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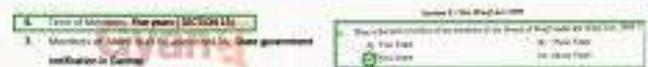


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## GENERAL AWARENESS

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



# NATIONAL NEWS

NOVEMBER

## VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH LUXEMBOURG PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19. This was the first stand-alone Summit meeting between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades. The two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relationship, including strengthening of India-Luxembourg cooperation in the post-COVID world. Luxembourg is a small European country, surrounded by Belgium, Germany and France.

## PM MODI ATTENDS 12<sup>TH</sup> BRICS SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 12<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit on November 17 in virtual mode. The summit was hosted by Russia, under the theme Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth. India will be taking over the Chairship of the BRICS for the year 2021 and will host the 13<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit next year.

## P M ADDRESSES 17<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc on November 12. The Summit provides the opportunity for India to engage with ASEAN nations at the highest level. ASEAN is a regional group of ten south east Asian countries.

## REPORT BY 15<sup>TH</sup> FINANCE COMMISSION

The Fifteenth Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for the period of 2021-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind on Nov 9. The report will now be tabled in the Parliament by the Finance Minister along with an Action Taken Report of the government.

A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution. Its main function is to recommend how the Union government should share taxes levied by it with the states. These recommendations cover a period of five years.



## TRAINED HORSES & DOGS GIFTED TO B'DESH



Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army. The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. The Indian Army also trained Bangladesh Army for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

## DIPAM SEEKS SUPPORT FROM WORLD BANK

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with the World Bank to receive advisory services for asset monetization. DIPAM, a unit under Ministry of Finance, is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of Rs. 100 crore and above.

## BOOK ON GANDHI RELEASED IN NEPAL

Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'MaileBujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi) - during a ceremony at Kathmandu. The book has been brought out by the Embassy of India along with the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation to cherish the values of the Mahatma's universal teachings with Nepali friends.

## WEF SELECTS 4 INDIAN CITIES

Four Indian cities - Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad figure among the 36 cities across the world that have agreed to pioneer a roadmap for safely adopting new technology as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance. Other selected cities include cities such as London, Moscow, Toronto, Brasilia, Dubai and Melbourne.

*The cities were selected by the World Economic Forum (WEF) from 22 countries across the world to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities developed by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.*



## INDIA HAS FAIR BUSINESS BRIBERY RISKS

India has been placed at 77th position in a global list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020. The list has been compiled by TRACE, a US based anti-bribery standard setting organisation. According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.

*The ranking is based on four factors: business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight, including the role of the media.*

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> POSITION IN ASIA POWER

India has been ranked at 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 October.

## 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.*

# NEWS FROM STATES

## NOVEMBER

### CHHATH PUJA CELEBRATED WITH FERVOUR



The four-day celebrations of the immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21 with devotees offering prayers to the rising sun in different parts of the country.

People in Bihar and adjoining areas of UP and Jharkhand, celebrate this festival with great fervour. Coming towards the end of the harvest season, the sixth day after Diwali, Chhath Puja started as a thanksgiving ritual, to express farmers' gratitude for a bumper crop. Devotees offer their prayers to and seek blessings from the Sun God and his sister Chhathi Maiyya.

## NITISH IS BIHAR CM FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> TIME

Nitish Kumar (of Janta Dal - United) was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time on November 16. Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Kumar at Raj Bhavan in Patna. BJP legislature party leader Tarkishore Prasad and Deputy Leader Renu Devi were made the new Deputy Chief Ministers.

## WORLD'S FIRST TRAM LIBRARY IN KOLKATA

In a first of its kind in the world, the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) has launched a maiden tram service in Kolkata for children, including students preparing for competitive exams. Students will also have access to Wi-Fi. As of now, a 32-seater car will run on the Shyambazar-Esplanade route.

This will not only attract the students but will also reinvigorate the love for trams and reading. The Kolkata tramways have been operating since 1873 when the maiden tram took off with horses.

## WORLD'S BIGGEST ELEPHANT CARE CENTRE

The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world. The first phase of the Elephant



Rehabilitation Centre will be commissioned in February 2021. The project is being implemented at a cost of Rs 108 crore. The centre has facilities to accommodate 50 elephants including the existing 16 elephants. The aim of the centre is to give elephants a natural ecosystem just like in the forest.

## COUNTRY'S FIRST MOSS GARDEN OPENED

India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The garden aims to conserve the various species of moss and other bryophytes and to make people aware of its significance in the environment besides creating a recreation centre for tourists.

Moss is one of the most ancient flora on the planet, existing since the Jurassic era. They are the first plants to grow on rocky land and by breaking down the rocks and the soil.

## KERALA FIRST TO FIX MSP FOR VEGETABLES

Kerala has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. The scheme would come into effect from November 1. The MSP will be 20 per cent above the production cost of the vegetable.

## INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT



India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project was commissioned in Arunachal Pradesh. The project, built at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore, would provide drinking water to 17,480 people in 39 villages of Lower Dibang Valley district in Arunachal Pradesh. The project also includes an amusement park including swimming pool, amphitheatre, fountains, and sit-outs.

## MUMBAI IS FIRST WOMEN FOCUSED CITY

Mumbai has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus—land reservations for physical-social infrastructure designed to meet women's needs. With women in the workforce as the pivot, the revised urban design now seeks to address other aspects of inclusion too such as housing, transport, education, healthcare, and safety to alter the overall landscape for women in the city.

## INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR MINIATURE TRAIN

A solar energy-driven miniature train, billed as the country's first of its kind, was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, situated 12 km away from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The train would be an attraction especially for children. The miniature rail has all the features of a fully-equipped rail system, including a tunnel, station and a ticket office. Artificial steam spouted by the engine of the train, modeled after the vintage steam locomotive, will stir nostalgic feelings.

## TAMIL NADU TOPS IN WATER CONSERVATION



The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation announced the Second National Water Awards on November 11. Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award in overall water conservation efforts, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan at second and third spot, respectively.

## ARUNACHAL TOPS IN FEMALE BIRTHS

According to a 2018 report on the 'Vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System', Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country with 1,085 females born per thousand males, while Manipur fared the worst with just 757. Arunachal is followed by Nagaland (965) and Mizoram (964). Before Manipur came Lakshadweep (839) and Daman-Diu (877).

*Sex ratio refers to the number of females born per thousand males. The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.*

## CHANDAU LI TOPS ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September, 2020. Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum (both in Jharkhand) have been placed at second and third positions, respectively. The rankings took into account incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas during September.

*The aspirational districts programme, launched in January 2018, aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and have emerged as pockets of under-development.*

## AYODHYA CREATES NEW WORLD RECORD



About 8,000 volunteers, drawn from a local college and NGOs, lit up over six lakh earthen lamps lined up on the Saryu river bank in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on Nov 13 to mark the home coming of Lord Rama. Officials from Guinness Book of World Records confirmed a final count as 6,06,569 'diyas', saying it was "largest display of oil lamps" in the world, creating a new world record.

## INDIA'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE

The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in Tehri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand. The 725-metre long Dobra-Chanti suspension bridge has been built in 14 years over the Tehri lake with a cost of Rs. 2.95 crore. It would help connect Pratap Nagar town with Tehri Garhwal district headquarters.

## LUHRI HYDRO POWER PROJECT APPROVED



The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project on Satluj River in Himachal Pradesh with an investment of Rs 1,810.56 crore. The project located near Kotgarh, Shimla, will be implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) on the Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis in next five years.

## WB LOAN FOR ROADS OF MEGHALAYA

The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of Meghalaya. The project will improve about 300 kilometres of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions.

- ❖ *Tamil Nadu government is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment.*
- ❖ *Shanghai based New Development Bank (BRICS Bank) approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project in the National Capital Region.*
- ❖ *The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in West Bengal.*
- ❖ *The Asian Development Bank agreed to provide a \$132.8 loan to the Indian state of Meghalaya for upgrading the power distribution network and improving the power quality.*

## 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 Mukta Bharat Index among 29 states in the country. The Anemia Mukta 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.





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## 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.



# GOVT. INITIATIVES

## NOVEMBER

### NATIONAL NEWBORN WEEK - NOV 15 TO 21

India observed the National Newborn Week from 15 to 21 November. This week is observed every year to reinforce the importance of newborn's health as a key priority area of the health sector. It aims to minimise the infant mortality rate by improving healthcare conditions for babies in the neonatal period. The theme of this year's week was 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere'.

### 'SAFAIMITRA SURAKSHA CHALLENGE'

Government launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' for the safety of sewer or septic tank cleaners. It will promote mechanized cleaning to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, which many times proves fatal. The challenge will focus on promoting infrastructure creation for mechanized cleaning. Government had enacted the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 to prohibit manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning of septic tanks.

### AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA

Government has announced an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana".

Under it, the government will give Employees contribution and employer's contribution to EPF-registered organizations on recruiting new people. It will cover new employees whose monthly wages are less than Rs. 15000 and people who lost their jobs in the pandemic period from March 1, to September 30 in an EPFO-registered establishment. The Centre will provide subsidy for two years in respect of newly eligible employees engaged on or after October 1, 2020 under the scheme.



### COMMISSION TO MANAGE AIR POLLUTION

The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in NCR (National Capital Region) and adjoining areas. The commission will be chaired by a government official equivalent to the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary, and it will also include a representative from the Ministry of Environment, members from the state of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and technical experts from Central Pollution Control Board and ISRO. It will help in better coordination among institutions, research and identify problems in improving the air quality in NCR regions.

## Rs. 2200 CRORE FOR IMPROVING AIR QUALITY



Based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for the improvement of air quality measures in their million-plus cities. The grant will help the states to undertake various air quality measures which include capacity-building of the local bodies in their million-plus cities. The 15th Finance Commission completed the report under the chairmanship of NK Singh.

## 'MERI SAHELI' INITIATIVE BY RAILWAYS

Railways has launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones. It aims to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey, from starting station to destination station. The scheme will be implemented by the Railway Protection Force, RPF. The RPF team will collect only the seat numbers of the ladies and convey them to stoppages en-route. The RPF personnel at the stopping stations en-route keep an unobtrusive watch over the concerned coaches and berths to ensure full safety of the lady passengers.

## "NYAY KAUSHAL" FOR E-FILING OF CASES

India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated at Judicial Officers Training Institute in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The Nyay Kaushal will facilitate electronic-filing of cases in the Supreme Court, any High Court as well as district courts across the country to enable speedy justice for litigants, by utilising technology.

## SCHEME TO PROMOTE WOMEN SCIENTISTS

A new scheme 'SERB - POWER' launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent women researchers to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering. SERB-POWER stands for Science and Engineering Research Board - Promoting Opportunities For Women in Exploratory Research. The scheme aims to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.

The scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of 35-55 years. SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

## CREDIT G'TEE SCHEME EXTENDED

The Finance Ministry has extended the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for small businesses, business enterprises, and individual loans for business purposes till March 31, 2021. The ECLGS 2.0 has been launched for 26 stressed sectors including construction, real estate, power and iron and steel manufacturing.

Under the scheme, the entities will get additional credit up to 20 percent of outstanding credit. The repayment can be done in five years, which includes 1-year moratorium and 4 years of repayment.

## OTT CONTENT TO BE REGULATED

Responding to the streaming of uncensored objectionable content on the OTT (over the top) platform, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought digital/online media under its purview. Currently, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content.

The 2nd Schedule of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 has been amended to include the Films and Audio-Visual programmes, News and current affairs content. This means that digital content providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hotstar will now be regulated by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

## ACTION PLAN FOR VULTURE CONSERVATION

The National Board for Wildlife approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25 under which five vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. will get a each, according to the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025.

*Vultures are often overlooked and perceived as lowly scavengers, but they play a crucial role in the environments in which they live. Vultures, also known as nature's cleanup crew, do the dirty work of cleaning up after death, helping to keep ecosystems healthy as they act as natural carcass recyclers.*

- ❖ Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to focus on development of ports and waterways.



## 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



TAX %

Among services, term insurance premium, and even Ulips, 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.*



## 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 Improvised 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.

## 'KAPILA' TO PROMOTE IP 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.

## 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 Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik, 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.

You only fail  
when you stop  
trying.

### INDIAN ECONOMY ENTERS RECESSION



A recent RBI report says that India's economy has entered into a recession for the first time in history, in the first half of 2020-21. RBI's Economic Activity Index estimates that India's GDP growth for the second quarter of the current financial year was negative and the GDP contracted by 8.6 per cent during the quarter ending September, 2020, recording the second successive quarter of GDP contraction.

*India's economy had shrunk about 24 per cent in the first quarter ended June, 2020. A recession is defined as two successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> FOREIGN SWF TO GET 100% TAX REBATE

Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) -- MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited -- has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.

MIC Redwood has been provided 100 per cent income tax exemption to income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for its investment in India's priority sector. The income tax exemption to SWFs and the Pension Fund is expected to provide much needed foreign funding to the infrastructure sector and will go a long way in boosting the growth in the infrastructure sector.

*A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment fund which comprises money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.*



### 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.*

## BANKING & FINANCE

### NOVEMBER

### RBI LAUNCHES INNOVATION HUB

The Reserve Bank of India has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging technology and creating an environment which would facilitate and foster innovation. Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.

### NO SERVICE CHARGE ON BSBD ACCOUNTS

The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on the 60 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, including over 40 crore Jan Dhan accounts. The clarification was issued in view of several media reports alluding to steep increase in service charges by certain Public Sector Banks.

*As per RBI guidelines, all banks, including Public Sector Banks, are permitted to levy charges for their services in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, but the BSBD accounts are exempt from service charges. However, BSBD accounts have some limitations such as balance not more than 50,000 and not more than 10,000 rupees withdrawal in a month.*

## LAKSHMI VILAS BANK TO BE MERGED

In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Chennai based Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium (temporary freezing of accounts) from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days with a view to protect depositors' interest.

Besides, RBI has also announced the draft scheme of amalgamation of The Lakshmi Vilas Bank with Delhi based DBS Bank India Limited, a subsidiary of DBS Bank of Singapore.

## 'MINE' FOR MILLENNIALS FROM ICICI BANK

The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for millennials -- tech savvy persons in the age group of 18 to 35 years. It offers a mobile first, highly personalised and experiential led banking experience to them.

It offers an instant savings account, a feature driven iMobile application that offers investment guidance to suit the demand of millennials, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans & overdrafts, and even an experiential branch with social engagement space.

## WHATSAPP TO LAUNCH PAYMENTS FEATURE

WhatsApp Inc., the Facebook-owned messaging platform, will roll out payments feature for users across the country in 10 regional languages. The arrangement has been approved by the National Payments Corporation of India. Anyone having a debit card with a bank that supports UPI can set it up straight away.

*WhatsApp Pay will join an already crowded market of payment services offered via the UPI network. Google Pay, PhonePe and PayTM are some of the largest processors of UPI payments, apart from applications of individual banks. Using WhatsApp the users can transfer funds across 160 banks in India.*

## DBS BANK RANKED BEST IN THE WORLD

DBS Bank, Singapore, the largest bank in south-east Asia, has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance. It was also ranked as the "Best Bank in the world.

*DBS's rankings as the fourth-safest commercial bank in the world and 14<sup>th</sup> safest bank globally, remain unchanged from 2019 and 2018.*

*Citibank, New York won the award for Best Corporate Bank and Best Global Transaction Bank and several other awards in different categories.*



- ❖ *HDFC Bank Ltd. has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India, in a poll conducted by the well-known UK based publication Asiamoney.*

## OCTOBER

### 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.

### 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

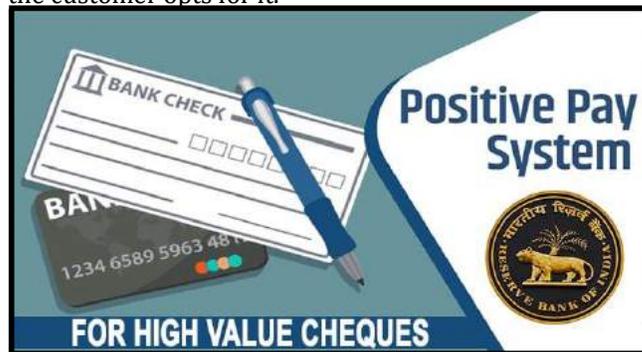
In an attempt to make digital payments using debit cards and credit cards more secure, the RBI issued several new guidelines that came into effect from October 1, 2020. As per new rules, people will now be able to register for preferences such as opt-in or opt-out services, spend limits and other services 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.



## 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 Vijaya Raje Scindia 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.

## 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.

# DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## NOVEMBER

### NAVY GETS TORPEDO - VARUNA STRA

Giving a major boost to India's Naval firepower, Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavyweight Torpedo, Varunastra, to the Indian Navy. The weapon has a range of 40 kilometers, can travel at a speed of up to 70 kilometers per hour, and dive to a maximum depth of 400 meters.

It has been designed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, a unit of the DRDO in Visakhapatnam. Varunastra is an anti-submarine torpedo and is electrically-propelled.

### NAVY GETS 9TH SURVEILLANCE PLANE

In a major boost to the Indian Navy's warfare capabilities, the ninth Boeing P-8I surveillance plane was delivered to it from the US at its naval air base in Goa on November 18. The plane is capable of exceptional maritime surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

### SUBMARINE INS VAGIR JOINS INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine INS Vagir, having superior stealth features like the advanced acoustic absorption technique, was launched on Nov 12 at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai. These submarines can undertake missions like anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance.

