership considered between countries that have either largely eliminated the virus, or trust the testing numbers.



## NHAI TO JOIN HANDS WITH IITs, NITs

The NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) has approached all IITs, NITs and reputed Engineering Colleges to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of National Highways on voluntary basis as part of Institutional Social Responsibility. The objective is to harness the intellectual prudence of students and faculty towards improvement of the road infrastructure ecosystem of the country.

The Institutes along with its faculty and students have better appreciation of local requirements, topography, and resource potential and these vital inputs can be utilized by NHAI during different stages of pre-construction, construction and operation of NH stretches.

## P'SHIP FOR CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) have entered a partnership for clean energy development. The partnership has been established between the USAID-supported South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE) and MNRE's National Technical Institutions under which SAGE will offer advanced technical knowledge on clean energy development to National Technical Institutions.

## INDIA'S FIRST SANSKRIT RADIO NEWS MAGAZINE



In keeping with its spirit to give a fillip to Indian languages, All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in Sanskrit from June 4. The programme titled, 'Sanskrit Saptahiki' will be of 20 minutes duration and can be heard at 7.10 A.M on every Saturday on All India Radio FM News Channel, 100.1 MHz frequency.

## RAILWAY AIMS TO GO 'GREEN' BY 2030

Indian Railways is taking decisive steps to transform itself as a 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030. It is endeavouring to be self reliant for its energy needs by utilising its vacant land for renewable energy projects. The present demand of Railways would be fulfilled by the solar projects being deployed, making it the first transport organization to be energy self-sufficient. This would help in making Railways green as well as AtmaNirbhar.

## RAILWAY TO START 151 PRIVATE TRAINS



The Ministry of Railway has invited the request for private participation by proposing 151 trains to be run by private operators over 109 Origin Destinations. These new trains will be in addition to the already existing trains. The proposed trains will run on the routes where the demand for trains is higher than the existing capacity.

This will be the first time of private investment for running passenger trains in Indian Railways. The driver and the guards of the trains will be Railway Officials and the safety clearance of the trains will be done by Indian railways only. Private entities will be responsible for financing, procuring, maintenance, and operation of the trains.

## JUNE

### SPACE SECTOR OPENED FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities through a regulatory environment that is friendly as well as guiding.

It will also enable Indian Industry in becoming an important player in the global space economy. However, ISRO will remain the basic body that decides what missions are to be undertaken but this new body will help fill the gaps.

### "GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAN" LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 20th launched the "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan" (Poors' Welfare Employment Mission)- a programme to generate employment opportunities in rural India for migrant workers returning home amid the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown.

The scheme launched in six states, will provide livelihood opportunities to the migrant workers and will help in the development of rural areas by creating local infrastructure.

The scheme has been "inspired by migrants" whose heart-breaking condition during the lockdown had made headlines. The labourers who had earlier contributed to the development of cities would now be provided jobs nearer to their hometowns and villages.

## TULIP TO PROMOTE URBAN INTERNS

The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched a joint initiative, TULIP - "The Urban Learning Internship Programme" for fresh engineering graduates, who will get an opportunity to work for 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the country.

TULIP will equip the youth with problem solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on, experiential learning in India's fast growing urban ecosystem. The platform will utilise the innovative thought process of youths to improve the urban infrastructure.

## DEDICATED PORTAL FOR AI DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledging the power and penetration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), the government in collaboration with the IT industry leader NASSCOM launched a dedicated platform for AI in the country. The platform called ai.gov.in acts as a centralised source to find AI/ML work opportunities and progress of government-supported projects in India. The platform will combine AI development in India, sharing of resources related to startups, AI investment funds, and institutes offering AI courses.

## NEW SKILL PLATFORM FOR JOB SEEKERS

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in partnership with IBM has unveiled Free Digital Learning Platform 'Skills Build Reignite' to reach more job seekers and provide new resources to business owners in India. IBM has committed to provide multifaceted digital skill training in the area of Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence to students and trainers in National Skill Training Institutes and ITIs.

## 'SWADES' LAUNCHED FOR RETURNING INDIANS

Union Government has launched a new initiative named SWADES- "Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support" to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning Indians under the Vande Bharat Mission. SWADES aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skill sets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies. The collected information will be shared with the companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country. This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Civil Aviation Ministry and External Affairs Ministry.





## SVANIDHI TO SUPPORT STREET VENDORS



Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi" - a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to street vendors. The scheme is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown. The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh street vendors, who had been vending on or before 24th March this year, in urban areas. The vendors can avail a working capital loan of upto Rs 10,000, repayable in 12 monthly installments.

## DECARBONISING TRANSPORT IN INDIA

NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF) launched a new project called 'Decarbonising Transport in India' on June 24 to develop a low-carbon transport system in the country. The ambitious five-year project will help India develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system through the development of modelling tools and policy scenarios. The project assumes more significance in the current scenario of COVID-19, as there will be a shift from public transport in the coming years. The ITF is a Paris based intergovernmental organisation for transport policy optimisation to which India has been a member since 2008.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY INFRA DEV FUND



In a landmark decision, the government introduced a Rs. 15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund for infrastructure related development in animal

husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises. The fund aims to provide employment to nearly 35 lakh youths in the country. Under the scheme, upto 90 per cent of the loan amount for starting such enterprises will be given by banks. The government will provide 3 percent interest subvention to the eligible beneficiaries. They will also be given a 2 years moratorium period for principal loan amount and 6 years repayment period thereafter.

## 'YUKTI 2.0' TO PROMOTE INNOVATION

Union HRD Minister launched an initiative 'YUKTI 2.0' to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in our higher education institutions. The Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation (YUKTI) platform seeks to cover the different dimensions of COVID-19 challenges in a very holistic and comprehensive way.

*YUKTI web portal was launched earlier on April 11, 2020. The portal aims to ensure that students, teachers and researchers in higher educational institutions get required support to meet the requirements needed to advance their technologies and innovations.*

## GeM TO PROMOTE "MADE IN INDIA"

Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) has made it mandatory for the sellers to mention their country of origin while registering all new products on GeM. Government-e-Marketplace is a special purpose vehicle which comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The portal will also issue a warning that those who fail to upload the required details, their products will be removed from the GeM portal.

*The step taken by GeM aims at promoting Prime Minister's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and strengthening of 'Make in India' campaign. The GeM portal was launched by the central government in August 2016 to facilitate online purchases of goods and services by all the central government departments and ministries.*

## "SATYABHAMA" TO PROMOTE MINING RESEARCH

Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi launched R&D portal "Science and Technology Yojana for Atmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)" for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines to increase efficiency as well as effectiveness in the implementation of the Scheme.

The portal allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds/grants. The Portal will increase efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the Scheme.



## ONLINE GAS TRADING PLATFORM LAUNCHED



The Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan launched the country's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform -- the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The trading platform will enable market participants to trade in standardised gas contracts.

IGX is fully automated with a web-based interface and it provides a seamless trading experience to the customers. IGX is expected to facilitate transparent price discovery in natural gas, and facilitate the growth of the share of natural gas in India's energy basket.

## NEW CLAIM SETTLEMENT FACILITY BY EPFO

Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched a "Multi Location Claim Settlement" facility to cover claims such as provident fund withdrawal, pension, partial withdrawal, etc. The facility will enable EPFO offices to settle online claims from any of its regional offices, across the country.

## FEEDBACK CALL CENTRES ON GRIEVANCES

The Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the "Feedback Call Centres on Public Grievances" to take up citizen grievances in an effective manner along with a feedback mechanism. The project has been launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances - DARPG. The DARPG has in collaboration with BSNL operationalized Feedback Call Centers in Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Jamshedpur, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Ajmer, Guntur, Coimbatore, Guntakal with 1406 call centre operators.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LAB

The Department of Biotechnology under the ministry of Science and Technology launched India's first mobile infectious disease diagnostic lab. This rapid response mobile laboratory is part of government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The lab is a BSL-2 facility with on site Elisa, real-time reverse tranion polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test and Biochemistry analysers. The lab can test about 200 Elisa and about 50 RT PCR per day.

## AROGYA PATH' FOOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES

CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi launched portal AarogyaPath, a web based solution for the healthcare supply chain was launched to serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers to effectively deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. This integrated public platform will provide single-point availability of key healthcare goods that will be helpful to customers in tackling a number of routinely experienced issues.

*This national healthcare supply chain portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic. This public platform will help healthcare users like hospitals, pathology laboratories, research institutes, medical colleges and patients.*

## C'TEE FOR WELFARE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The Ministry of Home Affairs has reconstituted a new committee to review the welfare of the freedom fighters. This committee is headed by the minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy and 9 other "eminent freedom fighters" from across the country. The Ministry disburses pension to about 30,000 freedom fighters and their families.

## SAHAKAR MITRA INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Sahakar Mitra Internship programme to provide paid internship to youth and ensure availability of assured project loans to young cooperators. Scheme will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation) and cooperatives as a paid intern.

*Under the scheme, professionals in disciplines including Agriculture and allied areas, IT, Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, Forestry, Rural Development, Project Management will be eligible for the paid internship for a period of four months.*

## CBIC LAUNCHES TURANT (INSTANT) CUSTOMS

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC launched its flagship programme Turant (instant) Customs, at Bengaluru and Chennai for technology based faster Customs clearance of imported goods. Importers will now get their goods cleared from Customs after a faceless assessment is done remotely by the Customs officers located outside the port of import. at Bengaluru and vice versa.



## ONE INDIA, ONE AGRICULTURE MARKET



The union cabinet approved an ordinance for the creation of 'One India, One Agriculture Market' to set up an ecosystem where farmers and traders will have the freedom of choice of sale and purchase of the agricultural produce across the country. The ordinance will remove restrictions on the sale of farm goods and enable their farmers to sell produce outside APMC digital platforms without incurring taxes.

It will remove the existing barriers by promoting barrier-free trade and commerce within the states, outside the physical premises of the mandis notified under the state Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations.

## REAL-TIME MARKET (RTM) IN ELECTRICITY

On June 3, India joined the group of select nations to have a Real-Time Market (RTM) in electricity. This will allow consumers to buy power just one hour before the delivery. The pan India RTM is an organized market platform that will enable the buyers and sellers to meet their energy requirements closer to real-time operations.

It will enable the consumers, including captive users and distribution companies (discoms) to buy power on exchanges just an hour before the delivery. The RTM will hold auctions every 30 minutes, having 48 sessions of auctions in a day.

*The RTM will help to mitigate challenges to the grid management due to the variable nature of renewable energy generation and therefore, it will help to integrate a more renewable energy sources into the grid.*



## '#ICOMMIT' CAMPAIGN TO HARNESS ENERGY

The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a unit of Ministry of Power, Government of India launched the '#iCommit' campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day - June 5. The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.

*The '#iCommit' initiative is centred on the idea of building an energy resilient future. The initiative aims to bring together a diverse set of players such as Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals.*

## 'NAGAR VAN' TO MAKE INDIAN CITIES GREEN

On World Environment Day, June 5, the government announced the Nagar Van (Urban Forests) scheme to develop 200 urban forests across the country in the next five years. The urban forest will help in creating and enhancing the lung capacities of cities and will primarily be on the forest land or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies.



*According to the World Economic Forum, cities that have more trees are less noisy, with lower pollution levels. A fully-grown tree can annually absorb up to 150kg of carbon dioxide — one of the main greenhouse gases contributing to global warming.*

## NITI LAUNCHES BEHAVIOURAL CAMPAIGN

A behaviour change campaign called "Navigating the New Normal" has been launched by the NITI Aayog in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ashoka University, Centre for Social and Behavioural Change, and the Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Women & Child Development. The campaign aims at increasing public participation by encouraging people to practise Covid-safe behaviours and promoting use of face masks as the best preventive measure.

**'GOAL' FOR ONLINE MENTORING OF TRIBALS**

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the "GOAL - Going Online As Leaders" programme in partnership with Facebook to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode. The programme intends to upskill and empower 5,000 tribal youths in the current phase to harness the full potential of digital platforms and tools to learn new ways of doing business and to explore and connect with domestic and international markets.

**P M VAYA VANDANA YOJANA LAUNCHED**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched revised Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana-- the non-linked, non-participating, pension plan subsidized by the Centre. The finance ministry had recently extended the pension plan till 31 March, 2023 with an assured interest rate of 7.40% p.a. for FY 2020-21. Investors can get a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs. 9,250 at maximum by investing minimum Rs. 1,62,162 to maximum Rs. 15,00,000.

**SPECIAL MISSIONS TO BRING BACK INDIANS**

In one of the largest evacuation exercises since the 1990 Kuwait airlift, the government launched "**Vande Bharat Mission**" to operate 64 flights from May 7 to 13 to bring home thousands of Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown. Under the repatriation plan, the government will be facilitating the return of Indian nationals stranded abroad on compelling grounds in a phased manner. Further, the Indian Navy launched Operation "**Samudra Setu**" (Sea Bridge) to repatriate Indian citizens from Male. Naval ships Jalashwa and Magar are part of this operation.

**'CHAMPIONS' PORTAL LAUNCHED**

The Ministry of MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) launched the CHAMPIONS portal ([www.Champions.gov.in](http://www.Champions.gov.in)) to assist Indian MSMEs in becoming national and global champions. The portal mainly aims to make smaller units big by solving their grievances and encouraging, supporting, helping and hand holding them. It is a technology-driven Control Room-cum-Management Information System. The name Champion stands for "Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength".

**PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA**

The government plans to launch a 20,000 crore rupees "*Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana*" (Prime Minister Fisheries Wealth Scheme) for the development of marine and inland fisheries. Of this, 11,000 crore rupees will be earmarked for activities in marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture while 9,000 crore rupees for infrastructure creation such as fishing harbours, cold chain and markets. The scheme is expected to provide employment to over 55 lakh persons and double the marine exports to one lakh crore rupees.

**"NATIONAL TEST ABHYAAS" APP LAUNCHED**

Union HRD Ministry launched an app named 'National Test Abhyaas' to provide free mock tests to the JEE and NEET aspirants. As the students are unable to attend their coaching classes due to the coronavirus lockdown, this app will help the students to prepare for their examinations.

Candidates can take the test anytime and get immediate scores on their mobile screens and can see the correct answers with explanations. The app will also analyse the time spent on different sections to enable the students know their weak and strength areas and prepare better accordingly. The app can be downloaded from Google Play Store for free.

**CAPF TO SELL ONLY INDIGENOUS PRODUCTS**

With a view to support indigenous manufacturing for strengthening a self-reliant India, the Home Ministry has decided that from June 01, 2020, all the dry canteens of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will sell only indigenous products. The move will affect 50 lakh families, of about 10 lakh CAPF personnel, using indigenous products.

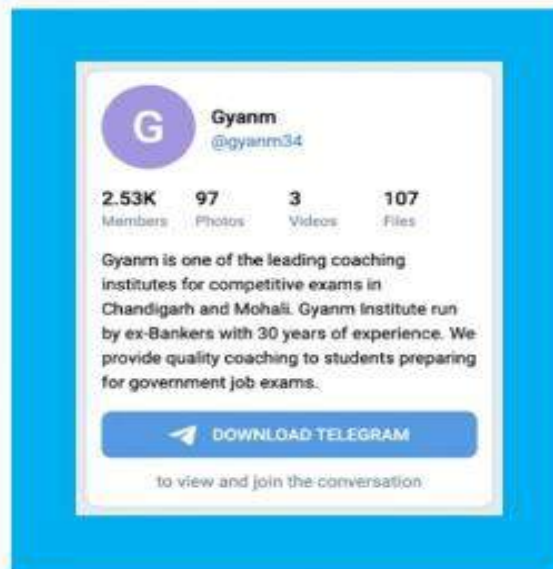
This decision was taken after the Prime Minister urged citizens to make the country self-reliant and use locally-made products. The CAPFs -- CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles -- canteens together sell products worth about Rs. 2,800 crore annually.





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## PORTAL FOR PROMOTION OF MSMEs



The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) launched an online bank of schemes, ideas, innovation and Research. The portal gives access to all MSME related schemes of Union, States and UT governments and has the provision for uploading ideas, innovations and researches in the sector. It has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of ideas, but also evaluation and rating the ideas by the same. It can also facilitate inflow of venture capital, and foreign collaboration. Besides, the portal will benefit the potential entrepreneurs as one stop compendium of ideas, innovation and research ready for commercialization.

## CSIR LAUNCHES KISAN SABHA APP

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched the Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system. It will connect the farmers, transporters, service providers like pesticides and fertilizer dealers, cold store and warehouse owners, mandi aarthiyas, customers and other related entities for a timely and effective solution.

It aims to provide the most economical logistics support to the farmers and increase their profit margins by minimizing interference of middlemen and directly connecting with the institutional buyers. It will help in providing best market rates of crops by comparing nearest mandis, booking of freight vehicles at cheapest cost thereby giving maximum benefit to the farmers.



# ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

JULY

## INDIA'S GDP MAY CONTRACT BY 4.5%

The Ministry of Finance in its June 2020 macroeconomic report has stated that India's economic growth is expected to contract 4.5% in the current fiscal year 2020-21. The Report highlighted that the shrinkage is because of the slower global economic growth amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The uncertainty around COVID-19 in the absence of a vaccine poses a greater challenge.

## INDIA TO STORE CRUDE IN US CAVERNS

India signed a preliminary agreement with the US for cooperating on emergency crude oil reserves, including the possibility of India storing oil in the US emergency stockpile. Strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) in the US are built and maintained by private companies and so India will have to pay their rentals. The pact allows India to explore the possibility of storing its oil in US SPR, comprising underground caverns in Texas and Louisiana. The oil stored in the US reserves can be used for the nation's own needs or can be traded to capture price advantage



## US REMAINS INDIA'S TOP TRADING PARTNER

Latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce shows that the United States has emerged as India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal year in 2019-20 pointing towards increasing economic ties between the two nations. As per the data, the bilateral trade between the US and India has increased from \$87.96 billion in 2018-19 to \$88.75 billion in the fiscal year 2019-20. From 2013-14 to 2017-18, China was India's top trading partner.

## INDIA TO HAVE FTA WITH UK

India and the United Kingdom have affirmed their shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement between both the countries. The two sides will engage into limited trade agreements in a phased manner by taking preparatory steps towards the free trade agreement. The declaration was announced during the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting which was held virtually on July 24.



## NO IMPORTS FROM INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS



The Union Government has amended the General Financial Rules 2017 to impose restrictions on public procurement from countries that share a land border with India on national security grounds. The Department of Expenditure issued a detailed order on public procurement to strengthen India's defence and national security. Under the order, any bidder from countries sharing a land border with India will be eligible to bid for the procurement of any goods or services only if the bidder is registered with the Competent Authority.

## GOOGLE TO INVEST \$10 BLN IN DIGITAL INDIA

Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore in India over the next 5 to 7 years through "Google for India Digitisation Fund". He asserted that the latest move is a reflection of the company's confidence in the future of India and its digital economy. The investments will focus on four key areas of India's digitisation that include developing local needs oriented solutions and more products in local languages. Pichai is also the CEO of the Alphabet, parent company of Google.

## NLC AND CIL FORM NEW JOINT VENTURE

NLC India Ltd (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corp. Ltd.) and Coal India Ltd. signed an agreement for formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis. The equity participation in the proposed JVC between Coal India and NLC will be in the ratio of 50:50. Both the companies are public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal.



## \$750 MILLION WORLD BANK AID FOR MSMEs

The World Bank on July 1 has announced a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response Program to increase the flow of funds to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. The program will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million MSMEs in India. Apart from protecting jobs, it will also help them to withstand the shock of a shattering economy.

## AIIB LENDS \$100 MN TO L&T

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has released a \$50 million loan to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd.

This is the first tranche of a \$100 mn loan to the company for funding renewable energy projects in the country. The L&T will on-lend this fund to large and mid-scale wind and solar power infra projects in India.

## RIL FIRST TO CROSS RS.14 TRILLION CAP MARK

On July 24, Reliance Industries (RIL) crossed the Rs 14 lakh crore market-valuation mark, becoming the first Indian company to reach that benchmark. The aggregate market capitalisation of Reliance Industries stood at Rs 14.1 lakh crore or \$189.3 billion as its shares reached an all time high of Rs.2163 valuation during the day's trading. Consequently, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, RIL jumped to the 5th rank among the richest persons of the world.



JUNE

## MOODY'S PROJECT 3.1% SHRINKAGE

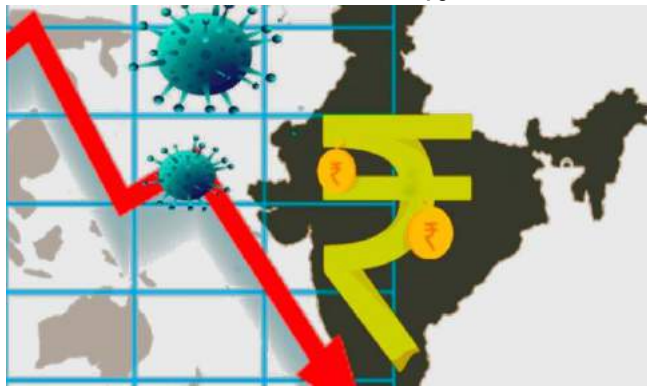
Moody's Investors Service in its Global Macro Outlook (2020-21) has projected the Indian economy to shrink by 3.1% in the fiscal year 2020, while it is expected to register 6.9% growth in fiscal year 2021. The forecast has been sharply revised after taking into consideration the disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## OECD PROJECTS 3.7% SHRINKAGE IN ECONOMY

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD, Paris in its report Economic Outlook has forecasted Indian economy to contract by 3.7% in the fiscal year 2020-21. It also stated that if there is a second COVID-19 outbreak in the country, and then its growth will drop further to -7.3%.

*Apart from the pandemic, the report counted heightened financial market instability, resulting from the deterioration in balance sheets of the government, corporates and banks, as a key risk. The report further said that this would keep investment rates low and weigh on growth prospects.*

### INDIA'S GDP TO SHRINK BY 3.2% - WB



As India reels from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank projects the country's economy to shrink by 3.2 per cent in the current fiscal year, the worst performance since 1979. The Bank's Global Economic Prospects report says that "Stringent measures to control the spread of the virus will heavily curtail activity, despite some support from fiscal and monetary stimulus. Spillovers from weaker global growth and balance sheet stress in the financial sector will also weigh on activity."

### IMF PREDICTS 4.55% FALL IN ECONOMY

The International Monetary Fund has projected that Indian economy will experience a sharp contraction of 4.55% in Fiscal Year 2020-21. The IMF called this a "historic low" for India. These projections have been stated by the IMF in its latest World Economic Outlook titled "A Crisis like No Other, An Uncertain Outlook".

### INDIAN GDP SET TO SHRINK BY 4% -- ADB

The Asian Development Bank has projected Indian economy to contract by 4% in Fiscal Year 2021 as businesses came to a standstill for more than two months due to the nationwide lockdown implemented to contain the COVID-19. The Bank expects India's economy to recover in Fiscal Year 2022 with a growth rate of 5%, as economic activity will get to its normal state gradually.

### S&P PROJECTS 5% SHRINKAGE IN INDIA'S GDP

S&P Global Ratings, New York in its report on emerging markets titled "Financial Conditions Reflect Optimism, Lockdown Fatigue Emerges" has forecasted Indian



economy to shrink by 5% in fiscal year 2020-21 as the nationwide lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed economic activity severely. It also projects India's growth

to rebound to 8.5% in the fiscal year 2021-22.

### MOODY'S LOWERS INDIA RATING TO 'BAA3'

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded India's credit rating to the lowest investment grade Baa3 from Baa2 while maintaining a negative outlook. The agency said that the economy of India is expected to face slower growth for a prolonged period due to the financial crisis amid the COVID-19 pandemic, rising debts and weakening of debt affordability.

### MSP ANNOUNCED FOR KHARIF CROPS

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for the marketing season 2020-21 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. MSP / per Quintal of some major crops is as under:

Paddy-1888; Cotton- long - 5825; Groundnut- 5275; Maize - 1850; Tuar/Urd Dal - 6000; Moong Dal - 7196; Sunflower - 5885

### INDIAN TRADERS TO REJECT CHINESE GOODS



The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has prepared a list of 3,000 items which are currently imported from China and easily replaceable by Indian manufactured goods. The campaign titled 'Indian Goods - Our Pride' aims to achieve reduction in imports of Chinese manufactured goods by Rs 1 lakh crore by December 2021. The CAIT claims to represent 7 crore traders and 40,000 trade associations.

### NEW DEFINITION OF MSMEs NOTIFIED

Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME has issued Gazette notification for the upward revision in the definition and criteria of MSMEs with effect from 1st July, 2020.

*Under the new definition, manufacturing and services enterprises with investments up to Rs 1 crore and turnover up to Rs 5 crore will be classified as micro enterprises. For small enterprises, the investment criteria has been revised upwards to Rs 10 crore, with the turnover criteria of Rs 50 crore added to the mix. Enterprises with investment up to Rs 20 crore and turnover up to Rs 100 crore will be termed medium enterprises. As part of the new definition, exports will not be counted in turnover for any MSME.*



## CUSTOMS DUTY HIKED ON BAMBOO IMPORTS



The Government of India has raised the Customs duty on bamboo imports from 10% to 25% with immediate effect with a view to encourage the use of domestic bamboo. The step has been taken as part of the Aatmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The newly decided customs duty will now be applicable uniformly to any import of bamboo, including by traders.

*This measure is expected to benefit bamboo growers and MSME agarbatti manufacturers. In monetary terms, the import of raw agarbatti in India increased exponentially from Rs 31 crore in 2009 to Rs 546 crore in 2019 due to reduction of import duty in 2011 from 30% to 10%.*

## INDIA 9<sup>th</sup> IN WORLD IN RECEIVING FDI

As per a recent report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India received 51 billion US dollar in foreign investment in 2019. It was the world's ninth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). The report said, India's large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments to the country. Most of the investments were in the information and communication technology and the construction industry.

## WORLD'S 1<sup>st</sup> DOUBLE STACK CONTAINER TRAIN

Indian Railways has set a new world benchmark by successfully running the first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on Western Railway. The train carried two layers of containers, placed one over the other.

*This tremendous achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India. The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat, covering a distance of 338 km.*



## FX RESERVES CROSS \$500 BILLION MARK

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by a massive 8.22 billion dollars to cross the half-a-trillion mark for the first time. The reserves rose to 501.70 billion dollars for the week ended 5th of June, helped by a whopping rise in foreign currency assets.

## RELIANCE CROSSES \$150 BILLION MARK

The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to reach \$150-billion mark in terms of market capitalisation. It achieved this milestone when its share price had gained 6.23% to close at Rs 1,759, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 11.15 lakh crore i.e. around \$150 billion.

**MAY**

## GDP GROWTH SLIPS TO 11 YEAR LOW

According to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on May 29, India's economic growth slipped to 3.1 per cent in the January-March quarter of 2019-20 showing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019-20, the Indian economy grew by an 11-year low rate of 4.2 percent against 6.1 per cent expansion in 2018-19.

Although the government imposed a lockdown on March 25 to combat COVID-19, yet, slowing down of business activities across the world in January-March adversely impacted the Indian economy.

## UN PROJECTS INDIA'S GROWTH AT 1.2%

The World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the UN slashed India's projected growth rate to 1.2 per cent in 2020. Further, it forecasts that the global economy will contract sharply by 3.2 per cent as the Covid-19 pandemic paralyses the world, sharply restricting economic activities, increasing uncertainties and unleashing a recession unseen since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Cumulatively, the world economy is expected to lose nearly \$8.5 trillion in output in 2020 and 2021, nearly wiping out the cumulative output gains of the previous four years, the report said.

## RAILWAYS' MOST POWERFUL LOCO LAUNCHED

The Indian Railways' most powerful 12000 HP Made in India locomotive made its maiden commercial run between Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (Mughalsarai) and Shivpur stations in Uttar Pradesh on May, 18. Built by French company Alstom under the government's 'Make in India' programme at the Railways' Madhepura factory in Bihar, these engines are the highest-powered locomotives to run on Indian rails.

*As part of the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) project of the Indian Railways, the Ministry of Railways and Alstom inked a Joint Venture worth Rs 25,000 crore in 2015 for manufacturing 800 double-section electric locomotives of 12000 HP in a period of 11 years.*

## ONGC & NTPC MoU FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY



India's top oil and gas producer ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) and country's biggest electricity generator, NTPC Ltd. entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 21 to set up a joint venture company for renewable energy projects. As per the MoU, NTPC and ONGC will explore and set up renewable power assets including offshore wind, in India and overseas, and explore opportunities in the fields of sustainability, storage, e-mobility & ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) compliant projects.

## FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION TO CROSS 295 MT

The 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2019-20 crop year, released by the Agriculture Ministry show that the total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at a record 295.67 million tonnes, which is higher by 10.46 million tonnes from previous year. The total production of Rice is estimated at around 118 million tonnes while that of Wheat is estimated at record over 107 million tonnes.

## JIO GETS RS.11, 367 CR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on May 8 announced the sale of 2.32% stake in its digital unit Jio Platforms to US-based private equity firm Vista Equity Partners for Rs 11,367 crore. It is the third deal (the other two being Facebook and Silver Lake) in a little over two weeks that will inject a combined Rs 60,596.37 crore in the oil-to-telecom conglomerate to help it cut down its debt.



# BANKING & FINANCE

JULY

## INDIA RANKS 5<sup>th</sup> IN FX RESERVES

India's foreign exchange reserves surged to record \$ 517.64 billion on July 17, ranking fifth largest in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia, as per the report by the International Monetary Fund. India's foreign exchange reserves are equivalent to almost one fifth of the country's gross domestic product. They are considered to be enough to cover 13 months of imports.

## SPECIAL SCHEME FOR NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India issued operational guidelines for the Rs 30,000-crore special liquidity facility for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). The guidelines include eligibility criteria for institutions availing of the facility. The SBI Capital Markets has set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV), called SLS Trust, to administer the scheme.

## 'UPI AUTOPAY' LAUNCHED BY NPCI

National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched UPI AutoPay feature for recurring payments. With this new facility, customers can enable recurring e-mandate using any UPI application for recurring payments such as mobile bills, electricity bills, EMI payments, entertainment and OTT subscriptions, insurance, mutual funds and loan payments, among others of up to Rs. 2000. For the amount more than Rs. 2000, customers will have to execute every mandate with UPI PIN.

*NPCI, promoted by RBI and a consortium of banks, is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. It is based in Mumbai.*

## BANKS TO KNOW TDS ON CASH WITHDRAWAL

The Income Tax Department has facilitated a new functionality for Banks and Post offices through which they can ascertain the TDS applicability rates on cash withdrawals. Under it, the Banks and Post Offices can ascertain the TDS applicability rates on cash withdrawals of above Rs 20 lakh in case of a non-filer of the income-tax return and that of above Rs one crore in case of a filer of the income-tax return.

## TAMIL NADU TOPS IN MARKET BORROWINGS

According to data from the RBI, Tamil Nadu has topped market borrowings among States in the country, accounting for 17% of the total borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans). The state is followed by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.



## IRDAI ALLOWS 'CORONA KAVACH' POLICY



In view of the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in the country, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, IRDAI, has allowed 30 general and health insurers to launch short-term 'Corona Kavach' health insurance policies. The policy will cover medical expenses incurred due to coronavirus disease. The policy can be availed by persons between the age of 18 to 65 years for a cover from 50 thousand rupees to five lakh rupees.

## INSTANT AUTO LOANS FROM HDFC BANK

HDFC Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities. The move comes in response to a hike in demand for entry-level cars as people try to avoid public transport due to corona fears. Under the scheme, HDFC Bank customers are given pre-approved loan offers using the bank's proprietary algorithm and analytics. Customers can complete all the formalities in online mode.

## ALL-in-ONE APP FOR FARMERS BY HDFC BANK

HDFC Bank has launched the 'e-KisaanDhan' app for farmers all over India. Through their mobile phones, the farmers will be able to access the services, both banking and agriculture. Users can avail multiple banking services like procuring loans, the opening of Bank accounts, availing insurance facilities, calculate KCC loan eligibility online, and acquiring Government social security schemes at their fingertips. The app will provide value-added services like mandi prices, latest farming news, weather forecast, information on seed varieties, SMS advisory, e-pashu haat, Kisan TV, and more.

## BoB OFFERS ONLINE ACCOUNT OPENING

Bank of Baroda has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account', a digital self-assisted online savings account, for all its customers. The account uses a new form of digital KYC and Aadhar based OTP authentication of the customer, which can be operated from the bank's website, through Mobile phone, iPad, Laptops, and PC.

## UBI BECOMES CORPORATE AGENT OF LIC

Union Bank of India has executed a corporate agency agreement with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to distribute LIC policies to its customers.

UBI has its headquarters in Mumbai and its tag line is "Good People to Bank With".

**JUNE**

## COOP BANKS TO BE REGULATED BY RBI

The union cabinet approved the move to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India, with a view to enhance sense of security among depositors of these banks. While RBI has been regulating and supervising their banking functions, primary oversight has been with the Registrar of Societies that regulated structuring of their boards. The President promulgated the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 in pursuance of the commitment to ensure safety of depositors across banks. Soon on June 27 to clear way for its implementation. *There are about 1,482 urban cooperative banks and 58 multi-state co-operative banks with a depositor's base of about 8.6 crore with total savings deposit of about Rs 4.85 lakh crore.*

## PAYMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEV FUND

The Reserve Bank of India has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIFD) of Rs. 500 Crore to improve and support the development of the digital payments ecosystem in the northeast and rural districts in India.

The initial contribution of Rs. 250 crore to the PIFD has been made by the RBI while the other half of the fund is expected to be contributed by all card-issuing banks and the network operators. The fund aims to promote and encourage more and more establishment of Points of Sale (Card swipe machines).

## WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW PRIVATE BANKS

The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a five-member Internal Working Group headed by P K Mohanty, Director, RBI Central Board to review the guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks. The panel will also examine norms for promoter shareholding at the initial/licensing stage and subsequently, along with the timelines for dilution of the shareholding.



## \$20.1 MILLION LoC BY EXIM BANK



The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended a \$20.1 million Line of Credit (LoC) to the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital. Nicaragua is a small country west of Caribbean Sea at the southern tip of the North America continent.

## BoB TO DIGITISE LOANING OPERATIONS

Bank of Baroda, India's third-largest public sector bank has decided to completely digitise its lending operations including all types of loans such as agriculture, home, MSME, auto and personal loans. The bank is looking to completely do away with paper-based lending. It has reached out to the big four consultants like McKinsey and Boston Consulting Group to help set up a "digital lending platform".

## HOME LOAN SCHEME FOR POORS BY ICICI

ICICI Home Finance launched SARAL – an Affordable Housing Loan scheme for women, lower-middle-income customers, and economically weaker sections who have a maximum household income up to Rs 6 lakhs annually, in both urban and rural areas.

