

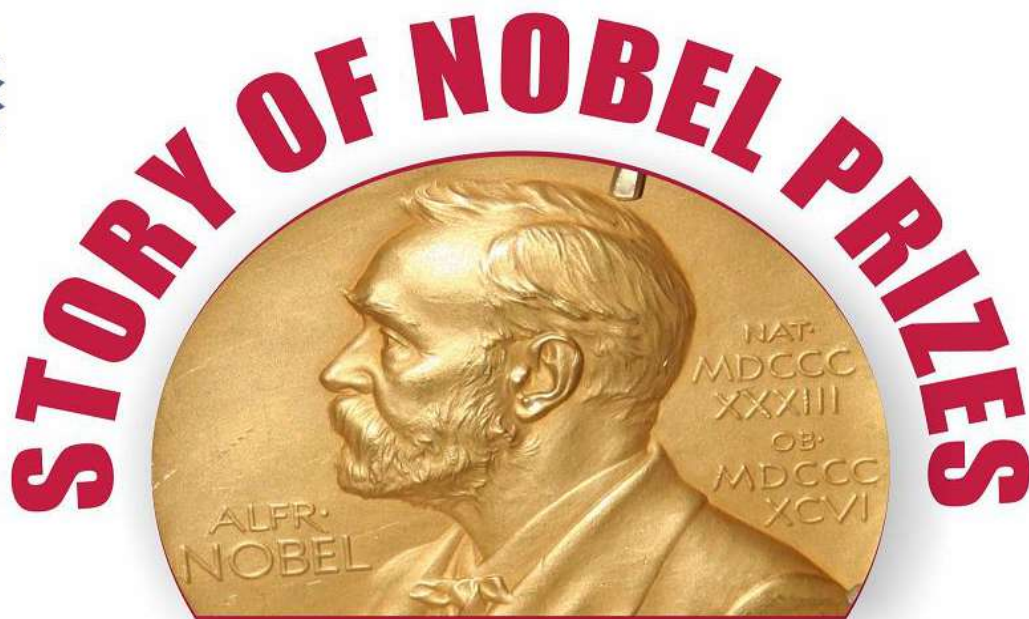
GENERAL AWARENESS

DECEMBER 2020

Gyanm

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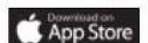
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Story of Nobel Prizes

Alfred Nobel, a famous scientist, inventor, businessman and founder of the Nobel Prizes was born on October 21, 1833 in Stockholm, Sweden. He died in San Remo, Italy on December 10, 1896.

In his last will and testament, he wrote that much of his fortune should be used to give prizes to those who have done their best for humanity in the field of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. Not everybody was pleased with this. His will was opposed by his relatives and questioned by authorities in various countries. It took four years for his executors to convince all parties to follow Alfred's wishes.

The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901 in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace. In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) established the Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel.

The prizes are decided by the various Swedish Academies and announced every year in October and presented at Stockholm, Sweden on the Nobel's death anniversary – December 10. However, the Peace Prize is presented at Oslo, Norway as the same is decided by an expert committee of Parliament of Norway.

The Nobel Prize amount for 2020 is set at Swedish Kronor 10 million (Rs. 8.24 cr) for one full Nobel Prize.

FIELD	PRIZE DECIDED BY	WINNER OF 2020	SELECTED WORK
Physiology or Medicine	The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm	Harvey J. Alter, USA Michael Houghton, Britain and Charles M. Rice, USA	For the discovery of Hepatitis C virus leading to highly sensitive blood tests for the identification of virus
Physics	The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and US scientist Ms. Andrea Ghez	For their discoveries about one of the most exotic phenomena in the universe, the black hole.
Chemistry	The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA)	For the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors in 2012.
Literature	The Swedish Academy	American poet Louise Glück, professor at Yale University, USA	She is seen as one of the most prominent poets and essayists in American contemporary literature.
Peace	The Norwegian Nobel Committee	UN World Food Programme, Rome, Italy	For its efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity in regions of conflict and hardship around the globe.
Economic Sciences	The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	US economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats

INDIAN NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

Rabindranath Tagore	Literature in 1913	For his collection of poems "Geetanjali".
Sir C.V. Raman	Physics in 1930	For his "Raman Effect" related to light.
Mother Teresa	Peace in 1979	For her service to people suffering from Leprosy and to those dying in destitute, through her Charitable Mission "Nirmal Hriday" at Calcutta
Dr. Subramanian Chandrasekar	Physics in 1983	For his theory on white dwarf stars' limitation known as 'Chandrasekhar Limit'.
Dr. Amartya Sen	Economics in 1998	For his work in Economic Theory related to Poverty, Democracy, Development and Social Welfare.
Kailash Satyarthi (Jointly with Malala Yousafzai)	Peace Prize in 2014	For his work for the freedom of children working as labourer in various factories / units.

GENERAL AWARENESS

December 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

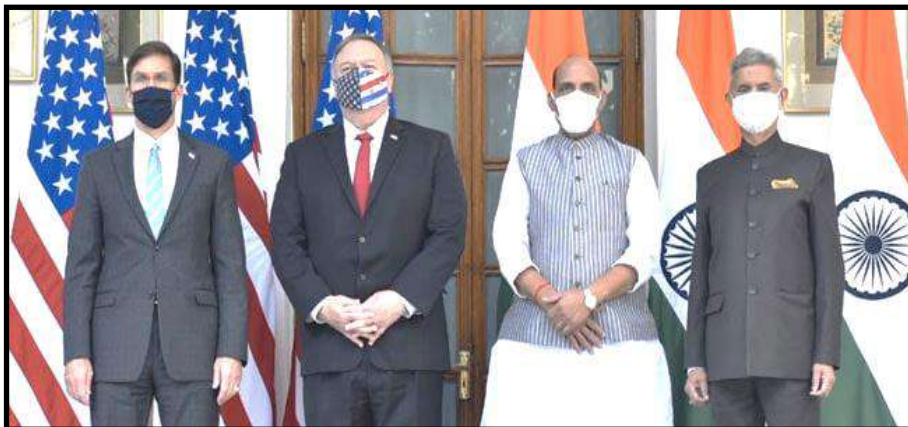
Global Hunger Index 2020	94 th
Teacher Status Index (GTSI)	6 th
Asia Power Index 2020	4 th
Global Economic Freedom Index	105 th
Human Capital Index	116 th
Global Innovation Index	48 th
World Risk Index (WRI)	89 th
Budget Transparency Index	53 rd
Global Energy Transition Index	7 th
Global Press Freedom Index	142 nd
Inclusive Internet Index	46 th
World Happiness Report	144 th
Intellectual Property Index	40 th
Sustainability Index	77 th
Flourishing Index	131 st
Climate Change Performance Index	9 th
Global Talent Competitive Index	72 nd
Carbon Disclosure Project Report	5 th
Democracy Index 2019	51 st
Corruption Perception Index	80 th
Social Mobility Index	76 th



NATIONAL NEWS

OCTOBER

INDIA AND US SIGN 'BECA' DEAL



India and the US signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit. BECA is a military pact reserved for close defence allies of the USA. It allows access to US generated satellite imagery that is used in precision strikes by armed drones and long-range missiles. The two countries resolved to jointly undertake development and infrastructure projects abroad to counter Chinese aggression in security and economic domains.

QUAD MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN TOKYO

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister External affairs attended the 2nd QUAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, Japan on October 6. The meeting focused on the issue of ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific in the face of China's increasingly aggressive behaviour across the region. The four QUAD members collectively affirmed the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations - India, Australia, Japan and USA. All four countries of the Quad have problems with China and view Beijing's conduct with suspicion. Australian government has pledged to halt projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Japan is worried about Chinese intrusions near the Senkaku Islands, and the US is engaged in a trade war and has opposed China's aggressive activities in the South China Sea.

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH DANISH PM

Indian Prime Minister held a Virtual Bilateral Summit on Sep 28 with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen. A MoU in the field of intellectual property cooperation between the two countries was also signed on the occasion.

Denmark also announced her joining of ISA - International Solar Alliance. Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Denmark has grown by over 30 per cent from 2.82 billion dollars in 2016 to \$3.68 billion in 2019.

8 BEACHES GET BLUE FLAG CERTIFICATION



Eight beaches from India have secured the coveted International Blue Flag Certification. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria have to be met and maintained.

The eight BlueFlag beaches are Shivrajpur beach in Dwarka, Gujarat; Ghoghla beach in Diu; Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka; Kappad in Kerala; Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh; Golden Beach in Puri, Odisha and Radhanagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

INDIA GETS CHAIRMANSHIP OF ILO

Apurva Chandra, Labour and Employment Secretary, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization, ILO for the period October 2020- June 2021. The Governing Body is the apex executive body of the ILO which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget and elects the Director-General. At present ILO is based at Geneva, Switzerland and has 187 members.

WORLD'S LONGEST HIGHWAY TUNNEL IN HP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated on Oct 3 the world's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh. The horseshoe-shaped tunnel has been built by the Border Roads Organisation at a cost of about Rs 4,000 crore. The 9.02 km long tunnel is 10.5 metres wide and has a height of 5.52 metres and a car can zip through at 80 kmph. The tunnel is built with ultra-modern facilities in the PirPanjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 10,000 feet from the Mean Sea Level.

It will connect Manali to Leh throughout the year, reducing distance by 46 km and driving time by around 5 hours thus saving crore of rupees in transport. Earlier the Lahaul-Spiti valley was cut off for about six months each year in winters due to heavy snowfall. The tunnel will boost the socio-economic development of the valley.

CBSE LAUNCHES FACIAL RECOGNITION TECH

The CBSE has introduced a state of the art Facial Recognition technology that will enable students to download their digital academic documents of class X and XII. This computer application matches a human face from a digital image already stored in the database and once successful, the certificate will be emailed to the student. This application is now available on "Parinam Manjusha" and DigiLocker platform.

POLL SPENDING LIMIT RAISED BY 10%

The Government hiked the poll campaign spending limit by 10 percent for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. The hike has been made notified by the Law Ministry on the recommendations of the Election Commission that contestants be allowed to spend more on campaigning keeping in mind difficulties they may face due to COVID-19 curbs.

The maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls is now Rs. 77 lakh, up from Rs. 70 lakh earlier. For the Assembly election, it has been hiked from Rs. 28 lakh to Rs. 30.80 lakh. The last time the expenditure ceiling was enhanced was ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in 2014.

JUSTICE LOKUR TO MONITOR 'PARALI' BURNING

The Supreme Court appointed former Supreme Court judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur as a one-man committee to monitor and prevent instances of stubble (Parali) burning by farmers in the three States.

(Parali burning refers to burning of crop residue to remove them from the field to sow the next crop).

He will be helped by student volunteer forces deployed from the National Cadet Corps, the National Service Scheme and the Bharat Scouts and Guides to protect Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region) from pollution caused by stubble-burning in the three neighbouring Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh this winter. Student forces will patrol highways and fields in the three States and ensure that no fires are started in the fields.

ONLY AC COACHES IN ALL SUPER FAST TRAINS

Railways has decided to upgrade all non-AC sleeper coaches to AC ones for high speed trains. It will upgrade all its trains capable of running at a maximum speed of 130 km per hour and beyond with special air-conditioned coaches. All existing mail and express trains with a maximum speed of up to 110 km per hour will continue to ply with sleeper coaches.



\$ 1.9 MILLION SUPPORT FROM USAID



The US has committed \$1.9 million to support vulnerable populations like informal sector workers whose livelihoods have been disrupted due to COVID-19. The aid will be extended by the US Agency for International Development to rebuild local economies and improve the livelihoods of Indians who have been hit hardest by the pandemic. The facility is expected to reach between 60,000-100,000 workers and enterprises and will give preference to youth and women.

NDB APPROVES \$741 INFRA LOAN FOR INDIA

The New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank, approved funds worth USD 741 million for infrastructure projects in India. It includes \$ 500 million for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Project and \$ 241 million for the Mumbai Metro Rail II (Line 6) Project. The RRTS will have a total length of 82.15 km (68.03 km elevated and 14.12 km underground) with 25 stations while Mumbai Metro will have a length of about 14.47 km in the city of Mumbai. *The NDB was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies and developing countries. It is based in Shanghai and is headed by Marcos Troyjo.*

INDIA SECURED 4th POSITION IN ASIA POWER

India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Index ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia. The United States has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6, followed by China (76.1) and Japan (41) at second and third spot respectively.

INDIA RANKS 6th IN VALUING ITS TEACHERS

A recent report released by the UK-based Varkey Foundation ranked India at sixth spot for people's implicit, unconscious and automatic views on the status of teachers in the country. The report proves that respecting teachers isn't only an important moral duty – it's essential for a country's educational outcomes.

The report is based on the data gathered by the Global Teacher Status Index (GTSI) 2018 – a 35-country survey conducted from 1,000 representative respondents in each of the countries.

INDIA RANKS VERY LOW ON HUNGER INDEX

India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and was in the 'serious' hunger category with a score of 27.2. According to the report, 14 percent of India's population is undernourished. The experts blame poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, siloed approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large states for the low ranking. Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.

17 countries ranked at the top on GHI with a score of less than 5 while Chad, a landlocked country in north central Africa, stood at the last rung with an extreme score of 44.7 in the 'alarming' category. GHI score is calculated on four indicators—undernourishment; child wasting; child stunting and child mortality—among the children under the age of five. The Welthungerhilfe, Germany and Concern Worldwide, Ireland have been publishing the annual Global Hunger Index every year in Oct.

INDIA EXPOSED TO HIGH POLLUTION LEVELS

India recorded the highest annual average PM 2.5 concentration exposure in the world last year, according to the recent State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report released by US-based Health Effects Institute and Global Burden of Disease. The report also said that India has been recording an increase in PM 2.5 pollution since 2010 contrary to Centre's claims that annual air pollution levels in the country are coming down.

PM 2.5 refers to the micro 'particulate matter' present in the air whose average diameter is 2.5 micron or less. For reference, human hair is around 50 to 70 micron thick. In India, air pollution is the highest risk factor because of the huge burden of premature deaths it contributes to.

According to the WHO, it is estimated that "around 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, causing diseases including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia.



INDIA TO PROMOTE BUDDHISM IN SRI LANKA



India has announced USD 15 million grant assistance to Sri Lanka for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries. The grant will help deepen people to people linkage between the two countries in the sphere of Buddhism.

India has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and France as the Co-President for a term of two years. Head Office of the ISA is in Gurugram, Haryana.

AMNESTY STOPS ITS OPERATIONS IN INDIA

London based global human rights watchdog, Amnesty International India stopped its operations in India on account of the complete freezing of its bank accounts by the Government of India for alleged violation of provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Its entire staff has been laid off, and campaign and research work stopped in the region.

Amnesty has been critical of the Indian government in recent years, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir last year. However, Amnesty alleged that the crackdown was an outcome of its calls for transparency and accountability, most recently for the human rights violations in this year's Delhi riots and in Kashmir.

SEPTEMBER

BHEL TO BRING IN MAGLEV TECHNOLOGY

The New Delhi based public sector power engineering giant - BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.) has entered into a MoU with the Swiss Rapide AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India. Zurich based Swiss Rapide is the world leader in the planning, designing and commissioning of international Maglev Rail projects.



The Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling on rails, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway. This enables the system to be highly energy-efficient, allows operating speeds easily up to 500 km/hour and significantly reduces the total operational cost.

PM ADDRESSES THE 75th UNGA SESSION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Sep 26 in virtual mode. As the UNGA this year is being held in the backdrop of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, it is being conducted mostly virtually.

The theme of the 75th UNGA is "The future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting the COVID-19 through effective multilateral action".

FIRST WORLD TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT HELD

The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8, and it was organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a virtual platform. Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the inaugural session as well as the valedictory session.

The Summit aimed to focus on state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies that will help boost efforts towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently.



ISA is an initiative launched by Prime Minister Modi and French President Mitterrand in Nov 2015 to promote and harness usage of solar power. Its headquarters are in Gurugram, Haryana. It is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

INDIA SRI LANKA PM HOLD VIRTUAL SUMMIT

A Virtual Bilateral Summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa on 26 september. The Summit was the first virtual engagement between the two leaders. It reflected India's 'Neighbourhood First' approach and commitment to SAGAR doctrine. Through SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.

5th BRICS CULTURE MINISTERS MEET HELD



The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation. The delegates from Culture Ministries of the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - participated in the meeting. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel represented India at the meet.

During the meeting, discussion was held on the impact of the epidemiological situation on the cultural sphere in the BRICS countries and review of the implementation of joint cultural online projects within BRICS.

INDIA JOINS COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). India will be a member of the prestigious body for four years from 2021 to 2025. 45 member states of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time. The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It promotes women's rights, highlights the reality of women's lives throughout the world and helps in shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

INDIA TO HOST SCO CHG MEET IN NOV. 20

India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi. The meeting will be held in virtual mode to discuss trade and economy related matters of mutual interest. This will be the first Prime Minister level meeting to be hosted by India since its elevation as a full-member of SCO.

SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation of eight countries, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India joined the SCO as an observer in 2005 and became a full member along with Pakistan in June, 2017. Its headquarters are in Beijing, China. It is headed by the Secretary General, currently Vladimir Norov, former foreign minister of Uzbekistan.

LITERACY RATE IMPROVES TO 77.7 % IN INDIA

With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, followed by Delhi at 88.7 per cent, and Uttarakhand at 87.6 percent. Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, trailed by Rajasthan at 69.7 percent and Bihar at 70.9 percent. The data came from the report on "Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey - from July 2017 to June 2018".

The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 per cent. In rural areas, the literacy rate is 73.5 per cent compared to 87.7 per cent in urban areas. At all-India level, the male literacy rate is higher at 84.7 percent compared to 70.3 percent among women.

CHILD MORTALITY RATE UP TO 34/1000

According to a new UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) report, the in India has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019. The report further adds that however, India along with Nigeria is still accounted for almost a third of all under-five deaths in 2019. 'The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 states that the number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lower point on record in 2019 down to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990.

The global under-five mortality rate declined by 59 per cent, from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 38 in 2019. In India, it has come down from 126 in 1990 to 34 in 2019. Child mortality is the mortality of children under the age of five. The child mortality rate, also 'under-five mortality rate', refers to the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed as per 1,000 live births.

NATION CELEBRATES 'POSHAN MAH'

The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Mah is being celebrated during the month of September. Every year, the Poshan Mah is celebrated under the "PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment"-POSHAN Abhiyaan, which was launched in 2018. The objective of the Poshan Mah is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari (public participation) to eradicate malnutrition and ensure health and nutrition for everyone. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan.



IFC TO BOOST URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA



The International Finance Corporation has said that two trillion dollars will be provided to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy to boost and support urban development.

IFC—a sister organization of the World Bank, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries. It is based in Washington DC, USA.

WELCOME NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION

India's new medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission (NMC), will come into force from Sep 25 as the Central government issued a notification for the same, abolishing the 87-year-old Medical Council of India, which was marred by corruption in its later years.

The notification names Suresh Chandra Sharma, HoD, ENT, AIIMS, New Delhi, as the chairperson of the NMC which will have four autonomous boards to regulate undergraduate medical education, postgraduate medical education, medical assessment and ratings and ethics and medical registration.

DIRECT CARGO FERRY FOR MALDIVES

A direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives commenced for the first time on Sep 21. The service will run twice a month, and will be operated by Shipping Corporation of India. It will provide a cost-effective, direct and alternative means of transportation of goods between India and Maldives. The service will leave India from Kochi for Male port in Maldives.

NEPAL BUYS DMUC TRAIN SET FROM INDIA

The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to the Nepal Railway for a price of Nepali Rs. 84.65 crore. The train would run between Jaynagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Nepal from mid-December. This will be the first broad-gauge railway service in Nepal. These trains have been manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.

A NEW TERMINAL FOR PRIVATE JETS

India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on September 17. The new terminal will enable smooth movement of business jets and chartered aircraft. The new terminal has spacious passenger lounges, retail shops, food and beverage sections and 24x7 personal concierge services. It can handle up to 150 private jet flights per day.

MPs SALARIES CUT BY 30% FOR CORONA

The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 15. The Bill seeks to reduce the salaries of MPs and the sumptuary allowance of Ministers by 30 per cent for one year, wef April 1, 2020 to provide support to Corona fighting operations.

118 MORE MOBILE APPS BANNED

The Government has blocked 118 more mobile apps including PUBG which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, Defence of India, Security of State and Public Order. The move will safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users. This decision is a targeted move to ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace.

The 118 banned mobile apps include PUBG, WeChat, Cyber Hunter, LifeAfter and Warpath. The decision to ban these Apps was taken by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as it has received many complaints from various sources about misuse of user's data in an unauthorized manner, including its transmission to servers located outside India.

NO EXEMPTION FROM FINAL YEAR EXAMS: SC

In a long awaited judgement, the Supreme Court ruled on August 28 that students can't be promoted without holding final-year examinations by September 30 as fixed by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The state and university cannot promote the students in the final year/terminal semester without holding final-year/terminal examination, the Court ruled.

Further, the court said that a State Disaster Management Authority can postpone final-year examinations under the National Disaster Management Act.

But in such a situation, fresh dates would have to be worked out in consultation with the UGC. For any exemption from the UGC guidelines, states would have to seek permission from the UGC itself.



INDIA RANKS 48th IN INNOVATION



For the first time, India ranked in the top 50 countries in the Global Innovation Index, released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation - WIPO. India jumped four positions to rank at 48th since 2019. India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering and R&D-intensive global companies.

The index presented the latest global trends and annual innovation ranking for 131 countries. The Index is topped by Switzerland, followed by Sweden and USA at second and third spot, respectively.

WIPO is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations, having its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

ASI SET UP 7 NEW CIRCLES

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the setting up of seven new administrative circles with a view to improve the management of monuments. The seven new circles include -- Trichy in Tamil Nadu, Raiganj in West Bengal, Rajkot in Gujarat, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, and Hampi in Karnataka.

INDIA FARES POORLY IN HUMAN CAPITAL

The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries, has placed India at 116th spot, in a list of 174 countries. However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018. The Index is topped by Singapore with a score of 0.88, followed by Hong Kong at 0.81 and Japan at 0.80.

The Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 percent of the world's population — up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries. The report said that the coronavirus had deepened inequality globally, in addition to increasing poverty and distress.

INDIA 'POOR' IN FACING NATURAL CALAMITIES

India was ranked 89th among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 released by the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security at Bonn, Germany. As per the index, India was 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.

The Index is topped by the Vanuatu, a tiny island country in the south Pacific Ocean, vulnerable to highest risk exposures. Qatar was placed at the bottom with the lowest risk level.

The WRI, calculated country wise, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability, indicates preparedness of countries in coping with and adapting to extreme natural calamities.

INDIA SLIPS DOWN IN 'ECONOMIC FREEDOM'

India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to rank 105th. The Index has been released in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report prepared by Canada's Fraser Institute. It has been released in India in conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society.

The report highlighted that the prospect of increasing economic freedom in India depends on the next generation of reforms in factor markets including greater openness to international trade. The report based on 2018 data once again gave top spots to Hong Kong and Singapore, which continued their streak as first and second respectively.

The report aims to measure economic freedom — levels of personal choice, ability to enter markets, security of privately owned property, rule of law, among others — by analysing policies and institutions of 162 countries and territories.

IFFI TO BE HELD IN JANUARY, 2021

The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in Goa. Earlier it was scheduled to be held from 20th November to 28th November, this year. The festival will be conducted in a Virtual and Physical format.



NEWS FROM STATES

OCTOBER

U P TOPS IN ATTRACTING TOURIST VISITORS



Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics, 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism. About 53.6 crore domestic tourists, most of them Kumbh pilgrims, visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019, which is 23.1% of the total travellers. Tamil Nadu (21.3%) came second followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.2%).

In terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019, followed by Maharashtra (over 55 lakh) at the second position and Uttar Pradesh (over 47 lakh) at third place.

HARYANA BEST IN CONTROLLING ANEMIA

Haryana State topped the Anemia Mukh Bharat Index among 29 states in the country. The Anemia Mukh Bharat, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF, has been launched to reduce the prevalence of Anemia all over India.

Anemia is a condition in which you lack enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to your body's tissues. Having anemia can make you feel tired and weak.

GOA TO HAVE INDIA'S FIRST SAND DUNE PARK



India's first sand dune park is soon to come up in the beach state Goa. The World Bank has accepted the proposal of the Biodiversity Board of the state for this purpose and sanctioned a sum of Rs 3 crore for the project. The park will open up new avenues for tourism in Goa. Sand dunes are geological deposits of sand formed by the action of wind. These geomorphic features act as nature's first line of defense from the forces of the ocean.

KERALA FIRST TO HAVE DIGITAL SCHOOLS

Kerala has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools. Over 3.74 lakh digital equipments were distributed in 16,027 schools for the smart classroom project. The project was launched on January 21, 2018. High-tech labs were started in 11,275 primary and upper primary schools for classes 1 to 7. The programme was started on July 5, 2019.

GOA FIRST TO HAVE 100% TAP CONNECTIONS

Goa has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household under the "HarGhar Jal Yojna". The state has provided tap water connection to all the 2.30 lakh rural households. The government's Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.

INDIA'S FIRST ORGANIC SPICES SEED PARKS

India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed parks will come up at two places in Gujarat with an aim to encourage capacity building and adoption of best practices. Cumin and fennel seeds, are the main crops in the region. NABARD-supported Organic Spices Seed Park for Saunf (fennel seed) will come up in the Banaskantha district and Jeera (cumin seed) in Patan for promotion of organic seed value chain of the spices.

KERALA TO LAUNCH FARMERS WELFARE FUND

Kerala has become the first state in India to set up 'Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board' for the welfare of farmers in the state. Farmers joining the Board will be entitled to a personal pension, family pension, sickness benefit, disability benefit, medical assistance, marriage and maternity allowance, education assistance and posthumous benefits.

Farmers will have to pay a registration fee of Rs 100 to become a member of the board's welfare fund scheme and a minimum monthly contribution of Rs 100. The Government will provide an equivalent share of up to Rs 250 to the members of the Welfare Fund.



WORLD'S LONGEST ROPEWAY AT GIRNAR

In a big relief to the devotees of Goddess Ambaji, a passenger ropeway service was started at Girnar Mountain in Junagadh district of Gujarat. Built at the cost of Rs.130 crore, the 2.3-km-long Girnar ropeway, covering 900 metres in height, is believed to be among the longest ropeways in the world to connect a temple. Earlier, it used to take 5-7 hours to climb Girnar mountain to reach the Ambaji's temple at the top, but now it will take only 7-8 minutes. The ropeway has the capacity to carry 800 pilgrims an hour.

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CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY TOPS IN PATENTS



Mohali's Gharuan-based Chandigarh University in Punjab has emerged as the top varsity in India by filing the highest number of patents in a year. The university filed 336 patents in a year, according to the annual rankings for 2018-19 recently released by the office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks. The university has filed 779 patents so far.

SURAT GETS INDIA'S LONGEST BRTS - 108 KM

With the opening of Kumbharia to Kadodora route in the Surat Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) corridor, Surat becomes the first city in India to have the longest, 108 km BRTS network. Currently, there are more than 166 buses operating on a total of 13 routes in the BRTS corridor in which more than 1.03 lakh passengers travel daily. In the BRTS, busses run on almost captive roads on the pattern of Metro rail service.

ISRAEL TO PROMOTE HIGH VALUE FARMING

Meghalaya state entered into partnership with Israel for the establishment of a one of its kind Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state. Meghalaya will benefit from the wide expertise offered by the Israel collaboration in terms of fertigation, protected cultivation, quality planting materials, among others. The collaboration will bring in technology support, advanced know-how and quality planting materials from Israel. The Israeli technology is renowned the world over for helping turn arid lands into green for cultivation.

DOLPHIN SAFARI LAUNCHED IN THREE STATES

The National Mission for Clean Ganga launched Dolphin-based ecotourism programme, including Dolphin safari, at six sites in three states – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal -- along the country's national river on the occasion of the 'Ganga River Dolphin Day' on October 5. A new campaign, 'My Ganga My Dolphin', was also launched on the occasion to conduct Dolphin census in 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora in Uttar Pradesh. India celebrates October 5 every year as the 'Ganga River Dolphin Day' as on this day Ganga Dolphins were declared national aquatic animals in 2010.

GI TAG FOR SIKKIM CHILLY - DALLE KHURSANI

Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of Sikkim, is set to get a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). It is considered as one of the world's hottest chillies. The GI tag is a name or a sign given to a certain product that has a specific geographical location or origin.

AAI's FIRST ENERGY NEUTRAL AIRPORT

Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore. The airport will save a power bill of Rs 10 lakh per month with the commissioning of the solar power plant. The annual electrical energy consumption of the airport on average is over seven lakh units, whole of which now will be met by solar power.

It may be noted that among all airports, Cochin International Airport is the first one to become fully solar powered in August, 2015.

HARYANA LAUNCHES 'GRAM DARSHAN'

Haryana government launched 'Gram Darshan', a digital platform making the accessibility of data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online. It will make all government services accessible to the common citizens in their locality, through the Gram Panchayat websites and ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services to realise their basic needs.

ADB LOANS FOR RAJASTHAN AND M P

The Asian Development Bank approved two loans totalling USD 570 million (about Rs 4,200 crore) for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Of this, USD 300 million loan is for developing Rajasthan's secondary towns and USD 270 million loan is for Madhya Pradesh Urban Services Improvement Project.

- ❖ Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd signed a pact with Gujarat government to set up India's largest green field Zinc smelter in the Tapi district of the state with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore.
- ❖ Asian Development Bank, Manila approved a \$177-million loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.



INDIA'S BIGGEST FILM CITY TO COME UP IN UP



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built near Hastinapur area on the Delhi - Agra Yamuna Expressway. The film city complex will be developed in 1,000 acres of land by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority. The proposed site is just six kilometres from the upcoming international airport in Jewar and around 70 km from Delhi and 150 km from Agra.

MIZORAM TOPS THE HAPPINESS REPORT

Mizoram, Punjab and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have emerged as the top three ranked states and Union Territories in the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness.

The study conducted by India's leading management strategy expert Rajesh Pillania is based on a nationwide survey covering 16,950 people between March and July 2020 and tracks the impact of COVID-19 on people. The study used six components to measure happiness — work and work-related issues such as earnings and growth; relationships, including family and friends; physical and mental health; philanthropy; spiritual orientation; and the impact of COVID-19 on happiness. Odisha, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh are the bottom three states on the index.

KARNATAKA LAUNCHES AIR AMBULANCE

Country's first integrated air ambulance service was launched in Bengaluru. Air ambulance firm International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT) will run the services in collaboration with aviation technology firm Kyathi from the HAL airport in Bengaluru. This will also be the first air ambulance based out of South India, providing services for medical emergencies. It will integrate services of aircraft, helicopter and ground vehicles to ensure smooth last mile reach.

GUJARAT TOPS IN STARTUP RANKINGS

Government announced the second edition of its state startup rankings. The rankings aim to encourage states to have an entrepreneurially conducive environment. The idea behind the exercise is to build capacities at the state level to support innovation and entrepreneurship. The rankings have been developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Gujarat among states and Andaman Nicobar among UTs were declared the best performers. Karnataka and Kerala were ranked as the top performers. The states were awarded points according to performances across seven categories – Institutional Support, Easing Compliances, Relaxation in Public Procurement norms, Incubation support, Seed Funding Support, Venture Funding Support, and Awareness & Outreach.

India is home to over 50,000 startups with over 30 unicorns. In business, a unicorn is a privately held startup company with a current valuation of US \$1 billion or more.

ANDHRA TOPS IN EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings. Uttar Pradesh and Telangana bagged second and third positions respectively.

The rankings reflect the level of ease of doing business on the basis of performance of the state on parameters such as construction permit, labour regulation, environmental registration, access to information, land availability and single window system.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry conducts the exercise for all States and Union Territories under the Business Reform Action Plan. The BRAP ranking aims at triggering competition among states to improve business climate in order to attract domestic and global investors.

RS. 209 Cr. PIGGERY MISSION IN MEGHALAYA

Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out in Meghalaya on Sep 10. It aims to bolster farmers' income as well as make the State self-sufficient in the production of pork which has a huge domestic market. The integrated project has been launched as a partnership among the Meghalaya, central government and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory corporation under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.



RO-RO RAIL LAUNCHED FROM BENGALURU



A new Roll-on-Roll off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in Maharashtra was flagged off on August 31. The Ro-Ro rail, as it is called in short, is capable of transporting 42 trucks loaded with goods weighing 1,260 tonnes.

This has been introduced with an objective to provide environment friendly railway transport service that will also ease congestion on highways. The APMC agriculture market and Peenya industrial cluster in Bengaluru will benefit from this.

KERALA CELEBRATES ONAM: SANS FANFARE

Keralites across the globe celebrated the popular festival Thiruvonam on August 31. Thiruvonam is the most auspicious day of Onam festival. This annual harvest festival of the State celebrates the visit of mythical and righteous King Mahabali. Beautiful flower carpets are laid to welcome King Mahabali into homes and hearts. Onam marks the season of plenty, but this time the Covid pandemic had taken the sheen out of the festivities.

650 MN EUROS FOR KANPUR METRO

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is set to invest 650 million Euros for the construction of Kanpur's first city metro line. The new metro rail in Kanpur will help reduce commuting time and provide fast and affordable public transport to almost 3 million people in the city.

The EIB is the lending arm of the European Union and is the biggest multilateral finance agency of the world, having its base in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.



FLIPKART TO PUSH HANDICRAFTS OF ASSAM

The e-commerce giant Flipkart has signed an agreement with the. The partnership will enable the state's local artisans, weavers and craftsmen to showcase their hallmark products to millions of customers across the country, particularly the exclusive silk and bamboo and cane items.

WB LOAN FOR HIMACHAL ROADS

The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project which will strengthen transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh by improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of the state road network.

GOVT. INITIATIVES

OCTOBER

NEW SCHEMES TO PUSH CONSUMER SPENDING

TAX-SAVER WINDOW

The purchase of items that can save you tax on LTA

CAR	LAPTOP	TV	FRIDGE	MOBILE*
A combination of above mentioned items which attract over 12% GST			Among services, term insurance premium, and even Uilps, would qualify given that they face 18% levy *Smartphone	

The Finance Minister announced a consumer spending related proposal, comprising of two components:

Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Cash Voucher scheme

Under this, government employees can opt to receive cash amounting to leave encashment plus 3 times ticket fare, to buy items that attract a GST of 12% or more, before March 31, 2021. However, only digital transactions will be allowed and GST invoices will need to be produced.

The Special Festival Advance Scheme

Under this scheme, all central government employees will get an interest-free advance of Rs 10,000, in the form of a prepaid RuPay Card, to be spent by March 31, 2021. The interest-free advance will have to be paid back in 10 instalments.

'E-DHARTI GEO PORTAL' LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched the 'e-Dharti Geo Portal' which will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system. It will allow the data to become geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.

The portal will have details of around 60,000 properties that are commercial, residential, industrial as well as institutional. The portal will issue a certificate for each property that will include details like land type, property type, date of allotment, property status, property address, details about present lessee and litigation status, among others.

SUMMIT 'RAISE' ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog organized the Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: "Summit RAISE (*Responsible AI for Social Empowerment*) 2020" from 5 to 9 of October. Global tech leaders from across the globe discussed cross-sector topics such as 'Leveraging AI for Pandemic Preparedness', the Impetus that Innovation Places on Digitisation', Inclusive AI and Partnerships for Successful Innovation.

During the summit, delegates and experts in research, policy and innovation on Artificial Intelligence exchanged ideas to chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR HEALTHCARE COOPS

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation. The scheme aims to help cooperatives play an important role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in India. Under the scheme, prospective cooperatives will get term loans up to 10 thousand crore rupees in the future.

STARS PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING

The Union Cabinet approved the "Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States" -STARS project supported by the World Bank. The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.

The STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy as part of New Education Policy. Initially, it will cover six States, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.



KAMDHENU DEEPAWALI ABHIYAN LAUNCHED



Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has started a nationwide campaign to celebrate Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan for promoting extensive use of cow-dung products during this Diwali Festival. The range will include Cow dung-based Diyas, Candles, Dhoop, Swastik, Wall-piece, Paper-weight, Havan Samagri, Idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi and many more such items.

RKA was constituted in Feb 2019 to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. It functions under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

As per 2012 livestock census, India has 300 million bovine population; out of this 191 million are cattle (cows) and 108.7 million are buffaloes. India is the global leader in milk production with peak milk production of 176.35 MMT during 2017-18.

'KAPILA' TO PROMOTE I P LITERACY

On the 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, government launched a campaign named 'KAPILA', which stands for Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness to spread awareness through educational programs about the importance of patenting an invention, to lead India towards self-reliance.

PROPERTY RIGHTS TO RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

The Prime Minister virtually launched the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' scheme on October 11 to enable around 1 lakh household property holders in rural areas to download their property cards through the SMS link which will be delivered on their registered mobile phones. Now they can use their property as a financial asset to take loans or for other financial benefits. It will also help in reducing disputes over land property.

SVAMITVA - "Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas" Scheme aims at providing the 'records of the title' to the household owners in villages in the rural areas and issue property cards. It is a central sector scheme of the Panchayati Raj Ministry. Initially, one lakh villages will be covered in the six states.

NATIONAL START-UP AWARDS-2020



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry declared winners of the first National Start-Up Awards-2020. The awards were given in 35 categories across 12 sectors like health, education, agriculture, food, energy, space and many more. Startups were shortlisted on the basis of innovation, enterprise, employment generation, and social impact. A cash prize of Rs 5 lakh each will be given to the winning startup in each area.