*Vagir is named after the Sand Fish, a deadly deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean.*

**India Coast Guard ship C-452** indigenously designed and built by M/s L & T, Surat, was inducted into Indian Coast Guard at its Ratnagiri base in Maharashtra.

**The Indian Navy** successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from its guided missile corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal on October 30 as part of a drill that reflected its combat readiness in the strategic sea.



### THREE MORE RAFALE JETS LAND IN INDIA



Three more French built multi role Rafale fighter jets landed in Jamnagar in Gujarat on Nov4, taking the total number of jets to arrive in India from France to eight. They will now fly to their home base at Ambala, Haryana.

The Rafale jets flew nonstop directly from Istres in France and were accompanied by French Air Force mid-air refuelling aircraft. They covered a distance of over 6,850 km in eight hours before landing in India. The IAF is expecting three to four Rafale jets being delivered every two months, with all the 36 planes likely to join the air force's combat fleet by the next year-end.

### ARMY DEVELOPS SAI MESSAGING APP

Indian Army has developed and launched Secure Application for Internet (SAI), a simple and secure messaging application like WhatsApp, Telegram. SAI allows end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms using the internet. This means that messages exchanged between the two devices cannot be read by any third party.

### ARMY CHIEF HONOURED BY NEPAL

Army Chief General MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepali Army" by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu. He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu. He was also presented with a sword and scroll during the function. The practice follows a seven decade old tradition of conferring Army Chiefs of each other's country with the honorary title.



### TRI-SERVICE EXERCISE BULL STRIKE HELD

A military exercise involving Special Forces was carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between November 3 and 5 as the Army, Navy and Air Force got together for the war games. The exercise 'Bull Strike' focussed on enhancing interoperability and synergy among the three Services, to maximise combat potential.

### QUAD NATIONS CONDUCT MALABAR EXERCISE

The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted 'Malabar' Exercise in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6, their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade. Australia joined the exercise this year. *The QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) grouping is an informal group of the four largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific region.*

**SIMBEX-20:** Indian Navy hosted the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise with Republic of Singapore Navy from Nov 23 to 25 in Andaman Sea.



**SITMEX-20:** Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand conducted Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 in Andaman Sea for two days - Nov 21-22. The exercise was hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy

**Indo-Thai CORPAT:** The 30<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy from Nov 18 to 20 near the Andaman sea to prevent illegal and unregulated fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

### 'PARAM-SIDDHI'- INDIA'S FASTEST COMPUTER

India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer 'Param Siddhi' has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. The supercomputer was established earlier this year, under the National Supercomputer Mission (NSM) and is going to be installed in the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing' (C-DAC) in Pune, Maharashtra.

Another Indian super computer Pratyush, used for weather forecasting at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, ranked 78th.

PARAM-Siddhi has 6.5 petaflops of power. The ranking is topped by Japanese supercomputer Fugaku (442 petaflops) and IBM's Summit (148.8 petaflops). The Top 500 project tracks the most powerful supercomputers in the world, and is published twice a year. on the November edition of the list.

## IRNSS GETS RECOGNISED BY IMO



India has become the fourth country in the world to have its Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System -- IRNSS recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).

The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China. The navigation system can now replace GPS in the Indian Ocean waters upto 1500 km from the Indian boundary.

*The IRNSS is a set of seven satellites managed by ISRO with the operational name NavIC - Navigation with Indian Constellation.*

## EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE EOS-01

India's workhorse rocket PSLV-C49 successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and placed into its intended orbit on November 7. This was the first developmental flight of a new class of rocket called the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle - SSLV. The SSLV can carry satellites weighing upto 500 kg into low earth orbit.

*The launch vehicle also put nine other customer satellites into space, including four from the USA. The Satellite EOS-01 will provide increased capacity for the user agencies of the nation in viewing the surface of the earth seamlessly for agriculture, forestry and disaster management applications, even in cloudy conditions.*

## NEW SPECIES OF FROGS FOUND IN ANDAMANS

Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog found in the Andaman Islands and the northeast. Named after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda, the frogs of the new genus Rohanixalus are characterised by a rather small and slender body (size about 2 to 3 cm long).

*The genus has several unique behavioural traits including maternal egg attendance where the female (mother) attends the egg clutches until hatching and assists in the release of the tadpoles into the water.*

## LIGHT EMITTING MUSHROOM DISCOVERED

A mushroom documentation project in the forests of Northeast India has discovered a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom in forests of East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya. The mushroom is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world that glow in dark. It has been named as *Roridomyces Phyllostachys*.

## 6G COMMUNICATIONS TEST SATELLITE

China has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully sent the 6G communications test satellite into the orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi Province. As per the reports, the technology is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G.

## 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 INDIGENIOUS 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 - 'Bongosagar-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.

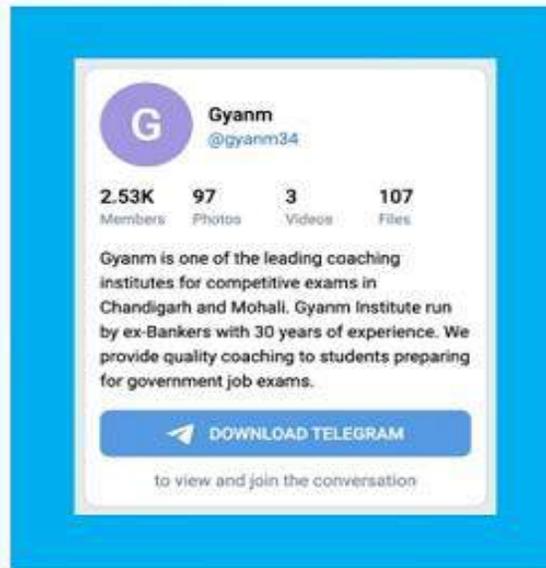
ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, was inducted in the Indian Coast Guard on October 1 at Kolkata.

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



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## 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 Lanka 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.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## NOVEMBER

### G20 SUMMIT HELD IN A VIRTUAL FORMAT

The 15<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit was held on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format. The Summit was chaired by Saudi Arabia and the theme was "Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All". Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at the Summit. This is the second G20 Leaders' meeting this year. During the Summit, the leaders discussed preparedness for pandemic COVID-19 and the ways and means to restore jobs.

*The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Comprising 19 nations and European Union, it brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent. Collectively, G20 members represent around 80% of the world's economic output, two-thirds of global population and 75% of international trade.*

### APEC MEETING HELD IN VIRTUAL MODE

The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held on Nov 20 under the chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in a virtual mode.

*APEC is a Singapore based inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The APEC Summit 2021 will be hosted by New Zealand.*

### TRADE BLOC RCEP FORMED

15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc, comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries, as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The deal named 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP) is led by China. Members of the RCEP account for nearly a third of the world's population and around 30 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).

### FAO LAUNCHED 'FOOD COALITION'

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has formally launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems and agriculture worldwide.

The Coalition is a voluntary multi-stakeholder and multi-sector alliance that will support innovative initiatives to ensure global food access to prevent potential food crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*The Food Coalition was first proposed by Italy and its establishment was first announced by the United Nations in June this year. As of now, at least 30 countries have joined the international movement.*

## BIDEN TO BECOME 46<sup>TH</sup> US PRESIDENT



Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States. In a very closely fought presidential election which witnessed many cliffhanger episodes, Biden clinched the race by securing 279 electoral votes from a total of 540 votes.

Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris has also secured her position as the first woman to be the Vice President of the USA. Ms. Harris is also credited to be the first woman of Indian-American and African-American origin to be a member of the United States Senate.

*The Electoral College representatives elected by the popular votes will now cast their votes to officially elect the new president on the 14th of next month. The new president will thereafter assume office on the 20th of January next year after the inauguration ceremony.*

## THE US QUITS PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT



The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Nov 4, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions.

*The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius; the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.*

*The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. After China, it is the largest producer of greenhouse gasses, accounting for over 25 percent of global GHG emissions.*

*Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025. He also said it gave other major emitters, like China and India, a free pass.*

## LONDON IS THE 'BEST CITY' IN WORLD

In this latest World's Best Cities Report, Vancouver, Canada based Resonance Consultancy ranked the world's 100 best cities with populations of more than a million. London was ranked as the best city followed by New York, Paris and Moscow. Only one Indian city could reach the top 100, Delhi at 62nd rank.

*The report ranks the world's best cities with populations of more than a million, using a combination of statistical performance and qualitative evaluations by locals and visitors in 25 areas grouped into six core categories. It identified cities that are most desirable for locals, visitors, and business people alike, rather than simply looking at livability or tourism appeal.*

## H K, ZURICH & PARIS MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES

According to a new survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Hong Kong, Zurich and Paris share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the list, which comprises 133 cities. The EIU released its biannual 'Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)' report of the World's Most Expensive Cities in 2020, based on their cost of living.



*Damascus (Syria), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia) ranked at the last three spots as the most cheap cities. The report took into account the price of 138 items of daily use and the falling or rising value of that country's currency due to Covid, to rank the cities accordingly.*

## LOCKDOWN: COLLINS WORD OF THE YEAR

Lockdown, the containment measure implemented by governments around the world to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020. According to the dictionary, 'lockdown' is defined as "the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces".

The dictionary said it registered over 2.5 lakh usages of the word lockdown during 2020, against only 4,000 the previous year.

## OCTOBER

### ANDORRA JOINS IMF AS 190<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## 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”.

## 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 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



# PERSONS IN NEWS

## NOVEMBER

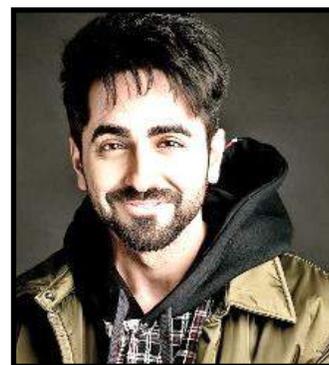
**Azim Premji:** The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, has topped the EdelGiveHurun India Philanthropy List 2020. The 75-year-old made the highest contribution of Rs 7,904 crore between April 2019 and March 2020 towards philanthropic causes. Shiv Nadar, founder and chairman of HCL Technologies, ranked second (Rs. 795 crore) on the list.

**Priyanka Radhakrishnan:** 41 year old Indian-origin politician created history by becoming the first Indian-Kiwi woman to become a minister in New Zealand. She was one of five new ministers inducted into freshly re-elected Labour Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. A two-time MP, Radhakrishnan has spent 14 years as a Labour Party leader.

## 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

## NOVEMBER



**Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha:** Government of India has approved the appointment of the former Foreign Service officer as the new Chief Information Commissioner, head of Central Information Commission, a statutory body.

**Girish Chandra Murmu:** Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva for a term of three years.

**Dr M. M. Kutty:** Former Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.

**Maia Sandu:** Won the Presidential elections in Moldova, a small east European land-locked country sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine.

**John Magufuli:** Tanzanian President won a second term, with a landslide victory securing more than 84% of the vote in the recent elections.

**Alassane Ouattara:** Elected as the President of the Ivory Coast for the third time. Ivory Coast, also known as Côte d'Ivoire, officially the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is a country located on the south coast of West Africa.

**Luis Arce:** Elected as the President of Bolivia, after winning a landslide victory in the 2020 Bolivian general election.

## 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.

# AWARDS & HONOURS

## NOVEMBER

**Children's Climate Prize:** Vinisha Umashankar, a 14-year-old student from Tamil Nadu won this prestigious award for designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal.



Vinisha will receive the prize of 100,000 Swedish krona (Rs 8.64 lakh approximately), diploma, and medal from the Sweden-based Children's Climate Foundation.

**UN Global Climate Action Award:** An Indian organisation, Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh that leverages tourism and technology to help remote communities access solar energy, won this prestigious award for its efforts to combat climate change amid the Covid pandemic.

**Booker Prize for Fiction:** New York-based 44 year old Scottish writer Douglas Stuart won the prestigious 50,000-pound prize for his autobiographical debut novel 'Shuggie Bain', a coming of age tale of love and alcoholism set in 1980s Glasgow.

**International Children's Peace Prize:** Awarded to a Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens.

*The prize is given away by the international children's rights organization KidsRights in Amsterdam, Netherland to a child who fights courageously for children's rights.*

## 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.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### NOVEMBER

**Burnt Sugar** by Avni Doshi

**Boskiyana** by Yashwant Vyas. A book on the life of famous lyricist Gulzar

**Insomnia: Army Stories** by Rachna Bisht Rawat, a senior journalist

**I am no Messiah:** Autobiography of SonuSood co-authored by Meena Iyer

**Your Best Day Is Today!** by Actor Anupam Kher

**How to be a Writer** by Ruskin Bond

**Till We Win:** a book on Covid 19 co-written by AIIMS Director RandeepGuleria and leading public policy and health systems expert Chandrakant Lahariya and renowned vaccine researcher Gagandeep Kang.

**Bye Bye Corona:** World's 1st scientoon book written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

**Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy** by Tamal Bandyopadhyay, Sr journalist, Business Standard

**Jacind Ardern: Leading with Empathy** by Supriya Vani and Carl A Harte. It is biography of Prime Minister of New Zealand

**The Archer** by Paulo Coelho

**A Promised Land:** Memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President

### OCTOBER

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

**Smoke and Mirrors** by Neil Gaiman

**Leave the World Behind** by RumaanAlam

**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

## OBITUARY

### NOVEMBER

**Ahmed Patel:** Congress veteran and AICC treasurer passed away on Nov 25, losing his two-month-old battle against Covid. He was 71. Patel was a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat and a serving political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Patel was an eight-time parliamentarian -- five times in the Rajya Sabha, three times in the Lok Sabha.

**Tarun Gogoi:** Former Chief Minister of Assam and a former union minister, veteran Congress leader passed away in Guwahati on November 23 due to multi organ failure after a prolonged illness. He was 86.

He was the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam, completing a record 15 consecutive years as Chief Minister of Assam in May 2016. Overall, he served six terms as a Member of Parliament (MP) in Lok Sabha.

**Soumitra Chatterjee:** Veteran actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient passed away at a Kolkata Nursing Home. He was 85. His performances won him several national and international awards including Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan and Légion d'Honneur (France). He will be especially remembered for the 'Apu' trilogy and other memorable performances in Satyajit Ray's masterpieces.

**Diego Maradona:** Argentinian football legend passed away at his home in Tigre (in Buenos Aires, Argentina) after suffering a cardiac arrest on Nov 25. The flamboyant player, best known for leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title, was 60. In Argentina, he was worshipped as 'El Dios' - The God - partly a play on words on his number 10 shirt, 'El Diez.' He will always be remembered for scoring the iconic and controversial "Hand of God" goal in the 1986 World Cup



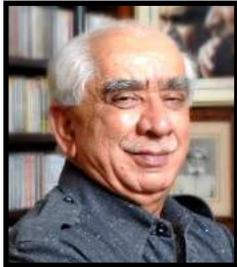
**Prince Khalifa:** The world's longest serving Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, passed away on Nov 11. He was 84. Prince Khalifa became prime minister after Bahrain gained independence in 1971, serving for almost 50 years.

**Sir Sean Connery:** Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom as the suave, handsome and sophisticated British agent James Bond, 007, died aged 90. The Scottish actor, who graced the silver screen for over 4 decades, appeared in seven of the Bond movie series, starting with Dr. No in 1962 and ending with 'Never Say Never Again' in 1983.

*He will always be remembered for his unforgettable iconic opening words 'the name's Bond... James Bond'. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 2000.*

## 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.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### NOVEMBER

**Cyclone Nivar:** A strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram during late evening on Nov 25, causing very heavy rainfall in the area.

**Baghjan oil well:** In Assam, the blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. The well has been killed with brine solution. The experts from Canada, with the help of a 60 tonnes snubbing unit, killed the blowout well. The oil well operated by Oil India Limited (OIL) caught fire on June 9 this year. As per norms, the well would be abandoned now.

**Kabartal Wetland, Begusarai (Bihar):** Also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', it has been designated as Ramsar site, making it a 'Wetland of International Importance'. The classification is done by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland.

*The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea.*

**Sur Sarovar:** Also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been selected as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971. It is one of the oldest intergovernmental agreements signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.

*The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.*

**Lonar Lake:** The Crater Lake in Buldhana district of Maharashtra has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It was formed by a meteorite impact about 50 thousand years ago. It is the 41st 'Ramsar site' in the country and the second in Maharashtra.



**Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh:** The reserve which once saw its entire tiger population disappear in 2009, is now home to 54 tigers due to its outstanding conservation efforts. It has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that will explore innovative ways to achieve eco-conservation and sustainability. Panna Tiger Reserve spans 576 kilometers in Panna and Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.



**Nagorno-Karabakh:** Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed a peace agreement brokered by Russia to end over six week old military conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Under the deal, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict. To enforce the truce, Russian peacekeepers will be deployed to patrol the front line.

**Kabul:** Three Gunmen stormed into Kabul University on November 2 during an ongoing book fair. In the ensuing gun battling, at least 25 people were killed and more were wounded. All the three attackers were killed in the gun fight. Kabul is the capital city of Afghanistan.

**Izmir, Turkey:** An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern Turkey on Oct 30, killing over 90 people in Elazig province and four in the neighbouring province of Malatya. More than 1,600 others were hurt. Much of the damage occurred in and around the resort city of Izmir, which has three million residents and is filled with high-rise apartment blocks.

**Storm Iota:** A strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across Central America on Nov 18 in areas already waterlogged from the earlier storm Eta (Nov 3), forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee from their homes.

**Typhoon Vamco:** Dozens of towns in Cagayan region north of the capital Manila in Philippines were submerged in flash flood waters on Nov 13-14, affecting thousands of families, some of whom fled to rooftops to escape two-storey high flash floods caused by Typhoon Vamco, the country's deadliest cyclone this year.