## 'INSTA FLEXICASH' – OD FACILITY BY ICICI

ICICI Bank has introduced an online overdraft (OD) facility 'Insta FlexiCash' for its salary account customers. The end-to-end fully digital facility is available with no documentation, using the Bank's internet banking platform without visiting a bank branch.



MAY

## RBI SLASHES KEY RATES

The Reserve Bank of India on May 22 slashed the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4 percent, from 4.4 percent earlier. The reverse repo rate was also lowered to 3.35 percent to maintain accommodative stance.

The Bank Rate and rate on MSF now stand at 4.25 percent. The RBI also extended the moratorium on repayment of loans given by financial institutions by three more months till August 31.

The other measures announced were divided into four categories -- to improve functioning of markets, to support exports and imports, to ease financial stress by giving relief on debt servicing and better access to working capital and to ease financial constraints faced by State Governments.

## COOP BANKS COVERED UNDER SARFAESI - SC



A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that all co-operative banks in the country could make use of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) to make recovery from defaulting borrowers.

The ruling aims to remove the delays caused by going through the civil court or summary procedure under the Cooperative Societies Act. The apex court held that all such cooperative banks involved in the activities related to banking are covered within the meaning of 'banking company'. The SARFAESI Act, 2002 empowers banks to seize the assets of defaulting borrowers, directly, without going to the court.

## KOTAK FIRST TO LAUNCH VIDEO KYC

In a major development, Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) announced the introduction of Video KYC to open a full-fledged Kotak 811 savings account – a first in Indian banking. It will be a zero-contact, completely digital and paperless account opening + Full KYC journey.

With video KYC, verification of documents, signatures are completed via a video call with a representative from the bank without any physical interface.



# DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JULY

## ARMED FORCES GET EXTRA FINANCIAL POWERS



The Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs 300 crore to meet their immediate operational requirements.

The decision will shrink the procurement timelines and ensure placement of orders within six months and commencement of deliveries within one year. The decision was taken considering the tense security environment prevailing along the Northern Borders and the need to strengthen the Armed Forces.

## PC FOR WOMEN IN INDIAN ARMY

Defence Ministry has finally issued the formal Sanction Letter for grant of permanent commission (PC) for Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in the Indian army. This will pave the way for empowering women officers to shoulder larger roles in the organisation. Accordingly, the Army Headquarters in New Delhi has set in motion a series of preparatory actions for conduct of the Permanent Commission Selection Board for eligible women officers. Women SSC officers were till now allowed PC only in the Judge and Advocate General and Army Educational Corps branches.

## INDIAN NAVY'S LARGEST SOLAR POWER PLANT



The Indian navy commissioned its largest Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala in Kerala. It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022. The plant has been executed by the Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.

## INDIAN AND US NAVIES CONDUCT PASSEX

Indian Naval Ships conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the world's largest aircraft carrier USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in the Indian Ocean near Andaman - Nicobar Islands. Both Indian Navy and the US Navy conducted high-end exercises designed to maximize training and interoperability, including air defence.

## 'DHRUVAstra' MISSILE TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

The DRDO conducted trials of Helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra' at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha. Dhruvastra is the helicopter version of 'Nag Helina' missile with several new features and meant to be fired from air to destroy enemy bunkers, armoured vehicles and main battle tanks.

## DRDO DEVELOPS MOST ADVANCED DRONE

The DRDO has provided its indigenously-developed drone named 'Bharat' to the Indian Army. The drones will help the army carry out accurate surveillance in high altitude areas and mountainous terrain, especially along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. The drone provides real-time video transmission during the entire mission. It has very advanced night vision capabilities to detect people hidden in deep forests. The drone has been built in a way that makes it impossible to be detected by Radar. It is listed among "world's most agile and lightest surveillance drones".

## BOEING DELIVERS LAST OF APACHE & CHINOOK



Boeing India delivered the last of the five AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and last five of the 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Hindan Air Force Station, near Ghaziabad in UP. The Apaches were deployed at the Leh airbase as part of the forward movement of assets, amid the stand-off with China in Ladakh. India had contracted 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook helicopters from Boeing through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government in September 2015 under a \$3 billion deal.



- ❖ DRDO has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System capable of para dropping military stores of up to 7-ton weight from the IL 76 'Gajraj' military cargo aircraft.

### IIT KANPUR DEVELOPS UV SANITISER - SHUDH

IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH that can be used for disinfecting corona virus at highly prone places such as hospitals, hotels, malls, offices and schools. SHUDH -- Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper has six UV lights of 15 Watts each that can be individually monitored from a distance by using an android application. The device at its full operation can disinfect a 10x10 sq feet room in about 15 minutes.

### MOBILE HOSPITAL FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

Modulus Housing, Chennai, a startup backed by the IIT, Madras, has developed a mobile hospital unit for Corona patients that can be installed anywhere by four people within two hours. The new portable facility known as 'MediCAB' is a decentralized approach to detect, identify, screen, isolate, and treat the coronavirus patients in their local communities in these portable microstructures.

### IIT DELHI LAUNCHES LOW COST CORONA KIT



Claimed to be the world's most affordable diagnostic kit for coronavirus, a low-cost test kit "Corosure" developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi was launched on July

15. The kit has received ICMR approval with the highest score and DCGI approved with a very high sensitivity and specificity. The base price of the RT-PCR assay is Rs 399.

Even after adding the RNA isolation and laboratory charges, the cost per test will go up to Rs 650 and will be considerably cheaper compared to currently available kits in the market, costing around 4 to 6 thousand rupees.

It can deliver results within three hours. Further, while the current testing methods available are "probe-based", this one is a "probe-free" method, which reduces the testing cost without compromising on accuracy.

### ULTRA RAPID TESTING KIT FOR COVID-19

India and Israel have jointly developed an ultra rapid testing kit for COVID-19 that can give results in just 30 seconds. Developed jointly by DRDO scientists along with the Defence Research Wing of Israel, it has proven its efficacy in lab results and now will be subjected to broader trials. The kit has been developed by integration of many novel technologies which include artificial intelligence based online voice test, breathalyser test, isothermal testing and testing using polyamino acids.

### FIRST INDIAN VACCINE AGAINST PNEUMONIA

Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved India's first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine). The vaccine will be utilized for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by "Streptococcus pneumonia" among infants. The vaccine has been developed by Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd, Pune.

### LARGEST BUTTERFLY DISCOVERED



Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly has been named as India's largest butterfly, a record an unknown specimen had held earlier for 88 years. The female Golden Birdwing with 194 mm wingspan was recorded at Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district's Didihat town, while the male Golden Birdwing with 106 mm wingspan was recorded at the Wankhar Butterfly Museum, in Shillong, Meghalaya.

### INDIA'S 1<sup>st</sup> SOCIAL MEDIA SUPER APP

India's first social media super app 'Elyments' was launched on July 6. Through the app, the users can stay in touch through free video/audio calls, vibrant feed, and private/group chats.

The homegrown application which has been created by more than 1000 IT professionals who came together under the guidance of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

The app can be seen as a major push towards 'Make in India' initiative as well as the massive boost to the Indian startups. The app is available in eight regional languages which include Telugu, Tamil, English, and Kannada.





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## JIO LAUNCHES RIVAL TO ZOOM - JIOMEET



Reliance Industries has launched video-conferencing app 'JioMeet' with unlimited free calling that is being seen as rate war on rival Zoom. JioMeet supports HD audio and video call quality with up to 100 participants and offers features like screen sharing, meeting schedule feature and more.

But unlike Zoom, it does not impose a 40-minute time limit. Calls can go on as long as 24 hours, and all meetings are encrypted and password-protected. Unlike Zoom where users cannot expand a participant's video, JioMeet meetings users can expand any participant's video or shared screen's video by a double tap.

## MARS PROBE - TIANWEN-1 LAUNCHED BY CHINA

China successfully launched its first Mars probe, named Tianwen 1 (meaning Questions to Heavens), on July 23, aiming to complete orbiting, landing and roving in a single mission. Launched on board a Long March 5 rocket from the Wenchang Satellite Launch Center on Hainan Island, it includes a rover, lander and orbiter.

The probe will arrive at its destination seven months after launch. The orbiter will orbit Mars while the rover and lander will make a journey to the surface of the Red Planet. *Till now, the USA is the only country that has successfully landed and operated a rover on Mars, the last being Rover Curiosity, launched in Nov. 2011. NASA plans to launch its latest Mars Rover named 'Perseverance' by the end of July, 2020.*

## S KOREA LAUNCHES FIRST MILITARY SATELLITE

South Korea launched its first-ever military communications satellite on July 20 through private operator SpaceX from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite, ANASIS-II is aimed at enhancing the nation's ability to defend itself against nuclear-armed North Korea.



## CHINA LAUNCHES ADVANCED TELE-SATELLITE

China has launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center. The satellite aims to provide high-speed communications with a capacity of almost 50 gigabytes / sec. APSTAR-6D is a part of China's First Global High - Throughput Broadband Satellite Communication System.

## UAE 1st ARAB NATION TO SEND PROBE TO MARS

The United Arab Emirates became the first Arab nation to send a probe to Mars. The probe named 'Hope' was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan on July 19. It aims to provide a comprehensive image of the weather dynamics in Mars' atmosphere and pave the way for scientific breakthroughs. The probe will serve as a foundation for a much bigger goal of building a human settlement on Mars within the next 100 years.

**JUNE**

## NAVY GETS ANTI-SUB WARFARE SYSTEM



In a major boost to its Anti-Submarine Warfare capability, the Indian Navy inducted the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System 'Maareech', capable of being fired from all frontline warships.

The system has been developed by the DRDO and shall be produced by Bharat Electronics, a Defence PSU. 'Maareech' was the demon mentioned in Ramayana who transformed into golden deer and killed by lord Rama.

## INDIAN CONTINGENT IN RUSSIAN PARADE

Indian Armed Forces contingent participated in the Russian Victory Day Parade at the Red Square, Moscow on June 24. The parade marked the 75th anniversary of the victory of the then Soviet Union over Nazi forces in 1945 during the Second World War.

## INDIAN NAVY GETS DSRV COMPLEX

Indian Navy inaugurated its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at the Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It has been designed to accommodate the newly inducted submarine rescue system and store the DSRV assets in the rescue-ready state. The DSRV system consists of a Submarine Rescue Vessel, a Remote Operations Vehicle, Side Scan Sonar and associated equipment. The Indian Navy has inducted two such systems which will provide rescue cover to submarines on the east and west coast of India.



## AIR FORCE LAUNCHES ARPIT POD



The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and manufactured an “Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation” (ARPIT). This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude areas, isolated and remote places. This indigenously designed system has been developed at a cost of Rs. 60,000 only, which is very less as compared to the imported systems costing up to Rs. 60 lakh.

**ICGS Kanaklata Barua:** The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd, Kolkata delivered the fifth and last boat in the series of Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard.

## DRDO's ULTRA SWACHH TO DISINFECT PPES

Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, the Delhi-based laboratory of DRDO in collaboration with industry partner Gel Craft Health care Private Ltd. has developed a disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others.

## 'COVID BEEP' APP FOR CORONA PATIENTS

Government launched 'COVID BEEP' app, India's 1st indigenous wireless system for monitoring physiological parameters (such as pulse, temperature, BP, respiratory rate, etc.) of the COVID-19 affected patients. It will heavily reduce the transmission risk as well as help save resources like personal protective equipment (PPEs). "COVID BEEP" stands for "Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod". It has been developed by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) medical college, Hyderabad in collaboration with IIT, Hyderabad and the Department of Atomic Energy.



## IIT BOMBAY CREATES INDIA'S GPS CHIP

IIT-Bombay has created Indian beneficiary chip "Dhruva". This chip can be utilized in cell phones and route gadgets to discover locations and routes inside the nation. Dhruva will get signals from India's NAVIC group of navigation satellites just as from the US Global Positioning System to decide these precisely under every type of climate condition.

## PRIVATE SPACECRAFT CARRIES ASTRONAUTS

Dragon spacecraft of the private company SpaceX successfully docked with the International Space Station to deliver two US astronauts in the station. The historic launch was executed from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It has marked the dawn of a new age in commercial space travel. With the liftoff, SpaceX, a company of Elon Musk, of Tesla fame, became the first private company to launch people into orbit, a feat achieved previously by only three governments, the US, Russia and China.

**MAY**

## SECOND TEJAS SQUADRON LAUNCHED

The Indian Air Force operationalised its squadron called the Number-18 - "Flying Bullets" with a fleet of the Light Combat Aircraft, LCA Tejas at its Sullur base near



Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It was launched by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria.

*It is the second Indian Air Force squadron to operate with the modern multi-role light fighter aircraft Tejas. The first Tejas IAF unit, No. 45 Squadron, named "Flying Daggers" was formed on 1 July, 2016 in Bengaluru.*

## DRDO DEVELOPS UV DISINFECTION TOWER

The Laser Science and Technology Centre (LASTEC), Delhi, a unit of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower for the chemical-free and rapid disinfection of high infection-prone areas. The tower named as 'UV Blaster' is a UV based area sanitizer.

It will be very useful in the disinfection of high tech surfaces such as computers, electronic equipment, and other forms of gadgets in laboratories and offices which are not suitable for disinfection through chemical methods. The tower will be useful for the areas with a large flow of people such as metros, airports, shopping malls, hotels, factories, offices, etc.

**A ship - ICGS Sachet** and two Interceptor Boats, C-450 and C-451, were commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard in Panaji, Goa. This marks a landmark for the ICG: it now has 150 ships and boats and 62 aircraft.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JULY

## RUSSIA COMPLETES TRIALS OF COVID VACCINE



Russia has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. The vaccine has proven to be effective, as per the results of the trials. Despite the successful human trials of the COVID vaccine, there is no official confirmation on when Russia's vaccine will enter the commercial production stage and be available for local people.

## CORONAVIRUS MAY SPREAD THROUGH AIR TOO?

Around 239 scientists of 32 countries claim that there is evidence of the spread of the novel Coronavirus through the droplets suspended in air by infected person. Scientists, in their Open Letter to WHO, claim that whether carried in the air by large droplets when a person sneezes or by smaller droplets when a person speaks or coughs, Coronavirus is borne in air and can infect nearby people when inhaled. In their Open Letter, scientists asked the World Health Organization (WHO) to revise its recommendations for the containment of highly contagious COVID-19 pandemic.

## MINISTERIAL SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION

The fourth edition of the Ministerial on Climate Action was held in virtual mode hosted by the European Union. It was co-chaired by European Union, China and Canada to hold advanced discussions on the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to demonstrate continued political commitment to global climate action. India was represented by the Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar.



## TURKMENISTAN JOINS WTO AS OBSERVER

Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council. Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the international trade body based in Geneva. An Observer nation has to complete the process of accession to WTO within five years.

*There are 164 members of the WTO and 25 observer states. WTO came into existence on January 1, 1995, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It is headed by its Director General, Roberto Azevedo.*

## MALDIVES, S L FREE FROM MEASLES, RUBELLA

According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO), South-East Asian Region (SEAR) office, Maldives and Sri Lanka were verified for having eliminated Measles and Rubella. Now, Maldives and Sri Lanka are the first two countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region to achieve measles and rubella elimination ahead of the 2023 target.

## GERMANY FIRST NATION TO QUIT COAL POWER



Germany has passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038 at the latest and agreed on a shutdown schedule for individual lignite and hard coal power plants as well as compensation payments for operators. The coal exit law stipulates that a total of 4.35 billion euros in compensation will be paid to the companies for the planned shutdowns by 2030.

## RUSSIANS VOTE FOR PUTIN TILL 2036

Nearly 78% of Russian voters on July 1 backed constitutional reforms that could keep President Vladimir Putin in power until 2036. He is already the longest-serving leader in modern Russian history since Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. Currently, he is serving his fourth term as President, from 2018 to 2024. The 67-year-old former KGB agent has led Russia as President and Prime Minister since 2000.



**ASEAN SUMMIT HELD IN HANOI, VIETNAM**

The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam on June 26 with the theme "Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN". The main focus of the summit was on the COVID-19 epidemic response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

**WORLD CELEBRATES 6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**

Yoga enthusiasts from across the globe on June 21 bent and stretched to perform various asanas at several events, with most of them joining digital projection and live online yoga sessions due to the coronavirus pandemic, to mark the 6th International Day of Yoga. The theme for this year's Day of Yoga was "Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home".

**June 21**, the Northern Hemisphere's longest day, is celebrated as the International Yoga Day worldwide after the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2014 a proposal mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**GERMANY TO BAN SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

Germany has decided to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cotton buds and food containers, as well as polystyrene cups and boxes by July 3, 2021, bringing it in line with a European Union directive intended to reduce the amount of plastic garbage that pollutes the environment. The move was part of an effort to move away from "throw-away culture."

*Up to 20% of garbage collected in parks and other public places consist of single-use plastic, mainly polystyrene containers.*

**FIRST YOGA UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE INDIA**

The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, USA. The University has been named as the Vivekananda Yoga University. The University offers programmes that combine scientific principles and modern research approach to ancient Indian practice.

**IMF PREDICTS 4.9% SHRINKAGE IN ECONOMY**

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply lowered its forecast for global growth this year, saying that the coronavirus pandemic is causing a much steeper recession and a slower recovery than initially expected. The IMF predicts that the global economy will shrink by 4.9 per cent this year, significantly worse than the 3 per cent drop it had estimated in its previous report in April.

**CHINA SETS RECORD FOR DEEP DIVING**

China's unmanned submersible has dived to a depth of 10,907 metres at the world's deepest ocean point, setting a new record. The diving machine named Haidou-1" set the record by submerging under the Pacific Ocean surface at the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest area in the world. China in recent years has stepped up efforts to develop deep sea technology to explore mining of rich natural resources from the sea bed.

**US BURNS OVER THE DEATH OF A BLACK MAN**

Civil unrest flared in over 40 US cities and curfews were imposed on May 31 as demonstrators took to the streets to vent outrage at the death of a black man shown on video gasping for breath as a white Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck.

From Los Angeles to Miami to Chicago, protests marked by chants of "I can't breathe" — a rallying cry echoing the dying words of George Floyd — began peacefully before turning unruly as demonstrators blocked traffic, set fires and clashed with riot police firing tear gas and plastic bullets in an effort to restore order.

Hundreds of people protested in London, Paris, Berlin and several other cities in solidarity with demonstrations in the United States.

## APPLE CROSSES \$1.5 TRILLION MARKET CAP



Global tech giant Apple Inc. has become the first US Company to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap. At a current price of \$352 per share and 4.3 billion shares outstanding, Apple's market cap hit around \$1.53 trillion on June 10. Riding on its growing services and wearables business, Apple may become the first company ever to touch the \$2-trillion valuation mark in the next four years.

## WHO LAUNCHES C-TAP TO FIGHT COVID-19

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a global initiative aimed at making various health technologies and products, such as vaccines, tests and treatments to fight COVID-19, accessible to all. The new initiative will ensure that the latest and best science and technology and medical advancement benefits the entire humanity. C-TAP aims to accelerate the development of vaccines and medicines through the sharing of research and information and to increase manufacturing capacity for any products that are developed.

## MAY

## US WITHDRAWS FROM OPEN SKIES TREATY

US President announced his plans to withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty signed with Russia around 18 years ago. President Trump claimed that Russia has not stuck to its role as per the deal.

*The treaty signed in 2002 has 35 signatories. The treaty allows unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of the participating countries. Under the treaty, all of the party state's territory can be flown over and no territory can be declared off-limits by the host nation.*



## \$ 1 TRILLION FUND TO SAVE CHILDREN

As many as 88 Nobel laureates including Kailash Satyarthi along with global leaders such as the Dalai Lama have come together to call upon the governments to spend \$ 1 trillion on marginalised children during the lockdowns and the post COVID-19 world.

The amount would fund all the outstanding UN and charity COVID-19 appeals, cancel two years of all debt repayments from low-income countries, and fund two years of the global gap to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on health, water and sanitation, and education. The fund aims to save more than 10 million lives.

## INDIA BUILDS 'WAR CENTRE' IN UGANDA



India handed over the war game centre named as "INDIA" to Uganda Peoples Defence Forces in Jinja, Uganda. The state of the art military training facility was built by the Indian Military Team at a cost of over \$2,65,000.

## US TO SHOO AWAY CHINESE COMPANIES

The US Senate passed a Bill by a unanimous vote on May 20 that could delist some Chinese companies from selling shares on American stock exchanges, amid rising tensions between the two countries over the Corona pandemic. The Bill, titled 'Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act', requires companies to certify that they are not owned or controlled by a foreign government.

Although the Bill applies to all foreign companies, it is targeted specifically at China as it is alleged that the Chinese companies have disregarded US accounting reporting standards for long, misleading US investors. The move may result in some 800 Chinese companies like Alibaba, Huawei and Baidu Inc. being barred from listing on US stock exchanges.

## STAMP ON 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SMALLPOX

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) jointly launched a postal stamp to mark the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication on May 8. The stamp aims to honour the millions of people working together, from world leaders and international organizations to rural doctors and community doctors to eradicate smallpox. The stamp acknowledges global solidarity to fight Smallpox, the first human disease to get eradicated across the world.



## IRAN CHANGES ITS CURRENCY

Iranian Government has amended the Monetary and Banking Act of Iran to change Iran's national currency from 'Rial' to 'Toman' to tackle the rising inflation. Under the amended law, the existing currency of Iran will continue to remain valid alongside "Toman" for two years, during which the old coins and bills will be gradually collected to replace them with new ones. One Toman is equal to 10,000 Rials.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### JULY

**Narendra Modi:** The Indian Prime Minister continues to be the World's top favourite leader on Twitter, crossing 60 million followers on July 19, becoming the third most followed Indian leader across the globe. Only Trump and Obama are ahead of him.

**Priyanka Chopra Jonas:** Bollywood actor has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020.



**Roshni Nadar Malhotra:** India's richest woman became the first woman to head a listed Indian IT company as she took over as the Chairperson of \$8.9-billion HCL Technologies from her father and billionaire Shiv Nadar.

**Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson:** American wrestler-turned-actor, has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity, dethroning Kylie Jenner to the second place. According to social media marketing firm Hopper HQ, Johnson has 189 million followers while Jenner has 183 million followers. The 48-year-old star charges approximately \$1 million for a sponsored post.

### JUNE

**Mukesh Ambani:** With a recent surge in net worth of the Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director, he has jumped into the exclusive club of the world's top 10 richest people, as per Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list. With a net worth of USD 64.5 billion, he is currently ranked 9th on the list of World's top billionaires. His net worth has increased by almost 12 times from USD 5.3 billion to USD 64.6 billion within just two months, mainly on account of rights shares received by him.

**Anmol Narang:** The 23 year old US sikh citizen made history by becoming the 1st observant Sikh to graduate from the distinguished US Military Academy at West Point, New York. She was among about 1,100 cadets who graduated at the premier institution with the rank of 2nd lieutenant.

**M Nethra:** A 13-year old girl from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as the 'Goodwill Ambassador for the Poor' by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace. The UNADAP will now provide her the opportunity to address the upcoming Civil Society forums at the UN conferences in New York and Geneva.

For M Nethra, money amounts to nothing unless it is used for serving the needy. It's this belief that prompted her to make her father, a salon owner, spend his savings of Rs 5 lakh on the hapless migrant labourers, who are hit hard by the lockdown.

**Virat Kohli:** Indian skipper is the only cricketer to feature in Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020. He is ranked at number 66 with estimated earnings of \$26 million. The list is topped by the Swiss tennis star Roger Federer with estimated earnings of \$106.3 million.

### MAY

**Dr. Shobhana Narasimhan:** A professor from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science, Cambridge, USA in recognition of her outstanding work on designs and properties of nano-materials.

*The Academy honours such scholars and leaders who have distinguished themselves in the sciences, arts, humanities and public life. With her election to the Academy, she joins the likes of Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Nelson Mandela.*

**Roberto Azevedo:** In an unprecedented move, the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva, has decided to resign on August 31, a year before his term expires, due to personal reasons. A former diplomat from Brazil, he became Director-General on 1 September 2013, serving a four-year term and then was re-elected for another four year term till August 31, 2021.

## APPOINTMENTS

### JULY

**K K Venugopal:** Re-appointed as the Attorney General for India for one more year from July 1 by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

**Tushar Mehta:** Re-appointed Solicitor General of India with effect from July 1 for a period of three years.

**P Praveen Siddharth:** An Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the President's Secretariat, he has been appointed as the new personal secretary to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

**Rudrendra Tandon:** Appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Afghanistan

**Vikram Doraiswami:** Appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Bangladesh

**Dr. Vidhu P. Nair:** Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.

**Ashok Lavasa:** Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed India's Election Commissioner as vice-president for private sector operations and public-private partnerships.

**Rajkiran Rai:** Term of Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India has been extended for a period of two-year, till May 31, 2022.

**Shrikant Madhav Vaidya:** Appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). It is one of the largest and most profit earning companies of India.

**Ravinder Bhakar:** Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).



**Indra Mani Pandey:** Senior diplomat has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to various United Nations Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva.

He will represent India in more than 25 important UN organisations in Geneva that include UNHRC, WHO, WTO, ILO and others.

*It may be noted that India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNO headquarters is T S Tirumurti.*

**Jean Castex:** Appointed as the new Prime Minister of France by the President Emmanuel Macron. Earlier, former Prime Minister Edouard Philippe resigned the previous day.

**Lee Hsien Loong:** Re-elected as the Prime Minister of Singapore. This is his fourth term as Prime Minister.

**Andrzej Duda:** Re-elected as the President of Poland for another term of five years.

**Rose Christiane OssoukaRaponda:** Appointed as the first woman prime minister of Gabon, a country in central West Africa.

**Gudni Th. Johannesson:** Re-elected as the President of Iceland for a second four-year term.

**Lazarus Chakwera:** Elected as the new President of Malawi, a small country in Southeast Africa.

**Micheal Martin:** Elected as new Prime Minister of Ireland.

**Urjit Patel:** Appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi.

**Uday Kotak:** Veteran banker, MD & CEO of the Kotak Mahindra Bank took over as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.

**Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar:** Appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. *In all the Commonwealth countries our ambassadors are designated as High Commissioner.*

**Krishnendu Majumdar:** Noted television producer became the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).

*He is the first non white person to head BAFTA in its 73 year-long history. He is British citizen of Indian origin. BAFTA awards are popular as Oscars of Europe.*

**Volkan Bozkir:** Turkish diplomat and politician was elected as President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

**Raveesh Kumar:** Appointed as India's next Ambassador to Finland.

**Vijay Khanduja:** Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe

**Monika Kapil Mohta:** Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland.

**Tarun Bajaj:** The 1988 batch IAS officer has been given charge of the Economic Affairs Secretary of the country.

**Govinda Rajulu Chintala:** Appointed as the Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

**Dr Harsh Vardhan:** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare took charge of the Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) 34-member Executive Board.



**V. Vidyavathi:** Senior IAS officer has been appointed as the new Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi.

**Manoj Ahuja:** Odisha cadre IAS officer has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

**Thierry Delaporte:** Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the IT major Wipro.



**Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury:** Congress leader in Lok Sabha has been reappointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla as chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC). PAC comprises of not more than 22 MPs, 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha. Its primary function is to keep a check on government expenditure by scrutinising reports submitted by CAG - Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

**Marcos Troyjo:** A former Minister from Brazil has replaced veteran private sector banker K V Kamath as the next President of New Development Bank, Shanghai.

**Benjamin Netanyahu:** Won the Israeli national election for securing a record fifth term in office as Prime Minister of Israel.

**Mustafa al-Kadhimi:** Elected as the new Prime Minister of Iraq by its Parliament.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### JULY

**Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics:** The first of this award has been given to C Rangarajan, former Governor of RBI for lifetime achievements for his contribution in providing solutions in the issues related to the estimation of national income.

*The award has been instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from 2020, and will henceforth be awarded annually for the outstanding and meritorious contribution of an individual for the development and promotion of official statistics.*

**Water Heroes Award:** The Ongole Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway has bagged this award from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India for its efforts to promote the value of water in general and for supporting the efforts on water conservation and sustainable development of water resources.

**2020 Great Immigrants:** Indian Americans Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty have been included in the list of 38 immigrants named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as '2020 Great Immigrants' honourees for their contribution in mitigating the COVID-19 health crisis.

**Global Humanitarian Award 2020:** Sachin Awasthi, a motivated social activist from UP is one of the 100 awardees selected from across the world. He has been active in organising a number of activities to push Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. The Award conferred by London based social work NGO - World Humanitarian Drive, aims to honour the popular men and women who are making contributions to the betterment of society and the world.

**CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019:** Maharatna energy corporate NTPC Ltd has been awarded with the prestigious award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category. It has also secured Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate social responsibility (CSR) category.

**Von Karman Award 2020:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan, ISRO Chief has been named for this award by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), Paris. The Award is known as the highest distinction of the IAA.

### IOC HQ gets USGBC Leadership Award

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland has been awarded the European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award. Olympic House, which also holds the rigorous LEED Platinum certification, is one of the most sustainable buildings in the world.

**LEED** stands for *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Designs* and is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

**2020 Nelson Mandela Prize:** Awarded to Morissana Kouyate, a doctor from Guinea and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece. Kouyaté is a leading figure in efforts to end violence against women in Africa and Marianna has been involved in the fight against childhood cancer for some 30 years.

*The Prize established by the UN General Assembly, is awarded every five years to recognize those who dedicate their lives to the service of humanity.*

**2020 Diana Award:** A 13-year-old student of the British School, New Delhi, Freya Thakral won this award for her "Recycler App". She developed the App to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi.

*Established in memory of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, the Award is the most prestigious accolade a young person aged 9-25 years can receive for their social action or humanitarian work.*

**Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity:** Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old environment campaigner from Sweden, has been announced the winner of the first Gulbenkian Prize worth one million Euros. The prize aims at recognizing the people or organisations all over the world for their contributions to adaptations to climate change which stood out for its impact.

### JUNE

**Peace Prize 2020:** The German Book Trade has chosen Indian Nobel prize-winning economist and philosopher Amartya Sen for its prestigious prize for his pioneering work addressing issues of global justice, social inequality in education and healthcare.

Australian honour for Indian musician

## Shobha Sekhar



**Medal of the Order of Australia:** Awarded to Indian musician and founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia, Shobha Sekhar for her service to the community and the country.

**World Food Prize 2020:** Eminent Indian-American soil scientist Dr. Rattan Lal has been named this year's recipient of the World Food Prize for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. The Prize is given by the World Food Prize Foundation, Des Moines, USA and carries a cash award of 2,50,000 US Dollars.

**EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020:** Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Ltd, won the award beating 46 regional winners from 41 countries. She is the first woman entrepreneur from India and the third Indian to win the title in the award's 20-year history.

**Richard Dawkins Award:** Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar has won the 2020 award for critical thinking, holding religious dogma up to scrutiny, advancing human progress and humanist values. Akhtar has become the first Indian to be given the honour. The award is named after world-renowned British evolutionary biologist and acclaimed writer Richard Dawkins.

**MAY**



**Nikkei Asia Prize 2020:** A faculty member at IIT Madras Prof. T. Pradeep has been chosen for this award in the 'Science and Technology' category in recognition of his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification.

The Nikkei Asia Prizes are conferred on individuals who have contributed to the region's sustainable development and to the creation of a better future in Asia. They are awarded annually by Nikkei, the biggest media group of Japan, in three areas - Economic and Business Innovation, Science and Technology and Culture and Community.

**Order of Rising Sun (Japan):** Thangjam Dhabali Singh, an allopathic doctor from Manipur has been honoured by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.

**Major Suman Gawani:** An Indian Army officer who served as a women peacekeeper with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in 2019 has been awarded the prestigious - United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the year Award.

**Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award:** Indian journalist Siddharth Varadarajan, founder of the digital news platform - The Wire, is among the 17 recipients from 14 countries selected for this award for showing "outstanding commitment to human rights and freedom of expression in the media".

**2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography:** Three photojournalists from Jammu and Kashmir, Mukhtar Khan, Yasin Dar and Channi Anand, won the prestigious US prize for their photographs taken during the shutdown in the region following the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. They are working with the Associated Press (AP).

**Marcus Wallenberg Prize:** Awarded to Joseph J Landsberg and Nicholas C Coops from Australia and Richard H Waring from USA for developing a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate.

*Satellite imagery offers the possibility to scale up the model to show how different environmental conditions affect the world's forests. The prize carries a cash award of Krner two million and is given by the Marcus Wallenberg Foundation of Sweden.*

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

**JULY**

**The Endgame** by S Hussain Zaidi

**Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends** by CA V Pattabhi Ram

**Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver** by Urjit Patel, former Governor RBI.

**If It Bleeds** by Stephen King

**Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India** by R C Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki Ltd

**The Shadows** by Alex North

**Girl, Serpent, Thorn** by Melissa Bashardoust


**One to Watch** by Kate Stayman

**The Beauty in Breaking** by Michele Harper



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## JUNE

**A Burning** by Megha Majumdar  
**Burn** by Patrick Ness  
**The Guest List** by Lucy Foley  
**Mexican Gothic** by Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
**The Vanishing Half** by Britt Bennett  
**Jo and Laurie** by Margaret Stohl and Melissa de la Cruz  
**Parakeet** by Marie-Helene Bertino

## MAY

**Big Summer** by Jennifer Weiner  
**All Adults Here** by Emma Straub  
**Beach Read** by Emily Henry  
**The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes** by Suzanne Collins  
**The Ickabog** by J K Rowling, of Harry Potter fame  
**Shuttling to the Top: The Story of P.V. Sindhu** by V. Krishnaswamy, noted sports journalist  
**Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City** by Fang Fang, noted Chinese writer  
**Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster** by Adam Higginbotham

## OBITUARY

## JULY

**Lalji Tandon:** Madhya Pradesh Governor, a veteran BJP figure in Uttar Pradesh, died at a hospital in Lucknow due to health related issues. He was 85. He also served as Governor of Bihar in 2018. In his absence, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has been given additional charge of Madhya Pradesh.



**Saroj Khan:** Ace choreographer whose iconic dance moves repeatedly made India go 'dhakdhak', died of cardiac arrest on July 3 at the age of 71. The 'Masterji' of the Hindi film

industry; she was the first woman choreographer and three-time National Award winner. In her dance pieces heroines oozed a rare sensuality. In a career spanning four decades, she choreographed over 2,000 songs, including chartbusters like 'Ek do teen' ('Tezaab'), 'Dhakdhak' ('Beta'), 'Kaatenaahikatte' and 'Hawahawai' ('Mr India'), 'Choli kepeeche' ('Khalnayak') and many many more.

**Prof. C S Sheshadri:** One of the leaders of Indian mathematics in the post-independence era, known for his contributions in algebraic geometry and mathematical education, Prof. Seshadri passed away in Chennai. He was 88. The Seshadri constant is named after him.