PM LAUNCHES VAIBHAV SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the VaishvikBhartiyaVaigyanik, VAIBHAV Summit on October 2 through video conferencing. The Summit is a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and academicians that will continue till the 31st October.

The summit aims to bring Indian origin luminaries in academic institutes and Research and Development organizations across the world and resident counterparts on a single platform. The participants will explore possibilities for collaboration mechanisms to strengthen the academic and Science and Technology base in India for global development.

SOCIAL INNOVATION & INCUBATION MISSION

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot launched the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund for SCs, with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. The objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.



SWIGGY TO PROMOTE STREET FOOD VENDORS

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform. The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses.

The arrangement has been facilitated under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. The street vendors will be helped with PAN and FSSAI registration, training on technology, menu digitization and pricing along with hygiene and packaging best practices.

SEPTEMBER

THE THREE FARM BILLS ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW

Recently, the Parliament passed three important bills related to the farm sector aimed at liberalising the farm sector and strengthening the hands of farmers. However, in a number of states, particularly Punjab and Haryana, farmers are protesting against these bills terming them anti farmers. Let's have a look at these bills.



Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

The Bill aims to create an ecosystem which allows farmers to trade their produce outside the markets or 'mandis' notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws (state APMC Acts). It also allows 'barrier-free' intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside state APMCs.

The states are opposing the legislation as they stand to lose 'mandi fees' if farmers are allowed to trade outside designated state.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

This bill lays down a framework for contract farming in India. It allows farmers to sell their produce to agro firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters, or corporates at a future date at a pre-agreed price.

The protestors argue that the mechanism will weaken the hand of mostly uneducated farmers during negotiations with suave cash-rich corporates.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The bill aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. It aims to curb the stockholding of these essential items unless special circumstances such as war warrant it. The bill aims to create a competitive environment and modernise farm supply chains by the introduction of cold storages.

Protestors argue that the Bill will allow private companies to stockpile these commodities giving them the leverage to dictate price terms to farmers.

PARLIAMENT PASSES THREE LABOUR CODES



In a historic move, the Parliament passed three labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws. These labour codes are Industrial Relations Code; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, and Social Security Code. These labour codes aim to introduce transparency in the changing business environment.

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY BILL PASSED

Parliament passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020 on Sep 22. The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University at Gandhinagar, Gujarat as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University as an institution of national importance.

The Rashtriya Raksha University is proposed to be a multi-disciplinary university to create new knowledge through research and collaboration with different stakeholders. It will fulfill the need for a pool of trained professionals with specialized knowledge and new skill sets in various wings of policing, the criminal justice system and correctional administration.

NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

The Rajya Sabha passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 on Sep 22. Lok Sabha has already passed it. The Bill seeks to establish a National Forensic Sciences University as an institution of national importance by upgrading the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The proposed NFS University would help in facilitating and promoting studies and research in the field of forensic science. The university would also offer courses in applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.

Forensic science is the application of scientific knowledge and methodology to criminal investigations and legal problems. It is a multidisciplinary subject involving various fields of science such as chemistry, biology, physics, geology, psychology, social science, engineering, etc.

'BEST BEFORE' TAG MUST FOR LOOSE SWEETS

The Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI) issued a notification stating that "...in case of non-packaged and loose sweets, the container and tray holding the sweets at the outlet for sale, must display the best-before date mandatorily from October 1, 2020". The food business operator dealing in loose sweets may also display the date of manufacturing which shall be voluntary and non-binding.

'KRITAGYA' FOR FARM MECHANISATION

With an aim to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has announced KRITAGYA (Krishi-Taknik-Gyan) hackathon under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project. Students, faculties, and innovators or entrepreneurs from universities and technical institutions can apply and participate in the event in the form of a group.

ROADMAP FOR LAND LEASING IN FARMING

The Centre has set up a high-level committee to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in the agriculture sector. The roadmap aims to develop a framework for the rights of landless farm workers who miss out on welfare benefits. The committee will be headed by Ajay Tirkey, the secretary of the department of land resources under the ministry of rural development.



WHATSAPP & CSCs TO PUSH DIGITAL LITERACY



WhatsApp has teamed up with Common Services Centers (CSC) to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services and resources in the country. Programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) and the Digital Beti initiative will be available in English, Hindi, and seven other regional languages.

The programme aims to address challenges thrown by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic that has disrupted education and skill development initiatives across the country.

People can send 'Namaste' to CSC Academy's official WhatsApp account at 9999189321, in order to access details about course modules of flagship programmes like Digital Beti and PMGDISHA.

INDIA POST LAUNCHES 'FIVE STAR VILLAGES'

In order to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services in interior villages, the Department of Posts has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages' to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.

All postal products and services, including Postal Life Insurance and government schemes like Sukanya Samridhi, Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana will be made available and marketed and publicized at the village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme. Branch offices will function as a one-stop-shop to cater to all post-office-related needs of villagers.

DISPUTE REDRESSAL SYSTEM FOR SHIPPING

Union Minister of State for Shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya launched a dispute redressal mechanism for the Maritime sector. Named "SAROD-Ports" (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes-Ports), it aims to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.

SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours. It will promote ease of doing business in the maritime sector because of the fast, timely, cost-effective and robust dispute resolution mechanism.

CITIES TO BE MADE CLIMATE FRIENDLY

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0 in a virtual event. The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

He also launched the "Streets for People Challenge" as a response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly. The Challenge will support cities across the country to develop a unified vision of streets for people in consultation with stakeholders and citizens.

'PARAKH' TO IMPROVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The Prime Minister announced the setting up of the National Evaluation Centre, 'Parakh' for overall improvement in the evaluation system. PARAKH - "Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development" will be established to improve the overall evaluation system in education. *It will help states in offering quality standardised assessments, and in providing regular data for improving quality. In the long term, this could help India align with global benchmarks such as the Programme for International Student Assessment, PISA.*

GTAM LAUNCHED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Indian power market crossed another milestone with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity. Introduction of the GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States and will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the renewable energy sector. *It will benefit buyers of renewable energy through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement. It will also benefit renewable energy sellers by providing access to the pan-India market.*

GTAM contracts will allow additional avenues to the renewable energy generators for sale of energy.



'MISSION KARMAYOGI' FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS



The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. The scheme will lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world.

Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.

The institutional framework will consist of Prime Minister's Public Human Resources Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and the technological platform for online training, and Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

The Public Human Resources Council will comprise of select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders and Public Service functionaries. It will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction to the task of Civil Services Reform and capacity building.

To cover around 46 lakh Central employees, a sum of 510.86 crore rupees will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 on this mission.

NATIONAL LAND BANK PORTAL LAUNCHED

Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal virtually launched a first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal which will As much as 4.2 lakh hectares of land has been mapped across 3,275 industrial clusters in India, of which about 1.13 lakh hectares of land is available for investors.

The portal will provide details of logistics, land, rail & air connectivity, tax incentives, drainage system, power supply and raw material availability from the various industrial belts. To start with, extensive information about industrial belts in six states is available on the portal and soon all states will be covered by December. The government aims to attract investors at a time when anti-China sentiments are growing globally.

CHALLENGE "CHUNAUTI" TO BOOST STARTUPS

Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology launched "Chunauti" - Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns (population above one lakh/up to ten lakh) of the country. It aims at identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and providing them seed funds of upto 25 lakh rupees and other facilities.

Under this challenge the Ministry will invite startups in the areas of work including Edu Tech, Agri Tech and FinTech solutions for masses, Supply Chain and Logistic management, Infrastructure, Medical Healthcare as well as jobs and skilling. The government has earmarked a budget of over 95 crore rupees over a period of three years for this programme.

HELPLINE FOR MENTAL REHABILITATION

The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot launched 'Kiran', a toll-free helpline number 1800-599-0019 for mental health rehabilitation. The helpline aims to provide first aid, support for the early screening, distress management, psychological support, preventing deviant behaviours, mental well-being, psychological crisis management, among others.

The helpline will attempt to resolve the issues faced by the people experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, panic attack, post-traumatic stress disorder, adjustment disorder, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, mental health emergency, and pandemic induced psychological issues.

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ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

OCTOBER

INDIAN ECONOMY TO SLIP BY 10.3% - IMF



The World Economic Outlook Report released by the International Monetary Fund says that the Indian economy, severely hit by the corona virus pandemic, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year (2020) as against a growth of 4.2 percent in the previous year (2019). However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy.

GDP SET TO SHRINK BY 9.6% - WORLD BANK

The World Bank reported that India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the country's economic situation is "much worse" than ever seen before. The World Bank said that the spread of the corona virus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India.

CPI-IW BASE YEAR CHANGED TO 2016

Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar released the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) with the new Base Year 2016. The CPI-IW is used primarily for measuring Dearness Allowance payable to workers in the organized sector including Public Sector Undertakings, Banks and Insurance companies besides government employees. Earlier the base year for the CPI-IW was 2001.

INDIA TO BEGIN HEENG CULTIVATION

For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferula assafoetida) has been started in Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. Currently, Heeng is not produced in India and is imported from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan. CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology has introduced six accessions of heeng from Iran through the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

Heeng is a perennial plant that can be grown in cold desert regions. Its roots produce oleo-gum resin after five years of plantation. The resin is used as a strong flavouring agent in various Indian recipes.

NTPC 'BEST EMPLOYER' IN INDIA

State-run power giant NTPC topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes. The recognition is testimony to the NTPC's commitment towards inculcating best in class practices that are thoughtfully designed and robustly executed. NTPC is one of the eight Maharatna companies of India.

AMAZON TIES UP WITH IRCTC FOR TICKETS

E commerce major Amazon India has collaborated with IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site. The ability will allow users to book train tickets with convenience, much like flight, bus tickets and more can be booked. Users won't be required to pay any additional service charge or payment gateway fees.

With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has banned imports of air conditioners with refrigerants.

SEPTEMBER

GDP DOWN BY MASSIVE 23.9%

The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on August 31 showed that the Indian economy contracted by massive 23.9 per cent in the April to June quarter (Q1 FY21) as COVID-19 pandemic compressed consumer demand and private investments.

"The GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 26.9 lakh crore as against Rs 35.35 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 23.9 percent as compared to 5.2 per cent growth in Q1 2019-20," said the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in a statement. India was in a recession last in 1979 when the real GDP fell 5.2 percent.

The manufacturing sector contracted 39.3 percent from a growth of 3 percent last year, while the mining sector shrank by 23.3 percent from a growth of 4.7 percent last year, reflecting the collective shuttering of operations forced by lockdowns.

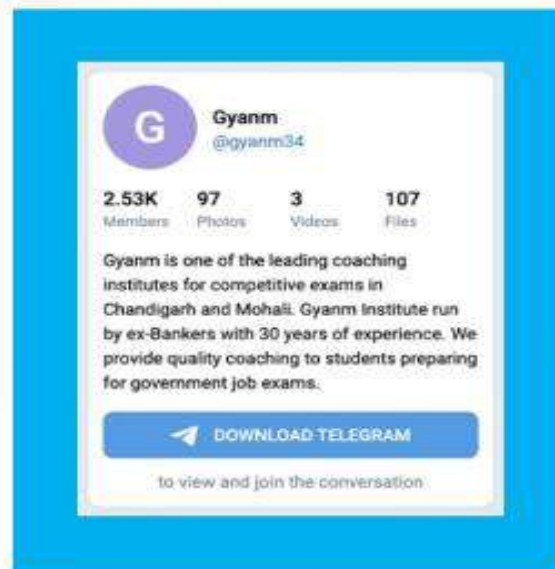
The only saving grace was a 3.5 per cent growth in the agriculture sector.





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MSP HIKED FOR RABI CROPS



The Union Government announced an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops. The decision was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, in his statement made in the Lok Sabha informed that the hike in nMSPs is in consonance with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission's report.

Crops	2019-20	2020-21	Hike (%)
Lentil	4800	5100	6.3
Mustard	4425	4650	5.1
Barley	1525	1600	4.9
Gram	4875	5100	4.6
Wheat	1925	1975	2.6
Safflower	5215	5327	2.1

INDIAN ECONOMY TO SLIP BY 5.9% - UNCTAD

The Trade and Development Report 2020 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states that impacted by disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, India's economy is forecast to contract by 5.9 per cent in 2020, though the growth will rebound next year. It further said that the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output short by over \$ 6 trillion by year's end.

ADB PROJECTS 9% SLIP FOR INDIA'S GDP

Manila based Asian Development Bank in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020 update, projected that India's economic growth will contract by 9 per cent in the current fiscal (2020-21) as the coronavirus pandemic weighs heavily on economic activity and consumer sentiment in the country. At the same time, it projected a strong recovery for the Indian economy in 2021-22, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 8 per cent as mobility and business activities resume more widely.

INDIAN ECONOMY TO SHRINK BY 9% : S&P

S & P Global Ratings, USA slashed its FY 2020-21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9%, from (-) 5% estimated earlier, saying that rising Covid cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer. It said risks to the growth outlook include a weaker recovery in informal sectors of the economy and deeper economic losses for micro and small enterprises. However, for 2021-22 fiscal, it expects economic growth to be at 10 percent.

FDI IN DEFENCE RAISED TO 74%

The Union Cabinet on Sep 8 approved a new policy for raising the cap of foreign direct investment (FDI) through automatic approval in the defence sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent, with a 'National Security' clause as a condition. The new condition proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says "Foreign investment in the Defence Sector shall be subject to scrutiny on ground of National Security and the Government reserves the right to review any foreign investment in the Defence Sector that may affect national security".

The government has been focusing on the defence sector to act as an engine for boosting manufacturing in the country, and is aiming to achieve a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, including exports worth Rs 35,000 crore, by 2025. As of last year, the defence industry, along with the aerospace and shipbuilding industry, was estimated to be worth Rs 80,000 crore, of which the share of PSUs was nearly 80%, or Rs 63,000 crore.

BROAD GAUGE TO BE ELECTRIFIED BY 2023

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal stated that Railways has planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. Around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. Remaining 23,765 route kilometre lines will be electrified by 2023.



PGCIL GOES FOR ASSET MONETISATION



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) through infrastructure investment trust which would help the firm garner Rs 7,000 crore in the first lot. This is for the first time that any PSU in the power sector will undertake asset recycling by monetising its assets through the InvIT (investment trust) model.

The proceeds from the asset monetisation would be deployed by POWERGRID in their new and under-construction projects. The PGCIL, a public limited company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, is engaged in the business of power transmission.

NEW RIVER ROUTE FOR BANGLADESH

The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura started on Sep 3 through river Gumti. The MV Premier sailed from Daudkandi with 50 metric tonne of cement cargo for Sonamura in Tripura, covering a distance of 93 kilometers.

The route will connect Tripura with Bangladesh using the inland waterways for the first time. The new route will greatly enhance connectivity between Bangladesh and the North Eastern states of India boosting bilateral trade with Bangladesh.

RELIANCE FIRST TO CROSS \$200 BILLION MARK



Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd closed over 7 per cent higher on Sep 10, helping its market valuation cross the USD 200 billion mark and become the first domestic company to achieve that milestone. The company's market capitalisation rose by Rs 97,246.46 crore to Rs 14,67,350.26 crore from Rs 13,70,103.80 crore in the previous trade. The share price of the country's most valuable firm rose by 7.10 per cent to close at Rs 2,314.65 on the BSE.

RELIANCE ACQUIRES BIG BAZAAR CHAIN

Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar) businesses for Rs 24,713 crore to add to its fast expanding retail business and bolster e-commerce to take on the competition from Amazon.com. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd., subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd will acquire the retail and wholesale business and the logistics and warehousing business from the Future Group.

VODAFONE +IDEA = 'VI'

Popular telecom brands Vodafone and Idea rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'. The integration of Vodafone and Idea marks the culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world. The new brand is aimed at effectively facing the competition offered by rivals Jio and Airtel. Vodafone and Idea had merged together as one entity two years ago on August 31, 2018.



BANKING & FINANCE

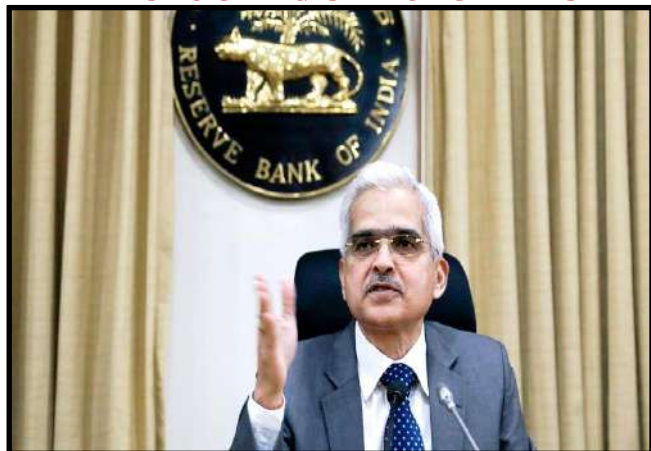
OCTOBER

INTT. ON INTT. WAIVED FOR SMALL LOANS

The government announced on October 23 waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs. 2 crore irrespective of whether moratorium was availed or not. Earlier, the Supreme Court has directed the Centre on October 14 to implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to Rs 2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the COVID-19 pandemic saying the common man's Diwali is in the government's hands.

As per the guidelines, the scheme can be availed by borrowers in specified loan accounts for a period from March 1 to August 31, 2020. Housing loans, education loans, credit card dues, auto loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans and consumption loans are covered under the scheme. The lending institutions after crediting the amount will claim the reimbursement from the central government.

RBI MAKES NO CHANGES IN POLICY RATES



The six member Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI decided on Oct 9 to keep benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 percent, maintaining status quo for the second time in a row. Accordingly, MSF Rate, Bank Rate & Repo Rates remain unchanged. However, it maintained an accommodative stance, implying more rate cuts in the future if the need arises to support the economy hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

RBI GETS ITS FOURTH DEPUTY GOVERNOR

M Rajeshwar Rao, RBI's senior-most executive director has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the central bank. He will take the place of N S Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds.

According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank needs to have four Deputy Governors – two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and another an economist/financial expert to head the monetary policy department. The RBI's other three Deputy Governors are BP Kanungo, MK Jain and Michael Debabrata Patra. They have tenure of five years.

6 PSBs REMOVED FROM THE 2nd SCHEDULE

The RBI has excluded six public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934. The six banks are Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank. These six banks were merged with other public sector banks (PSBs) with effect from April 1, 2020.

OBC and United Bank of India merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India; and Allahabad Bank into Indian Bank. After the consolidation, there are now seven large PSBs, and five smaller ones.

A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank', becoming eligible to borrow funds from the RBI.

RBI's NEW GUIDELINES FOR DR/CR CARDS

In an attempt to make digital payments using debit cards and credit cards more secure, the RBI issued several new guidelines that came into effect from October 1, 2020. As per new rules, people will now be able to register for preferences such as opt-in or opt-out services, spend limits and other services for online transactions, international transactions and contactless transactions. Users will have 24x7 access to switch ON/OFF or change all transaction limits via all available channels — mobile application / internet banking / ATMs / Interactive Voice Response (IVR).

RBI LAUNCHES "POSITIVE PAY SYSTEM"

The Reserve Bank has introduced a safer "Positive Pay System" for cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees to prevent cases of fraud. The system will be developed by the National Payments Corporation of India and will be implemented from January 1, 2021.

Customers will now have to furnish details of cheques like name of the beneficiary, amount and date to the drawee bank through available means, SMS, internet banking or ATM and mobile app.

This will be applicable if the amount of the cheque is above Rs 50,000. The furnished details will be re-confirmed by the bank for completing the transaction successfully. However, the process will take place only if the customer opts for it.

RBI DEFERS CCB & NSFR TO APRIL 1, 2021

The Reserve Bank of India deferred implementation of provisions made under Basel III capital due to uncertainty related to Covid crisis. RBI deferred the final tranche of the capital conservation buffer (CCB) and the implementation of net stable funding ratio (NSFR) by six months to April 1, 2021.

The CCB is designed to ensure that banks build up capital buffers during normal times which can be drawn in case of need during stressed periods. The NSFR ensures reduction in funding risk over a longer time horizon by requiring banks to fund their activities with sufficiently stable sources of funding.

FX LEVELS CROSS ALL TIME HIGH OF \$ 555 BN

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by 3.6 billion dollars to touch a fresh lifetime high of 555.12 billion dollars in the week ended 16th October.

Foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves, increased by 3.5 billion dollars to 512.322 billion dollars while Gold reserves went up by 86 million dollars in the reporting week to reach 36.7 billion dollars.



IDBI BANK LAUNCHES WHATSAPP BANKING



IDBI Bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp. The WhatsApp Banking service is being offered through a dedicated WhatsApp verified number ensuring end-to-end encryption. The facility will enable IDBI Bank customers to avail various essential services such as account balance information, last five transactions, request for a cheque book and an email statement, etc.

A commemorative coin of 75 rupees denomination was released to mark the 75th Anniversary of the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy.

The FAO was founded as a special UN agency on October 16, 1945 in Quebec City in Canada.

A commemorative 100 rupee coin was released in the honour of VijayaRajeScindia on her 100th birth anniversary. One of the founder members of BJP, she is also popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior.

RBI has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign. The campaign aims to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters.

SEPTEMBER

BANKING AMENDMENT BILL PASSED BY LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 16 to replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated on 26th June this year. The bill seeks to bring parity in terms of rules and regulations in co-operative banks as applicable in other commercial banks. The bill enables the RBI to make a scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation of co-operative banks to secure their proper management, and in the interest of depositors.

BANKS TO AUTOMATE NPA OPERATIONS

The Reserve Bank of India has mandated banks to fully automate NPA classification and provisioning calculation process. Under this, all borrower accounts will be covered. The process has to be completed by June 30, 2021. RBI expects Banks to ensure that the asset classification status is updated as part of the day-end process. Further, banks should not resort to manual intervention-based asset classification processes.

Currently, Banks are still found to be resorting to manual identification of NPAs and also overriding the system-generated asset classification by manual intervention in a routine manner, in an attempt to show lesser NPAs.

PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING NORMS REVISED

Reserve Bank of India has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines aimed at addressing regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit. Under the new guidelines bank finance to start-ups up to 50 crore rupees, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed BioGas plants have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.

Priority sector loans refer to loans that banks need to lend mandatorily to agriculture, small business, housing and economically weaker sections of the society. As per the RBI guidelines, all commercial banks are required to lend not less than 40 percent of their loans to the priority sector. Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend 70 percent of their total lendings to the priority sector.

BANKS TO HAVE UNIFORM COMPLIANCE PRACTICES

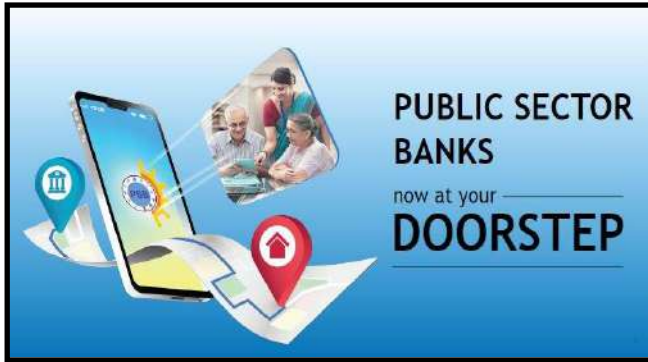
The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines to enforce uniform compliance practices across banks. Among the requirements laid down by the central bank are a board-approved compliance policy, appointment of a chief compliance officer (CCO) and internal audit of the compliance function. As part of a robust compliance system, banks are required to have an effective compliance culture, an independent corporate compliance function and a strong compliance risk management programme at the bank and group levels.

C'TEE TO REVIEW RELIEF TO BORROWERS



Government has constituted a three member expert committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The committee will assess the impact of waiving of interest and COVID-19 related moratorium on the national economy and financial stability. The committee has been formed to respond to various issues that have been raised during the ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court in the matter regarding relief sought in terms of waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest and other related issues.

BANKS TO START 'DOORSTEP BANKING'



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sep 9 inaugurated the Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks. Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App.

The services shall be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 cities across the country.

At present only non-financial services like pick up of negotiable instruments, new cheque book requisition slip, 15G / 15H forms, IT / GST challan, issue request for standing instructions, request for account statement are available to customers. Financial services shall be made available from next month at a nominal charge.

ADITYA BIRLA IDEA PAYMENTS BANK

Reserve Bank of India has ceased the banking operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank under Banking Regulations Act 1949 with effect from July 28, 2020. The bank had already applied for its winding up (closing) operations in July last year due to its economically non viable operations. The bank was started in February, 2018 in which Aditya Birla Nuvo held 51 per cent stake and Idea Cellular held 49 per cent stake. RBI had issued licenses to 11 firms in August 2015 for starting the Payment Banks.

SPECIAL BANK ACCOUNT FOR STARTUPS



ICICI Bank launched a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs such as regulatory assistance, analytics, staffing, accounting, customer acquisition and digital outreach to

customers, among others. Named 'iStartup2.0', it will be in the form of a Current Account. New businesses (up to 10 years old) can opt for this Current Account. It offers significant convenience to founders/entrepreneurs as it saves time and efforts since they don't have to fill details again to apply for an account.

SBI TIES UP WITH TITAN PAY

Country's top lender State Bank of India (SBI) and Titan Watch Company have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'. With this launch, SBI account holders will have to download YONO app of SBI and then can tap their Titan Pay watch on contactless payment point-of-sale (POS) machines without the need of swiping or inserting their debit card to enjoy a faster, hassle-free, contactless payment mechanism.

BOI LAUNCHES CONTACTLESS CARD

Bank of India, on the occasion of its 115th Foundation Day, launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above. This card will have a spending limit of up to Rs.5 lakhs on PoS and e-commerce and Rs. 1 lakh on ATM.

EASE BANKING REFORMS INDEX AWARDS

Indian Banks Association (IBA) announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks. Bank of Baroda secured the first spot while State Bank of India and formerly Oriental Bank of Commerce, got the 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

The EASE stands for 'Enhanced Access and Service Excellence'. The EASE Banking Reforms Index is prepared by the IBA and Boston Consulting Group. It is commissioned by the Finance Ministry. The aim of this index is to bring fruitful change in the PSBs by bringing in healthy competition among these PSBs and by encouraging them to learn from each other.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OCTOBER

INS KAVARATTI JOINS INDIAN NAVY

The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes INS Kavaratti was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard

in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The ship has been made under Project 28 (Kamorta class) by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Kavaratti is the capital of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in India.



SANT MISSILE TESTED SUCCESSFULLY



India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) near Chandipur, off Odisha coast. The missile was test-fired from a roof-top launcher of the ground-based platform. It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa). Developed by DRDO, the missile can destroy targets 15 to 20 km away.

ATGM NAG TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

India successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation anti-tank guided missile -- Nag -- on October 21 at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan. The missile will be inducted soon in the Army. Nag has been developed by the DRDO to engage heavily armoured enemy tanks in day and night conditions.

RUDRAM-1: FIRST ANTI-RADIATION MISSILE

The DRDO successfully test-fired Rudram-1, India's first indigenously developed new generation anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. It can destroy a wide variety of enemy radars, air defence systems and communication networks within a range of up to 250 kilometers. The missile has a speed of Mach two or twice the speed of sound.

HYPERSONIC BALLASTIC MISSILE 'SHAURYA'

India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile 'Shaurya' with a strike range of around 1,000 km from a test range in Odisha. Shaurya, land variant of India's K-15 missile, is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg.

NAVAL VERSION OF BRAHMOS TESTED

DRDO and Indian Navy successfully test fired BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea. The missile hit the target successfully with pin-point accuracy after performing high-level and extremely complex maneuvers.

BRAHMOS WITH INDIGENOUS INFRA SUPPORT

DRDO successfully tested a version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile fitted with a homemade booster, airframe and other components for a strike range of 400 kms from the Integrated Test Range, near Balasore, Odisha. Developed by the BrahMos Aerospace Ltd, New Delhi, a joint venture between India and Russia, the missile flew at a speed of more than mach 2.9 to hit its target. Due to its high speed, the missile is capable of its non-interception by any known weapon system in the world.

OPV 'VIGRAHA' DELIVERED TO COAST GUARD

The Offshore Patrol Vessel "Vigraha" built by the Larsen and Toubro was handed over to the Indian Coast Guard at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The vessel is expected to be inducted into the Coast Guard after completion of extensive trials and testing for the equipment and machinery by March 2021. The 98 meter long ship can carry two helicopters and has a range of 5,000 nautical miles.

IAF CREATES WORLD RECORD IN SKYDIVING

The Indian Air Force on its 88th anniversary on October 8, created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at the Khardung La, near Leh, touching down at an altitude of 17,982 feet. Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava and Warrant Officer AK Tiwari carried out the successful skydiving jump from a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft. The landing at such an altitude is extremely challenging due to low oxygen levels combined with low air density and rough and inhospitable mountainous terrain.

"SAGAR KAVACH" FOR COASTAL SECURITY

A two-day Coastal Security Exercise- 'Sagar Kavach'- was conducted on October 8-9 in the Arabian Sea alongside the western coast to assess the preparedness of all agencies, naval and civil, towards dealing with an asymmetric threat emanating from the sea.

Sagar Kavach is a half yearly exercise with an objective to check Coastal Security mechanism and validate Standard Operating Procedures of the coastal security.



INDO-BANGLA NAVAL EXERCISE HELD



The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise – ‘Bongsagar-2’ was held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5. The Exercise is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.

ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, was inducted in the Indian Coast Guard on October 1 at Kolkata.

FPVs are medium-range surface vessels designed to perform multipurpose operations like patrolling, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and rescue operations.

DEFENCE INDIA STARTUP CHALLENGE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) during the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) event, featuring the initiatives aimed at expanding the horizons of iDEX ecosystem. Mr Singh also launched the iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA) guidelines during the event.

iDEX4Fauji is a first of its kind initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers and field formations.

SLINEX-20: The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies took place off Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October.

DRDO successfully flight tested the “Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo”, SMART on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES HYPERSONIC MISSILE

Russia successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon (Zircon) in the waters of northwestern Russia. The missile has a hypersonic speed of more than Mach 8 (over 9800 kmph) and a range of upto 1,000 km.

ULTRA LOW COST CORONA TEST DEVELOPED

‘COVIRAP,’ the diagnostic technology developed by researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, (West Bengal) has been successfully validated for its efficacy in COVID-19 detection by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The new testing method implements a highly reliable and accurate molecular diagnostic procedure that can be conducted in an ultra-low-cost portable device unit and give results within one hour.

SEPTEMBER

INDIA TESTED HYPERSONIC FLIGHT

In a historic mission, India successfully flight tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) missile technology on Sep 7 from the Abdul Kalam Island near Balasore, Odisha. This is a giant leap by DRDO in indigenous defence technologies demonstrating capabilities for highly complex technology that will serve as the building block for Next Gen Hypersonic vehicles in partnership with industry.



The HSTDV powers cruise missiles and operates on scramjet engines that can attain the speed of around Mach 6, which is far more advanced than ramjet engines that are used currently. Mach 1 is the speed of sound, about 1225 kmph; thus Mach 6 speed is about 7350 kmph. Only three other countries, the USA, Russia and China have this super advanced technology.

DRDO TESTS HEAT VEHICLE ABHYAS

India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicles from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore (Odisha). This can be used as a target for evaluation of various Missile systems.

The trial was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. ABHYAS has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the DRDO.

WOMEN OFFICERS IN NAVY'S HELICOPTER TEAM



In a first, two women officers, Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh, have been selected to join as 'Observers' (Airborne Tacticians) in the Indian Navy's helicopter stream that would ultimately pave the way for women being posted in frontline warships.

DEAL WITH RUSSIA FOR AK-47/203 RIFLES

India finalised a deal with Russia to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India. Currently, Indian Army needs around 770,000 AK-47 203 rifles. Of this, one lakh rifles will be imported from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India. The AK-47 203 Rifle of 7.62×39 mm will be manufactured at Korwa Ordnance Factory in Uttar Pradesh.

JIMEX 2020: The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in the North Arabian Sea from Sep26 to 29. The exercise is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

PASSEX: Navies of India and Australia conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24. The exercise involved a range of anti-aircraft drills, complex naval maneuvers, and helicopter operations.

Indra Navy: The Indian and Russian navies conducted a two-day mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal on Sep 4-5. The exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between the two navies.



Kavkaz-2020: In view of Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics, India has decided not to send a contingent this year to Kavkaz-2020 to be

hosted by Russia from 15th to 26th September.

WORLD'S LARGEST SOLAR TREE IN DURGAPUR

The CSIR-CMERI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute) has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in Durgapur, West Bengal.

The solar tree has an installed capacity above 11.5 kWp with 35 Solar PV Panels in each tree with a capacity of 330 wp each. The annual capacity of the solar tree will include generating about 12,000-14,000 units of clean and green power. Each solar tree is capable of saving 10-12 tons of CO2 emissions being released into the atmosphere as Greenhouse Gases when compared with fossil fuel-fired energy generation.

INDIA DISCOVERS FARTHEST STAR GALAXY

In a landmark achievement, Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe. The discovery was made by India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' which detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.



Astrosat is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope satellite. It was launched on a PSLV-XL rocket on 28 September 2015. With the success of this satellite, ISRO has proposed launching AstroSat-2 as a successor for Astrosat.

SPACEX LAUNCHES 60 STARLINK SATELLITES

Elon Musk-run SpaceX successfully sent 60 Starlink satellites into orbit aboard a Falcon 9 rocket launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. SpaceX has so far delivered more than 700 of its internet-beaming satellites into space.

Starlink is an ambitious project of SpaceX to launch and operate its own network of broadband satellites, which will provide low-cost Internet to remote locations on a global level, particularly in places where installation of towers is not possible.

CHINA LAUNCHED 9 SATELLITES FROM SHIP

China successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of a rocket from a platform at sea. The satellites were deployed by a Long March 11 rocket from a ship in the Yellow Sea.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OCTOBER

ANDORRA JOINS IMF AS 190TH MEMBER



The Principality of Andorra joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 16 as its 190th member. Andorra's initial quota in the IMF is SDR 82.5million (about US\$ 116.4 million). Andorra is a micro nation, spread over 469 km, sandwiched between France in the north and Spain in the south.

SINGAPORE LAUNCHES FACIAL RECOGNITION

Singapore has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition. The new technology allows users to access securely to government websites, as well as online services on private websites. The function is designed to work via home computers, tablets and cell phones, as well as at public kiosks. Facial recognition is also increasingly being used to access other online services, such as banking.

WORLD ECONOMY TO SHRINK BY 4.4% - IMF



In its latest World Economic Outlook report, the International Monetary Fund has predicted a deep global recession this year (2020) and the world economic growth to shrink by 4.4 per cent, asserting that the global economic crisis is far from over

mainly due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. According to the report, in 2021, growth is projected to rebound to 5.2 per cent. Gita Gopinath, the Chief Economist of the IMF, said "the poor are getting poorer with close to 90 million people expected to fall into extreme deprivation this year".

WORLD TRADE TO FALL BY 9.2% - WTO

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has projected a fall of 9.2 per cent in goods trade volume in 2020. It is much less than the 12.9 percent decline it had predicted in April. The growth projection for 2021, however, is lower at 7.2 per cent compared to 21.3 percent predicted in April. The WTO lowered the projections as strong trade performances in June and July have brought some signs of optimism for overall trade growth in 2020.

RUSSIA TO CHAIR 12th BRICS SUMMIT

The 12th BRICS Summit will be held on 17th November 2020 via video conferencing. The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". The Summit this year is being held under the Chairmanship of Russia and aims at a multifaceted cooperation between the member countries.

SEPTEMBER

SINGAPORE TOPS THE SMART CITY INDEX



The Institute for Management Development (IMD), in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), released the 2020 Smart City Index. Singapore topped the Index, followed by Helsinki and Zurich in the second and the third place respectively. The index describes 'smart city' as an urban setting that applies technology to enhance the benefits and diminish the shortcomings of urbanization. It ranked 109 cities worldwide by capturing perceptions of randomly chosen 120 residents in each city.

G-20 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET HELD

The meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al-Saud on September 03 in virtual mode. The deliberations focussed on strengthening international cooperation across borders in the wake of COVID-19 crisis. Saudi Arabia is the current chairperson of the G-20 Group for the year 2020. External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India in the meet.



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BAHRAIN GETS FRIENDLY WITH ISRAEL



Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation after UAE to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East. The agreement was reached between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

MEXICO TO ISSUE SDG SOVEREIGN BONDS

Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond, an important step forward in the country's commitment to the achievement of the SDGs.

Mexico issued seven-year SDG Bonds under its new "SDG Sovereign Bond Framework" for a total value of \$ 890 million in collaboration with investment bank Natixis, of France. These funds will be transferred from private funds to finance SDG-oriented programs.

UNO had framed 17 SDGs in 2015 for various fields of human development such as health, education, gender equality, climate change, etc., that are to be achieved by 2030 by the member countries.

UNICEF TO PROCURE COVID-19 VACCINE

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine in order to ensure that all the countries have safe, equitable, and fast access to the initial doses when they are available. This will possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind. UNICEF is the world's largest single buyer of vaccines for diseases like polio and measles and procures over 2 billion doses on behalf of nearly 100 countries each year.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD IS THE BEST

The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed University of Oxford, UK at the top in the overall category. All top 10 institutions in THE (Times Higher Education) World University rankings 2021 are from USA and UK. Indian Institute of Science, or IISc, Bengaluru, has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.

A total of 1527 institutions from 93 countries were assessed by THE on five parameters: Teaching (30%), Research (30%), Citations (30%), Industry Income (2.5%) and International Outlook (7.5%).