**Storm Eta:** A powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains hit Nicaragua in Central America on Nov 3. It then weakened into a tropical depression as it moved into neighbouring Honduras and later Guatemala. Across the Central American region, Eta is believed to have killed more than 170 people.

**Typhoon Goni:** The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of the Philippines' main island of Luzon on Nov 1 with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph. Goni is among the strongest typhoons to hit the Philippines since Haiyan, which killed more than 6,300 people in 2013.

## 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 (Koreas, Japan and China) is called a Typhoon. If they occur in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, they are termed Tropical Cyclones.*

## SPORTS WORLD

### NOVEMBER

**World silver-medalist Amit Panghal** (52kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) struck gold in their first competition after a coronavirus-forced break, claiming the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France.

#### **Mumbai Indians win their 5th IPL title**

Mumbai Indians clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final at Dubai on Nov10. Mumbai Indians now has more IPL titles than any other team in the 13-year history of the league.

*Delhi Capitals' Kagiso Rabada won the Purple Cap claiming highest - 30 wickets in the season while Kings XI Punjab's captain K L Rahul secured Orange Cap by scoring highest - 670 runs in the League.*

**Gyanendro Ningombam**, former CEO of Manipur Hockey has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India, the official national governing body for promoting Hockey in India.

**FIFA cancelled** the Women's Under-17 Football World Cup 2020 that was earlier postponed to 2021, to be hosted by India. The same will now be held in 2022 with India as the host.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Lewis Hamilton**, British F1 champion wrote his name into the Formula One record books with a victory in the Turkish Grand Prix in Istanbul. With this victory he secured his seventh world championship title, equaling Michael Schumacher's record.

**Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** celebrated a record-extending 93<sup>rd</sup> career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in Imola, Italy.

### Rafael gets his 1,000 win

Rafael Nadal has become just the fourth player in history to win 1,000 matches on the ATP Tour, achieving the remarkable feat after beating Feliciano Lopez (Spain) in the Paris Masters on Nov 4.

*The 34-year-old Spaniard joins towering company in Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,242) and Ivan Lendl (1,068) as the only men's 1,000-club members since the Open era began in 1968.*

**The ICC** has announced that the Women's T20 World Cup has been moved from its current 2022 slot to February 9-26, 2023, to be hosted by South Africa.

**The International Cricket Council (ICC)** has introduced a minimum age policy, according to which, a player must be of minimum 15-years of age to play international cricket. Age bar aims to improve the safeguarding of players. Earlier there was no such minimum age bar.

## 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 92<sup>nd</sup> 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 92<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## DAYS & DATES

## NOVEMBER

### November 1: World Vegan Day

Celebrated annually by vegans across the globe. It is observed to motivate people to follow a vegan lifestyle, which is beneficial for animal welfare and the environment. People who are vegetarians but do not consume dairy products such as milk, cheese, paneer, etc. are called vegans. The day marks the founding day of The Vegan Society in 1944 in the United Kingdom.





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### **November 5: World Tsunami Awareness Day**

Observed every year to promote national and local risk reduction plans against tsunami calamity. The term 'Tsunami' is a Japanese term which means "harbour wave". It refers to a series of giant waves caused by earthquakes or undersea volcanic eruptions and underwater landslides. Tsunami waves can travel at the speed of 800 km/hour and its height can be 20 feet to 300 feet.

*According to the UN, by 2030, an estimated 50 percent of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms, and tsunamis. This year's theme promotes the "Sendai Seven Campaign," target, declared in March 2015 at Sendai, Japan.*

### **November 07: National Cancer Awareness Day**

The day is dedicated to spreading awareness on preventing the spread of cancer and how can one detect any symptoms early. Cancer is among the leading causes of death globally and according to WHO, 1 in every 6 deaths in 2018 occurred due to cancer. One of the major causes of cancer in India is consumption of tobacco. Chewing tobacco has shown a direct link with cancer.

*The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Marie Curie, the eminent scientist who received two Nobel prizes for her work in Physics and Chemistry. Her deep research in Radium led to one of the effective ways to treat cancer.*

### **November 08: International Day of Radiology**

This day is celebrated to mark the discovery of X-radiation as measured by Roentgen on this day in 1895 by German scientist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. This day is organised by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT). This day raises awareness about radiology and the critical role it plays in various high end diagnostic procedures such as X-rays, MRI scans, ultrasounds, etc.

### **November 08: World Town Planning Day**

Also known as World Urbanism Day, it aims at promoting the role of planning in creating livable urban communities. It also creates awareness of the environmental impact created by the development of cities and territories. It brings together professional planners and the general community to see how we can shape the world into an ideal place that we want to live and work in.

### **November 09: National Legal Services Day**

The day is celebrated every year by all Legal Services Authorities, to commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 which led to formation of Lok Adalats. It aims to make people aware of the various provisions under the Act and to offer free of charge, proficient and legal services to the people belonging to weaker sections of society.

### **November 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development**

This day is celebrated with active support from UNESCO to stress the importance of science in day to day life and to keep people informed of the latest developments in science. The theme for this year is "Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic".

### **November 11: National Education Day**

The day commemorates the birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He served as the first education minister of independent India from 1947 to 1958. The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.

*For his contribution - both as an educationist as a freedom fighter - he was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992. Azad breathed his last in 1958.*

### **November 12: Public Service Broadcasting Day**

The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. The Father of the Nation addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.

### **November 12: World Pneumonia Day**

Observed every year to raise awareness about pneumonia, the world's leading infectious killer of children under the age of 5. It aims to promote interventions to protect against, prevent, and treat pneumonia. Pneumonia is the single biggest infectious killer of adults and children - claiming the lives of 2.5 million, including 672,000 children, in 2019.

*Pneumonia is an infectious disease that causes infection in one or both lungs. It can be serious and life-threatening.*

### **November 13: World Kindness Day**

Celebrated to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us. The day aims at encouraging people across the globe to better understand "the pains of others" and touch their lives "positively". The theme for the day in 2020 intends to promote 'empathy' for World Kindness Day 2020 celebration among people.

### **November (13): World Ayurveda Day**

Celebrated around the world on the auspicious day of Dhanteras. It is believed that on this day, Lord Dhanwantari emerged with Amruth Kalash. Lord Dhanwantari is an Avatar of Lord Vishnu. He appears in the Vedas and Puranas as the physician of the gods and the God of Ayurvedic medicine. This year India will celebrate Ayurveda Day under the theme of 'Ayurveda for Covid-19'.

### **November 14 - Children's Day**

The day is celebrated across the country to increase awareness about the rights, care and education of children. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as he was very affectionate with children.

***It may be noted that World Children's Day is observed on Nov 20.***

### **November 14 - World Diabetes Day**

Observed all over the world, supported by the WHO to generate awareness about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. The day marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. The theme for this year is "The Nurse and Diabetes."

*Diabetes is a metabolic and chronic disease that indicates a higher level of blood glucose and loss of insulin production by the body.*

### **November 16: National Press Day**

The day is celebrated to honour the existence of free and responsible press in India. It was on this day in 1966 that the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog. The Council has been mandated by Parliament to improve the standards of journalism and maintain its freedom. It ensures that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.

### **November 16: International Day for Tolerance**

As the name suggests, the day is observed to build tolerance among the cultures and people. The day was started by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995. The day aims to make educational institutions and people at large believe that tolerance is an integral part of society. The date of November 16 was chosen as it is the anniversary of UNESCO's Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.

### **November 17: National Epilepsy Day**

This day is celebrated by the Epilepsy Foundation of India to educate people about the epilepsy disease and its treatment methods. On this day, various hospitals also provide free treatment and organise consultation camps for the patients.

*Epilepsy is a chronic brain disorder resulting in recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'. Seizures occur due to the sudden, excessive electrical discharges in the neurons or brain cells.*

### **November 18: Naturopathy Day**

The Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (Ayush) ministry celebrated the first Naturopathy Day in 2018 with the aim of promoting the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.

*Naturopathy is a system of man building in harmony with constructive principles of Nature on physical, mental, moral, and spiritual planes of living.*

### **November 19: World Toilet Day**

The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The 6th Sustainable Development Goal of UNO aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030. All over the world, 4.5 billion people do not have access to a safe toilet and 892 million people still practise open defecation. The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change'.

### **November 19: Women's Entrepreneurship Day**

Observed every year to celebrate, recognise and appreciate all women entrepreneurs around the world. This is an influential day for all aspiring women who wish to be entrepreneurs. Women are important agents of change and they can be crucial for the sustainable and inclusive recovery of economies and societies from the Covid crisis.

### **November 19: International Men's Day**

The day is observed to commemorate the achievements and contributions of men and boys to the nation, society, community, family, marriage, and childcare. In India, the inaugural celebration of the day was organized by the leading Indian Men's rights organisation named Indian Family on 19 November 2007. This day's theme for 2020 is "Better Health for Men and Boys" with the aim to make practical improvements to the health and wellbeing of the male population.

### **Nov. (19): World Philosophy Day**

Observed across the world on 3rd Thursday of November to renew the national, sub-regional, regional and international commitment to philosophy and to foster philosophical analysis, research and studies on major contemporary issues, so as to respond more effectively to the challenges that are confronting humanity today.

This year's celebrations will focus on the importance of philosophical thinking in helping us cope with the multiple challenges the world faces. In particular, it will invite reflection on the meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **November 20: Awaas Diwas**

Celebrated every year to mark the launch of the Rural Housing Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) on this day in 2016 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide "Housing for All" by 2022 by the completion of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022. By now 1.20 crore houses have been completed.



### **Nov. 20: World / Universal Children's Day**

Supported by UNICEF, it is observed around the world to improve child welfare and promote children's rights around the world. It also commemorates the anniversary of the date on which the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights. The day is significant as it gives a serious message in a fun way to advocate for children rights and calls for actions that build a better world for children.

### **November 21: World Fisheries Day**

Observed across the world by the fisherfolk community to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries and healthy oceans ecosystems. It demonstrates the importance of maintaining the fisheries of the world along with highlighting the problems like overfishing and mechanization.

*As per the latest reports, India currently contributes about 7.7 per cent to the global fish production and it ranks 4th in global exports of fish products.*

### **November 21: World Television Day**

The day is observed to highlight the increasing impact of television on decision-making capabilities of people. It brings world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and in sharpening the focus on economic and social issues. UNO has acknowledged Television as a major tool in influencing public opinion and world politics. The television was invented in 1924 by John Logie Baird

### **November (24): NCC Day**

Observed on the fourth Sunday of every November to commemorate the raising of the first unit of the National Cadet Corps in 1948 in New Delhi. The NCC aims at developing character, comradeship, discipline, a secular outlook, the spirit of adventure and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.

### **November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

The day marks the launch of the 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10 December 2019, International Human Rights Day. The initiative aims to raise public awareness around the issue and promoting both, policymaking and resources dedicated to ending violence against women and girls worldwide.

*The 2019 theme of the day is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" The focus is on bridging the funding gaps to ensure essential services for the survivors of violence during the ongoing pandemic.*

### **November 26: National Milk Day**

Celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, promoter of India's most successful dairy enterprise - AMUL. Credit goes to him for making India world's largest milk producer by launching 'Operation Flood'.

*He is also known as the 'Father of the White Revolution' in India. He was awarded the Padma Shri in the year 1965, the Padma Bhushan in the year 1966 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999. He passed away on September 9, 2012, at the age of 90.*

**Please note that the World Milk Day is on June 01.**

### **November 26: The Constitution Day**

On this day in 1949, the India's constitution was adopted by the constituent assembly and it came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India. On this day tributes are paid to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, considered as the father of Indian constitution. He prepared the world's lengthiest and bulkiest constitution, comprising 448 Articles and 12 Schedules.

*This day is also known as the National Law Day.*

### **November 27: Indian Organ Donation Day**

The day aims to promote organ donation for those who are in need of them and create awareness for removing the taboo around organ donation. Many people could live to see a new day if only people with healthy organs could go ahead and donate their organs.

**Please note that the World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13.**

### **World Heritage Week: Nov 19-25**

It is celebrated every year from the 19 to 25 November supported by UNESCO. There are 38 world heritage UNESCO sites in India which include 30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and one mixed site. The week is celebrated across the world to increase awareness among the general public about the importance of preservation of cultural heritage and monuments.

## **OCTOBER**

### **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.

### **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?"



### **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.

### **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.

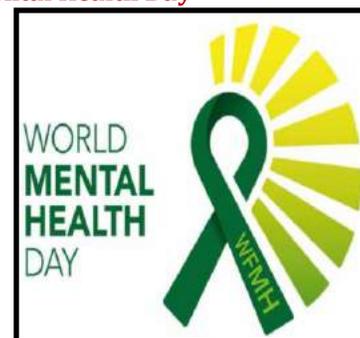
*India has the largest postal network of the world having more than 1,55,000 offices. History of formal postal services in India can be traced back to 1774 when Calcutta G.P.O. started under a Postmaster General. The first postal stamp in India was introduced on 1 July 1852.*

### **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".*

### **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, 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. The theme for the year 2020 is "Your window to the World".

### **October 29: International Internet Day**

The day is observed to commemorate the anniversary of the first internet transmission that took place on this day in 1969. While the internet may not have been possible without a million other monumental inventions that came before it, it's hard to find any other invention that has had such a monumental impact on mankind. With over 560 million users, India is the second largest online market.

### **October 30/31: World Savings Day**

Previously known as World Thrift Day, this day is celebrated in India on October 30. This day is dedicated to promote the importance of savings and learn more about the same. It is an important day to promote the idea of saving among all social classes. As financial resources are never available in abundance, it is always imperative to safeguard money and to learn ways to save it.

### **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.

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

# Bullet News

(June 2020 – September 2020)

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

## NATIONAL NEWS

### SEPTEMBER

- BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.) has entered into a MoU with the SwissRapide AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Sep 26 in virtual mode.
- 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”.
- The first-ever World Technology Summit was held on Sep 8, organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a virtual platform.
- The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation.
- 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 of 45 members for four years from 2021 to 2025.
- With 96.2% literacy, Kerala is most literate state, followed by Delhi at 88.7%, and Uttarakhand at 87.6%. Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with literacy rate of 66.4%, trailed by Rajasthan at 69.7%.
- Overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 per cent; 73.5% in rural areas and 87.7% in urban areas; Male literacy is 84.7% and 70.3% among women.
- The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Mahwas celebrated during the month of September under the “PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment”- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- The International Finance Corporation will provide \$2 trillion to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy to boost and support urban development.
- India's new medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission, came into force from Sep 25, abolishing the 87-year-old Medical Council of India.
- 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.
- 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.
- This will be the first broad-gauge railway service in Nepal. These trains have been manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.
- India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on September 17.
- The Lok Sabha 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 Ministers by 30% for one year, wef April 1, 2020 to provide support to Corona fighting operations.
- Supreme Court ruled that students can't be promoted without holding final-year examinations by Sep 30 as fixed by the UGC.
- In the Global Innovation Index, released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, India jumped four positions to rank at 48th.
- The Archaeological Survey of India announced the setting up of 7 new administrative circles with a view to improve the management of monuments.

- India was ranked 89th among 181 countries on the World Risk Index released by the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security at Bonn, Germany.
- 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.
- The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in Goa.

## 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(12<sup>th</sup>) and Matriculate (10<sup>th</sup>)*
  - ✓ *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 projects 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.

## NEWS FROM STATES

### SEPTEMBER

- Biggest Film City in India will be built near Hastinapur area on the Delhi - Agra Yamuna Expressway.
- The proposed site is just six km from the upcoming international airport in Jewar and around 70 km from Delhi and 150 km from Agra.
- Mizoram, Punjab and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have emerged as the top in the first ever India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness.
- Country's first integrated air ambulance service was launched in Bengaluru. International Critical Air Transfer Team will run the services in collaboration with the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
- Govt announced the 2nd edition of its state startup rankings. Gujarat among states and Andaman Nicobar among UTs were declared the best performers.
- 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
- Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore started in Meghalaya to bolster farmers' income and make the State self-sufficient in the production of pork which has a huge domestic market.
- A new Roll-on-Roll off train service started between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in Maharashtra

- Keralites across the globe celebrated the popular festival Thiruvonam on August 31. Thiruvonam is the most auspicious day of Onam festival.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) is set to invest 650 million Euros for the construction of Kanpur's first city metro line.
- The World Bank approved an \$82 million loan for the implementation of the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project.

## 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 Venkatraipur village in Ganjam district and Noliasahi 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.
- Goa's traditional festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harmal 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'sMunsiyari 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 AtmanirbharNidhi-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.

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- 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.

## GOVT INITIATIVES

### SEPTEMBER

#### THREE FARM BILLS PASSED

- Recently, the Parliament passed three important bills related to the farm sector aimed at liberalising the farm sector and strengthening the hands of farmers.

- Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 to allow farmers to trade their produce outside the markets or 'mandis'.
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 to make a framework for contract farming in India.
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities
- Parliament passed 3 labour codes to reform the Labour Laws. These labour codes are Industrial Relations Code; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, and Social Security Code.
- Parliament passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill to convert Raksha Shakti University at Gandhinagar, Gujarat as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University as an institution of national importance.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 to establish a National Forensic Sciences University as an institution of national importance by upgrading the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- FSSAI issued a notification stating that "...in case of non-packaged and loose sweets, the container/tray holding the sweets at the outlet for sale, must display the best-before date mandatorily wef Oct 1, 2020".
- ICAR announced KRITAGYA (Krishi-Taknik-Gyan) hackathon under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project.
- It aims to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment.
- The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Ajay Tirkey 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.
- WhatsApp has teamed up with Common Services Centres to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services and resources in the country.
- People can send 'Namaste' to CSC Academy's official WhatsApp no.9999189321, to access details about course modules of flagship programmes.
- Deptt. of Posts launched 'Five Star Villages' scheme to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- "SAROD-Ports" (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes-Ports) scheme launched to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.

- Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0 launched to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions.
- “Streets for People Challenge” launched as a response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.
- A National Evaluation Centre, ‘Parakh’ established for overall improvement in the education evaluation system.
- PARAKH - “Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development”
- Indian power market crossed another milestone with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity.
- GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States and will increase participants in the renewable energy sector.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building to lay foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants
- The institutional framework will consist of PM’s Public HR Council, Capacity Building Commission, and Coordination Unit headed by 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.
- A first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal launched which will help investors zero in on land located in various states for potential projects.
- 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.
- “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns.
- ‘Kiran’, a toll- free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation.

## 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.
- “Surakhsya”: 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 psychosocial 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.

## ECONOMY

### SEPTEMBER

- Indian economy contracted by massive 23.9% in the April to June quarter as COVID-19 pandemic compressed consumer demand and private investments.
- Government announced an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops.

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

- Asian Development Bank has projected that India's economic growth will contract by 9% in 2020-21 as the coronavirus pandemic weighs heavily on economic activity and consumer sentiment in the country.
- 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.
- The Union Cabinet approved a new policy for raising the cap of FDI through automatic approval in the defence sector from 49% to 74%.
- Railways plans 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. Around 63% broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year.
- The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura started on Sep 3 through river Gumti.
- Reliance Industries Ltd's market valuation crossed 200 billion mark (Rs 14,67,350 crore) to become the first domestic company to achieve this milestone.
- Popular telecom brands Vodafone and Idea rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', pronounced as 'we'.

**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.

- 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 Sundar Pichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore in India over the next 5 to 7 years through "Google for India Digitisation Fund".
- 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.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### SEPTEMBER

- Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to bring parity in application of rules and regulations in co-operative banks as applicable in other commercial banks.
- The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate NPA classification and provisioning calculation process by June 30, 2021.
- RBI has included bank finance to start-ups up to 50 crore rupees, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants and loans for setting up Compressed BioGas plants under priority sector.
- Government has constituted a committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers.
- Public Sector Banks have started Doorstep Banking Services by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 cities across the country.
- RBI 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.
- SBI and Titan Watch have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'.
- Bank of India 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.
- IBA announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks. Bank of Baroda secured the first spot.
- EASE stands for 'Enhanced Access and Service Excellence'. The EASE Banking Reforms Index is prepared by the IBA and Boston Consulting Group.

### AUGUST

- 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.

## JULY

- 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.

## JUNE

- 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.

# DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## SEPTEMBER

- India successfully flight tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) missile technology from the Abdul Kalam Island near Balasore, Odisha.
- The HSTDV powers cruise missiles and operates on scramjet engines that can attain the speed of around Mach 6.
- 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).
- 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.
- India finalised a deal with Russia to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India 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 Sep 26 to 29.
- PASSEX: Navies of India and Australia conducted mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24.
- Indra Navy: The Indian and Russian navies conducted mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal on Sep 4-5.
- 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.
- Indian astronomers discovered one of the farthest star galaxies in the universe through India's first Space Observatory 'AstroSat'.
- It detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- China successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of a rocket from a platform on a ship at sea.

## 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.



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- 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 'Vconsol' 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 KanaklataBarua: 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.

# INTERNATIONAL

## SEPTEMBER

- The Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design, released the Smart City Index.
- Singapore topped the Index, followed by Helsinki and Zurich in the second and the third place respectively.
- The meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, on September 03 in virtual mode.
- 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.
- Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds.
- UNICEF has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure safe, equitable access to the initial doses for all.

- The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed University of Oxford, UK at the top in the overall category.
- 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.
- Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving PM announced his resignation citing poor health as reason, ending a stint at the helm of the world's third-biggest economy.

## 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.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### SEPT - 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.

## APPOINTMENTS

### 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.

**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.

**Ayushmann Khurrana:** UNICEF India has selected Bollywood actor as its famous advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child".

**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.

**Mustapha Adib:** Lebanon's ambassador to Germany since 2013, was appointed Prime Minister of Lebanon.

**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.

## 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 NathKovind.

**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.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### SEPTEMBER

**Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019:** Conferred upon David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian, by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 2.5 million.

**Kerala won the United Nations award** for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.

**Aditya Puri:** Managing Director of HDFC Bank conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.

**International Booker Prize 2020:** Won by Dutch Author, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld for her debut novel 'The Discomfort of Evening'. Rijneveld became the youngest author to win the prize at the age of 29.

*The book was translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator.*

### 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:** Sachin Awasthi, 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 Morissana Kouyate, 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.

# OBITUARY

SEPTEMBER

**Pranab Mukherjee:** Former President of India passed away on August 31 at the age of 84. He had served as the 13th President of India from 2012 till 2017. He was honoured with 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 of life on Sep 25. With more than 40,000 songs under his belt, his discography runs like a book of records.

**Dr. Sekhar Basu:** Noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson died of Covid-19 in Kolkata. He was 68.

**Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan:** A leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history, passed away at her Delhi home, at the age of 91. She was honoured with Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011.

**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.

**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.

**Dr. Govind Swarup:** Father of India's Radio Astronomy, passed away in Pune. He was 91. He will be remembered for developing the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope near Pune.

**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.*

**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.

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 GadiSansthan, Ahmedabad, popularly known as P P Swami, died of Covid-19 attack. He was the head of Swaminarayan Sanstha.

**Jagdeep:** Veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "SoormaBhopali" 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.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### SEPT - 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.

## SPORTS WORLD

### SEPTEMBER

**P Iniyan, 17 year old Indian Grandmaster** from Erode, Tamil Nadu won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament.

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

## Prize money hiked for National Sports Awards

(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 the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world. 22 year old Tadej became the Tour's youngest champion since 1904.

#### 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** won by Japan's Naomi Osaka, defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

#### Italian Open Tennis Tournament, Rome, Italy

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won the men's singles title by beating Diego Schwartzman of Argentina. Women's singles title was won by Simona Halep of Romania.

**Armand Duplantis**, 20 year old Swedish pole vaulter broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. Duplantis cleared 6.15 meter besting Bubka's mark of 6.14 meter set 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.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Sports Minister Kiren Rijju** 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

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

**Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** of Team Mercedes won the Styrian Grand Prix 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.

**Gyanm** For Graduates

**Punjab Govt Jobs are coming**

**Are you prepared?**

**BREAKING NEWS ALERT**

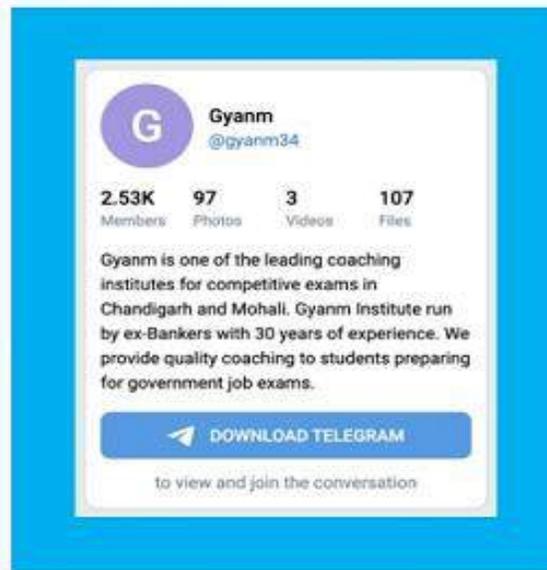
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**GYANM CONTENT**

2. The election to Board is conducted in the from : **Electoral college**
3. Can a minister be nominated or elected member of Board: **No ( Section14.1A)**
4. Minimum number of women in Board: **TWO**
5. Minimum number of mutawallis to be on Board: **One ( section 14. 1A)**
6. Term of Members: **Five years ( SECTION 15)**
7. Members of Board shall be appointed by: **State government by notification in Gazette**

**PUNJAB Rule**

8. Who will conduct elections to the State Board : **Election authority**
9. **What are the qualifications to be Returning Officer: Not below rank of Jt. Secretary (Rule 7)**

**QUESTION PAPER**

**Section C: The Waqf Act 1995**

91. What is the term of office of the members of the Board of Waqf under the Waqf Act, 1995 ?  
A) Two Years  
B) Three Years  
C) Five Years  
D) Seven Years
92. Which of the following is not recognised as valid object of Waqf under the Muslim law ?  
A) Repair of Imambaras  
B) Payment of money to Fakirs  
C) Grant to Idgah  
D) Feasting Cutchi Memons on every anniversary of Settler's death.
93. The Waqf Act, 1995 provides that a lease of any immovable property, which is an agricultural land, for a period exceeding \_\_\_\_ year (s) shall be void and of no effect.  
A) One  
B) Two  
C) Three  
D) Four

GYANM CONTENT

**WEB BROWSER:**

A **web browser**, or simply "**browser**," is an application used to access and view websites. Common **web browsers** include Microsoft **Internet** Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Apple Safari. ... For example, Ajax enables a **browser** to dynamically update information on a webpage without the need to reload the page.

QUESTION PAPER

95. The software used to navigate through the web is known as  
A) Website      B) Web Browser      C) Internet      D) World Wide Web

GYANM CONTENT

**HTTP** is a connectionless text based **protocol**. Clients (web browsers) send requests to web servers for web elements such as web pages and images. After the request is serviced by a server, the connection between client and server across the Internet is disconnected. A new connection must be made for each request.

QUESTION PAPER

96. In Computer Networking, HTTP is referred to as a stateless protocol as servers do not maintain any information about past client requests. HTTP is an acronym for:  
A) Hyper Text Translation Protocol      B) Hyper Text Transfer Protocol  
C) High TeraByte Transfer Protocol      D) Hypervisor Test Translation Protocol

GYANM CONTENT

**MOST EXPECTED QUESTIONS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ algorithm is used to multiply two signed binary number in 2's complement form.
  - (a) Booth
  - (b) Furer
  - (c) Knuth
  - (d) Strassen
- In Excel, we can move to the beginning of the worksheet by using the shortcut \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) Alt+Home
  - (b) Home
  - (c) Shift+Home
  - (d) Ctrl+Home
- Provisions in section \_\_\_\_\_ of Indian IT Act were struck down by the Supreme Court in 2017.
  - (a) 66B
  - (b) 66A
  - (c) 66C
  - (d) 66D

You can use \_\_\_\_\_ to copy selected text; and \_\_\_\_\_ to paste it in a document.

- (a) CTRL + C, CTRL + V
- (b) CTRL + C, CTRL + P
- (c) CTRL + S, CTRL + S
- (d) SHIFT + C, ALT + P

**Top chat replay =**

- harvinder singh: yes
- Honey goyal: yes
- Navleen srani: go noon sir
- ADARSH DOGRA: yes
- PARMINDER SINGH POWAR: yes sir
- PARMINDER SINGH POWAR: good afternoon sir
- sonika mathias: sir math k question v krna jo expected hai
- Sukhwinder Singh: Sir Punjab Patwardi ki love dena start krna
- Mohit Kalia: kisko sir kare o g tu?????
- Shwari Doda: ar ki me power point apna the
- Shwari Doda: I ques for office use \_\_\_\_\_ capacity of 8gb use
- Mohit Kalia: sir kisi khandi video chori kare the paper...
- Navleen srani: knuth
- PARMINDER SINGH POWAR: booth
- sharanpreet kaur: a

QUESTION PAPER

Q.4 You want to move a paragraph in a Word document and paste it to a different part of the same document. You would do this by the sequence of following steps:

- Ans
- ✓ 1. Select, Cut, Paste
  - ✗ 2. Copy, Cut, Paste
  - ✗ 3. Select, Copy, Paste
  - ✗ 4. Cut, Copy, Paste

GYANM CONTENT

**MOST EXPECTED QUESTIONS**

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- sharanpreet kaur: a

QUESTION PAPER

Q.7 How many sections are there in the original Indian IT Act 2000?

- Ans
- ✗ 1. 72
  - ✗ 2. 80
  - ✓ 3. 94
  - ✗ 4. 90

# Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



## NOVEMBER GK TEST - 01

- Immensely popular Chhath Puja is associated with worship of which deity?**
  - Indra
  - Moon
  - Vishnu
  - Sun
  - Shiva
- The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in which state?**
  - Sikkim
  - Arunachal
  - West Bengal
  - Haryana
  - Nagaland
- India has become the fourth country in the world to have its IRNSS recognised by the International Maritime Organisation. The first 'S' in IRNSS stands for what?**
  - Space
  - Solar
  - Satellite
  - Sensor
  - System
- \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus:**
  - Indore
  - New Delhi
  - Mumbai
  - Bengaluru
  - Chennai
- India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in which state?**
  - Manipur
  - Sikkim
  - Uttarakhand
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Mizoram
- Reserve Bank of India is the banker to:**
  - Central Government, State Governments and Commercial Banks
  - Central Government only
  - Commercial Bank only
  - Central Government, State Government and Public Sector Enterprises only
  - None of these
- The Women's T20 World Cup will now be held in Feb 2023. Which country will host it?**
  - Australia
  - England
  - India
  - South Africa
  - West Indies
- The 15th G20 Summit was held on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format. Which country hosted it?**
  - Russia
  - Britain
  - Japan
  - France
  - Saudi Arabia
- India has been placed at which rank in terms of business bribery risk?**
  - 37th
  - 43rd
  - 57th
  - 77th
  - 83rd
- The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held at which place?**
  - Gulf of Thailand
  - Andaman Sea
  - Palk Strait
  - Arabian Sea
  - Malacca Strait
- Interest rate payable on Saving Bank account is regulated by**
  - Reserve Bank of India
  - State Government
  - Central Government
  - Respective bank board
  - Finance Ministry
- Which state topped the Anemia Mukht Bharat Index among 29 states in the country?**
  - Gujarat
  - Karnataka
  - Sikkim
  - Haryana
  - Punjab
- Which Bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp?**
  - PNB
  - BOB

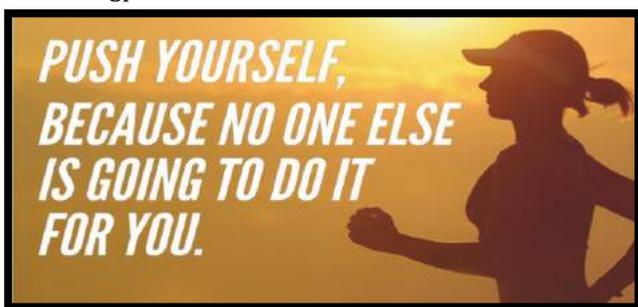
- c. IDBI  
e. HDFC
- d. ICICI
14. **The Government hiked the poll campaign spending limit by 10 percent for candidates contesting Lok Sabha elections. What is the new limit?**  
a. Rs. 50 lakh  
b. Rs. 60 lakh  
c. Rs. 66 lakh  
d. Rs. 77 lakh  
e. Rs. 90 lakh
15. **What is the name of the Anti-Submarine Warfare ship that joined Indian Navy at its Visakhapatnam Dockyard?**  
a. INS Kavaratti  
b. INS Trikand  
c. INS Kamorta  
d. INS Deepak  
e. INS Godavari
16. **Credit/Debit card payment made without actually swiping the credit/debit card but by using details on the card are known as \_\_\_\_\_**  
a. Over the counter payment  
b. Physical Transaction  
c. ATM Transaction  
d. Card Not Present transaction  
e. POS Transaction
17. **Which of the following is the title of the memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President?**  
a. I can't wait  
b. Tomorrow is Yours  
c. A Promised Land  
d. Dreaming for Stars  
e. Frame of a New America
18. **When the growth of GDP turns negative, i.e. figure goes in minus, continuously, for two quarters, the situation is called:**  
a. Recession  
b. Depression  
c. Slump  
d. Regression  
e. Downfall
19. **What is the title of the World's 1st scientoon book written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava?**  
a. Trail to Corona  
b. Bye Bye Corona  
c. A tale of Corona  
d. Story of COVID 19  
e. Goodbye Corona
20. **India's first sand dune park is expected soon to come up in which state?**  
a. Goa  
b. Maharashtra  
c. West Bengal  
d. Andhra Pradesh  
e. Kerala
21. **Which Maharatna company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes?**  
a. BHEL  
b. GAIL  
c. NTPC  
d. ONGC  
e. HPCL
22. **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed on October 31. This day is --**  
i) Martyrdom day of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel  
ii) Birthday of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel  
iii) Martyrdom day of Indira Gandhi  
iv) Birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
Select the correct option:  
a. Both i) and iv) are correct  
b. Only i) is correct  
c. Both ii) and iii) are correct  
d. Only iv) is correct  
e. All are incorrect
23. **RBI's open market operation transactions are carried out with a view to regulate**  
a. Liquidity in the economy  
b. Prices of essential commodities  
c. Inflation  
d. Borrowing power of the banks  
e. All of the above.
24. **Which city became the first city in India to have the longest, 108 km BRTS network?**  
a. Bengaluru  
b. Vadodara  
c. Ahmedabad  
d. Surat  
e. Chennai
25. **The new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) has been released with \_\_\_\_ as the new Base Year:**  
a. 2011  
b. 2013  
c. 2016  
d. 2019  
e. 2021
26. **Which state received highest number of domestic tourists in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics, 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism?**  
a. Maharashtra  
b. Gujarat  
c. Rajasthan  
d. Tamil Nadu  
e. Uttar Pradesh
27. **Which micro nation joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 16 as its 190th member?**  
a. Liechtenstein  
b. Malta  
c. Andorra  
d. Monaco  
e. San Marino
28. **India has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of which UN agency?**  
a. FAO  
b. IMF  
c. ILO  
d. WHO  
e. WTO