He was honoured with the Shanti SwarupBhatnagar Award, country's most prestigious science award – in 1972 and Padma Bhushan in 2009. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1988 and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences in 2010.

**Acharya Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj:** The 78-year-old head priest of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan GadiSansthan, Ahmedabad, popularly known as P P Swami, died of Covid-19 attack. He was the head of Swaminarayan Sanstha.

**Jagdeep:** Veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "Soorma Bhopali" in blockbuster "Sholay", passed away in Mumbai. He was 81. Born as Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri, he acted in over 400 films. He was felicitated with the award for "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema" at IIFA-2019.

**Ennio Morricone:** Oscar-winning Italian film composer, passed away in Rome. He was 91. He had composed the score for 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,' which is considered to be one of the most influential soundtracks in history. The Italian music maestro had reportedly composed at least 500 scores for both films and television over 50 years, which is a record in the western cinema.

## JUNE

**Sushant Singh Rajput:** Budding actor allegedly committed suicide in his house in Mumbai's Bandra on June 14. He was just 34. Sushant made his debut with Kai Po Che in 2014 and later starred in films such as PK, Kedarnath, Shuddh Desi Romance and MS Dhoni: The Untold Journey. He made his acting debut in 2009 with a lead role in Zee TV's immensely popular serial Pavitra Rishta.

**Basu Chatterjee:** Filmmaker-screenwriter best known for directing films like Choti Si Baat, Rajnigandha, Baaton Baaton Mein, Ek Ruka Hua Faisla and Chameli Ki Shaadi among more, passed away on June 4 in Mumbai, following age-related ailments. He was 93. Basu Chatterjee, along with filmmakers like Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Bhattacharya, were pioneers of middle-of-the-road cinema. He focussed his lens on the middle class and largely urban settings.



**Wajid Khan:** Bollywood music composer of Sajid-Wajid music duo passed away in Mumbai on June 1, losing his battle against kidney ailments. He was 42. Sons of noted tabla player Ustad Sharafat Ali Khan, they are credited with composing music for several Salman Khan films including Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya, Wanted, Tere Naam, Partner, Hello, Ek Tha Tiger, Dabangg and Dabangg 2.

**Vishwa Bandhu Gupta:** Veteran journalist and former Member of Parliament passed away at the age of 94. A founder member of the Press Club of India, Gupta was also a senior Congressman and headed the Tej group of publications. He was also President of the All India Newspaper Editors Conference (AINEC).

**Rajinder Goel:** Former Left-arm spinner from Haryana passed away. Goel played 157 first-class matches, most of them for Haryana, and ended with 750 wickets. He holds the record for most wickets taken in Ranji Trophy history as he scalped 637 wickets.

**Ved Marwah:** Former senior IPS officer and former governor passed away in Goa due to old age ailments. He was 87. He was the police commissioner of Delhi from 1985-88 and also served as the director general of the elite National Security Guard from 1988-90. Marwah had also served as the Governor of Manipur (1999- 2003), Mizoram (2000-2001) and Jharkhand (2003-2004).

**Vera Lynn:** British singer, whose sentimental ballads during World War II provided the soundtrack for the Allied war effort, died at the age of 103. Lynn's two most famous songs, "We'll Meet Again," released in 1939 at the start of the war and "The White Cliffs of Dover," recorded in 1942, created a patriotic image of a courageous and confident Britain that resonates with people in the UK even today. She was also the first English singer to make it to number one in the American music charts.

## MAY

**Balbir Singh (Dosanjh) Senior:** Legendary Hockey player, part of India's gold medal winning team at 1948 London, 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne Olympics, passed away in Mohali, Punjab, losing his battle against a blood clot in his brain. He was 96.

He was only Indian among 16 legends chosen by the International Olympic Committee across modern Olympic history. His world record for most goals scored by an individual in the men's hockey final of the Olympics still remains unbeaten.

**Ajit (Pramod Kumar) Jogi:** A former IAS officer and the first chief minister of the newly formed state of Chhattisgarh from November 2000 to November 2003, passed away suffering two massive heart attacks on May 29. He was a former senior Congress leader from 1986 to 2016.

**Chuni Goswami:** Legendary Footballer died in Kolkata after prolonged illness. He was 82. He was the captain of the gold medal winning Indian football team of Jakarta Asiad held in 1962. He was awarded Arjun , Padmasree and several others prestigious awards for his outstanding contributions in the field of Sports .

**Rob Gibbs:** Coming as another loss to the entertainment industry, Gibbs, veteran director, story artist and writer, who worked on films like Toy Story 2, Finding Nemo, Inside Out, Onward, Monsters, Inc. and Incredibles 2 died at the age of 55. He worked at the Pixar Animation Studios, California, USA for 20 years.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### JULY

**Hpakant:** In Myanmar, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in northern Kachin province. A very strong wave of mud and rock triggered by heavy rain engulfed those collecting stones, leaving little scope for escape.

*Hpakant, a rocky and remote area in Kachin, is the centre of the world's biggest and most lucrative jade mining industry. Jade is a popular precious stone, particularly famous for its green colour.*

### JUNE

**Baghjan Oil Field:** A massive fire erupted at a leaking natural-gas oil well in Assam's Tinsukia district on June 8. The oil well, part of Baghjan oil fields, is owned by Oil India Limited (OIL). The oil well has reportedly been leaking gas since the last 14 days after it suffered damage following a blowout on May 27. Around 6,000 people living in a 1.5-km radius of the natural gas producing well have been evacuated and sheltered in relief camps.

**Nisarga:** The severe cyclonic storm landed in Raigad district in Maharashtra on June 3 and caused widespread devastation with very heavy rains and high speed winds in Alibaug, a beautiful historic coastal tourist centre, about 95 km south of Mumbai. The coastal districts of Maharashtra bore the brunt of rough weather conditions experiencing strong winds, heavy rainfall and raging sea surge with tidal waves measuring up to 6 to 8 feet in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts.



**Super Cyclone Amphan:** Lakhs of people were rendered homeless as a super cyclone cut a path of destruction through half-a-dozen districts of West Bengal on May 20, flattening houses, uprooting thousands of trees and swamping low-lying areas. The cyclone was the strongest to hit the region in nearly two decades. The cyclone claimed over 85 lives.

For around 40 lakh people of the world famous Sundarbans delta, spread across North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts, the effect was particularly devastating. According to official sources, around 1.5 crore people of the state have been directly affected and more than 10 lakh houses destroyed due to the cyclone.

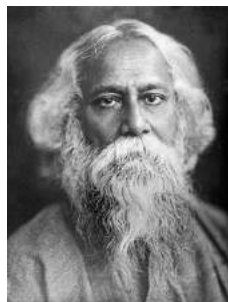
**Bengaluru:** The Kempegowda International Airport in the city has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia. The airport was voted best by customers for the third time in four years at the 2020 World Airport Awards.

**Aurangabad:** Sixteen migrant workers were mowed down by an empty freight train in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district in the early hours of May 8. The workers, all working in Jalna, were walking to Bhusawal to board a "Shramik Special" train to return to Madhya Pradesh, were sleeping on the railway line when the mishap occurred between Badnapur and Karmad stations in Nanded Division.

**Visakhapatnam:** On May 7, a leak of chemical vapour from the factory of LG Polymers on the outskirts of the coastal city Visakhapatnam killed 11 people. Over 350 people who inhaled the toxic substance had to be hospitalised.

The National Disaster Management Authority and local administration evacuated nearly 3,000 people and secured the area with the help of specialised teams. The gas, identified as styrene, is also called vinylbenzene, and is used in the manufacture of polystyrene plastics, fibreglass, rubber, and latex.

**Tagore Street, Tel Aviv:** Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv, after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday on 08 May. Tel Aviv is the biggest and most vibrant city of Israel, just like Mumbai in India.



**Karachi:** At least 97 were killed as a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane with 107 on board crashed into a densely populated residential area near the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi on May 22. Flight PK-8303 from Lahore was about to land in Karachi when it crashed at the Jinnah Garden area near Model Colony in Malir, just a minute before its landing.

**G Akash** from Chennai became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) confirmed Akash's GM title. He currently holds the National record in chess for being Youngest National Senior Chess Champion at the age of 16 years and 14 days.



**Lt Col Bharat Pannu**, Indian Army officer secured the 3rd position on the leaderboard at the first edition of the Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM) 2020. He became the first-ever Indian to secure a podium position in the international ultra-cycling race. In cycling circles, RAAM is considered to be one of the toughest races.

**Ravindra Jadeja**, Indian all-rounder was named as the country's 'Most Valuable Player' of the 21st century by Wisden. He made his debut in 2009 and has represented India in 49 test matches, 165 ODIs and 49 T20Is as of 2020. Wisden is a London based almanack of cricket and is respected as the "Bible of Cricket" world over.

#### App launched for information on NADA

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App" which aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily-accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing. The NADA app is expected to act as a one-stop guide for all anti-doping and medication related information.

#### INTERNATIONAL

**Valtteri Bottas (Finland)** won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020, driving for team Mercedes at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria. Held on July 5, this was the first race of the 2020 Formula One season.

**Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** of Team Mercedes won the Styrian Grand Prix on July 12 to clinch an 85th career win.



**Lewis Hamilton** won the Formula-1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.

**Lin Dan**, former world number one badminton player and two-times Olympic (2008 and 2012) badminton champion from China, announced his retirement from the sport, ending his 20 year old glorious career.

## JUNE

### KHELO INDIA CENTERS

Government has decided to establish 1000 Khelo India Centers (KIC) at the district level across the country. These centers will be run either by a past champion or have them as coaches. The move is to tap into the expertise of past sporting champions for grassroot-level training of athletes and also to ensure a sustained source of income for them in the sports ecosystem.

### INDIA TO HOST WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2022

India has bagged the right to host the Women's Asian Cup 2022. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) awarded the hosting rights of the tournament to India. AFC is one of the six continental confederations within FIFA and is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia with its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### INTERNATIONAL

**The 4th Asian Youth Para Games** will be held in Bahrain (a tiny island country in Persian Gulf) in December 2021. Around 800 athletes under 20 years of age are expected to compete in nine sports. The decision was announced by the Asian Paralympic Committee in Dubai. Its headquarters are in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

**Clare Connor**, former captain of England's women's cricket team, will become the 1st female president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233-year history.

### AUSTRALIA AND N Z TO HOST WORLD CUP 2023

FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to Australia and New Zealand. The FIFA Women's World Cup, like the men's World Cup, takes place every four years. The last Women's World Cup was hosted by France in 2019 and it was a resounding success.

### ICC BANS SALIVA TO SHINE THE BALL

International Cricket Council, ICC has approved substitution in case a player shows symptoms of COVID-19 during a Test match besides ratifying the interim ban on using saliva to shine the ball. The ICC said, ban on use of saliva was taken as it is considered to be a transmitter of novel coronavirus unlike sweat which will still be allowed to shine the ball.

**FIFA released its latest rankings** of world football teams placing Belgium at the top, followed by France in 2nd place and Brazil at 3rd spot. Indian team retained its 108th spot.

## MAY

**Sania Mirza**, star Indian tennis player became 1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone.

**Deepa Malik**: Senior Para-athlete has announced her retirement from Paralympics games in order to serve as the office-bearer in the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). She is the first Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games and has bagged a total of 58 national and 23 international medals in shot put and javelin throw during her illustrious career.

**Narinder Batra's** term as the President of International Hockey Federation, Lausanne, Switzerland, has been extended until May 2021, by the Federation.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Hafthor Bjornsson**, popular actor (Game of Thrones) and strongman from Iceland set a new world record for the deadlift on May 2 when he lifted 1,104 pounds (501 kg) at Thor's Power Gym in Iceland.

The previous record was held by Eddie Hall of Britain who in 2016 became the first man to lift 500 kg. 31 year old Bjornsson stands six feet and nine inches tall.

**J. Arunkumar**, former Karnataka cricketer, has been appointed the head coach of the USA national cricket team.

## DAYS & DATES

## JULY

### July 01: National Doctor's Day

This day is celebrated on July 1 every year to thank the doctors and physicians for their relentless service to humanity. It aims to raise awareness about the roles, importance, and responsibilities of doctors and to promote the medical profession. The day also marks the birthday of noted Physician and former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (Bharat Ratna). The theme of this year's Doctors Day is 'Lessen the mortality of COVID 19'.



**July 01: Chartered Accountants Day**

The Day is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on this day in 1949 by an act of parliament. ICAI is the second largest accounting body in the world, after the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Notably, ICAI is the only licensing and regulatory body for the financial audit and accounting profession in the country. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.

**July 1: National Postal Worker Day**

This day is celebrated to the recognition of postal workers across the world as a unique way to say 'thanks' to the postmen and all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us.

**July 2: World Sports Journalists Day**

is observed globally on 2nd July every year to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. They are a vital link between sportspersons and fans. The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association.

**July (4): International Day of Cooperatives**

The day is celebrated with UN support every year on the first Saturday of July to highlight the role of cooperatives in the development of society. It supports the UNO's 8th SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) of "Inclusive development and decent work". The focus of this year's celebration is on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change. UN has also appealed to spread the word: "#Coops4ClimateAction".

**July 10: National Fish Farmers' Day**

The Day is celebrated to honor fishermen, aquapreneurs and fishermen in appreciation of their achievements in the field of fisheries and their contribution to the growth of the country's fisheries sector. The day aims to draw attention to the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems. It was the 63rd National Fish Farmers' Day this year.

**July 11: World Population Day**

Supported by the UNO, the day seeks to bring attention on the urgency and importance of population related issues around the world. India shares just two percent of the world's land but accounts for 16% of world population. According to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), this year it focuses on "Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls".

**July 14: Shark Awareness Day**

Celebrated worldwide to promote awareness about the need to conserve Shark fish. The worldwide demand for shark-fin soup, shark-tooth medallions, and a false sense of security on beaches everywhere, all combine to leave sharks persecuted and endangered, with millions of them being killed each year.

**July 15: World Youth Skills Day**

Observed with the support of UNESCO to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth by providing them with appropriate skills as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and underemployment. The importance of developing skilled youth is at the core of this year's message for World Youth Skills Day - "Skills for a Resilient Youth".

**July 17: World Day for International Justice**

Observed all around the world to promote international criminal justice and as a way of supporting the work of the ICC - International Criminal Court based at the Hague, Netherlands. It is also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day. The day unites all those who wish to support justice, promote the rights of the victims, and also help in preventing crime that threatens the peace, security, and well-being of the world.

**July 18: International Nelson Mandela Day**

Observed every year with UN support in recognition of Nelson Mandela's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. The day commemorates the birthday of great African leader. It is a day to highlight the work he did for 67 years, fighting for social justice, and to carry it forward. Like Gandhi ji, he was the man who dethroned white Europeans from South Africa and became first Black President of South Africa in 1994. He was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

**July 20: World Chess Day**

The United Nations celebrates this day to mark the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) on this day in Paris in 1924. It also provides an important platform to foster, dialogue, solidarity and culture of peace along with recognizing the instrumental role played by the FIDE in supporting international cooperation for chess activity.



### July 22: National Mango Day

It is one of the most important and widely cultivated fruits of the tropical world. The scientific name of Mango is *Mangifera Indica* and is a member of the cashew family (*Anacardiaceae*). In Kerala, Kannapuram in Kannur district is being declared an 'Indigenous Mango Heritage Area'. The panchayat is home to over 200 varieties of mangoes.

### July 23: National Broadcasting Day



The day is observed to commemorate the first ever radio broadcast in the country that went on the air on this day in 1927, from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company. The company failed in 1930 and the government took it over and named it Indian State Broadcasting Service. Later, on June 8, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio, the official radio broadcaster of India.

### July 24: Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrates this day to commemorate the introduction of income tax for the first time on this day in 1860 by Sir James Wilson. The tax was levied to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence in 1857.

Several outreach programmes are organized across the country to celebrate the Day to promote payment of taxes as a value norm and for sensitizing potential tax payers that payment of taxes was an ethical duty of all citizens.

### July 26: Kargil Vijay Diwas

This year it is the 21st anniversary of the Kargil Vijay. The day is named after the successful 'Operation Vijay' in 1999, when India regained control of the high mountain outposts which had been stealthily taken over by Pakistan. In the history of independent India, the Kargil War will be remembered as the fiercest and the most valiant operations conducted by the Indian Army.

### July 28: World Hepatitis Day

The day provides an opportunity to step up national and international efforts to counter Hepatitis and highlight the need for a greater global response to fight against Hepatitis. Supported by the WHO, this year's theme is "Find the missing millions" that focuses on identifying the new patients of hepatitis.

*The day commemorates the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for it. Hepatitis refers to an inflammatory condition of the liver, usually caused by a viral infection. It has several variants such as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.*

### July 29: Global Tiger Day

Also known as the International Tiger Day, it is observed every year to create awareness about tiger conservation and protection of natural habitat of tigers. At Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia in 2010, Governments of tiger populated countries had vowed to double tiger population by 2020. India has achieved this target as the Tiger Estimation Report 2018 says that India now has 2967 tigers. Madhya Pradesh has the highest numbers -526, closely followed by Karnataka at 524.

### July 30: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Observed with UN support to raise awareness about the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights. This year, the focus is on highlighting the importance of the persons who are the first responders to human trafficking with a tagline - "Committed to the cause - working on the frontline to end human trafficking"

## JUNE

### June 1: World Milk Day

Celebrated every year to educate people about the importance of milk in our diet. The day aims to make people aware of the importance of milk in a person's life. The celebrations are supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. This time, as the initiative has completed 20 long years, the theme simply says "20th Anniversary of World Milk Day".

### June 1: Global Day of Parents

The UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in 2012 by passing a resolution to honour parents for their relentless support, sacrifice and commitments towards their children. The Day provides us an opportunity to pay respect and appreciate parents for what they do for their children, their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Honour Your Parents!"

### June 3: World Bicycle Day

The United Nations approved this day in 2018 to encourage the use of the bicycle as a means of fostering sustainable development. The idea behind it is to recognise the longevity, uniqueness and versatility of the bicycle, and that it is an affordable, reliable, simple, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transport.

#### **June 5: World Environment Day**



It is the biggest annual event in the world run by the United Nations to mark the environmental awareness among the people. Its main aim is to raise awareness to protect nature and look at various environmental issues that are growing day by day. This year's theme is "celebrating biodiversity".

Biodiversity underpins life on Earth, and refers to the variety found in biota from genetic makeup of plants and animals to cultural diversity.

#### **June 7: World Food Safety Day**

It is celebrated to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

Through this day, WHO pursues its efforts to mainstream food safety in the public agenda and reduce the burden of food-borne diseases globally. The theme for this year's celebrations has been selected as 'Food safety, everyone's business'.

#### **June 8: World Oceans Day**

Observed globally every year to raise awareness about the importance of the oceans in our lives and the ways through which we can protect them. With the ongoing issues related to water bodies, such as plastic waste, decreasing level of water, impurities in water and others, it is the utmost necessity to preserve and conserve our oceans. They are the lungs of our planet and provide most of the oxygen we breathe. The theme of UN World Oceans Day 2020 is "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean."

#### **June 12: World Day Against Child Labour**

The day provides an opportunity and urges the need to generate an environment for children to grow and live a dignified life and also to fight against child labour throughout the world. The theme for this year is "Protect children from child labour, now more than ever". The International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002.

#### **June 14: World Blood Donor Day**

The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors. Blood is an important resource, both for planned treatments and urgent interventions. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions and supports complex medical and surgical procedures. This year the theme is - Safe blood saves lives.

#### **June 15: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Observed with UN support to provide an opportunity for communities around the globe to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by creating awareness of the various factors that affect elder abuse and neglect. It is a global social issue that affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world.

#### **June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

Observed every year to spread awareness among people about the cooperation required to combat desertification and the effects of drought. The theme of the Day for 2020 is Food. Feed.Fibre. – the links between consumption and land.

#### **June 18: Autistic Pride Day**

Observed globally every year to respect the rights of persons with autism. In 2005, the first autistic pride day was celebrated in Brazil by the Aspies For Freedom (AFF) created by Gareth & Amy Nelson and became a global event. Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, speech and nonverbal communication.

#### **June 20: World Refugee Day**

The United Nations celebrates this day across the world to remind the world that everyone, including refugees, are capable of contributing towards society and can create a more just, inclusive, and equal world. The theme for this year is "Every Action Counts".

#### **June 21: World Music Day**

Celebrated around the world to promote peace and spread goodwill through music. The day is also popularly referred to as Fete de la Musique in French. It was founded by Jack Lang and Maurice Fleuret in 1981. Every year free concerts are organized across the globe to make music accessible to all.





**June (21): Father's Day**

The Day is celebrated every year on the third Sunday of June. The Day honors the role fathers play in the family structure and society. The day recognizes not just fathers, but the father figures in our lives. The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in USA.

**June 21: World Hydrography Day**

Observed globally every year to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography. The theme for this year is "Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies". Hydrography is the branch of science that measures and describes the physical features of the navigable portion of the Earth's surface and adjoining coastal areas.

**June 23: World Olympic Day**

This day is celebrated all around the world by hundreds of thousands of people (old and young) who participate in sports activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music, and educational seminars. The day marks the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement and the foundation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on this day in 1894 in Paris.

**June 23: United Nations Public Service Day**

This day is observed to highlight the contribution of public servants in the development process and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector. The role of public service and people engaged in it have become far more important when a pandemic is raging across the globe, killing over 10 lakh people worldwide. "Honouring the public servants who have been working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic" is this year's focus for UN Public Service Day.

**June 23: International Widows Day**

The day was launched by the United Nations in 2010 to raise awareness of the violation of human rights that widows suffer in many countries following the death of their spouses. Several women around the world after losing their life partner face challenges and do long-term struggle for basic needs, their human rights and dignity. The ultimate goal of the day is to develop resources and policy to empower widows and allow them to have access to education, work, healthcare and lives free of violence and abuse. This year the theme is 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'.

**June 25: Day of the Seafarer**

The International Maritime Organization celebrates this day to pay respect to seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport. The 2020 campaign for the day is: Seafarers are Key Workers.

**June 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

In 1987, the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe this Day as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. The theme this year is "Better Knowledge for Better Care".

**June 27: Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day**

This day is observed by the United Nations to raise public awareness of their contribution to sustainable development and the global economy. These enterprises, which usually employ fewer than 250 persons, are the backbone of most economies worldwide. According to the data provided by the International Council for Small Business, formal and informal MSMEs make up over 90% of all firms and account on average for 60 – 70% of total employment and 50% of GDP.

**June 29: National Statistics Day**

It is celebrated every year on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System. The Day aims to popularise the use of statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.

**June 30: International Day of Parliamentarism**

This Day celebrates parliaments and the ways in which parliamentary systems of government improve the day-to-day lives of people the world over. Strong parliaments are a cornerstone of democracy. They represent the voice of the people, pass laws, allocate funds to implement laws and policies, and hold governments to account. They work to make sure that policies benefit all people, especially the most vulnerable.

**June 30: World Asteroid Day**

This day is observed to commemorate the crashing of a huge asteroid in Tunguska in Siberia on this day in 1908. It is the most harmful known asteroid related event on Earth in recent history. On this special day, many programmes relating to creating awareness about the study of Asteroids are also run by the UNO.



ALL THE NEWS ITEMS IN THIS MAGAZINE HAVE BEEN SOURCED FROM VARIOUS NEWS PAPERS AND GOVT. PRESS RELEASES.

# Bullet News

(Feb 2020 – April 2020)

For details visit – [www.gyanm.in](http://www.gyanm.in)

## NATIONAL NEWS

### APRIL

- Union Cabinet approved reduction in MPs salary by 30 per cent for one year, wef April 1, 2020 for funding the fight against Corona.
- The President, Vice President, Governors of States have also voluntarily decided to take a pay cut of 30% for one year to support fight against Corona.
- The cabinet decided to suspend MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) funds for two years from 2020-21 for fighting Corona.
- As per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India stood third spending \$71.1 billion on defence in 2019.
- India has ranked 142nd out of 180 countries surveyed in the Global Press Freedom Index.
- The Indian Air Force conducted 'Operation Sanjeevani' to air-lift 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to the Maldives to fight against the COVID 19.

### MARCH

- Indian Railways launched its first "Restaurant on Wheels" at the circulating area of Asansol railway station, West Bengal
- Govt has nominated Dholavira in Gujarat and Forts and Monuments of Deccan Sultanate for inclusion in the World Heritage List 2020, maintained by UNESCO.
- India remained the world's second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia, during the period 2015-19.
  - ✓ The report placed India 23rd among the world's 25 largest arms exporters.

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced that all 6,03,175 villages in the country have declared themselves Open Defecation Free, ODF.

### FEBRUARY

- The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
  - ✓ The mascot for CMS COP13 is "Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard", a critically endangered species.
- The 34<sup>th</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Fair held at Surajkund in Faridabad, Haryana. Uzbekistan was the partner country and Himachal Pradesh was the theme state.
- The Supreme Court has directed states, which are yet to come out with notifications for establishing Gram Nyayalayas, to do so within four weeks.
- The Supreme Court has made it clear that the police have no right to detain children (below 18) in conflict with law in a lockup or a jail.
- Over 1,000 companies from nearly 70 countries took part in the biggest-ever DefExpo held in Lucknow from February 5-9.
- Supreme Court directed the union govt to grant permanent commission to all women officers who opt for it in the Army within three months.
- An imposing meditation centre, billed as the world's largest meditation facility, was inaugurated in 'Kanha Shantivanam' near Hyderabad, Telangana.
- India and 50 African nations adopted the 'Lucknow Declaration' during the first India-Africa Defence Minister's Conclave held on February 6.
- Govt has renamed the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Foreign Service Institute as Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.
- Oxford University Press named 'Samvidhaan' (Constitution) as the "Oxford Hindi Word of 2019", saying that the word received widespread attention in the year.



# NEWS FROM STATES

## APRIL

Uttar Pradesh became the first state on April 19 to geo-tag 7,368 community kitchens being run in the state, providing 12 lakh food packets per day.

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to have the requisite infrastructure in all its courts for hearing cases through video conferencing.

The World Bank has approved \$82 million for the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Trans-formation Project for upgradation of major roads.

## MARCH

- Govt has declared the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as an eco-sensitive zone.
  - ✓ This implies that agricultural areas and other open spaces in the eco-sensitive zone will not be converted into residential or commercial areas.
- The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly went paperless on March 2 with the implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- Gujarat has topped the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, accounting for about 64% of the total 77,950 domestic solar installations in the country.
- The Tamil Nadu has asked the temple administrators in the state to obtain a 'BHOG' certificate from FSSAI for the 'prasaad' distributed by them.
- The Gujarat Police has become the first state police to use taser guns as a part of their modernization drive to ensure public safety and security.
- 'Fuel Humsafar' app launched for doorstep delivery of diesel to bulk consumers such as housing societies, hotels, hospitals in the national capital region.
- Mizoram celebrated its most joyful and biggest spring festival - "Chapchar Kut", famous for its bamboo folk dance, in the first week of March.

## FEBRUARY

- Madhya Pradesh has bagged the first position for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
  - ✓ The scheme implemented by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development
  - ✓ It provides incentives of 5,000 rupees for the loss of wages of working women and to ensure

their proper rest and nutrition during pregnancy.

- India's first floating jetty has been inaugurated at a cruise terminal in Vasco on the banks of River Mandovi in Goa.
- The NE Frontier Railway has built India's tallest railway pier bridge-100 mt tall, equivalent to a 33-storey building, across river Makru in Manipur.
- The Tamil Nadu declared the Cauvery delta region as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone, covering eight districts that form the rice bowl of the state.
- The Uttarakhand Government has approved the design for the first of its kind glass floor suspension bridge in the country to be built across River Ganga.
  - ✓ This bridge will be built in Rishikesh in place of 94 year old Lakshman Jhula Bridge.
- Kerala hosted "ClimFishCon 2020" international conference in Cochin on the impact of climate change on 'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security', from Feb 11 to 14.

# GOVT INITIATIVES

## APRIL

- India's first comprehensive COVID-19 tracking app, 'Aarogya Setu' was launched by the central government on April 2, 2020.
- An Integrated Geospatial Platform "SAHYOG" launched by the Deptt of Science and Technology to help in decision making for managing COVID-19.
- The e-Gram Swaraj Portal and Mobile app launched to prepare and plan Gram Panchayat Development Plans.
- 'Swamitva' scheme launched in pilot mode in 6 states to map rural inhabited lands using drones and latest survey methods.
- Govt approved a double-digit hike, Rs. 13 to Rs. 34, in the wages of labourers under MGNREGA, wef April 1, 2020, in all the States and UTs.
- The Agriculture Ministry launched Kisan Rath mobile app to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables like fruits and vegetables.
- The CBSE has decided to introduce three new subjects -- Design Thinking, Physical Activity Trainer and Artificial Intelligence, for class 11 from 2020-21.

## MARCH

- Govt announced Rs. 1.70 Lakh crore 'Garib Kalyan Package' for helping the poor people amidst the Corona crisis.

- ✓ Under the Yojana, 80 crore poor people will be given 5 kg Wheat or Rice and 1 kg daal for 3 months.
- The Government has targeted to replace all level crossings on National Highways with road over bridges or under bridges under the Setu Bharatam Scheme before the end of the year 2020.
- “Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan” launched to create malnutrition-free India to keep pregnant women and newborn babies healthy.
- For the first time in India, the Department of Posts introduced a free digital parcel locker service in Kolkata to enable customers to collect their consignment from specified post offices at their convenience.
- The government has announced that applicants for jobs in railways, banks and lower levels of the Central government will now write a common eligibility test (CET) from 2021.
- The Central Sanskrit University Bill 2019 was passed recently by the Parliament to provide Central University status to three universities in India.
- A bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has been established in Chennai to cater to the needs of south based clients.

## FEBRUARY

- Indian Railways started on Feb 20 a special train by the name Kashi Mahakal Express, linking Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh with Indore in Madhya Pradesh.
- Government has formally announced the constitution of the 22nd Law Commission. The law panel advises the government on complex legal issues and has a term of three years.
- The central government launched the “School Health Ambassador Initiative” to spread awareness about the preventive health aspects.
  - ✓ *The initiative has been launched as a part of Ayushman Bharat and aims to strengthen the concept of preventive, promotive and positive health.*
- The Indian Railways launched the Hindi version of Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot called “ASKDISHA”.
- IRCTC announced to run a special tourist train ‘Shri Ramayana Express’ to cover all the important pilgrimage sites associated with Lord Rama in a 17 day tour package.

- The South Central Railway zone has become the 1st railway zone in the country to have functional “energy neutral” railway stations on the network.
- ✓ The railway stations will meet their 100 per cent energy requirements by tapping into solar power

## ECONOMY

### APRIL

- Facebook invested Rs 43,574 crore for securing a 9.99 per cent stake in India's oil-retail-telecom conglomerate Reliance led Jio Platforms.
- The TVS Motor's overseas subsidiary TVS Motor Singapore Pte. Ltd. acquired UK's iconic sporting motorcycle brand 'Norton'.

### MARCH

- SEBI launched ‘Sebi SCORES’ app for facilitating investors to lodge grievances with the convenience of their smartphones. SCORES stands for “Sebi Complaints Redress System”.
- The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd has become the 1st Indian company to begin supply of BS-VI fuel across its 28,000 petrol pumps.

### FEBRUARY

- As per a report by the US-based think tank World Population Review, India emerged as the world's fifth largest economy by overtaking the UK and France in 2019, with a GDP of \$ 2.94 trillion.
- As per World Steel Association data, India became the second-largest steel producer of crude steel after China in 2019, by replacing Japan to 3rd position.
- As per the PSU Survey 2018-19, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC were three of the top profitable companies of India.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### APRIL

- Govt has declared banking industry as a public utility service for six months till October 21 under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- The RBI asked scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks to not to make any dividends for the FY ending March 2020 to conserve cash to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19.



- ICICI bank has rolled out a new feature of voice banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for its customers.

## MARCH

- The Supreme Court allowed banks and financial institutions for providing services related to cryptocurrencies by setting aside the RBI's April, 2018 circular which had prohibited them.
- SIDBI to start Swavalamban Express to promote budding business aspirants and entrepreneurs and promote entrepreneurial culture among the youth.
- Bank of Baroda launched the mission "Baroda Startup Banking" to establish connect with at least 2,000 start-ups over the next two years.
- The Central government approved Rs 1,340 crore recapitalisation plan to help the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) meet regulatory capital requirements.
- State Bank waived off the minimum balance in Savings accounts. Further, charges for sending transaction SMS alerts to the customers also waived.
- B.P. Kanungo: Deputy Governor of the RBI was given a one-year extension of service wef April 02, 2020, by the Central Government
- N S Vishwanathan: RBI Deputy Governor announced his resignation due to health problems.

## FEBRUARY

- RBI has enhanced the insurance cover on bank deposits to five lakh rupees from one lakh rupees wef Feb 04.
  - ✓ *The cover is provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.*
- Union Cabinet has decided to bring Cooperative banks under the regulatory mechanism of RBI, while administrative issues would continue to be dealt by the Registrar of Cooperatives.
- IndusInd Bank topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among the banks around the world, according to 'The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report

# DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## APRIL

The Trump administration approved the sale of Harpoon Block II air launched missiles and lightweight torpedoes worth \$155 million to India.

## MARCH

- The Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Varad and ICGS Vajra were commissioned in the Indian Coast Guard at a function held in the Chennai Port.
- DRDO in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has developed a new explosive detection device RaIDER-X
  - ✓ It can detect explosives from a specific range and also bulk explosives located in a hidden place.
- India bagged a \$ 40 million deal to supply 4 indigenously built radars (capable of locating weapons) to Armenia in Europe.
- The Indian army has named its battle against Coronavirus as 'Operation Namaste'. This will help the government in dealing with the COVID19.
- In another landmark judgement, the Supreme Court ruled that women cannot be denied permanent commission in the Navy.
- Nupur Kulshrestha, became the first woman to be promoted as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Indian Coast Guard. She joined Indian Coast Guard in 1999.
- The Defence Ministry signed a capital acquisition contract with Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) for procurement of 16,479 Negev 7.62x51 mm light machine guns (LMGs) at a cost of Rs 880 crore.
- The astronomers have discovered the first known permanent population of asteroids in a new study. These asteroids, 19 in number, have been originating from outside our solar system.
- An earth sized exo-planet called Kepler-1649c has been found by the team of transatlantic scientists.
  - ✓ The planet orbiting in its star's habitable zone was discovered while reanalysing data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope.
- Iran has successfully launched its first-ever military satellite named "Noor" into orbit. 'Noor' has been orbiting 425 km above the earth's surface.
- Astronomers have discovered the biggest ever explosion in the universe since the Big Bang, in a galaxy some 390 million light-years away from Earth.
- Indian scientists have developed 'MACS 4028', a biofortified high-protein variety of Wheat. The new variety is resistant to many pests and diseases.
- The US Space Force successfully deployed its Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite to provide secure communications for the US military and its allies.
- After conducting a nationwide competition to decide the name of the Mars rover, NASA has named it as 'Perseverance' for the Mars mission for July 2020.