AUSTRALIA SLIPS INTO RECESSION

Australia's economy suffered its sharpest economic contraction since the Great Depression due to the pandemic, with data released recently confirming the country is in its first recession in 28 years. The economy shrank 7% in the April-June quarter, the biggest contraction since records began in 1959. Previous quarter also ended with a 0.3 percent fall.

This year, the country was hit hard twice. First, when the bushfires ravaged through more than 12 million hectares, from September 2019 until March 2020, tourism was bashed and thousands of small businesses lost months of essential seasonal revenue. Second, when the coronavirus became a global pandemic, stopping tourists inflow.

An economy is considered to be in recession if it sees two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

JAPAN PM ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, announced his resignation citing poor health as reason, ending a stint at the helm of the world's third-biggest economy in which he sought to revive growth and bolster its defence.

65 years old Abe has been battling the ulcerative colitis (an inflammatory bowel disease) for years and two recent hospital visits within a week had fanned questions on his stay in the job until the end of his term as Prime Minister in September 2021.

The conservative Abe returned as prime minister for a rare second term in December 2012, pledging to revive growth with his "Abenomics" mix of hyper-easy monetary policy, fiscal spending and reforms.

PERSONS IN NEWS

OCT – SEPT.

Ayushmann Khurrana: Popular bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine. He has become the only Indian actor to appear in the list this year. He shares his honour with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who is also included in the list.



Fortune 40 Under 40



Reliance Jio Board Directors Isha Ambani and Akash Ambani, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Byju Raveendran, co-founder of India's leading education technology company Byju's, are among the "emerging leaders" from across the world named by Fortune in its annual list of influential people under the age of 40.

The 2020 Fortune 40 under 40 list highlights 40 influential people each in five categories (total 200) of finance, technology, healthcare, government and politics, and media and entertainment from around the world.

Khushi Chindaliya: A 17-year-old girl from Gujarat's Surat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme – Tunza Eco-Generation. This achievement was made possible because of her passion for environmental conservation and determination to spread awareness about safeguarding it.

APPOINTMENTS

OCTOBER

Shekhar Kapur: Noted Filmmaker has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune and Chairman of Governing Council of FTII.



Dr P. D. Vaghela: Appointed as the Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India- TRAI. He is a senior IAS officer of 1986 batch from Gujarat cadre.

Rajkiran Rai G: Union Bank of India's MD and CEO has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21.

M A Ganapathy: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of a senior IPS officer as the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, New Delhi. The Bureau is attached to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is the regulatory authority for civil aviation security in India.

Wavel Ramkalawan: Elected as the President of Seychelles. Indian-origin opposition candidate, whose great grandfather was an indentured labourer from Bihar, has won Seychelles' presidential election with a solid majority.

His victory marks the first time that the ruling United Seychelles party has been swept out of power since the nation became independent in 1977.

Alpha Conde: Elected as the President of Guinea for a third term. Guinea is located in western Africa.

Saad al-Hariri: The Sunni Muslim politician of Lebanon appointed as the Prime Minister of the country by the President Michel Aoun.

Jacinda Ardern: The Labour party headed by Jacinda won a landslide victory in the New Zealand's general election, to elect her as the Prime Minister for the second consecutive three-year term.

Bisher Al-Khasawneh: Appointed as the Prime Minister of the country by Jordan's King Abdullah.

Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah: Sworn in as the ruling Emir of the tiny oil-rich country Kuwait, after the death of his ruling half brother Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Moctar Ouane: Former Foreign Minister of Mali has been appointed as new prime minister of Mali.

SEPTEMBER

Harivansh Narayan Singh: The JDU MP has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Paresh Rawal: Former Lok Sabha MP and famous Bollywood actor, appointed as the new Chairman of National School of Drama, New Delhi by the President of India, for a period of four years.

The 65 year old actor is a veteran of Gujarati Theater also. The NSD, a premier national institute of theatre, is an autonomous body set up under the Ministry of Culture.

S Krishnan: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment as the Managing Director and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.

Vinod Kumar Yadav: Appointed as the Chairman cum CEO of the Railway Board by the Cabinet Appointment Panel

Dinesh Kumar Khara: The Banks Board Bureau recommended SBI's senior-most managing director as the next chairman of the State Bank of India. Khara will replace SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term comes to an end on October 7.

Ayushmann Khurrana: UNICEF India has selected Bollywood actor as its famous advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child". Khurrana will support UNICEF to end violence against children and work on this initiative in India.

Yoshihide Suga: The 71 year old senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was elected as Japan's new Prime Minister by the powerful House of Representatives on September 16. He was Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japanese government. He replaced long-serving Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who resigned unexpectedly in August 2020 due to health problems.

Mustapha Adib: Lebanon's ambassador to Germany since 2013 was appointed Prime Minister of Lebanon. His appointment was confirmed by the President Michel Aoun, after he won 90 votes in the 128-member Parliament.

Mohamed Hussein Roble: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of the East African country Somalia.

Alexander Lukashenko: Sworn in as the President of Belarus, for a record sixth term.

AWARDS & HONOURS

OCTOBER

NOBEL PRIZES FOR 2020

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Awarded jointly to Harvey J. Alter, USA Michael Houghton, Britain and Charles M. Rice, USA "for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus". All three will share the Swedish Kroner 10 million (around Rs. 8.24 crore) prize equally. Hepatitis C causes approximately 400,000 deaths every year. Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available to check the incidence post-transfusion hepatitis. This prize is decided by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

Nobel Prize in Physics: Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and US scientist Ms. Andrea Ghez won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics for their discoveries about one of the most exotic phenomena in the universe, the black hole. Penrose will receive 50 percent of the prize money and balance 50 percent will be shared by Genzel and Ghez. The award is given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry: Awarded to Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA) for the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors in 2012. Using these, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision. These genetic scissors have taken the life sciences into a new epoch and, in many ways, are bringing the greatest benefit to humankind. The award is given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.

Nobel Prize for Literature: Awarded to American poet Louise Glück. A professor at Yale University, USA, Glück made her debut in 1968 with her collection titled 'Firstborn'. She is seen as one of the most prominent poets and essayists in American contemporary literature. The prize is decided by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm.

Nobel Peace Prize: Awarded to the United Nations' World Food Programme for its efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity in regions of conflict and hardship around the globe. The Rome-based organisation provided assistance to almost 100 million people in 88 countries around the world last year. The prize is decided by the five member high powered committee of the Parliament of Norway.

Nobel Economics Prize: US economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the coveted honour for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats. Both the Professors of the Stanford University, USA will share the prize amount of 10 million SEK, equally. They were selected by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The Economics Nobel is not one of the original five awards created in the 1895 will of Alfred Nobel, but was established later in his honour by Riksbank, Sweden's central bank and first awarded in 1969.

Sakharov Prize 2020: The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line regime. The prize carries a cash award of Euro 50,000.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award-2020: Aishwarya Sridhar, a Mumbai based young photographer became the first Indian woman to win this most prestigious award of wildlife photography, given by the Natural History Museum of Britain.

2020 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA selected for this award for his outstanding work on high dimensional expanders in combinatorial and geometric topology and on Golden Gates for 3-D unitary groups. SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is given annually for outstanding contributions by individuals of age less than 32 years in mathematics. It is given by the SASTRA University, Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu) in the honour of the great Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan who died at the age of 32.



"Earthshot Prize" to save environment

The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William of Britain) has announced "Earthshot Prize - the most prestigious global environment prize in history", which aims to find solutions to repair the planet by 2030. Five £1million prizes will be awarded each year for the next 10 years, aiming to provide at least 50 solutions to some of the world's top environmental problems. In all, £50 million will be awarded over 10 years through this prize. The prize is supported by a global alliance of partnerships.

Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing: Kerala Tourism's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' bagged this prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award at a presentation ceremony of Virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020 in Beijing.

SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award: Bollywood actor, Sonu Sood has been conferred this prestigious award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending lakhs of migrants, stranded students, back to their homes.

Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize - 2020: The names of 14 scientists were announced for the country's highest science award on the foundation day of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on Sep 26. The prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields—Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics.

SEPTEMBER

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019: Conferred upon David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian, by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. BBC Broadcaster has been given the prize for revealing the wonders of the natural world and for his contribution through books and films to awaken humankind to protect and preserve the biodiversity on our planet. The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 2.5 million and a citation.

Kerala won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals. The UN Interagency Task Force 2020 award on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was announced by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO.

Aditya Puri: Managing Director of HDFC Bank, has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020 for his skills in building a world-class bank in India at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence. Euromoney is a leading global financial magazine based in London, UK. These awards were instituted in 1992.

International Booker Prize 2020: Dutch Author, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won the prestigious award for her debut novel 'The Discomfort of Evening'. Rijneveld became the youngest author to win the prize at the age of 29. The book tells the fictional story of Jas, a girl in a devout Christian farming family, whose brother dies in an accident after she wishes he would die instead of her rabbit.

The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

OCTOBER

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V.E. Schwab

Smoke and Mirrors by Neil Gaiman

Leave the World Behind by Rumaan Alam

Magic Lessons by Alice Hoffman

On The Trail of Buddha: A Journey To The East by Deepankar Aron, senior IRS officer

The Battle of Belonging by Shashi Tharoor, former union minister and senior Congress leader and MP from Thiruvananthapuram

Khalistan Conspiracy by GBS Sidhu

Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside by N K Singh, renowned politician and economist, Chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission

SEPTEMBER

One by One by Ruth Ware

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi

Anxious People by Fredrick Backman

Kitchens of Gratitude by Chef Vikas Khanna

Voices of Dissent by Romila Thapar, noted historian

Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction by Arundhati Roy

My Life In Design a coffee table book by Gauri Khan (w/o Shah Rukh Khan)

Sansadmein Himalaya by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Education Minister

The Big Thoughts of Little Luv by Karan Johar

Gunning for the Godman by Ajay Pal Lamba and Sanjeev Mathur

The Commonwealth of Cricket by Ramachandra Guha

Let us Dream by Pope Francis

The Little Book of Green Nudges by U N Environment Programme; the book aims to inspire the young generation to adopt environmental friendly habits and greener lifestyles

OBITUARY

OCTOBER

Ram Vilas Paswan: Union minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, died on Oct 8 at the age of 74. The LokJanshakti Party founder and a stalwart of the socialist movement, he was instrumental in the implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the 1990s. He was elected to Lok Sabha eight times and also held the record of winning his constituency, Hajipur, with the highest margin for several years.

Jaswant Singh: One of the founding members of BJP, a towering leader of BJP from Rajasthan, breathed his last on Sep 27 after prolonged illness, in Army Hospital, Delhi. The 82 year old former Major of the Army was in coma for the past six years. He served as Minister of Defence, External Affairs and Finance and also Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

One of the longest serving parliamentarians, he was elected to the Lok Sabha four times and to Rajya Sabha five times and served as Leader of Opposition in the Upper House. He authored several books also on Indian polity.

Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia: The 74-year old renowned economist, who also worked extensively on issues related to urbanisation and education, passed away in New Delhi, losing her battle to cancer. She was the better half of former deputy chairperson of the erstwhile Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia. She served as the director and then the chairperson of Delhi-based Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) for 15 years and built ICRIER into a leading global think tank. She was awarded the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2009.

Bhanu Athaiya: India's first Oscar winner costume designer died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness. She was 91. Athaiya won an Oscar for her work in the 1983 epic film "Gandhi". In a career of more than five decades, Athaiya won two National Awards -- for Gulzar's "Lekin" (1990) and the film "Lagaan", a British period story.

Lee Kun-hee: Charismatic leader of Samsung Group, South Korea's biggest conglomerate, died on Oct 25, six months after he was hospitalised for a heart attack. Lee, who was 78, helped grow his father Lee Byung-chull's noodle trading business into a powerhouse, with dozens of affiliates stretching from electronics and insurance to shipbuilding and construction. During his lifetime, Samsung Electronics developed from a second-tier TV maker to the world's biggest technology firm by revenue.

Eddie Van Halen: Considered as one of rock music's greatest guitar players, Eddie lost his battle against cancer at the age of 65 in Los Angeles, USA. He is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time and his band 'Van Halen' was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007. Van Halen sold more than 75 million albums and had more number one hits on the mainstream US rock chart than any other artist.

SEPTEMBER

Pranab Mukherjee: Former President of India passed away on August 31, after testing positive for COVID-19. The 84 year old veteran Congressman had undergone emergency surgery to remove a brain clot on August 10 after testing positive.

He had served as the 13th President of India from 2012 till 2017. His political career spanned nearly five decades. He held several key cabinet portfolios including as Defence Minister from 2004-2006, External Affairs from 2006-2009, and Finance Minister from 2009-2012. He was honoured with India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

SP Balasubrahmanyam: After nearly two months of struggle with Covid-19, the iconic versatile singer, also lovingly called Balu or SPB, lost the battle on Sep 25. With more than 40,000 songs under his belt, his discography runs like a book of records. Believing that every singer is an actor, Balu also played character roles in 45 films. Besides six National Awards, he received honours such as Padma Bhushan.

Dr. Sekhar Basu: Noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson died of Covid-19 in Kolkata. He was 68. A Padma Shri awardee, he pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant. He was the brain behind the design, construction and operation of nuclear recycle plants in Tarapur and Kalpakkam.

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan: A leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history, passed away on September 16 at her Delhi home, at the age of 91. She was honoured with Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship in 1955 and SangeetNatakAkademi Fellowship in 1970.



She was a founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and a former President of India International Centre. She was conferred Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011 for her outstanding contributions in the field of art and culture. She authored over 20 books devoted to the history of art and culture in India.

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh: Veteran Rashtriya Janata Dal -RJD leader and former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) passed away in New Delhi. He was 74. Often called the architect of the MNREGA scheme, which was floated when he was the Union minister for rural development, he represented Vaishali parliamentary constituency in Bihar, a record five times. He also represented Belsand Vidhan Sabha constituency in Bihar five times and held several important positions in Bihar Assembly.

Swami Agnivesh: Veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure. He was 80. He founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked for release of bonded labour. Agnivesh came to Haryana in 1968 to join the Arya Samaj. On March 25, 1970, he took sanyas vows and since then, he had been donning saffron robes of a sanyasi. He also served as president of the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (World Council of Arya Samaj).

Dr. Govind Swarup: Father of India's Radio Astronomy, passed away in Pune. He was 91. He will be remembered for his immense contributions in astronomy and astrophysics and for developing most advanced powerful observational facilities for research in radio astronomy. The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope near Pune was established under his able guidance. He was awarded Padmashree, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, H. K. Firodia award and many other international awards.

Swami Kesavananda Bharati: The 79-year old Swami of the Edneer Mutt, district Kasargod, Kerala died due to age-related ailments. He will always be remembered for the court case he filed in the Supreme Court challenging a Kerala Land Reform Act nearly four decades ago. In one of the most often referred cases on Constitution's supremacy, the Court ruled that the Supreme Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the same can be amended but not its basic structure.

The case of Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala was heard for 68 days, October 31, 1972 to March 23, 1973, and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the top court. The verdict involved 13 judges, the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court. It was pleaded by the legendary jurist Nani Palkhiwala.

Dr S. Padmavati: India's first female and oldest cardiologist died at the age of 103 in National Heart Institute(NHI), Delhi due to COVID-19 infection. She is popularly known as the "GodMother of Cardiology". She is the recipient of Padma Bhushan(1967) and Padma Vibhushan(1992).

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A firebrand senior Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, a diminutive yet towering women's rights champion who became the court's second female justice, died at her home in Washington. She was 87. Ginsburg served for 27 years on the nation's highest court, becoming its most prominent member.

PLACES IN NEWS

OCT. – SEPT.

Storm Sally: The tropical hurricane brought heavy rain and flooding in the Carolinas and Georgia in the US Gulf Coast. It also battered Florida and Alabama with rain and storm surges, downing power lines, turning roads into rivers and leaving homes submerged.

Typhoon Haishen: A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea, after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.

Hurricane Laura: One of the most powerful storms in the country's history struck Louisiana, a south eastern state of the USA. The tropical storm developed from the Gulf of Mexico and left widespread destruction across the state. At least six people were killed in Louisiana.

Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones are the same weather phenomenon: tropical storms with wind velocities of over 120 kmph, rising over Oceans. The name depends upon the location.

In the North Atlantic (eastern coast of USA and Mexico), central and eastern North Pacific (western coast of USA and Canada), the term Hurricane is used. The same type of storm in the Northwest Pacific (Korea, Japan and China) is called a Typhoon. If they occur in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, they are termed Tropical Cyclones.

SPORTS WORLD

OCTOBER

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Indian men's team goalkeeper and women's squad's mid-fielder Sanju Yadav were declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year award, men and women, respectively, for the 2019-20 season.

Neetu David, one of finest women cricketers of India in the late '90s and early 2000, has been appointed as the Chairman of the 5 member women's national selection panel by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a period of four years.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian, 16-year-old Indian shooter won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.

The Odisha Government signed an agreement with the Indian Rugby Football Union to sponsor the Indian national rugby team for the next three years and facilitate high performance training and conditioning of the players.

INTERNATIONAL

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany. With this win, he equaled the all time record of 91 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany. Later, he also achieved his 92nd win at Portuguese Grand Prix, held at Algarve International Circuit, Portugal.

Valtteri Bottas (of Finland) won the Russian Grand Prix at Sochi for the team Mercedes.

Alyssa Healy, Australia women's cricket star surpassed Dhoni's world record of 91 dismissals to take the top position in the list of wicket keepers with most dismissals in T20i. She claimed her 92nd victim in Brisbane, Australia playing against New Zealand.

French Open concludes at Roland Garros, Paris

Rafael Nadal (Spain) defeated Novak Djokovic (Serbia) to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles. For world number one Djokovic, the defeat ended his hopes of an 18th Grand Slam and of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four majors twice.

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek won the Women's singles title. She won her first Grand Slam by beating Sofia Kenin (USA), winner of Australian Open, 2020.

Denmark Open Badminton Tournament: Anders Antonsen of Denmark won the men's singles title while Nozomi Okuhara of Japan clinched the women's singles title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the finals held in Odense, Denmark.

SEPTEMBER

P Iniyan, Indian Grandmaster won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament. He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top. 17 year old Iniyan hails from Erode, Tamil Nadu. A total of 122 participants, including 31 Grandmasters, from 16 countries took part in the tournament.

Sumit Nagal, the 23-year-old player became the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years. He defeated Bradley Klahn of the USA in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament.

India and Russia were declared joint winners of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad after the final was marred by internet disconnection. India has won the FIDE Chess Olympiad for the first time.

Prize money hiked for National Sports Awards

On the occasion of the National Sports Day, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports cheered up the thousands of sports persons of the country by announcing a big increase in the prize money in four of the seven categories of the National Sports and Adventure Awards. Winners of this year will get the revised enhanced amount. The prize money was last reviewed in 2008. The revised prize money is as under:

(Amount in Lakhs)

Sr. No	Name of the Award	Old Amount	New amount
1	Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	7.5	25
2.	Arjuna Award	5	15
3.	Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)	5	15
	Dronacharya award (Regular)	5	10
4.	Dhyan Chand Award	5	10

INTERNATIONAL

Tour de France: Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia won on Sep 20 the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world, securing a prize money of 5,00,000 Euros. 22 year old Tadej became the Tour's youngest champion since 1904. The race has duration of 23 days covering around 3500 kms through plains and mountains in and around France.

Pierre Gasly, a French driver from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy. This was his first Formula One victory.

Lewis Hamilton (Britain) celebrated the 90th win of his Formula One by winning the Tuscan Grand Prix in Mugello, Italy. He also won the Belgian Grand Prix at Stavelot, Belgium for the team Mercedes.

US Open Tennis Grand Slam, New York

Dominic Thiem of Austria won the men's singles title, beating Alexander Zverev of Germany.

Women's singles was won by Japan's Naomi Osaka, defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Italian Open Tennis Tournament, Rome, Italy

World number one, Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won the men's singles title by beating Diego Schwartzman of Argentina.

Women's singles title was won by Simon Halep of Romania as her opponent defending champion Karolína Pliskova of Czech Republic retired midway through the final with an injury.

Armand Duplantis, 20 year old Swedish pole vaulter broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. Duplantis cleared 6 meters, 15 centimeters (20 feet, 2 inches) at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea meet in Rome with his second attempt, besting Bubka's mark of 6.14 meters (20 feet, 1 1/2 inches) set in Sestriere in July 1994.

Cristiano Ronaldo, the 35 year old striker from Portugal became just the second footballer to reach a century of goals for a national team. He achieved the record playing against Sweden in the Nations League. The only other footballer to have crossed 100 international goals is former Iran striker Ali Daei, with 109 goals.

Dwayne Bravo: West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket. He achieved the feat on August 26 by claiming the wicket of Rahkeem Cornwall during one of the Caribbean Premier League matches in Port of Spain.

Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan: The most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history, 42 year old identical twin brothers of America announced their retirement from the sport.

DAYS & DATES

OCTOBER

October 1: International Day of Older Persons

The day provides an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing in today's world. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?"

October 1: World Vegetarian Day

This day aims to highlight the benefits of vegetarianism. The idea is to help create a better world as a vegetarian diet has proven benefits. The vegetarian diet is full of nutrients and proteins which helps in boosting immunity. The Day was first started back in 1977 by the North American Vegetarian Society and it was endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978.

Oct 01: National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

The day intends to highlight the need and importance of safe blood in the life of an individual. It is organised by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) and National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India. Transferring or donating blood or parts of it to the needy has become an integral part of humanity in the modern health care system, particularly in these days of Covid pandemic.

October 02: International Day of Non-violence

Observed to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence or Ahimsa. He had said "Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man". The UN General Assembly in a resolution on 15 June 2007, commemorated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as the International Day of Non-violence.

October 4: World Animal Day

Celebrated every year to raise awareness about the wellness of various species. The day teaches us the importance of caring, protecting, and spreading awareness about animals. It is the feast day of the patron saint of animals, St Francis of Assisi. It was first celebrated in 1925 in Berlin, Germany.

October 5: World Teachers' Day

The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers. The Day reminds us of the critical role teachers play in achieving inclusive, quality education for all. The theme for this year is "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".

October (5) World Habitat Day

Celebrated every year on the first Monday of October to remind all the world citizens of their duty towards shaping the future of cities and towns. The day aims to throw light on the condition of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

World Habitat Day this year looks at the impact of the pandemic on housing in urban areas as many people faced cash crunch during the lockdown and were unable to pay rents. The theme for this year is '*Housing For All: A better Urban Future*' as a proper place to live has become important more than ever amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

October 07: World Cotton Day

The day highlights the advantages of cotton, ranging from its qualities as a natural fiber to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption. It aims to increase preference and demand for cotton and educate key audiences on the benefits and value of cotton. Every year, India produces an average of 5,770 thousand metric tonnes of cotton, making it the world's largest producer of cotton.

October 8: Air Force Day

The day is celebrated to commemorate the raising of Indian Air Force on this day in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom. Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee was the first Indian chief of the Indian Air Force. At present it is headed by Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.



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October (8): World Sight Day

The day is observed on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment. Reduced or absence of eyesight can have major and long-lasting effects on all aspects of life. Around 1 billion people in the world have a preventable vision impairment or one that has yet to be addressed. This year, the theme for the Day is: Hope in Sight.

October 9: World Post Day

Celebrated each year on the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union on this day in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. The day aims to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to social and economic development.

India has the largest postal network of the world having more than 1,55,000 offices. History of formal postal services in India can be traced back to 1774 when Calcutta G.P.O. started under a Postmaster General. The first postal stamp in India was introduced on 1 July 1852.

October (9) World Egg Day

The day is celebrated on the second Friday in October every year to raise awareness about the benefits of eggs and their importance in human nutrition. The day was established at IEC Vienna in 1996 conference. Eggs are one of the foods that are rich in good quality protein. They are also a great source of choline, a nutrient which can help in memory and brain development.

October 10: World Mental Health Day

The day is observed with the support of WHO to raise awareness about the common psychological conditions and remove stigma attached to them. The pandemic this year has made mental health more critical. This year the theme selected for the day is 'Mental Health for All: Greater Investment – Greater Access'. The theme focuses on the need for more psychological support, investing in mental health programmes and reducing the prevalence of death owing to mental health conditions.

October (10): World Migratory Bird Day

The day is celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October. The day is an occasion to highlight the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It aims to raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

Migratory birds are beneficial to us and the planet's ecosystems because they provide critical services such as seed dispersal, pollination, pest control and more! This year's theme is "Birds Connect Our World".

October 11: International Day of the Girl Child

Observed every year to focus on issues like female infanticide to gender inequality to sexual abuse that the girls across the globe are exposed to. The Day focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The theme for this year is "My voice, our equal future".

It may be noted that in India, National Girl Child Day is celebrated on January 24 every year.

October 12: World Arthritis Day

The day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition which causes pain and stiffness in joints which can worsen with age. The theme for this year is "Time2Work". Arthritis is an ailment related to inflammation of the joints. It can affect one joint or multiple joints.

October 13: The National Philately Day

The day marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other philatelic products. The Philately is the study of postage stamps and postal history.

Oct 13: International Day for Disaster Reduction

Observed across the world every year with support from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. This year's focus is on "Disaster risk governance". Good disaster risk governance can be measured in the lives saved, reduction in the number of disaster-affected people, and reduced economic losses.

October 14: World Standards Day

Also called International Standards Day, it is celebrated globally to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy. These standards helped to drive the industrial revolution and nowadays it drives the advancement of all technologies from automotive to telecommunications. The theme for 2020 is "Protecting the planet with standards".

October 14: International E-Waste Day

The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of repairing or correctly disposing of used appliances with the aim to increase re-use, repair, recovery and recycling. It has been developed by the WEEE Forum, an international association of electronic waste collection schemes.

A record 53.6 million metric tonnes of electronic waste was generated worldwide in 2019, according to the UN's Global E-waste Monitor 2020. E-waste is the fastest growing stream of waste — but it is also the most valuable stream of waste. A tonne of E-waste is likely to have more silver than a tonne of silver ore.

October 15: Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas



Supported by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry, this day is observed to recognise the contribution of women farmers in various aspects of agriculture including sowing, planting, fertilizing, plant protection, harvesting, weeding, and storage. The day aims to increase the active participation of women in agriculture.

October 15: International Day of Rural Women

The day recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing. This year's theme is "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19." It aims to strengthen the livelihoods of rural women and their wellbeing.

October 15: World Students' Day

Celebrated every year to commemorate the birthday of former president APJ Abdul Kalam. The United Nations declared October 15 as World Students' Day in 2010. Kalam died on July 27, 2015, doing what he loved - teaching. He was dedicated to teaching and identified himself first as a teacher and then as anything else. He served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. The theme of World Students' Day 2020 is 'Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace'.

October 15: Global Handwashing Day

Celebrated every year to raise awareness on handwashing with soap, motivate people worldwide to develop hand washing habits, and highlight the state of handwashing in countries worldwide. The day is of special importance this year in view of protection offered against Coronavirus by washing hands with soap. This year's theme is "Hand Hygiene for All".

October 16: World Food Day

Celebrated every year around the world to commemorate the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on this day in 1945 in Quebec City, Canada. This day generates awareness globally for those who suffer from hunger and to ensure the need for food security and nutritious diets for all.

The theme for this year's WFD is "Grow, nourish, sustain, Together. Our actions are our future." This year's World Food Day is devoted to highlighting food and agriculture as a significant part of COVID-19 response. At present, the headquarters of FAO are located at Rome, Italy.

October 17: International Poverty Eradication Day

The day is observed across the world to raise awareness about the efforts being made to eradicate poverty in the world community. It's an opportunity to spread the message of peace and love and honour the victims of poverty, hunger, violence and fear.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all". Each year, lakhs of people die because of poverty and violence and thus it is important to spread awareness about this issue in the world.

October 20: National Solidarity Day

This day is observed to honour the Armed Forces, who protect our extensive borders and also to remember the national integrity shown by Indian forces in the Sino-Indo war against China which started on this day in 1962.

October 21: Police Commemoration Day

The day is observed every year to honor the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation. It was on this day in 1959 when CRPF led a saga of valour and sacrifice in the inaccessible, inhospitable terrain of Hot Springs in Ladakh confronting the Chinese Army. In this battle, ten CRPF men were martyred in defence of the country.

October 22: International Stuttering Awareness Day

This Day is observed to raise awareness about stutterers and educate the public about the causes. Stuttering, also known as stammering, is a condition where fluency of speech is affected. It is a communication disorder in which repetitions — or abnormal stoppages of sounds and syllables — break the flow of speech. There may also be unusual facial and body movements associated with speaking.

October 23: International Snow Leopard Day

Observed every year to protect and conserve snow leopards and other wildlife of the Himalayas. Ladakh is called the Snow Leopard capital of the world. It is the



state animal of Himachal Pradesh. On this day in 2013, leaders from 12 countries endorsed the 'Bishkek Declaration' on the conservation of snow leopards'. Bishkek is the largest city and capital of Kyrgyzstan.

October 24: The United Nations Day

Observed to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations on this day in 1945. The UN Charter signed on June 26, 1945, is the founding document of this great non-partisan institution that has been working towards global peace and equality. The day aims to bring attention to the work, role and achievements of the UNO and its family of specialized agencies.

Antonio Guterres is the current Secretary-General of the United Nations, having 193 members.

October 24: The World Polio Day

Celebrated annually to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio. The Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. The theme for this year is "A win against polio is a win for global health." As of August 2020, Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two nations which remain with the continued transmission of wild polio virus.

October 27: Infantry Day

Army establishments across the country celebrate this day to pay homage to the thousands of infantry soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. It was on this day in 1947 that first Indian infantry soldiers took part in an action to defend Indian territory from external aggression to ward off the Pakistani invaders in Kashmir.

October 27: The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

Observed with support from UNESCO to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents such as films, radio, and television programmes, etc. Audiovisual content plays an increasingly vital role in our lives as we seek to understand the world and engage with our fellow beings. The theme for the year 2020 is "Your window to the World".

October 31: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Observed to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister of free India.

It is also the martyrdom day of Indira Gandhi.

October 31: World Cities Day

Observed across the world to work together for planned and sustainable urban life in the wake of rapid growth of population and problems. The theme for this year is "Better City, Better Life" to focus the international community's attention on urbanisation as a central issue for development. It aims to encourage cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing urban challenges towards sustainable development.

September 2: World Coconut Day



The day aims to create awareness about the importance of the coconut and its benefits. The day is especially marked in countries under Asian and Pacific regions by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) as they house most of the world's coconut growing production centres. One of nature's most versatile products, the coconut and its various parts can be used for food and drink, bakery, sweets, oil, cosmetic preparations, decorating and variety of coir products. The theme of World Coconut Day 2020 this year is – "Invest in Coconut to save the world". In India, Kerala tops the production in coconut, but Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are also picking up in this sector.

September 5: Teachers' Day

The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and second President of India (1962–1967). He was a staunch believer of the value of education. The day honours the contribution of teachers and educators for their significant role in students' lives.

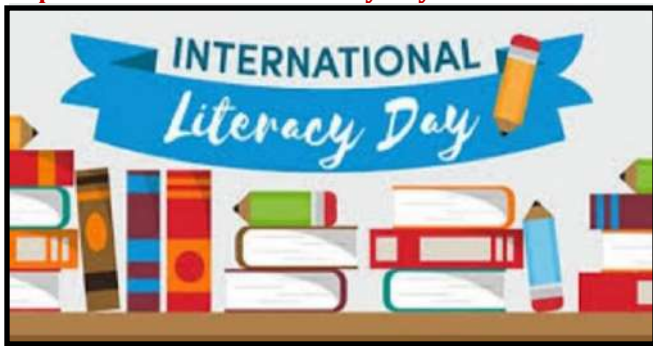
September 5: International Day of Charity

The United Nations observes this day with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs all around the world to help others through voluntary philanthropic activities. The date commemorates the death anniversary of Saint Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize awardee of 1979.

Sep 7: International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

The UN General Assembly on 19th December last year had adopted a resolution to observe the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on 7th September every year starting from this year. In India various activities are conducted under the National Clean Air Programme to improve the quality of air, particularly in urban areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address from the Red Fort on this year's Independence Day, had highlighted the need of holistic improvement in air quality in 100 identified cities.

Sep. 08: International Literacy Day



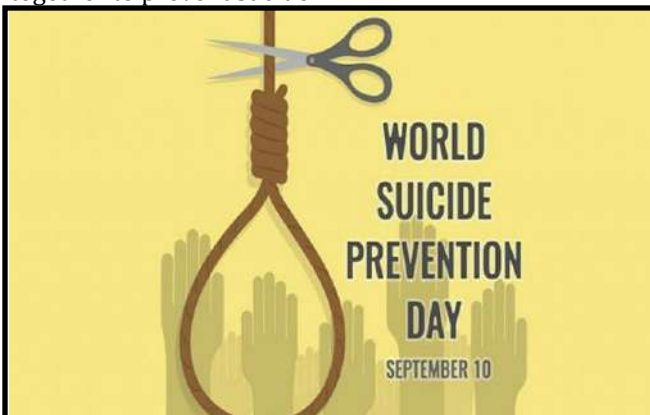
Countries across the world celebrate this day to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. According to UNESCO, “this year the focus is on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies.” The theme will highlight literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective and therefore mainly focus on youth and adults.

September 9: Himalayan Day

Observed every year to sensitize the people on the importance of this fragile ecosystem as also to highlight the various issues concerning it. The Day was first observed in Uttarakhand in 2010 as an initiative of a group of noted environmentalists. Himalaya plays an important role to save and sustain nature and protect the country from adverse weather conditions. The Himalayan range is also responsible for rain besides being a rich repository of floral and faunal biodiversity. As many as 130 crore people directly or indirectly depend on the mountain range for survival. The theme for this year's Himalayan Day is “Himalayas and Nature”.

September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day

Supported by the WHO and International Association for Suicide Prevention, it is a day dedicated to raising awareness of the risks of suicide and the challenges faced in trying to prevent suicide. It is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally. It is responsible for over 800,000 deaths every year. The theme for this year is same as was in 2018 and 2019, “Working together to prevent suicide”.



September 11: The National Forest Martyrs Day

Observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect nature in the remote corners of the country. On September 11, 1730, over 360 people of the Bishnoi community were massacred in Khejarli (Rajasthan) because they objected to felling of Khejri trees by the king of Jodhpur. The day is devoted to pay respects to hundreds of forest officials who sacrificed their lives while protecting the country's forest wealth and wildlife, fighting against poachers, smugglers, diseases and loneliness. The Ministry of Environment and Forest made the declaration in 2013 to celebrate this day annually.

September (12): World First Aid Day

Observed on the second Saturday of September every year to create awareness about the importance of first aid in attending injuries and saving lives. The day was started by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2000 to educate people in the world about the benefits of first aid, need of first aid and the right way to do first aid. The theme for this year is First Aid Saves Lives.

September 14: Hindi Divas / Raj Bhasha Divas

Hindi Diwas commemorates the adoption of Hindi as the official language of India. On this day in 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language of India by the Constituent Assembly of India. Hindi is one of the two official languages of the Union government — the other being English.

September 15: Engineer's Day

The day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of acclaimed civil engineer M Visvesvaraya. Decorated with Bharat Ratna in 1955, he had extraordinary skills for designing dams and several water related projects. He patented and installed an irrigation system with water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune to raise the food supply level and storage to the highest levels. He was also conferred the British Knighthood by the then King George V, which put 'Sir' before his name. He was called Sir MV.

September 15: International Day of Democracy

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution in 2007 that September 15 of each year would be observed as the International Day of Democracy. The day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries. The day provides an opportunity to recall that democracy is about people as it gives voice to the common man and ensures that all are equal before the rule of law. The theme for the year 2020 is 'Covid-19: A Spotlight on Democracy.'

September 16: World Ozone Day



Also known as the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer, it is observed annually to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987. The protocol itself was the outcome of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, adopted in 1985. Under the Montreal Protocol, nations worked together to cut out 99 percent of ozone-depleting substances.

The Protocol was followed by the Kigali Amendment wef Jan, 2019 to reduce the projected production and consumption of hydro fluoro carbons (HFCs) by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years. Kigali is the capital of Rwanda, a tiny landlocked country in Central Africa. This year the slogan for the Day is 'Ozone For Life'.

The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas that protects the Earth and its ecosystem from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. The ozone layer is formed mainly in the lower portion of the Stratosphere, from approximately 15 to 35 kilometers above Earth. Ozone is a pale blue gas with a distinctively pungent smell, formed in the atmosphere when the sun's rays split oxygen molecules into single atoms. These atoms combine with nearby oxygen to form a three-oxygen molecule, called Ozone.

September 17: The World Patient Safety Day

Supported by the WHO, the Day is observed to create a global awareness for patient safety. It calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries to improve patient safety during healthcare. Furthermore, the Day brings together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care leaders and policy-makers to show their commitment to patient safety. The theme for this year is "Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety".

September 18: International Equal Pay Day

Under an initiative of the United Nations, this day was observed for the first time this year, to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap which refers to the difference in earnings between men and women in paid employment. Equal pay for equal work is a human right to which all women are entitled.

September 18: World Bamboo Day

It is observed every year by the World Bamboo Organization to generate awareness about conserving and promoting the bamboo industry. Also known as poor man's timber, bamboo is omnipresent in tribal cultures and community living. This year's theme for the Day is "Bamboo Now".

After China, India is the world's second-largest cultivator of bamboo. To boost bamboo production and exploitation in the country, the Government amended the century old Indian Forest Act to delist bamboo as a tree and classify it as grass.