## NOVEMBER GK TEST - 02

45. The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of the \_\_\_\_\_ main island of Luzon with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph.
- Japan's
  - Vietnam's
  - Malaysia's
  - Philippine's
  - Indonesia's
46. Based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for what purpose?
- To improve rural roads
  - To improve district link roads
  - To improve air quality
  - To improve urban infrastructure
  - To upgrade IT framework
47. The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on \_\_\_\_\_ accounts:
- Staff Savings Bank Accounts
  - Small Savings Bank Accounts
  - Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts
  - Personal Savings Bank Deposit Accounts
  - Non business Savings Bank Accounts
48. The QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) grouping is an informal group of the four largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific region. Which one of the following is NOT one of them?
- China
  - USA
  - Australia
  - Japan
  - India
49. Priyanka Radhakrishnan, a 41-year-old Indian-origin politician created history by becoming the first Indian woman to become a minister in which country?
- Britain
  - Australia
  - New Zealand
  - Canada
  - Malaysia
50. India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" has been inaugurated in which city?
- Pune
  - Bhopal
  - Cochin
  - Surat
  - Nagpur

1. Who is chairman of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) at present?
- A.S Kiran Kumar
  - K. Sivan
  - Nambi Narayanan
  - Rajiv Kumar
  - None of these
2. Which country has conferred the honorary rank of "General" on our Army Chief General MM Naravane?
- Sri Lanka
  - Myanmar
  - Nepal
  - Thailand
  - Afghanistan
3. Storm Eta, a powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains, hit which part of the world?
- Philippines
  - Japan
  - South West USA
  - Central America
  - North eastern USA
4. The National Payments Corporation of India has recently allowed which social media platform to make online payments using UPI platform?
- Wire
  - Twitter
  - WhatsApp
  - WeChat
  - Instagram
5. The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in which state?
- Arunachal Pradesh
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Ladakh UT
  - Sikkim
  - Uttarakhand
6. Which is the first country to exit from the Paris Climate Agreement, 2015?
- Canada
  - USA
  - Mexico
  - Australia
  - Nigeria
7. The ICICI Bank launched the country's first full banking stack for millennials. What is its name?
- Mine
  - Money
  - Mille
  - Onio
  - Yuvan
8. Gyanendro Ningombam, former CEO of \_\_\_\_\_ Hockey has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India:
- Mizoram
  - Tripura
  - Manipur
  - Assam
  - West Bengal



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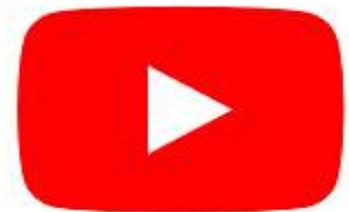


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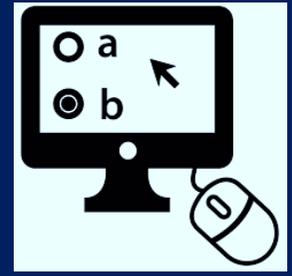
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9. **The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world. It is in which state?**  
 a. Karnataka                      b. Assam  
 c. Kerala                            d. Tamil Nadu  
 e. West Bengal
10. **What is the full form of the acronym UPI?**  
 a. Unified Payments Interface  
 b. Universal Payments Interface  
 c. Unified Payments Interaction  
 d. Union of India Payments Interface  
 e. Universal Payments Indicator
11. **Who has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National capital Region and Adjoining areas?**  
 a. Rajiv Gauba                      b. Anant Kumar  
 c. K C Pant                            d. M M Kutty  
 e. Gopal Sinha
12. **Joe Biden, next President of the USA, is from which political party?**  
 a. Republican                      b. Coservative  
 c. Liberal                              d. Democratic  
 e. Libertarian
13. **President of which country recently released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'My understanding about Gandhi'?**  
 a. Afghanistan                      b. Myanmar  
 c. Sri Lanka                            d. Nepal  
 e. Indonesia
14. **The Finance Commission recently submitted its report for the period of 2021-26 to the President. This is which Finance Commission in number?**  
 a. Thirteenth                      b. Fourteenth  
 c. Fifteenth                          d. Sixteenth  
 e. Seventeenth
15. **India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project was commissioned in which state?**  
 a. Sikkim                              b. Arunachal  
 c. Telangana                          d. Odisha  
 e. Kerala
16. **The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge has been inaugurated in which state of India?**  
 a. Sikkim                              b. Meghalaya  
 c. Uttarakhand                      d. Manipur  
 e. Mizoram
17. **Indian army gifted specially trained 20 horses and 10 dogs to the army of which country?**  
 a. Nepal                                b. Sri Lanka  
 c. Afghanistan                      d. Bangladesh  
 e. Bhutan
18. **The acronym CVV printed on the back of debit/ credit card refers to**  
 a. Customer Verification Value  
 b. Credibility Value Verification  
 c. Card Value Verification  
 d. Credit Validation Value  
 e. Card Verification Value
19. **Which team lifted the trophy in the latest edition of Indian Premier League?**  
 a. Rajasthan Royals  
 b. Delhi Capitals  
 c. Mumbai Indians  
 d. Kings XI Punjab  
 e. Sunrisers Hyderabad
20. **Which word has been selected as the "Collins Word of the Year 2020"?**  
 a. Covid                                b. Corona  
 c. Virus                                 d. Lockdown  
 e. Migration
21. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with the Prime Minister of which other country?**  
 a. Vietnam                            b. Brunei  
 c. Singapore                         d. Indonesia  
 e. Malaysia
22. **Which state topped the Second National Water Awards announced on November 11?**  
 a. Maharashtra                      b. Rajasthan  
 c. Tamil Nadu                        d. Odisha  
 e. Haryana
23. **The world's longest serving Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa passed away on Nov 11. He served which country for almost 50 years?**  
 a. Kuwait                              b. Saudi Arabia  
 c. Syria                                 d. Bahrain  
 e. Libya
24. **Which country negotiated a peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan?**  
 a. Turkey                              b. Russia  
 c. Ukraine                             d. Saudi Arabia  
 e. Israel
25. **What is the name of Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine that was launched recently at Mazagon Dock.**

- a. INS Khanderi                      b. INS Vela  
c. INS Vagir                            d. INS Karanj  
e. INS Vagsheer
26. **The banks are required to report all cash transactions of above Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ on a monthly basis by submitting Cash Transactions Report – CTR.**  
a. Rs. 10 lac                            b. Rs. 1 lac  
c. Rs. 20 lac                            d. Rs. 50 lac  
e. Rs. 50,000
27. **Which country has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully sent the 6G communications test satellite?**  
a. Russia                                b. USA  
c. Britain                                d. Japan  
e. China
28. **Which country's Sovereign Wealth Fund has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption in India?**  
a. Dubai                                 b. Sharjah  
c. Oman                                 d. Abu Dhabi  
e. Kuwait
29. **Government has announced an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana". It will cover new employees whose monthly wages are less than Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ :**  
a. 10,000                                b. 12,000  
c. 15,000                                d. 17,000  
e. 20,000
30. **Ayodhya created a new world record by lighting over six lakh diyas at a time, on the banks of which river?**  
a. Ganges                                b. Yamuna  
c. Saraswati                            d. Saryu  
e. Gomti
31. **Typhoon Vamco submerged dozens of towns in the Cagayan region in which country?**  
a. Malaysia                            b. Vietnam  
c. Philippines                         d. Laos  
e. Japan
32. **World Diabetes Day is observed on Nov 14. Which of the following medicines is popularly used to treat diabetes?**  
a. Penicillin                            b. Insulin  
c. Streptomycin                        d. Gliptins  
e. Glucosamine
33. **Name the veteran actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient who passed away in Kolkata at the age of 85.**  
a. Parikshit Sahney                    b. Uttam Kumar  
c. Satyajit Ray                         d. Soumitra Chatterjee  
e. None of these
34. **The instances of violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in banking are to be reported to the**  
a. FIU – IND (Financial Intelligence Unit – India) in the Ministry of Finance  
b. SFIO (Serious Frauds Investigation Office) in the Ministry of Finance  
c. ED (Enforcement Directorate)  
d. Vigilance Directorate of the Reserve Bank of India  
e. Banking Ombudsman
35. **The blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. It is located in which state?**  
a. Tripura                                b. Meghalaya  
c. Mizoram                              d. Assam  
e. Manipur
36. **How many Asia Pacific countries have formed the world's largest trading bloc -- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership?**  
a. 10                                        b. 15  
c. 17                                        d. 19  
e. 23
37. **In which city a maiden tram library service has been started for children, including students preparing for competitive exams?**  
a. Bengaluru                            b. Hyderabad  
c. Chennai                                d. Kolkata  
e. New Delhi
38. **Which F1 driver secured his seventh world championship title, equaling Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles?**  
a. Sebastian Vettel                    b. Voltari Bottas  
c. Lewis Hamilton                    d. Max Verstappen  
e. Charles Leclerc
39. **India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer \_\_\_\_\_ has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world.**  
a. Pratyush                              b. ParamArth  
c. Param Siddhi                        d. Samvarg  
e. Compurun
40. **RBI has announced the draft scheme of amalgamation of The Lakshmi Vilas Bank with which bank?**  
a. Yes Bank                              b. DBS Bank  
c. Citi Bank                              d. Vysya Bank



# SBI PO - PRE EXAM (MODEL TEST PAPER)



## QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Directions (1-5): What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following questions?

- 1)  $92 \times 576 \div (2\sqrt{1296}) = (?)^3 + \sqrt{49}$   
 (a.) 3 (b.)  $(9)^2$   
 (c.) 9 (d.) 27  
 (e.) None of these
- 2)  $1/6$  of 92% of  $1\frac{1}{23}$  of (650) = 85 + ?  
 (a.) 18 (b.) 21  
 (c.) 19 (d.) 28  
 (e.) None of these
- 3)  $(15 \times 0.40)^4 \div (1080 \div 30)^4 \times (27 \times 8)^4 = (3 \times 2)^{2+5}$   
 (a.) 8 (b.) 3  
 (c.) 12 (d.) 16  
 (e.) None of these
- 4)  $3\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{5}{6} = \frac{(?)^2}{10} + 1\frac{5}{12}$   
 (a.) 25 (b.)  $\sqrt{5}$   
 (c.) 625 (d.) 15  
 (e.) 5
- 5)  $(\sqrt{8} \times \sqrt{8})^{1/2} + (9)^{1/2} = (?)^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$   
 (a.) 7 (b.) 19  
 (c.) 18 (d.) 9  
 (e.) None of these

Directions (Q. 6- 10): What approximate value will come in place of ? in the following questions?

- 6)  $-(4.99)^3 + (29.98)^2 - (3.01)^4 = ?$   
 (a.) 550 (b.) 590  
 (c.) 620 (d.) 650  
 (e.) 690
- 7)  $466.97 - 3245.01 + 1122.99 = ? + 2309.99$   
 (a.) -8965 (b.) -2965  
 (c.) -7965 (d.) -3965  
 (e.) -965
- 8)  $5998 \div 9.98 + 670.99 - 139.99 = ?$

- (a.) 1080 (b.) 1280  
 (c.) 1180 (d.) 1130  
 (e.) 1230

- 9)  $67.99\%$  of 1401 -  $13.99\%$  of 1299 = ?  
 (a.) 700 (b.) 720  
 (c.) 770 (d.) 800  
 (e.) 740

- 10)  $\left(\frac{24}{9}\right)^2 \times \frac{399}{39} \div \frac{41}{899} = ?$   
 (a.) 1600 (b.) 1650  
 (c.) 1700 (d.) 1550  
 (e.) 1750

Directions (11- 15): Find the number that will come in place of question mark (?) in the following number series:

- 11) 3 7 15 27 63 127 255  
 a) 7 b) 15  
 c) 27 d) 63  
 e) 127
- 12) 19 26 33 46 59 74 91  
 a) 26 b) 33  
 c) 46 d) 59  
 e) 74
- 13) 445 221 109 46 25 11 4  
 a) 221 b) 109  
 c) 46 d) 25  
 e) 11
- 14) 3 7 15 39 63 127 255 511  
 a) 7 b) 15  
 c) 39 d) 63  
 e) 127
- 15) 1 3 10 21 64 129 356 777  
 a) 10 b) 21  
 c) 64 d) 129  
 e) 356

Directions (16-20): In the following questions two equations numbered I and II are given. You have to solve both the equation and

Give answer if

- a)  $x > y$
- b)  $x \geq y$
- c)  $x < y$
- d)  $x \leq y$
- e)  $x = y$  or the relationship can't be determined

16) I.  $(x^{7/5} \div 9) = 169 \div x^{3/5}$   
II.  $y^{1/4} \times y^{1/4} \times 7 = 273 \div y^{1/2}$   
(a.)  $x > y$  (b.)  $x \geq y$   
(c.)  $x < y$  (d.)  $x \leq y$   
(e.)  $x = y$  or the relationship can't be determined

17) I.  $\frac{(2)^5 + (11)^3}{6} = x^3$   
II.  $4y^3 = -(589 \div 4) + 5y^3$   
(a.)  $x > y$  (b.)  $x \geq y$   
(c.)  $x < y$  (d.)  $x \leq y$   
(e.)  $x = y$  or the relationship can't be determined

18) I.  $\sqrt{1225}x + \sqrt{4900} = 0$   
II.  $(81)^{1/4}y + (343)^{1/3} = 0$   
(a.)  $x > y$  (b.)  $x \geq y$   
(c.)  $x < y$  (d.)  $x \leq y$   
(e.)  $x = y$  or the relationship can't be determined

19) I.  $\frac{18}{x^2} + \frac{6}{x} - \frac{12}{x^2} = \frac{8}{x^2}$   
II.  $y^2 + 9.68 + 5.64 = 16.95$   
(a.)  $x > y$  (b.)  $x \geq y$   
(c.)  $x < y$  (d.)  $x \leq y$   
(e.)  $x = y$  or the relationship can't be determined

20) I.  $12x^2 + 11x + 12 = 10x^2 + 22x$   
II.  $13y^2 - 18y + 3 = 9y^2 - 10y$   
(a.)  $x > y$  (b.)  $x \geq y$   
(c.)  $x < y$  (d.)  $x \leq y$   
(e.)  $x = y$  or the relationship can't be determined

21) The respective ratio between the present ages of Ram, Rohan and Raj is 3 : 4 : 5. If the average of their present ages is 28 years then what would be the sum of the ages of Ram and Rohan together after 5 years?  
(a.) 45 years (b.) 55 years  
(c.) 52 years (d.) 59 years  
(e.) None of these

22) Raman scored 456 marks in an exam and Sita got 54 percent marks in the same exam which is 24 marks less than Raman. If the minimum passing marks in the exam is 34%, then how much more marks did

Raman scored than the minimum passing marks?

- (a.) 184 (b.) 196
- (c.) 190 (d.) 180
- (e.) None of these

23) The cost of five chairs and three tables is Rs. 3,110/-. Cost of one chair is Rs. 210/- less than cost of one table. What is the cost of two tables and two chairs?

- (a.) Rs. 1,660/- (b.) Rs. 1860/-
- (c.) Rs. 2,600/-
- (d.) Cannot be determined (e.) None of these

24) The total area of a circle and a rectangle is equal to 1166 sq. cm. The diameter of the circle is 28 cm. What is the sum of the circumference of the circle and the perimeter of the rectangle if the length of the rectangular is 25 cm?

- (a.) 186 cm (b.) 182 cm
- (c.) 184 cm
- (d.) Cannot be determined
- (e.) None of these

25) A 320 meter long train moving with an average speed of 120 km/hr crosses a platform in 24 seconds. A man crosses the same platform in 4 minutes. What is the speed of man in meter/second?

- (a.) 2.4 (b.) 1.5
- (c.) 1.6 (d.) 2.0
- (e.) None of these

26) Smallest angle of a triangle is equal to two-third the smallest angle of a quadrilateral. The ratio between the angles of the quadrilateral is 3 : 4 : 5 : 6. Largest angle of the triangle is twice its smallest angle. What is the sum of second largest angle of the triangle and largest angle of the quadrilateral?

- (a.) 160° (b.) 180°
- (c.) 190° (d.) 170°
- (e.) None of these

27) Seema purchased an item for Rs. 9,600/- and sold it for loss of 5 percent. From that money she purchased another item and sold it for gain of 5 percent. What is her overall gain/loss?

- (a.) Loss of Rs. 36/- (b.) Profit of Rs. 24/-
- (c.) Loss of Rs. 54/- (d.) Profit of Rs. 36/-
- (e.) None of these

28) The sum of 8 consecutive odd numbers is 656. Also average of four consecutive even number is 87. What is the sum of the

smallest odd number and second largest even number?

- (a.) 165 (b.) 175  
(c.) 163  
(d.) Cannot be determined  
(e.) None of these

29) The simple interest accrued on a sum of certain principal is Rs. 7,200/- in six years at the rate of 12 p.c.p.a what would be the compound interest accrued on that principal at the rate of 5 p.c.p.a. in 2 years.

- (a.) Rs. 1020/- (b.) Rs.1055/-  
(c.) Rs.1050/- (d.) Rs.1025/-  
(e.) None of these

30) Sum of square of first number and cube of second number together is 568. Also square of the second number is 15 less than square of 8. What is the value of three-fifth of the first number? (Assuming both the numbers are positive)

- (a.) 18 (b.) 8  
(c.) 9 (d.) 16  
(e.) None of these

Directions (31-35): Study the following table carefully to answer the questions that follow.