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## FEBRUARY

- INS Shivaji, Indian Naval station located in Lonavala, Maharashtra received 'President's Colour' for the unit's meritorious services. It was commissioned on 15-02-1945 and houses Naval College of Engineering.
- The anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette "INS Kavaratti" delivered to Indian Navy.
- The Indian Navy conducted a coastal security exercise named 'Malta Abhiyan' in Sunderban delta waters near Kolkata, West Bengal.
  - ✓ The exercise aimed to interact with coastal communities to spread awareness on coastal security.
- Sampriti-IX: 14 day joint military training exercise between India and Bangladesh was held at Umroi, Meghalaya, from February 3 to 16.
- Exercise Indradhanush 2020: Joint Airforce exercise of India and UK was held in last week of February at the Air Force Station Hindan, near Ghaziabad, UP.
- Ajeya Warrior-2020: Joint military exercise of India and the United Kingdom, conducted at Salisbury Plains in the United Kingdom from Feb. 13-26.
- Missile 'Pranash': DRDO is developing a 200-km strike range supersonic tactical ballistic missile 'Pranash'.
- 'Operation Vanilla': Mission by Indian Navy to provide disaster relief to victims of Cyclone Diane at Madagascar, Africa.
- Researchers have accidentally discovered the first non-oxygen breathing animal. A micro parasite, Henneguya Salminicola, comprising of less than 10-cells, lives in muscle of Salmon fish.

## INTERNATIONAL

### APRIL

The BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs summit was held through a video conference on April 28, 2020, led by the group's current chair, Russia.

The 11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue with 30 countries including India was hosted by Germany on April 28, through a video conference.

The USA has decided to stop US funding for the World Health Organization (WHO), which it has accused of grossly mismanaging and covering-up the spread of the novel coronavirus.

For the first time in history, the US oil prices turned negative on April 20. The prices of West Texas

Intermediate, the best quality crude oil in the world, crashed below \$ 0 mark to -\$40.32 a barrel.

Saudi Arabia has declared an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors; instead they will undergo a prison sentence of no longer than 10 years in a juvenile detention facility.

## MARCH

- WHO officially declared the rapidly spreading - COVID-19, as a pandemic.
  - ✓ A pandemic describes a disease that is spreading between people in multiple countries around the world at the same time.
- The WHO and WEF launched an emergency task force "COVID Action Platform" in response to the global outbreak of coronavirus.
  - ✓ More than 200 corporate leaders from around the globe have offered their support for the platform.
- The Hurun Global Rich List 2020 ranked Jeff Bezos of Amazon at number one with wealth of \$ 140 billion, followed by Bernard Arnault and Bill Gates at second and third rank, respectively.
- The first G-20 virtual summit was held on March 26 under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabian King Salman.
- The United States signed a historic peace agreement with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar for a phased withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan.

## FEBRUARY

- The WHO decided to name the disease caused by the coronavirus as '**COVID-19**'. The 'CO' stands for corona, the 'VI' for virus and the 'D' for disease.
- Bhutan to charge 'Sustainable Development Fee' from tourists from India, Maldives, and Bangladesh for their stay in the country. *A sustainable development fee is a payment for the maintenance of ecology in the country.*
- African Union Summit 2020 was held on Feb 10-11 in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.
- Maldives was readmitted to the Commonwealth on Feb 01, more than 3 years after it quit the organisation over criticism of its human rights record.
- Nepal created a new Guinness World Record for organizing the highest altitude Fashion Show.
  - ✓ The Mount Everest Fashion Runway fashion show was held at 5340 meters elevation at Kala Patthar, near Everest base camp.
- Marking a historic moment, at 23:00 GMT, on January 31, Britain officially left the European Union, after 47 years of membership - and more than three years after it voted to do so in a referendum.

# PERSONS IN NEWS

## APRIL - MARCH

**Maharaja Ranjit Singh:** Veteran Indian king, the Indian ruler of the Sikh Empire in the 19th century, was named as the 'greatest leader ever' in the world in a survey conducted by BBC World History Magazine.

**Founders of Byju's and Zomato:** Byju Classes' founder Byju Raveendran and Zomato's co-founder Gaurav Gupta are among the five Indians named by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders under the age of 40.

**Justice Ranjan Gogoi:** President Ram Nath Kovind nominated former Chief Justice of India to the Rajya Sabha on March 16.

**Bill Gates:** Co-founder of Microsoft announced his stepping down from Microsoft's board of directors as he wanted to dedicate more time to his philanthropic priorities served since 2004.

**Satyarup Siddhanta:** Indian mountaineer entered 'Limca Book of Records' for his extraordinary achievement of becoming the first Indian to climb the highest volcanoes of each of the 7 continents.

## FEBRUARY

**Radhakishan Damani:** Founder of the company Avenue Supermarts, which is doing business as D-Mart retail super markets, has now become the 2nd richest Indian after Mukesh Ambani.

**Shaktikanta Das:** The RBI Governor has been chosen as the "Central Banker of the Year" for the Asia Pacific Region by the London based global financial magazine - The Banker.

# APPOINTMENTS

## APRIL

**Sanjay Kothari:** Took oath as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India.

**Pravin Rao:** The COO of Infosys has been appointed new Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).

**M S Mahabaleshwara:** Re-appointed as the MD and CEO of the private sector Karnataka Bank

**Viswanathan Anand:** Appointed ambassador for the environmental education programme by the WWF (World Wide Fund) India.

**Kapil Dev Tripathi:** Appointed as the new Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.

**T. S. Tirumurti:** Appointed as the next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations' headquarters in New York.

## MARCH

**Shivraj Singh Chouhan:** Took oath for the 4th time as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

**Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey:** Appointed as the Union Finance Secretary.

**Prashant Kumar:** Appointed as the new MD and CEO of the Yes Bank.

## FEBRUARY

**Bimal Julka:** Selected as the new Chief Information Commissioner to head the Central Information Commission.

**Sanjay Kothari:** Appointed as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner

**Debasish Panda:** Appointed as the new financial services secretary, Ministry of Finance

**Ajay Bisaria:** Appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Canada

**M Ajit Kumar:** Appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs - CBIC.

**Sunil Mehta:** Elected as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Mumbai for the year 2020. He is former MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank.

# AWARDS & HONOURS

## APRIL

**7th Dr M S Swaminathan Award:** Won by V Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Telangana State Agricultural University for his contributions in the fields of agricultural research.

## MARCH

**Chameli Devi Jain Award:** For outstanding woman journalist, given to Arfa Khanum Sherwani of "The Wire" and Bengaluru-based freelancer Rohini Mohan.

**Abel Prize 2020:** Popular as the "Nobel of Mathematics", awarded to Hillel Furstenberg from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and Gregory Margulis from Yale University, USA.



**Pritzker Prize 2020:** Awarded for the first time to two women, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, Dublin, Ireland based architects.

## FEBRUARY

**International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy:** Presented to Dr NS Dharmashaktu in the individual category and the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category.

### 65th Filmfare Awards ceremony held in Guwahati

Some of the top award winners are as under:

**Best Film-** Gully Boy by Zoya Akhtar

**Best Director-** Zoya Akhtar for Gully Boy

**Best Actor (Male) -** Ranveer Singh for Gully Boy

**Best Actor (Female) -** Alia Bhatt for Gully Boy

**Lifetime Achievement Award -** Ramesh Sippy, director of Sholay fame

**Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020** announced in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Best Film:** Super 30 by Vikas Bahl

**Best Actor:** Hrithik Roshan for Super 30

### BAFTA awards announced in London

**Best Film:** 1917 by Sam Mendes

**Best Director:** Sam Mendes for 1917

**Best Leading Actress:** Renee Zellweger (Judy)

**Best Leading Actor:** Joaquin Phoenix (Joker)

### 92nd Academy awards (Oscars) announced

**Best Picture:** Parasite by Bong Joon-ho of South Korea, first non English film to win Oscar for the best picture.

**Best Director:** Bong Joon-ho for Parasite

**Best Actress:** Renée Zellweger for Judy

**Best Actor:** Joaquin Phoenix for Joker

**Best Documentary:** American Factory by Barack and Michelle Obama

**Dan David Prize 2020:** Awarded to Gita Sen, Indian feminist scholar and activist under “present” category for her outstanding work in the fields of women’s rights, reproductive and sexual health and poverty eradication.

**Tyler Prize 2020:** Awarded to Pavan Sukhdev, President and Chairman of the board of World Wildlife Fund, for his outstanding work in the sphere of the green economy.

## OBITUARY

### APRIL

**Rishi Kapoor:** Veteran actor passed away in a Mumbai hospital on April 30. He was 67. For the past almost two years, he was suffering from Leukemia, a type of blood cancer.

**Irrfan Khan:** Renowned Bollywood actor passed away in Mumbai on April 29. The actor was reportedly battling a rare colon cancer.

**Usha Ganguly:** Eminent theatre personality died at her residence in south Kolkata at the age of 75. She founded the Rangakarmee group in 1976, known for non-conformist productions like Mahabhoj, Rudali, Court Martial and Antaryatra.

**Tony Lewis:** The British cricketer, who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis Method, died on April 1 at the age of 78 years.

**Sir Stirling Moss:** One of the true greats of Formula 1 car racing, died at the age of 90. His versatility won him 212 of his 529 races in every conceivable kind of car.

**Gene Deitch:** Creator of most popular animation characters Tom and Jerry, Popeye the Sailor, passed away at the age of 95 at his residence in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

## MARCH

**Satish Gujral:** Artist and architect renowned for his versatility across different mediums, died in New Delhi. He was 94. He was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan.

**Nimmi:** The doe-eyed star of 1950s and ‘60s Hindi movies such as *Aan*, *Barsaat* and *Deedar*, died after prolonged illness, at the age of 88.

**P K Banerjee:** Legendary Indian footballer died in Kolkata after battling prolonged illness. He was 83. The 1962 Asian Games gold-medallist was conferred with Arjun award and Padma Shri.

**Rajyogini Dadi Janki:** The Chief of Brahma Kumaris Sansthan, world’s largest spiritual organisation run by women, passed away at the age of 104 after prolonged illness at Sansthan’s headquarter in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

**Javier Perez de Cuellar:** Former UN chief, who led the world body during the Iran-Iraq war and the civil war in El Salvador, died in his native Peru, after completing 100 years on this January 19.

## FEBRUARY

**Dr. R K Pachauri:** Noted environmentalist passed away on Feb 13 after prolonged cardiac ailment. He was 79. He received Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2008 for his excellent services.

**P Parameswaran:** Renowned thinker, writer and the founder director of Bharatiya Vichara Kendram, passed away at the age of 91 at Ottapalam in Kerala.

**Daniel Arap Moi:** The longest-serving Kenyan President passed away on February 04. He was 95. He ruled Kenya from 1978 to 2002, winning five general elections, continuously.

**Mohammed Hosni Mubarak:** Egypt's former President, who ruled the country for 30 years, died of old age related ailments. He was 91.

**Mary Higgins Clark:** The long-reigning "Queen of Suspense" whose tales of women beating the odds made her one of the world's most popular writers, died in Naples, Florida of natural causes. She was 92.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### APRIL

**Gairsain:** The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat declared that the summer capital of Uttarakhand will be shifted to Gairsain in district Chamoli. Presently, Dehradun is the capital of the state.

**Nieu:** A tiny island country in the South Pacific Ocean has become the world's first whole country to be recognised as a 'Dark Sky Place'.

### MARCH

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### FEBRUARY

**IGI Airport:** Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has become free of single-use plastic usage.

## SPORTS WORLD

### APRIL

**P V Sindhu:** World Badminton Champion has been named as one of the ambassadors for Badminton World Federation (BWF)'s "I am badminton" awareness campaign.

**Indian football team** retained its 108th spot in the latest FIFA rankings. While Belgium ranked first, world champion France ranked 2nd and Brazil 3rd.

### MARCH

**Achanta Sharath Kamal,** ace Indian paddler ended his decade-long wait for a title by winning the ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open (Table Tennis) in Muscat, Oman.

**Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award:** Manpreet Singh and Rani Rampal, captains of the National men and women teams, respectively, won this award in the men's and women's categories.

**BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award - 2019:** Won by P V Sindhu, star Badminton player of India. Sprinter queen P T Usha was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement award.

**Ranji Trophy:** won for the first time by Saurashtra, led by its charismatic captain Jaydev Unadkat by beating Bengal.

**The First Khelo India University Games** concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on March 1. Panjab University, Chandigarh took home the champions trophy.

**Wasim Jaffer:** The 42-year-old veteran batsman from Mumbai, the highest (12,038) run-scorer in the history of Ranji Trophy, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He also held the domestic record for the most centuries (40) and catches (200).

### FEBRUARY

**D Gukesh,** the 13-year old Chess Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu emerged champion in the 34th Cannes Open in France.

**India's Esow Alben** bagged gold in the men's Keirin individual cycling event of the six day Berlin Tournament, Germany. Keirin is a special pace based cycling.

**World rapid champion Koneru Humpy** claimed her second title in the last two months by winning the Cairns Cup chess tournament at St Louis, Missouri, USA.

**Joshna Chinappa** won her 18th and **Saurav Ghosal** won his 13th national title in women and men's category, respectively at the 77th Senior National Championship (Squash) held in Chennai.

**Aditya Mehta** defeated multiple-time world champion Pankaj Advani 6-2 to win the National Snooker



Championship in Pune. The women's title was won by Karnataka's Vidya Pillai.

**Sunil Kumar**, Greco Roman wrestler won gold in 87 kg category in the Asian Wrestling Championships at New Delhi. **Divya Kakran** became only the second Indian woman to win gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships. Ravi Dahiya won his first-ever Asian Championships gold in the 57kg category.

**Chandrakant Mali** created three new records in the men's 109kg category in the National Weightlifting Championships at Kolkata on February 7.

**Mirabai Chanu**, former world champion bettered her own national record by two kilogram as she lifted a total of 203kg to win the gold in the 49 kg category in the National Championships in Kolkata.

#### ESPN SPORTS AWARDS DECLARED

**ESPN** - Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, a USA based global multimedia TV network, announced on Feb 20 "ESPN India Annual Multi-Sport Awards" for best Indian sportspersons, other than in Cricket as it is covered by a different ESPN channel.

**Female Sportsperson of the Year:** World champion shuttler P V Sindhu, won for a third consecutive time.

**Male Sportsperson of the Year:** Saurabh Chaudhary, 17 year old boy from Meerut, UP, winner several international and national medals, mostly gold.

**Emerging Sports Person of the Year:** Wrestler Deepak Punia

**Team of the Year:** Young shooters Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary

**Rani Rampal**, Indian women's hockey team captain became the first-ever hockey player to win the prestigious '**World Games Athlete of the Year**' award given by the International World Games Association, Switzerland after conducting worldwide voting. Rani secured around 2 lakh votes from over 7 lakh votes cast in the poll.

**Manpreet Singh:** The Indian men's hockey team captain was named Player of the Year for 2019 by the International Hockey Federation. Manpreet is the first Indian to win this honour since the beginning of the awards in 1999.

**Lalremisiami**, 19 year old Hockey player from Mizoram has been named as the "2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year" by the International Hockey Federation.

**Khelo India winter games 2020** were held in the Union Territory of Ladakh and some events in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

**The 6th National Ice Stock Sports Championship** was held at Ice Rink in Gulmarg (J&K). Two hundred participants from 18 states participated in the three-day event. J&K team won the gold in the team event.

**The International Hockey Federation**, Lausanne in Switzerland has granted hosting rights for the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 to India.

**The 36th edition of the National Games** will be held in Goa from 20th October to 4th November 2020. '**Rubigula**', flame-throated Bulbul, state bird of Goa, has been selected as the official mascot for the Games.

#### INTERNATIONAL

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN**, year's first Grand Slam of Tennis concluded at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia.

**Serbia's Novak Djokovic** won record 8th Men's singles title by beating Dominic Thiem of Austria.

**American Sofia Kenin** won her first Grand Slam title with victory over Spain's Garbine Muguruza

#### THE LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS - 2020

**Laureus Sportsman of the year:** Lionel Messi, Footballer from Argentina and Lewis Hamilton, F1 racer from Britain

**Laureus Sportswoman of the year:** Simone Biles, star gymnast from USA with highest ever number of Olympic and World Championship medals.

**Laureus Team of the Year:** National Rugby team of South Africa, winner of the Rugby World Cup, 2019

**Ross Taylor**, veteran New Zealand batsman became the first player in the world to play 100 matches each in all three formats of cricket, viz. Test, ODI and T20.

#### IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards:

**Men** - Malcolm Arnold from Uganda, for training athletes

**Women** - Ulla Koch from Germany, for training gymnasts

**ICC U-19 World Cup:** Bangladesh lifted the cricket cup for the first time, by defeating India by three wickets at JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa.

**ICC Women's Championship Trophy 2020:** Awarded to Australia's team led by Meghann Moira Lanning (For winning eight ODI matches

# Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



## JULY GK TEST - 01

1. **Who has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India?**  
a) Gyanendro Nigombaum      b) Balbir Singh  
c) Sunil Chettri                d) Dhanraj Pillai  
e) Sanjay Singh
2. **When is World Population Day celebrated around the world?**  
a) 12 July                              b) 13 July  
c) 11 July                              d) 10 July  
e) 18 July
3. **In which State the First ever e- Lok Adalat of India was organised recently?**  
a) Himachal Pradesh              b) Chattisgarh  
c) Arunachal Pradesh              d) Maharashtra  
e) Jharkhand
4. **Which State has started the campaign 'Pure for Sure' to ensure purity of milk?**  
a) Himachal Pradesh              b) Chattisgarh  
c) Rajasthan                        d) Maharashtra  
e) Gujarat
5. **Flipkart signed an agreement with which state to promote arts, crafts and handloom sector of that state?**  
a) Karnataka                        b) Chhattisgarh  
c) Rajasthan                        d) Maharashtra  
e) Nagaland
6. **Reserve Bank of India is the lender of the last resort to scheduled commercial banks because-**  
A. They can approach RBI when their limits are exhausted  
B. They are not able to get loans from other banks  
C. RBI comes to the rescue of a bank that is solvent but faces temporary liquidity problems by providing much needed funds.  
D. All of the above  
E. None of the given options is true
7. **Which is the final authority for deciding the design, form and content of the currency notes?**  
A. Central Government  
B. Reserve Bank of India  
C. Indian Banks Association  
D. Note Issuing Authority of India  
E. None of the given options is true
8. **Which Aerospace company has delivered 22 Apache and 15 Chinook military helicopters to the Indian Air Force?**  
a) Airbus                                b) General Dynamics  
c) Northrop Grumman              d) Boeing  
e) BAE systems
9. **Which IIT inked pact with NVIDIA to establish India's first NVIDIA AI Technology center?**  
a) IIT- Hyderabad                    b) IIT- Madras  
c) IIT- Ropar                        d) IIT- Delhi  
e) IIT, Bombay
10. **Headquarters of which organisation received the EU Green Building Leadership Award for 2020?**  
a) ICC                                    b) IOC  
c) FIFA                                  d) IMF  
e) WHO
11. **Recently Google re-launched Google+ and it has been renamed as \_\_\_\_\_?**  
a) Google ++                        b) Google Create  
c) Google Current                  d) Google Play  
e) Google Fast
12. **Which of the following is the Chairman of India's largest bank – State Bank of India?**  
a) KK Venugopal                    b) Rajnish Kumar  
c) Tushar Mehta                    d) Kiran Majumdar  
e) M K Jain
13. **Which of the following are the instruments of Credit Control in the hands of the RBI?**  
I. Lowering or raising the discount and interest rates.  
II. Raising the minimum support price of the major agro products.  
III. Lowering or raising the minimum cash reserves maintained by the commercial banks.  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
A. Only I                                B. Only II  
C. Only III                              D. Both I and III  
E. Both II and III



14. Which of the following are decided by the Reserve Bank of India?  
I. Deposit interest rates  
II. Base Rate  
III. Prime Lending Rate  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below  
A. Only I B. Only II  
C. Only III D. II and III  
E. None of these
15. As we all know, scheduled banks in India are required to maintain a certain portion of their demand and time liabilities with the Reserve Bank of India. This portion is called?  
A. Statutory liquidity ratio  
B. Cash reserve ratio  
C. Bank reserve deposit D. Reverse repo  
E. Government securities
16. For safety, security, defence, sovereignty and integrity of India and to protect data and privacy of people of India, the Government on June 29 banned \_\_\_\_ mobile apps that were based in China.  
a) 51 b) 55  
c) 59 d) 63  
e) 72
17. Who has been re-appointed as the Attorney General for India for one more year from July 1, 2020 by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?  
a) Tushar Mehta b) K K Venugopal  
c) Mukul Rohtagi d) Kapil Sibbal  
e) Ranjit Kumar
18. What is the Rank of India in the recently released Global Real Estate Transparency Index?  
a) 30 b) 34  
c) 28 d) 44  
e) 17
19. Which State has launched a mobile application called 'Self Scan' enabling people to scan their important personal documents for storing them in their mobile phones?  
a) West Bengal b) Maharashtra  
c) Uttar Pradesh d) Bihar  
e) Sikkim
20. Which country's Railway has established the world's first solar power plant to directly power the overhead line?  
a) China b) Japan  
c) USA d) India  
e) Germany
21. Drawing, accepting, making or issuing of any promissory note, hundi or bill of exchange expressed to be payable to bearer on demand by a person other than the Reserve Bank of

India or the Central Government is prohibited under-

- A. Banking Regulation Act, 1949  
B. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934  
C. Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881  
D. Indian Contract Act, 1872  
E. None of the given options is true
22. What is the role of the Public Debt Office of Reserve Bank of India?  
A. It is a central depository for all types of Government securities except Treasury Bills  
B. It attends to the function of note issue the Reserve Bank of India  
C. It is responsible for maintaining external value of the rupee  
D. It controls balance of payment position of the Government of India  
E. None of the given options is true
23. 'Golden Birdwing' was in news recently. It is a species related to which of the following?  
a) Eagle b) Butterfly  
c) Bats d) Lizard  
e) Grasshoppers
24. Which country has become the first country in Southeast Asia to eliminate Measles & Rubella?  
a) Maldives b) Sri Lanka  
c) Indonesia d) Malaysia  
e) Both (a) & (b)
25. Which module has been launched by NITI Aayog under its Atal Innovation Mission to teach school children to develop mobile applications?  
a) Digital Learning Module  
b) ATL app Development Module  
c) Schoomo App Module  
d) Online Application Module  
e) None of these
26. Which country found a place in Guinness Book of World record for conducting largest camera trap wildlife survey ?  
a) Brazil b) China  
c) India d) USA  
e) Russia
27. The approved assets against which currency notes are issued by RBI comprise of-  
A. gold coin and bullion and rupee coin  
B. foreign securities and Government of India rupee securities of any maturity  
C. bills of exchange and promissory notes payable in India which are eligible for purchase by RBI  
D. All of the above  
E. None of the given options is true
28. As per the recent data released by the UK government, which country has become the second largest source of FDI for the United Kingdom in the year 2019-20?

- a) Japan                                      b) China  
c) India                                        d) USA  
e) Germany
29. **Name the first earth observation satellite developed by Brazil?**  
a) Amazonia-1                                b) SROSS-1  
c) Chinook-1                                 d) BSL-1  
e) Rio-de I
30. **By which year Indian Railways plans to be the world's first green railways to run on 100% clean energy?**  
a) 2025                                        b) 2022  
c) 2030                                        d) 2035  
e) 2028
31. **Which State Government launched the 'Roko Toko' campaign to penalize people not wearing mask in public places?**  
a) Punjab                                      b) Maharashtra  
c) Rajasthan                                 d) Madhya Pradesh  
e) Gujarat
32. **When was the World Malala Day celebrated?**  
a) 10 July                                      b) 9 July  
c) 12 July                                      d) 11 July  
e) 15 July
33. **The term 'Ways and Means' advances refer to which of the following?**  
A. The advances allowed under DRI Scheme by commercial banks  
B. The advances allowed by commercial banks  
C. The temporary advances made to the government by RBI  
D. All of the above  
E. None of the given options is true
34. **Which of the following organisations was honoured with the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019?**  
a) IOC    b) NTPC  
c) INGC                                        d) TCS  
e) SAIL
35. **Which Country became the first in the world to complete the human trials of COVID-19 Vaccine?**  
a) Russia                                      b) USA  
c) India                                         d) China  
e) Britain
36. **Who has been selected for the Von Karman Award 2020 by the International Academy of Astronautics?**  
a) Anuradha TK                                b) RituKridhal  
c) K. Sivan                                      d) Harindra Dave  
e) Tessy Thomas
37. **Which State has been awarded the "Elites Excellence Awards-2020" for outstanding performance in IT sector?**  
a) Tamil Nadu                                b) Chattisgarh  
c) Punjab                                      d) Haryana  
e) Tripura

38. **Name the person who has been re elected as the President of Poland?**  
a) Andrzej Duda                                b) Sergio Mattarella  
c) Mikhail Mishtutin                            d) Stefan Lofven  
e) None of these
39. **Consider the following statements-**  
1. Scheduled Commercial Banks are those which have been included in the First Schedule of RBI Act, 1934.  
2. Non-Scheduled Commercial Banks are those which have been not included in the Second Schedule of RBI Act, 1934.  
3. Punjab National Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
A. Only 2                                        B. Only 2 and 3  
C. Both 1 and 2                                D. All of the above  
E. None of the given options is true
40. **India's only 'Golden Tiger' was recently seen in which State?**  
a) Gujarat                                      b) Odisha  
c) Assam                                        d) Maharashtra  
e) Madhya Pradesh
41. **Recently which IIT has developed a ultra violet sanitizing device called 'SHUDH'?**  
a) IIT- Kanpur                                 b) IIT- Ropar  
c) IIT- Madras                                 d) IIT- Roorkee  
e) IIT, Delhi
42. **Who has been appointed as the interim CEO of BCCI?**  
a) Rahul Dravid                                b) Ravindra Jadeja  
c) Saurav Ganguly                             d) Hemang Amin  
e) Ravi Shastri
43. **The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in which city?**  
a) Hanoi                                        b) Kuala Lumpur  
c) Jakarta                                      d) Bangkok  
e) Manila
44. **Which Act was framed especially to deal with Non-Performing Assets (NPA)?**  
A. Banking Regulation Act 1949  
B. Debt Recovery Tribunal Act, 1993  
C. Industrial Disputes Act 1947  
D. SARFAESI Act, 2002  
E. None of the given options is true

45. In which state foundation stones of 11 Highway projects worth 20 thousand crores were laid in July, 2020?  
 a) Maharashtra b) Haryana  
 c) Punjab d) Madhya Pradesh  
 e) Tamil Nadu
46. Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award is given by the Government of India for outstanding contribution in which field?  
 a) Public service b) Physics  
 c) Science d) Statistics  
 e) Mathematics
47. The book titled "A Song of India" is authored by \_\_\_\_ ?  
 a) Amitabh Kant b) K.K. Venugopal  
 c) Salman Rushdie d) Ruskin Bond  
 e) Amish Tripathi
48. HRD Minister virtually released the 'PRAGYATA' guidelines on digital education. Who is the present HRD Minister?  
 a) Nitin Gadkari  
 b) Dharmendra Pradhan  
 c) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank  
 d) Jitendra Singh  
 e) Smriti Irani
49. Madhya Pradesh has topped in the implementation of PM Sva-Nidhi Scheme. The scheme is meant for which of the following target groups?  
 a) Marginal Farmers b) Street vendors  
 c) Shopkeepers d) Artisans  
 e) Labourers
50. Which of the following personality has been honored as the top Publicist under the Global Humanitarian Award 2020?  
 a) K Sivan b) Sachin Pilot  
 c) Avinash Pandey d) Arnab Goswami  
 e) None of these

#### ANSWER KEY | JULY GK TEST | 1

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	A	2	C	3	B	4	C	5	A
6	C	7	A	8	D	9	A	10	B
11	C	12	B	13	D	14	E	15	B
16	C	17	B	18	B	19	A	20	D
21	B	22	A	23	B	24	E	25	B
26	C	27	D	28	C	29	A	30	C
31	D	32	C	33	C	34	B	35	A
36	C	37	B	38	A	39	B	40	C
41	A	42	D	43	A	44	D	45	B
46	D	47	D	48	C	49	B	50	E

## JULY GK TEST - 02

1. Which of the following organisation recently organised its first 'Digital Choupal' to mark its 39<sup>th</sup> foundation day.  
 a) SEBI b) NHB  
 c) NABARD d) RBI  
 e) IRDAI
2. Indian Railway is building India's first Cable Stayed Rail Bridge in which State/UT?  
 a) Arunachal b) Manipur  
 c) Jammu & Kashmir d) Assam  
 e) Meghalaya
3. Which Indian bureaucrat has been appointed as the vice president of ADB?  
 a) P Srinivasan b) Ashok Lavasa  
 c) Dr. Vidhu P. Nair d) Sachin Awasthi  
 e) Rajiv Kumar
4. Name the cricketer who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Sports Adda?  
 a) Shane Watson b) Shane Warne  
 c) Mitchell Johnson d) Brett Lee  
 e) Ben Stokes
5. Name the airport which has introduced India's first-ever fully contactless airport car parking?  
 a) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi  
 b) Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal  
 c) Cochin International Airport  
 d) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru  
 e) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
6. Name the Indian institute which has developed the world's most affordable low cost COVID-19 diagnostic kit "Corosure" ?  
 a) IISc Bangalore b) ICMR, New Delhi  
 c) IIT, Delhi d) CDRI, Lucknow  
 e) CSIR, New Delhi
7. 'Smart Money' is a term used for-  
 A. Internet banking B. FDRs in banks  
 C. Credit cards D. Digital money  
 E. Bank Note
8. Basel-II norms are associated with which of the following aspects of the banking industry?  
 A. Risk management  
 B. Manpower planning  
 C. Retirement benefits for the employees  
 D. Corporate governance  
 E. None of the given options is true



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<https://bit.ly/2Eq2lIL>

9. **Who has been conferred with "Infra Business Leader of the year award" for 2020 ?**  
 a) Sundar Pichai                      b) Satya Nadella  
 c) Ved Prakash Dudeja              d) Mukesh Ambani  
 e) Roshni Nadar
10. **Post Covid Coach has been developed by which of the following unit of Indian Railways?**  
 a) RCF, Kapurthala  
 b) Konkan Railway Corp., Belapur  
 c) Kochi Coach Factory  
 d) Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly  
 e) Integral Coach Factory, Chennai
11. **Which state has announced to upgrade its Poba Reserve Forest to a Wildlife Sanctuary?**  
 a) Arunachal Pradesh              b) Assam  
 c) Nagaland                          d) Kerala  
 e) Madhya Pradesh
12. **Neela Satyanarayan who passed away recently, was the first woman Election Commissioner of which state?**  
 a) Madhya Pradesh                  b) Uttar Pradesh  
 c) Maharashtra                      d) Kerala  
 e) Tamil Nadu
13. **Which state launched "CybHer" campaign to tackle cybercrime against children and women in the state?**  
 a) Odisha                              b) Andhra Pradesh  
 c) Telangana  
 d) Arunachal Pradesh              e) Chhattisgarh
14. **Which of the following is not a method of credit control?**  
 A. Cash reserve ratio  
 B. Open market operations  
 C. Credit deposit ratio  
 D. Bank rate policy  
 E. None of the given options is true
15. **The book titled "The Tangams" is about an endangered tribal group. They belong to which state?**  
 a) West Bengal                      b) Jharkhand  
 c) Arunachal                          d) Odisha  
 e) Manipur
16. **Who is the CEO of NITI Aayog?**  
 a) Narendra Modi                  b) Amitabh Kant  
 c) Ajit Doval  
 d) Shashank Manohar              e) Rajiv Kumar
17. **Recently which organisation has developed fully indigenous P7 Heavy Drop System for IL 76 military cargo aircraft?**  
 a) ISRO                                b) CSIR  
 c) ITBP                                d) DRDO  
 e) BHEL
18. **Roshni Nadar Malhotra, India's richest woman became the first Indian woman to head a major listed Indian IT company. Which is this company?**  
 a) HCL Technologies Ltd.          b) TCS Ltd.  
 c) MindTree Ltd.                    d) Infosys Ltd.  
 e) Mphasis Ltd.
19. **Increase in remittances from non-resident Indians suggests—**  
 A. Increase in the balance of payments deficit in India  
 B. Reduces the balance of payments deficit in India  
 C. Has no effect on the balance of payments position  
 D. All of the above  
 E. None of the given options is true
20. **Which global IT giant has announced to invest \$10 billion for promotion of digital India?**  
 a) IBM                                  b) Microsoft  
 c) Google                              d) Facebook  
 e) Apple
21. **The first parcel cargo train for export of red chillies to Bangladesh was flagged off from \_\_\_\_\_ in Andhra Pradesh on July 10.**  
 a) Vijaywada                          b) Visakhapatnam  
 c) Kakinada                          d) Guntur  
 e) Nellore
22. **A new Land Customs Station has been opened up at Ahlly, Pasakha by the Indian government to facilitate trade by road with which country?**  
 a) Bangladesh  
 b) Bhutan  
 c) Myanmar  
 d) Nepal  
 e) China
23. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address on July 17 at the high-level segment of which organ of the United Nations?**  
 a) General Assembly  
 b) Security Council  
 c) Economic & Social Council  
 d) Trusteeship Council  
 e) Special Assembly

24. Select the Bollywood actor who has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020.
- Aamir Khan
  - Nawazuddin Siddiqui
  - Bhumi Pednekar
  - Akshay Kumar
  - Priyanka Chopra
25. In the capital market, the term arbitrage is used with reference to-
- purchase of securities to cover the sale
  - sale of securities to reduce the loss on purchase
  - The simultaneous purchase and sale of an asset to profit from an imbalance in the price
  - variation in different markets
  - All of the above
26. India ranks \_\_\_\_\_ in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions.
- 3rd
  - 7th
  - 10th
  - 13th
  - 15th
27. The CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21 in collaboration with which IT giant?
- Amazon
  - Azure
  - IBM
  - Alibaba
  - Google
28. Which hill state/UT has launched 'Waste to Energy' initiative to generate up to 5 megawatts of electricity and curb pollution by using garbage for electricity generation?
- Ladakh
  - Jammu & Kashmir
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim
29. Prof. C S Sheshadri, one of the leaders of Indian mathematics in the post-independence era, passed away on July 17. He was famous for his outstanding contributions to which branch of mathematics?
- Algebra
  - Algebraic Geometry
  - Trigonometry
  - Geometry
  - Algorithms
30. India signed a preliminary agreement with which country for cooperating on emergency crude oil reserves, including the possibility of India storing oil in that country?
- USA
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Russia
  - Iran
  - Kuwait
31. Many times, we read about future trading in newspapers. What is 'future trading'?
- It is nothing but a trade between any two stock exchanges, wherein it is decided to purchase the stocks of each other on a fixed price throughout the year.
  - It is an agreement between two parties to buy or sell an underlying asset in the future at a predetermined price.
  - It is regulated by Indian Contract Act
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below
- Only I
  - Only II
  - Only III
  - II and III
  - None of the given options is true
32. The 3rd G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors meet was held in virtual mode on July 18 at which place?
- Paris
  - Osaka
  - Canberra
  - Riyadh
  - Geneva
33. The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs \_\_\_\_ crore to meet their immediate operational requirements.
- 100
  - 200
  - 300
  - 400
  - 500
34. The G-20 does not have a permanent secretariat. The group's chair rotates annually among the members. Which country is the chair for the year 2020?
- USA
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Japan
  - Brazil
  - Italy
35. India is NOT a member of which of the following multi nation regional cooperation groups?
- SAARC
  - BIMSTEC
  - ASEAN
  - SCO
  - SAFTA
36. \_\_\_\_\_ are unsecured bonds that cannot be converted to company equity or stock?
- Fully Convertible Debentures
  - Partly Convertible Debentures
  - Convertible Debentures
  - Non-Convertible Debentures
  - All of these





# IBPS PO - PRE (MODEL TEST PAPER)



## REASONING ABILITY

**Directions (Qs. 1 to 5): Study the following information to answer the given questions.**

Twelve cars viz Mercedes, Swift, Santro, Accord, Innova, Polo, Punto, Figo, Civic, City, Ferrari and Landrover are parked in two parallel rows containing six cars each, in such a way that there is an equal distance between adjacent cars. The cars parked in row – 1 are parked in such a manner that the driver seated in the cars would face the South. In row – 2, cars are parked in such a manner that the drivers seated in these cars would face the North. Therefore, in the given parking arrangement each car parked in a row faces another car of the other row.