September 19: The Inter. Coastal Cleanup Day

This day is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September. It encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage plaguing beaches. It is an occasion to spread awareness about preserving and protecting the world's oceans and waterways. This year's theme is "Achieving a trash-free Coastline".



September 21: International Day of Peace

Observed around the world as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme for this year is "Shaping Peace Together". The theme draws attention to celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic.

September 21: The World Alzheimer's Day

Observed globally to raise awareness about the stigma that runs around Alzheimer disease and related dementia.

The theme for this year is 'Let's talk about dementia'. Alzheimer's is a progressive disease, where dementia (loss of memory) symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years.

September 22: World Rose Day

This day is celebrated to spread awareness about cancer which starts when cells grow out of control and crowd out normal cells. On this day, hand-made roses, cards, and gifts are offered to cancer patients. The day is observed in the memory of a 12-year old girl Melinda Rose, a cancer patient from Canada. After the diagnosis, the doctors had given her just weeks but due to her willpower and never giving hope of defeating cancer, she went on to live for six months.

September 22: World Rhino Day



This day provides an opportunity to work towards saving the Rhinos, as they have been the target of poachers for decades. Rhino horns are in great demand in many southeast Asian countries for their aphrodisiac and medicinal value. The theme for this year's day is "Five Rhino Species Forever". India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with its population in the range of 3000 animals in the States of Assam, West Bengal and UP.

September 23: International Day of Sign Languages

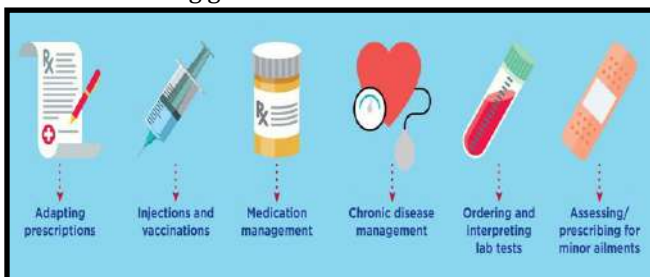
The day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf or dumb. This day presents the opportunity to 'support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users'. The theme for this day for the year 2020 is "Sign Languages Are for Everyone!".

September (24): World Maritime Day

It is observed on the last Thursday of September to celebrate the maritime industry's contribution in supporting and promoting the global economy. It emphasizes the importance of maritime security, marine environment and shipping safety. The theme for this year is "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet."

September 25: World Pharmacist Day

This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health. It is an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, The Hague (Netherlands). This year's theme is "Transforming global health".



September 25: Antyodaya Diwas

Observed across the country to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a noted philosopher, historian and political activist. He was a veteran leader of Jan Sangh, which is considered a precursor to BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). Antyodaya means uplifting the weakest section of the society.

September 27 - World Tourism Day

Observed to highlight the importance of tourism which helps in generating employment and build the future for millions of people around the world. This year the theme is "Tourism and jobs: a better future for all."

September (27) World Rivers Day

It is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of September to highlight the importance of waterways in our life. This day encourages people to conserve and save water and rivers around the world

September 28: World Rabies Day



The day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease. The day is the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first Rabies vaccine. *Rabies is a deadly virus spread to people from the saliva of infected animals. Rabies is usually transmitted through an animal bite, for example, from stray dogs or monkeys.*

September 29 - World Heart Day

Observed to spread awareness about heart disease and stroke which is the world's leading cause of death. The day promotes preventative measures to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). The theme chosen for this year is "Use heart to beat CVD".

September 30: International Translation Day

The day is supported by the UNO to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue for development and strengthening world peace.

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

Bullet News

(May 2020 – August 2020)

For details visit – www.gyanm.in

NATIONAL NEWS

AUGUST

CABINET APPROVES SETTING UP OF NRA

- Govt to set up a National Recruitment Agency – NRA, to conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET) for selection to non-gazetted posts in the central govt and banks.
 - ✓ *The NRA will replace 3 recruiting agencies: Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS for Banks*
 - ✓ *The multi-agency body will conduct a separate CET each for the three levels of candidates: Graduate, Higher secondary(12th) and Matriculate (10th)*
 - ✓ *The CET will be for preliminary tests based on multiple choice objective type question papers.*
 - ✓ *The CET will be held twice a year.*
 - ✓ *The score of CET will be valid for three years.*
 - ✓ *The CET would be available in many languages.*
- Ending almost five centuries long wait, 'bhoomi puja' was done at Ayodhya, marking the symbolic beginning of the construction of the Ram Mandir.
 - ✓ *The Grand Temple will be 161 feet tall and three story structure. It will have Ramlala at ground floor while Ram Darbar will be on the first floor.*
- P M Modi announced the mega plan of "One Sun, One World, One Grid", a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe.
 - ✓ *It will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.*
- India ranked first in terms of number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming.
 - ✓ *Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.*

- The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India in association with Google has undertaken flood forecasting initiatives and sent numerous public alerts to people in impacted regions across the country.
- The UK Govt. launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists to tackle the most acute global challenges such as COVID-19 and the threat to the environment.
- Govt approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps for a major expansion in all the border and coastal districts. Over one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC.
- IIT Madras ranked number-one in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements' (ARIIA).
- The 2313 kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands was inaugurated on August 10.
- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) joined hands with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST.
 - ✓ *It is an incubator capabilities enhancement program for creating high performing startups.*
- India has extended a \$ 18 million Line of Credit to the Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company.
- India approved a \$500-million package to help the Maldives build a connectivity project linking its capital Male with three islands.
- India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh designed for speed of up to 120 km per hour.
- India extended medical assistance of \$1 million to North Korea in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

JULY

- India's tiger census of 2018-19 entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest ever camera-trap wildlife survey conducted anywhere in the world.
- IIT Madras launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science.
- 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.
- 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 trains that ran on 1st July were on time.
- More than 270 million people in India were lifted out of poverty from 2005 to 2016 — the largest by any country in that period.
- This was revealed in a study by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative in collaboration with the UNDP.
- The Central American country, Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement.
- The CBDT has signed an MoU with the CBIC to facilitate smoother bilateral exchange of data on an automatic and regular basis.
- The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge – the AnjiKhad Bridge across Chenab River will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.
- India and Maldives signed a contract for setting up Neighbourhood Fish Processing Plants at two of the islands in the Maldives.
- India and Bhutan opened up a new trade route on July 15 between Pasakha in Bhutan and Jaigaon in West Bengal.
- The first trial container ship from Kolkata port to Agartala through Chattogram port (Bangladesh) was flagged off on July 16.
- 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.
- For ensuring security, sovereignty and 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.
- India and Bhutan signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project in 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.

JUNE

- A violent face-off between Indian and Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15, one Indian Army Colonel and nineteen soldiers were martyred.
- For the first time, a bilateral summit between India and Australia was held in virtual mode on June 4 between the two prime ministers.
- 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.
- India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU and others to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).
- The India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

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

- The AIIB, Beijing approved a loan of \$750 million to India to strengthen its fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

MAY

- Stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore, equaling roughly to 10% of the national GDP, announced under the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on May 13.
 - ✓ 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.

- Rs 5,000 crore for supporting 50 lakh street vendors
- Tenders for government procurement up to 200 crore rupees will no longer be through the Global Tender route to encourage local producers.
- 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.
- Affordable rental housing accommodation and complexes to be constructed through PPP mode for urban poor and migrants
- Date to file Income Tax returns extended from July 31 to November 30
- Rs 90,000-crore for power distribution companies to help them pay the power-generating companies.
- Fourth tranche of Atma Nirbhar Bharat economic package focused on structural reforms in the eight key infrastructure areas.
 - ✓ *In Defence, the FDI limit has been raised from 49 percent to 74 percent.*
 - ✓ *Coal mining opened to Private sector; Rs. 50,000 crore will be invested in this sector.*
- 5th tranche of Atma Nirbhar Bharat economic package focused on structural reforms in -- MNREGA, Health and Education, Business during Covid.
 - ✓ *Under MNREGA, 40 thousand crore rupees allocated for employment generation in the rural areas to help the returning migrants.*
- India has become the second largest manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), producing more than 3 lakh PPEs and N95 masks per day.
- The Border Roads Organisation successfully completed road connectivity from Dharchula to Lipulekh famously known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route.
- 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)'
 - ✓ *More than half of displacements were caused by heavy rains and severe tropical storms.*
- India 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.
- Popular TV serial Ramayan has created the world record of highest viewed entertainment programme globally. 77 million people watched the show in one day on the 16th May.

NEWS FROM STATES

AUGUST

- NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index ranked Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu at the top three ranks, in descending order.
- Indore in Madhya Pradesh has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020, for the fourth time.
 - ✓ *New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.*
 - ✓ *Chhattisgarh was awarded the first place in the states with over 100 cities*
 - ✓ *Jharkhand stood first among states with less than 100 cities.*
 - ✓ *Jalandhar Cantonment Board was conferred the cleanest cantonment board in the country.*
 - ✓ *Ahmedabad in Gujarat was awarded for being the cleanest city with over 40 lakh population.*
- The Uttar Pradesh signed a MoU with Israel for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state.
- Chhattisgarh government has decided to provide urban forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes.
 - ✓ *The Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation became the first urban body in the country to provide land entitlement in city's forests to the urban tribals.*
- Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think-tank NitiAayog for the February-June 2020 period.
- Two coastal villages of Odisha have been declared 'Tsunami-Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.
 - ✓ *These are Venkatrapur village in Ganjam district and Noliashahi village in Jagatsingpur district.*
- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product scheme.
- The 2 km long India's longest cable ropeway opened over Brahmaputra connecting Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati.
- The Forest Department of Uttarakhand has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani. The park has species mentioned in Valmiki's Ramayan.
- Asian Development Bank approved a loan of \$1 billion to support the construction of the high-speed, modern Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.

GyanM



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- Goa's traditional festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Hermal Chilli and Mandoli Banana have been granted GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.

JULY

- In Uttar Pradesh, a new record was created on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day.
- One of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia is being established in the Rewa district of Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh, with a total installed capacity of 750 MW.
- India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in Delhi on June 2 to be set up at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi.
- India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza was inaugurated on July 20 at Chelmsford Club in central New Delhi.
- Uttarakhand has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari park in Pithoragarh district.
- *Lichens are a kind of plant that arises from algae living among filaments of multiple fungi species in a mutualistic relationship.*
- The first parcel cargo train with red chillies for export to Bangladesh was flagged off from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh on July 10.
- 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 700 MWe (megawatt electric) unit and indigenously-designed pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR).*
- Madhya Pradesh topped the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi-PM SVaNidhi scheme for providing easy finance to the street vendors to continue their business.
- The first mega food park in Mizoram, Zoram Mega Food Park, started on July 21. It is expected to provide direct and indirect employment up to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers.
- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections.
- Uttarakhand plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity. The initiative aims to generate up to 5 MW of electricity and curb pollution.
- Govt has declared the whole of Nagaland as "disturbed area" till the end of December 2020 under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA).

- The Supreme Court on July 13, upheld the rights of Travancore royal family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Madhya Pradesh Tourism launched "IntzaarAapKa" campaign on social media to attract tourists to the famous tourist spots 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

- Himachal Pradesh state Panchayati raj department won 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- The FSSAI 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.
- Chhattisgarh launched 'GodhanNyay Yojana' to purchase cow dung to make animal husbandry commercially profitable, prevent open grazing by cattle and solve the problem of stray animals on roads.
- Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.
- The central government approved to rename the Kolkata Port Trust as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust on its 150th anniversary.
- Kerala has become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizens.
- The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has become the 1st airport in India, to have an Aviation Weather Monitoring System at its new runway on both ends.

MAY

- Mizoram granted "industry" status to sports to generate employment and increase its return value.
- 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 UN 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 help LGBTQI+ community, daily wagers, HIV people, adolescents, and children.
- The Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal.

- The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry declared six cities - Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysore, Indore and Navi Mumbai as five-star garbage free cities.
- West Bengal launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to start income generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture in vacant barren lands.
- 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 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.

GOVT INITIATIVES

AUGUST

- After a gap of 34 years, the union cabinet approved the new National Education Policy, 2020 on July 29.
 - ✓ *The Cabinet also approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to the Education Ministry.*

Highlights of the new policy include:

- ✓ *A single regulator for higher education institutions*
- ✓ *Multiple entry and exit options in degree courses,*
- ✓ *Discontinuation of MPhil programmes,*
- ✓ *Board exams only for 12th,*
- ✓ *Common entrance exams for universities, etc.*

The new academic curriculum has been structured into four parts as 5+3+3+4 as under:

Foundation stage (3 to 8 years): *First 5 years- 3 years pre nursery + class 1&2; multi level play activity based learning*

Preparatory Stage (8-11 years): *Class 3 to 5; play, discovery and activity based interactive classroom learning in regional language*

Middle Stage (11-14 years): *Class 6 to 8; experiential learning in science, maths, social science, arts and humanities*

Secondary stage (14-18 years): *Class 9 to 12; multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and choice of subjects to students.*

- National Digital Health Mission: a "completely technology-based" initiative for providing digital Health ID card to every citizen.
 - ✓ *Card will contain all information about past medical conditions, treatment and diagnostic reports and the medicines prescribed by the doctor.*
- "Transparent Taxation- Honouring the Honest" platform launched to honour the honest taxpayers by bringing in faceless assessment, faceless appeal, and taxpayers' charter.

- GPS based mobile app 'Harit Path' launched to monitor the plantations along the national highways.
- Government launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat" to invite innovators.
 - ✓ *They will use two microprocessors namely "SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)" to develop various technology products.*
- 'Swasthya': e-portal launched on tribal health and nutrition to provide all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population.
- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with Dell Technologies, the US based multinational tech company.
- Project Lion and Project Dolphin to be launched to replicate the success of Project Tiger for conservation of Lions and Dolphins.
- "Surakhsha": The National Portal on human elephant conflict launched for collection of real time information and for managing the conflicts on a real time basis.
- Country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or "Kisan Rail" was flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra for Bihar's Danapur Railway station.
 - ✓ *The train will transport agricultural produce from Maharashtra region to Bihar region and vice versa.*
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department.
 - ✓ *The app offers current temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction for 200 cities and the information is updated eight times a day.*
- KVIC launched Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.
- 'BIS-Care' app launched by the Consumer Affairs Ministry. Consumers can use this app for checking the authenticity of ISI and hallmark certified products.
- The railways is set to end a colonial-era practice of appointing "khalasis" or "bungalow peons" who worked at the residences of senior officials.
- In an attempt to encourage usage of electric vehicles, the Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without pre-fitted batteries.
- Government has made FASTag mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country.
- India has banned 47 more Chinese apps on July 24 which were clones of 59 Chinese apps which were banned on June 29.

JULY

- The revised and enlarged Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into force on July 20.
- The new Act introduces the concept of product liability and brings within its scope, the product manufacturer, service provider and seller, for any claim for compensation.
- New rules and regulations for e-commerce companies notified under the Consumer Protection Act 2019 making it mandatory to display the 'country of origin' on their products.
- 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 Union Cabinet gave its approval to a new pan India Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for one lakh crore rupees from Fiscal year 2020 to 2029.
- HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for Digital Education stating that online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes.
- National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme launched in virtual mode in Andhra Pradesh.
- The NISHTHA programme focuses on the holistic development of children and includes the curriculum of education also.
- Aims at "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has partnered with UNICEF, Paris to mobilise 1 crore youth volunteers to achieve goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The ministry signed a MoU with YuWaah (a multi-stakeholder platform formed by UNICEF) to promote volunteerism among India's youth.
- Government to set up world's first Fish Cryobanks in different parts of the country to facilitate all time availability of fish sperms to fish farmers.
- A Cryobank is a facility for freezing and preserving semen at low temperatures (usually -196.5°C) for future use.
- Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal launched to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board launched 'Accelerate Vigyan' to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country.
- An e-Portal named ASPIRE - Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector.
- The CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21.

- Mano-darpan initiative launched to provide psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents during the current Corona crisis.
- 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.
- India finalised the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany to resume international travel amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A bilateral air bubble is a travel corridor between two countries that wish to reopen their borders and re-establish connections with each other.
- The NHAI has approached all IITs, NITs and reputed Engg. Colleges to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of National Highways on voluntary basis.
- The objective is to harness the intellectual prudence of students and faculty towards improvement of the road infrastructure ecosystem of the country.
- Railways aims to transform itself as a 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030 by becoming self reliant for its energy needs by utilising its vacant land for renewable energy projects.
- All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in Sanskrit 'Sanskrit Saptahiki' from June 4.
- Railways have invited the request for private participation by proposing 151 trains to be run by private operators over 109 Origin Destinations.

JUNE

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).
- It will encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities through a regulatory environment.
- "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan" launched to generate employment opportunities in rural India for migrant workers returning home amid the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown.
- The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched TULIP - "The Urban Learning Internship Programme" for fresh engineering graduates.
- They will get an opportunity to work for 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the country.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in partnership with IBM has unveiled Free Digital Learning Platform 'Skills Build Reignite'.
- It aims to reach more job seekers and provide new resources to business owners in India.

- SWADES- “Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support” launched to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning Indians under the Vande Bharat Mission.
- Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi:SVAnidhi, a special micro-credit facility scheme launched for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- The scheme implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs provides for a working capital loan of upto Rs 10,000 to street vendors.
- Rs.15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund launched for infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises.
- ‘YUKTI 2.0’ launched to help merge technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated start-ups in higher education institutions.
- Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA) portal launched to improve implementation of Science and Technology Programme Scheme.
- Country’s first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) launched to enable market participants to trade in standardised gas contracts.
- The Department of Biotechnology under the ministry of Science and Technology launched India’s first mobile infectious disease diagnostic lab.
- The lab is a BSL-2 facility with on site Elisa, real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test and Biochemistry analysers.
- CSIR launched portal Aarogya Pathfor the healthcare supply chain to serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers to deal with the Covid-19.
- 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”
- CBIC launched its flagship programme Turant (instant) Customs, at Bengaluru and Chennai for technology based faster customs clearance of imported goods.
- Sahakar Mitra Internship programme launched to provide paid internship to youth and ensure availability of assured project loans to young co-operators.
- The union cabinet approved an ordinance for the creation of ‘One India, One Agriculture Market’ to allow farmers and traders freedom of sale and purchase of the agricultural produce across the country.

- India joined the group of select nations to have a Real-Time Market in electricity to allow consumers to buy power just one hour before the delivery.
- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited launched the ‘#iCommit’ campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day - June 5 aimed at building an energy resilient future.
- Nagar Van (Urban Forests) scheme launched to develop 200 urban forests across the country in the next five years.

MAY

- “GOAL: Going Online As Leaders” programme in partnership with Facebook to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
- LIC launched revised Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, open 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.*
- Govt launched “Vande Bharat Mission” to operate special flights to bring home lakhs of Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.
- Indian Navy launched Operation “Samudra Setu” (Sea Bridge) to repatriate Indian citizens from Male.
- The Ministry of MSMEs launched the CHAMPIONS portal (www.Champions.gov.in) to assist Indian MSMEs in becoming national and global champions.
 - ✓ CHAMPION stands for “Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength”.
- Rs. 20,000 crore “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada (Fisheries Wealth) Yojana” for the development of marine and inland fisheries.
- ‘National Test Abhyaas’ app launched to provide free mock tests to the JEE and NEET aspirants.
- 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.
- CSIR has launched the Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system.
- It will connect farmers, transporters, pesticides and fertilizer dealers, cold store and warehouse owners, aarthiyas, etc. for a timely and effective solution.

ECONOMY

AUGUST

- Finance Minister announced that businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be exempted from GST. Earlier this limit was Rs. 20 lakh.
 - ✓ *Further, businesses with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax.*
 - ✓ *Earlier, this limit was Rs. 75 lakh and tax rate was 2%. The Scheme now has been extended to the service sector also.*
- Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2020-21 fixed at Rs 285/quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10 per cent.
- India's top corporate Reliance Industries Ltd. crossed another milestone on August 11, becoming the first Indian company to figure in the top 100 in the Fortune Global 500 list.
- Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the Future Brand Index 2020.
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index, Bulldex, on August 24.

JULY

- 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.
- Data released by the Ministry of Commerce shows that the USA has emerged as India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal year in 2019-20
- 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.
- Google CEO SundarPichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore in India over the next 5 to 7 years through "Google for India Digitisation Fund".
- The World Bank approved \$750 million support for MSME Emergency Response Program to fund the MSMEs impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.
- NLC India Ltd and Coal India Ltd. signed an agreement for formation of a Joint Venture to develop solar and thermal power assets on pan-India basis.
- On July 24, Reliance Industries (RIL) crossed the Rs 14 lakh crore market-valuation mark, becoming the first Indian company to reach that benchmark.

JUNE

- Moody's Investors Service has downgraded India's credit rating to the lowest investment grade Baa3 from Baa2 while maintaining a negative outlook.
- 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 goods by Rs 1 lakh crore by December 2021.*
- The CCEA approved the increase in the MSPs for Kharif crops for the marketing season 2020-21.
 - ✓ *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*
- Govt raised the Customs duty on bamboo imports from 10% to 25% with immediate effect with a view to encourage the use of domestic bamboo.
- MSME Ministry has issued Gazette notification for the upward revision in the definition and criteria of MSMEs with effect from 1st July, 2020.
- Micro enterprises: Mfg./services enterprises with investments up to Rs 1 cr and turnover up to Rs 5 cr
- Small enterprises: Enterprises with investment up to Rs. 10 crore, and turnover of Rs 50 crore
- Medium enterprises: Enterprises with investment up to Rs 20 crore and turnover up to Rs 100 crore
- Railways set a new world record by running the first Double-Stack Container Train that carried two layers of containers, placed one over the other.
- The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat, covering a distance of 338 km.

MAY

- NSO data shows that India's economic growth slipped to 3.1% in the Jan-Mar, 2019-20 showing the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic. *In 2019-20, economy grew by an 11-year low rate of 4.2% against 6.1% expansion in 2018-19.*
- The Indian Railways' most powerful 12000 HP Made in India locomotive made its maiden commercial run in Uttar Pradesh on May 18.
- These locos have been built at the Railways' Madhepura factory in Bihar, by French company Alstom under the 'Make in India' programme.
- ONGC and NTPC entered into a MoU to set up a joint venture company to set up renewable energy projects including offshore wind power projects.

- The Governing Board of RBI approved the transfer of Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20, ending on June 30.
- RBI set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of veteran banker K V Kamath to oversee the resolution of stressed assets (NPAs) created by COVID-19.
- The RBI plans to set up an Innovation Hub in order to promote innovation across the finance sector in India by leveraging on technology.
- RBI prohibited banks from opening current accounts for customers who have availed cash credit or overdraft facilities, with a view to improve credit discipline.
- SIDBI launched a one-stop knowledge portal named as “MSME Saksham” in association with Trans Union CIBIL.
 - ✓ *It will provide comprehensive financial education and knowledge to MSMEs and will support them in managing their credit obligations.*
- Paytm launched an Android-based mini portable point of sale (PoS) device that is enabled with integrated billing software, camera for QR scanning and supports Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity.
- To effectively and promptly deal with the increasing number of queries from customers, Axis Bank launched Automated Voice Assistant ‘AXAA’, an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT.
- HDFC Bank launched ‘Shaurya KGC Card’- a first-of-its-kind product for the armed forces, based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines by the government.
- IRCTC and SBI Card together launched their new co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform.
 - ✓ *The card has Near Field Communication technology with which users can do their transactions at the PoS machines by swaying the card near the machines.*
- The ICICI Bank became the first bank in India to use satellite data—imagery from Earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of farmers.
- SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called “Shagun – Gift an Insurance”, which is a Personal Accident Insurance policy that can be gifted to any third party.
- State Bank of India waived SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance for all its Savings Accounts.

- 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.
- NPCI launched UPI AutoPay feature for recurring payments such as mobile bills, electricity bills, EMI payments, and loan payments, etc., of up to Rs. 2000.
- IRDAI has allowed 30 general and health insurers to launch short-term ‘Corona Kavach’ health insurance policies.
- According to data from the RBI, Tamil Nadu has topped market borrowings among States in the country, accounting for 17% of the total borrowings.
- HDFC Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities.
- HDFC Bank has launched the ‘e-KisaanDhan’ app through which farmers will be able to access the services, both banking and agriculture.
- Bank of Baroda has launched ‘Insta Click Savings Account’, a digital self-assisted online savings account, for all its customers.
- 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.

- The union cabinet passed ordinance to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI.
- RBI has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 500 crore to improve and support the development of the digital payments ecosystem in the northeast and rural districts in India.
- RBI constituted a five-member Internal Working Group headed by P K Mohanty, Director, RBI Central Board to review the ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks.
- Exim Bank extended a \$20.10 million Line of Credit to Nicaragua for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital.
- Bank of Baroda has decided to completely digitise its loans operations such as agriculture, home, MSME, auto and personal loans.
- ICICI Home Finance launched SARAL – an Affordable Housing Loan scheme for women, lower-middle-income customers, and EWS customers.
- ICICI Bank has introduced an online overdraft facility ‘Insta FlexiCash’ for its salary account customers.



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MAY

- On May 22 RBI slashed the repo rate by 40 bps to 4.5%. The reverse repo rate was also lowered to 3.35%. The Bank Rate & MSF now stand at 4.25%.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that all co-operative banks could also make use of SARFAESI Act to make recovery from defaulting borrowers.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the introduction of Video KYC to open a full-fledged Kotak savings account – a first in Indian banking.
 - ✓ It is a zero-contact, completely digital and paperless account opening with full KYC compliance.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AUGUST

- In a rare historic moment, the first batch of five Rafale jets landed in Air Force base in Ambala on July 29.
- The Indian Air Force launched a mobile app “MY IAF” to provide career-related information and guidance to the people who wish to join the Indian Air Force.
- Ministry of Defence launched portal SRIJAN, a ‘one stop shop’ that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.
- Israel successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, “Arrow-2” ballistic missile interceptor.
- ICGS Sarthak: An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) indigenously built by the Goa Shipyard Limited was formally inducted in the Indian Coast Guard
- The Terrain Mapping Camera – 2 onboard ISRO’s Chandrayaan 2 captured an image of a crater on the Moon.
 - ✓ ISRO named this crater after Indian astrophysicist Vikram Sarabhai on the occasion of his birth centenary.
- ISRO is all set to allow the private sector to set up their own launchpad at the Sriharikota Launch Centre (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh, so that they can launch their own rocket or spacecraft.
- A Hyderabad based space-tech startup - Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine.
 - ✓ Used in the launch vehicle Vikram-I, it is named ‘Raman’ after Nobel laureate Dr. C V Raman.

- Techgentsia Software, a startup by Joy Sebastian of Kerala won the national competition for developing a world-class indigenous video conference solution.
 - ✓ The product named ‘Vconsole’ won Rs. one crore prize from the Ministry of Information and Technology.
- The tech giant Google launched its new “People Cards” feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card and build their public profile for search engine.
- NASA successfully sent its Mars Rover Perseverance on a seven-month journey to the red planet.
 - ✓ It is one of the biggest, most sophisticated Mars rovers ever built — a car-sized six wheel vehicle weighing over a ton, equipped with cameras, microphones, drills and lasers.

JULY

- The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs 300 crore to meet their immediate operational requirements.
- Defence Ministry finally issued the Sanction Letter for grant of permanent commission (PC) for Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in the Indian army.
- The Indian navy commissioned its largest Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala in Kerala.
- 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.
- The DRDO conducted trials of Helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile ‘Dhruvastra’ at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha.
- The DRDO provided the Indian Army its most advanced drone named ‘Bharat’ to carry out accurate surveillance in mountainous terrain, especially along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.
- 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 at the Hindan Air Force Station, near Ghaziabad in UP.
- 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.
- Claimed to be the world’s most affordable diagnostic kit for coronavirus, a low-cost test kit “Corosure” has been developed by the IIT, Delhi.
- India and Israel have jointly developed an ultra rapid testing kit for COVID-19 that can give results in just 30 seconds.

- Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved India's first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine).
- Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly has been named as India's largest butterfly, a record an unknown specimen had held earlier for 88 years.
- 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.
- 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 does not impose a 40-minute time limit.
- 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.
- South Korea launched ANASIS-II, its first-ever military communications satellite from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a Falcon 9 rocket.
- China has launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center.
- The UAE 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.

JUNE

- Indian Navy inducted the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System 'Maareech', capable of being fired from all frontline warships.
- Indian Navy inaugurated its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at the Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and manufactured an "Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation" (ARPIT).
- 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.
- IIT-Bombay has created Indian receiver GPS chip "Dhruva" for use in cell phones and navigation devices to discover locations and routes inside the nation.
- SpaceX became the first private company to successfully dock its spacecraft Dragon with the International Space Station to deliver two US astronauts in the station.

MAY

- The Air Force operationalised its squadron 18- "Flying Bullets" with a fleet of the Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas at its Sullur base near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- **A ship - ICGS Sachet** and two Interceptor Boats, C-450 and C-451, were commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard in Panaji, Goa.

INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST

- The WHO has declared Africa free of wild polio, meaning that no active case of polio has been reported in the last four years from the entire Africa.
 - ✓ *It was in 2016 that the last case of wild, circulating polio was reported in Nigeria.*
- Turkey has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea.
- Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a landmark peace accord sealed by President Trump on August 13.
- Russia announced the successful launch of the first vaccine – Sputnik-V in the world against the corona virus.
- UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant's 1st Unit got operational on July 31.

JULY

- The fourth edition of the Ministerial meet on Climate Action was held in virtual mode hosted by the European Union.
- Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the WTO. An observer nation has to complete the process of accession to WTO within five years.
- According to the WHO, South-East Asian Region office, Maldives and Sri Lanka were verified for having eliminated Measles and Rubella.
- Germany passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038 and agreed on a shutdown schedule for individual lignite and hard coal power plants.
- Nearly 78% of Russian backed constitutional reforms that could keep President Vladimir Putin in power until 2036. Currently, he is serving his fourth term as President, from 2018 to 2024.

JUNE

- The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam on June.
- 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.
- 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.
- China's unmanned submersible dived to a depth of 10,907 metres at the world's deepest ocean point, Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, in Pacific Ocean, setting a new world record.
- 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 by police.
- He was shown on video gasping for breath and uttering his last words- "I can't breath....." as a white Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck.
- Apple Inc. has become the first company in world to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap. At a current price of \$352 per share and 4.3 billion.(crossed \$2 trillion in Aug)
- WHO launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a global initiative aimed at making various health technologies and products to fight COVID-19, accessible to all.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2021 has ranked Massachusetts Institute for Technology at the top, followed by Stanford University and Harvard University at second and third rank, respectively.

MAY

- Skies Treaty signed with Russia around 18 yrs ago.
 - ✓ *The 2002 treaty allows unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of the participating countries.*
- As many as 88 Nobel laureates including Kailash Satyarthi have called upon the governments to spend \$ 1 trillion on marginalised children during the lockdowns and the post COVID-19 world.
- India handed over the war game centre "INDIA", built by the Indian Military to Uganda Peoples Defence Forces in Jinja, Uganda.
- The UN Postal Administration and WHO jointly launched a postal stamp to mark the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication on May 8.
- Iran amended the Monetary and Banking Act of Iran to change Iran's national currency from 'Rial' to 'Toman' to tackle the rising inflation. One Toman is equal to 10,000 Rials.

PERSONS IN NEWS

AUGUST

Akshay Kumar: Bollywood superstar is the only Indian to feature in the Forbes 2020 list of 10 Highest Paid Male Actors in the world.

Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash: The 20-year-old boy from Hyderabad won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title.

Kala Narayanasamy: Indian-origin nurse in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeff Bezos: Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 billion on August 26.

Kamala Harris: Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden chose her as his vice-presidential running mate for the 2020 US Elections.

JULY

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.

JUNE

Anmol Narang: The 23 year old US Sikh lady made history by becoming the 1st observant Sikh to graduate from the distinguished US Military Academy at West Point, New York.

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.

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.

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.

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.

APPOINTMENTS

AUGUST

Satya Pal Malik: The Governor of Goa has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Meghalaya.

Girish Chandra Murmu: Former Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of the country.

Manoj Sinha: Appointed as the next Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by the President Ram Nath Kovind.

Rakesh Asthana: Appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force, BSF.

G Satheesh Reddy: Renowned Indian scientist was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of DRDO.

Rajiv Kumar: Former finance secretary has been appointed new Election Commissioner.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi: Appointed as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Ajay Tyagi: Chairman of SEBI has been given an 18 month extension.

Soma Mondal: Selected as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

Ashwani Bhatia: Appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India. SBI's headquarters are located in Mumbai.

Sashidhar Jagdishan: RBI approved his selection as the new CEO and MD of the country's largest private sector bank - HDFC Bank.

Alexander Lukashenko: President of Belarus won his sixth consecutive term as President, securing 80.23 per cent of the vote at the country's presidential election.

Mahinda Rajapaksa: Former President of Sri Lanka was elected as the Prime Minister of the country for the fourth time.

JULY

KK Venugopal: Re-appointed as the Attorney General for India for one more year from July 1.

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

P Praveen Siddharth: 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: India's Election Commissioner has been appointed as vice-president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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).

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

Indra Mani Pandey: Appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to various U N Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva.

Jean Castex: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of France by the President Emmanuel Macron.

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 Ossouka Raponda: 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.

JUNE

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.

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

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.

MAY

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

Govinda Rajulu Chintala: Appointed as the Chairman of 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).

Marcos Troyjo: A former Minister from Brazil appointed 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

AUGUST

Short film 'Am I?' directed by Abhijit Paul won the first prize of Rs one lakh in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting along with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

SKOCH Gold Award: Ministry of Tribal Affairs won the award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project.

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.

Global Humanitarian Award 2020: SachinAwasthi, a motivated social activist from UP is one of the 100 awardees selected from across the world.

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.

2020 Nelson Mandela Prize: Awarded to MorissanaKouyate, a doctor from Guinea and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece.

2020 Diana Award: A 13-year-old student of the British School, New Delhi, Freya Thakral won this award for her "Recycler App".

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.

JUNE

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

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: Given to Dr.Rattan Lal for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.

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.

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. He 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.

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.

OBITUARY

AUGUST

Pandit Jasraj: Legendary Indian classical vocalist passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. He was 90. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 1990 and Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

Rahat Indori: Noted Urdu poet and lyricist died of cardiac arrest in Indore, in Madhya Pradesh on August 11 at the age of 70 year.

Chetan Chauhan: Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister passed away following multiple organ failure. He was 73.

Ebrahim Alkazi: Theatre doyen and legendary teacher died on August 4 in New Delhi, after suffering a heart attack at the age of 94. He was honoured with Padma Shri (1966), the Padma Bhushan (1991), and the Padma Vibhushan in 2010.

Amar Singh: Four times Rajya Sabha MP, who once wielded immense influence in power circles died in a Singapore hospital where he was undergoing treatment for kidney failure. He was 64.

Kumkum: Veteran Bollywood actress died in Mumbai at the age of 86. Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 110 Hindi films.

Olivia de Havilland: The British-American actress famous for her role in the film *Gone with the Wind* (1939), passed away at the age of 104 years in Paris.

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.

Saroj Khan: Ace choreographer whose iconic dance moves repeatedly made India go '*dhak-dhak*', 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.

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.

Acharya Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj: The 78-year-old head priest of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan, 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.

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.

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, BaatonBaaton Mein, EkRuka Hua Faisla and Chameli Ki Shaadi among more, passed away on June 4 in Mumbai, following age-related ailments. He was 93.

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.

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.

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.

VedMarwah: Former police commissioner of Delhi from 1985-88 and director general of the elite National Security Guard from 1988-90 passed away in Goa. 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.

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.

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.

Rob 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

AUGUST

Rajamala: More than 55 people lost their lives in a massive landslide that occurred in the Pettimudi Tea Estate near Rajamala in Idukki district of Kerala on the night of August 6.

Vijaynagar: One of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country has been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity. The area is the easternmost corner of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Myanmar.

Beirut: At least 135 people were killed and 5,000 wounded in a massive explosion that shook the capital of Lebanon on Beirut on August 4. More than 300,000 people were displaced from their homes.

California: State of USA was in the news as widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres state wide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes.

JULY

Hpakant: In Myanmar, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in northern Kachin province.

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).

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.

MAY

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.

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Bengaluru: The Kempegowda International Airport in the city has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.

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.

SPORTS WORLD

AUGUST

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Based on recommendations of the selection committee headed by a former Judge of Supreme Court, Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma, the government announced the National Sports Awards 2020.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

Cricketer Rohit Sharma, Para-Athlete Mariyappan Thangavelu, Table Tennis player Manika Batra, Wrestler Ms Vinesh Phogat and Indian Women's Hockey team captain Rani Rampal.

Arjuna Award

Given for consistent outstanding performance for four years. This year 27 sportspersons have been selected for this award.

Dronacharya Award

Given to the coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

Dhyan Chand Award

Given for lifetime contribution in development and enrichment of sports. Named after wizard of Hockey - Major Dhyan Chand.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

The highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air. It carries cash award of Rs. 5.00 lakh

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar

Lakshya Institute and Army Sports Institute: For identification and nurturing of budding and young Talent

ONGC: For encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility

Air Force Sports Control Board, Delhi: For employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures

International Institute of Sports Management, Mumbai:

For overall development of sports

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, MAKA Trophy: Panjab University, Chandigarh for overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments.

Haryana will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni: Former Indian Cricket Team Skipper announced his retirement from International Cricket.

Suresh Raina: Following the footsteps of M S Dhoni, left handed batsman also announced his retirement from international cricket.

INTERNATIONAL

James Anderson, England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets.

Three entries in ICC Hall of Fame

Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis, Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar, were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony.