AMOUNT EARNED (IN LACS) BY FIVE PERSONS IN SIX DIFFERENT YEARS

Year	Person				
	A	B	C	D	E
2005	2.24	4.33	5.64	3.73	1.69
2006	1.44	3.34	6.93	5.52	5.52
2007	4.63	2.79	7.52	5.68	4.28
2008	6.65	6.63	5.83	6.74	6.83
2009	5.34	4.50	5.94	8.42	5.53
2010	7.38	5.36	7.84	9.45	9.94

31) Total amount earned by Person -A in the year 2006 and person C in the year 2010 together was approximately what percent of the amount earned by Person - E in the year 2009?

- (a.) 151 (b.) 155  
(c.) 168 (d.) 174  
(e.) 162

32) What is the approximate percent increase in the amount earned by Person-D in the year 2010 as compared to the previous year?

- (a.) 7 (b.) 21  
(c.) 18 (d.) 15  
(e.) 12

33) Whose earning increased consistently from the year 2005 to the year 2010?

- (a.) A (b.) B  
(c.) C (d.) D  
(e.) E

34) What was the respective ratio between the amount earned by person - B in the year 2007 and person - D in the year 2010?

- (a.) 32 : 107 (b.) 31 : 105  
(c.) 29 : 107 (d.) 32 : 105  
(e.) None of these

35) What was the average of the earning of person-B in the year 2006, C in the year 2008 and E in the year 2005 together?

- (a.) Rs. 3.62 lacs (b.) Rs. 2.64 lacs  
(c.) Rs. 3.64 lacs (d.) Rs. 10.86 lacs  
(e.) None of these

## REASONING ABILITY

36) **Statements:** Some tasks are hurdles. All hurdles are jobs. Some jobs are works.

**Conclusion I:** All works being hurdles is a possibility.

**Conclusion II:** At least some works are tasks.

- a) Either conclusion I or II is true  
b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
c) Both conclusion I and II are true  
d) Only conclusion I is true  
e) Only conclusion II is true

37) **Statements:** Some tasks are hurdles. All hurdles are jobs. Some jobs are works.

**Conclusion I:** Some jobs are tasks.

**Conclusion II:** All jobs are tasks.

- a) Either conclusion I or II is true  
b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
c) Both conclusion I and II are true  
d) Only conclusion I is true  
e) Only conclusion II is true

38) **Statements:** Some problems are solutions. No solution is a trick. All rules are tricks.

**Conclusion I:** No rule is a solution.

**Conclusion II:** Some problems are definitely not tricks.

- a) Either conclusion I or II is true  
b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
c) Both conclusion I and II are true  
d) Only conclusion I is true  
e) Only conclusion II is true

39) **Statements:** All ministers are deans. Some deans are heads. Some heads are principals.

**Conclusion I:** No principal is a minister.

**Conclusion II:** All heads being ministers is a possibility.

- a) Either conclusion I or II is true  
b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
c) Both conclusion I and II are true  
d) Only conclusion I is true  
e) Only conclusion II is true

- 40) **Statements:** No queue is a line. Some queues are rows.  
**Conclusion I:** No row is a line.  
**Conclusion II:** All rows are lines.  
a) Either conclusion I or II is true  
b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
c) Both conclusion I and II are true  
d) Only conclusion I is true  
e) Only conclusion II is true

**Directions (Q. 41 - 42): Study the following information and answer the given question.**

D is the father of A. D is married to P. P is the mother of J. P has only one daughter. J is married to U. U is the son of L.

- 41) **How is J related to L?**  
a) Daughter  
b) Granddaughter  
c) Cannot be determined  
d) Niece  
e) Daughter-in-law
- 42) **How is A related to U?**  
a) Cannot be determined  
b) Brother-in-law  
c) Brother  
d) Sister  
e) Sister-in-law

**Directions (Qs. 43-47): Study the given information carefully and answer the given question.**

Ten people are sitting in two parallel rows containing five people each, in such a way that there is equal distance between adjacent persons. In row-1 J, K, L, M and N are seated (not necessarily in the same order) and all of them are facing north. In row-2 R, S, T, U and V are seated (not necessarily in the same order) and all of them are facing south. Therefore in the given seating arrangement each member seated in a row faces another member of the other row.

V sit one of the extreme ends of the line. Only two people sit between V and R. The one who faces R sits to the immediate left of L. Only one person sits between L and K. The one who faces K sits to the immediate left of S. N sits second to the right of J. Neither K nor L face U.

- 43) **Who amongst the following is facing M?**  
a) U  
b) R  
c) T  
d) V  
e) S
- 44) **Four of the following five are alike in a certain way based on the given arrangement and hence form a group.**  
a) NK  
b) JL  
c) ML  
d) RU  
e) ST

- 45) **What is the position of U with respect to S?**  
a) Third to the right  
b) Immediate left  
c) Second to the left  
d) Second to the right  
e) Immediate right

- 46) **Which of the following statements is true regarding N?**  
a) Only two persons sit between N and M.  
b) N sits at an extreme end of the row.  
c) N faces one of the immediate neighbours of R.  
d) None of the given statements is true.  
e) L sits to the immediate right of N.

- 47) **Who amongst the following is facing T?**  
a) N  
b) M  
c) K  
d) J  
e) L

**Directions (Qs. 48-52): In this question, relationship between different elements is shown in the statements. The statements are followed by conclusions. Study the conclusions based on the given statement and select the appropriate answer**

- 48) **Statements**  $C \geq O = M < U \leq N < D$   
**Conclusions**  
I.  $O < D$   
II.  $C > N$   
a) Both conclusions I and II are true  
b) Only conclusion I is true  
c) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
d) Either conclusion I or II is true  
e) Only conclusions II is true

- 49) **Statements**  $P > L = A \geq C = E$   
**Conclusions**  
I.  $E \leq L$   
II.  $P > C$   
a) Either conclusion I or II is true  
b) Only conclusion II is true  
c) Both conclusions I and II are true  
d) Only conclusion I is true  
e) Neither conclusion I nor II is true

- 50) **Statements**  $S > T \leq A = I; L \geq A$   
**Conclusions**  
I.  $L \geq T$   
II.  $A > S$   
a) Only conclusion II is true  
b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
c) Only conclusion I is true  
d) Either Conclusion I or II is true  
e) Both conclusions I and II are true

- 51) **Statements**  $S > T \leq A = I; L \geq A$   
**Conclusion**  
I.  $S > L$   
II.  $I \leq L$   
a) Neither conclusion I nor II is true  
b) Only conclusion I is true  
c) Both Conclusions I and II are true  
d) Either Conclusion I or II is true  
e) Only conclusion II is true





of India's life, the contrasting tones of poverty and wealth, and of bread so dear and flesh and blood so cheap, the deep tints of adventure and enterprise and man's ageless struggle for a brighter morning. The Union budget should not be an annual **scourge** but a part of presentation of annual accounts of a partnership between the Government and the people. That partnership would work much better when the nonsensical secrecy is replaced by openness and public consultations, resulting in fair laws and the people's acceptance of their moral duty to pay.

71. **How do the British economists and political scientists react to budget secrecy? They are**  
 (a) in favour of having a mix of secrecy and openness.  
 (b) indifferent to the budgeting techniques and taxation policies.  
 (c) very critical about maintenance of budget secrecy.  
 (d) advocates of not disclosing in advance the budget contents.  
 (e) None of these
72. **The author thinks that openness in budget is essential as it leads to**  
 (a) prevention of tax implications  
 (b) people's reluctance to accept their moral duties  
 (c) exaggerated revelation of the strengths and weaknesses of economy  
 (d) making our country on par with Finland  
 (e) None of these
73. **The author seems to be in favour of**  
 (a) maintaining secrecy of budget  
 (b) judicious blend of secrecy and openness  
 (c) transparency in budget proposals  
 (d) replacement of public constitution by secrecy  
 (e) None of these
74. **The secrecy of the budget is maintained by all of the following countries except**  
 A. Finland                      B. India  
 C. United States  
 (a) Only A                      (b) Only B  
 (c) Only C                      (d) A and C  
 (e) B and C
75. **Which of the following statements is definitely TRUE in the context of the passage?**  
 (a) The British Government has been religiously maintaining budget secrecy.  
 (b) Budget secrecy is likely to lead to corrupt practices.

- (c) Consulting unjustifiable taxes with public helps make them accept those taxes.  
 (d) There should be no control on public expenditure in democratic condition.  
 (e) None of these

76. **Sir Richard Clarke seems to deserve the credit for**  
 (a) transformation in the British budgetary techniques.  
 (b) maintenance of secrecy of the British budget.  
 (c) detection of abuse of transparency in budget.  
 (d) bringing down the tax load on British people.  
 (e) None of these
77. **From the contents of the passage, it can be inferred that the author is**  
 (a) authoritarian in his approach.  
 (b) a democratic person.  
 (c) unaware of India's recent economic developments.  
 (d) a conservative person.  
 (e) None of these
78. **For making the budget realistic, the Government should**  
 (a) refrain from making public the proposed provisions before finalisation.  
 (b) discuss it secretly within themselves.  
 (c) encourage the public to send in their suggestions.  
 (d) consult the public, defend their own plans and accept public suggestions.  
 (e) None of these

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 79-80) : Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**

79. **SCOURGE**  
 (a) ritual                                      (b) presentation  
 (c) whip                                      (d) compromise  
 (e) remedy
80. **MYRIAD**  
 (a) adequate                                      (b) functional  
 (c) incompatible                                      (d) abundant  
 (e) excellent

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 81-82) : Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**

81. **FLOURISHES**  
 (a) disappears                                      (b) degenerates  
 (c) vanishes                                      (d) blooms  
 (e) opens

- 82. DEBATED**  
 (a) questioned severely  
 (b) opposed strongly  
 (c) accepted unconditionally  
 (d) discussed frankly  
 (e) implemented forcibly

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 83-87):** Rearrange the following six sentences (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them.

- A. The British government plans to insist that spouses should have to learn English before they are allowed into Britain to join their husbands or wives have run into a barrage of opposition and warnings that the idea could breach human rights laws.  
 B. The responses to an official consultation on the proposal published on Thursday was more than two to one against the proposal, with many warning it could break up marriages because many cannot afford or access English lessons.  
 C. Immigration lawyers have told ministers that spouses and fiancés should not be barred from joining a partner in the U.K. for language reasons and that the plan could breach the human rights convention's guarantees to the right to marry and have a family life.  
 D. The anonymised responses were 68 to 31 against the pre-try English test for spouses.  
 E. Other immigration organizations said the measure would discriminate against those from rural areas in South Asia, where the opportunities to learn English are limited.

- 83. Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence?**  
 (a) A (b) B  
 (c) C (d) D  
 (e) E
- 84. Which of the following should be the SECOND sentence?**  
 (a) A (b) B  
 (c) C (d) D  
 (e) E
- 85. Which of the following should be the THIRD sentence?**  
 (a) A (b) B  
 (c) C (d) D  
 (e) E
- 86. Which of the following should be the FOURTH sentence?**  
 (a) A (b) B  
 (c) C (d) D  
 (e) E

- 87. Which of the following should be the FIFTH (LAST) sentence?**  
 (a) A (b) B  
 (c) C (d) D  
 (e) E

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 88-92):** In each of these questions, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases marked (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Choose one word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

- 88.** It's (a) imperative that a management student maintains (b) a grade point of (c) "B" in his (d) major field. No errors (e).
- 89.** Regardless of (a) your teaching method, the objective of any conversation class should be (b) for the students to practice (c) speaking words. (d). No errors (e)
- 90.** When they have been (a) frightened, (b) as for example, by (c) an electrical storm, dairy cows may refuse giving (d) milk. No errors (e)
- 91.** If the ozone gases of the atmosphere did not filter out (a) the ultraviolet rays of the sun, life as (b) we know it (c) would not have evolved on earth (d). No errors (e)
- 92.** The pleura that cover (a) the exterior (b) of the lungs (c) and the inner walls of the chest cavity is (d) a thin elastic membrane. No errors (e)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 93-100):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fills the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

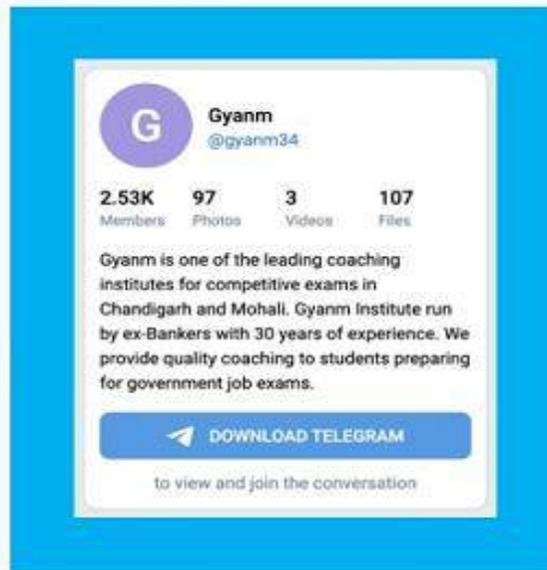
Fourteen centuries ago when the world was much younger, the ruler of all India, Rajah Balhait, was ....(93).... about his people. A new game of dice, called hard, had ...(94).... the imagination of his subjects, teaching them that chance alone—a roll of the dice guided the ...(95).... of men. All who played this game of fortune lost their ...(96).... in the virtues of courage, prudence, wisdom and hope. It bred a fatalism that was ...(97).... the spirit of the kingdom. Raja Balhait commissioned Sissa, an intelligent courtier at his court to find an answer to this ...(98).... After much ...(99).... the clever Sissa invented another game. Chaturanga, the exact ...(100).... of hard, in which the four elements of the Indian army were the key pieces. In the game these pieces—chiarots, horses, elephants and foot soldiers—joined with a royal counselor to defend their king and defeat the enemy.

- 93.** (a) concerned (b) confident  
 (c) ignorant (d) indifferent  
 (e) partisan
- 94.** (a) propelled (b) enshrined  
 (c) captured (d) activated  
 (e) enhanced



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95. (a) communities (b) ways  
(c) abnormalities (d) destiny  
(e) groups
96. (a) bravado (b) interest  
(c) peace (d) wealth (e) faith
97. (a) appalling (b) crushing  
(c) moistening (d) promoting  
(e) overwhelming
98. (a) apprehension (b) risk  
(c) problem (d) game  
(e) destiny
99. (a) deliberation (b) absorption  
(c) insight (d) hesitation  
(e) reluctance
100. (a) nature (b) equivalent  
(c) picture (d) opposite  
(e) replica

### ANSWER KEY

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

### SOLUTIONS

- 1) c)  $92 \times 576 \div 2 \times 36 = x^3 + 7$   
 $736 - 7 = x^3$   
 $x^3 = 729$  So,  $x = 9$
- 2) c)  $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{92}{100} \times \frac{24}{23} \times 650 - 85$   
 $= 104 - 85 = 19$
- 3) b)  $\left(\frac{15 \times 0.4 \times 30 \times 27 \times 8}{1080}\right)^4 = 6^{x+5}$   
 $36^4 = 6^{x+5}$   
 $x = 3$
- 4) e)  $3 + 2 - 1 - 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{5}{6} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{x^2}{10}$   
 $3 + \frac{3 + 6 - 5 - 10}{12} = \frac{x^2}{10}$

$$3 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{x^2}{10} \quad \frac{5}{2} = \frac{x^2}{10}$$

$$x^2 = 25$$

$$\text{So } x = 5$$

- 5) a)  $\sqrt{8} + 3 = x^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$   
 $x^3 = 343$  So  $x = 7$
- 6) e)  $-5^3 + 30^2 - 3^4$   
 $= -125 + 900 - 81 = 694$
- 7) d)  $467 - 3245 + 1123 - 2310 = x$
- 8) d)  $\frac{5998}{10} + 670 - 140$   
 $600 + 670 - 140 = 1130$
- 9) c)  $68\% \text{ of } 1400 - 14\% \text{ of } 1300$   
 $= 952 - 182 = 770$
- 10) a)  $\frac{576}{81} \times \frac{399}{39} \times \frac{899}{41}$   
 $= 7.1 \times 10.2 \times 21.9$   
 So, 1600 (approx)

(11-15):

- 11) c)  $3 \times 2 + 1 = 7, 7 \times 2 = 1 + 15, 15 \times 2 + 1 = 31, 31 \times 2 + 1 = 63$  (c) 27
- 12) b)  $19 + 7 = 26, 26 + 9 = 35, 35 + 11 = 46, 46 + 13 = 59$  (b) 33
- 13) c)  $445 - 3 \div 2 = 221, 221 - 3 \div 2 = 109, 109 - 3 \div 2 = 53$  (c) 46
- 14) c)  $3 \times 2 + 1 = 7, 7 \times 2 + 1 = 15, 15 \times 2 + 1 = 31$  (c) 39
- 15) e)  $1 \times 2 + 1 = 3, 3 \times 3 + 1 = 10, 10 \times 2 + 1 = 21, 21 \times 3 + 1 = 64, 64 \times 2 + 1 = 129,$   
 $129 \times 3 + 1 = 388$  (e) 356