(i) Mercedes being a big car must be parked at one of the extreme ends. Mercedes is parked second to the left of Santro. Santro faces Figo.

(ii) Punto and Innova are parked immediately next to each other. Neither is parked next to Figo or Santro.

(iii) Civic is parked in such a manner that its driver when seated in the parked car would face South. Civic is parked third to the left of Polo.

(iv) City is parked in such a manner that it faces Ferrari. Ferrari is parked second to the left of Landrover. Landrover faces North and is not parked next to Figo.

(v) Swift is parked third to the right of Ferrari and faces Innova.

**(Note)** Left and right parking directions are with reference to the driver as if the driver is seated in the car.)

**1) How many cars are parked between Santro and Civic?**

- a) One
- b) Two
- c) Three
- d) Four
- e) Both cars are parked in different rows

**2) Polo is related to Ferrari in the same way as Innova is related to Accord. To which of the following is City related to, following the same pattern?**

- a) Mercedes
- b) Innova
- c) Santro
- d) Punto
- e) Landrover

**3) Which of the following cars are parked at extreme ends of the rows?**

- a) Landrover, Punto
- b) Innova, Polo
- c) Polo, Accord
- d) Landrover, Innova
- e) Ferrari, Swift

**4) Which of the following cars faces Polo?**

- a) Mercedes
- b) Civic
- c) Landrover
- d) Punto
- e) Accord

**5) Which of the following is true regarding Figo?**

- a) A driver seated in the parked Figo would face North
- b) Swift is parked second to the right of the car facing Figo.
- c) Punto and Ferrari are parked immediately next to Figo
- d) Mercedes and Accord are parked at the extreme ends of the row in which Figo is parked
- e) None is true

**Directions (Qs. 6 to 10): Study the following information carefully to answer the given questions.**

Eight players of different games are sponsored by different companies. Sachin who plays cricket is not sponsored by Pepsi or Britannia. The player who is sponsored by Adidas plays badminton. The player of billiards is sponsored by Reebok. Mahesh is sponsored by MRF. He does not play Table Tennis or Chess. Singers sponsored players plays football. Dinko does not play hockey. The volleyball player is sponsored by Pepsi. Laxman and Ramesh play Volleyball and Badminton, though not necessarily respectively. Rahul plays Billiards. Dhanraj who is sponsored by Ispat International does not play chess. Mukesh is not sponsored by Britannia. Manikchand sponsored player does not play table tennis or hockey.

**6) Who is sponsored by Singers?**

- a) Dinko
- b) Mukesh
- c) Sachin
- d) Can't be determined
- e) None of these

**7) Dinko plays which game?**

- a) Football
- b) Table Tennis

- c) Chess d) Hockey  
e) Can't be determined
- 8) **Who plays Table tennis?**  
a) Dhanraj b) Dinko  
c) Mukesh d) Sachin  
e) Can't be determined
- 9) **The player sponsored by MRF plays which game?**  
a) Cricket b) Hockey  
c) Chess  
d) Can't be determined  
e) None of these
- 10) **Which of the following combination is definitely false?**  
a) Laxman - Volleyball - Pepsi  
b) Ramesh - Badminton - Adidas  
c) Rahul - Billiards - Reebok  
d) Mahesh - Football - MRF  
e) None of these

**Directions (Qs. 11-15):** In each of the questions below are given four statements, followed by four conclusions: I, II, III, IV. You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. Read the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the given statements disregarding commonly known facts.

- 11) **Statements:**  
Some carpets are books.  
All books are pens  
Some pens are cartons.  
All cartons are notebooks.  
**Conclusions:**  
I. Some cartons are carpets  
II. Some cartons are books  
III. Some pens are carpets.  
IV. Some notebooks are pens.  
a) Only I and II follow  
b) Only II and III follow  
c) Only III and IV follow  
d) Only I and III follow  
e) None of these
- 12) **Statements:**  
Some paints are bottles  
Some bottles are brands  
Some brands are colours  
All colours are erasers.  
**Conclusions:**  
I. Some paints are brands  
II. Some erasers are bottles  
III. Some erasers are brands  
IV. Some bottles are colours  
a) None follows b) Only III follows  
c) Only II and IV follow d) Only IV follows  
e) Only I, II and III follow
- 13) **Statements:**  
Some boxes are triangles

All spheres are triangles  
All Circles are boxes.  
All triangles are quadrilaterals.  
**Conclusions:**  
I. Some quadrilaterals are boxes.  
II. Some quadrilaterals are triangles  
III. Some triangles are spheres.  
IV. No Circle is quadrilateral.  
a) Only I follows b) Only II follows  
c) Only I, II and III follow d) Only III follows  
e) All follow

- 14) **Statements:**  
All plastics are trees.  
Some trees are buildings  
Some buildings are windows  
Some windows are papers.  
**Conclusions:**  
I. Some papers are plastics  
II. Some buildings are papers  
III. No paper is tree  
IV. Some trees are windows.  
a) Only I follows b) Only II follows  
c) Only I and IV follow d) Only III follows  
e) None follows

- 15) **Statements:**  
All rings are phones.  
All phones are spoons.  
Some phones are files  
All files are covers  
**Conclusions:**  
I. Some files are rings  
II. Some covers are spoons.  
III. Some spoons are phones  
IV. Some rings are covers  
a) Only II and IV follow  
b) Only I, II and III follow  
c) Only I and II follow  
d) Only II and III follow  
e) None follows

**Directions (16-20): Study the information and answer the given question.**

In a certain code language 'prepare for your exams' is written as 'xn nt oz wl'  
'hard work for prepare' is written as 'nt ml oz tk'  
'prepare your studies well' is written as 'sd jk nt xn'  
'work well best results' is written as 'ds lu jk ml'

- 16) **What is the code for 'best' in the given code language?**  
a) lu b) ml  
c) sd d) ds  
e) Either ds or lu
- 17) **In the given code language 'nt' is the code of which word?**  
a) prepare b) your  
c) hard d) work e) exam



- 18) What may be the code for 'exams are hard' in the given code language?  
 a) wl ml tk                      b) zr tk ko  
 c) wl xn tk                      d) tk zr wl  
 e) ke wl xn
- 19) What is the code for 'studies for' in the given code language?  
 a) ds sd                      b) jk sd  
 c) jk xn                      d) oz jc  
 e) oz sd
- 20) What is the code for 'well' in the given code language?  
 a) xn                      b) nt  
 c) wl                      d) jk  
 e) ml

**Directions (21-25): Study the following information carefully and answer the question given below-**

A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are eight persons sitting around a rectangular table. Four of them sit middle side of table and facing away from the center and other four of them sit at the corner of table and they are facing towards the center of the table. They all have different age. The age of all the four persons who sit at the corner of table is multiple of 3 and the age of all four persons who sit at the middle of table is multiple of 2.

E sits third to left of A. A faces outside. Two persons sit between E and the one whose age is 54. H sits second to right of one whose age is 54 year. Three persons sit between H and B, whose age is 76 year. One of immediate neighbor of H is 69 year old person. C sits second to right of one whose age is 69 year. Only one person sits between C and F. The age of one who sits second to left of F is one year less than B. The age of one who is immediate neighbor of one whose age is 75 year is equal to difference between the age of B and A. D is not immediate neighbor of E. The age of one of them is 27 year but he is not immediate neighbor of B. The age of H is perfect square and his age lies between the age of B and A. The age of D is 1 year less than age of H.

- 21) What is the age of D?  
 a) 64 year                      b) 81 year  
 c) 36 year                      d) 16 year  
 e) None of these.
- 22) Which one of the following sits immediate left of G?  
 a) F                      b) G  
 c) E                      d) D  
 e) None of these
- 23) How many persons are there between A and D, when counted from left of A?  
 a) Four                      b) Two  
 c) Three                      d) No one.  
 e) One

- 24) Who sits opposite to A?  
 a) F                      b) G  
 c) E                      d) D  
 e) None of these
- 25) The difference of age between F and C is?  
 a) 69 year                      b) 51 year  
 c) 27 year                      d) 42 year  
 e) None of these

**Directions (26-30): Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below:**

Six persons D, E, F, G, H and I belong to different cities, viz Patna, Pune, Ranchi, Delhi, Gurgaon and Noida but not necessarily in the same order. Each of them likes a different colours, viz Black, White, Pink, Purple, Grey and Brown. They use different types of laptops, viz HP, Dell and Sony but not necessarily in the same order. At least two persons use the same type of laptop.

The one who belongs to Gurgaon uses Sony. I uses Sony and likes White, but belongs neither to Patna nor to Ranchi. The one who belongs to Delhi uses HP. E uses the same type of laptop as the one who likes Black, but he does not belong to Pune. The one who belongs to Patna uses HP. G belongs to Gurgaon and likes neither Pink nor Brown.

The one who belongs to Pune uses Dell. H belongs to Delhi and likes Purple, but he does not use the same laptop as F. D does not like Grey or Brown. The one who uses Sony belongs neither to Delhi nor to Ranchi. Those who like Purple and Pink use the same type of laptop.

- 26) Which of the following combinations is true?  
 a) H – Delhi – Purple – Sony  
 b) D – Patna – Pink – HP  
 c) E – Pune – Black – Dell  
 d) H – Patna – Grey – HP  
 e) G – Noida – White – Sony
- 27) Who among the following use the same type of laptop?  
 a) G, H                      b) E, I  
 c) D, H                      d) F, G  
 e) I, D
- 28) Who among the following likes Purple?  
 a) The one who belongs to Delhi and uses Dell  
 b) The one who belongs to Pune and uses Sony  
 c) The one who uses Dell  
 d) The one who belongs to Noida  
 e) None of these
- 29) Which of the following statements is not true?  
 a) D belongs to Patna and uses HP.  
 b) G likes Grey colour and uses Sony.  
 c) I belongs to Noida and likes White  
 d) Those who like Pink and Brown use the same type of laptop.  
 e) All are true.

30) Who among the following belongs to Noida?

- a) The one who likes Pink
- b) The one who uses HP
- c) I, who likes White
- d) F, who uses Dell
- e) None of these

31) In which of the following expressions will the expressions  $R < P$  as well as  $S > Q$  be definitely true?

- a)  $P > Q = R \leq T < S$
- b)  $S > T \geq R > Q < P$
- c)  $Q > R \leq T > P \geq S$
- d)  $S > T \geq R > Q > P$
- e) None of these

**Directions (Q. 32-33):** Study the following questions carefully and answer the questions given below. (Each question has one statement followed by three conclusions).

You have to assume that the given conclusions are true and according fill the blanks in the statements.

32) **Statements:**  $C \geq D = F ? J ? R = H ? T$

**Conclusions:**

I.  $H = J$       II.  $D \geq H$       III.  $D > T$

If all the given conclusion are definitely true, then fill in the blanks.

- a)  $=, \geq, \geq$       b)  $=, =, >$
- c)  $\geq, =, >$       d)  $\geq, \geq, \geq$
- e) None of these

33) **Statements:**  $A \geq B ? C > D = F ? G \geq L$

**Conclusions:**

I.  $D < G$       II.  $A > C$       III.  $D < A$

If all the given conclusion are definitely true, then fill in the blanks.

- a)  $>, =$       b)  $>, >$
- c)  $>, <$       d)  $=, <$
- e)  $\geq, \leq$

**Directions (34-35):** Study the following information to answer the given questions.

Point P is 9m towards the East of Point Q. Point R is 5m towards the South of Point P. Point S is 3m towards the West of Point R. Point T is 5m towards the North of Point S. Point V is 7m towards the South of Point S.

34) If a person walks in a straight line for 8 m towards West from Point R, which of the following points would he cross the first?

- a) V      b) Q
- c) T      d) S
- e) Cannot be determined

35) Which of the following points are in a straight line?

- a) P, R, V      b) S, T, Q
- c) P, T, V      d) V, T, R
- e) S, V, T

## QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

**Directions (1-5):** In the following question, two equations numbered I and II are given. You have to solve both the equations and answer the question.

1) I.  $9p^2 - 21p + 12 = 0$

II.  $18q^2 - 50q + 32 = 0$

- a)  $p > q$       b)  $p < q$
- c)  $p \geq q$       d)  $p \leq q$
- e)  $p = q$  or no relation can be established between 'p' and 'q'.

2) I.  $3p^2 - 8p - 60 = 0$

II.  $20q^2 - 288q + 1036 = 0$

- a)  $p > q$       b)  $p < q$
- c)  $p \geq q$       d)  $p \leq q$
- e)  $p = q$  or no relation can be established between 'p' and 'q'.

3) I.  $5p^2 - 65p + 180 = 0$

II.  $3q^2 - 90q + 483 = 0$

- a)  $p > q$       b)  $p < q$
- c)  $p \geq q$       d)  $p \leq q$
- e)  $p = q$  or no relation can be established between 'p' and 'q'.

4) I)  $12m^2 - 126m + 294 = 0$

II)  $7n^2 + 123n - 504 = 0$

- a) If  $m \geq n$       b) If  $m < n$
- c) If  $m > n$       d) If  $m = n$
- e) If  $m \leq n$

5) I.  $x^2 - 30x + 216 = 0$

II.  $y^2 - 39y + 360 = 0$

- a)  $x > y$       b)  $x \geq y$
- c)  $x < y$       d)  $x \leq y$
- e)  $x = y$  or the relationship cannot be established

**Directions (6- 10):** Which of the following does not fit in the series?

6) 824, 408, 396, 96, 44, 18, 5

- a) 824      b) 408      c) 396
- d) 18      e) 44

7) 5, 7, 13, 25, 45, 87, 117

- a) 7      b) 87      c) 45
- d) 117      e) None

8) 2185, 727, 241, 79, 30, 7, 1

- a) 2185      b) 727      c) 79
- d) 30      e) 214

9) 2, 3, 10, 15, 25, 35, 50, 63

- a) 25      b) 10      c) 35
- d) 63      e) 50

10) 2, 7, 10, 15, 25, 35, 50, 63

- a) 2      b) 10      c) 25
- d) 60      e) 15



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**Directions (11-15):** What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following questions?

- 11)  $92 \times 576 \div (2 \sqrt{1296}) = (?)^3 + \sqrt{49}$   
 a) 3 b)  $(9)^2$   
 c) 9 d) 27  
 e) None of these
- 12)  $1/6$  of 92% of  $1 \frac{1}{23}$  of (650) = 85 + ?  
 a) 18 b) 21  
 c) 19 d) 28  
 e) None of these
- 13)  $(15 \times 0.40)^4 \div (1080 \div 30)^4 \times (27 \times 8)^4 = (3 \times 2)^{?+5}$   
 a) 8 b) 3  
 c) 12 d) 16  
 e) None of these
- 14)  $3 \frac{1}{4} + 2 \frac{1}{2} - 1 \frac{5}{6} = \frac{(? )^2}{10} + 1 \frac{5}{12}$   
 a) 25 b)  $\sqrt{5}$   
 c) 625 d) 15  
 e) 5
- 15)  $(\sqrt{8} \times \sqrt{8})^{1/2} + (9)^{1/2} = (?)^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$   
 a) 7 b) 19  
 c) 18 d) 9  
 e) None of these

**Directions (16-20):** Study the following table carefully to answer the questions that follow.

**AMOUNT EARNED (IN LACS) BY FIVE PERSONS IN SIX DIFFERENT YEARS**

Year	Person				
	A	B	C	D	E
2005	2.24	4.33	5.64	3.73	1.69
2006	1.44	3.34	6.93	5.52	5.52
2007	4.63	2.79	7.52	5.68	4.28
2008	6.65	6.63	5.83	6.74	6.83
2009	5.34	4.50	5.94	8.42	5.53
2010	7.38	5.36	7.84	9.45	9.94

- 16) Total amount earned by Person -A in the year 2006 and person C in the year 2010 together was approximately what percent of the amount earned by Person - E in the year 2009?  
 a) 151 b) 155  
 c) 168 d) 174  
 e) 162
- 17) What is the approximate percent increase in the amount earned by Person-D in the year 2010 as compared to the previous year?  
 a) 7 b) 21  
 c) 18 d) 15  
 e) 12

- 18) Whose earning increased consistently from the year 2005 to the year 2010?  
 a) A b) B  
 c) C d) D  
 e) E
- 19) What was the respective ratio between the amount earned by person - B in the year 2007 and person - D in the year 2010?  
 a) 32 : 107 b) 31 : 105  
 c) 29 : 107 d) 32 : 105  
 e) None of these
- 20) What was the average of the earning of person-B in the year 2006, C in the year 2008 and E in the year 2005 together?  
 a) Rs. 3.62 lacs b) Rs. 2.64 lacs  
 c) Rs. 3.64 lacs d) Rs. 10.86 lacs  
 e) None of these
- 21) Three taps A, B and C can fill a tank in 12, 15 and 20 hours respectively. If A is open all the time and B and C are open for one hour each alternately, in what time will the tank be full?  
 a) 9 hours b) 7 hours  
 c) 8 hours d) 10 hours  
 e) 11 hours
- 22) A and B started a business in partnership investing Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. After six months, C joined them with Rs. 20,000. What will be B's share in total profit of Rs. 25,000 earned at the end of 2 years from the starting of the business?  
 a) Rs. 8,000 b) Rs. 8,500  
 c) Rs. 9,000 d) Rs. 7,500  
 e) Rs. 9,500
- 23) A boatman goes 2 km against the current of the stream in 1 hour and goes 1 km along the current in 10 minutes. How long will it take to go 5 km in stationary water?  
 a) 80 minutes b) 75 minutes  
 c) 70 minutes d) 72 minutes  
 e) 84 minutes
- 24) In a lottery, there are 15 boys and 10 girls. Three students are selected at random. What is the probability that 1 girl and 2 boys are selected?  
 a)  $\frac{31}{47}$  b)  $\frac{21}{46}$   
 c)  $\frac{22}{47}$  d)  $\frac{31}{46}$  e)  $\frac{21}{47}$
- 25) Two stations A and B are 110 km apart on a straight line. One train starts from A at 7 am and travels towards B at 20 kmph. Another train starts from B at 8 am and travels towards A at a speed of 25 kmph. At what time will they meet?  
 a) 9 am b) 11 am

- c) 11:30 am                      d) 10 am  
e) 12:30 pm

- 26) The difference between a two-digit number and the number obtained by interchanging the digits is 36. What is the difference between the sum and the difference of the digits of the number if the ratio between the digits of the number is 1 : 2?  
a) 10                                  b) 9  
c) 11                                  d) 8  
e) 7
- 27) Mr. Sinha invests 12% of his monthly salary, i.e. Rs. 3,660 in insurance Policies. Later he invests 16% of his monthly salary on Family Medclaim Policies; also he invests another 3% of his salary on NSCs. What is the total annual amount invested by Mr. Sinha?  
a) Rs. 1,13,460    b) Rs. 1,22,440  
c) Rs. 1,06,540  
d) Cannot be determined  
e) Rs. 2,01,342
- 28) In how many different ways can the letters of the word "GAMBLE" arranged?  
a) 720                                  b) 840  
c) 360                                  d) 420  
e) None of these

**Directions (Q. 29 - 33): Study the following information carefully to answer the questions that follow:**

There are two trains, Train A and Train B. Both trains have four different types of coaches, viz General, Sleeper, First class and AC. In Train A, there are total 700 passengers. Train B has thirty percent more passengers than Train A. Twenty per cent of the passengers of Trains A are in General Coach. One fourth of the total number of passengers of Train A are in AC coach. Twenty three percent of the passengers of Train A are in sleeper Coach. Remaining passengers of Train A are in First Class Coach. The total number of passengers in AC Coach in both the trains together is 480. Thirty percent of the number of passengers of Train B are in Sleeper Coach. Ten percent of the total passengers of Train B are in First Class Coach. The remaining passengers of Train B are in General Coach.

- 29) What is the ratio of the number of passengers in First Class Coach of Train A to the number of passengers in Sleeper Coach of Train B?  
a) 13 : 7                                  b) 7 : 13  
c) 32 : 39                                  d) Data inadequate  
e) None of these
- 30) What is the total number of passengers in the General Coach of Train A and AC coach of Train B together?  
a) 449                                  b) 459  
c) 435                                  d) 445  
e) None of these

- 31) What is the difference between the number of passengers in the AC Coach of Train A and the total number of passengers in Sleeper and First Class Coach together of Train B?  
a) 199                                  b) 178  
c) 187                                  d) 179  
e) None of these
- 32) The total number of passengers in General Coaches of both the trains together is approximately what percentage of the total number of passengers in Train B?  
a) 35                                  b) 42  
c) 46                                  d) 38  
e) 31
- 33) If the cost per ticket of First Class Coach is Rs. 450, what will be the total amount generated from First Class Coach of train A?  
a) Rs. 1,00,080    b) Rs. 1,08,000  
c) Rs. 1,00,800    d) Rs. 10,800  
e) None of these
- 34) Pratibha covers a distance of 24 km at the speed of 8km/hr and a distance of 18km at the speed of 9 km/hr. Further, she covers a distance of 12 km at the speed of 3 km/hr. What is her average speed in covering the whole distance?  
a) 8km/hr                                  b) 5.5 km/hr  
c) 3 km/hr                                  d) 6km/hr  
e) None of these
- 35) The mean of the marks obtained by 100 students is 60. If the marks obtained by one, of the students was incorrectly calculated 75; wheare as the actual makes obtained by him was 65 what is the correct mean of the marks obtained by the students?  
a) 59                                  b) 5850  
c) 50  
d) Cannot be determined  
e) None of these

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Directions (1-10): Read the following paragraph. Some of the words have been highlighted in bold. Answer the questions based on this paragraph.**

The internet has become the integral part of today's generation of people; from communicating through instant messages and emails to banking, travelling, studying and shopping, internet has touched every aspect of life. With the growing use of the internet by people, protecting important information has become a necessity. A computer that is not having appropriate security controls can be infected with malicious logic and thus any type of information can be accessed in moments. Number of infected Web Pages and malicious websites can be seen every day that infects the computer and allow hackers to gain illegal

access to other computer systems. Hacking of important data, network outages, computer viruses and other cyber related threats affect our lives that range from minor inconvenience to serious incidents. Cyber threats can be caused due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents. The main objectives of such type of system attackers or hackers are to steal confidential information, to make illegal monetary transactions, to destroy or to change data and the like. System attackers can be terrorists, crackers or recreational hackers. They have a variety of tools that can harm or infect the computer; usually they use malicious logic or virus to gain unauthorized access to a computer. Opening email attachments that carry the virus, clicking malicious links or websites or unintentionally downloading a dangerous program are common ways through which a computer can be infected and data can be stolen. As the number of data networks, digital applications, as well as internet and mobile users are growing, so do the chances of cyber exploitation and cyber crimes. Even a small mistake in securing data or bad social networking can prove to be extremely dangerous. If accounts are not properly secured, it makes easier for hackers or unauthorized users to spread viruses or social engineered attacks that are designed to steal data and even money. Such types of issues highlight the need for cyber security as an essential approach in protecting and preventing data from being used in appropriately. In simple language, Cyber Security or Information technology security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorized or unintended access, destruction or change. It encompasses all the mechanisms and processes that protect digital equipment, information and records from illegal or unintended access, manipulation or destruction. In today's dynamic environment, cyber security has become vital for individuals and families, as well as organizations (such as military, government, business houses, educational and financial institutions, corporations and others) that collect and store a wide range of confidential data on computers and transmit that to other computers across different networks. For families, protection of children and family members from cybercrime has become substantially important. For an individual, protecting information that could impact social life as well as personal finance is essential. The internet has provided a wide array of learning opportunities, but there are risks too. Photos, videos and other personal information shared by an individual on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter can be inappropriately used by others may lead to serious and even life-threatening incidents. Social networking sites have become the most popular medium for sharing information and connecting with other people. But these sites have created varied opportunities for cybercrimes, compromised personal identities and information leakage. Therefore, it is

important for individuals to understand how to protect against cyber threats, and must also comprehend the difference between virtual and real world. One should learn how to protect computers and personal information from being hacked and should engage in appropriate online behaviour in order to eliminate changes of cyber threats and thereby creating a safer online environment.

**1) According to the author what does the cyber security means?**

- a) Cyber Security means the dispersion of important data and devise a structural engineering that allow easy flow of information
- b) Cyber Security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorized or unintended access, destruction or change.
- c) Cyber Security means the blocking of all the websites that are available in free domain
- d) Cyber Security means the Hacking of important data, network outages, computer viruses and other cyber related threats affect our lives that range from minor inconvenience to serious incidents.
- e) None of the above

**2) According to the author, what is the main reason behind cyber threats?**

- a) the unknown person with malice
- b) due to intelligence, veneration and intentional threats.
- c) due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents.
- d) by communicating through instant messages and emails to banking, travelling, studying and shopping on internet
- e) None of the above

**3) What is the downside of Social media, according to the author?**

- a) the long hours usage of social media could affect an individual mentally and become the victim of depression
- b) by sharing sensitive information, one can be vulnerable to sudden outburst of emotions
- c) information shared by an individual for socializing purposes can be distorted and can be used for malignant purpose.
- d) the social media owners can steal the information and sell this information for monetary purposes
- e) None of the above

**4) According to this passage, how the virus gets into the computers?**

- a) by saving data and clicking on the desktop
- b) by opening a document file in the search History
- c) by texting online and receiving files on social media platforms



d) Opening email attachments that carry the virus, clicking malicious links or websites or unintentionally downloading a dangerous program

e) None of the above

5) **What will be the apt title for this passage?**

a) life hacks

b) Cybercrime and hacking

c) technology and its advantages

d) technological advances

e) The impact of social media

6) **In the following question, find the word that is most similar in the meaning to the word 'malicious'?**

a) benefactor

b) benign

c) benevolent

d) vitriolic

e) vituperate

7) **In the following question, find the word that is most similar in the meaning to the word "illegal"?**

a) symposium

b) chagrin

c) chauvinistic

d) Felonious

e) charlatan

8) **In the following question, find the word that is opposite in the meaning to the word "unauthorized"?**

a) accredit

b) unaccredited

c) inadmissible

d) increment

e) liaison

9) **In the following question, find the word that is opposite in the meaning to the word "appropriate"?**

a) malapropos

b) opportunely

c) sequester

d) usurp

e) commandeer

10) **In the following question, find the word that is most similar in the meaning to the word "unintentional"?**

a) despotic

b) harbinger

c) fortuitously

d) immaculate

e) innocuous

**Directions (Q. 11-15): Select the phrase/connector from the given three options which can be used in the beginning (to start the sentence) to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same meaning as expressed in the statement sentences.**

11) **What Doklam standoff aims to gain out of this crisis has been subject to much speculation. It hopes to peel Bhutan away from India's orbit.**

i. It is speculated that.....

ii. Being the subject of speculation .....

iii. In accordance to.....

a) All except ii

b) All except iii

c) Only I

d) Both i and iii

e) None of these

12) **Both the Central government and many state governments have appointed advisers and consultants on an ad-hoc basis. Some of them, recruited into the Finance Ministry, and more recently into public enterprises, have distinguished themselves.**

i. After the recruitment into.....

ii. Being appointed as .....

iii. In view of distinguishing.....

a) Only i

b) Only ii

c) Only iii

d) All of the above

e) None of these

13) **The quiet railway station in the heart of Karmatar draws its name from one of the country's greatest social reformers. Today hardly anyone seems to be aware of the connection of this place to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.**

i. Having drawn its name from one of the.....

ii. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar railway.....

iii. In view of its connection .....

a) Only i

b) Only ii

c) Both i and ii

d) Both i and iii

e) None of these

14) **The Niti Aayog released the draft National Energy Policy. It invited comments from the public to help strengthen its perspectives on some of the complex issues.**

i. The Niti Aayog invited comments from the.....

ii. The Niti Aayog released the draft .....

iii. Being invited .....

a) Only i

b) Both i and iii

c) Both ii and iii

d) Both i and ii

e) All of these

15) **A nation's energy policy can have a huge bearing on society and health. It is thus important to ensure that policies are compatible with public health goals.**

i. Although it has a bearing.....

ii. Because it has a huge bearing.....

iii. Having a bearing on society.....

a) All except i

b) Both i and ii

c) All of these

d) None of these

e) Only ii

**Directions (Q. 16-20): Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error or idiomatic error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The letter of that part is the answer. If there is no error; the answer is e). (Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)**

16) (a) It is time we design / (b) intelligent question papers / (c) that respect competence / (d) rather than just memory. / e) No error

17) (a) With India's urban population expected to grow / (b) exponentially over the next couple of decades / (c) urban housing will be a central issue / (d) to the government. / e) No error

- 18) (a) With the crisis of depleting clean water sources / (b) looming over us, / (c) considerable alternative sources/ (d) is imperative. /e) No error
- 19) (a) The Bengaluru Police are proposing to use electronic tags / (b) on habitual offenders to monitor their movements, / (c) after an analysis revealed that they were involved / (d) in more than forty percent crimes reported in the city. / e) No error
- 20) (a) Having a visionary and motivating leader, / (b) she thinks out of the box and / (c) has her own style of doing things, one of which / (d) is treating and respecting her employees as assets, /e) No error

**Directions (21-30): In the following passage, there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.**

The frail nature of rural India's health systems and the.....(21).....patient load on a few.....(22).....hospitals have become even more evident from the crisis at the Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur. The institution has come under the spotlight after reports emerged of the death of several children over a short period, although epidemics and a high mortality level are chronic features here. Medical infrastructure in several surrounding districts and even neighbouring states is so weak that a large number of very sick patients are sent to such apex hospitals as the last resort. The.....(23).....aspects of the system are.....(24).....from the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on reproductive and child health under the National Rural Health Mission for the year ended March 2016. Even if the audit objections on financial administration were to be ignored, the picture that emerges in several States is one of inability to.....(25).....the funds allocated, shortage of staff at primary health centres (PHCs), community health centres (CHCs) and district hospitals, lack of essential medicines, broken down equipment and unfilled doctor vacancies. In the case of Uttar Pradesh, the CAG found that about 50% of the PHCs it.....(26).....did not have a doctor, while 13 States had significant levels of vacancies. Basic facilities in the form of health sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs met only half the need in Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, putting pressure on a .....(27).....of referral institutions such as the Gorakhpur hospital. Templates for an upgraded rural health system have long been finalised and the Indian Public Health Standards were issued in 2007 and 2012, covering facilities from health sub-centres upwards. The Centre has set.....(28).....health goals for 2020 and is in the process of deciding the

financial.....(29).....for various targets under the National Health Mission, including reduction of the infant mortality rate to 30 per 1,000 live births, from the recent.....(30).....of 40.