Ronnie O'Sullivan of England won the World Snooker Championship 2020 at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, England. This is his 6th world title.

Jamie Vardy, Leicester City striker, bagged the Premier Leagues Golden Boot football award for scoring 23 goals in the 2019-20 season. **Ederson Moraes,** Manchester City's goalkeeper won the Premier Leagues Golden Glove award for achieving 16 shutouts

UEFA Champions League 2019-20: German professional sports club, Bayern Munich won the title by defeating Paris Saint-Germain in Lisbon, Portugal.

The International Cricket Council has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will now be held in Australia in 2022. The 2021 edition will be hosted by India, as announced earlier.

JULY

G Akash from Chennai became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) confirmed Akash's GM title.

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.

RavindraJadeja, Indian all-rounder was named as the country's 'Most Valuable Player' of the 21st century by Wisden.

Sports Minister KirenRijju 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.

INTERNATIONAL

ValtteriBottas (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 in Spielberg, Austria and 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 years old glorious career.

JUNE

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.

India 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.

INTERNATIONAL

The 4th Asian Youth Para Games will be held in Bahrain (a tiny island country in Persian Gulf) in December 2021.

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.

FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to Australia and New Zealand.

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).

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.

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OCTOBER GK TEST - 01

1. The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Ajay Tirkey to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in which sector?
 - a. Industry
 - b. Mining
 - c. Oil exploration
 - d. Agriculture
 - e. Horticulture
2. Government has hiked the MSP of wheat by Rs. _____ to Rs. 1975 per quintal.
 - a. 40
 - b. 50
 - c. 60
 - d. 70
 - e. 80
3. A direct cargo ferry service between India and _____ commenced for the first time on Sep 21.
 - a. Indonesia
 - b. Malaysia
 - c. Maldives
 - d. Sri Lanka
 - e. Iran
4. The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to which country?
 - a. Afghanistan
 - b. Nepal
 - c. Myanmar
 - d. Thailand
 - e. Bangladesh
5. India successfully conducted the flight test of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicles from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore (Odisha). What is its name?
 - a. Pranaash
 - b. Trikanth
 - c. Vinashak
 - d. Abhyas
 - e. Prahaar
6. The acronym NSFR in context of banking stands for what?
 - a. Net Stable Funding Ratio
 - b. Net Stable Financial Ratio
 - c. Non Stable Funding Ratio
 - d. Non Scheduled Funding Ratio
 - e. New Structured Funding Ratio
7. Nur Sultan is the capital city of which country?
 - a. Jordan
 - b. Kyrgyzstan
 - c. Kuwait
 - d. Kazakhstan
 - e. Turkmenistan
8. Parliament passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020 on Sep 22. This university is located in which state?
 - a. Karnataka
 - b. Gujarat
 - c. Maharashtra
 - d. Uttar Pradesh
 - e. Mizoram
9. Which country in the world has the largest population of one horned Rhinos?
 - a. Uganda
 - b. Ethiopia
 - c. Kenya
 - d. India
 - e. Myanmar
10. Which state has announced its plan to build the 'biggest' Film City in India?
 - a. Maharashtra
 - b. Gujarat
 - c. Uttar Pradesh
 - d. Rajasthan
 - e. Madhya Pradesh
11. Name the popular Bollywood actor who has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine:
 - a. Akshay Kumar
 - b. Sidharth Malhotra
 - c. Ayushman Khurana
 - d. Tiger Shroff
 - e. Varun Dhawan
12. Railways has planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by which year?
 - a. 2021
 - b. 2022
 - c. 2023
 - d. 2024
 - e. No such plan

13. What percentage of Small Finance Banks' net advances should be made in the priority sector lending?
- 10
 - 40
 - 75
 - 25
 - 100
14. The Information Technology Act was passed in which year?
- 2006
 - 2004
 - 2002
 - 2000
 - 1999
15. Alexander Lukashenko has been sworn in as the President of which country for a record sixth time?
- Romania
 - Serbia
 - Slovenia
 - Bulgaria
 - Belarus
16. The Trade and Development Report 2020 has been brought out by which international organisation?
- OECD
 - IMF
 - WTO
 - UNCTAD
 - None of these
17. In a rare move, the Parliament passed in one session, three bills for liberalising a particular segment of economy. Which is this sector?
- Oil exploration
 - Mining
 - Agriculture
 - Retail trade
 - Power
18. Dr. Sekhar Basu, a noted scientist of the country passed away recently. He was associated with which sector?
- Space technology
 - Solar power
 - Astronomy
 - Atomic power
 - Missile technology
19. Name the noted chemist and microbiologist who invented the vaccine for Rabies:
- Marie Curie
 - Louis Pasteur
 - Alexander Fleming
 - Robert Koch
 - Edward Jenner
20. Which of the following is an international forum to discuss and implement supervisory norms for banks across the world?
- Basel Committee
 - UN Charter on Banking Practices
 - World Trade Organisation
 - International Board of Banks
 - World Bank Board
21. In response to America's Global Positioning System, India also developed its own

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. What is its official name?

- Disha
 - Netra
 - Navic
 - Antrix
 - Dhruv
22. Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body?
- SEBI
 - TRAI
 - ISRO
 - UGC
 - CSIR
23. The Reserve Bank has introduced a safer "Positive Pay System" for cheque payments of above _____ rupees to prevent cases of fraud.
- 25,000
 - 40,000
 - 50,000
 - 70,000
 - 1,00,000
24. Which noted filmmaker has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune?
- Pareesh Rawal
 - Anil Kapoor
 - Subhash Ghai
 - Shekhar Kapoor
 - Madhur Bhandarkar
25. The Reserve Bank of India has roped in which Bollywood megastar for its new customer awareness campaign:
- Aamir Khan
 - Salman Khan
 - Amitabh Bachchan
 - Shah Rukh Khan
 - Ayushman Khurana
26. In an attempt to make digital payments using _____ more secure, the RBI issued several new guidelines effective from October 1:
- Debit Cards
 - Credit Cards
 - Prepaid cards
 - Only a and b
 - All a, b and c
27. Which of the following statements regarding commodity market is true?
- They trade in primary products like wheat, sugar
 - They trade in mineral products like gold and silver
 - They trade in shares of public limited companies
 - Only A and B
 - All A, B and C
28. What is the impact of lowering of credit rating of a country by the leading credit rating agencies?
- Creditworthiness of the country is reduced
 - Investors demand higher returns on their investments
 - It puts question mark on the ability of the country to repay debt

Select the right option:

- a. Only i) and ii) are correct
 - b. Only ii) and iii) are correct
 - c. Only i) and iii) are correct
 - d. Only i) is correct
 - e. All three are correct
29. **Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is awarded to young scientists below the age of ____ years:**
- a. 45
 - b. 40
 - c. 35
 - d. 30
 - e. 25
30. **Alyssa Healy surpassed Dhoni's world record of 91 dismissals, highest by a wicketkeeper. She plays for which country?**
- a. England
 - b. New Zealand
 - c. Australia
 - d. West Indies
 - e. South Africa
31. **Due to uncertainty related to Covid crisis, the RBI deferred implementation of provisions made under Basel III capital norms up to which date?**
- a. Dec 31, 2020
 - b. Jan 31, 2021
 - c. March 31, 2021
 - d. April 1, 2021
 - e. June 30, 2021
32. **India has announced USD 15 million grant assistance to which country for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries.**
- a. Thailand
 - b. South Korea
 - c. Vietnam
 - d. Sri Lanka
 - e. Myanmar
33. **What is the name of the one month long virtual summit of researchers and scientists launched by the Prime Minister?**
- a. VIGYAAN
 - b. SHODHAN
 - c. VAIBHAV
 - d. RESCON
 - e. SCIECON
34. **Banks are offering payment solutions which do not require swiping credit/debit card instead payment is completed by scanning a QR code. Here, the term QR stands for**
- a. Quick Request
 - b. Quick Response
 - c. Quick Return
 - d. Quick Receipt
 - e. Quick Release
35. **Which union ministry handles the complaints / issues related to the services provided by the internet / social media?**
- a. Ministry of Law and Justice
 - b. Ministry of Information Technology
 - c. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - d. Ministry of Science and Technology

- e. None of these
36. **Amnesty International India stopped its operations in India on account of the complete freezing of its bank accounts by the Government of India. Where is its headquarters?**
- a. Paris
 - b. Geneva
 - c. London
 - d. The Hague
 - e. Vienna
37. **The RBI has excluded how many public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.**
- a. Three
 - b. Four
 - c. Five
 - d. Six
 - e. Seven
38. **World's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel, has been opened at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh. It crosses which range of Himalayas?**
- a. Shiwaliks
 - b. PirPanjal
 - c. Dhaula Dhar
 - d. Kishtwar
 - e. Rohtang
39. **The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise was held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5. What was its name?**
- a. Bongosagar-2
 - b. Bimex-2
 - c. IndBang-2
 - d. Sahyog-2
 - e. Navalex-2
40. **India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile with a strike range of around 1,000 km. What is its name?**
- a. Prithvi
 - b. Agni
 - c. Nirbheek
 - d. Prahaar
 - e. Shaurya
41. **Magnetic Ink Character Recognition Code (MICR Code) is a character recognition technology used mainly in the ____.**
- a. Insurance Industry
 - b. Banking Industry
 - c. Stock Brokerages
 - d. Mutual Fund Industry
 - e. Share Market
42. **Which of the numbers given below closely matches the number of Gram Panchayats in India?**
- a. 2 lakh
 - b. 2.5 lakh
 - c. 3 lakh
 - d. 3.5 lakh
 - e. 4 lakh
43. **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with which food delivery platform to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform?**

- a. Zomato b. Ubereats
c. Swiggy d. Food Panda
e. Grubhub
44. **The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2020 has been awarded for the discovery of which virus?**
a. Coronavirus b. H1N1 virus
c. Hepatitis C virus d. Ebola virus
e. Zika virus
45. **Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of which state has been granted a geographical indication (GI) tag?**
a. Assam b. Meghalaya
c. Nagaland d. Sikkim
e. Tripura
46. **For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferula assafoetida) has been started in which area?**
a. Lahaul and Spiti b. Leh
c. Ladakh d. Kargil
e. Srinagar
47. **Considered as one of rock music's greatest guitar players, Eddie Van Halen lost his battle against cancer at the age of 65. He hailed from which country?**
a. France b. Italy
c. Canada d. USA
e. Brazil
48. **Which of the following is the official news agency of Republic of China?**
a. Wang b. Shinhua
c. Xinhua d. Yongfeng
e. Dong Feng
49. **Rajkiran Rai G has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21. He is MD & CEO of which bank?**
a. Punjab National Bank
b. State Bank of India
c. Canara Bank
d. Union Bank of India
e. Bank of Baroda
50. **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's party won a landslide victory in the New Zealand's general election. What is the name of his party?**
a. Democratic Party b. Peoples Party
c. Labour Party d. Conservative Party
e. Republican Party

1. **Which of the following is NOT a member of the QUAD group of nations?**
a. India b. Britain
c. USA d. Australia
e. Japan
2. **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 has been awarded for the discovery of CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors. They are used for which purpose?**
a. For treating colon cancer
b. For burning brain cells
c. For cutting apendicitis
d. Change of DNA
e. For removing dead cells
3. **India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed park will come up in which state?**
a. Andhra Pradesh b. Kerala
c. Karnataka d. Tamil Nadu
e. Gujarat
4. **A new campaign, 'My Ganga My Dolphin' has been launched to conduct Dolphin census in 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora in which state?**
a. Uttarakhand b. Uttar Pradesh
c. Bihar d. Jharkhand
e. West Bengal
5. **Why has October 8 been selected to celebrate Air Force Day in India?**
a. Britishers handed over charge of Air Force to Indians on this day
b. First Indian officer took charge of Air Force on this day
c. Indian Air Force was raised on this day
d. Indian Air Force got its first Air Chief Marshal on this day
e. Air Force's first fighter jets became operational on this day
6. **In which of the following types of banking, the banks offer all types of financial services to expand their business?**
a. Narrow banking b. Social banking
c. Universal banking d. Wholesale banking
e. Retail banking
7. **Which country is the largest producer of cotton in the world?**
a. China b. Russia
c. Brazil d. India
e. Egypt



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8. RBI's senior-most executive director has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the central bank. What is his name?
 - a. B P Kanungo
 - b. M K Jain
 - c. M D Patra
 - d. M Rajeshwar Rao
 - e. N S Viswanathan
9. Russia successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called _____:
 - a. Tsirkon
 - b. Maxer-V
 - c. Truant
 - d. Super S6
 - e. Triumph-8
10. Ram Vilas Paswan, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, died on Oct 8 at the age of 74. He was holding charge of which union ministry?
 - a. Labour and Employment
 - b. Youth Affairs and sports
 - c. Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
 - d. Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 - e. Chemicals and Fertilisers
11. Meghalaya state entered into partnership with which country for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state?
 - a. Switzerland
 - b. New Zealand
 - c. Israel
 - d. Portugal
 - e. Argentina
12. Which is the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household under the "Har Ghar Jal Yojna"?
 - a. Kerala
 - b. Goa
 - c. Sikkim
 - d. Odisha
 - e. Telangana
13. The Fundamental rights are mentioned in the part III of the Indian Constitution. How many main Fundamental Rights are there?
 - a. 6
 - b. 7
 - c. 9
 - d. 11
 - e. 13
14. The Nobel Peace Prize is decided by the five-member high powered committee of the Parliament of which country?
 - a. Sweden
 - b. Finland
 - c. Netherland
 - d. Norway
 - e. Denmark
15. A two-day Coastal Security Exercise- 'Sagar Kavach'- was conducted on October 8-9 in the Arabian Sea with which country?
 - a. Japan
 - b. Sri Lanka
 - c. Britain
 - d. USA
 - e. None of these
16. The Indian Air Force created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at which place?
 - a. Nathu La
 - b. Daulat Beg Oldi
 - c. Khardung La
 - d. Galwan
 - e. Mana
17. Eight beaches from India have secured the coveted International _____ Flag Certification:
 - a. Red
 - b. Yellow
 - c. Blue
 - d. Green
 - e. Brown
18. Railways has decided to upgrade all non-AC sleeper coaches to AC ones for super-fast trains running at a maximum speed of _____ kmph and beyond:
 - a. 110
 - b. 120
 - c. 130
 - d. 140
 - e. 150
19. A commemorative coin of Rs. _____ was released in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on her 100th birth anniversary:
 - a. 50
 - b. 100
 - c. 150
 - d. 200
 - e. 500
20. The headquarters of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is situated in:
 - a. Geneva
 - b. Vienna
 - c. New York
 - d. Paris
 - e. Abu Dhabi
21. What is the popular name of the French Open Tennis Tournament?
 - a. Pierre Cardino
 - b. Rollon Rollup
 - c. Rebeiro Juliono
 - d. Roland Garros
 - e. Pariso Openo
22. The Finance Minister announced two schemes - LTC Cash Voucher scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme with what objective?
 - a. To appease the govt employees
 - b. To promote domestic tourism
 - c. To boost consumer spending
 - d. To help employees in coming festival season
 - e. To boost revenue collection
23. The Prime Minister virtually launched the physical distribution of property cards under the _____ scheme on October 11:
 - a. Bhumihar
 - b. Aawasiya
 - c. Svamitva
 - d. Grahayog
 - e. Bhuswami

24. **World Arthritis Day is celebrated to raise awareness about arthritis, an ailment related to which part of the body?**
 a. Kidneys b. Skin patches
 c. Bone joints d. Lungs
 e. Liver inflammation
25. **In which year Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog was constituted to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines?**
 a. 2016 b. 2017
 c. 2018 d. 2019
 e. 2020
26. **Which country is the largest producer of milk in the world?**
 a. Russia b. India
 c. New Zealand d. USA
 e. China
27. **The Dachigam National Park is situated in which state?**
 a. Sikkim b. Assam
 c. Jammu & Kashmir d. Karnataka
 e. Manipur
28. **Which F1 race driver equaled the all time record of 91 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany?**
 a. Lewis Hamilton b. Max Verstappen
 c. Charles Leclerc d. Valtteri Bottas
 e. Sebastian Vettel
29. **_____ has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools:**
 a. Sikkim b. Meghalaya
 c. Goa d. Kerala
 e. Haryana
30. **Which report by the IMF has projected 4.4 percent shrinkage in the world economic growth?**
 a. World Economic Outlook Report
 b. Report on World Economy
 c. Prospects of Economic Growth
 d. World Report on Economy
 e. Global Preview of Economy
31. **What is the name of the most prestigious global environment prize in history recently announced by Prince William of Britain?**
 a. Green Nobel Prize
 b. Green Earth Award
 c. Nobel for Earth
 d. Earthshot Prize
 e. Save Environment Prize
32. **Which state has become the first state in India to set up a "Farmers Welfare Fund Board" for the welfare of farmers in the state?**
 a. Uttarakhand b. Sikkim
 c. Kerala d. Odisha
 e. Bihar
33. **_____ is the majority stake holder (50%) in the capital of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is**
 a. Insurance Companies
 b. Central Government
 c. Sponsor Bank
 d. Mutual Funds
 e. State Government
34. **Which country has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?**
 a. Japan b. Brazil
 c. India d. Ecuador
 e. Colombia
35. **Which state signed an agreement with the Indian Rugby Football Union to sponsor the Indian national rugby team for the next three years?**
 a. Jharkhand b. Manipur
 c. West Bengal d. Assam
 e. Odisha
36. **SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is given for outstanding excellence in which field?**
 a. Physics b. Chemistry
 c. Life Sciences d. Ecology
 e. Mathematics
37. **With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non-essential items, the Government has banned imports of which of the following items?**
 a. Mobile sets b. Automobiles
 c. Computers d. Air conditioners
 e. Refrigerators
38. **Bhanu Athaiya, India's first Oscar winner _____ died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness.**
 a. Choreographer b. Song writer
 c. Costume designer d. Art director
 e. Composer
39. **Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd signed a pact with which state government to set up India's largest greenfield zinc smelter?**
 a. Odisha b. Jharkhand
 c. Bihar d. Gujarat
 e. Andhra Pradesh

40. Which university has emerged as the top varsity in India by filing the highest number of patents in a year - 336?
- Punjab University
 - Delhi University
 - Chandigarh University
 - Bombay University
 - Kolkata University
41. Which of the following countries is not a member of BIMSTEC?
- Pakistan
 - India
 - Bhutan
 - Nepal
 - Myanmar
42. India was placed at which rank among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020?
- 57th
 - 63rd
 - 77th
 - 94th
 - 100th
43. The Supreme Court appointed which former Supreme Court judge as a one-man committee to monitor and prevent instances of stubble-burning by farmers in the three States.
- Justice A K Mishra
 - Justice Deepak Gupta
 - Justice R Banumathi
 - Justice Madan B Lokur
 - Justice A K Sikri
44. The ready availability of cash in the system is referred to as:
- Monetary
 - Finance
 - Liquidity
 - Hot cash
 - Cashrich
45. When the economy of a country starts shrinking instead of growing, continuously for three quarters, the situation is termed as _____.
- Regression
 - Recession
 - Depression
 - Degeneration
 - Repression
46. Which of the following is NOT a major Credit Rating Agency?
- Moody's
 - Fitch
 - Dow Jones
 - S&P
 - CRISIL
47. On the 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the government launched a campaign named 'KAPILA', with what objective?
- To promote research in universities
 - To promote innovation in schools
 - To promote patenting of inventions
 - To improve higher education
 - To promote startups in education

48. The National Sample Survey Office functions under which of the following union ministries?
- Ministry of Planning
 - Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
 - Ministry of Home Affairs
49. The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies took place off Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October. What was its name?
- PASSEX
 - INDSRI-20
 - SLINEX-20
 - SAGARIKA
 - MAITREE-20
50. Headquarters of the number one global IT Company Alphabet, are located in which of the following cities?
- Los Angeles
 - San Jose
 - Mountain View
 - San Diego
 - Chicago

ANSWER KEY | OCTOBER GK TEST | 1

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

ANSWER KEY | OCTOBER GK TEST | 2

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

SSC-TIER-II (MAINS EXAM) (QUANT-MODEL TEST PAPER)



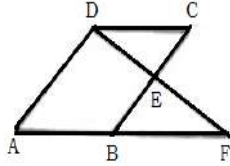
QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

- 1) The largest among these $\sqrt[3]{4}, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt[4]{3}, \sqrt[4]{5}$ is
a) $\sqrt[3]{4}$ b) $\sqrt{2}$
c) $\sqrt[4]{3}$ d) $\sqrt[4]{5}$
- 2) For what value of K, $(x^3+2kx^2+11x+6)$ is exactly divisible by $(x+2)$?
a) 3 b) -3
c) 23 d) -2
- 3) The simplified form of $\frac{x}{x-y} + \frac{y}{x+y} + \frac{2xy}{y^2-x^2}$ is
a) 1 b) -1
c) $x+y$ d) $\frac{x^2+y^2}{x^2-y^2}$
- 4) If $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} = 47$, then the value of $x + \frac{1}{x}$ is
a) 3 b) -3
c) +3 d) 4
- 5) $\sqrt{380 + \sqrt{380 + \sqrt{380 + \dots}}} = ?$
a) 18 b) 20
c) 19 d) 40
- 6) If $25^{x-1} = 5^{2x-1} - 100$, the value of x is
a) -2 b) 3
c) 1 d) 2
- 7) If $x = \frac{\sqrt{4}-\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{4}+\sqrt{3}}$ and $y = \frac{\sqrt{4}+\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{4}-\sqrt{3}}$, then the value of x^2+xy+y^2
a) 196 b) 192
c) 195 d) 193
- 8) If $x = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{2}}$ then find the value of $\frac{x+\sqrt{3}}{x-\sqrt{3}} + \frac{x+\sqrt{2}}{x-\sqrt{2}}$
a) 2 b) 1
c) 0 d) None
- 9) $\sqrt{6\sqrt{6\sqrt{6\sqrt{6}}}} = ?$

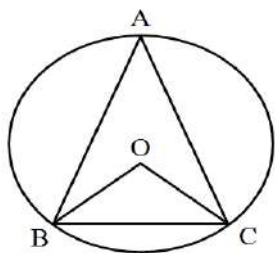
- a) 6 b) $6^{\frac{1}{16}}$
c) $6^{\frac{15}{16}}$ d) None
- 10) If $x = 2^{\frac{1}{3}} + 2^{\frac{2}{3}}$ then the value of $x^3 - 6x$ is
a) 4 b) 5
c) -6 d) 6
- 11) If $\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} = 7$, then the value of $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}$ is
a) 1907 b) 2207
c) 3807 d) 1807
- 12) If $x + y + z = 0$, then the value of $\frac{x^2}{yz} + \frac{y^2}{xz} + \frac{z^2}{xy}$ is
a) 1 b) 2
c) 3 d) 4
- 13) If $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} = -1$, then the value of $x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3}$ is
a) 1 b) 0
c) -1 d) 2
- 14) If $\frac{x+a}{x+b} = \frac{x+3a}{x+a+b}$, find the value of x.
a) $a+2b$ b) $a-2b$
c) $a+b$ d) $a-b$
- 15) $\frac{(625)^{6.25} \times (25)^{2.6}}{(625)^{6.75} \times (5)^{1.2}} = ?$
a) 5 b) 10
c) 15 d) 25
- 16) The simplified value of $\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3+8\sqrt{7+4\sqrt{3}}}}$ is
a) 0 b) 2
c) 3 d) -2
- 17) When the polynomial $f(x) = x^4 - 6x^3 + 9x^2 - x - 1$ is divided by $(x-2)$ what will be the remainder?
a) 0 b) 1
c) 2 d) 3
- 18) If $\frac{p}{b-c} = \frac{q}{c-a} = \frac{r}{a-b}$, then $p+q+r = ?$

- a) 0 b) 1
c) -1 d) -2
- 19) If $x - \frac{1}{x} = 1.5$ find the value of $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4}$
a) 16.625 b) 16.0625
c) 160.625 d) 16.25
- 20) The simplified value of $\sqrt{\frac{19+8\sqrt{3}}{7-4\sqrt{3}}}$ is
a) $11 - 6\sqrt{3}$ b) $11 + 6\sqrt{3}$
c) $10 + 5\sqrt{3}$ d) $10 - 5\sqrt{3}$
- 21) In a mixture of 45 litres, the ratio of milk and water is 4 : 1. How much water must be added to make the mixture ratio 3 : 2?
a) 14 litres b) 16 litres
c) 15 litres d) 17 litres
- 22) In a mixture of 45 litres, the ratio of milk and water is 3 : 2. How much water must be added to make the ratio 9 : 11?
a) 14 litres b) 15 litres
c) 16 litres d) 18 litres
- 23) How many kg. of pure salt must be added to a 30 kg. of 1% solution of salt and water to increase it to a 10% solution?
a) 3 kg b) 4 kg
c) 5 kg d) 6 kg
- 24) In a mixture of 60 litres, the ratio of milk and water is 2 : 1. If this ratio is to be 1 : 2, then the quantity of water (in litres) to be further added is :
a) 55 b) 58
c) 65 d) 60
- 25) A dairy man pays Rs. 6.4 per litre of milk. He adds water and sells the mixture at Rs. 8 per litres, thereby making 37.5% profit. Find the proportion of water to that of the milk received by the customers:
a) 2 : 10 b) 1 : 10
c) 3 : 10 d) 4 : 10
- 26) A shopkeeper blends two varieties of tea costing Rs. 18 and Rs. 13 per kg in the ratio 7 : 3. He sells the blended variety at the rate of Rs. 18.15 per kg. His percentage gain in the transaction is:
a) 11% b) 9%
c) 10% d) 14%
- 27) Milk and water in two vessels A and B are in the ratio 4 : 3 and 2 : 3 respectively. In what ratio the liquids in both the vessels should be mixed to obtain a new mixture in vessel C containing half milk and half-water?
a) 7 : 1 b) 7 : 3
c) 7 : 2 d) 7 : 5
- 28) In what proportion must water be added to spirit to gain 20% by selling it at the cost price?
a) 1 : 4 b) 1 : 5
c) 1 : 2 d) 1 : 3
- 29) A merchant has 1000 kg sugar, part of which he sells at 8% profit and the rest at 18% profit. He gains 14% on the whole. The quantity sold at 8% profit is :
a) 400 kg b) 500kg
c) 300 kg d) 200 kg
- 30) If 50% of 2 : 3 solution of milk and water is replaced with water, then concentration of the solution is reduced by :
a) 45% b) 55%
c) 50% d) 60%
- 31) Two vessels contain spirit of 0.5 and 0.75 concentrations. If two litres from the first vessel and three litres from the second vessel are mixed, then what will be ratio of the spirit and the water in the resultant solution?
a) 13 : 7 b) 13 : 6
c) 13 : 8 d) 13 : 9
- 32) In a mixture of 60 litres, the ratio of milk and water is 2 : 1. If the ratio of milk and water is to be 1 : 2, then the amount of water (in litres) to be further added must be :
a) 70 b) 50
c) 80 d) 60
- 33) A person travels 285 km in 6 hrs in two stages. In the first part of the journey, he travels by bus at the speed of 40 km per hr. In the second part of the journey, he travels by train at the speed of 55 km per hr. How much distance did he travel by train?
a) 166 km b) 167km
c) 165km d) 164km
- 34) A trader has 50kg of pulses, part of which he sells at 8% profit and the rest at 18% profit. He gains 14% on the whole. What is the quantity sold at 18% profit?
a) 30 kg b) 27kg
c) 29kg d) 28kg
- 35) Mira's expenditure and savings are in the ratio 3 : 2. Her income increases by 10%. Her expenditure also increases by 12%. By how many % does her saving increase?
a) 7% b) 5%
c) 8% d) 6%
- 36) A person has Rs. 5000. He invests a part of it at 3% per annum and the remainder at 8% per annum simple interest. His total income in 3 years is Rs. 750. Find the sum invested at different rates of Interest.
a) Rs. 5000, Rs. 2000 b) Rs. 4000, Rs. 2000

- 37) c) Rs. 6000, Rs. 2000 d) Rs. 3000, Rs. 2000
Some amount out of Rs. 7000 was lent at 6% p.a. and the remaining at 4% p.a. if the total simple interest from the fractions in 5 years was Rs. 1600, the sum lent at 6% p.a. was:
a) Rs. 1900 b) Rs. 2100
c) Rs. 2200 d) Rs. 2000
- 38) 729 ml of a mixture contains milk and water in the ratio 7 : 2. How much more water is to be added to get a new mixture containing milk and water in the ratio 7 : 3?
a) 700 ml b) 800 ml
c) 900 ml d) None of these
- 39) In what proportion water must be added to spirit to gain 20% by selling it at the cost price?
a) 1 : 5 b) 1 : 2
c) 1 : 4 d) 1 : 3
- 40) The average monthly salary to employees, consisting of officers and workers of an organization is Rs. 3000. The average salary of an officer is 10000 while that of a worker is Rs. 2000 per month. If there are total 400 employees in the organization, find the number of officers and workers separately:
a) 49,350 b) 48,350
c) 50,350 d) 51,350
- 41) Three angles of a quadrilateral are of magnitudes 80° , 95° and 120° . The magnitude of the fourth angle is:
a) 80° b) 65°
c) 75° d) 70°
- 42) Two parallelograms stand on equal bases and between the same parallels. The ratio of their areas is:
a) 1 : 2 b) 2 : 1
c) 1 : 1 d) 1 : 3
- 43) If a rectangle and a parallelogram are equal in area and have the same base and are situated on the same side, then the quotient: $\frac{\text{perimeter of rectangle}}{\text{Perimeter of parallelogram}}$ is:
a) equal to 1 b) greater than 1
c) less than 1 d) indeterminate
- 44) If ABCD is a rectangle, E, F are the mid points of BC and AD respectively and G is any point on EF, then $\triangle GAB$ equals:
a) $\frac{1}{2} (\square ABCD)$ b) $\frac{1}{3} (\square ABCD)$
c) $\frac{1}{4} (\square ABCD)$ d) $\frac{1}{6} (\square ABCD)$
- 45) ABCD is a parallelogram, E, F are the mid points of BC and AD respectively and G is any point on EF, then $\triangle GAB$ equals.

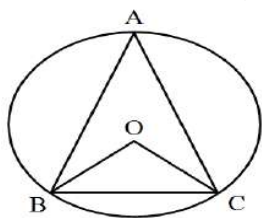
- a) $\frac{1}{3} (\square ABCD)$ b) $\frac{1}{4} (\square ABCD)$
c) $\frac{1}{2} (\square ABCD)$ d) $\frac{1}{6} (\square ABCD)$
- 46) ABCD is a parallelogram. The diagonals AC and BD intersect at a point O. If E, F, G and H are the mid points of AO, DO, CO and BO respectively, then the ratio of (EF + FG + GH + HE) to (AD + DC + CB + BA) is:
a) 1 : 1 b) 1 : 2
c) 1 : 3 d) 1 : 4
- 47) ABCD is a parallelogram, M is the mid point of BD and BM bisects $\angle B$. Then, $\angle AMB$ equals:
a) 45° b) 60°
c) 90° d) None
- 48) If P is a point within a rectangle ABCD, then:
a) $AP + PC = BP + PD$
b) $AP^2 + PC^2 = BP^2 + PD^2$
c) $AP \times PC = BP \times PD$
d) $PC^2 + PD^2 = PA^2 + PB^2$
- 49) In a trapezium ABCD, if $AB \parallel CD$, then $AC^2 + BD^2$ is equal to:
a) $BC^2 + AD^2 + 2BC \cdot AD$
b) $AB^2 + CD^2 + 2AB \cdot CD$
c) $AB^2 + CD^2 + 2AD \cdot BC$
d) $BC^2 + AD^2 + 2AB \cdot CD$
- 50) If area of a parallelogram with sides a and b is A and that of a rectangle with sides a and b is B, then:
a) $A > B$ b) $A = B$
c) $A < B$ d) None
- 51) ABCD is a parallelogram and E is the midpoint of BC. DE and AB when produced meet at F. then,

a) $AF = \frac{3}{2} AB$ b) $AF = 2 AB$
c) $AF = 3 AB$ d) $AF^2 = 2 AB^2$
- 52) If the length of a chord of a circle is 16 cm and is at a distance of 15 cm from the centre of the circle, then the radius of the circle (in cm) is:
a) 15 b) 16
c) 17 d) 34

- 53) An equilateral triangle ABC is inscribed in a circle with centre O. Then, $\angle BOC$ is equal to:



- a) 30° b) 60°
c) 90° d) 120°

- 54) In the adjoining figure, O is the centre of the circle. If $\angle OBC = 25^\circ$, then $\angle BAC$ is equal to

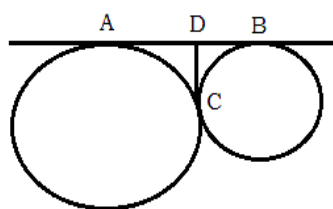


- a) 25° b) 30°
c) 65° d) 150°

- 55) In a circle with centre O, the unequal chords AB and CD intersect each other at P. Then, $\triangle APC$ and $\triangle DPB$ are:

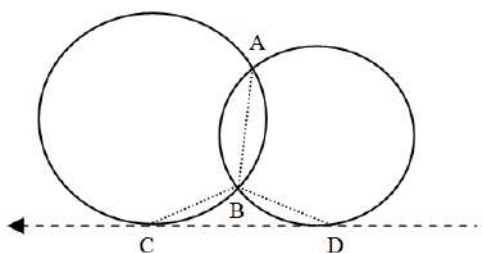
- a) equal in area b) similar
c) congruent d) None of these

- 56) In the given figure, AB and CD are two common tangents to the two touching circles. If $DC = 4$ cm, then AB is equal to



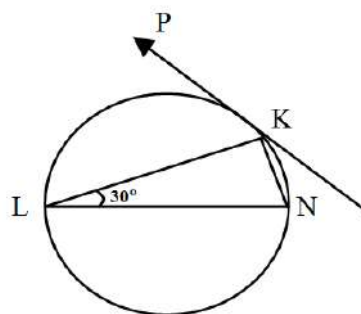
- a) 4 cm b) 6 cm
c) 8 cm d) 12 cm

- 57) CD is a direct common tangent to two circles intersecting each other at A and B. Then, $\angle CAD + \angle CBD = ?$



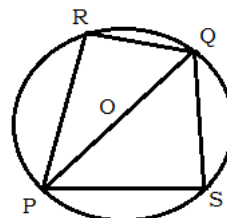
- a) 90° b) 180°
c) 360° d) 120°

- 58) In the adjoining figure, PQ is the tangent at K. If LN is a diameter and $\angle KLN = 30^\circ$, then $\angle PKL$ equals:



- a) 30° b) 50°
c) 60° d) 70°

- 59) In the adjoining figure, POQ is the diameter of the circle. R and S are any two points on circle. Then,



- a) $\angle PRQ > \angle PSQ$ b) $\angle PRQ < \angle PSQ$
c) $\angle PRQ = \angle PSQ$ d) $\angle PRQ = \frac{1}{2} \angle PSQ$

- 60) Two equal circles of radius r intersect such that each passes through the centre of the other. The length of common chord is:

- a) \sqrt{r} b) $r\sqrt{2}$
c) $r\sqrt{3}$ d) $r\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

- 61) If $0 \leq \theta \leq 90^\circ$, then: $\left(\frac{5\cos\theta - 4}{3 - 5\sin\theta} - \frac{3 + 5\sin\theta}{4 + 5\cos\theta} \right)$ is equal to:

- a) 0 b) $2\cos x$
c) $2\sec x$ d) $2\operatorname{cosec} x$

- 62) $\left(\frac{\sin\theta}{1 - \cot\theta} + \frac{\cos\theta}{1 - \tan\theta} \right)$ is equal to:

- a) $\cos\theta + \sin\theta$ b) 0
c) 1 d) $\tan\theta$

- 63) $(1 + \cot\theta - \operatorname{cosec}\theta)(1 + \tan\theta + \sec\theta)$ is equal to:

- a) 1 b) 2
c) 4 d) 0

- 64) $\frac{\tan A + \tan B}{\cot A + \cot B}$ is equal to:

- a) $\cot A \cot B$ b) $\tan A \tan B$
c) $\sec A \operatorname{cosec} B$ d) None of these

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- 65) $\frac{\cot A + \tan B}{\cot B + \tan A}$ is equal to:
 a) $\cot A \tan B$ b) $\tan A \cot B$
 c) $\sec A \operatorname{cosec} B$ d) $\operatorname{cosec} A \sec B$
- 66) $(\cot \theta \cdot \operatorname{cosec} \theta \cdot \sin \theta \cdot \tan \theta)$ is equal to:
 a) $2 \cos \theta$ b) $3 \sin \theta$
 c) 1 d) $\sin \theta$
- 67) $\left(\frac{\tan A}{\sec A - 1} + \frac{\tan A}{\sec A + 1} \right)$ is equal to:
 a) $2 \tan A$ b) $2 \tan A \sec A$
 c) $2 \operatorname{cosec} A$ d) $2 \sec A$
- 68) $\left(\frac{1}{\sec^2 x} + \frac{1}{\operatorname{cosec}^2 x} \right)$ is equal to:
 a) 0 b) 1
 c) -1 d) ∞
- 69) $(\operatorname{cosec} x - \sin x)(\sec x - \cos x)(\tan x + \cot x)$ is equal to:
 a) 0 b) 1
 c) -1 d) ∞
- 70) $\left(\frac{\cot \theta}{\cot \theta - \cot 3\theta} + \frac{\tan \theta}{\tan \theta - \tan 3\theta} \right)$ is equal to:
 a) 0 b) 1
 c) -1 d) 2
- 71) $\left(\frac{\sin A + \sin B}{\cos A + \cos B} + \frac{\cos A - \cos B}{\sin A - \sin B} \right)$ is equal to:
 a) $\tan A \tan B$ b) $\tan A + \tan B$
 c) 1 d) 0
- 72) $[2(\sin^6 x + \cos^6 x) - 3(\sin^4 x + \cos^4 x)]$ is equal to:
 a) 0 b) 1
 c) -1 d) None of these
- 73) If $\cos x + \sin x = \sqrt{2} \cos x$, then $(\cos x - \sin x)$ is equal to:
 a) $-\sqrt{2} \cos x$ b) $\sqrt{2} \sin x$
 c) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sec x$ d) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \operatorname{cosec} x$
- 74) If $x = a \sec \theta$ and $y = b \tan \theta$, then the value of $\left(\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} \right)$ is:
 a) 1 b) -1
 c) $\tan^2 \theta$ d) $\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$
- 75) If $a \cot \theta + b \operatorname{cosec} \theta = x^2$ and $b \cot \theta + a \operatorname{cosec} \theta = y^2$, then the value of $(x^4 - y^4)$ is:
 a) $a^2 + b^2$ b) $a^2 - b^2$
 c) $b^2 - a^2$ d) $(a - b)^2$
- 76) If a and b are real numbers such that $a \cos \theta + b \sin \theta = 4$ and $a \sin \theta - b \cos \theta = 3$, then $(a^2 + b^2)$ is:

- a) 7 b) 12
 c) 25 d) $\sqrt{12}$
- 77) If $\frac{x}{a} \cos \phi + \frac{y}{b} \sin \phi = 1$ & $\frac{x}{a} \sin \phi - \frac{y}{b} \cos \phi = -1$, then the value of $\left(\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} \right)$ is equal to:
 a) 1 b) 2
 c) 1 d) -1
- 78) If $p \cos \theta + q \sin \theta = 8$ & $p \sin \theta - q \cos \theta = 5$, then the value of $(p^2 + q^2)$ is:
 a) 13 b) $2\sqrt{10}$
 c) 89 d) 40
- 79) If $x = r \sin A \cos B$, $y = r \sin A \sin B$ and $z = r \cos A$, then
 a) $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2$ b) $x^2 - y^2 + z^2 = r^2$
 c) $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = r^2$ d) $-x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2$
- 80) If $\cot \theta + \cos \theta = x$ & $\cot \theta - \cos \theta = y$, then the value of $(x^2 - y^2)$ is:
 a) $4\sqrt{xy}$ b) $2xy$
 c) $2\sqrt{xy}$ d) $4xy$
- 81) Given that 1 cm^3 of a metal weights 5 gms, the weight of a cylindrical metal container with base radius 10.5 cm and height 60 cm, is:
 a) 97.65 kg b) 48.75 kg
 c) 103.95 kg d) 102.45 kg
- 82) If the diameter of the base of a closed right circular cylinder be equal to its height h , then its whole surface area is:
 a) $2\pi h^2$ b) $\frac{3}{2}\pi h^2$
 c) $\frac{4}{3}\pi h^2$ d) πh^2
- 83) If the diameter of a cylinder is 28 cm and its height is 20 cm, then total surface area (in cm^2) is:
 a) 2993 b) 2992
 c) 2292 d) 2229
- 84) A right circular cylindrical tunnel of diameter 2 m and length 40 m in to be constructed from a sheet of iron. The area of the iron sheet required in m^2 , is:
 a) 40π b) 80π
 c) 160π d) 200π
- 85) If the curved surface area of a cylinder is 1760 sq. cm and its base radius is 14 cm, then its height is:
 a) 10 cm b) 15 cm
 c) 20 cm d) 40 cm

- 86) The height of a cylinder is 14 cm and its curved surface area is 264 sq. cm. The volume of the cylinder is:
 a) 308 cm^3 b) 396 cm^3
 c) 1848 cm^3 d) 1232 cm^3
- 87) The ratio of total surface area to the lateral surface area of a cylinder with base radius 80 cm and height 20 cm, is:
 a) 2 : 1 b) 3 : 1
 c) 4 : 1 d) 5 : 1
- 88) The curved surface of a cylindrical pillar is 264 m^2 and its volume is 924 m^3 . The height of the pillar is:
 a) 4 m b) 5 m
 c) 6 m d) 7 m
- 89) The ratio between the radius of the base and the height of a cylinder is 2 : 3. If its volume is 1617 cm^3 , the total surface area of the cylinder is:
 a) 308 cm^2 b) 462 cm^2
 c) 540 cm^2 d) 707 cm^2
- 90) A solid cylinder has a total surface area of 231 cm^2 . If its curved surface area is two-third of the total surface area, the volume of the cylinder is:
 a) 269.5 cm^2 b) 385 cm^2
 c) 308 cm^2 d) 363.4 cm^2
- 91) The sum of the radius of the base and the height of a solid cylinder is 37 m. If the total surface area of the cylinder be 1628 m^2 , its volume is:
 a) 3180 m^3 b) 4620 m^3
 c) 5240 m^3 d) None of these
- 92) The radii of the two cylinders are in the ratio 2 : 3 and their heights are in the ratio 5 : 3. The ratio of their volume is:
 a) 27 : 20 b) 20 : 27
 c) 4 : 9 d) 9 : 4
- 93) Two steel sheets each of length a_1 and breadth a_2 are used to prepare the surface of two right circular cylinders-one having volume V_1 and height a_2 and the other having V_2 and height a_1 . Then:
 a) $V_1 = V_2$ b) $a_1 V_1 = a_2 V_2$
 c) $a_2 V_1 = a_1 V_2$ d) $\frac{V_1}{a_1} = \frac{V_2}{a_2}$
- 94) Two circular cylinders of equal volume have their heights in the ratio 1 : 2. Ratio of their radii is:
 a) $1 : \sqrt{2}$ b) $\sqrt{2} : 1$
 c) 1 : 2 d) 1 : 4
- 95) The ratio between the curved surface area and the total surface area of a right circular cylinder is 1 : 2. If the total surface area is 616 cm^2 , the volume of the cylinder is:
 a) 1232 cm^2 b) 1078 cm^2

- c) 1848 cm^2 d) None of these
- 96) The number of coins 1.5 cm in diameter and 0.2 cm thick to be melted to form a right circular cylinder of height 10 cm and diameter 4.5 cm, is;
 a) 540 b) 450
 c) 380 d) 472
- 97) A rectangular tin sheet is 12 cm long and 5 cm broad. It is rolled along its length to form a cylinder by making the opposite edges just to touch each other. The volume of the cylinder (in cm^3) is:
 a) $\frac{180}{x}$ b) $\frac{120}{x}$
 c) $\frac{100}{x}$ d) $\frac{60}{x}$
- 98) If the radius of the base of a right circular cylinder is halved, keeping the height same, what is the ratio of the volume of the reduced cylinder to that of the original one?
 a) 1 : 4 b) 1 : 8
 c) 1 : 2 d) 8 : 1
- 99) The radius of a wire is decreased to one-third, If volume remains the same, the length will become:
 a) 1 time b) 3 times
 c) 6 times d) 9 times
- 100) The area of the curved surface area of a cylinder is 4400 cm^2 and the circumference of its base is 110 cm. The volume of the cylinder (in cm^3) is:
 a) 36000 b) 38500
 c) 42250 d) 40150

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	B	2	A	3	A	4	A	5	B
6	B	7	C	8	A	9	A	10	D
11	B	12	C	13	B	14	B	15	D
16	B	17	B	18	A	19	B	20	B
21	C	22	B	23	A	24	D	25	B
26	C	27	D	28	B	29	A	30	A
31	A	32	D	33	C	34	A	35	A
36	D	37	D	38	D	39	A	40	C
41	B	42	C	43		44	C	45	B
46	B	47	C	48	B	49	D	50	A
51	B	52	C	53	D	54	C	55	B
56	C	57	B	58	C	59	C	60	C
61	A	62	A	63	B	64	B	65	A
66	C	67	C	68	B	69	B	70	B
71	D	72	C	73	B	74	A	75	C
76	C	77	B	78	C	79	A	80	A
81	C	82	B	83	B	84	B	85	C
86	B	87	D	88	C	89	D	90	A
91	B	92	B	93	C	94	B	95	B
96	B	97	A	98	A	99	B	100	B

SOLUTIONS

- 1) (b) $4^{1/3}, 2^{1/2}, 3^{1/6}, 5^{1/4}$
 $4^{4/12}, 2^{6/12}, 3^{2/12}, 5^{3/12}$
 $\sqrt[12]{4^4}, \sqrt[12]{2^6}, \sqrt[12]{3^2}, \sqrt[12]{5^3}$
 So, answer is
 $\sqrt[12]{256}, \sqrt[12]{64}, \sqrt[12]{9}, \sqrt[12]{125}$
 (Max) (Min)
- 2) (a) $x + 2 = 0$
 Put $x = -2$
 $(-2)^3 + 2K(-2)^2 + 11(-2) + 6 = 0$
 $-8 + 8K - 22 + 6 = 0$
 $-30 + 8K = 0$
 $-24 + 8K = 0$
 $8K = 24$
 $K = 3$
- 3) (a) $\frac{x}{x-y} + \frac{y}{x+y} + \frac{2xy}{y^2 - x^2}$
 $\frac{x}{x-y} + \frac{y}{x+y} - \frac{2xy}{x^2 - y^2}$
 $\frac{x(x+y) + y(x-y) - 2xy}{x^2 - y^2}$
 $\frac{x^2 + xy + xy - y^2 - 2xy}{x^2 - y^2}$
 $\frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 - y^2} = 1$
- 4) (a) $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} = 47$
 $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} + 2 = 49$
 $\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)^2 = 7^2$
 $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = 7$
 $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2 = 9$
 $\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 = 3^2$
 $x + \frac{1}{x} = 3$
- 5) (b) $\sqrt{380 + \sqrt{380 + \sqrt{380 + \dots \infty}}}$
 $380 = 20 \times 19$
 20 is greater number
- 6) (b) Put $x = 2$
 $25^{2-1} = 5^{2(2)-1} = 100$
 $25 = 5^{4-1} = 100$
 $25 = 5^3 = 100$
 $25 = 125 - 100$
 $= 25$

- 7) (c) $x = \frac{\sqrt{4} - \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{4} + \sqrt{3}}$
 $y = \frac{\sqrt{4} + \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{4} - \sqrt{3}}$
 $xy = 1$
 $x = 1/y$
 $x = (\sqrt{4} - \sqrt{3})(\sqrt{4} - \sqrt{3})$
 $4 + 3 - 4\sqrt{3}$
 $7 - 4\sqrt{3}$
 $x^2 = 49 + 48 - 56\sqrt{3}$
 $x^2 = 97 - 56\sqrt{3}$
 $\frac{1}{x^2} = \frac{1}{97 - 56\sqrt{3}}$
 $\frac{1}{x^2} = 97 + 56\sqrt{3} = y^2$
 $x^2 + y^2 + xy$
 $97 - 56\sqrt{3} + 97 + 56\sqrt{3} + 1$
 $194 + 1 = 195$
- 8) (a) $x = \frac{2ab}{a+b}$
 So $\frac{x+a}{x-a} + \frac{x+b}{x-b} = 2$
- 9) (a) $\sqrt{6\sqrt{6\sqrt{6\sqrt{6}}}}$
 $6^{\frac{2^n-1}{2^n}}$
 $6^{\frac{2^4-1}{2^4}}$
 $6^{\frac{16-1}{16}}$
 $6^{\frac{56}{16}}$
- 10) (d) $x = 2^{1/3} + 2^{2/3}$
 Cubing
 $x^3 = (2^{1/3} + 2^{2/3})^3$
 $x^3 = 2 + 2^2 + 3(2)(x)$
 $x^3 = 2 + 4 + 6x$
 $x^3 - 6x = 6$
- 11) (b) $\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} = 7$
 $x + \frac{1}{x} + 2 = 49$
 $x + \frac{1}{x} = 47$
 $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2 = 2209$
 $x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = 2207$

12) (c) if $x + y + z = 0$
 $x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = 3xyz$

$$\frac{x^2}{yz} + \frac{y^2}{xz} + \frac{z^2}{xy}$$

$$\frac{x^3}{xyz} + \frac{y^3}{xyz} + \frac{z^3}{xyz}$$

$$\frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3}{xyz} = \frac{3xyz}{xyz} = 3$$

13) (b) $x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} = -1$

$$x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4} + 2 = -1 + 2$$

$$\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right) = 1^2$$

$$x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} = 1$$

$$x^2 + \frac{1}{x^2} + 2 = 1 + 2$$

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 = (\sqrt{3})^2$$

$$x + \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{3}$$

Cubing

$$x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} + 3\sqrt{3} = 3\sqrt{3}$$

$$x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} = 0$$

14) (b) Put $a = 1, b = 3$

$$\frac{x+1}{x+3} = \frac{x+3}{x+4}$$

$$x^2 + x + 4x + 4 = x^2 + 9 + 6x$$

$$5x + 4 = 6x + 9 \quad x = -5$$

b) $a - 2b$

$$1 - 2(3)$$

$$1 - 6$$

$$-5$$

15) (d) $\frac{(625)^{6.25} \times (25)^{2.6}}{(625)^{6.75} \times (5)^{1.2}}$

$$\frac{(5^4)^{6.25} \times (5^2)^{2.6}}{(5^4)^{6.75} \times (5)^{1.2}}$$

$$\frac{5^{25} \times 5^{5.2}}{5^{27} \times 5^{1.2}} = 5^2 = 25$$

16) (b) $\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3+8\sqrt{7+4\sqrt{3}}}}$

$$\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3+8\sqrt{\sqrt{4} + \sqrt{3}}}}$$

$$\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3+16+8\sqrt{3}}}$$

$$\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{19+2\sqrt{48}}}$$

$$\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{16+3+2\sqrt{16 \times 3}}}$$

$$\sqrt{-\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{16+3}}$$

$$\sqrt{4} = 2$$

17) (b) $x - 2 = 0$

Put $x = 2$

$$2^4 - 6(2)^3 + 9(2)^2 - 2 - 1$$

$$16 - 48 + 36 - 2 - 1$$

$$1$$

18) (a) $\frac{p}{b-c} = \frac{q}{c-a} = \frac{r}{a-b} = k$

$$p = k(b-c)$$

$$q = k(c-a)$$

$$r = k(a-b)$$

$$p+q+r = k(b-c+c-a+a-b)$$

$$= k(0)$$

$$= 0$$

19) (b) $x - \frac{1}{x} = \frac{3}{2}$

So $x = 2$ (by observation)

$$x^4 + \frac{1}{x^4}$$

$$2^4 + \frac{1}{2^4}$$

$$16 + \frac{1}{16}$$

$$16 + .0625 = 16.0625$$

20) (b) $\sqrt{\frac{19+8\sqrt{3}}{7-4\sqrt{3}}}$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{19+2\sqrt{48}}{7-2\sqrt{12}}}$$

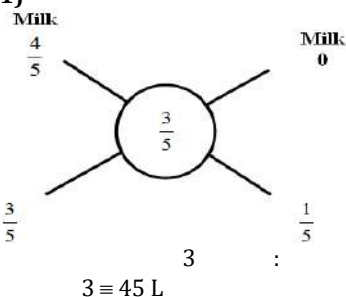
$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sqrt{16} + \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{4} + \sqrt{3}}\right)^2}$$

$$= \frac{4 + \sqrt{3}(2 + \sqrt{3})}{2 - \sqrt{3}(2 + \sqrt{3})}$$

$$= 8 + 2\sqrt{3} + 4\sqrt{3} + 3$$

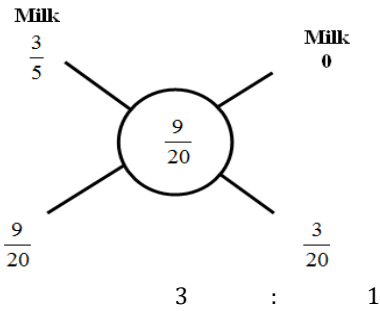
$$= 11 + 6\sqrt{3}$$

21)



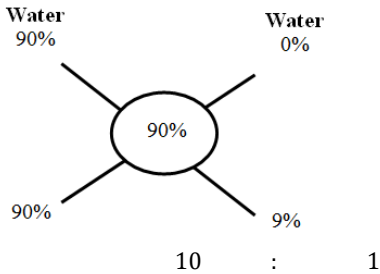
So 1 ≡ 15 L

22)



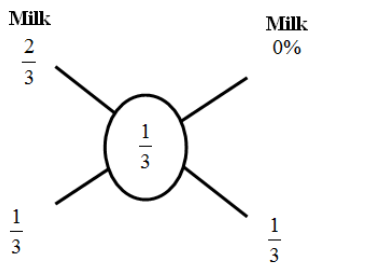
3 ≡ 45 L
So 1 ≡ 15 L

23)



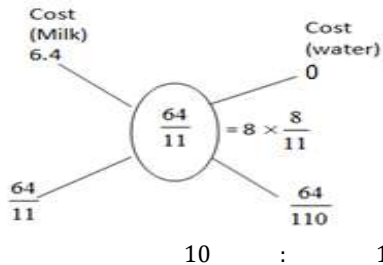
10 ≡ 30 kg
1 ≡ 3 kg

24)

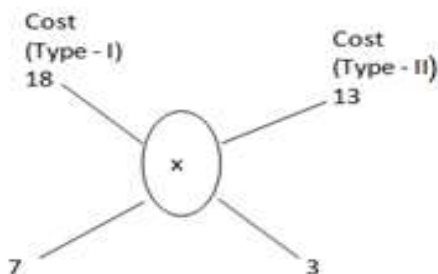


So Ans = 60 L

25)



26)



$$\frac{18-x}{x-13} = \frac{3}{7}$$

$$126 - 7x = 3x - 39$$

$$10x = 165$$

$$x = 16.5 \text{ [C.P]}$$

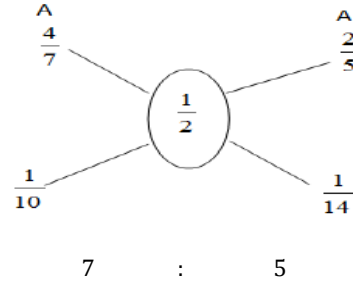
$$\text{C.P} = 16.50$$

$$\text{S.P} = 18.15$$

$$\text{Profit} = 1.65$$

$$\text{Profit \%} = \frac{1.65}{16.5} \times 100 = 10\%$$

27)



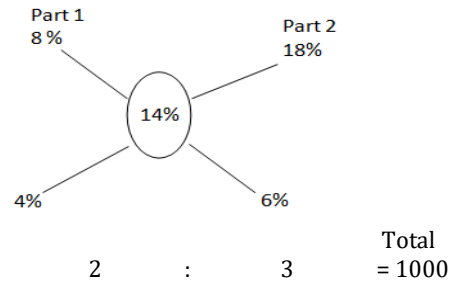
28)

$$\text{Gain} = 20\%$$

$$= \frac{1}{5}$$

So directly ans = 1 : 5

29)

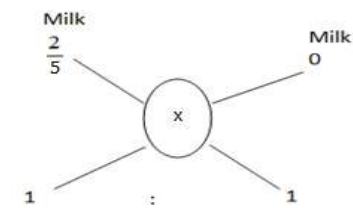


$$2 \equiv 400 \text{ Kg}$$

$$3 \equiv 600 \text{ Kg}$$

$$\text{Total} = 1000$$

30)



$$\frac{x-0}{\frac{2}{5}-x} = \frac{1}{1}$$

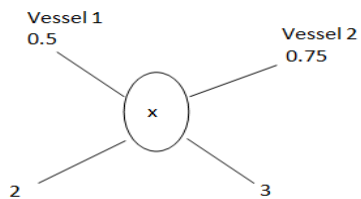
$$x = \frac{2}{5} - x$$

$$2x = \frac{2}{5} \quad x = \frac{1}{5} = 20\%$$

$$\text{Old Milk} = \frac{2}{5} \equiv 40\%$$

$$\text{New Milk} = 20\% \quad \text{So Reduction} = 50\%$$

31)



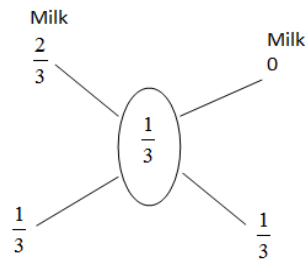
$$\frac{0.75 - x}{x - 0.5} = \frac{2}{3} \quad 2x - 1 = \frac{9}{4} - 3x$$

$$5x = \frac{13}{4} \quad x = \frac{13}{20}$$

$\frac{13}{20}$ & $\frac{7}{20}$ will be the new configuration

So 13 : 7

32)

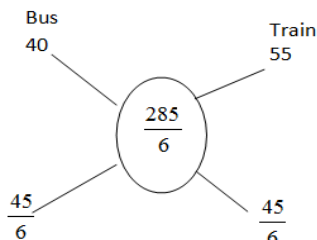


1 : 1

So ans = 60 L

33)

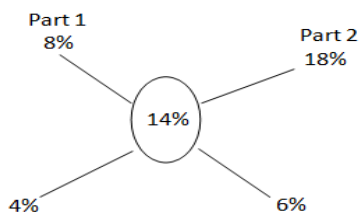
$$\text{Net speed} = \frac{285}{6}$$



1 : 1

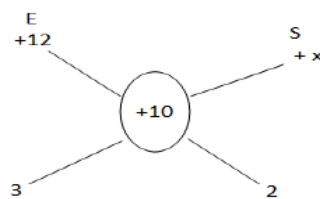
So Times were equal
Bus = 3 x 40 = 120 Km
Train = 3 x 55 = 165 Km

34)



2 : 3 = Total 50
20 K & 30 Kg

35)

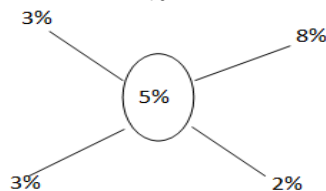


$$\frac{12 - 10}{10 - x} = \frac{2}{3} \quad x = 7$$

36)

3 yrs interest = 750/-
1 yrs interest = 250

$$\text{So R.O.I} = \frac{250}{5000} \times 100 = 5\%$$



3 : 2 = Sum 5000

$$5 \equiv 5000$$

$$1 \equiv 1000$$

$$\text{So } 3 \equiv 3000$$

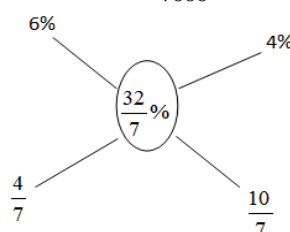
$$2 \equiv 2000$$

37)

5 yrs interest = 1600

$$1 \text{ yrs interest} = \frac{1600}{5} = 320$$

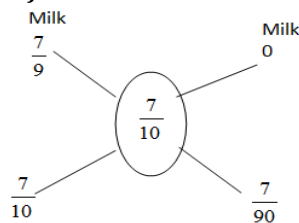
$$\text{R.O.I} = \frac{320}{7000} = 100 = \frac{32}{7} \%$$



2 : 5 = Sum 7000

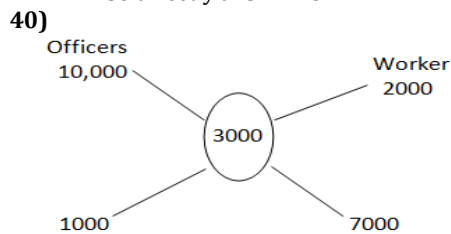
2000 & 5000

38)



9 : 1 = 9 = 729
1 = 81 L

- 39) Profit = 20% = $\frac{1}{5}$
So directly ans = 1 : 5



$$\frac{1}{8} : \frac{7}{400} = \frac{\text{Sum}}{400}$$

$$8 \equiv 400$$

$$1 \equiv 50, 7 \equiv 350$$

So 50 & 350 is the answer.

41. (b) $80^\circ + 95^\circ + 120^\circ + x = 360^\circ$

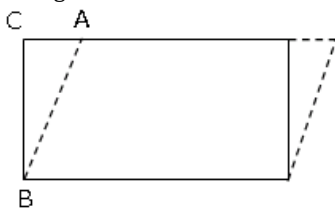
$$295^\circ + x = 360^\circ$$

$$x = 360^\circ - 295^\circ \quad x = 65^\circ$$

- 42) (c) Two ||gms on equal bases and between the same parallels are same in area.

So, 1 : 1.

- 43) Slant height (i.e. side of ||gm) is greater than side of rectangle

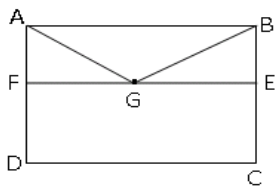


$$AB > AC$$

So the perimeter of ||gm is greater than ||gm of rectangle.

So the ans is less than 1.

- 44) (c)



If E & F are midpoint of AD and BC
then $AB \parallel EF \parallel CD$ (by MPT)

If triangle and rectangle have same base and lie between || lines then area of Δ is $\frac{1}{2}$ of rectangle.

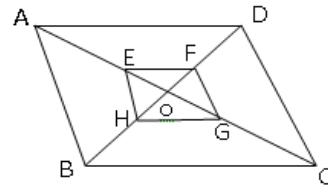
$$\text{So } \Delta AGB = \frac{1}{2} \square ABEF$$

$$\square ABEF = \frac{1}{2} \square ABCD$$

$$\text{So } \Delta AGB = \frac{1}{4} \square ABCD$$

- 45) (b) Same as previous solution.

- 46) (b)



In ΔABO

E & H are midpoints of AO and BO.

By M.P.T.

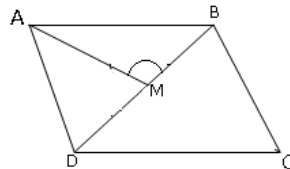
$$EF = \frac{1}{2} AD$$

$$\frac{EF}{AD} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$EF : AD = 1 : 2$$

$$\text{So } (EF + FG + GH + HE) : (AD + DC + CB + BA) = \frac{1}{2} : 2$$

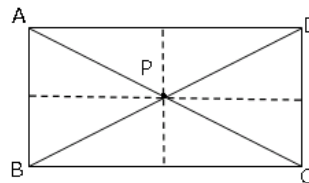
- 47) (c)



If DM is angle bisector then ||gm is a rhombus and in a rhombus diagonals meet at 90°

$$\text{So } \angle AMB = 90^\circ$$

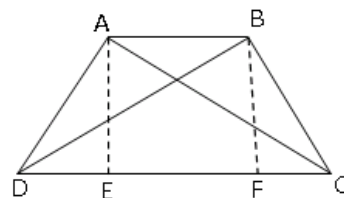
- 48) (b)



Standard result

$$AP^2 + CP^2 = BP^2 + DP^2$$

- 49) (d)



$$AC^2 = AE^2 + EC^2$$

$$= AD^2 - DE^2 + EC^2$$

$$BD^2 = BF^2 + DF^2$$

$$= BC^2 - FC^2 + DF^2$$

$$\text{So, } AC^2 + BD^2 = AD^2 - DE^2 + BC^2 - FC^2 + DF^2 + EC^2$$

$$= AD^2 + BC^2 + (EF + FC)^2 + (DE + EF)^2 - EF^2 - FC^2$$

$$= AD^2 + BC^2 + EF^2 + FC^2 + 2EF \cdot FC + DE^2 + EF^2 + 2DE \cdot EF - DE^2 - FC^2$$

$$= AD^2 + BC^2 + 2EF^2 + 2EF(FC + DE)$$

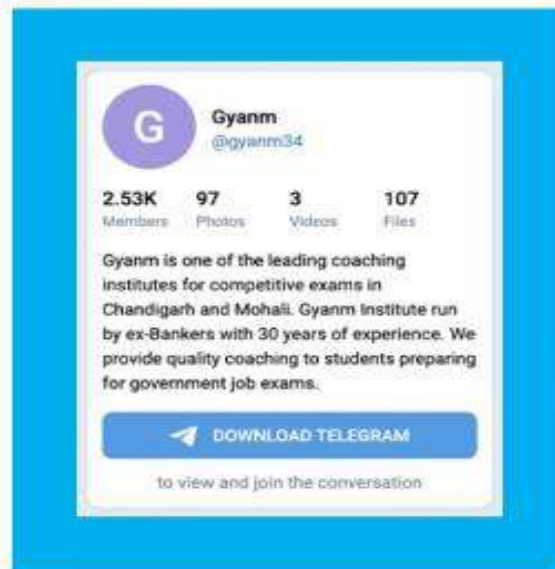
$$= AD^2 + BC^2 + 2EF(EF + FC + DE)$$

$$= AD^2 + BC^2 + 2AB \cdot DC$$



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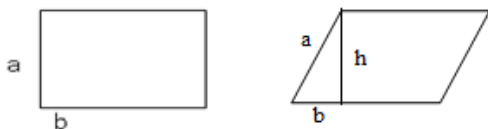


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50) (a)

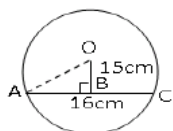


$$\begin{aligned} A &= a \times b \\ B &= h \times b \\ \text{Since } h &< a \\ \text{So, } B &< A \end{aligned}$$

51) (b) By Midpoint theorem

$$AB = \frac{1}{2} AF \quad AF = 2AB.$$

52) (c)



$$\begin{aligned} AC &= 16 \text{ cm} & AB &= 8 \text{ cm.} \\ OB &= 15 \text{ cm.} & AO^2 &= OB^2 + AB^2 \\ AO^2 &= 64 + 225 & AO^2 &= 289 \\ AO &= 17. \end{aligned}$$

53) (d) Angle subtended at the circumference is half of the angle at centre.

$$\begin{aligned} \angle BAC &= 60^\circ \\ \text{So } \angle BOC &= 120^\circ \end{aligned}$$

54) (c) $\angle OBC = 25^\circ$
 $\angle OCB = 25^\circ$ (equal angles)
 $\angle BOC = 180^\circ - 50^\circ$
 $= 130^\circ$
 $\angle BAC = 65^\circ$

55) (b) Standard result
 both Δ 's are similar

56) (c) Length of 2 tangents from some common point are always equal

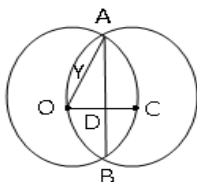
$$\begin{aligned} CD &= 4 \text{ cm} \\ AD &= DC = DB = 4 \text{ cm} \\ AB &= AD + DB \\ &= 8 \text{ cm.} \end{aligned}$$

57) (b) $\angle BCD = \angle CAB$ (alternate segment theorem)
 $\angle BDC = \angle BAD$ (alternate segment theorem)
 $\angle CBD + \angle BCD + \angle BDC = 180^\circ$
 $\angle CBD + \angle CAD = 180^\circ$

58) (c) $\angle KLN = 30^\circ$
 $\angle LKN = 90^\circ$
 $\angle KNL + \angle LKN + \angle NLK = 180^\circ$
 $\angle KNL + 90^\circ + 30^\circ = 180^\circ$
 $\angle KNL = 60^\circ$

$\angle PKL = \angle KNL = 60^\circ$ (alternate segment theorem)
 angle subtended by diameter in the semicircle.
 So $\angle PRQ = \angle PSQ = 90^\circ$

60) (c)



$$OA = r \quad OC = r$$

$$OD = \frac{1}{2} r \quad AO^2 = AD^2 + OD^2$$

$$r^2 = AD^2 + \frac{r^2}{4} \quad \frac{3r^2}{4} = AD^2$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}r^2}{4} = AD \quad AB = 2AD$$

$$= 2 \times \frac{3r^2}{4} = r\sqrt{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 61) (a) \text{ Given Exp.} &= \frac{(5 \cos \theta - 4)(4 + 5 \cos \theta) - (3 + 5 \sin \theta)(3 - 5 \sin \theta)}{(3 - 5 \sin \theta)(4 + 5 \cos \theta)} \\ &= \frac{(25 \cos^2 \theta - 16) - (9 - 25 \sin^2 \theta)}{(3 - 5 \sin \theta)(4 + 5 \cos \theta)} \\ &= \frac{25(\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) - 25}{(3 - 5 \sin \theta)(4 + 5 \cos \theta)} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 62) (a) \text{ Given Exp.} &= \frac{\sin \theta}{1 - \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}} + \frac{\cos \theta}{1 - \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}} \\ &= \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\sin \theta - \cos \theta} + \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\cos \theta - \sin \theta} = \frac{\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta - \sin \theta} = \\ &= (\cos \theta + \sin \theta). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 63) (b) \text{ Given Exp.} &= \left(1 + \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} - \frac{1}{\sin \theta}\right) \left(1 + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} + \frac{1}{\cos \theta}\right) \\ &= \left[\frac{(\sin \theta + \cos \theta) - 1}{\sin \theta}\right] \left[\frac{(\sin \theta + \cos \theta) + 1}{\cos \theta}\right] \\ &= \frac{(\sin \theta + \cos \theta) - 1}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} = \frac{(\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) + 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta - 1}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} \\ &= \frac{2 \sin \theta \cos \theta}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} = 2. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 64) (b) \text{ Given Exp.} &= \frac{\frac{\sin A}{\cos A} + \frac{\sin B}{\cos B}}{\frac{\sin A}{\cos A} + \frac{\sin B}{\cos B}} \\ &= \frac{\sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B}{\cos A \cos B} \times \frac{\sin A \sin B}{\cos A \sin B + \cos B \sin A} \\ &= \frac{\sin A \sin B}{\cos A \cos B} = \tan A \tan B. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 65) (a) \text{ Given Exp.} &= \frac{\frac{\cos A}{\sin B} + \frac{\sin B}{\cos A}}{\frac{\cos A}{\sin B} + \frac{\sin B}{\cos A}} = \frac{\cos A \cos B + \sin A \sin B}{\sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin A} \\ &= \frac{\cos A \cos B + \sin A \sin B}{\cos A \sin B} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{\cos A \sin B}{\sin A \cos A} = \cot A \tan B.$$

66) (c) Given Exp. = $\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \cdot \sin \theta \cdot \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} = 1.$

67) (c) Given Exp.

$$= \frac{\tan A (\sec A + 1) + \tan A (\sec A - 1)}{\sec^2 A - 1} = \frac{2 \tan A \sec A}{\tan^2 A}$$

$$= \frac{2 \sec A}{\tan A} = \frac{2}{\cos A} \times \frac{\cos A}{\sin A} = \frac{2}{\sin A} = 2 \operatorname{cosec} A.$$

68) (b) Given Exp. = $(\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x) = 1.$

69) (b) Given Exp.

$$= \left(\frac{1}{\sin x} - \sin x \right) \left(\frac{1}{\cos x} - \cos x \right) \left(\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} + \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} \right)$$

$$= \frac{(1 - \sin^2 x)}{\sin x} \cdot \frac{(1 - \cos^2 x)}{\cos x} \cdot \left(\frac{\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x}{\cos x \sin x} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\cos^2 x}{\sin x} \cdot \frac{\sin^2 x}{\cos x} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos x \sin x} = 1.$$

70) (b) Given Exp.

$$= \left(\frac{\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}}{\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}}{\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}} = \frac{\frac{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{\sin \theta \cos \theta}}{\frac{\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta}{\sin \theta \cos \theta}} = \frac{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta} = 1.$$

71) (d) Given Exp.

$$= \frac{(\sin^2 A - \sin^2 B) + (\cos^2 A - \cos^2 B)}{(\cos A + \cos B)(\sin A - \sin B)} = 0.$$

72) (c) Given Exp.

$$= 2 [(\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)^3 - 3 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x (\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)] - 3 [(\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)^2 - 2 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x]$$

$$= 2 [1 - 3 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x] - 3 [1 - 2 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x]$$

$$= -1.$$

73) (b) $(\cos x + \sin x)^2 + (\cos x - \sin x)^2 = 2 (\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)$

$$\Rightarrow (\sqrt{2} \cos x)^2 + (\cos x - \sin x)^2 = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow (\cos x - \sin x)^2 = 2 (1 - \cos^2 x) = 2 \sin^2 x$$

$$\Rightarrow (\cos x - \sin x) = \sqrt{2} \sin x.$$

74) (a) $\frac{x}{a} = \sec \theta$ and $\frac{y}{b} = \tan \theta.$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} \right) = (\sec^2 \theta - \tan^2 \theta) = 1.$$

75) (c) Squaring and subtracting the given equations, we get:

$$(x^4 - y^4) = a^2 (\cot^2 \theta - \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta) + b^2 (\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta - \cot^2 \theta)$$

$$= a^2 [\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta - 1 - \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta] + b^2 (1 + \cot^2 \theta - \cot^2 \theta) = (b^2 - a^2).$$

76) (c) Squaring and adding, we get:

$$a^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + b^2 (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) = (4^2 + 3^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2 + b^2 = 25.$$

77) (b) Squaring and adding the given equations, we get:

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} (\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi) + \frac{y^2}{b^2} (\sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi) = 1^2 + (-1)^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 2.$$

78) (c) Squaring and adding, we get:

$$p^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + q^2 (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) = 8^2 + 5^2 \Rightarrow p^2 + q^2 = 89$$

79) (a) $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2 \sin^2 A \cos^2 B + r^2 \sin^2 A \sin^2 B + r^2 \cos^2 A$

$$= r^2 \sin^2 A (\cos^2 B + \sin^2 B) + r^2 \cos^2 A$$

$$= r^2 \sin^2 A + r^2 \cos^2 A = r^2 (\sin^2 A + \cos^2 A) = r^2.$$

80) (a) $x^2 - y^2 = (\cot \theta + \cos \theta)^2 - (\cot \theta - \cos \theta)^2$

$$= 4 \cot \theta \cos \theta = \frac{4 \cos^2 \theta}{\sin \theta}$$

Also, $xy = (\cot \theta + \cos \theta)(\cot \theta - \cos \theta)$

$$= \cot^2 \theta - \cos^2 \theta = \cos^2 \theta \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} - 1 \right)$$

$$= \cos^2 \theta \cdot \frac{(1 - \sin^2 \theta)}{\sin^2 \theta} = \frac{\cos^4 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\sin \theta} = \sqrt{xy}. \text{ Consequently, } (x^2 - y^2) = 4 \sqrt{xy}.$$

81) (c) Weight =

$$\left(\frac{22}{7} \times 10.5 \times 10.5 \times 60 \right) \times \frac{5}{1000} \text{ kg} = 103.95 \text{ kg}.$$

82) (b) Whole Surface = $2\pi rh + 2\pi r^2 = 2\pi r (h + r) =$

$$2\pi \frac{h}{2} \left(h + \frac{h}{2} \right) = \frac{3}{2} \pi h^2 \left[\because r = \frac{h}{2} \right]$$

83) (b) Total surface area = $2\pi rh + 2\pi r^2 = 2\pi r (h + r)$

$$2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 14 \times (20 + 14) = 2993 \text{ cm}^2.$$

84) (b) Required area = $2\pi rh = (2\pi \times 1 \times 40) \text{ m}^2 = (80\pi) \text{ m}^2.$

85) (c) $2\pi rh = 1760 \Rightarrow 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 14 \times h = 1760.$

$$\text{So, } h = \frac{1760}{88} = 20 \text{ cm}.$$

86) (b) $2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times r \times 14 = 264 \Rightarrow r = \frac{264}{88} = 3.$

\therefore Volume = $\pi r^2 h$

$$= \left(\frac{22}{7} \times 3 \times 3 \times 14 \right) \text{ cm}^3 = 396 \text{ cm}^3.$$

87) (d) $\frac{\text{Total Surface Area}}{\text{Lateral Surface Area}} = \frac{2\pi r(h+r)}{2\pi rh} = \frac{h+r}{h}$

$$= \left(\frac{20+80}{20} \right) = \frac{5}{1}.$$

88) (c) $2\pi rh = 264$ and $\pi r^2 h = 924$.

$$\therefore \frac{\pi r^2 h}{2\pi rh} = \frac{924}{264} \Rightarrow r = \frac{2 \times 924}{264} = 7m.$$

Now,

$$2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times h = 264 \Rightarrow h = \frac{264}{44} = 6m.$$

89) (d) Let, radius = $2x$ and height = $3x$.

$$\therefore \frac{22}{7} \times (2x)^2 \times 3x = 1617 \Rightarrow x^3 = \left(1617 \times \frac{7}{22} \times \frac{1}{12}\right) = \left(\frac{7 \times 7 \times 7}{2 \times 2 \times 2}\right).$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{7}{2}. \text{ So, radius} = 7cm \text{ \& height} = \frac{21}{2}cm$$

$$\therefore \text{Total Surface Area} = 2\pi r(h + r)$$

$$= 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times \left(\frac{21}{2} + 7\right)cm^2 = 770cm^2.$$

90) (a) Curved Surface Area = $\left(\frac{2}{3} \times 231\right) = 154cm^2$.

$$\therefore 154 + 2\pi r^2 = 231 \Rightarrow r^2 = \frac{77}{2\pi} = \left(\frac{77}{2} \times \frac{7}{22}\right) \Rightarrow r = \frac{7}{2}.$$

Now,

$$2\pi rh = 154 \Rightarrow 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times \frac{7}{2} \times h = 154 \Rightarrow h = 7.$$

$$\therefore \text{Volume} = \pi r^2 h = \left(\frac{22}{7} \times \frac{49}{4} \times 7\right) = 269.5cm^3.$$

91) (b) $(h + r) = 37$ & $2\pi r(h + r) = 1628$

$$\therefore 2\pi r \times 37 = 1628 \Rightarrow r = \left(\frac{1628}{2 \times 37} \times \frac{7}{22}\right) = 7.$$

Thus, $r = 7$ and $h = 30$.