16) d)  $x^5 \times x^5 = 169 \times 9$  |  $y = \frac{273}{7} = 39$

$$x = \pm 13 \times 3$$

$\frac{x}{39}$	$\frac{y}{39}$
$-39$	

$$\text{So, } x \leq y$$

17) a)  $x^3 = \frac{1363}{6}$

$$y^2 = \frac{589}{4}$$

18) a)  $x > y$   
 $35x = -70$   
 $x = -2$   
 $3y = -7$

$$y = -\frac{7}{3}$$

$$x > y$$

19) e)  $\frac{2}{x^2} = \frac{6}{x}$

$$3x^2 = x$$

$$x = 3, 0$$

$$y^2 = 16.95 - 9.68 - 5.64$$

$$y^2 = 1.63 = 1.69 \text{ (approx)}$$

$$\text{So, } y = \pm 1.3$$

x	y
0	1.3
3	-1.3

C.B.D

20) b):  $2x^2 - 11x + 12 = 0$     $4y^2 - 8y + 3 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{cc} -8 & -3 \\ \hline 8 & 3 \\ \hline 2 & 2 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{cc} -6 & -2 \\ \hline 6 & 2 \\ \hline 4 & 4 \end{array}$$

x	y
4	1.5
1.5	0.5

$$x \geq y$$

21) d)  $3 : 4 : 5 \rightarrow 28 \times 3 = 84$

21, 28, 35

After 5 years,  $26 + 33 = 59$  yrs

22) a) Rama = 456

Sita = 54%

$$54\% \equiv 432$$

$$1\% \equiv \frac{432}{54}$$

$$100\% \equiv \frac{432}{54} \times 100 = 800$$

$$\text{Pass \%age} = 34\% \text{ of } 800 = 272$$

Raman = 184 marks more than pass marks

23) a)  $5C + 3T = 3110$

$$1C = T - 210$$

$$\text{So, } 2T + 2CH = 1660$$

24) b)  $\pi r^2 + L \times B = 1166$

$$196\pi + L \times B = 1166$$

$$196\pi + 25 \times B = 1166$$

$$25B = 550$$

$$B = 22$$

$$\text{Now, } 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 14 + 2(25 + 22)$$

$$= 88 + 94 = 182$$

25) d)  $\frac{320 + P}{24} = 120 \times \frac{5}{18}$

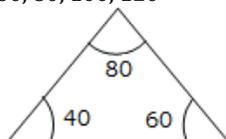
$$P = 480m$$

$$\text{Speed of man} = \frac{480}{240} = 2m/s$$

26) b)

$$3 : 4 : 5 : 6 \rightarrow 360$$

$$60, 80, 100, 120$$



$$\text{So, } 60 + 120 = 180$$

27) b) C.P = 9600

$$S.P = 9600 - 480 = 9120$$

$$C.P = 9120 + 456 = 9576$$

$$\text{So, Loss} = 9600 - 9576$$

$$= 24$$

28) c)

75	77	79	81	83	85	87	89
84	86	88	90				

$$\text{So, } 75 + 88 = 163$$

29) d)  $72\% \equiv 7200$

$$1\% \equiv 100$$

$$100\% \equiv 10,000$$

$$\text{So, C.I} = 2(500) + 1(25)$$

$$= 1025$$

30) c)  $x^2 + y^3 = 568$

$$y^2 = 64 - 15$$

$$y^2 = 49$$

$$\text{So, } y = 7$$

$$\text{So, } x = \sqrt{568 - 343}$$

$$x = \sqrt{225} \quad x = 15$$

31) c)  $\frac{A(2006) + C(2010)}{E(2009)} \times 100$

$$= \frac{1.44 + 7.84}{5.53} \times 100$$

$$= 165\% \text{ approx.}$$

32) e) D (2010)  $\rightarrow$  9.45

$$D (2009) \rightarrow 8.42$$

So, percentage increase =

$$\frac{1.03}{8.42} \times 100 = 12\% \text{ approx}$$

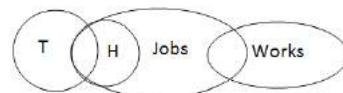
33) Observation from Graph

34) b)  $\frac{B(2007)}{D(2010)} = \frac{2.79}{9.45}$

35) a)  $\frac{B(2006) + C(2008) + E(2005)}{3}$   

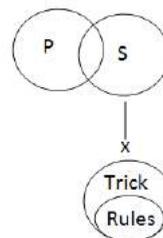
$$= \frac{3.34 + 5.83 + 1.69}{3} = 3.62$$

36) (d) (i)  $\checkmark$                       (ii) x

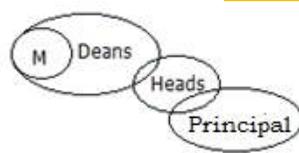


37) (d) (i)  $\checkmark$                       (ii) x

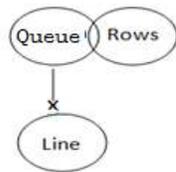
38) (c) (i)  $\checkmark$                       (ii)  $\checkmark$



39) (e) (i) x                      (ii)  $\checkmark$

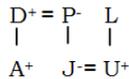


40) (b)

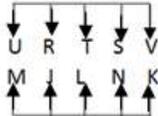


(i) x (ii) x

(41-42)



(43-47):



(48-52):

48) (b):  $C \geq O = M < U \leq N < D$

$O < D$  ✓  
 $C > N$  X

49) (c):  $P > L = A \geq C = E$

$E \leq L$  ✓  
 $P > C$  ✓

50) (c):  $S > T \leq I = A \leq L$

$L \geq T$  ✓  
 $A > S$  X

51) (e):  $S > T \leq I = A \leq L$

$S > L$  X  
 $I \leq L$  ✓

52) (e):  $N \leq U < M = B \geq E > R$

$N \leq R$  X  
 $E \leq U$  X

(53-57):

Committee to Review papers  
Review meeting in morning  
Meeting to appoint members  
Appoint chairman in review  
Review - fr  
Meeting - ch  
Appoint - gi  
Members - dv  
Chairman - yu  
in - mo  
morning - ba  
to - re  
papers/committee - pt/es

es fr re pt  
ch ba mo fr  
re dv ch gi  
mo gi fr yu

53) (e): Morning = ba

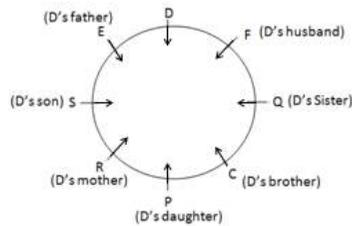
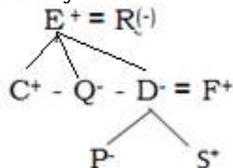
54) (b): pt = either papers or committee

55) (c): Review call = fr lq

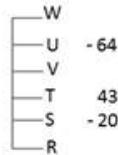
56) (e): to = re

57) (b): new chairman meeting = ch wz yu

(58-62): Family Tree



(63-65):



(66-70):

Person	Flower	Month
Q	Lily	February
R	Sunflower	March
N	Marigold	April
P	Rose	June
M	Orchid	September
S	Jasmine	October
O	Daffodil	November

- 71. (c) Eminent British economists and political scientists have strongly attacked the tradition of budget secrecy.
- 72. (e) It leads to the control of public expenditure in order to set realistic taxation implications.
- 73. (b) He has presented the example of both the open budget system and the secret budget system, practised by various countries and has looked into all their aspects.
- 76. (a) Sir Richard Clarke was the originating genius of nearly every important development in the British budgeting techniques during the last two decades.
- 78. (d) An open public debate on budget proposals should be held before introducing the appropriate bill.

(Q.83-87): The required arrangement is ABDCE.

A is the opening sentence as is clear from the given options. A is followed by B as 'the proposal' mentioned in B is referring to whatever has been talked in A. B is followed by D as D continues to talk about the response mentioned in B. Also note that B mentions a 2 : 1 response against the proposal which is also clear by the 68 : 31 mentioned in D. D is followed by C and C is followed by E. The 'other immigration organizations' mentioned in E clearly states that the previous sentence must have a statement from some other organization, which is the immigration lawyers as mentioned in C.

- 88. (c) 'Of' is unnecessary. The right use is grade point 'B'.
- 89. (c) There are two usage of practice-practice which is a noun and practise, which is verb. to + verb is the correct use so the right answer should be 'to practise'.
- 90. (d) Replace "refuse giving" by "refuse to give"
- 91. (a) The last part of the sentence refers to the work completed in the past. In the format of, if and then, the tenses of two verbs in both parts should be same so it should have been 'had not filtered out'.
- 92. (a) For singular subject the verb in the simple present tense is plural so 'covers' not 'cover'.

# Latest G.K. Bytes

## NOVEMBER 2020

- 1) Which Indian organization has won the UN Global Climate Action Award? **Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh**
- 2) Luis Arce has been elected as the President of which country? **Bolivia**
- 3) The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in which region? **NCR – National Capital Region**
- 4) As per the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25, how many vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established? **Five**
- 5) Which state is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment? **Tamil Nadu**
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. **Kerala**
- 7) Railways has launched which initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones? **'Meri Saheli'**
- 8) Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging app like Whatsapp, Telegram. What is its name? **Secure Application for Internet (SAI)**
- 9) Why October 29 has been selected as the International Internet Day? **First internet transmission took place on this day in 1969**
- 10) Which bank has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance? **DBS Bank, Singapore**
- 11) Which bank has been ranked as the "Best Bank in The World" by the Global Finance? **DBS Bank, Singapore**
- 12) Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India? **Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha**
- 13) Kabartaal Wetland, also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', has been designated as Ramsar site. It is in which state? **Bihar**
- 14) Which agency grants the 'Ramsar site' status? **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland**
- 15) The Indian Navy successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from which war ship on October 30? **INS Kora**
- 16) Which national park has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve? **Panna National Park**
- 17) Panna National Park is located in which state?

## Madhya Pradesh

- 18) Panna National Park is associated with conservation of which animal? **Tiger**
- 19) An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern \_\_\_\_\_ on Oct 30, killing over 50 people: **Turkey**
- 20) Name the Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom playing British agent James Bond, 007: **Sir Sean Connery**
- 21) Lewis Hamilton celebrated a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in which country? **Italy**
- 22) Which two Indians won the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France? **Amit Panghal and Sanjeet**
- 23) World Savings Day is observed on which day in India? **October 30**
- 24) The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of which country with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph? **Philippines**
- 25) A new scheme 'SERB – POWER' has been launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent \_\_\_\_\_: **Women researchers**
- 26) The SERB POWER scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of \_\_\_\_\_ years: **35-55**
- 27) World Vegan Day is observed on which date? **November 01**
- 28) In which country gunmen stormed a book fair being held in a university, killing over 25 persons? **Afghanistan**
- 29) The central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for what purpose? **Improvement of air quality measures**
- 30) The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on \_\_\_\_\_ accounts: **Basic Savings Bank Deposit**
- 31) A solar energy-driven miniature train, billed as the country's first of its kind, was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village in which state? **Kerala**
- 32) The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade, by which name? **Malabar Exercise**
- 33) The Malabar Exercise was conducted in which area? **Bay of Bengal**
- 34) Priyanca Radhakrishnan, 41 year old politician created history by becoming the first Indian-origin woman minister in which country? **New Zealand**
- 35) Which Indian bank has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India by

	Asiamoney? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
36)	Alassane Ouattara has been elected as the _____ of the Ivory Coast for the third time: <b>President</b>
37)	Which tennis star recently became fourth player in the history to win 1,000 ATP matches? <b>Rafael Nadal</b>
38)	India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated in which city? <b>Nagpur</b>
39)	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$132.8 loan to _____ for upgrading the power distribution network: <b>Meghalaya</b>
40)	In which country John Magufuli secured 84% votes to become the President for the second term? <b>Tanzania</b>
41)	Which company built the ship ICGS C-452, recently inducted in the Indian Coast Guard? <b>L&amp;T Shipbuilding, Surat</b>
42)	Which nation conferred the honorary rank of "General" upon our Army Chief General M M Naravane? <b>Nepal</b>
43)	Name the powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains that hit Nicaragua in Central America: <b>Storm Eta</b>
44)	Which Social media platform has recently been allowed to use India's UPI platform to make bank payments? <b>WhatsApp</b>
45)	The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in which state? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
46)	The Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is being built on which river? <b>Satluj</b>
47)	_____ is the first country to announce its exit from the Paris Climate Agreement – 2015: <b>USA</b>
48)	Which country is the largest producer of the Green House Gases in the world? <b>China</b>
49)	World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on which day of November? <b>5th</b>
50)	The Sendai Framework-2015 is associated with what? <b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
51)	The Sendai Framework-2015 was adopted in which city? <b>Sendai, Japan</b>
52)	The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for category of its customers? <b>Milleniala</b>
53)	The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in India at which airbase? <b>Jamnagar, Gujarat</b>
54)	Gyanendro Ningombam has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India. He is former Hockey chief of which state? <b>Manipur</b>
55)	National Cancer Awareness Day is observed on Nov 7. It commemorates the birthday of which great scientist whose research helped in finding cure for cancer? <b>Marie Curie</b>
56)	What was the name of the military exercise involving Special Forces of Army, Navy and Air force, held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands? <b>Bull Strike</b>

57)	The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world. It is in which state? <b>Kerala</b>
58)	Which district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September? <b>Chandauli</b>
59)	Who has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas? <b>Dr M. M. Kutty</b>
60)	ISRO successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite named _____ : <b>EOS-01</b>
61)	Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the _____ President of the United States: <b>46th</b>
62)	Who has been elected as the new Vice President of USA? <b>Kamala Harris</b>
63)	International Day of Radiology is associated with which great scientist? <b>Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen</b>
64)	The X-radiation is measured in which unit? <b>Roentgen</b>
65)	President of which country released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi)? <b>Nepal</b>
66)	The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for which period? <b>2021-26</b>
67)	A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article ___ of the Constitution: <b>280</b>
68)	India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project has been commissioned in which state? <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>
69)	National Legal Services Day observed on Nov 9 is associated with enactment of which Act? <b>Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987</b>
70)	World Town Planning Day or World Urbanism Day is celebrated on which day? <b>Nov 08</b>
71)	Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as what? <b>Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways</b>
72)	Which UN organization supports the celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development on Nov 10? <b>UNESCO</b>
73)	The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in which state? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
74)	Indian army gifted 20 trained horses and 10 sniffer dogs to the army of which country? <b>Bangladesh</b>
75)	_____ clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals: <b>Mumbai Indians</b>
76)	Which word has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020? <b>Lockdown</b>
77)	Which UN agency launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems? <b>FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation</b>

78)	National Education Day is associated with the birth day of which great leader? <b>Maulana Abul Kalam Azad</b>
79)	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad held which portfolio in the first cabinet of free India? <b>Education Ministry</b>
80)	World Pneumonia Day is observed on which date? <b>Nov 12</b>
81)	Pneumonia affects which part of human body? <b>Lungs</b>
82)	Public Service Broadcasting Day is associated with the sole visit of which great leader to radio station, Delhi? <b>Mahatma Gandhi</b>
83)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of which other country? <b>Vietnam</b>
84)	Which state topped the Second National Water Awards announced on November 11? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
85)	The world's longest serving Prime Minister, who died recently, was from which country? <b>Bahrain</b>
86)	Armenia and Azerbaijan engaged in a fierce military battle over which disputed territory? <b>Nagorno-Karabakh</b>
87)	What is the name of the Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine that was launched recently? <b>INS Vagir</b>
88)	A recession is defined as ____ successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP: <b>Two</b>
89)	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought OTT digital/online media under its purview. What is OTT? <b>Over The Top</b>
90)	_____ has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully launched the 6G communications test satellite: <b>China</b>
91)	Which corporate leader has topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020? <b>Azim Premji</b>
92)	Which country's Sovereign Wealth Fund has become the first foreign SWF to get 100% income-tax exemption in India? <b>Abu Dhabi</b>
93)	The Finance Ministry has extended the ECLGS for small businesses, individual loans for business purposes till March 31, 2021. What is expansion of ECLGS? <b>Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme</b>
94)	Which new scheme has been launched to give Employees contribution and employer's contribution to EPF-registered organizations on recruiting new people? <b>Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana</b>
95)	Sadat Rahman who won the International Children's Peace Prize, hails from which country? <b>Bangladesh</b>
96)	Lonar Lake, the Crater Lake in Buldhana, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It is in which state? <b>Maharashtra</b>
97)	Which city created a world record for lighting largest number of diyas (over 6 lakh) at one time? <b>Ayodhya</b>
98)	Over 6 lakh diyas were lighted on the banks of which river? <b>Saryu</b>

99)	Typhoon Vamco devastated dozens of towns in Cagayan region of which country? <b>Philippines</b>
100)	World Kindness Day is observed on which date? <b>November 13</b>
101)	What is the theme for this year's World Diabetes Day? <b>The Nurse and Diabetes</b>
102)	National Press Day is observed on Nov 16 to mark the founding of which organization? <b>Press Council of India</b>
103)	International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 with the support of which UN agency? <b>UNICEF</b>
104)	Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh was in news for what reasons? <b>It has been declared 'Ramsar wet land'</b>
105)	Soumitra Chatterjee, a Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient, passed away at Kolkata Nursing Home at the age of 85. He was associated with which field? <b>Acting</b>
106)	Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog named Rhanixalus. <b>It is found in which area? Andaman Islands and the northeast</b>
107)	World Ayurveda Day is associated with which great ancient sage? <b>Dhanwantari</b>
108)	What is the theme for this year's World Ayurveda Day? <b>Ayurveda for Covid</b>
109)	National Epilepsy Day is observed on which day of November? <b>17th</b>
110)	Epilepsy is associated with which organ of human body? <b>Brain</b>
111)	Which country hosted the 12th BRICS summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode? <b>Russia</b>
112)	Which country has been given the hosting of 13th BRICS Summit? <b>India</b>
113)	Who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time? <b>Nitish Kumar</b>
114)	The blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. It is in which state? <b>Assam</b>
115)	The Baghjan oil well is owned by which oil company? <b>OIL - Oil India Ltd.</b>
116)	Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with which global body to receive advisory services for asset monetization? <b>World Bank</b>
117)	15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc. What is its name? <b>Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP)</b>
118)	World's first of its kind tram car library has been started in which Indian city? <b>Kolkata</b>
119)	Which F1 champion equaled the Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles? <b>Lewis Hamilton, Britain</b>
120)	Lewis Hamilton drives for which F1 team? <b>Mercedes</b>
121)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his _____ counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19: <b>Luxembourg</b>