- 21) a) shatterable b) brittle  
c) extraordinary d) crisp  
e) shivery
- 22) a) referral b) elementary  
c) facile d) lucid  
e) walkover
- 23) a) dysfunctional b) intact  
c) harmed d) instability  
e) disequilibrium
- 24) a) unscathed b) disequilibration  
c) evident d) assets  
e) receipts
- 25) a) disputable b) vague  
c) harvest d) absorb  
e) drawings
- 26) a) audited b) obscure  
c) proceeds d) payoff  
e) revenue
- 27) a) astasia b) gravity  
c) compensation d) handful  
e) commission
- 28) a) honorarium b) ambitious  
c) content d) avails  
e) withdraw
- 29) a) deduct b) fulfilled  
c) withhold d) detract  
e) outlay
- 30) a) unassuming b) estimate  
c) satisfied d) diminish  
e) decrease

## ANSWER KEY

### Reasoning Ability

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	E	2	C	3	C	4	A	5	B
6	B	7	C	8	A	9	B	10	D
11	C	12	B	13	C	14	E	15	D
16	E	17	A	18	D	19	E	20	D
21	E	22	A	23	D	24	B	25	D
26	B	27	C	28	E	29	D	30	C
31	A	32	C	33	C	34	D	35	E

### Quantitative Aptitude

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	B	2	B	3	E	4	C	5	E
6	C	7	B	8	D	9	A	10	D
11	C	12	C	13	B	14	E	15	A
16	C	17	E	18	D	19	B	20	A
21	B	22	D	23	B	24	B	25	D
26	D	27	A	28	A	29	C	30	D
31	E	32	B	33	C	34	D	35	E

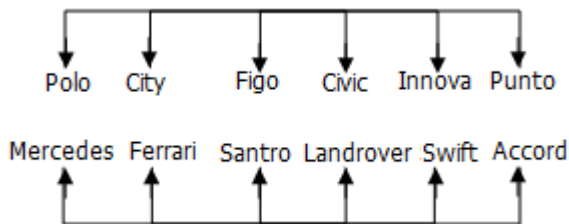
## English Language

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	B	2	C	3	C	4	D	5	B
6	D	7	D	8	A	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	E	13	C	14	D	15	A
16	A	17	D	18	C	19	E	20	A
21	C	22	A	23	A	24	C	25	D
26	A	27	D	28	B	29	E	30	B

## SOLUTIONS

### Reasoning Ability

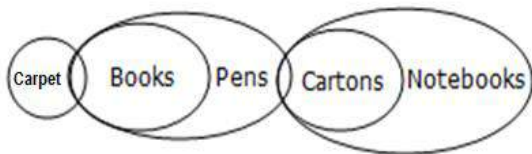
(01- 05):



(06- 10):

Players	Game	Sponsorship
Sachin	Cricket	Manik Chand
Rahul	Billiards	Reebok
Mukesh	Football	Singer
Ramesh / Laxman	Volleyball	Pepsi
Dhanraj	Table Tennis	Ispat
Dinko	Chess	Britannia
Laxman / Ramesh	Badminton	Adidas
Mahesh	Hockey	MRF

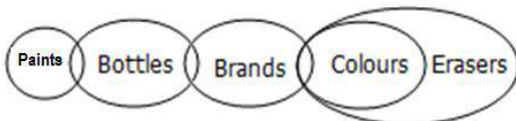
11) c):



1) x  
3) ✓

2) x  
4) ✓

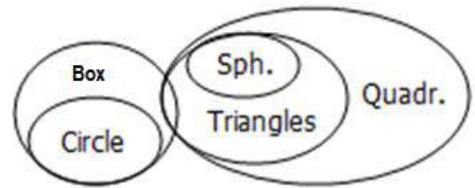
12) b):



1) x  
3) ✓

2) x  
4) x

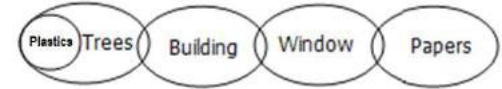
13) c):



1) ✓  
3) ✓

2) ✓  
4) X

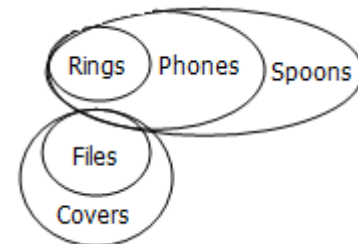
14) e):



1) x  
3) x

2) x  
4) x

15) d):



1) x  
3) ✓

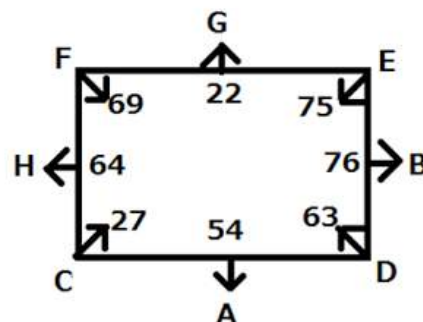
2) ✓  
4) x

(16- 20):

Prpare for your exam  
Hard work for prepare  
Prepare your studies well  
Work well best results  
Well – jk  
Work – ml  
Best/results = Either ds or lu  
Prepare = nt  
For = oz  
Your = xn  
Exam = wl  
Studies = sd  
Hard = tk

xn nt oz wl  
nt ml oz tk  
sd jk nt xn  
ds lu jk ml

Solution (21-25):

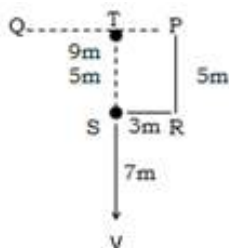




(26-30):

Person	City	Colour	Laptop
D	Patna	Pink	HP
E	Ranchi	Brown	Dell
F	Pune	Black	Dell
G	Gurgaon	Grey	Sony
H	Delhi	Purple	HP
I	Noida	White	Sony

(34-35):



### Quantitative Aptitude

1) (b)

$$I. 9p^2 - (9+12)p + 12 = 0$$

$$9p^2 - 9p - 12p + 12 = 0$$

$$9p(p-1) - 12(p-1) = 0$$

$$(9p-12)(p-1) = 0$$

$$\therefore p = \frac{4}{3}, 1$$

$$II. 18q^2 - 50q + 32 = 0$$

$$9q^2 - 25q + 16 = 0$$

$$9q^2 - 9q - 16q + 16 = 0$$

$$9q(q-1) - 16(q-1) = 0$$

$$(q-1)(9q-16) = 0$$

$$\therefore q = \frac{16}{9}, 1$$

We cannot determine the exact relation.

since in case :  $p = \frac{4}{3}$  and  $q = 1$  then  $p > q$

but if :  $p = 1$  and  $q = \frac{16}{9}$  ., then  $q > p$

2) (b)

$$I. 3p^2 - (18-10)p - 60 = 0$$

$$3p^2 - 18p + 10p - 60 = 0$$

$$3p(p-6) + 10(p-6) = 0$$

$$(p-6)(3p+10) = 0$$

$$\therefore p = 6, -\frac{10}{3}$$

$$II. 20q^2 - 288q + 1036 = 0$$

$$5q^2 - 72q + 259 = 0$$

$$5q^2 - 35q - 37q + 259 = 0$$

$$5q(q-7) - 37(q-7) = 0$$

$$(q-7)(5q-37) = 0$$

$$\therefore q = 7, \frac{37}{5}$$

Hence,  $p < q$

3) (e)

$$I. p^2 - 13p + 36 = 0$$

$$p^2 - 9p - 4p + 36 = 0$$

$$p(p-9) - 4(p-9) = 0$$

$$(p-4)(p-9) = 0$$

$$\therefore p = 4, 9$$

$$II. 3q^2 - 90q + 483 = 0$$

$$q^2 - 30q + 161 = 0$$

$$q^2 - 23q - 7q + 161 = 0$$

$$q(q-23) - 7(q-23) = 0$$

$$(q-23)(q-7) = 0$$

$$q = 23, 7$$

Relationship can't be established

4) (c)

$$12m^2 - 126m + 294 = 0$$

$$12m^2 - (84+42)m + 294 = 0$$

$$12m^2 - 84m - 42m + 294 = 0$$

$$12m(m-7) - 42(m-7) = 0$$

$$(m-7)(12m-42) = 0$$

$$m_1 = 7$$

$$m_2 = \frac{7}{2}$$

$$7n^2 + 123n - 504 = 0$$

$$7n^2 + (147-24)n - 504 = 0$$

$$7n^2 + 147n - 24n - 504 = 0$$

$$7n(n+21) - 24(n+21) = 0$$

$$(n+21)(7n-24) = 0$$

$$n_1 = -21$$

$$n_2 = \frac{24}{7}$$

$m > n$

5) (e)

$$I. x^2 - 30x + 216$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ -18 & & -12 \end{array}$$

Now after changing the sign we get

$$x = 18, 12$$

$$II. y^2 - 39y + 360$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ -15 & & -24 \end{array}$$

Now after changing the sign we get

$$y = 15, 24$$

$$x > y, y < x$$

The relationship cannot be established

- 6) (c)**  $396; [(824-8) \div 2 = 408; (408-8) \div 2 = 200; (200-8) \div 2 = 96; \underline{\quad}]$
- 7) (b)** 87; (Add 2, 6, 12, 20, 30 and 42 to the successive numbers)
- 8) (d)**  $30; [(2185 - 4) \div 3 = 727; (727-4) \div 3 = 241; (241-4) \div 3 = 79; \underline{\quad}]$
- 9) (a)**  $25; [1^2+1=2; 2^2-1=3; 3^2+1=10; 4^2-1=15; 5^2+1=26; \underline{\quad}]$
- 10) (d)**  $60; [13+1=2; 23-1=7; 33+1=28; 43-1=63; \underline{\quad}]$
- 11) (c)**  $92 \times 576 \div 2 \times 36 = x^3 + 7$   
 $736 - 7 = x^3$   
 $x^3 = 729$  So,  $x = 9$
- 12) (c)**  $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{92}{100} \times \frac{24}{23} \times 650 - 85$   
 $= 104 - 85 = 19$
- 13) (b)**  $\left( \frac{15 \times 0.4 \times 30 \times 27 \times 8}{1080} \right)^4 = 6^{x+5}$   
 $36^4 = 6^{x+5}$   
 $x = 3$
- 14) (e)**  $3 + 2 - 1 - 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{5}{6} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{x^2}{10}$   
 $3 + \frac{3+6-5-10}{12} = \frac{x^2}{10}$   
 $3 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{x^2}{10}$   
 $\frac{5}{2} = \frac{x^2}{10}$   
 $x^2 = 25$   
So  $x = 5$
- 15) (a)**  $\sqrt{8} + 3 = x^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$   
 $x^3 = 343$   
So  $x = 7$
- 16) (c)**  $\frac{A(2006) + C(2010)}{E(2009)} \times 100$   
 $= \frac{1.44 + 7.84}{5.53} \times 100$   
 $= 165\% \text{ approx.}$
- 17) (e)**  $D(2010) \rightarrow 9.45$   
 $D(2009) \rightarrow 8.42$   
So, percentage increase =  $\frac{1.03}{8.42} \times 100 = 12\% \text{ approx}$

**18)** Observation from Graph

**19) (b)**  $\frac{B(2007)}{D(2010)} = \frac{2.79}{9.45}$

**20) (a)**  $\frac{B(2006) + C(2008) + E(2005)}{3}$   
 $= \frac{3.34 + 5.83 + 1.69}{3} = 3.62$

**21) (b)**

A	-	12 hrs	51
B	-	15 hrs	41
		60 l	
C	-	20 hrs	31
		A + B,	A + C
1 <sup>st</sup> hour		2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	
5 + 4 = 9l		4 + 3 = 8l	
In 2 hours tanker filled = 17ℓ			
51ℓ	+	9ℓ	= 60ℓ
6hrs	next hour	7 hrs	

**22) (d)**

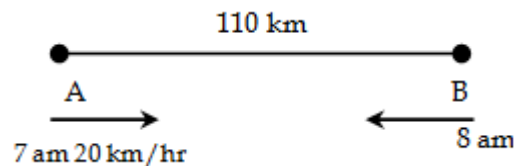
A	B	C
$20,000 \times 24$	$15,000 \times 24$	$20,000 \times 18$
4	3	3

B's share =  $2500 \times 3$   
 $10 = 25,000$   
 $= 7500/-$                        $1 = 2500$

**23) (b)** Upstream ( $U_s$ ) = 2 km/hr  
Downstream = ( $D_s$ ) = 1 km per 10 mins or 6 km/hr  
 $S \text{ of man} = \frac{D_s + U_s}{2} + \frac{2+6}{2} = 4 \text{ km/hr}$   
Time taken by him for 5 km in stationary water =  $\frac{D}{S}$   
 $= \frac{5}{4} \text{ hr} = \frac{5}{4} \times 60 = 75 \text{ minutes}$

**24) (b)**  $\frac{{}^{10}C_1 \times {}^{15}C_2}{{}^{25}C_3} \times \frac{10 \times \frac{15 \times 14}{2 \times 1}}{25 \times 24 \times 23} = \frac{10 \times 15 \times 7}{25 \times 24 \times 23} = \frac{21}{46}$

**25) (d)**



After one hour one train covered distance = 20 km  
Remaining Distance =  $110 - 20 = 90 \text{ km}$

Relative speed = 20 + 25 = 45 km/hr

They will meet After =  $\frac{90}{45} = 2$  hrs

**26) (d)** Always divided by 9,  $\frac{36}{9} = 4$

∴ Difference between two digits = 4

Difference between their ratio = 1

∴ 1 = 4

∴ No is 48

(4 + 8) – (8 – 4) = 8

**27) (a)** 12% of monthly salary – Rs. 3660

∴ (12% + 16% + 3%) of monthly salary

$\frac{31\% \text{ of } 3660}{12} = \text{Rs. } 9455$

Annual = 12 x 9455 = Rs. 1,13,460

**28) (a)** 6! = 6 x 5 x 4 x 3 x 2 x 1 = 720

**29-33):** Train A (700) Train B (910)

Gen coaches	140	241
Sleeper coaches	161	273
First class	224	91
AC coaches	175	305

**29) c 30) d 31) e 32) b 33) c**

**34) (d)**  $\frac{24+18+12}{3+2+4} = 6 \text{ km/hr}$

**35) (e)** 75 → 65      100 → 10

Incorrect correct actual 1 →  $\frac{10}{100} = 0.1$

= 59.9

### English Language

- 1) b):** It is mentioned in the passage that Cyber Security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorized or unintended access, destruction or change.
- 2) c):** The reason mentioned in the paragraph for cyber threats is "due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents."
- 3) c):** information shared by an individual for socializing purposes can be distorted and can be used for malignant purpose.
- 4) d):** Opening email attachments that carry the virus, clicking malicious links or websites or unintentionally downloading a dangerous program
- 5) b):** The appropriate title for the given passage would be 'Cybercrime and hacking'.
- 6) d):** malicious- characterized by malice; intending or intended to do harm. vitriolic-filled with bitter criticism or malice. Hence, these two words are synonyms to each other.
- 7) d):** Felonious-relating to or involved in crime. hence illegal and Felonious are synonyms to each other.

**8) a):** accredit-(of an official body) give authority or sanction to (someone or something) when recognized standards have been met. hence, accredit and unauthorized are antonyms to each other.

**9) a):** malapropos-in an inopportune or inappropriate way. hence, malapropos and appropriate are antonyms.

**10) c):** fortuitously- Happening by accident or chance. Hence, fortuitously and unintentional are synonyms to each other.

**11) b):** It is speculated that Doklam standoff aim is to peel Bhutan away from India's Orbit. Being the subject of speculation, Doklam standoff aims to peel Bhutan away from India's orbit.

**12) e):**

**13) c):** Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar railway station, being quiet railway station in the heart of Karmatar, hardly have connection with anyone. Having drawn its name from one of the country's greatest social reformers, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar railway station hardly have connection with anyone.

**14) d):** The Niti Aayog released the draft National Energy Policy and it invited comments from the public to help strengthen its perspectives on some of the complex issues.

The Niti Aayog invited comments from the public to help strengthen its perspectives on some of the complex issues after it released the draft National Energy Policy.

**15) a):** Because it has a huge bearing on society and health, a nation's energy policy ensures to be compatible with public health goals.

Having a bearing on society and health, a nation's energy policy ensures to be compatible with public health goals.

**16) a):** Replace "design" with "designed"

**17) d):** Replace "to" with "for"

**18) c):** Replace "considerable" with "considering"

**19) e):** No error

**20) a):** Replace "Having" with "Being"

**21) c):** very unusual or remarkable.

**22) a):** an act of referring someone or something for consultation, review, or further action.

**23) a):** dysfunctional – not operating normally or properly.

**24) c):** evident – clearly seen or understood; obvious.

**25) d):** absorb – take in or soak up (energy or a liquid or other substance) by chemical or physical action.

**26) a):** audited – conduct an official financial inspection of (a company or its accounts).

**27) d):** handful – a quantity that fills the hand.

**28) b):** ambitious – having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed.

**29) e):** outlay – an amount of money spent on something.

**30) b):** estimate – roughly calculate or judge the value, number, quantity, or extent of.





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# Latest G.K. Bytes

## JULY 2020

- 1) India celebrates National Statistics Day on which date? **June 29**
- 2) National Statistics Day is celebrated to pay respects to which great Indian statistician? **Dr P C Mahalanobis**
- 3) Govt of India recently banned how many China based mobile apps? **59**
- 4) The 59 apps have been banned under the provisions of which Indian law? **Information and Technology Act, 2000**
- 5) Which union ministry launched "PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises" (PM FME) scheme on 29th June? **Ministry for Food Processing Industries**
- 6) Who at present is the Minister for Food Processing Industries? **Harsimrat Kaur Badal**
- 7) Who is the present Attorney General for India? **K K Venugopal**
- 8) Why K K Venugopal was in news recently? **His term has been extended by one year**
- 9) Who is the current Solicitor General of India? **Tushar Mehta**
- 10) Government has extended the term of Tushar Mehta by how many years? **Three**
- 11) The World Bank approved two loans, \$50 million and \$200 million for the Tamil Nadu Government for what purpose? **To provide access to affordable housing to low-income groups**
- 12) Forest department of which state has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari Park? **Uttarakhand**
- 13) India and \_\_\_\_\_ signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project: **Bhutan**
- 14) The 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project is being built on which river? **Kholongchu**
- 15) Lazarus Chakwera has been elected as the new President of Malawi. It is in which continent? **Africa**
- 16) Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of which country? **Ireland**
- 17) On which date India celebrates National Doctor's Day? **July 01**

- 18) National Doctor's Day commemorates the birthday of which great Indian physician? **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**
- 19) Why July 1 has been selected as the date to celebrate Chartered Accountants Day? **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India was set up on this day in 1949**
- 20) If I plan to visit HQs of ICAI, which city will I have to visit? **New Delhi**
- 21) National Postal Worker Day is observed on which day of July? **First**
- 22) Which apex Indian institute has launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science? **IIT, Madras**
- 23) Which global FI has announced a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response Program to increase the flow of funds to MSMEs in India? **World Bank**
- 24) Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Iceland for a second four-year term: **President**
- 25) Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award is given for the outstanding contribution in which field? **Official Statistics**
- 26) Who has been selected for the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? **C. Rangarajan**
- 27) Which union ministry has instituted Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- 28) The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in which city? **Hanoi, Vietnam**
- 29) Who is our current Sports Minister? **Kiren Rijiju**
- 30) Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mobile app named "NADA App". What is the full form of NADA? **National Anti-Doping Agency**
- 31) On July 1 Indian Railways achieved which milestone for the first time in its history? **Running all trains on time**
- 32) Which apex body has launched a new scheme called 'Accelerate Vigyan' to provide a single platform for research internships? **The Science and Engineering Research Board**

33)	Name the senior diplomat who has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to various UN Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva? <b>Indra Mani Pandey</b>
34)	Who is India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNO headquarters? <b>T S Tirumurti</b>
35)	People of which country voted in majority to approve constitutional reforms that could keep their President in power until 2036? <b>Russia</b>
36)	Who is the current President of Russia? <b>Vladimir Putin</b>
37)	Indian government has extended AFSPA for another six months till December, 2020 in which state? <b>Nagaland</b>
38)	What is the full form of AFSPA? <b>Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958</b>
39)	Which international institution announced \$400 million support for India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga river and stem pollution in the river? <b>World Bank</b>
40)	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has been appointed as the new chairman of which apex Maharatna company? <b>Indian Oil Corporation</b>
41)	Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)? <b>Ravinder Bhakar</b>
42)	Who has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' of the 21st century by Wisden? <b>Ravindra Jadeja</b>
43)	Which bank launched an all-in-one app 'e-Kisaan Dhan' to meet all banking and farming requirements of farmers? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
44)	In which country, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in Hpakant? <b>Myanmar</b>
45)	India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in which city? <b>New Delhi</b>
46)	Name the ace choreographer whose iconic dance moves repeatedly made India go 'dhak dhak', died of cardiac arrest on July 3: <b>Saroj Khan</b>
47)	India's foreign exchange reserves at over \$ 500 billion, ranked ____ largest in the world: <b>Fifth</b>
48)	The present FX reserves of India are considered to be enough to cover ____ months of imports: <b>13</b>
49)	Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country? <b>France</b>
50)	The RBI issued operational guidelines for the Rs 30,000-crore special liquidity facility for ____ companies: <b>Non-banking finance</b>
51)	In keeping with its spirit to give a fillip to Indian

	languages, All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in ____ language from June 4: <b>Sanskrit</b>
52)	Which country has passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038? <b>Germany</b>
53)	The government plans to launch TOPS for the junior athletes also. What ois the full form of TOPS? <b>Target Olympic Podium Scheme</b>
54)	Name the former world number one badminton player, two-times Olympic (2008 and 2012) champion from China, who announced his retirement from the sport: <b>Lin Dan</b>
55)	NLC India Ltd and ____ have joined hands to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW in India: <b>Coal India Ltd.</b>
56)	Which state created a new record on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
57)	What is the name of the India's first social media super app which has been created by more than 1000 IT professionals? <b>Elyments</b>
58)	Ennio Morricone, Oscar-winning film composer, who composed music for over 500 films, passed away recently. He hailed from which country? <b>Italy</b>
59)	Which Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
60)	____ has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections: <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
61)	Valtteri Bottas, winner of the season's first F1 race, the Austrian Grand Prix 2020, hails from which country? <b>Finland</b>
62)	____ Tourism launched "Intzaar Aap Ka" campaign on social media platforms to attract tourists in the state. <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
63)	Name the veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "Soorma Bhopali" in blockbuster "Sholay", who passed away in Mumbai: <b>Jagdeep</b>
64)	G Akash from ____ became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster: <b>Chennai</b>
65)	Name the American wrestler-turned-actor, who has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity recently: <b>Dwayne Johnson</b>
66)	The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with ____ to offer digital skills to India's youth in the next 12 months amid the COVID-19 crisis: <b>Microsoft</b>
67)	One of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia is being established in Rewa in which state? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>



68)	The Indian Railways has decided to run how many trains by private operators? <b>151</b>
69)	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has released a \$50 million loan to which Indian corporate? <b>L&amp;T Infrastructure Finance Ltd</b>
70)	AIIB has given \$50 million loan to L&T for what purpose? <b>For funding renewable energy projects in India</b>
71)	What is the name butterfly that has been named as India's largest butterfly? <b>Himalayan Golden Birdwing</b>
72)	If you want to see the Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly, which place you will have to visit? <b>Didihat town in district Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand</b>
73)	The fourth edition of the Ministerial on Climate Action was held in virtual mode hosted by which organisation? <b>The European Union</b>
74)	The Paris Agreement on climate control was entered in which year? <b>2015.</b>
75)	The Paris Agreement 2015 was entered into under the aegis of UNFCCC. Write full form of UNFCCC: <b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>
76)	The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an agreement with which apex body for data exchange and sharing of information between the two organisations? <b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)</b>
77)	WHO has declared which two South East Asian nations free from Measles and Rubella? <b>Sri Lanka and Maldives</b>
78)	What is the name of the special insurance policy approved by IRDAI for covering Corona cases? <b>Corona Kavach</b>
79)	India celebrates National Fish Farmers' Day on which date? <b>July 10</b>
80)	In which country world's first Fish Cryobank is being established? <b>India</b>
81)	Which ministry launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. <b>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</b>
82)	Which is the first Arab country that has sent a probe to Mars? <b>UAE</b>
83)	As per the Global Real Estate Transparency Index, India has been placed at which rank? <b>34<sup>th</sup></b>
84)	Which country secured the top spot in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index? <b>United Kingdom</b>
85)	According to data from the RBI, which state has

	topped market borrowings among States in the country? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
86)	The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has entered into a partnership with which global organisation for clean energy development? <b>The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)</b>
87)	Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Population Day on July 11? <b>United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)</b>
88)	The first parcel cargo train with red chillies for export to Bangladesh was flagged off from _____ in Andhra Pradesh on July 10. <b>Reddipalem, Guntur</b>
89)	The 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook is what type of helicopter? <b>Heavy lift cargo helicopter</b>
90)	What is the name of the most advanced multirole attack helicopter acquired by India from Boeing? <b>AH-64E Apache</b>
91)	Lee Hsien Loong has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Singapore</b>
92)	_____ has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. <b>Russia</b>
93)	Which apex body has approached all IITs, NITs to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of National Highways on voluntary basis as part of Institutional Social Responsibility? <b>National Highway Authority of India</b>
94)	Who is the Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India? <b>Sukhbir Singh Sandhu</b>
95)	Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? <b>Turkmenistan</b>
96)	Which IIT has developed has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH? <b>IIT Kanpur</b>
97)	Which state has emerged on top in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi-PM Swa Nidhi scheme for providing easy finance to the street vendors? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
98)	Maximum how much loan can be given to a street vendor under the PM SwaNidhi? <b>10,000/-</b>
99)	Which global IT giant has announced to invest \$10 billion for promotion of digital India? <b>Google</b>
100)	Andrzej Duda has been re-elected as the _____ of Poland for another term of five years. <b>President</b>
101)	Which Maharatna energy corporate has been awarded with the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019? <b>NTPC Ltd</b>

<b>102)</b> The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of which family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple? <b>Travancore royal family</b>
<b>103)</b> Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, reportedly the richest temple of world, is located at which place? <b>Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala</b>
<b>104)</b> Shark Awareness Day is observed on which day of July? <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>105)</b> Which UN special agency supports the celebration of World Youth Skills Day on July 15? <b>UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>
<b>106)</b> Which Indian bureaucrat has been appointed as the vice president of the Asian Development Bank? <b>Ashok Lavasa</b>
<b>107)</b> Where is the head office of the Asian Development Bank? <b>Manila, Philippines</b>
<b>108)</b> Who is the President of ADB? <b>Masatsugu Asakawa</b>
<b>109)</b> K Sivan has been honoured with the Von Karman Award 2020. He heads which organisation? <b>ISRO</b>
<b>110)</b> Latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce shows that the _____ has emerged as India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal year in 2019-20: <b>United States of America</b>
<b>111)</b> Low-cost test kit "Corosure", claimed to be the world's most affordable diagnostic kit for coronavirus, has been developed by which IIT of India? <b>Delhi</b>
<b>112)</b> The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs ____ crore: <b>300</b>
<b>113)</b> _____ has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket: <b>China</b>
<b>114)</b> Rudrendra Tandon has been appointed as the India's next Ambassador to which country? <b>Afghanistan</b>
<b>115)</b> Who has been appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Bangladesh? <b>Vikram Doraiswami</b>
<b>116)</b> Who is Sachin Awasthi, one of the 100 winners of the Global Humanitarian Award 2020? <b>A noted social activist from UP</b>
<b>117)</b> Name the NGO that gives away the Global Humanitarian Award: <b>World Humanitarian Drive, London</b>
<b>118)</b> Which country has allowed India access to its Mongla and Chattogram ports for trade purposes? <b>Bangladesh</b>

<b>119)</b> Which three India states will benefit from the opening of the Mongla and Chattogram ports? <b>Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura</b>
<b>120)</b> In which state the NISHTHA programme of central government was launched for the first time in virtual mode? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
<b>121)</b> What is the full form of the acronym NISHTHA? <b>National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement</b>
<b>122)</b> The NISHTHA project is the part of which major educational programme? <b>Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan</b>
<b>123)</b> India has entered in to the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany. It is for what purpose? <b>To facilitate mutual international flights</b>
<b>124)</b> The Rail Coach Factory, _____ launched a new state-of-the-art, 'Post COVID Coach' in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus infection: <b>Kapurthala, Punjab</b>
<b>125)</b> Union HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for what purpose? <b>To set the guidelines digital education by schools</b>
<b>126)</b> The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge – the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge is being built across which river? <b>Chenab</b>
<b>127)</b> Which Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway has bagged the Water Heroes Award? <b>Ongole</b>
<b>128)</b> Name India's richest woman who became the first woman to head a listed Indian IT company: <b>Roshni Nadar</b>
<b>129)</b> Roshni Nadar has become chairperson of which major IT company? <b>HCL Technologies, Gurugram</b>
<b>130)</b> Which International Day is observed on July 17 to highlight the work of the International Criminal Court? <b>World Day for International Justice</b>
<b>131)</b> The International Criminal Court is located at which place? <b>The Hague, Netherlands</b>
<b>132)</b> In which year Nelson Mandela dethroned white Europeans from South Africa and became first Black President of South Africa? <b>1994</b>
<b>133)</b> DRDO has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System capable of para dropping military stores of up to 7-ton weight from which military cargo aircraft? <b>IL 76 'Gajraj'</b>
<b>134)</b> India opened a new Land Customs Station at Ahllay, Pasakha to promote trade with which country? <b>Bhutan</b>
<b>135)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address on July 17 at which high-level

segment of the United Nations? <b>Economic and Social Council</b>
<b>136)</b> Which Bollywood actor has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020? <b>Priyanka Chopra Jonas</b>
<b>137)</b> India ranks _____ in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions: <b>Third</b>
<b>138)</b> Which country topped the Global Manufacturing Risk Index, 2020? <b>China</b>
<b>139)</b> CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21 in collaboration with which IT major? <b>IBM, New York</b>
<b>140)</b> Which state government plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity through 'Waste to Energy' initiative? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>141)</b> The Indian Prime Minister ranks _____ among the World's top favourite leaders on Twitter, crossing 60 million followers: <b>Third</b>
<b>JUNE 2020</b>
<b>142)</b> World Asteroid Day is observed on June 30 to commemorate the crashing of a huge asteroid in _____ in Siberia on this day in 1908? <b>Tunguska</b>
<b>143)</b> What is the name of the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System inducted in the Indian Navy? <b>Maareech</b>
<b>144)</b> FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to which country? <b>Australia and New Zealand</b>
<b>145)</b> The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in which city? <b>Los Angeles, USA</b>
<b>146)</b> What is the name of the behaviour change campaign launched by the NITI Aayog recently in partnership with several other agencies? <b>Navigating the New Normal</b>
<b>147)</b> Which multi governmental organisation supports the celebration of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day on June 27? <b>United Nations Organisation - UNO</b>
<b>148)</b> International Widows Day is observed on which day of June? <b>23rd</b>
<b>149)</b> Why June 23 has been selected to be celebrated as World Olympic Day? <b>The day marks the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement in 1894</b>
<b>150)</b> The German Book Trade has chosen which Indian Nobel laureate for its Peace Prize 2020? <b>Amartya Sen</b>
<b>151)</b> Moody's Investors Service in its Global Macro Outlook (2020-21) has projected the Indian economy to shrink by _____ in the fiscal year 2020: <b>3.1%</b>
<b>152)</b> Which institution has created Indian GPS

beneficiary chip "Dhruva"? <b>IIT Bombay</b>
<b>153)</b> Name the veteran journalist, former Member of Parliament and founder member of the Press Club of India, who passed away at the age of 94. <b>Vishwa Bandhu Gupta</b>
<b>154)</b> NITI Aayog launched which project on June 24 to develop a low-carbon transport system in the country? <b>Decarbonising Transport in India</b>
<b>155)</b> The government introduced a Rs. _____ crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund for infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises: <b>15,000/-</b>
<b>156)</b> The IMF has predicted that the global economy will shrink by _____ per cent this year: <b>4.9</b>
<b>157)</b> Which major European country has decided to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cotton buds and food containers, as well as polystyrene cups and boxes by July 3, 2021? <b>Germany</b>
<b>158)</b> The union cabinet approved the move to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of _____? <b>Reserve Bank of India</b>
<b>159)</b> Which state has launched a scheme to procure cow dung from livestock owners at a fixed procurement rate? <b>Chhattisgarh</b>
<b>160)</b> Which state won the first prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
<b>161)</b> The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for what purpose? <b>To encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities</b>
<b>162)</b> Which international day is observed on June 25 to pay respect to sailors around the world for the valuable services rendered by them? <b>Day of the Seafarer</b>
<b>163)</b> Who was Wajid Khan, a noted Bollywood personality, who passed away recently at a young age of 42 years? <b>Popular music composer, with brother Sajid Khan</b>
<b>164)</b> On which date UNO supports the celebration of Global Day of Parents? <b>June 01</b>
<b>165)</b> To highlight the importance of milk in our diet, we celebrate World Milk Day on which day of June? <b>First</b>
<b>166)</b> What is the theme of this year's Global Day of Parents? <b>"Honour Your Parents"</b>
<b>167)</b> Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which country? <b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>168)</b> Government launched PM SVANidhi, a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to which category of people?