\therefore Volume =

$$\pi r^2 h = \left(\frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times 7 \times 30\right) = 4620m^3.$$

92) (b) Let the radii be $2r$, $3r$ and heights be $5h$ & $3h$.

$$\text{Ratio of volumes} = \frac{\pi(2r)^2 \times 5h}{\pi(3r)^2 \times 3h} = \frac{20}{27}.$$

93) (c) $2\pi r_1 a_2 = a_1 a_2 \Rightarrow r_1 = \frac{a_1}{2\pi};$

$$2\pi r_2 a_1 = a_1 a_2 \Rightarrow r_2 = \frac{a_2}{2\pi}.$$

$$\therefore V_1 = \pi r_1^2 a_2 = \left(\pi \times \frac{a_1^2}{4\pi^2} \times a_2\right) = \frac{a_1^2 a_2}{4\pi}$$

$$V_2 = \pi r_2^2 a_1 = \left(\pi \times \frac{a_2^2}{4\pi^2} \times a_1\right) = \frac{a_2^2 a_1}{4\pi}.$$

$$\therefore a_2 V_1 = a_1 V_2$$

94) (b) Let their radii be r and R and heights h & $2h$. Then,

$$\pi r^2 \times h = \pi R^2 \times 2h \Rightarrow \frac{r^2}{R^2} = \frac{2}{1} \Rightarrow \frac{r}{R} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{1}.$$

95) (b) $\frac{2\pi rh}{2\pi r(h + r)} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{h}{h + r} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow h = r.$

And, $2\pi r(h + r) = 616 \Rightarrow 4\pi r^2 = 616 \Rightarrow r = 7$ [$\because h = r$]
Thus, $r = 7$ cm and $h = 7$ cm.

$$\therefore \text{Volume} = \pi r^2 h = \left(\frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times 7 \times 7\right) = 1078cm^3.$$

96) (b) Number of coins = $\frac{\text{Volume of cylinder}}{\text{volume of 1 coin}}$

$$= \left(\frac{\pi \times 2.25 \times 2.25 \times 10}{\pi \times 0.75 \times 0.75 \times 0.2}\right) = 450.$$

97) (a) When the sheet is rolled along length, height = 5 cm

and $2\pi r = 12$, i.e., $r = \frac{6}{\pi}$.

$$\therefore \text{Volume} = \pi r^2 h = \left(\pi \times \frac{36}{\pi^2} \times 5\right) = \frac{100}{\pi}.$$

98) (a) Let, original radius = R . Then, new radius = $(R/2)$.

$$\frac{\text{Volume of reduced cylinder}}{\text{Volume of original cylinder}} = \frac{\pi \times \left(\frac{R}{2}\right)^2 \times h}{\pi \times R^2 \times h} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

99) (b) Let radii be R & $(R/3)$ & heights be h & H . Then,

$$\pi R^2 h = \pi \times \left(\frac{R}{3}\right)^2 \times H \Rightarrow H = 3h.$$

So, the length will become 3 times.

100) (b) $2\pi rh = 4400$ and $2\pi r = 110$.

$$\therefore 100 \times h = 4400 \text{ or } h = 40.$$

Also, $2\pi r = 110 \Rightarrow r = \frac{110}{2\pi} = \frac{55}{\pi}.$

\therefore Volume

$$= \pi \times \left(\frac{55}{\pi}\right)^2 \times 40 = \left(\frac{55 \times 55 \times 40}{22} \times 7\right) = 38500cm^3.$$

LIFE is like MATH
if it goes too easy
something is wrong.

Latest G.K. Bytes

OCTOBER 2020

- 1) India and the US signed which agreement at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit? **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
- 2) 201. Which national day is observed on October 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**
- 3) Which International day is observed across the world on October 31 to work together for planned and sustainable urban life? **World Cities Day**
- 4) "The Battle of Belonging" is a book written by which former Congress union minister? **Shashi Tharoor**
- 5) What is the title of the latest book by V E Schwab? **The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue**
- 6) Who is the author of the recently released book titled "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside"? **N K Singh, renowned politician and economist**
- 7) The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on which day of October? **27th**
- 8) Which company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes? **NTPC Ltd.**
- 9) Which F1 driver broke the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher? **Lewis Hamilton**
- 10) India has secured which rank in the Global Teacher Status Index? **6th**
- 11) Army celebrates Infantry Day on October 27 to commemorate the sacrifice of its soldiers in which battle? **Indo Pak battle of 1947**
- 12) One of the founding members of BJP, a towering leader of BJP from Rajasthan, breathed his last on Sep 27. Who was he? **Jaswant Singh**
- 13) Which Bank approved two loans totalling \$570 million for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh? **Asian Development Bank**
- 14) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the AIFF Footballer of the Year award. Who is he? **Goalkeeper of Indian men's team**
- 15) Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**
- 16) The Reserve Bank has introduced which system for safer cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees to prevent cases of fraud? **Positive Pay System**
- 17) Neetu David, one of finest women cricketers of India in the late '90s and early 2000, has been appointed to which important position? **Chairman of the women's national selection panel**
- 18) Name the 74-year old renowned economist, who passed away in New Delhi: **Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia**

- 19) Who has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune? **Shekhar Kapur**
- 20) The Reserve Bank of India has roped in which Bollywood megastar for its customer awareness campaign? **Amitabh Bachchan**
- 21) Moctar Ouane has been appointed as new prime minister of Mali. Where is this country? **Western Africa**
- 22) The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund has been launched for which segment of people? **SC students studying in higher educational institutions**
- 23) Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been sworn in as the ruling Emir of which oil-rich country? **Kuwait**
- 24) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing award has been won by Tourism department of which state? **Kerala**
- 25) Which Bollywood actor has been conferred with SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award? **Sonu Sood**
- 26) Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding scientists below the age of ____ years: **45**
- 27) Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding Scientists in how many fields: **Seven**
- 28) Alyssa Healy surpassed Dhoni's world record of 91 dismissals by a wicket keeper in T20i. She plays for which country? **Australia**
- 29) RBI has deferred implementation of which provisions made under Basel III capital norms? **Capital Conservation Buffer and Net Stable Funding Ratio**
- 30) India has announced USD 15 million grant assistance to which country for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries? **Sri Lanka**
- 31) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik Summit on October 2. What is its short name? **VAIBHAV**
- 32) International Day of Older Persons is observed on which date? **October 01**
- 33) Which global human rights organisation freed its operations in India? **Amnesty International**
- 34) Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? **London**
- 35) The RBI has excluded how many public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934? **Six**
- 36) ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) was inducted in to Indian Coast Guard at which place? **Kolkata**
- 37) Which International day aims to highlight the benefits of vegetarianism? **World Vegetarian Day, Oct 01**
- 38) National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed in India on which date? **October 01**
- 39) Which international day is observed to commemorate

	Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence? International Day of Non-violence
40)	At which place Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated on Oct 3 the world's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel? At Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh
41)	The Atal Tunnel has been built across which mountain range? Pir Panjal
42)	The Atal Tunnel connects Manali with the area of which valley? Lahaul Spiti Valley
43)	What is the name of the 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5? Bongosagar-2
44)	Which country has committed \$1.9 million to support Indian workers whose livelihoods were disrupted due to COVID-19? USA
45)	What is the name of indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile, with a strike range of around 1,000 km? Shaurya
46)	A Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: "Summit RAISE 2020" was held from 5 to 9 of October. What is full form of RAISE? Responsible AI for Social Empowerment
47)	Which state launched 'Gram Darshan' portal to bring data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online? Haryana
48)	The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has signed a MoU with which food delivery platform to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform? Swiggy
49)	DRDO successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo" on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island. What is its short name? SMART
50)	The World Habitat Day is observed on which Monday of October? First
51)	What is the theme for this year's World Habitat Day? Housing For All: A better Urban Future
52)	Which country will host the 12th BRICS Summit on 17th November 2020 via video conferencing? Russia
53)	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020 has been awarded jointly to Harvey J. Alter, USA Michael Houghton, Britain and Charles M. Rice, USA for which discovery? For the discovery of Hepatitis C virus
54)	What is the amount of cash award for the 2020 Nobel Prize? Swedish Kroner 10 million
55)	Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020? Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
56)	Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and US scientist Ms. Andrea Ghez won the 2020 Nobel Prize in which field? Physics
57)	Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physics? Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden
58)	Name the 16-year-old Indian shooter who won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship: Vishnu Shivaraj Pandian
59)	World Teachers' Day is celebrated on which day of October? 5th
60)	Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of _____ got a GI tag recently: Sikkim
61)	GI tag registry is located at which place? Chennai

62)	World Animal Day is celebrated on which day of October? 4th
63)	M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director General of which national body? Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
64)	Which department of central government declared winners of the first National Start-Up Awards-2020? Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
65)	One of rock music's greatest guitar players, _____ lost his battle against cancer at the age of 65 in Los Angeles, USA: Eddie Van Halen
66)	The 2nd QUAD Ministerial Meeting was held on October 6 in which city? Tokyo
67)	QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations - India, Australia, Japan and _____: USA
68)	Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA) won the Nobel Prize in which field? Chemistry
69)	Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded for the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools. What is its name? CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors
70)	India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed park will come up at two places in which state? Gujarat
71)	India celebrates October 5 every year as the '_____ River Dolphin Day': Ganga
72)	'My Ganga My Dolphin' campaign has been launched to conduct Dolphin census in 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora in which state? Uttar Pradesh
73)	The Indian Air Force celebrates its raising day on which date? October 8
74)	Who was the first Indian chief of the Indian Air Force? Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee
75)	The World Cotton Day is observed on which day? October 7
76)	Which country is the largest producer of cotton in the world? India
77)	Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI? M Rajeshwar Rao
78)	The Offshore Patrol Vessel "Vigraha" recently handed over to the Indian Coast Guard, has been built by which company? Larsen and Toubro
79)	Which country successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon (Zircon)? Russia
80)	Who has been selected for the Nobel Prize for Literature 2020? Ms. Louise Glück
81)	Ms. Louise Glück is a famous poet of which country? America
82)	Name the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, who died on Oct 8: Ram Vilas Paswan
83)	Which state entered into partnership with Israel for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state? Meghalaya
84)	Which day is observed on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment? World Sight Day
85)	Bisher Al-Khasawneh has been appointed as the Prime

	Minister of which country? Jordan
86)	Which e-commerce major has collaborated with IRCTC to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site? Amazon India
87)	World Egg Day is celebrated on the _____ Friday in October every year to raise awareness about the benefits of eggs: Second
88)	World Post Day is observed to mark the anniversary of establishment of which organization in 1874? Universal Postal Union
89)	World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on second Saturday of which two months? May and October
90)	_____ has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household: Goa
91)	What is the name of India's first new generation anti-radiation missile successfully test-fired by DRDO? Rudram
92)	Which UN agency has been selected for the prestigious Nobel Prize 2020? World Food Programme
93)	Which official body decides the winner of Nobel Peace Prize? The five member committee of the Parliament of Norway
94)	Which Bank approved funds worth \$741 million for infrastructure projects in India? New Development Bank
95)	Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? Shanghai
96)	A two-day Coastal Security Exercise- 'Sagar Kavach'- was conducted on October 8-9 in which area? In the Arabian Sea alongside the western coast
97)	Headquarters of the World Trade Organisation are in which country? Switzerland
98)	Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Mental Health Day on October 10? WHO - World Health Organisation
99)	Which global day is observed every year on October 11 to focus on issues like female infanticide to gender inequality to sexual abuse? International Day of the Girl Child
100)	The Indian Air Force created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at which place? Khardung La, near Leh
101)	How many beaches from India have secured the coveted International Blue Flag Certification? Eight
102)	Railways has decided to upgrade all its trains capable of running at a maximum speed of 130 km per hour and beyond, with which type of coaches? Air conditioned coaches
103)	A commemorative 100 rupee coin was released in the honour of _____ Scindia on her 100 th birth anniversary: Vijaya Raje
104)	What is the popular name for the French Open Grand Slam held in Paris? Roland Garros
105)	Who lifted the men's singles title in the French Open Grand Slam? Rafael Nadal
106)	_____ won the women's singles title in the French Open in Paris: Iga Swiatek
107)	Iga Swiatek hails from which country? Poland
108)	Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the coveted Nobel Prize in which field? Economics

109)	Government launched which two schemes for its employees to boost the consumer spending? LTC Cash Voucher scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme
110)	Which scheme has been launched on Oct 11 for physical distribution of house property cards in rural areas? 'SVAMITVA'
111)	The SVAMITVA scheme has been launched by which central ministry? Panchayati Raj Ministry
112)	World Arthritis Day is observed on which date? October 12
113)	Arthritis is an ailment related to which part of body? Inflammation of joints
114)	Which national day marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on postal stamps? National Philately Day
115)	Which apex body has started a nation-wide campaign to celebrate Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan for promoting extensive use of cow-dung products during this Diwali Festival? Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog
116)	Which country is the largest producer of milk in the world? India
117)	ADB approved a \$ 300 million loan to finance water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 14 secondary towns of which state? Rajasthan
118)	Who has equaled the all-Time record of 91 F1 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany? Lewis Hamilton
119)	_____ has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools: Kerala
120)	Which global organization has projected 4.4 percent shrinkage in growth of world economy? IMF - International Monetary Fund
121)	International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed on which day of October? 13th
122)	Which international day is observed on Oct 14 to raise awareness about importance of standardization in the global economy? World Standards Day
123)	What is the name of the most prestigious global environment prize announced in history? Earthshot Prize
124)	_____ has become the first state in India to set up Farmers Welfare Fund Board for the welfare of farmers: Kerala
125)	Which international day is observed on Oct 15 to highlight role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural communities? International Day of Rural Women
126)	World Students' Day is observed on Oct 15 to commemorate the birthday of which great leader? APJ Abdul Kalam
127)	Which union ministry sponsors the celebration of Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas? Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry
128)	The Union Cabinet approved the "Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States" -STARS project with the support of which global organization? World Bank
129)	A commemorative coin of 75 Rupees denomination was released to mark the 75th Anniversary of which UN agency? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization

130) Where are the headquarters of the FAO? Rome, Italy
131) Which country has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? India
132) Which state signed an agreement with the Indian Rugby Football Union to sponsor the Indian national rugby team for the next three years? Odisha
133) International E-Waste Day is observed on which day of October? 14th
134) SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is sponsored by which institution? SASTRA University, Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu)
135) Who has been selected for this year's SASTRA Ramanujan Prize? Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA
136) What is the theme for this year's Global Handwashing Day? Hand Hygiene for All
137) With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has banned imports of _____ with refrigerants: Air conditioners
138) Name the India's first Oscar winner costume designer who died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness: Bhanu Athaiya
139) Bhanu Athaiya won the Oscar for costume designing of which film? Gandhi
140) Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd is going to set up India's largest greenfield zinc smelter in which state? Gujarat
141) World Food Day commemorates the setting up of which special agency of UNO? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
142) Establishment of FAO was done in which city in Canada? Quebec
143) Headquarters of FAO is situated in which city? Rome, Italy
144) Which University has emerged as the top varsity in India by filing the highest number -- 336 of patents in a year? Chandigarh University
145) Chandigarh University is located at which place? Gharuan near Mohali in Punjab
146) India ranked at which number among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020? 94th
147) Which country scored the lowest rank in the Global Hunger Index 2020? Chad
148) The Supreme Court appointed which former Supreme Court judge, as a one-man committee to monitor and prevent instances of stubble-burning by farmers in the three States? Justice Madan B. Lokur
149) International Poverty Eradication Day is observed on which date? October 17
150) Government launched a campaign named 'KAPILA' in the honour of which great leader? Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
151) What is the objective of KAPILA campaign? To promote patenting of inventions
152) What is the expansion of the acronym KAPILA? Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness
153) What is the name of the 8th annual joint exercise held between Indian and Sri Lankan navies? SLINEX - 20
154) Joint naval exercise SLINEX - 20 was held at which place? Off the Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka
155) Which city of Denmark hosted the Denmark Open

Badminton Tournament? Odense
156) Who won the men's singles title in the Denmark Open? Anders Antonsen of Denmark
157) Women's singles title of Denmark Open was won by which player? Nozomi Okuhara of Japan
158) Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21? Rajkiran Rai G
159) Rajkiran Rai G is the MD & CEO of which bank? Union Bank of India
160) Asian Development Bank, Manila approved a \$177-million loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in which state? Maharashtra
161) Who has been reelected as the prime minister of New Zealand? Jacinda Ardern
162) Which global institution awards the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award? Natural History Museum of Britain
163) Name the young photographer who won this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award: Aishwarya Sridhar
164) World Statistics Day is observed after an interval of how many years? Five
165) World Osteoporosis Day is observed on which date? October 20
166) Osteoporosis is an ailment related to which part of human body? Bones
167) A person suffering from Osteoporosis is more prone to have _____ : Fractures
168) Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation aims to help cooperatives play an important role in which field? Creation of healthcare infrastructure
169) For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferulaassafoetida) has been started in which area? Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh
170) National Solidarity Day is observed on October 20 to salute the valour of our soldiers in which battle? 1962 Indo-China war
171) _____ has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition: Singapore
172) Which special day is observed on October 21 to honour the sacrifice of ten CRPF men in 1959 in an ambush with Chinese army? Police Commemoration Day
173) Which state topped the AnemiaMukt Bharat Index among 29 states in the country? Haryana
174) Which public sector bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp? IDBI Bank
175) Which country was ranked as the most powerful in influencing Asia Pacific region by the Asia Power Index 2020? USA
176) What was India's rank in the recently released Asia Power Index 2020? 4th
177) What is the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls? Rs. 77 lakh
178) A candidate contesting state legislature elections cannot spend more than Rs. ____ for campaign expenditure: 30.80 lakh
179) What is the name of the low cost rapid diagnostic technology for COVID-19 developed by researchers at

	IIT, Kharagpur? Covirap
180)	Name the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette that was recently commissioned into Indian Navy: INS Kavarratti
181)	India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed SANT missile. What is the full form of SANT? Stand-off Anti-tank
182)	DRDO successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation ATGM Nag on October 21. Expand the abbreviation ATGM: Anti-tank guided missile
183)	Which Indian city recently inaugurated India's longest – 108 km long BRTS corridor? Surat, Gujarat
184)	What is the full form of the abbreviation BRTS? Bus Rapid Transit System
185)	In the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), what is the new Base Year? 2016
186)	Which government agency compiles the CPI-IW? Labour Bureau under Ministry of Labour and Employment
187)	Which government agency releases the regular Consumer Price index? Central Statistics Office
188)	The CBSE has introduced a state of the art Facial Recognition technology for what purpose? To enable students to securely download their digital academic documents of class X and XII
189)	Saad al-Hariri, the Sunni Muslim politician, has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? Lebanon
190)	Which state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics, 2020? Uttar Pradesh
191)	Which state was visited by the largest number of foreign tourists in 2019? Tamil Nadu
192)	Which micro nation joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 16 as its 190th member? Andorra
193)	Micro nation Andorra is located in which region? Europe, between France in the north and Spain in the south
194)	International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed on which date? October 22
195)	Stuttering is associated with deformity of which human skill? Speech
196)	Which e-portal has been launched to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system? e-Dharti Geo Portal
197)	India has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of which special UN agency? ILO - International Labour Organization
198)	International Snow Leopard Day is observed on which day of October? 23rd
199)	Snow Leopard is the state animal of which state? Himachal Pradesh
200)	FX reserves crossed all time high of \$ 555 billion on week ended October 16. This data is issued by which agency? RBI – Reserve Bank of India
201)	Sakharov Prize for Peace is given by which organization? European Union
202)	Alpha Conde has been elected as the President of _____ for a third term: Guinea
203)	The United Nations Day is observed on Oct 24. Who is

	the current Secretary General of UNO? Antonio Guterres
204)	Currently, how many countries are member of UNO? 193
205)	Which international day is observed on Oct 24 to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio? World Polio Day
206)	Which are the only two countries where wild polio virus cases are still there? Afghanistan and Pakistan
207)	The government announced waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs. ____ crore irrespective of whether moratorium was availed or not: Two
208)	Wavel Ramkalawan has been elected as the President of Seychelles. He has linkages with which Indian state? Bihar
209)	Lee Kun-hee, charismatic leader of South Korea's biggest conglomerate, died on Oct 25. He headed which corporate group? Samsung
210)	World's longest passenger ropeway service was started at Girnar Mountain in Junagadh district of which state? Gujarat
211)	India's first sand dune park is expected soon to come up in which state? Goa
SEPTEMBER 2020	
212)	International Translation Day is celebrated on which day of September? 30th
213)	What is the theme for this year's World Heart Day? Use Heart to beat CVD (cardiovascular diseases)
214)	World Rabies Day is observed on Sep 28 to mark the death anniversary of which noted microbiologist? Louis Pasteur
215)	India was ranked ____ among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 released by the United Nations University: 89th
216)	Which country was placed on top of World Risk Index, being the riskiest country? Vanuatu
217)	Which country was ranked as the safest country on the World Risk Index? Qatar
218)	Which state won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals? Kerala
219)	The Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of which great philosopher, historian and political activist? Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
220)	What is the theme for this year's World Pharmacist Day? Transforming Global Health
221)	FSSAI has made it mandatory to display "best before date" wef Oct 1 on which products? Non-packaged and loose sweets
222)	An iconic personality from film music world lost his battle to Corona on Sep 25. Identify him: SP Balasubrahmanyam
223)	The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held next year in Goa in which month? January
224)	Which institution has replaced Medical Council of India wef Sep 25? National Medical Commission
225)	Who has been named as the Chairman of the National Medical Commission? Suresh Chandra Sharma
226)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed which number session of the United Nations General Assembly? 75th

227)	The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in which area? North Arabian Sea
228)	Which celebrity chef has authored the book Kitchens of Gratitude? Vikas Khanna
229)	Which famous film celebrity has authored the book- " <i>The Big Thoughts of Little Luv</i> "? Karan Johar
230)	What is the title of the latest book by noted authoress Arundhati Roy? Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction
231)	<i>One by One</i> is a famous novel of which noted novelist? Ruth Ware
232)	Mohamed Hussein Roble has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which East African country? Somalia
233)	In a historic move, the Parliament passed how many labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws? Three
234)	ICAR announced a hackathon to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization. What is its name? KRITAGYA
235)	World Tourism Day is celebrated on which date? September 27
236)	World Maritime Day is celebrated on which Thursday of September? Last
237)	Name the noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson who died of Covid-19: Dr. Sekhar Basu
238)	Which recently passed bill aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities? The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020
239)	Which bill passed recently by the Parliament allows farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country? Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020
240)	A virtual bilateral summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of which other country on 26 September? Sri Lanka
241)	Name the 17-year-old girl from Gujarat's Surat who has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme - Tunza Eco-Generation: KushiChindaliya
242)	Alexander Lukashenko was sworn in as the President of which country for a record sixth term? Belarus
243)	Railways have planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by which year? 2023
244)	Which day is observed on Sep 23 to raise awareness about the importance of sign language? International Day of Sign Languages
245)	Navies of India and _____ conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24: Australia
246)	Which popular Bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine? Ayushman Khurana
247)	Who won the Tour de France - the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world? TadejPogacar
248)	TadejPogacar hails from which country? Slovenia
249)	Chief Minister of which state announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built in his state? Uttar Pradesh
250)	Which country accounts for the largest number of one

horned Rhinos? India
251) Which Indian state is home to largest number of one horned Rhinos? Assam
252) The National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 proposes to establish National Forensic Sciences University in which city? Gandhinagar
253) Which university in Gujarat is to be upgraded as the new Rashtriya Raksha University? Raksha Shakti University
254) India successfully conducted the flight test of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle. What is its name? ABHYAS
255) The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to which country? Nepal
256) A direct cargo ferry service between India and _____ commenced for the first time on Sep 21: Maldives
257) Which UN Day has been observed for the first time to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap? International Equal Pay Day, Sep 18
258) The World Rose Day observed on Sep 18 is associated with which disease? Cancer
259) What is the theme of this year's World Alzheimer's Day? Let's talk about dementia
260) Which International Day encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage? The International Coastal Cleanup Day
261) The International Coastal Cleanup Day is observed on which Saturday of September? Third
262) Who won the men's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament? Novak Djokovic
263) _____ won the women's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament: Simona Halep
264) The Union Government announced an increase in the MSP of Wheat. What is the new MSP? Rs. 1975/qlt
265) In a first, two women officers have been selected to join as 'Observers' in which stream of the Indian Navy? Fighter helicopters
266) The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate classification and provisioning calculation process of which product? NPAs - Bad loans
267) Name the former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) who passed away in New Delhi: Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
268) Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is known as Father of which national flagship scheme? MNREGA
269) World Ozone Day commemorates the signing of _____ Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987: Montreal
270) The Ozone molecules are formed by how many atoms of Oxygen? Three
271) The Ozone layer helps in protecting our ecosystem from which rays from Sun? Ultraviolet rays
272) The Ozone layer is found in which layer of the atmosphere? Stratosphere
273) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 proposes how much cut in salaries and allowances of MPs? 30 percent
274) Managing Director of which bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of

Excellence 2020? HDFC Bank
275) Who is the Managing Director of the HDFC Bank? Aditya Puri
276) Name the 71 year old senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who has been elected as Japan's new Prime Minister: Yoshihide Suga
277) Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 16 for what purpose? To bring Cooperative Banks' regulation at par with other banks
278) Name the noted scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history who passed away recently? Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan
279) Which public sector power engineering has entered into a MoU with the SwissRapid AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India? BHEL - Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd
280) Which bank has tied up with Titan Watch Company to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'? State Bank of India
281) The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index, India has been placed at which rank? 116th
282) Which country secured the first rank in the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index? Singapore
283) The World Patient Safety Day is observed on which date to create a global awareness for patient safety? September 17
284) India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at which international airport? Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
285) _____ has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds: Mexico
286) Which social media platform has teamed up with Common Services Centers (CSC) to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services? Whatsapp
287) Which global finance agency has assured two trillion dollars to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy? International Finance Corporation
288) World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 with the support of which organisation? World Bamboo Organization
289) Which country is the largest producer of Bamboos in the world? China
290) Which state topped the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness? Mizoram
291) Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a diminutive yet towering women's rights champion, passed away recently. She was a senior justice in the Supreme Court of which country? USA
292) Armand Duplantis broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. He is from which country? Sweden
293) In the recently released Smart City Index 2020, which city secured the first rank? Singapore
294) The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Ajay Tirkey to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in which sector? Agriculture
295) What is the theme of this year's International Day of

Peace? Shaping Peace Together
296) International Day of Peace is celebrated on which date? September 21
297) Name the 35 year old striker from Portugal who became just the second footballer to reach a century of goals for a national team: Christiano Ronaldo
298) Which bank launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals? Bank of India
299) RBI has ceased the banking operations by which Payments Bank? Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank
300) Which state launched India's first integrated air ambulance service? Karnataka
301) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of which power company? Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd
302) Government has constituted a committee chaired by _____ to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers: Rajiv Mehrishi
303) Which country will host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020: India
304) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO is a permanent inter-governmental international organisation of how many countries? Eight
305) Reliance Industries Ltd.'s market cap crossed which milestone on Sep 10? \$ 200 billion
306) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National School of Drama, New Delhi? Paresh Rawal
307) National School of Drama is a premier national institute set up by which union ministry? Ministry of Culture
308) Which programme has been launched for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly? Streets for People Challenge
309) A National Evaluation Centre, 'Parakh' has been set up for overall improvement in the evaluation system. What is full form of PARAKH? Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development
310) What is the expansion of the acronym PISA, a programme associated with educational evaluation? Programme for International Student Assessment
311) Name the veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist who passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure: Swami Agnivesh
312) Which is the second country, first being UAE, to normalise diplomatic ties with Israel? Bahrain
313) Which country played the crucial role in bringing together Israel and Bahrain? USA
314) Which state topped the second edition of State Startup Rankings announced recently by the government? Gujarat
315) In the context of startups, what is a 'unicorn'? A privately held startup company with a current valuation of \$1 billion or more
316) What is the name of the new dispute redressal mechanism launched for the maritime sector? "SAROD-Ports"
317) In the name "SAROD-Ports", what is the full form of SAROD? Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes
318) Which Bank launched a programme for startups that

takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs? ICICI Bank
319) To enforce uniform compliance practices across banks, RBI has asked banks to create which new post? Chief Compliance Officer
320) Which government department has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? Department of Posts
321) What is the objective of the scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? To ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas
322) The Union Cabinet approved a new policy for raising the cap of FDI in which sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent? Defence
323) Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out on Sep 10 in which state? Meghalaya
324) India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to be ranked at _____ spot. 105th
325) Which country topped the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020? Hong Kong
326) UNICEF India has selected which Bollywood actor as its advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child"? Ayushmann Khurrana
327) The World First Aid Day is celebrated on which Saturday of September? Second
328) In the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York, who won the men's singles title? Dominic Thiem of Austria
329) Who won the women's singles title in the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York? Japan's Naomi Osaka
330) Which national day is observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect forest resources? The National Forest Martyrs Day
331) The National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on which date? September 11
332) In which year Hindi was adopted as another official language of India? 1949
333) Which international day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries? International Day of Democracy
334) Engineer's Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of which acclaimed civil engineer? Bharat Ratan M Visvesvaraya
335) Name the JDU MP who has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha: Harivansh Narayan Singh
336) India has been elected as the member of which body of the UN Economic and Social Council? Commission on Status of Women
337) The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed which university at the top rank? University of Oxford, UK
338) With which country India finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India? Russia
339) India will manufacture the AK-47/203 rifles in which of its ordnance factory? Korwa Ordnance Factory, U P
340) Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first _____ of independent India: Vice President
341) International Day of Charity is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of which great personality? Mother Teresa

342) Loans up to Rs. ____ crore to the startups have now been covered under the Priority Sector Lending: 50
343) All scheduled commercial banks in India are required to allocate _____ percent of their total lending to priority sector: 40
344) Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend _____ percent of their total lendings to the priority sector: 70
345) Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament: P Inian
346) What was the name of a two-day mega naval exercise conducted by the Indian and Russian navies in the Bay of Bengal on Sep 4-5: Indra Navy
347) Which state topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings? Andhra Pradesh
348) Which organisation conducts the Business Reform Action Plan rankings? Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
349) The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of which country? Russia
350) The first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was celebrated in which year? 2020
351) India observes which month as the 'PoshanMah'? September
352) The often quoted court case on constitutional law, was filed by the Swami Kesavananda Bharti against which state? Kerala
353) SpaceX successfully sent 60 Starlink satellites into orbit aboard a Falcon 9 rocket for what purpose? To provide low cost internet services in remote areas
354) Which two telecom companies rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'? Vodafone and Idea
355) India successfully flight tested HSTDV missile technology on Sep 7. What is full form of HSTDV? Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle
356) Which powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea? Haishen
357) International Literacy Day is celebrated on which day? Sep 8
358) Dr. Govind Swarup, a noted scientist passed away in Pune. He worked in which field? Radio Astronomy
359) Pierre Gasly from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020. He hails from which country? France
360) Which UN agency has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine? UNICEF
361) The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8 by which global organisation? International Solar Alliance
362) Which day is dedicated to raising awareness of the risks of suicide and the challenges faced in trying to prevent suicide? World Suicide Prevention Day
363) Which organisation confers the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust
364) Who won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019? David Attenborough

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365)	David Attenborough is a noted personality from which field? Natural History
366)	What is the cash award of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Rs. 25 lakh
367)	The global under-five mortality rate declined by 59 per cent, from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to ____ in 2019. 38
368)	The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 has been compiled by which UN agency? UNICEF
369)	As per a recent report from the National Sample Survey, India's overall literacy rate has improved to ____ percent: 77.7
370)	Which state has the lowest literacy rate as per a recent report from the National Sample Survey? Andhra Pradesh
371)	The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the _____ State Roads Transformation Project: Himachal Pradesh
372)	Which state started the celebration of Himalayan Day on Sep 9 in 2010? Uttarakhand
373)	What is the theme for this year's Himalayan Day? Himalayas and Nature
374)	Which organisation announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks? IBA – Indian Banks Association
375)	Which bank secured the first spot in the EASE Banking Reforms Index? Bank of Baroda
376)	The public sector banks recently launched Doorstep Banking Services in how many cities? 100
377)	Where are the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organisation? Geneva, Switzerland
378)	World Coconut Day is observed on which day of September? 2nd
379)	Which state is the largest producer of coconut in India? Kerala
380)	Which major economy slipped into recession after registering negative growth successively in two quarters? Australia
381)	Which country appointed Mustapha Adib as its Prime Minister? Lebanon
382)	Who has been appointed as the first ever CEO of the Railway Board? Vinod Kumar Yadav
383)	Which country hosted the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group in virtual mode? Saudi Arabia
384)	The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in _____ started recently: Tripura
385)	The new water way Dadukandi and Sonamura has been started through which river? Gumti
386)	S Krishnan has been appointed MD & CEO Of which bank? Punjab & Sind Bank
387)	What was the name of the one of the most powerful storms that struck a south eastern state of the USA? Hurricane Laura
388)	Hurricane Laura devastated which state of USA? Louisiana
389)	Assam government signed an agreement with which e-commerce platform to promote the state's local artefacts and handloom products on its digital marketplace? Flipkart
390)	The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the

	setting up of _____ new administrative circles: Seven
391)	Which West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket? Dwayne Bravo
392)	What is the name of the toll- free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation on August 27. Kiran
393)	What is the name of the Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to further boost startups and software products? Chunauti
394)	What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award? Rs.25 lakh
395)	What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Arjuna Award? Rs. 15 lakh
396)	Government has revised the cash award for the Dhyan Chand Award to what amount? Rs. 10 lakh
397)	Prime Minister of which major economy resigned on health grounds? Japan
398)	Name the SBI's senior-most managing director who has been appointed as the next chairman of the State Bank of India: Dinesh Kumar Khara
399)	Government has launched a first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal for what purpose? To help investors zero in on land located in various states for potential projects
400)	International Booker Prize 2020 has been won by which Dutch author? Marieke Lucas Rijneveld
401)	Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan, the most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history, 42 year old identical twin brothers hail from which country? USA
402)	Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of which retail chain for Rs 24,713 crore? Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar)
403)	International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on which date? August 29
404)	A new Roll-on-Roll-off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in which state? Maharashtra
405)	Onam is a popular cultural festival of which state? Kerala
406)	India was declared joint winner of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad, with which other country? Russia
407)	The Indian economy contracted by massive _____ per cent in the April to June quarter (Q1 FY21) as COVID-19 pandemic compressed consumer demand and private investments: 23.9
408)	Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India passed away on August 31. He was ____ the President of India: 13th
409)	The CSIR-CMERI has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in which city? Durgapur, West Bengal
410)	Dr S. Padmavati, India's first female and oldest _____ died at the age of 103. Cardiologist
411)	What is the name of India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory which detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth? 'AstroSat'
412)	The European Investment Bank is set to invest EUR650 million for the construction of first city metro line of which city? Kanpur