<b>Street Vendors</b>	
<b>169)</b>	What is the full form of the newly launched micro credit scheme PM SVANidhi? <b>Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi</b>
<b>170)</b>	What is the maximum amount of loan available under PM SVANidhi scheme? <b>Rs. 10,000/-</b>
<b>171)</b>	What is the name of the disinfection unit developed by the DRDO especially for disinfecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others? <b>Ultra Swachh</b>
<b>172)</b>	Which private company became the first space company to send two astronauts from the Earth to the International Space Station? <b>SpaceX</b>
<b>173)</b>	Which country recently faced nationwide street protests over the death of a non white person by a white police man? <b>USA</b>
<b>174)</b>	What is the name of the black man whose death in police action generated nationwide protests? <b>George Floyd</b>
<b>175)</b>	Who is the only Indian sportsperson to figure in the Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020? <b>Virat Kohli, 66</b>
<b>176)</b>	Who has been ranked at number one in the Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020? <b>Swiss tennis star Roger Federer</b>
<b>177)</b>	What were the last words uttered by George Floyd just before his death that became a war cry for protesters around the world? <b>"I can't breathe"</b>
<b>178)</b>	Which global organisation launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) to share with all the latest scientific and technological advancements to fight COVID-19? <b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b>
<b>179)</b>	Union Government has launched a new initiative named 'SWADES' for what purpose? <b>To conduct a skill mapping exercise of the Indians returning from abroad</b>
<b>180)</b>	What is the full form of SWADES? <b>"Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support"</b>
<b>181)</b>	SWADES is a joint initiative of three ministries -- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, _____ Ministry and External Affairs Ministry: <b>Civil Aviation</b>
<b>182)</b>	Under the new definition of MSMEs, manufacturing and services enterprises with investments up to Rs 10 crore and turnover up to Rs 50 crore will be classified as _____ enterprises: <b>Small</b>
<b>183)</b>	As per the new definition of MSMEs, Enterprises with investment up to Rs ____ crore and turnover up to Rs ____ crore will be termed as 'medium'

	enterprises. <b>20; 100</b>
<b>184)</b>	Name the severe cyclonic storm that landed in Raigad district in Maharashtra on June 3 and caused widespread devastation: <b>Nisarga</b>
<b>185)</b>	Name the veteran filmmaker-screenwriter best known for directing films like Choti si Baat, Rajnigandha, Baaton Baaton Mein, and many others, who died recently: <b>Basu Chatterjee</b>
<b>186)</b>	The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched a joint initiative, TULIP for which target group? <b>Fresh engineering graduates</b>
<b>187)</b>	What is the full form of the recently launched program 'TULIP'? <b>"The Urban Learning Internship Programme"</b>
<b>188)</b>	TULIP aims to provide hands on works experience to the Fresh engineering graduates in which field? <b>4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the country</b>
<b>189)</b>	Who has taken over as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21? <b>Uday Kotak</b>
<b>190)</b>	Which ministry has launched '#Commit' campaign to promote sustainable more efficient use of energy? <b>Ministry of Power.</b>
<b>191)</b>	Who is the current Power Minister of India? <b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>
<b>192)</b>	On which date United Nation supports the celebration of the World Environment Day? <b>June 05</b>
<b>193)</b>	The Asian Football Confederation awarded the hosting rights of the Women's Asian Cup 2022 tournament to which country? <b>India</b>
<b>194)</b>	Where are the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation? <b>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</b>
<b>195)</b>	On World Environment Day, June 5, the government announced which scheme to develop 200 urban forests across the country in the next five years? <b>The Nagar Van (Urban Forests) scheme</b>
<b>196)</b>	For the first time, a bilateral summit between India and _____ was held in virtual mode on June 4 between the two prime ministers: <b>Australia</b>
<b>197)</b>	Who is the prime minister of Australia? <b>Scott Morrison</b>
<b>198)</b>	The central government has approved to rename the Kolkata Port Trust as _____ Port Trust. <b>Syama Prasad Mookerjee</b>
<b>199)</b>	The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust is the only major port of India not located on sea shore. It is located on which river? <b>Hooghly</b>
<b>200)</b>	Raveesh Kumar has been appointed as India's next ambassador to which country? <b>Finland</b>
<b>201)</b>	On June 3, India joined the group of select nations to have a Real-Time Market (RTM) in which

commodity? <b>Electricity</b>
202) The Reserve Bank has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 500 Crore for what purpose? <b>To improve the digital payments ecosystem in the northeast and rural India.</b>
203) The Payment Infrastructure Development Fund aims to promote which particular channel of digital payments? <b>Card swipe machines</b>
204) _____ has become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizens. <b>Kerala</b>
205) Which state launched K-FON project aimed at providing free high speed internet facility to poor families? <b>Kerala</b>
206) Who is the first non-white person to become the chairman of the apex film and TV award body of Britain – BAFTA? <b>Krishnendu Majumdar</b>
207) What is the full expansion of the acronym BAFTA? <b>British Academy of Film and Television Arts</b>
208) On which date the World Bicycle Day is celebrated around the world? <b>June 3</b>
209) Name the former Governor of Manipur, Mizoram and Jharkhand, who passed away in Goa: <b>Ved Marwah</b>
210) Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Food Safety Day? <b>WHO – World Health Organisation</b>
211) On which date we celebrate the World Food Safety Day? <b>June 7</b>
212) What is the theme of this year's World Food Safety Day? <b>Food safety, everyone's business</b>
213) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs launched which programme at Bengaluru and Chennai for technology based faster Customs clearance of imported goods? <b>Turant Customs</b>
214) Who has become the first Indian to win the Richard Dawkins Award? <b>Javed Akhtar, veteran writer-lyricist</b>
215) Which is the deepest point of the Earth? <b>Challenger Deep, in Mariana Trench, around 11,000 mts deep</b>
216) As per the State Food Safety Index released by the FSSAI, Which state topped the index among large states? <b>Gujarat</b>
217) Among UTs, which UT topped the State Food Safety Index? <b>Chandigarh</b>
218) Name the India's 1st indigenous wireless system for monitoring physiological parameters of the COVID-19 affected patients? <b>COVID BEEP</b>
219) Name the Indian corporate selected as the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020: <b>Kiran Mazumdar Shaw</b>
220) Who is Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (her position)? <b>Chairperson of Biocon Ltd., India's largest bio-pharmaceutical company</b>

221) On which date do we celebrate the World Oceans Day? <b>June 8</b>
222) Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? <b>Switzerland</b>
223) As per the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions under the NIRF, which is the overall best institute of India? <b>IIT Madras</b>
224) What is the full form of the abbreviation NIRF? <b>National Institutional Ranking Framework</b>
225) Among the Indian universities, _____ has been ranked as the best by the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions: <b>Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru</b>
226) _____, Delhi has been ranked as the best college in India: <b>Miranda House (for girls)</b>
227) Indian Railways has set a new world benchmark by successfully running the first Double-Stack Container Train in which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
228) Which company has become the first company in the world to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap? <b>Apple Inc.</b>
229) A massive oil fire erupted at a leaking natural-gas oil well in which Assam oilfield on June 8? <b>Baghjan oil field</b>
230) The Government of India has raised the Customs duty on bamboo imports from 10% to ____ with immediate effect with a view to encourage the use of domestic bamboo. <b>25%</b>
231) India has recorded a ____ increase in the population of Asiatic Lions in the last five years. <b>29%</b>
232) Asiatic Lions are found in the wild in the ____ sanctuary in western Gujarat. <b>Gir 70.</b> ICGS Kanaklata Barua is what type of ship recently delivered to the Indian Coast Guard? <b>Fast Petrol Vessel</b>
233) Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2021 has ranked which university at the top rank? <b>Massachusetts Institute for Technology, USA</b>
234) The World Bank has given Rs. 1,950 crore loans to which state for tackling COVID situation and developmental work in the State? <b>West Bengal</b>
235) Name the eminent Indian-American soil scientist who won the World Food Prize-2000: <b>Dr. Rattan Lal</b>
236) Who is the head of the Working Group set up by the RBI to review the guidelines related to private sector banks? <b>P K Mohanty</b>
237) On which date the World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated around the world? <b>June 12</b>
238) Which specialised UN agency supports the celebration of the World Day Against Child Labour? <b>ILO -- The International Labour Organization</b>

239)	Name the founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia who has been selected for the Medal of the Order of Australia: <b>Shobha Sekhar</b>
240)	The OECD has forecasted Indian economy to contract by 3.7% in the fiscal year 2020-21. Its headquarters are located in which city? <b>Paris</b>
241)	What is the full form of OECD? <b>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</b>
242)	The Indian Navy inaugurated its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at which of its Command Office? <b>Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam</b>
243)	Which country's team has topped the recent rankings released by FIFA? <b>Belgium</b>
244)	What is India's ranking in the latest FIFA rankings? <b>108<sup>th</sup></b>
245)	_____ has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students. <b>Odisha</b>
246)	The Ministry of _____ has reconstituted a new committee to review the welfare of the freedom fighters: <b>Home Affairs</b>
247)	Who is the head of the new committee formed to review the welfare of the freedom fighters? <b>G Kishan Reddy</b>
248)	Which TV serial made Sushant Singh Rajput a household name? <b>Pavitra Rishta</b>
249)	Which apex Indian organisation launched web portal 'Aarogya Path'? <b>CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi</b>
250)	What is the basic purpose of the web portal 'Aarogya Path'? <b>To facilitate online availability of medical logistics</b>
251)	The World Blood Donor Day is observed on which day of June month? <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
252)	What is the theme of this year's World Blood Donor Day? <b>Safe blood saves lives</b>
253)	The Department of Biotechnology launched India's first mobile infectious disease diagnostic lab. This is the initiative of which ministry? <b>Ministry of Science and Technology</b>
254)	Which international day is celebrated to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons? <b>World Elder Abuse Awareness Day</b>
255)	On which date we celebrate the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day? <b>June 15</b>
256)	As per a recent report by the UNCTAD, India was the world's _____ largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI): <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
257)	Which bank has decided to completely digitise its lending operations? <b>Bank of Baroda</b>
258)	In which border area India lost its 20 soldiers in a violent conflict with Chinese forces? <b>Galwan Valley</b>

259)	India recently joined which international group as its founder member to promote Artificial Intelligence? <b>Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)</b>
260)	India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a ____ year term: <b>Two</b>
261)	India's two year term will begin on which date? <b>January 1, 2021.</b>
262)	The non-permanent members of UNSC are elected by the members of which forum? <b>UN General Assembly</b>
263)	How many members are there in the UN General Assembly? <b>193</b>
264)	Name the Turkish diplomat and politician who was elected as President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly: <b>Volkan Bozkir</b>
265)	Vera Lynn, renowned veteran singer who passed away recently, hailed from which country? <b>Britain</b>
266)	A new fish species named as "Schizothorax sikusirumensis" has been discovered recently in which Indian state? <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>
267)	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is celebrated on which day of June? <b>17<sup>th</sup></b>
268)	Which new facility will enable EPFO offices to settle online claims from any of its regional offices, across the country? <b>Multi Location Claim Settlement facility</b>
269)	The DARPG recently launched the "Feedback Call Centres on Public Grievances". What is the full form of DARPG? <b>Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances</b>
270)	Name the 23 year old US sikh citizen who made history by becoming the 1st observant Sikh to graduate from a distinguished US Military Academy: <b>Anmol Narang</b>
271)	Which Bank has introduced an online overdraft (OD) facility 'Insta FlexiCash' for its salary account customers? <b>ICICI Bank</b>
272)	What is the name of country's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform? <b>Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)</b>
273)	Which country will host the 4th Asian Youth Para Games in December 2021? <b>Bahrain</b>
274)	Which international day is observed annually on June 18 to respect the rights of persons with autism? <b>Autistic Pride Day</b>
275)	Which Ministry released India's first ever National Report on the state of the Climate Crisis titled "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region"? <b>Ministry of Earth Sciences</b>
276)	Who is the current minister of the Earth Sciences Ministry? <b>Dr Harsh Vardhan</b>
277)	Which mission has been launched on June 20 to generate employment opportunities in rural India for returning migrant workers? <b>Garib Kalyan</b>



<b>Rojgar Abhiyan</b>
<b>278)</b> Government has decided to establish 1000 _____ Centers at the district level across the country to develop local sports talent: <b>Khelo India</b>
<b>279)</b> Which ministry launched R&D portal "Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)" for Science and Technology Programme Scheme? <b>Ministry of Mines</b>
<b>280)</b> Who is the current head of the ministry of mines? <b>Pralhad Joshi</b>
<b>281)</b> The United Nations celebrates the World Refugee Day every year on which date? <b>June 20</b>
<b>282)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Refugee Day? <b>Every Action Counts</b>
<b>283)</b> The Reliance Industries Ltd has become the first Indian company to reach \$ ____ billion mark in terms of market capitalisation. <b>150</b>
<b>284)</b> Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi? <b>Urjit Patel</b>
<b>285)</b> World Music Day is celebrated around the world on which date to promote peace and spread goodwill through music? <b>June 21</b>
<b>286)</b> On which Sunday of June we usually celebrate the Father's Day? <b>Third</b>
<b>287)</b> What was the theme for this year's International Day of Yoga? <b>Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home</b>
<b>288)</b> _____ holds the record for most wickets taken in Ranji Trophy history as he scalped 637 wickets. <b>Rajinder Goel</b>
<b>289)</b> The Exim Bank extended a \$20.10 million Line of Credit to which country for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital? <b>Icaragua</b>
<b>290)</b> Vijay Khanduja has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? <b>Republic of Zimbabwe</b>
<b>291)</b> Which day is observed on June 23 to highlight the contribution of public servants in the development process? <b>United Nations Public Service Day</b>
<b>MAY 2020</b>
<b>292)</b> Tarun Bajaj, the 1988 batch IAS officer has been given charge of the _____ Secretary of the country: <b>Economic Affairs</b>
<b>293)</b> Which popular TV serial has created the world record of highest viewed entertainment programme globally? <b>Ramayan</b>
<b>294)</b> Name the legendary Footballer, captain of the gold medal winning team of Jakarta Asiad, who died in Kolkata after prolonged illness. <b>Chuni Goswami</b>


<b>295)</b> Order of Rising Sun is one of the highest civilian honour of which country? <b>Japan</b>
<b>296)</b> Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana offers a health insurance cover of how much amount to eligible families? <b>Rs 5 lakh</b>
<b>297)</b> J. Arunkumar, former Karnataka cricketer, has been appointed the head coach of which country's national cricket team? <b>USA</b>
<b>298)</b> The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$ 346 million loan to Maharashtra for what purpose? <b>To provide reliable power connections in rural areas of the state</b>
<b>299)</b> What is another popular name for the Labour Day / International Workers' Day observed on May 1? <b>May Day</b>
<b>300)</b> According to a recent report titled 'The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)', which country suffered largest number of displacements in 2019? <b>India</b>
<b>301)</b> Which apex organisation launched the Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system? <b>CSIR</b>
<b>302)</b> What is the full form of CSIR? <b>Council of Scientific and Industrial Research</b>
<b>303)</b> The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is based in which city? <b>New Delhi</b>
<b>304)</b> A faculty member at IIT Madras Prof. T. Pradeep has won the Nikkei Asia Prize for which achievement? <b>For his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification</b>
<b>305)</b> Nikkei Asia Prize is given by Nikkei – the biggest media group of _____. <b>Japan</b>
<b>306)</b> The Open budget survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) has placed India at ____ position among 117 nations: <b>53<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>307)</b> Which country was ranked on top in terms of budget transparency? <b>New Zealand</b>
<b>308)</b> Which global day is observed on May 3 to pay gratitude to those journalists who lost their lives in order to bring us honest and real news? <b>World Press Freedom Day</b>
<b>309)</b> What is the theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day? <b>"Journalism without Fear or Favour."</b>
<b>310)</b> Hafthor Bjornsson set a new world record for

the deadlift on May 2 when he lifted 1,104 pounds (501 kg). He is from which Country? <b>Iceland</b>
<b>311)</b> World Tuna Day is observed on which date? <b>May 2</b>
<b>312)</b> Tuna is a popular fish food of which country? <b>Almost all countries</b>
<b>313)</b> Dr. Shobhana Narasimhan, a noted Indian scientist has been given which international honour recently? <b>Elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science</b>
<b>314)</b> WHO supports the celebrations of Hand Hygiene Day on which date? <b>May 05</b>
<b>315)</b> What is the theme of this year's Hand Hygiene Day? <b>Save lives: Clean your hands</b>
<b>316)</b> Which international NGO supports the celebration of World Asthma Day? <b>Global Initiative for Asthma</b>
<b>317)</b> Which flower product produced in the Kashmir Valley has recently been granted GI tag? <b>Saffron</b>
<b>318)</b> What is the name of the Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower developed by the DRDO for the chemical-free and rapid disinfection of high infection-prone areas? <b>UV Blaster</b>
<b>319)</b> The government launched which mission to operate 64 flights from May 7 to 13 to bring home thousands of Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown? <b>Vande Bharat Mission</b>
<b>320)</b> Three photojournalists from which Indian state won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography? <b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>
<b>321)</b> Mustafa al-Kadhimi has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country by its Parliament? <b>Iraq</b>
<b>322)</b> Marcus Wallenberg Prize is awarded for outstanding achievement in which field? <b>For contribution in the field of forestry and forest industries</b>
<b>323)</b> Which Arabian country recently changed its currency from Rial to Toman to counter the hyperinflation? <b>Iran</b>
<b>324)</b> This year's World Athletics Day was observed on which date? <b>May 7</b>
<b>325)</b> What is the new name adopted by

the International Amateur Athletic Federation for itself? <b>World Athletics</b>
<b>326)</b> AIIB signed a ____ million dollar "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project" in New Delhi to strengthen public health preparedness in India: <b>500</b>
<b>327)</b> What is the full form of AIIB? <b>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank</b>
<b>328)</b> Where are the headquarters of AIIB located? <b>Beijing</b>
<b>329)</b> The Border Roads Organisation successfully completed road connectivity from Dharchula to _____, famously known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route: <b>Lipulekh</b>
<b>330)</b> On which Sunday of May the world celebrated the Mother's Day? <b>Second</b>
<b>331)</b> What is the other popular name for the Vesak Day? <b>Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima</b>
<b>332)</b> On which auspicious day the Buddhists across the world celebrate the Vesak Day? <b>On the first full moon day of May</b>
<b>333)</b> World Red Cross Day is celebrated on which day of May? <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>334)</b> World Red Cross Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which great person? <b>Henri Dunant</b>
<b>335)</b> Who was Henri Dunant? <b>Founder of International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland</b>
<b>336)</b> The Thalassaemia disease is related to which part/function of human body? <b>It's a type of blood disorder</b>
<b>337)</b> What happens to a person suffering from Thalassaemia? <b>Reduction in red blood cells</b>
<b>338)</b> Which international NGO supports the celebration of the World Thalassaemia Day? <b>Thalassaemia International Federation, Geneva</b>
<b>339)</b> World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on which date? <b>May 8</b>
<b>340)</b> Which Indian telecom major recently received foreign investment worth Rs. 11,367 crore from US-based private equity firm Vista Equity Partners? <b>Jio Platforms of Reliance Industries</b>

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<b>341)</b> Rob Gibbs, 55 year old veteran animation director, story artist and writer from USA was in news recently for what reason? <b>He passed away</b>
<b>342)</b> Rob Gibbs was associated with which famous studios for over 20 years? <b>Pixar Animation Studios, California, USA</b>
<b>343)</b> Name the Congress leader in Lok Sabha has been reappointed chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC)? <b>Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury</b>
<b>344)</b> Who is the appointing authority for the chairperson of the PAC? <b>Speaker of the Lok Sabha</b>
<b>345)</b> PAC comprises of not more than 22 MPs, __ from Lok Sabha and __ from Rajya Sabha: <b>15; 7</b>
<b>346)</b> What is the primary function of the PAC? <b>To keep a check on government expenditure by scrutinising reports submitted by CAG</b>
<b>347)</b> Which national day is celebrated to commemorate the day on which India successfully test-fired its first nuclear bombs in 1998? <b>National Technology Day</b>
<b>348)</b> What was the code name for the successful test-firing of India's first nuclear bombs in 1998? <b>"Operation Shakti" in Pokhran, Rajasthan</b>
<b>349)</b> What was the code name for the India's first successful nuclear test conducted in 1974? <b>Smiling Buddha</b>
<b>350)</b> International Nurses Day is observed on which date? <b>May 12</b>
<b>351)</b> International Nurses Day commemorates the birth day of which legendary British social reformer? <b>Florence Nightingale</b>
<b>352)</b> Florence Nightingale was popularly known with which nick name? <b>Lady with the Lamp</b>
<b>353)</b> Olive Ridley is a popular species of which animal? <b>Turtles</b>
<b>354)</b> Which Indian state is known for its famous turtle rookeries in Gahirmatha and Rushikulya? <b>Odisha</b>
<b>355)</b> India had launched Mission Sagar on May 10 to provide assistance to __ island nations of Eastern Indian Ocean Region amid the ongoing

COVID-19 crisis: <b>Five</b>
<b>356)</b> The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) and the _____ jointly launched a postal stamp to mark the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication on May 8: <b>World Health Organisation (WHO)</b>
<b>357)</b> The Ministry of MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) launched which portal to assist Indian MSMEs in becoming national and global champions? <b>CHAMPIONS</b>
<b>358)</b> The Supreme Court has ruled that all _____ banks in the country can also make use of the SARFAESI Act to make recovery from defaulting borrowers: <b>Co-operative</b>
<b>359)</b> The SARFAESI Act was passed in which year? <b>2002</b>
<b>360)</b> The SARFAESI Act empowered bankers for the first time for what action? <b>To seize the assets of defaulting borrowers, directly, without going to the court</b>
<b>361)</b> Name the Indian who is the President of International Hockey Federation, Lausanne, Switzerland: <b>Narinder Batra</b>
<b>362)</b> Which state launched the country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana': <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
<b>363)</b> The Kempegowda International Airport of which city has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia? <b>Bengaluru</b>
<b>364)</b> Which country has named a street in its biggest city, after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore? <b>Israel, in Tel Aviv</b>
<b>365)</b> Name the senior para-athlete who announced her retirement from Paralympics games in order to serve as the office-bearer in the Paralympic Committee of India: <b>Deepa Malik</b>
<b>366)</b> The Prime Minister announced a stimulus packages on May 13, amounting to 20 lakh crore rupees under which banner? <b>Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self Reliant India Mission)</b>
<b>367)</b> _____ has become the first Indian state to regulate the cultivation of crops in the state: <b>Telangana</b>
<b>368)</b> The BRICS's New Development Bank has decided to provide \$ 1 billion emergency

assistance loan to India for what purpose? <b>To support its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic</b>
<b>369)</b> What is India's rank in the recently released Global Energy Transition Index compiled by the World Economic Forum? <b>74<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>370)</b> Which country secured the first rank in the Global Energy Transition Index? <b>Sweden</b>
<b>371)</b> Which ministry has decided that from June 01, 2020, all the dry canteens of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will sell only indigenous products? <b>Home Ministry</b>
<b>372)</b> Name the Indian media personality who has been selected for one of the 17 Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Awards: <b>Siddharth Varadarajan</b>
<b>373)</b> Siddharth Varadarajan is associated with which digital news platform? <b>The Wire</b>
<b>374)</b> Name the Odisha cadre IAS officer who has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)? <b>Manoj Ahuja</b>
<b>375)</b> With the support of the UNO, which day is celebrated across the world on May 15 to highlight the importance of families in strengthening the social fabric all over the world? <b>International Family Day</b>
<b>376)</b> What is the theme of this year's International Family Day? <b>Families in Development</b>
<b>377)</b> Which union ministry promotes the celebration of the National Dengue Day? <b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>
<b>378)</b> Who is the present Minister of Health and Family Welfare in India? <b>Dr Harsh Vardhan</b>
<b>379)</b> Dengue is a viral disease, transmitted by the infective bite of which mosquito? <b>Aedes Aegypti</b>
<b>380)</b> The government plans to launch a 20,000 crore rupees scheme for the development of marine and inland fisheries. What is its name? <b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana</b>
<b>381)</b> Celebrations of the International Day of Living Together in Peace are supported by which international organisation? <b>United Nations</b>
<b>382)</b> The International Day of Living Together in

Peace is observed in May on which day? <b>16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>383)</b> The government plans to launch a 20,000 crore rupees scheme for the development of marine and inland fisheries. What is its name? <b>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana</b> (Prime Minister Fisheries Wealth Scheme)
<b>APRIL 2020</b>
<b>384)</b> Name the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament that has been scrapped for the first time since World War II due to havoc of Corona. <b>Wimbledon, London</b>
<b>385)</b> The Union cabinet has approved a ____ percent cut in the salaries of the Members of Parliament for one year wef April 1 this year. <b>30%</b>
<b>386)</b> The Union cabinet has decided to suspend MPLADS funds for two years from 2020-21 to 2022. What is the full form of MPLADS? <b>Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme</b>
<b>387)</b> Every MP gets how much funds every year under the MPLADS? <b>Rs 5 crore</b>
<b>388)</b> The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce three new subjects for class 11 from 2020-21 academic session. Name these subjects. <b>Design Thinking, Physical Activity Trainer and Artificial Intelligence</b>
<b>389)</b> Which global agency has approved a fast-track \$1 billion support for "India Covid Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project"? <b>The World Bank</b>
<b>390)</b> The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system has suffered its worst mass coral bleaching in recent years. Where is it located? <b>In the sea around northeast Australia</b>
<b>391)</b> Name the FIFA event that was to be held in India in November this year, which has been postponed by FIFA due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic across the globe. <b>The FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup</b>
<b>392)</b> The New Delhi _____ World Cup, which had already been postponed from March to May, has now been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. <b>Shooting</b>
<b>393)</b> The Central Government has approved a

double-digit hike in the wages of manual labourers under MNREGA. The letter G stands for what? <b>Guarantee</b>
<b>394)</b> The World Health Day is celebrated around the globe on which date? <b>April 07</b>
<b>395)</b> What is the name of the main mobile app launched for tracking and fighting COVID-19, launched by the Central Government? <b>'Aarogya Setu'</b>
<b>396)</b> Name the British cricketer who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis Method, who died on April 1 at the age of 78. <b>Tony Lewis</b>
<b>397)</b> Who has been appointed the new Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom): <b>Pravin Rao</b>
<b>398)</b> The World Homoeopathy Day is observed on which date? <b>April 10</b>
<b>399)</b> Who is known as the father of the Homoeopathic system of medicines? <b>Dr. Samuel Hahnemann</b>
<b>400)</b> India celebrates National Safe Motherhood Day on April 11. This day also commemorates the birth day of which great Indian lady social worker? <b>Kasturba Gandhi</b>
<b>401)</b> Which organisation supports the celebration of the National Safe Motherhood Day? <b>White Ribbon Alliance India</b>
<b>402)</b> Indian football team retained its ____ spot in the latest FIFA rankings. <b>108<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>403)</b> Which ministry launched Bharat Padhe Online campaign on April 11 to crowdsource ideas for improving the online education ecosystem of India? <b>The Union Ministry of Human Resources Development</b>
<b>404)</b> These days we hear a lot about providing PPEs to doctors and medical staff. What is full form of PPE? <b>Personal Protection Equipment</b>
<b>405)</b> Which funding agency has assured \$2.2 billion (about Rs 16,500 crore) support to India in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic? <b>The Asian Development Bank</b>
<b>406)</b> Name the England's all-rounder who has been named the leading cricketer in the world 2020 by Wisden. <b>Ben Stokes</b>
<b>407)</b> Which national day is celebrated to commemorate the sailing of first Indian ship

from Mumbai to London? <b>National Maritime Day, April 5</b>
<b>408)</b> Which global day is observed on April 2 to highlight the need to improve the quality of life of those suffering with Autism? <b>World Autism Awareness Day</b>
<b>409)</b> The Indian Air Force conducted 'Operation Sanjeevani' to air-lift 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to which country? <b>Maldives</b>
<b>410)</b> The Olympic Council of Asia unveiled the official mascots of the 19th Asian Games-2022. Which city will host these games? <b>Hangzhou, China</b>
<b>411)</b> Name the three animated robots selected as the mascots for the 19th Asian Games-2022: <b>Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen</b>
<b>412)</b> What is the single name given to the three mascots of 19th Asian Games-2022? <b>The Smart Triplets</b>
<b>413)</b> Who is the Chief of the Indian Air Force? <b>Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria</b>
<b>414)</b> In which state Baisakhi is celebrated as Naba Barsha? <b>West Bengal</b>
<b>415)</b> Vishu is a famous festival of which state? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>416)</b> In Tamil Nadu festival of Baisakhi is celebrated by which name? <b>Puthandu</b>
<b>417)</b> Which country has approved the sale of Harpoon Block II air launched missiles and lightweight torpedoes worth \$155 million to India. <b>USA</b>
<b>418)</b> What kind of weapon is a Torpedo? <b>A guided missile usually fired from a submarine</b>
<b>419)</b> M S Mahabaleshwara has been re-appointed as the MD and CEO of which private sector? <b>Karnataka Bank</b>
<b>420)</b> World Art Day is celebrated with support from UNESCO on which day of April? <b>15<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>421)</b> Which country has decided to stop funding for the World Health Organization (WHO), accusing it of grossly mismanaging and covering-up the spread of the novel coronavirus? <b>USA</b>
<b>422)</b> Reserve Bank of India on April 17 announced several regulatory measures aimed at boosting



liquidity in the market. It slashed which policy rate by 25 basis points? <b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>
<b>423)</b> RBI announced a booster package of 50,000 crore rupees for supporting which sector of economy to recover from the lockdown? <b>Small and Medium-sized industries</b>
<b>424)</b> The RBI Governor declared that the period of resolution plan for NPAs will be extended by ___ days? <b>90</b>
<b>425)</b> An Integrated Geospatial Platform named _____ has been rolled out by the Deptt. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, to help in decision making during the present COVID-19 outbreak. <b>SAHYOG</b>
<b>426)</b> The WWF (World Wide Fund) India has appointed veteran world chess champion _____ as its ambassador for the environmental education program. <b>Viswanathan Anand</b>
<b>427)</b> World Hemophilia Day is observed on April 17 across the world. Hemophilia is related to which ailment? <b>Bleeding disorders</b>
<b>428)</b> Fei Fei the bird has been unveiled as the mascot for which Asian Para Games? <b>Hangzhou (China) 2022 Asian Para Games</b>
<b>429)</b> World Heritage Day is observed on which date? <b>April 18</b>
<b>430)</b> What is the name of the mobile app launched to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables like fruits and vegetables, during lockdown? <b>Kissan Rath</b>
<b>431)</b> Which Indian two wheeler company has acquired the United Kingdom's most iconic sporting motorcycle brand 'Norton'? <b>TVS Motors</b>
<b>432)</b> Name the world's most famous cycling race, held every year in France, which has been postponed in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. <b>Tour de France</b>
<b>433)</b> April 19 is celebrated around the world to promote awareness about one of the most complex organ in the body. Can you name it? <b>Liver</b>
<b>434)</b> Which great Indian statesman termed civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'? <b>Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel</b>

<b>435)</b> Which International day is observed on April 22 to create awareness about pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet? <b>The Earth Day</b>
<b>436)</b> Social media and tech giant Facebook invested Rs 43,574 crore for securing a 9.99 per cent stake in which Indian company? <b>Jio Platforms</b>
<b>437)</b> _____ became the first state on April 19 to geo-tag community kitchens being run in the state. <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>438)</b> Name the creator of most popular animation characters Tom and Jerry, Popeye the Sailor, who passed away at the age of 95 at his residence in Prague, Czechoslovakia. <b>Gene Deitch</b>
<b>439)</b> Kapil Dev Tripathi has been appointed as the new Secretary to which apex authority? <b>President of India</b>
<b>440)</b> Which bank has rolled out a new feature of voice banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for its customers? <b>ICICI Bank</b>
<b>441)</b> HRD Ministry launched the national program named _____ for inviting e-learning content contributions for both school and higher education. <b>VidyaDaan 2.0</b>
<b>442)</b> April 23 is observed globally every year as English Language Day to mark the birthday and date of death of which legendary writer? <b>William Shakespeare</b>
<b>443)</b> The UNESCO has selected which city as the World Book Capital for 2020. <b>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</b>
<b>444)</b> National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on which date? <b>April 24</b>
<b>445)</b> Which amendment of Indian Constitution introduced the Panchayati Raj Act in 1993? <b>73<sup>rd</sup> amendment</b>
<b>446)</b> The Prime Minister launched which two major schemes for rural areas on April 24? <b>e-Gram Swaraj Portal and Swamitva</b>
<b>447)</b> The World Bank has approved \$82 million for the State Roads Transformation Project of which state for upgradation of major roads and modernization of the Public Works Department in the state? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
<b>448)</b> Name the eminent theatre personality who

died at her residence in south Kolkata on April 23, at the age of 75. <b>Usha Ganguly</b>
<b>449)</b> The Global Press Freedom Index has ranked India at which spot? <b>142<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>450)</b> Which country topped the the Global Press Freedom Index? <b>Norway</b>
<b>451)</b> Which institution has claimed to have developed a potential COVID-19 vaccine, the first human trials of which began on April 23, 2020? <b>Oxford University, London</b>
<b>452)</b> Who has been appointed as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India? <b>Sanjay Kothari</b>
<b>453)</b> Which international day is celebrated on April 25 to raise awareness about a globally present disease? <b>World Malaria Day</b>
<b>454)</b> Malaria is a life-threatening disease which is caused by _____ Parasites. <b>Plasmodium</b>
<b>455)</b> The Plasmodium parasite is spread by which insect? <b>Female Anopheles mosquitoes</b>
<b>456)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Malaria Day? <b>Zero malaria starts with me</b>
<b>457)</b> Government has declared banking industry as a public utility service for six months till October 21 under the provisions of which Act? <b>Industrial Disputes Act, 1947</b>
<b>458)</b> _____ has become the first state to have the requisite infrastructure in all its courts for hearing cases through video conferencing. <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>459)</b> Which country successfully launched its first-ever military satellite named "Noor" into orbit? <b>Iran</b>
<b>460)</b> According to a Swedish research institute, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India is the ____ biggest spender on military hardware. <b>Third</b>
<b>461)</b> As per SIPRI report, _____ is the biggest spender of military expenditure. <b>USA</b>
<b>462)</b> Which country has declared an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>463)</b> The Reserve Bank announced on April 27 a Special Liquidity Facility of Rs 50,000 crore for which sector of economy? <b>Mutual funds</b>
<b>464)</b> World Day for Safety and Health at Work is

observed on which day? <b>April 28</b>
<b>465)</b> Which UN agency supports the celebrations of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work? <b>International Labour Organization (ILO)</b>
<b>466)</b> The BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs summit was held through a video conference on April 28, 2020. It was hosted by which country? <b>Russia</b>
<b>467)</b> What is the full form of the UN special agency WIPO? <b>World Intellectual Property Office, Geneva</b>
<b>468)</b> What is the theme of this year's World Intellectual Property Day? <b>Innovate for a Green Future</b>
<b>469)</b> Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador / Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations? <b>T S Tirumurti</b>
<b>470)</b> The International Dance Day is celebrated on which day of April? <b>29<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>471)</b> The 11th session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue with 30 countries including India was hosted by which country? <b>Germany</b>
<b>472)</b> Who represented India at the 11th session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue? <b>Prakash Javadekar, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>
<b>473)</b> Name the veteran Bollywood actor who passed away on April 30, losing his battle against Leukemia. <b>Rishi Kapoor</b>
<b>MARCH 2020</b>
<b>474)</b> The Central government approved Rs 1,340 crore recapitalisation plan to help which type of banks? <b>Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)</b>
<b>475)</b> Govt has planned recapitalization of RRBs to meet the CRAR requirements. What is full form of CRAR? <b>Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio</b>
<b>476)</b> What is the percentage of stake of the sponsoring bank in the capital of the RRB? <b>35%</b>
<b>477)</b> What is the percentage of stake of the central government in the capital of the RRB? <b>50%</b>
<b>478)</b> Rajyogini Dadi Janki, who passed away recently, was the spiritual head of which world famous spiritual organisation? <b>Brahma Kumaris Sansthan</b>
<b>479)</b> The World Theatre Day is observed on which

day of March? <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>480)</b> Which US defence force deployed its Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite to provide secure communications for the US military and its allies? <b>US Space Force</b>
<b>481)</b> Government announced the 'Garib Kalyan Package' for helping the poor people amidst the Corona crisis. What is its amount? <b>Rs. 1.70 lakh crore</b>
<b>482)</b> Under which new government scheme 80 crore poor people will be given 5 kg Wheat or 5 kg Rice and one kg pulse for 3 months? <b>Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana</b>
<b>483)</b> Government has announced Rs.____ lakh per person insurance cover for all employees working in the medical field for next three months. <b>50</b>
<b>484)</b> Indian scientists have developed 'MACS 4028', a biofortified high-protein variety of which crop. <b>Wheat</b>
<b>485)</b> Which country hosted the first ever G-20 virtual summit through video conference? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>486)</b> Name the doe-eyed star of 1950s and '60s Hindi movies such as <i>Aan</i> , <i>Barsaat</i> and <i>Deedar</i> , who died recently after prolonged illness. <b>Nimmi</b>
<b>487)</b> Name the artist and architect renowned for his versatility across different mediums, who passed away recently in New Delhi. <b>Satish Gujral</b>
<b>488)</b> Which global rating agency slashed its estimate of India's GDP growth during the 2020 calendar year to 2.5 per cent, from an earlier estimate of 5.3 per cent? <b>Moody's Investors Service</b>
<b>489)</b> The Monetary Policy Committee of RBI headed by its Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on March 27 a cut in benchmark interest rate, Repo Rate by ____ basis points to 4.40 per cent. <b>75</b>
<b>490)</b> RBI reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of all banks by ____ basis points to 3 per cent with effect from March 28 for 1 year. <b>100</b>
<b>491)</b> What is the new reverse repo rate under the LAF after a reduction of 90 basis points? <b>4%</b>
<b>492)</b> Which oil company has become the 1st Indian

company to begin supply of BS-VI fuel across its 28,000 petrol pumps? <b>Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.</b>
<b>493)</b> The Reserve Bank of India has decided to extend the _____ classification for bank loans to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for on-lending, for FY 2020-21. <b>Priority sector</b>
<b>494)</b> Which State Police has become the first to be equipped with taser guns as a part of their modernization drive to ensure public safety and security? <b>Gujarat</b>
<b>495)</b> Which gas is used in the Taser guns to fire the darts? <b>Compressed Nitrogen</b>
<b>496)</b> Famous 'Abel Prize' is given for outstanding achievement in which field? <b>Mathematics</b>
<b>497)</b> Government of which country has instituted the Abel Prize? <b>Norway</b>
<b>498)</b> Japan's Prime Minister and the head of the International Olympic Committee, Shinzo Abe announced to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Games by how many months? <b>12</b>
<b>499)</b> In the 124-year old history of the Olympics, the games have been cancelled how many times? <b>Three</b>
<b>500)</b> World Tuberculosis Day is observed on which day of March? <b>24</b>
<b>501)</b> World Tuberculosis Day is observed with the support of which UN organisation? <b>WHO - World Health Organisation</b>
<b>502)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Tuberculosis Day? <b>It's Time</b>
<b>503)</b> Name the scientist who discovered the Tuberculosis causing bacteria? <b>Dr. Robert Koch</b>
<b>504)</b> Name the Indian mountaineer who entered 'Limca Book of Records' for his extraordinary achievement of becoming the first Indian to climb the highest volcanoes of each of the 7 continents. <b>Satyarup Siddhanta</b>
<b>505)</b> Who took the oath of Chief Minister for the fourth time in Madhya Pradesh? <b>Shivraj Singh Chouhan</b>
<b>506)</b> March 23 is celebrated as Shaheed Diwas every year to pay tribute to which three martyrs? <b>Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and</b>



<b>Shivaram Rajguru</b>
<b>507)</b> World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23 to highlight which important issue? <b>Climate related issues</b>
<b>508)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Water Day? <b>Water and climate change</b>
<b>509)</b> On which day of March we celebrate World Water Day? <b>March 22</b>
<b>510)</b> For what purpose Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) plans to start Swavalamban Express on June 05, 2020? <b>To promote budding business aspirants and entrepreneurs</b>
<b>511)</b> Where are the headquarters of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)? <b>Lucknow</b>
<b>512)</b> Who is the current Charman & Managing Director of SIDBI? <b>Mohammad Mustafa</b>
<b>513)</b> When do we celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination? <b>March 21</b>
<b>514)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Down Syndrome Day observed on March 21? <b>We Decide</b>
<b>515)</b> On which date we observe World Poetry Day? <b>March 21</b>
<b>516)</b> Which international day is observed every year to raise awareness about the importance of the household sparrow and the other common birds to urban environments, and the threats to their populations? <b>The World Sparrow Day</b>
<b>517)</b> As per the World Happiness Report 2020 released by the United Nations, India stands at which rank in world? <b>144<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>518)</b> Which country topped the rankings given by the World Happiness Report 2020? <b>Finland</b>
<b>519)</b> Name the legendary Indian footballer who died in Kolkata after battling prolonged illness. <b>P K Banerjee</b>
<b>520)</b> The Defence Ministry signed a capital acquisition contract with which country for procurement of 16,479 Negev 7.62x51 mm light machine guns (LMGs)? <b>Israel</b>
<b>521)</b> A bench of NCLAT has been established in Chennai to cater to the needs of south based clients. Expand the term NCLAT. <b>National Company Law Appellate Tribunal</b>

<b>522)</b> OFB -Ordnance Factory Board, the 2nd largest defence equipment manufacturer in Asia, has its headquarters in which city? <b>Kolkata</b>
<b>523)</b> What is the name of the OFB HQs in Kolkata? <b>Aayudh Bhawan</b>
<b>524)</b> The Chameli Devi Award is conferred upon women for showing excellence in which field? <b>Journalism</b>
<b>525)</b> A roll-on-roll off cum passenger ferry service, was recently launched between Mumbai and which other city? <b>Mandwa</b>
<b>526)</b> Which apex authority recently ruled that women cannot be denied permanent commission in the Navy? <b>Supreme Court</b>
<b>527)</b> A tiny island country in the South Pacific Ocean has become the world's first whole country to be recognised as a 'Dark Sky Place'. Name it. <b>Nieu</b>
<b>528)</b> Who has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of the Yes Bank? <b>Prashant Kumar</b>
<b>529)</b> Which national day is observed celebrate delivery of the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine in India on March 16, 1995? <b>National Vaccination Day</b>
<b>530)</b> Name the former Chief Justice of India who has recently been nominated to Rajya Sabha. <b>Justice Ranjan Gogoi</b>
<b>531)</b> The Central Sanskrit University Bill 2019 was passed recently by the Parliament to provide Central University status to how many universities in India. <b>Three</b>
<b>532)</b> Name the ace Indian paddler who ended his decade-long wait for a title by winning the ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open (Table Tennis) in Muscat, Oman. <b>Achanta Sharath Kamal</b>
<b>533)</b> Noted philanthropist and IT magnate, Bill Gates was in news recently for what reason? <b>He stepped down from Microsoft's Board of Directors.</b>
<b>534)</b> Muhyiddin Yassin has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Malaysia</b>
<b>535)</b> The First Khelo India University Games were hosted by which state? <b>Odisha</b>
<b>536)</b> Indian Railways launched its first "Restaurant on Wheels" at which railway station? <b>Asansol, West Bengal.</b>

<b>537)</b> On which date we celebrate Zero Discrimination Day? <b>March 1</b>
<b>538)</b> What is the name of the welfare programme launched to provide good nutritional food to pregnant mothers? <b>Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan</b>
<b>539)</b> The United States recently signed a historic peace agreement with which big militant group? <b>Taliban</b>
<b>540)</b> Which militant outfit is formally known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan? <b>Taliban</b>
<b>541)</b> DRDO in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has developed a new explosive detection device RaDer-X for what purpose? <b>To detect explosives from a distance</b>
<b>542)</b> Which International day is observed on March 3 for raising awareness about flora and fauna and the dependability of humans on their surroundings and the environment? <b>World Wildlife Day</b>
<b>543)</b> The Government of India has declared the National Chambal Sanctuary an eco-sensitive zone. It lies in which state? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
<b>544)</b> Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been given charge of which important office in the Finance Ministry? <b>Finance Secretary</b>
<b>545)</b> Which are the two places nominated by the government for inclusion in the World Heritage List 2020, maintained by UNESCO? <b>Dholvira and Forts and Monuments of Deccan Sultanate</b>
<b>546)</b> Dholavira, an ancient site of Indus Valley Civilization is located in which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
<b>547)</b> India bagged a \$ 40 million deal to supply 4 indigenously built radars (capable of locating weapons) to which European country? <b>Armenia</b>
<b>548)</b> Assembly of which state went paperless on March 2 with the implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)? <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>
<b>549)</b> Which union ministry is responsible for implementation of National e-Vidhan Application? <b>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs</b>
<b>550)</b> Who is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?

<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>
<b>551)</b> What is the name of the scheme that aims to replace all level crossings on National Highways with road over bridges or under bridges? <b>Setu Bhartam</b>
<b>552)</b> Name the former UN chief, who led the world body during the Iran-Iraq war and the civil war in El Salvador, who died recently. <b>Javier Perez de Cuellar</b>
<b>553)</b> India observes National Safety Day on which date? <b>March 4</b>
<b>554)</b> Which hilly state of India has declared to shift its summer capital to Gairsain? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>555)</b> On March 1, we celebrate World ____ Day to highlight the importance of civil protection. <b>Civil Defence</b>
<b>556)</b> What was the theme for this year's World Civil Defence Day? <b>Children's safety, our responsibility</b>
<b>557)</b> India celebrates Jan Aushadhi Diwas on which day of March? <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>558)</b> International Women's Day is observed on which date? <b>March 8</b>
<b>559)</b> Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award is given for outstanding performance in which field? <b>Hockey</b>
<b>560)</b> Who won this year's Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award for men? <b>Manpreet Singh</b>
<b>561)</b> Who won this year's Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award for women? <b>Rani Rampal</b>
<b>562)</b> Denys Shmygal was elected as the new _____ of Ukraine. <b>Prime Minister</b>
<b>563)</b> Which country won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020: <b>Australia</b>
<b>564)</b> Finals of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 were held in which city? <b>Melbourne, Australia</b>
<b>565)</b> Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a mobile application 'Sebi SCORES' for what purpose? <b>To facilitate online filing of investors grievances through their smartphones.</b>
<b>566)</b> What is the full form of the acronym SCORES? <b>Sebi Complaints Redress System</b>
<b>567)</b> Name the RBI Deputy Governor who announced his resignation due to health

problems: <b>N S Vishwanathan</b>
<b>568)</b> "Chapchar Kut" is the most joyful and biggest spring festival of which Indian state? <b>Mizoram</b>
<b>569)</b> Which state government has asked the temple administrators in the state to obtain a 'BHOG' certificate from FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) for the 'prasad' distributed by them? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
<b>570)</b> What is the name of the Mizoram's popular bamboo folk dance? <b>Cheraw</b>
<b>571)</b> NASA has named its Mars rover as _____ for the Mars mission scheduled for July 2020: <b>Perseverance</b>
<b>572)</b> Which great Indian king was named as the 'greatest leader ever' in the world in a survey conducted by BBC World History Magazine? <b>Maharaja Ranjit Singh</b>
<b>573)</b> Pritzker Prize is given for outstanding achievement in which field? <b>Architecture</b>
<b>574)</b> What is the amount of cash award given with the Pritzker Prize? <b>\$ 1,00,000/=</b>
<b>575)</b> What is one word that describes a disease that is spreading between people in multiple countries around the world at the same time? <b>Pandemic</b>
<b>576)</b> The World Kidney Day is observed on which Thursday of March? <b>Second</b>
<b>577)</b> Who is popularly known as the Father of Green Revolution in India? <b>Dr M S Swaminathan</b>
<b>578)</b> Dr M S Swaminathan award is given for outstanding performance in which field? <b>Agriculture</b>
<b>579)</b> Which state has topped the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, accounting for about 64% of the total 77,950 domestic solar installations in the country? <b>Gujarat</b>
<b>580)</b> Who is the winner of the first BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award – 2019? <b>P V Sindhu</b>
<b>581)</b> India is the world's second largest arms importer. Which country is at first spot? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>582)</b> The World Bank approved a \$80 million loan to the _____ government to improve water management practices and increase agricultural productivity. <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>

<b>583)</b> Name the legendary Golf player from California, USA who has been elected into the World Golf Hall of Fame: <b>Tiger Woods</b>
<b>584)</b> The World Health Organization, WHO launched an emergency task force "COVID Action Platform" in collaboration with which other organisation? <b>World Economic Forum</b>
<b>585)</b> In a big decision towards "Customer First Approach ", which bank waived minimum balance requirement for its savings bank customers? <b>State Bank of India</b>
<b>586)</b> The 4th Inclusive Internet Index 2020 compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), London has placed India at which rank? <b>46<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>587)</b> The government has announced to hold a CET for recruitment in railways, banks and lower levels of the Central government. What is the full form of CET? <b>Common Eligibility Test</b>
<b>588)</b> Which International Day is observed on March 15 to promote basic rights of consumers and to ensure that these rights are respected and protected? <b>The World Consumer Rights Day</b>
<b>589)</b> For the first time in India, the Department of Posts introduced a free digital parcel locker service in _____ to enable customers to collect their consignment from specified post offices at their convenience. <b>Kolkata</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2020</b>
<b>590)</b> Which International Day is observed on Feb 28/29 to raise awareness about rare diseases and their impacts? <b>The World Rare Disease Day</b>
<b>591)</b> What was the name of the Joint Airforce exercise of India and UK held in last week of February? <b>Exercise Indradhanush 2020</b>
<b>592)</b> Exercise Indradhanush 2020 was held at which place in India? <b>Air Force Station Hindan, near Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>593)</b> Which apex organization has recently launched "UPI Chalega" campaign to promote UPI as easy, safe, and instant mode of payment? <b>National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)</b>
<b>594)</b> Which film won the best film award at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020? <b>Super 30</b>





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<b>595)</b> Who is the director of the award winning film Super 30? <b>Vikash Bahl</b>
<b>596)</b> Name the five-time Grand Slam winner tennis player from Russia, one of the highest-paid sportswomen for 11 years, who announced her retirement? <b>Maria Sharapova</b>
<b>597)</b> The Reserve Bank has directed banks to link all the new floating rate loans to _____ enterprises with external benchmark, with effect from 1st April 2020: <b>Medium</b>
<b>598)</b> What is the full form of the MSMED Act, 2006? <b>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development</b>
<b>599)</b> Name the noted Indian-American business executive who has been named the new executive Chairman of Mastercard: <b>Ajay Pal Singh Banga</b>
<b>600)</b> The 6th National Ice Stock Sports Championship was held at which place? <b>Gulmarg (J &amp; K)</b>
<b>601)</b> Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, who died recently, ruled which country as President for 30 years? <b>Egypt</b>
<b>602)</b> US President Donald Trump was given a grand public reception at which stadium in Ahmedabad? <b>Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera</b>
<b>603)</b> During his India visit, US President signed a \$3 billion deal to supply which helicopters to India? <b>MH-60 Romeo Helicopters</b>
<b>604)</b> What type of helicopters are the MH-60 Romeo Helicopters? <b>Advanced anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare helicopter</b>
<b>605)</b> India celebrates Central Excise Day on which date? <b>February 24</b>
<b>606)</b> What is the name of the Hindi version of Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot launched by the Indian Railway? <b>ASKDISHA</b>
<b>607)</b> _____ has become the first Indian Football Club to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League group stage? <b>FC Goa</b>
<b>608)</b> India's first floating jetty has been inaugurated at which place in Goa? <b>Vasco</b>
<b>609)</b> Government has formally announced the constitution of the ____ Law Commission: <b>22nd</b>

<b>610)</b> India celebrates National Science Day on February 28 to honour the scientific achievement of which Nobel laureate? <b>Sir C V Raman</b>
<b>611)</b> What is the popular name of the discovery made by Sir C V Raman for which he was awarded the Nobel prize in Physics in 1930? <b>Raman Effect</b>
<b>612)</b> D Gukesh, the 13-year old Chess Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu emerged champion in the 34th Cannes Open in which country? <b>France</b>
<b>613)</b> According to the Commerce Ministry data for 2018-19, which country was India's top trading partner? <b>USA</b>
<b>614)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared open the first-ever Khelo India University Games at _____ in Odisha on Feb 22: <b>Cuttack</b>
<b>615)</b> _____ selected as the new Chief Information Commissioner to head the Central Information Commission: <b>Bimal Julka</b>
<b>616)</b> What is the name of the autobiography of Yashwant Sinha, veteran BJP leader and former Minister of Finance and External Affairs? <b>Relentless</b>
<b>617)</b> What is the title of the recent book written by Jaggi Vasudev, popular as 'Sadhguru', noted Yogi and spiritual leader? <b>Death- An Inside Story</b>
<b>618)</b> 'Amnesty' is a popular novel written by which author? <b>Aravind Adiga</b>
<b>619)</b> What is the title of the new novel of Colum McCann released in February 2020? <b>Apeirogon</b>
<b>620)</b> Which two Union Territories recently hosted the Khelo India Winter Games 2020? <b>Ladakh and J&amp;K</b>
<b>621)</b> As per the Sustainability Index 2020 brought out by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Lancet medical journal, India has been ranked at which place? <b>77th</b>
<b>622)</b> Who has been appointed as per the new Central Vigilance Commissioner - CVC of India? <b>Sanjay Kothari</b>
<b>623)</b> The Northeast Frontier Railway Construction Organisation has built India's tallest railway pier bridge — 100 m tall in which state?

<b>Manipur</b>
<b>624)</b> Name the veteran New Zealand batsman who became the first player in the world to play 100 matches each in all three formats of cricket: <b>Ross Taylor</b>
<b>625)</b> Divya Kakran won gold in the 68 kg category in an Asian championship in which sports? <b>Wrestling</b>
<b>626)</b> ESPN Sports Awards are given by which organization? <b>ESPN TV Network, USA</b>
<b>627)</b> What is the full form of ESPN? <b>Entertainment and Sports Programming Network</b>
<b>628)</b> Who has been named ESPN Female Sportsperson of the Year: <b>PV Sindhu (Badminton)</b>
<b>629)</b> Who has been named ESPN Male Sportsperson of the Year: <b>Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooter)</b>
<b>630)</b> Which day is celebrated across the globe with support from UNESCO, Paris to celebrate the linguistic diversity that exists in the world? <b>International Mother Language Day, Feb 21</b>
<b>631)</b> What is the theme for this year's International Mother Language Day? <b>Languages without borders</b>
<b>632)</b> The World Social Justice Day is observed on Feb 20 with support from which UN organization? <b>International Labour Organization, Geneva</b>
<b>633)</b> Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation recently announced to run a special tourist train covering important places linked with Lord Rama. What is its name? <b>Sri Ramayana Express</b>
<b>634)</b> Which National Day is celebrated to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card Scheme in 2015? <b>Soil Health Card Day, Feb 19</b>
<b>635)</b> Which zone of the Indian Railways has become the 1st zonal railway in the country to have functional "energy neutral" railway stations? <b>South Central Railway Zone, Secunderabad</b>
<b>636)</b> Which global finance agency has agreed to give a \$450 million loan to promote Atal Bhujal Yojana? <b>World Bank</b>
<b>637)</b> The 3rd edition of the Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was held in capital

of which country? <b>Sweden (Stockholm)</b>
<b>638)</b> Name the corporate businessman who recently secured second rank in the list of richest persons of India? <b>Radhakishan Damani</b>
<b>639)</b> What is the popular name of the retail super market chain being run by Damani? <b>D-Mart</b>
<b>640)</b> What is the official motto of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics? <b>United by Emotion</b>
<b>641)</b> The International Hockey Federation has granted hosting rights for the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 to which country? <b>India</b>
<b>642)</b> As per IMF World Economic Outlook Report, India emerged as the world's _____ largest economy: <b>Fifth</b>
<b>643)</b> Which International Airport in India was recently declared free from single-use plastic usage? <b>Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport</b>
<b>644)</b> Koneru Humpy claimed her second title in the last two months by winning which tournament? <b>Cairns Cup chess tournament, USA</b>
<b>645)</b> The Laureus World Sports Awards - 2020 were announced recently at which place? <b>Berlin, Germany</b>
<b>646)</b> Who won this year's Laureus Sportsman of the year award: <b>Lonel Messi</b>
<b>647)</b> Who is Simone Biles, winner of this year's Laureus Sportswoman of the year award? <b>Star Gymnast with highest ever number of Olympic and World Championship medals</b>
<b>648)</b> Which state government has declared the Cauvery delta region as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
<b>649)</b> Indian Railways started on Feb 20 a special train by the name_____, linking Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh with Indore in Madhya Pradesh: <b>Kashi Mahakal Express</b>
<b>650)</b> Which Indian city hosted the 65th Filmfare Awards? <b>Guwahati</b>
<b>651)</b> Which film won the Filmfare Award for the Best Film? <b>Gully Boy</b>
<b>652)</b> Name the famous film director who was honoured with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award: <b>Ramesh Sippy</b>
<b>653)</b> A recent global study showed that Hindi is the



_____ most spoken language of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers: <b>3rd</b>
<b>654)</b> Who has been re-elected as the President of Afghanistan? <b>Ashraf Ghani</b>
<b>655)</b> Debasish Panda has been appointed to which important post in the Ministry of Finance? <b>Finance Secretary</b>
<b>656)</b> The famous Dan David Prize is supported by which university? <b>Tel Aviv University, Israel</b>
<b>657)</b> Who won the men's singles title at the 77th Senior National Squash Championship held in Chennai? <b>Saurav Ghosal</b>
<b>658)</b> The women's singles title at the 77th Senior National Squash Championship was won by which player? <b>Joshna Chinappa</b>
<b>659)</b> World SnowShoe Championships were recently held in which country? <b>Japan</b>
<b>660)</b> The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was hosted by which city? <b>Gandhinagar, Gujarat</b>
<b>661)</b> Which animal / bird has been named as the mascot of the above event? <b>Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard</b>
<b>662)</b> Supreme Court directed the union government to grant _____ commission to all women officers who opt for it. <b>Permanent</b>
<b>663)</b> Which bank topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among the banks around the world, according to 'The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report: <b>IndusInd Bank</b>
<b>664)</b> The external affairs ministry has decided to rename the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra and Foreign Service Institute after which veteran political leader? <b>Late Sushma Swaraj</b>
<b>665)</b> The central government launched the "School Health Ambassador Initiative" for what purpose? <b>To spread awareness about the preventive health aspects</b>
<b>666)</b> The "School Health Ambassador Initiative" has been launched as a part of which bigger programme? <b>Ayushman Bharat</b>
<b>667)</b> India celebrates national women's day on Feb 13 in the honour of which great woman leader? <b>Sarojini Naidu</b>
<b>668)</b> On account of her excellence in poetry, Sarojini

Naidu was known with which nick name? <b>Bharat Kokila (Nightingale of India)</b>
<b>669)</b> Which state hosted "ClimFishCon 2020", a four day international conference on the impact of climate change on 'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>670)</b> The seven nation BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise - 2020 was hosted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in which city? <b>Bhubaneswar, Odisha</b>
<b>671)</b> What is the full form of the acronym BIMSTEC? <b>Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation</b>
<b>672)</b> Headquarters of the BIMSTEC are located in which city? <b>Dhaka, Bangladesh</b>
<b>673)</b> President Ram Nath Kovind presented 'President's Colour' to the INS Shivaji. It is located at which place? <b>Lonavala, Maharashtra</b>
<b>674)</b> What type of naval establishment is INS Shivaji? <b>It houses Naval College of Engineering</b>
<b>675)</b> What is the name 200-km strike range supersonic tactical ballistic missile being developed by DRDO? <b>Pranash</b>
<b>676)</b> Supported by UNESCO, the World Radio Day is observed on which date? <b>Feb 13</b>
<b>677)</b> What is the theme of this year's World Radio Day? <b>Radio and Diversity</b>
<b>678)</b> The National Property Day celebrations on Feb 12 are promoted by which Union Ministry? <b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b>
<b>679)</b> Name the noted environmentalist, former chief and founder of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), New Delhi, who passed away recently? <b>Dr. R K Pachauri</b>
<b>680)</b> Which Indian boxer has been ranked number one in the 52 kilogram category for Olympic Qualifiers: <b>Amit Panghal</b>
<b>681)</b> Which Indian player was named Player of the Year for 2019 by the International Hockey Federation? <b>Manpreet Singh</b>
<b>682)</b> President of _____ Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit: <b>Portugal</b>
<b>683)</b> AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal secured a landslide

victory in Delhi assembly elections, becoming Chief Minister for the _____ time? <b>3rd</b>
<b>684)</b> According to the PSU Survey 2018-19, which PSUs is the highest profit earning organisation? <b>Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)</b>
<b>685)</b> Name the cueist who defeated multiple-time world champion Pankaj Advani 6-2 to win the National Snooker Championship in Pune? <b>Aditya Mehta</b>
<b>686)</b> Who is the current national title holder of women's and snooker? <b>Vidya Pillai</b>
<b>687)</b> Which international team has been awarded ICC Women's Championship Trophy 2020: <b>Australia</b>
<b>688)</b> Ajeya Warrior-2020: 5th edition of joint military exercise of India was held with which other country? <b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>689)</b> The IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards for Men has been won by whom? <b>Malcolm Arnold from Uganda, for training athletes</b>
<b>690)</b> Who won the women's IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award? <b>Ulla Koch from Germany, for training gymnasts</b>
<b>691)</b> Where in India a glass floor suspension bridge, the first of its kind in the country, is to be constructed? <b>Rishikesh, Uttarakhand</b>
<b>692)</b> Lalremsiami, 19 year old Hockey player from _____ has been named as the "2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year": <b>Mizoram</b>
<b>693)</b> The World Health Organization (WHO) has given what formal name to the disease caused by the new coronavirus: <b>Covid-19</b>
<b>694)</b> The roots of Unani medicine system can be traced to which modern country? <b>Greece</b>
<b>695)</b> India celebrates Unani Day on which date? <b>Feb 11</b>
<b>696)</b> The Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers delivered "INS Kavaratti" to the Indian navy recently. What type of ship it is? <b>Anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette</b>
<b>697)</b> African Union Summit 2020 was held on Feb 10-11 in which place? <b>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</b>
<b>698)</b> Who is Cyril Ramaphosa, the current chairman of African Union? <b>President of South Africa</b>
<b>699)</b> Which Indian badminton coach, was awarded an "honourable mention" at the IOC Coaches

Lifetime Achievement Awards 2019? <b>Pullela Gopichand</b>
<b>700)</b> Which state won the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division) title at Kollam, Kerala? <b>Haryana</b>
<b>701)</b> Team of which country lifted the ICC U-19 World Cup? <b>Bangladesh</b>
<b>702)</b> What is the popular name for the prestigious Academy Awards given for outstanding excellence in cinema? <b>Oscar</b>
<b>703)</b> Who made the documentary American Factory, the film that won the Oscar for the best documentary? <b>Barack and Michelle Obama</b>
<b>704)</b> Name the South Korean director, who won the Oscar for the best director for the film Parasite? <b>Bong Joon-ho</b>
<b>705)</b> Which film won the Oscar for the best film: <b>Parasite</b>
<b>706)</b> The largest exhibition for the world's defence companies to display their land, sea and air capabilities was held at which city in India? <b>Lucknow, UP</b>
<b>707)</b> _____ of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa, arrived in New Delhi on Feb 8 on a five day state visit? <b>Prime Minister</b>
<b>708)</b> Which Union Ministry organises the National Deworming Day on Feb 10? <b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>
<b>709)</b> Which medicine is administered to the children on the National Deworming Day? <b>Albendazole</b>
<b>710)</b> Who created three new records in the men's 109kg category in the National Weightlifting Championships at Kolkata? <b>Chandrakant Mali</b>
<b>711)</b> The International Intellectual Property (IP) Index which measures the intellectual property environment of 53 economies of the world, placed India at which rank? <b>40th</b>
<b>712)</b> Britain's Prince Charles unveiled a new children's protection fund for which country as part of British Asian Trust? <b>India</b>
<b>713)</b> India replaced which country to become 2nd largest producer of steel in the world in 2019? <b>Japan</b>
<b>714)</b> Which country is the largest producer of steel in the world? <b>China</b>
<b>715)</b> Who has been awarded the International

Gandhi Awards for Leprosy? <b>Dr NS Dharmashaktu</b>
<b>716)</b> Name the longest-serving Kenyan President, who passed away on February 04? <b>Daniel Arap Moi</b>
<b>717)</b> India's biggest rural technical festival titled 'Antahpragnya 2020' was held in Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, in which state? <b>Telangana</b>
<b>718)</b> Union Cabinet has decided to bring _____ banks under the regulatory mechanism of Reserve Bank of India: <b>Cooperative</b>
<b>719)</b> Ajay Bisaria has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which country? <b>Canada</b>
<b>720)</b> The Indian Navy conducted a coastal security exercise named 'Malta Abhiyan' in which place? <b>Sunderban delta waters near Kolkata, West Bengal</b>
<b>721)</b> M Ajit Kumar has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of _____: <b>Indirect Taxes and Customs</b>
<b>722)</b> Which country has introduced a new system for collecting fee from regional tourists, called 'Sustainable Development Fee? <b>Bhutan</b>
<b>723)</b> Which cinema award are popularly known as the Oscars of Europe? <b>BAFTA Awards</b>
<b>724)</b> What is the full form of BAFTA? <b>British Academy Film and Television Arts</b>
<b>725)</b> Which film secured the BAFTA award for the best film? <b>1917 by Sam Mendes</b>
<b>726)</b> Who won the BAFTA award for the best leading actress? <b>Renee Zellweger (Judy)</b>
<b>727)</b> Name the actor who won all the three top global awards viz Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA for the best actor? <b>Joaquin Phoenix (Joker)</b>
<b>728)</b> RBI has enhanced the insurance cover on bank deposits to ____ lakh rupees from one lakh rupees wef Feb 04: <b>Five</b>
<b>729)</b> The Insurance cover on the bank deposits of individuals is provided by which RBI owned company? <b>Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC),</b>
<b>730)</b> Which International Day is celebrated on Feb 2 to raise awareness about the importance of

wetlands in maintaining ecological balance? <b>World Wetland Day</b>
<b>731)</b> Which Island country recently re-joined the commonwealth, after having left in 2016? <b>Maldives</b>
<b>732)</b> What is the number of member countries of the Commonwealth after joining of Maldives? <b>54</b>
<b>733)</b> Who has been chosen as the "Central Banker of the Year" for the Asia Pacific Region by the London based global financial magazine - The Banker? <b>Shaktikanta Das</b>
<b>734)</b> What is the theme of this year's World Cancer Day observed on Feb 04? <b>"I am and I will"</b>
<b>735)</b> The Supreme Court has directed the states, which are yet to come out with notifications for establishing Village Courts by the name of _____: <b>Gram Nyayalayas</b>
<b>736)</b> The Gram Nyayalayas are to be established under the provision of which law? <b>Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008</b>
<b>737)</b> Which global technology giant announced a dollar one million grant to promote news literacy among Indians? <b>Google</b>
<b>738)</b> 10th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship was held at which place? <b>Jhansi, UP</b>
<b>739)</b> Mary Higgins Clark, the long-reigning "Queen of Suspense", one of the world's most popular writers, died recently. She hailed from which country? <b>USA</b>
<b>740)</b> Name the former communication minister of Iraq who has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Iraq? <b>Mohammad Allawi</b>
<b>741)</b> India and which other country held the 14 day joint military training exercise SAMPRITI-IX? <b>Bangladesh</b>
<b>742)</b> The bilateral military exercise SAMPRITI-IX was held at which place? <b>Umroi, Meghalaya</b>
<b>743)</b> The 36th edition of the National Games will be held in _____ from 20th October to 4th November 2020: <b>Goa</b>
<b>744)</b> What is the name of the flame-throated Bulbul, that has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Games? <b>Rubigula</b>
<b>745)</b> The finals of the first grand slam of the year Australian Open were held in which city?



<b>Melbourne</b>
<b>746)</b> Who won her first grand slam title by winning the Australian Open? <b>Sofia Kenin, USA</b>
<b>747)</b> Men's Singles title in the Australian Open was won by which player? <b>Novak Djokovic, Serbia</b>
<b>748)</b> Which state bagged the first position for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
<b>749)</b> On January 31, Britain officially left the European Union after _____ years of membership: <b>47</b>
<b>750)</b> Name the British political leader who successfully led the Britain's exit plan from the European Union? <b>Boris Johnson</b>
<b>751)</b> Billed as the world's largest meditation facility, an imposing meditation centre was inaugurated in 'Kanha Shantivanam' near which city? <b>Hyderabad</b>
<b>752)</b> Which country created a new Guinness World Record for organizing the highest altitude Fashion Show on the earth? <b>Nepal</b>
<b>753)</b> President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Fair on February 1 at Surajkund in which place? <b>Faridabad, Haryana</b>
<b>754)</b> Which was the partner country for this year's Surajkund International Crafts Fair? <b>Uzbekistan</b>
<b>755)</b> Which player won the prestigious ' <b>World Games Athlete of the Year</b> ' award given by the International World Games Association? <b>Rani Rampal</b>
<b>756)</b> Who is Rani Rampal? <b>Captain of Indian Women's Hockey Team</b>
<b>757)</b> Tyler Prize, often described as the 'Nobel Prize for Environment' was awarded to whom this year? <b>Pawan Sukhdev</b>
<b>758)</b> Who has been elected as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Mumbai for the year 2020? <b>Sunil Mehta</b>
<b>759)</b> Which state launched a virtual police station where people can lodge complaints online from their respective districts, without visiting the Police Station? <b>Odisha</b>
<b>760)</b> Oxford University Press named which word as the "Oxford Hindi Word of 2019" saying it

received widespread attention in the year? <b>Samvidhaan (Constitution)</b>
<b>761)</b> Esow Alben of India is a leading sports star of which sports? <b>Cycling</b>
<b>762)</b> Taranjit Singh Sandhu, 1988 batch IFS officer has been appointed as India's ambassador to which country? <b>USA</b>
<b>763)</b> Who has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India? <b>Harsh Vardhan Shringla</b>
<b>764)</b> The death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is also celebrated as which day on January 30: <b>Anti Leprosy Day / Martyrs Day</b>
<b>765)</b> Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi took place in which year? <b>1948</b>
<b>766)</b> What is the title of the book recently written by Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister of Minority Affairs? <b>Balwa (uprising)</b>
<b>767)</b> American Dirt is a popular novel released in January 2020. Who is its author? <b>Jeanine Cummins</b>
<b>768)</b> Which Ministry launched online portal 'GATI' for monitoring major projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)? <b>Union Road Transport Ministry</b>
<b>769)</b> Which state government launched the Shiv Bhojan Scheme to provide a regular meal in just Rs. 10 to commoners? <b>Maharashtra</b>
<b>770)</b> The 62nd annual Grammy Awards were presented at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. They recognize the outstanding excellence in which field? <b>Music</b>
<b>771)</b> Name the artist who created history by sweeping all the four top Grammy Awards 2020? <b>Billie Eilish (USA)</b>
<b>772)</b> According to the recent data released by the Agriculture Ministry, which state topped in the production of vegetables? <b>West Bengal</b>
<b>773)</b> State of _____ produced the largest quantity of fruits in 2018-19? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
<b>774)</b> The central govt. signed a peace accord on January 27 with the insurgent tribal groups of which state? <b>Assam</b>
<b>775)</b> This accord was sign with which tribal groups? <b>Bodos</b>
<b>776)</b> Bodos occupy which part of Assam? <b>Western Assam, north of Brahmaputra</b>

- 777) The Coronavirus wreaked havoc in China. Which Chinese city suffered the most? **Wuhan**
- 778) The Coronavirus generally causes which kind of illness? **Acute respiratory syndromes**
- 779) The Supreme Court granted how much reservation to persons with disabilities in all public sector jobs? **3%**
- 780) Name the veteran American basketball player who was killed in a helicopter crash in California, USA? **Kobe Bryant**
- 781) The World Bank approved a loan of \$210 million for Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project of which state? **Maharashtra**
- 782) Out of George Fernandes, Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley and Manohar Parrikar, whose name does not figure in this year's Padma Vibhushan Awards? **Manohar Parrikar**
- 783) Name the only sports person who has been considered for award of Padma Vibhushan this year? **MC Mary Kom**
- 784) Shuttler PV Sindhu and industrialist Anand Mahindra were selected for which Padma award this year? **Padma Bhushan**
- 785) World Leprosy Day is observed on which date? **Last Sunday of January**
- 786) The Leprosy disease affects which parts of the body? **Skin and nerves**
- 787) At which Indian airport a special all women taxi service named 'Women with wheels' was launched recently? **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**
- 788) President of which country was the Chief Guest at the 71st Republic Day Parade ceremony at Rajpath, New Delhi? **Brazil**
- 789) What is the name of the first ever humanoid unveiled recently by the ISRO? **Vyomitra**
- 790) The DRDO successfully test-fired its K-4 nuclear capable missile recently from which launch pad? **Submarine**
- 791) Which is the first telecom company to provide UPI-powered payments service for its subscribers? **Reliance Jio**

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