413)	The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi to lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants. What is its formal name? National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building
414)	Which organisation released the Global Innovation Index? World Intellectual Property Organisation
AUGUST 2020	
415)	SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product. What is its name? Shagun – Gift an Insurance
416)	Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 million on August 26. Who is he? Jeff Bezos
417)	_____ became the first bank in India to use satellite data—imagery from Earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of farmers. ICICI Bank
418)	Sanjiv Singh, former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman has joined Reliance Industries in what capacity? President for the firm's oil-to-chemicals business
419)	NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. Which state topped the Index? Gujarat
420)	Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, the 20-year-old boy from _____ won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title: Hyderabad
421)	The Indian Air Force launched a mobile app to provide career-related information and guidance to the people who wish to join the Indian Air Force. What is its name? My IAF
422)	What is the title of the latest novel by Chetan Bhagat? One Arranged Murder
423)	Name the former Deputy Governor of RBI who has authored the book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India": Viral V. Acharya
424)	Which union minister has authored the book titled " <i>The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World</i> "? Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar
425)	Name the German professional sports club that won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20: Bayern Munich
426)	Name the renowned Indian scientist, was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy
427)	Which state extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28? Assam
428)	Which England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets? James Anderson
429)	Overall which bowler holds the world record for taking highest number of wickets? Muttiah Muralitharan
430)	WHO has declared entire Africa free from wild polio. Which was the last African country to get rid of Polio? Nigeria
431)	Which are the only two countries in the world where polio cases still occur? Pakistan and Afghanistan
432)	In its annual report released on August 25, the Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at _____ for 2020-21: -4.5%
433)	Government has made _____ mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country: FASTag
434)	National Sports Day is celebrated every year on

_____	to mark the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand: August 29
435)	Which day is observed every year to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment in USA in 1878 that provided voting rights to women? Women's Equality Day, August 26
436)	Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index. What is its name? Bulldex
437)	Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India? Ashwani Bhatia
438)	Name the legendary South African all-rounder who has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame: JaqueKallis
439)	Lisa Sthalekar is the first player to achieve the double of 2000 runs and 100 wickets in Women's ODIs. She plays for which country? Australia
440)	What is the name of the GPS based mobile app launched to monitor the plantation along the national highways? 'Harit Path'
441)	Which international Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III? Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
442)	Where are the headquarters of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? Beijing
443)	Who is the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? JinLiquan
444)	The Reserve Bank of India has extended a _____ million dollar currency swap facility to the Central Bank of _____ till November 2022: 400; Sri Lanka
445)	Which state will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, 2021? Haryana
446)	India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to which country in July last week? Bangladesh
447)	Which Ministry launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department? Ministry of Earth Sciences
448)	Archana Soreng from India has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders. She works in which field? Climate conservation
449)	Which country has honoured Kala Narayanasamy with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic? Singapore
450)	India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to which country in response to a request received from the WHO? North Korea
451)	Which city is the capital of North Korea? Pyongyang
452)	This year is the _____ anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. 21st
453)	Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on which date? 26th July
454)	World _____ Day is observed on July 28 to raise awareness about which disease? Hepatitis
455)	Who invented the diagnostic test and vaccine for the Hepatitis? Dr Baruch Blumberg, USA
456)	Which International Day is observed to increase awareness about the best practices to protect our natural resources? World Nature Conservation Day
457)	World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated across the world on which day? 28th July

458)	The world celebrated Global / International Tiger Day on which date? July 29
459)	The India Report on Digital Education, 2020 was released on July 29. Name any two prominent digital initiatives in education: DIKSHA platform, Swamy Prabha TV Channel
460)	IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) has launched its new co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform with which card company? SBI Cards
461)	HichemMechichi has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia. Where is this country? In North Africa
462)	Which union ministry launched a mobile app named 'BIS-Care'? Ministry of Consumer Affairs
463)	Which quality certification mark is used in India for gold jewellery? Hallmark
464)	The ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for _____ products in India since 1955: Industrial
465)	The Cabinet has approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to _____: Education Ministry
466)	The new National Education Policy has been developed on the recommendations of the panel headed by _____: K Kasturirangan, former ISRO chief
467)	Which PG programme has been discontinued as per the new NEP? M Phil
468)	The new NEP has decided to do away with board exam for which class? 10th
469)	The new NEP has divided total schooling structure, from pre-nursery to class 12 in to how many stages? Four
470)	The 'Foundation Stage' will cover students of which age group? 3 to 8 years
471)	Students of class 3 to 5 have been classified in which stage? Preparatory Stage
472)	The 'Middle Stage' will comprise of students of which age group? 11 to 14 years
473)	What is the name given to the stage comprising of students of 9 to 12 class? Secondary Stage
474)	The first batch of five Rafale jets landed on July 29 in which Air Force base? Ambala, Haryana
475)	What is the name of the 17 squadron of Indian Air Force that will host Rafale jets? Golden Arrows
476)	What is the name of the French firm that supplied Rafale jets to India? Dassault
477)	What is the name of India's first solar-powered ferry that won the prestigious Gustave Trouve Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating? Aditya
478)	What is the name of the Mars rover launched recently by NASA? Perseverance
479)	Niti Aayog's AIM joined hands with Gates Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST for what purpose? For enhancement of incubator capabilities
480)	What is the full form of AIM? Atal Innovation Mission
481)	ISRO is allowing the private players to set up their own launch pad at SHAR. What is the full form of SHAR? Sriharikota Launch Centre
482)	The Sriharikota Launch Centre is located in which state? Andhra Pradesh
483)	Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to which apex authority? Prime

Minister	
484)	Which district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by Niti Aayog? Bijapur
485)	How many districts are there in the Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme? 115
486)	Which union ministry won the SKOCH award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project? Ministry of Tribal affairs
487)	Which apex Financial Institution has launched a one-stop knowledge portal named as "MSMESaksham" in association with TransUnion CIBIL? SIDBI
488)	_____ became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as its Barakah Nuclear Power Plant became operational? UAE - United Arab Emirates
489)	The Government clarified that any FDI in commercial coal mining from an entity of a country _____ will have to go through the government route: That shares land border with India
490)	The Union Defence Ministry has formed which policy to provide a significant thrust to India's defence production capabilities? Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy, 2020
491)	Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been elected as the President of Guyana. Where is this country? On the northern edge of the South American continent
492)	Name the new scheme launched by KVIC to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti (incense sticks) production: Khadi AgarbattiAatmanirbhar Mission
493)	Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of markets regulator SEBI was in news recently for what reasons? He was given 18 month extension
494)	Who has been appointed as the new Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir? Manoj Sinha
495)	Which Indian brand has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020? Reliance Industries Ltd.
496)	There are total how many IIMs in India? 20
497)	Which bank launched Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT? Axis Bank
498)	What is the name of the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train, flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra? Kisan Rail
499)	Who has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of the country? Girish Chandra Murmu
500)	Hiroshima Day is celebrated to mark the dropping of nuclear bomb on the city. This incident occurred in which year? 1945
501)	Celebration of National Handloom Day on August 7 coincides with the launch of which national movement? Swadeshi Movement in 1905
502)	Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905 to protest against which decision of British Viceroy? Partition of Bengal
503)	RBI has prohibited banks from opening _____ accounts for customers who have availed cash credit or overdraft facilities, with a view to improve credit discipline: Current
504)	The railways has decided to end a colonial-era practice of appointing _____ who worked at the residences

	of senior officials: Khalasis or bungalow peons
505)	India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN _____ Fund for supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities: Development Partnership
506)	Which institute won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020? Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune
507)	Which apex body plans to set up an Innovation Hub in order to promote innovation across the finance sector in India by leveraging on technology? RBI
508)	Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex organisation of India? Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
509)	Which Indian company has tied up with US based Novavax for the development and commercialization of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India: Serum Institute of India, Pune
510)	The Forest Department of _____ has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani: Uttarakhand
511)	For the first in India as well as the Indian ocean region, two coastal villages of _____ have been declared 'Tsunami-Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO: Odisha
512)	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on August 9. What is its popular short name? World Tribal Day
513)	Name the India's biggest public sector power producer which achieved over 100 billion units of cumulative generation in the current financial year: NTPC
514)	Which state has become the first state in the country to tie up with Google to provide online education to all the school students in the state? Maharashtra
515)	The International Cricket Council has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will now be held in _____ in 2022: Australia
516)	The 2021 edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted by which country? India
517)	RBI has set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of _____ to oversee the resolution of NPAs created by COVID-19: K V Kamath
518)	A 2313 kilometer submarine optical fibre cable network has been laid between _____ and Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Chennai
519)	World Bio-fuel Day is celebrated on which date? August 10
520)	Name the three most popular bio-fuels: Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas
521)	What is the theme for the World Bio-fuel Day this year in India? Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat
522)	Nation Deworming Day is observed twice every year, on August ____ and on February _____. 10 and 10
523)	Which leading digital payment service provider recently launched an Android-based, pocket-sized portable point of sale (PoS) device? Paytm
524)	Which state has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product scheme? Uttar Pradesh
525)	Which state has decided to provide urban forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes? Chhattisgarh
526)	Which Municipal Corporation became the first urban

	body in the country to provide land entitlement in city's forests to the urban tribals? Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh
527)	Name the Indonesia's major volcano that erupted once again on August 10, spewing a massive tower of smoke and ash into the sky: Mount Sinabung
528)	World Elephant Day is celebrated on which date? August 12
529)	What is the name of the COVID-19 vaccine launched by Russia? Sputnik V
530)	Reliance Industries Ltd. became the first Indian company to figure in the top 100 in the Fortune Global 500 list. What is its rank? 96th
531)	The Fortune Global 500 list of top corporate is topped by which company? Walmart Group
532)	What is the name of the National Portal on human elephant conflict (HEC) launched recently? Surakhya
533)	Walter Roger Martos Ruiz has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of a South American Country. Can you name it? Peru
534)	Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new _____ of Mauritania, a country in Western Africa: Prime Minister
535)	Who has been chosen as Vice Presidential candidate by the Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden? Kamala Harris
536)	_____ launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card: Google
537)	What is the name of the new income tax reform package launched recently by the Prime Minister? Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest
538)	Who is the only Indian to figure in the top 10 highest paid male actors in recent Forbes list? Akshay Kumar
539)	Name the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine: SkyrootAerspace, Hyderabad
540)	What is the name of the India's first rocket engine launched by a private firm? Raman
541)	Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without _____: Pre-fitted batteries
542)	What is the name of the indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) hat was formally inducted in the Indian Coast Guard at the Goa Shipyard? ICGS Sarthak
543)	Israel recently revived its diplomatic relations with which country? UAE
544)	RBI has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs _____ and above. 50,000
545)	Which Indian bank has already been following 'Positive Pay' system? ICICI Bank
546)	Atal Innovation Mission rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with which IT giant? Dell Technologies
547)	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched which project to promote indigenisation initiatives with focus on innovation in Indian Navy? Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation
548)	India approved a \$500-million package to help the _____ build a connectivity project: Maldives
549)	Ministry of Defence launched which portal as a 'one stop

online shop' that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization? SRIJAN
550) Which organisation approved the transfer of 57,128 crore rupees as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20? RBI
551) Which country successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2"? Israel
552) Three products - sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy HermalChilli and Mandoli Banana, of which state have been granted GI tag? Goa
553) Which day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives? World Organ Donation Day
554) Prime Minister announced the launching of which completely technology-based health initiative on Independence Day? National Digital Health Mission
555) ISRO in collaboration with which institute has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface? IISc, Bengaluru
556) M S Dhoni will be remembered always for his _____ ICC World Cup victory. 2011
557) Following the footsteps of Dhoni, which other leading cricketer announced his retirement? Suresh Raina
558) Government approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps to expand in to _____ coastal and border districts. 173
559) The NCC was raised in which year? 1948
560) Where are the headquarters of NCC? New Delhi
561) Name the former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister who passed away recently. Chetan Chauhan
562) ISRO has decided to name a crater on Moon after which great scientist? Vikram Sarabhai
563) The Central Government is planning to launch Project _____ and Project _____ to replicate the success of Project Tiger. Lion; Dolphin
564) Who has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force? Rakesh Asthana
565) Name the legendary Indian classical vocalist who passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. Pandit Jasraj
566) Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Meghalaya? Satya Pal Malik
567) What is the name of the e-portal launched for promoting health of tribals? Swasthya
568) Prime Minister Modi announced launch of mega programme OSOWOG for what purpose? Promoting solar energy
569) What is the full form of OSOWOG? One Sun, One World, One Grid
570) Which Bank launched a first-of-its-kind product for the armed forces called 'Shaurya KGC Card'? HDFC Bank
571) Which institute has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India? IIT Madras
572) Which bank has waived SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance? State Bank of India
573) RBI has unveiled the framework for setting up pan-India Umbrella Entity for which financial segment? Retail Payments
574) Keith Rowley has been re-elected as the Prime Minister

of which island nation? Trinidad & Tobago
575) The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has tied up with which global IT company to undertake flood forecasting initiatives? Google
576) Which country has launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India? Britain
577) Which bank has approved a loan of \$1 billion for construction of Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System? Asian Development Bank
578) What is the name of the new body to be set up for conducting CET for recruitment to Grade B & C posts? National Recruitment Agency - NRA
579) The NRA will initially replace 3 recruiting agencies. Which are these agencies? Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS
580) The score of the CET will be valid for how much period? Three years
581) Which city has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards? Indore
582) _____ has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country: New Delhi
583) Which city was awarded for being the cleanest city among the cities with over 40 lakh population? Ahmedabad
584) Which country has ranked first in the world in terms of number of organic farmers? India
585) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane at Rs. ____ per quintal? 285
586) Which one of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country, has recently been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity? Vijaynagar
587) World Humanitarian Day is observed on which date? August 19
588) Which global day is observed on August 19 to pay tribute to art and science of photography? World Photography Day
589) Which day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi who served as Prime Minister from 1984 -89? SadbhavanaDiwas
590) World Senior Citizens Day is observed across the world on which day of August? 21st
591) Techgentsia Software, a startup won the national competition to develop Indian video conferencing solution. What is its name? Vconsole
592) Which film won the first prize in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting? Am I?
593) Name the former finance secretary who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. Rajiv Kumar
594) Who headed the Selection Committee for the National Sports Awards 2020? Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma
595) How many sportspersons have been awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 2020? Five
596) Name the para athlete who has been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: Mariyappan
597) Which national sports award is given for outstanding performance by coaches? Dronacharya Award

598)	Which corporate entity has been selected for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility? Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, ONGC
599)	Which university won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments? Panjab University, Chandigarh
600)	Which IT company launched its job search app named 'Kormo Jobs' in India? Google
601)	Government launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat" for developing products based on which two microprocessors? SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)
602)	Where in USA widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres statewide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes? California
603)	Ronnie O'Sullivan of England is a six time world champion in which sports? Snooker
604)	The Uttar Pradesh government signed a MoU with _____ for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state: Israel
605)	Which country has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea? Turkey
606)	As per the new announcement made by the Finance Ministry, businesses with annual turnover up to Rs. _____ lakh will be exempted from GST: 40
607)	India's longest cable ropeway running for nearly 2 km over Brahmaputra River has been started in which city? Guwahati
JULY 2020	
608)	India celebrates National Statistics Day on which date? June 29
609)	National Statistics Day is celebrated to pay respects to which great Indian statistician? Dr P C Mahalanobis
610)	Govt of India recently banned how many China based mobile apps? 59
611)	The 59 apps have been banned under the provisions of which Indian law? Information and Technology Act, 2000
612)	Which union ministry launched "PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises" (PM FME) scheme on 29th June? Ministry for Food Processing Industries
613)	Who is the present Attorney General for India? K K Venugopal
614)	Why K K Venugopal was in news recently? His term has been extended by one year
615)	Who is the current Solicitor General of India? Tushar Mehta
616)	Government has extended the term of Tushar Mehta by how many years? Three
617)	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
618)	Forest department of which state has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari Park? Uttarakhand
619)	India and _____ signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project: Bhutan

620)	The 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project is being built on which river? Kholongchu
621)	Lazarus Chakwera has been elected as the new President of Malawi. It is in which continent? Africa
622)	Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of which country? Ireland
623)	On which date India celebrates National Doctor's Day? July 01
624)	National Doctor's Day commemorates the birthday of which great Indian physician? Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy
625)	National Postal Worker Day is observed on which day of July? First
626)	Which apex Indian institute has launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science? IIT, Madras
627)	Which global FI has announced a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response Program to increase the flow of funds to MSMEs in India? World Bank
628)	Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the _____ of Iceland for a second four-year term: President
629)	Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award is given for the outstanding contribution in which field? Official Statistics
630)	Who has been selected for the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? C. Rangarajan
631)	Which union ministry has instituted Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
632)	Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mobile app named "NADA App". What is the full form of NADA? National Anti-Doping Agency
633)	On July 1 Indian Railways achieved which milestone for the first time in its history? Running all trains on time
634)	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
635)	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? Indra Mani Pandey
636)	Who is India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNO headquarters? T S Tirumurti
637)	People of which country voted in majority to approve constitutional reforms that could keep their President in power until 2036? Russia
638)	Who is the current President of Russia? Vladimir Putin
639)	Indian government has extended AFSPA for another six months till December, 2020 in which state? Nagaland
640)	What is the full form of AFSPA? Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958
641)	Which international institution announced \$400 million support for India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga river and stem pollution in the river? World Bank
642)	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has been appointed as the new chairman of which apex Maharatna company? Indian Oil Corporation
643)	Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)? Ravinder Bhakar
644)	Who has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' of the 21st century by Wisden? Ravindra Jadeja

645)	Which bank launched an all-in-one app 'e-KisaanDhan' to meet all banking and farming requirements of farmers? HDFC Bank
646)	In which country, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in Hpakan? Myanmar
647)	India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in which city? New Delhi
648)	Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country? France
649)	The RBI issued operational guidelines for the Rs 30,000-crore special liquidity facility for _____ companies: Non-banking finance
650)	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: Sanskrit
651)	Which country has passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038? Germany
652)	The government plans to launch TOPS for the junior athletes also. What ois the full form of TOPS? Target Olympic Podium Scheme
653)	Name the former world number one badminton player, two-times Olympic (2008 and 2012) champion from China, who announced his retirement from the sport: Lin Dan
654)	NLC India Ltd and _____ have joined hands to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW in India: Coal India Ltd.
655)	Which state created a new record on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day? Uttar Pradesh
656)	What is the name of the India's first social media super app which has been created by more than 1000 IT professionals? Elyments
657)	Ennio Morricone, Oscar-winning film composer, who composed music for over 500 films, passed away recently. He hailed from which country? Italy
658)	Which Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities? HDFC Bank
659)	_____ has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections: Himachal Pradesh
660)	Valtteri Bottas, winner of the season's first F1 race, the Austrian Grand Prix 2020, hails from which country? Finland
661)	_____ Tourism launched "IntzaarAap Ka" campaign on social media platforms to attract tourists in the state. Madhya Pradesh
662)	Name the veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "SoormaBhopali" in blockbuster "Sholay", who passed away in Mumbai: Jagdeep
663)	G Akash from _____ became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster: Chennai
664)	Name the American wrestler-turned-actor, who has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity recently: Dwayne Johnson
665)	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: Microsoft
666)	One of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia

	is being established in Rewa in which state? Madhya Pradesh
667)	The Indian Railways has decided to run how many tarins by private operators? 151
668)	AIIB has given \$50 million loan to L&T for what purpose? For funding renewable energy projects in India
669)	What is the name butterfly that has been named as India's largest butterfly? Himalayan Golden Birdwing
670)	If you want to see the Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly, which place you will have to visit? Didihat town in district Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
671)	The Paris Agreement on climate control was entered in which year? 2015.
672)	The Paris Agreement 2015 was entered into under the aegis of UNFCCC. Write full form of UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
673)	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? Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
674)	WHO has declared which two South East Asian nations free from Measles and Rubella? Sri Lanka and Maldives
675)	What is the name of the special insurance policy approved by IRDAI for covering Corona cases? CoranaKavach
676)	India celebrates National Fish Farmers' Day on which date? July 10
677)	In which country world's first Fish Cryobank is being established? India
678)	Which ministry launched Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
679)	Which is the first Arab country that has sent a probe to Mars? UAE
680)	As per the Global Real Estate Transparency Index, India has been placed at which rank? 34th
681)	Which country secured the top spot in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index? United Kingdom
682)	The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has entered into a partnership with which global organisation for clean energy development? The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
683)	Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Population Day on July 11? United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
684)	The 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook is what type of helicopter? Heavy lift cargo helicopter
685)	What is the name of the most advanced multirole attack helicopter acquired by India from Boeing? AH-64E Apache
686)	Lee Hsien Loong has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country? Singapore
687)	_____ has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. Russia
688)	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? National Highway Authority of India
689) Who is the Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India? Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
690) Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? Turkmenistan
691) Which IIT has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH? IIT Kanpur
692) Which state has emerged on top in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi-PM Swa Nidhi scheme for providing easy finance to the street vendors? Madhya Pradesh
693) Maximum how much loan can be given to a street vendor under the PM SwaNidhi? 10, 000/-
694) Which global IT giant has announced to invest \$10 billion for promotion of digital India? Google
695) Andrzej Duda has been re-elected as the _____ of Poland for another term of five years. President
696) Which Maharatna energy corporate has been awarded with the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019? NTPC Ltd
697) The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of which family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple? Travancore royal family
698) Sree-Padmanabhaswamy Temple, reportedly the richest temple of world, is located at which place? Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
699) Shark Awareness Day is observed on which day of July? July 14th
700) Which UN special agency supports the celebration of World Youth Skills Day on July 15? UNESCO -United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
701) Which Indian bureaucrat has been appointed as the vice president of the Asian Development Bank? Ashok Lavasa
702) Where is the head office of the Asian Development Bank? Manila, Philippines
703) Who is the President of ADB? Masatsugu Asakawa
704) K Sivan has been honoured with the Von Karman Award 2020. He heads which organisation? ISRO
705) 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: United States of America
706) 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? Delhi
707) The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs ____ crore: 300
708) _____has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket: China
709) Name the NGO that gives away the Global Humanitarian Award: World Humanitarian Drive, London
710) Which country has allowed India access to its Mongla and Chattogram ports for trade purposes? Bangladesh
711) Which three India states will benefit from the opening of the Mongla and Chattogram ports? Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura

712) In which state the NISHTHA programme of central government was launched for the first time in virtual mode? Andhra Pradesh
713) What is the full form of the acronym NISHTHA? National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement
714) The NISHTHA project is the part of which major educational programme? Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
715) India has entered into the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany. It is for what purpose? To facilitate mutual international flights
716) 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: Kapurthala, Punjab
717) Union HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for what purpose? To set the guidelines for digital education by schools
718) The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge – the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge is being built across which river? Chenab
719) Which Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway has bagged the Water Heroes Award? Ongole
720) Name India's richest woman who became the first woman to head a listed Indian IT company: Roshni Nadar
721) Roshni Nadar has become chairperson of which major IT company? HCL Technologies, Gurugram
722) Which International Day is observed on July 17 to highlight the work of the International Criminal Court? World Day for International Justice
723) The International Criminal Court is located at which place? The Hague, Netherlands
724) In which year Nelson Mandela dethroned white Europeans from South Africa and became first Black President of South Africa? 1994
725) 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? IL 76 'Gajraj'
726) India opened a new Land Customs Station at Ahlay, Pasakha to promote trade with which country? Bhutan
727) Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address on July 17 at which high-level segment of the United Nations? Economic and Social Council
728) Which Bollywood actor has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020? Priyanka Chopra Jonas
729) India ranks _____ in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions: Third
730) Which country topped the Global Manufacturing Risk Index, 2020? China
731) 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? IBM, New York
732) Which state government plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity through 'Waste to Energy' initiative? Uttarakhand

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JUNE 2020

- 733)** World Asteroid Day is observed on June 30 to commemorate the crashing of a huge asteroid in _____ in Siberia on this day in 1908? **Tunguska**
- 734)** What is the name of the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System inducted in the Indian Navy? **Maareech**
- 735)** FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to which country? **Australia and New Zealand**
- 736)** The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in which city? **Los Angeles, USA**
- 737)** What is the name of the behaviour change campaign launched by the NITI Aayog recently in partnership with several other agencies? **Navigating the New Normal**
- 738)** Which multi governmental organisation supports the celebration of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day on June 27? **United Nations Organisation - UNO**
- 739)** International Widows Day is observed on which day of June? **23rd**
- 740)** Why June 23 has been selected to be celebrated as World Olympic Day? **The day marks the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement in 1894**
- 741)** The German Book Trade has chosen which Indian Nobel laureate for its Peace Prize 2020? **Amartya Sen**
- 742)** Moody's Investors Service in its Global Macro Outlook (2020-21) has projected the Indian economy to shrink by ____ in the fiscal year 2020: **3.1%**
- 743)** Which institution has created Indian GPS beneficiary chip "Dhruva"? **IIT Bombay**
- 744)** 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. **Vishwa Bandhu Gupta**
- 745)** NITI Aayog launched which project on June 24 to develop a low-carbon transport system in the country? **Decarbonising Transport in India**
- 746)** The government introduced a Rs. ____ crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund for infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises: **15,000/-**
- 747)** The IMF has predicted that the global economy will shrink by ____ per cent this year: **4.9**
- 748)** 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? **Germany**
- 749)** The union cabinet approved the move to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of ____? **Reserve Bank of India**
- 750)** Which state has launched a scheme to procure cow dung from livestock owners at a fixed procurement rate? **Chhattisgarh**
- 751)** Which state won the first prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj? **Himachal Pradesh**
- 752)** The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for what purpose? **To encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range**

of space activities

- 753)** Which international day is observed on June 25 to pay respect to sailors around the world for the valuable services rendered by them? **Day of the Seafarer**
- 754)** Who was Wajid Khan, a noted Bollywood personality, who passed away recently at a young age of 42 years? **Popular music composer, with brother Sajid Khan**
- 755)** On which date UNO supports the celebration of Global Day of Parents? **June 01**
- 756)** To highlight the importance of milk in our diet, we celebrate World Milk Day on which day of June? **First**
- 757)** What is the theme of this year's Global Day of Parents? **"Honour Your Parents"**
- 758)** Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which country? **United Kingdom**
- 759)** Government launched PM SVANidhi, a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to which category of people? **Street Vendors**
- 760)** What is the full form of the newly launched micro credit scheme PM SVANidhi? **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi**
- 761)** What is the maximum amount of loan available under PM SVANidhi scheme? **Rs. 10,000/-**
- 762)** What is the name of the disinfection unit developed by the DRDO especially for disinfecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others? **Ultra Swachh**
- 763)** Which private company became the first space company to send two astronauts from the Earth to the International Space Station? **SpaceX**
- 764)** Which country recently faced nationwide street protests over the death of a non white person by a white police man? **USA**
- 765)** What is the name of the black man whose death in police action generated nationwide protests? **George Floyd**
- 766)** 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? **Virat Kohli, 66**
- 767)** 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? **Swiss tennis star Roger Federer**
- 768)** What were the last words uttered by George Floyd just before his death that became a war cry for protesters around the world? **"I can't breathe"**
- 769)** 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? **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- 770)** Union Government has launched a new initiative named 'SWADES' for what purpose? **To conduct a skill mapping exercise of the Indians returning from abroad**
- 771)** What is the full form of SWADES? **"Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support"**
- 772)** SWADES is a joint initiative of three ministries -- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, _____ Ministry and External Affairs Ministry: **Civil Aviation**
- 773)** 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: Small
774) 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. 20; 100
775) Name the severe cyclonic storm that landed in Raigad district in Maharashtra on June 3 and caused widespread devastation: Nisarga
776) Name the veteran filmmaker-screenwriter best known for directing films like ChotisiBaat, Rajnigandha, BaatonBaaton Mein, and many others, who died recently: Basu Chatterjee
777) The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched a joint initiative, TULIP for which target group? Fresh engineering graduates
778) What is the full form of the recently launched program "TULIP"? "The Urban Learning Internship Programme"
779) TULIP aims to provide hands on works experience to the Fresh engineering graduates in which field? 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the country
780) Who has taken over as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21? Uday Kotak
781) Which ministry has launched '#Commit' campaign to promote sustainable more efficient use of energy? Ministry of Power.
782) Who is the current Power Minister of India? Raj Kumar Singh
783) On which date United Nation supports the celebration of the World Environment Day? June 05
784) The Asian Football Confederation awarded the hosting rights of the Women's Asian Cup 2022 tournament to which country? India
785) Where are the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation? Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
786) On World Environment Day, June 5, the government announced which scheme to develop 200 urban forests across the country in the next five years? The Nagar Van (Urban Forests) scheme
787) For the first time, a bilateral summit between India and _____ was held in virtual mode on June 4 between the two prime ministers: Australia
788) Who is the prime minister of Australia? Scott Morrison
789) The central government has approved to rename the Kolkata Port Trust as _____ Port Trust. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
790) The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust is the only major port of India not located on sea shore. It is located on which river? Hooghly
791) Raveesh Kumar has been appointed as India's next ambassador to which country? Finland
792) On June 3, India joined the group of select nations to have a Real-Time Market (RTM) in which commodity? Electricity
793) The Reserve Bank has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 500 Crore for what purpose? To improve the digital payments ecosystem in the northeast and rural India.
794) The Payment Infrastructure Development Fund aims to promote which particular channel of digital payments? Card swipe machines

795) _____ has become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizens. Kerala
796) Which state launched K-FON project aimed at providing free high speed internet facility to poor families? Kerala
797) Who is the first non-white person to become the chairman of the apex film and TV award body of Britain – BAFTA? Krishnendu Majumdar
798) What is the full expansion of the acronym BAFTA? British Academy of Film and Television Arts
799) On which date the World Bicycle Day is celebrated around the world? June 3
800) Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Food Safety Day? WHO – World Health Organisation
801) On which date we celebrate the World Food Safety Day? June 7
802) What is the theme of this year's World Food Safety Day? Food safety, everyone's business
803) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs launched which programme at Bengaluru and Chennai for technology based faster Customs clearance of imported goods? Turant Customs
804) Who has become the first Indian to win the Richard Dawkins Award? Javed Akhtar, veteran writer-lyricist
805) Which is the deepest point of the Earth? Challenger Deep, in Mariana Trench, around 11,000 mts deep
806) As per the State Food Safety Index released by the FSSAI, Which state topped the index among large states? Gujarat
807) Among UTs, which UT topped the State Food Safety Index? Chandigarh
808) Name the India's 1st indigenous wireless system for monitoring physiological parameters of the COVID-19 affected patients? COVID BEEP
809) Name the Indian corporate selected as the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
810) Who is Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (her position)? Chairperson of Biocon Ltd., India's largest bio-pharmaceutical company
811) On which date do we celebrate the World Oceans Day? June 8
812) Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? Switzerland
813) As per the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions under the NIRF, which is the overall best institute of India? IIT Madras
814) What is the full form of the abbreviation NIRF? National Institutional Ranking Framework
815) Among the Indian universities, _____ has been ranked as the best by the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
816) _____, Delhi has been ranked as the best college in India: Miranda House (for girls)
817) Indian Railways has set a new world benchmark by successfully running the first Double-Stack Container Train in which state? Gujarat
818) Which company has become the first company in the world to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap? Apple Inc.
819) 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. 25%
820) India has recorded a ____ increase in the population of Asiatic Lions in the last five years. 29%
821) Asiatic Lions are found in the wild in the ____ sanctuary in western Gujarat. Gir
822) Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2021 has ranked which university at the top rank? Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
823) The World Bank has given Rs. 1,950 crore loans to which state for tackling COVID situation and developmental work in the State? West Bengal
824) Name the eminent Indian-American soil scientist who won the World Food Prize-2000: Dr. Rattan Lal
825) Who is the head of the Working Group set up by the RBI to review the guidelines related to private sector banks? P K Mohanty
826) On which date the World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated around the world? June 12
827) Which specialised UN agency supports the celebration of the World Day Against Child Labour? ILO -- The International Labour Organization
828) Name the founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia who has been selected for the Medal of the Order of Australia: Shobha Sekhar
829) The OECD has forecasted Indian economy to contract by 3.7% in the fiscal year 2020-21. Its headquarters are located in which city? Paris
830) What is the full form of OECD? Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
831) The Indian Navy inaugurated its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at which of its Command Office? Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam
832) Which country's team has topped the recent rankings released by FIFA? Belgium
833) What is India's ranking in the latest FIFA rankings? 108th
834) _____ has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students. Odisha
835) The Ministry of _____ has reconstituted a new committee to review the welfare of the freedom fighters: Home Affairs
836) Who is the head of the new committee formed to review the welfare of the freedom fighters? G Kishan Reddy
837) Which TV serial made Sushant Singh Rajput a household name? Pavitra Rishta
838) Which apex Indian organisation launched web portal 'Aarogya Path'? CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi
839) What is the basic purpose of the web portal 'Aarogya Path'? To facilitate online availability of medical logistics
840) The World Blood Donor Day is observed on which day of June month? 14th
841) What is the theme of this year's World Blood Donor Day? Safe blood saves lives
842) The Department of Biotechnology launched India's first mobile infectious disease diagnostic lab. This is the

initiative of which ministry? Ministry of Science and Technology
843) Which international day is celebrated to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons? World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
844) On which date we celebrate the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day? June 15
845) As per a recent report by the UNCTAD, India was the world's _____ largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI): 9th
846) Which bank has decided to completely digitise its lending operations? Bank of Baroda
847) In which border area India lost its 20 soldiers in a violent conflict with Chinese forces? Galwan Valley
848) India recently joined which international group as its founder member to promote Artificial Intelligence? Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)
849) India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a ____ year term: Two
850) India's two year term will begin on which date? January 1, 2021.
851) The non-permanent members of UNSC are elected by the members of which forum? UN General Assembly
852) How many members are there in the UN General Assembly? 193
853) Name the Turkish diplomat and politician who was elected as President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly: Volkan Bozkir
854) A new fish species named as "Schizothorax sikusirumensis" has been discovered recently in which Indian state? Arunachal Pradesh
855) World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is celebrated on which day of June? 17th
856) Which new facility will enable EPFO offices to settle online claims from any of its regional offices, across the country? Multi Location Claim Settlement facility
857) The DARPG recently launched the "Feedback Call Centres on Public Grievances". What is the full form of DARPG? Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
858) 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: Anmol Narang
859) Which Bank has introduced an online overdraft (OD) facility 'Insta FlexiCash' for its salary account customers? ICICI Bank
860) What is the name of country's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform? Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)
861) Which country will host the 4th Asian Youth Para Games in December 2021? Bahrain
862) Which international day is observed annually on June 18 to respect the rights of persons with autism? Autistic Pride Day
863) 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"? Ministry of Earth Sciences
864) Who is the current minister of the Earth Sciences Ministry? Dr Harsh Vardhan
865) Which mission has been launched on June 20 to generate

	employment opportunities in rural India for returning migrant workers? Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan
866)	Government has decided to establish 1000 _____ Centers at the district level across the country to develop local sports talent: Khelo India
867)	Which ministry launched R&D portal "Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)" for Science and Technology Programme Scheme? Ministry of Mines
868)	The United Nations celebrates the World Refugee Day every year on which date? June 20
869)	What is the theme for this year's World Refugee Day? Every Action Counts
870)	Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi? Urjit Patel
871)	World Music Day is celebrated around the world on which date to promote peace and spread goodwill through music? June 21
872)	On which Sunday of June we usually celebrate the Father's Day? Third
873)	What was the theme for this year's International Day of Yoga? Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home
874)	_____ holds the record for most wickets taken in Ranji Trophy history as he scalped 637 wickets. Rajinder Goel
875)	Which day is observed on June 23 to highlight the contribution of public servants in the development process? United Nations Public Service Day
876)	Which popular TV serial has created the world record of highest viewed entertainment programme globally? Ramayan
877)	Order of Rising Sun is one of the highest civilian honour of which country? Japan
878)	Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana offers a health insurance cover of how much amount to eligible families? Rs 5 lakh
879)	J. Arunkumar, former Karnataka cricketer, has been appointed the head coach of which country's national cricket team? USA
880)	The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$ 346 million loan to Maharashtra for what purpose? To provide reliable power connections in rural areas of the state
881)	What is another popular name for the Labour Day / International Workers' Day observed on May 1? May Day
882)	According to a recent report titled 'The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)', which country suffered largest number of displacements in 2019? India
883)	Which apex organisation launched the Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system? CSIR
884)	A faculty member at IIT Madras Prof. T. Pradeep has won the Nikkei Asia Prize for which achievement? For his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification

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