122)	India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer _____ has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world: <b>'Param Siddhi'</b>
123)	RBI placed which bank under moratorium from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days? <b>Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Chennai</b>
124)	Which country will now host FIFA Women's Under-17 Football World Cup? <b>India</b>
125)	Storm Iota, a strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across which area? <b>Central America</b>
126)	RBI launched Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation in which field? <b>Financial sector</b>
127)	Who will be the first chairperson of the RBIH? <b>Kris Gopalakrishnan</b>
128)	The Naturopathy Day is celebrated on which date? <b>Nov 18</b>
129)	In the acronym AYUSH, what the letter 'S' stands for? <b>Siddha</b>
130)	Siddha refers to which line of treatment? <b>Ayurveda as it is practiced in Kerala</b>
131)	World celebrates World Toilet Day on which day of November? <b>19th</b>
132)	What is the name of the surveillance plane recently inducted in the Indian Navy? <b>Boeing P-81</b>
133)	World Philosophy Day is observed on which Thursday of November? <b>Third</b>
134)	Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Children's Day on Nov 20? <b>UNICEF</b>
135)	Which bank approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project? <b>New Development Bank</b>
136)	Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? <b>Shanghai</b>
137)	The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of which state? <b>Meghalaya</b>
138)	Booker Prize for Fiction has been won by which noted author? <b>Douglas Stuart</b>
139)	Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for which novel? <b>Shuggie Bain</b>
140)	What is the amount of cash award in the Booker Prize? <b>Pound 50,000</b>
141)	Government launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' for the safety of which segment of workers? <b>Sewer or septic tank cleaners</b>
142)	According to a 2018 report on the 'Vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System', which state has best sex ratio? <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>
143)	What is the sex ratio at birth in Arunachal Pradesh as per a recent report? <b>1085 girls per 1000 boys</b>
144)	World Economic Forum (WEF) selected how many Indian cities to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities? <b>Four</b>
145)	In this latest World's Best Cities Report, which city has been ranked at the top? <b>London</b>

146)	Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed on ____ November: <b>19th</b>
147)	What is the theme of this year's International Men's Day observed on Nov 19? <b>Better Health for Men and Boys</b>
148)	_____ has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus: <b>Mumbai</b>
149)	World Fisheries Day is observed on which day? <b>Nov 21</b>
150)	World Television Day is observed on Nov 21. Who invented TV? <b>John Logie Baird</b>
151)	India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in which state? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
152)	As per new rule by ICC, a player must be of minimum ____ years of age to play international cricket: <b>15</b>
153)	The Women's T20 World Cup will now be hosted in Feb 2023 by which country? <b>South Africa</b>
154)	Who has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva? <b>G C Murmu</b>
155)	India celebrates NCC Day every year on ____ Sunday of November: <b>Fourth</b>
156)	Which national day is celebrated every year on Nov 20 to mark the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin? <b>Awaas Diwas</b>
157)	What was the name of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise conducted by the Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand in Andaman Sea? <b>SITMEX-20</b>
158)	Which country hosted the 15th G20 Summit on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
159)	The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held from Nov 18 to 20 at which place? <b>Andaman Sea</b>
160)	India observed the National Newborn Week from __ to __ November: <b>15 to 21</b>
161)	India has been placed at which rank in a global list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020? <b>77th</b>
162)	What is the title of the latest novel by Paulo Coelho? <b>The Archer</b>
163)	'Boskiyana' is a book written by Yashwant Vyas. It is the story of the life of which famous lyricist? <b>Gulzar</b>
164)	What is the title of the book that is memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President? <b>A Promised Land</b>
165)	"I am no Messiah" is the title of the autobiography of which popular Bollywood star? <b>Sonu Sood</b>
166)	Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise from Nov 23 to 25. What was its name? <b>SIMBEX-20</b>
167)	The immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21. It is associated with worship of which deity? <b>Sun</b>
168)	The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in which state?

<b>West Bengal</b>
<b>169)</b> What is the operational name of Indian GPS (IRNSS)? <b>NavIC</b>
<b>170)</b> Name the Indian girl who won the Children's Climate Prize of Norway: <b>Vinisha Umashankar</b>
<b>171)</b> Vinisha Umashankar won the Children's Climate Prize for which invention? <b>A mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box</b>
<b>172)</b> According to a new survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which three cities share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the world? <b>Hong Kong, Zurich and Paris</b>
<b>173)</b> Name the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam who passed away recently? <b>Tarun Gogoi</b>
<b>174)</b> Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first HeavyWeight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? <b>Varunastra</b>
<b>175)</b> What is the strike range of Varunastra? <b>40 kms</b>
<b>176)</b> Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? <b>Meghalaya</b>
<b>OCTOBER 2020</b>
<b>177)</b> India and the US signed which agreement at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit? <b>Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)</b>
<b>178)</b> 201. Which national day is observed on October 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? <b>Rashtriya Ekta Diwas</b>
<b>179)</b> Which International day is observed across the world on October 31 to work together for planned and sustainable urban life? <b>World Cities Day</b>
<b>180)</b> "The Battle of Belonging" is a book written by which former Congress union minister? <b>Shashi Tharoor</b>
<b>181)</b> What is the title of the latest book by V E Schwab? <b>The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue</b>
<b>182)</b> Who is the author of the recently released book titled "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside"? <b>N K Singh, renowned politician and economist</b>
<b>183)</b> The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on which day of October? <b>27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>184)</b> Which company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes? <b>NTPC Ltd.</b>
<b>185)</b> Which F1 driver broke the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher? <b>Lewis Hamilton</b>
<b>186)</b> India has secured which rank in the Global Teacher Status Index? <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>187)</b> Army celebrates Infantry Day on October 27 to commemorate the sacrifice of its soldiers in which battle? <b>Indo Pak battle of 1947</b>
<b>188)</b> One of the founding members of BJP, a towering leader of BJP from Rajasthan, breathed his last on Sep 27. Who was he? <b>Jaswant Singh</b>
<b>189)</b> Which Bank approved two loans totalling \$570 million for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and

<b>Madhya Pradesh? Asian Development Bank</b>
<b>190)</b> Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the AIFF Footballer of the Year award. Who is he? <b>Goalkeeper of Indian men's team</b>
<b>191)</b> Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? <b>Telecom Regulatory Authority of India</b>
<b>192)</b> The Reserve Bank has introduced which system for safer cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees to prevent cases of fraud? <b>Positive Pay System</b>
<b>193)</b> Neetu David, one of finest women cricketers of India in the late '90s and early 2000, has been appointed to which important position? <b>Chairman of the women's national selection panel</b>
<b>194)</b> Name the 74-year old renowned economist, who passed away in New Delhi: <b>Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia</b>
<b>195)</b> Who has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune? <b>Shekhar Kapur</b>
<b>196)</b> The Reserve Bank of India has roped in which Bollywood megastar for its customer awareness campaign? <b>Amitabh Bachchan</b>
<b>197)</b> Moctar Ouane has been appointed as new prime minister of Mali. Where is this country? <b>Western Africa</b>
<b>198)</b> The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund has been launched for which segment of people? <b>SC students studying in higher educational institutions</b>
<b>199)</b> Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been sworn in as the ruling Emir of which oil-rich country? <b>Kuwait</b>
<b>200)</b> Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing award has been won by Tourism department of which state? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>201)</b> Which Bollywood actor has been conferred with SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award? <b>Sonu Sood</b>
<b>202)</b> Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding scientists below the age of ___ years: <b>45</b>
<b>203)</b> Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding Scientists in how many fields: <b>Seven</b>
<b>204)</b> Alyssa Healy surpassed Dhoni's world record of 91 dismissals by a wicket keeper in T20i. She plays for which country? <b>Australia</b>
<b>205)</b> RBI has deferred implementation of which provisions made under Basel III capital norms? <b>Capital Conservation Buffer and Net Stable Funding Ratio</b>
<b>206)</b> India has announced USD 15 million grant assistance to which country for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries? <b>Sri Lanka</b>
<b>207)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik Summit on October 2. What is its short name? <b>VAIBHAV</b>

208)	International Day of Older Persons is observed on which date? <b>October 01</b>
209)	Which global human rights organisation froze its operations in India? <b>Amnesty International</b>
210)	Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? <b>London</b>
211)	The RBI has excluded how many public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934? <b>Six</b>
212)	ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) was inducted in to Indian Coast Guard at which place? <b>Kolkata</b>
213)	Which International day aims to highlight the benefits of vegetarianism? <b>World Vegetarian Day, Oct 01</b>
214)	National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed in India on which date? <b>October 01</b>
215)	Which international day is observed to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence? <b>International Day of Non-violence</b>
216)	At which place Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated on Oct 3 the world's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel? <b>At Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh</b>
217)	The Atal Tunnel has been built across which mountain range? <b>Pir Panjal</b>
218)	The Atal Tunnel connects Manali with the area of which valley? <b>Lahaul Spiti Valley</b>
219)	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? <b>Bongosagar-2</b>
220)	Which country has committed \$1.9 million to support Indian workers whose livelihoods were disrupted due to COVID-19? <b>USA</b>
221)	What is the name of indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile, with a strike range of around 1,000 km? <b>Shaurya</b>
222)	A Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: "Summit RAISE 2020" was held from 5 to 9 of October. What is full form of RAISE? <b>Responsible AI for Social Empowerment</b>
223)	Which state launched 'Gram Darshan' portal to bring data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online? <b>Haryana</b>
224)	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? <b>Swiggy</b>
225)	DRDO successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo" on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island. What is its short name? <b>SMART</b>
226)	The World Habitat Day is observed on which Monday of October? <b>First</b>
227)	What is the theme for this year's World Habitat Day? <b>Housing For All: A better Urban Future</b>
228)	Which country will host the 12th BRICS Summit on

17th November 2020 via video conferencing? <b>Russia</b>
229) 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? <b>For the discovery of Hepatitis C virus</b>
230) What is the amount of cash award for the 2020 Nobel Prize? <b>Swedish Kroner 10 million</b>
231) Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020? <b>Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden</b>
232) Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and US scientist Ms. Andrea Ghez won the 2020 Nobel Prize in which field? <b>Physics</b>
233) Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physics? <b>Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden</b>
234) Name the 16-year-old Indian shooter who won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship: <b>Vishnu Shivaraj Pandian</b>
235) World Teachers' Day is celebrated on which day of October? <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
236) Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of _____ got a GI tag recently: <b>Sikkim</b>
237) GI tag registry is located at which place? <b>Chennai</b>
238) World Animal Day is celebrated on which day of October? <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>
239) M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director General of which national body? <b>Bureau of Civil Aviation Security</b>
240) Which department of central government declared winners of the first National Start-Up Awards-2020? <b>Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade</b>
241) One of rock music's greatest guitar players, _____ lost his battle against cancer at the age of 65 in Los Angeles, USA: <b>Eddie Van Halen</b>
242) The 2nd QUAD Ministerial Meeting was held on October 6 in which city? <b>Tokyo</b>
243) QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations - India, Australia, Japan and _____: <b>USA</b>
244) Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA) won the Nobel Prize in which field? <b>Chemistry</b>
245) Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded for the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools. What is its name? <b>CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors</b>
246) India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed park will come up at two places in which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
247) India celebrates October 5 every year as the ' _____ River Dolphin Day': <b>Ganga</b>
248) 'My Ganga My Dolphin' campaign has been launched to conduct Dolphin census in 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora in which state? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>

249)	The Indian Air Force celebrates its raising day on which date? <b>October 8</b>
250)	Who was the first Indian chief of the Indian Air Force? <b>Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee</b>
251)	The World Cotton Day is observed on which day? <b>October 7</b>
252)	Which country is the largest producer of cotton in the world? <b>India</b>
253)	Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI? <b>M Rajeshwar Rao</b>
254)	The Offshore Patrol Vessel "Vigraha" recently handed over to the Indian Coast Guard, has been built by which company? <b>Larsen and Toubro</b>
255)	Which country successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon (Zircon)? <b>Russia</b>
256)	Who has been selected for the Nobel Prize for Literature 2020? <b>Ms. Louise Glück</b>
257)	Ms. Louise Glück is a famous poet of which country? <b>America</b>
258)	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: <b>Ram Vilas Paswan</b>
259)	Which state entered into partnership with Israel for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state? <b>Meghalaya</b>
260)	Which day is observed on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment? <b>World Sight Day</b>
261)	Bisher Al-Khasawneh has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Jordan</b>
262)	Which e-commerce major has collaborated with IRCTC to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site? <b>Amazon India</b>
263)	World Egg Day is celebrated on the _____ Friday in October every year to raise awareness about the benefits of eggs: <b>Second</b>
264)	World Post Day is observed to mark the anniversary of establishment of which organization in 1874? <b>Universal Postal Union</b>
265)	World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on second Saturday of which two months? <b>May and October</b>
266)	_____ has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household: <b>Goa</b>
267)	What is the name of India's first new generation anti-radiation missile successfully test-fired by DRDO? <b>Rudram</b>
268)	Which UN agency has been selected for the prestigious Nobel Prize 2020? <b>World Food Programme</b>
269)	Which official body decides the winner of Nobel Peace Prize? <b>The five member committee of the Parliament of Norway</b>
270)	Which Bank approved funds worth \$741 million for infrastructure projects in India? <b>New</b>

	<b>Development Bank</b>
271)	Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? <b>Shanghai</b>
272)	A two-day Coastal Security Exercise- 'Sagar Kavach'- was conducted on October 8-9 in which area? <b>In the Arabian Sea alongside the western coast</b>
273)	Headquarters of the World Trade Organisation are in which country? <b>Switzerland</b>
274)	Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Mental Health Day on October 10? <b>WHO – World Health Organisation</b>
275)	Which global day is observed every year on October 11 to focus on issues like female infanticide to gender inequality to sexual abuse? <b>International Day of the Girl Child</b>
276)	The Indian Air Force created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at which place? <b>Khardung La, near Leh</b>
277)	How many beaches from India have secured the coveted International Blue Flag Certification? <b>Eight</b>
278)	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? <b>Air conditioned coaches</b>
279)	A commemorative 100 rupee coin was released in the honour of _____ Scindia on her 100 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary: <b>Vijaya Raje</b>
280)	What is the popular name for the French Open Grand Slam held in Paris? <b>Roland Garros</b>
281)	Who lifted the men's singles title in the French Open Grand Slam? <b>Rafael Nadal</b>
282)	_____ won the women's singles title in the French Open in Paris: <b>Iga Swiatek</b>
283)	Iga Swiatek hails from which country? <b>Poland</b>
284)	Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the coveted Nobel Prize in which field? <b>Economics</b>
285)	Government launched which two schemes for its employees to boost the consumer spending? <b>LTC Cash Voucher scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme</b>
286)	Which scheme has been launched on Oct 11 for physical distribution of house property cards in rural areas? <b>'SVAMITVA'</b>
287)	The SVAMITVA scheme has been launched by which central ministry? <b>Panchayati Raj Ministry</b>
288)	World Arthritis Day is observed on which date? <b>October 12</b>
289)	Arthritis is an ailment related to which part of body? <b>Inflammation of joints</b>
290)	Which national day marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on postal stamps? <b>National Philately Day</b>
291)	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? <b>Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog</b>

292)	Which country is the largest producer of milk in the world? <b>India</b>
293)	ADB approved a \$ 300 million loan to finance water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 14 secondary towns of which state? <b>Rajasthan</b>
294)	Who has equaled the all time record of 91 F1 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany? <b>Lewis Hamilton</b>
295)	_____ has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools: <b>Kerala</b>
296)	Which global organization has projected 4.4 percent shrinkage in growth of world economy? <b>IMF - International Monetary Fund</b>
297)	International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed on which day of October? <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
298)	Which international day is observed on Oct 14 to raise awareness about importance of standardization in the global economy? <b>World Standards Day</b>
299)	What is the name of the most prestigious global environment prize announced in history? <b>Earthshot Prize</b>
300)	_____ has become the first state in India to set up Farmers Welfare Fund Board for the welfare of farmers: <b>Kerala</b>
301)	Which international day is observed on Oct 15 to highlight role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural communities? <b>International Day of Rural Women</b>
302)	World Students' Day is observed on Oct 15 to commemorate the birthday of which great leader? <b>APJ Abdul Kalam</b>
303)	Which union ministry sponsors the celebration of RashtriyaMahilaKisanDiwas? <b>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry</b>
304)	The Union Cabinet approved the "Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States" -STARS project with the support of which global organization? <b>World Bank</b>
305)	A commemorative coin of 75 rupees denomination was released to mark the 75th Anniversary of which UN agency? <b>FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization</b>
306)	Where are the headquarters of the FAO? <b>Rome, Italy</b>
307)	Which country has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? <b>India</b>
308)	Which state signed an agreement with the Indian Rugby Football Union to sponsor the Indian national rugby team for the next three years? <b>Odisha</b>
309)	International E-Waste Day is observed on which day of October? <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
310)	SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is sponsored by which institution? <b>SASTRA University, Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu)</b>
311)	Who has been selected for this year's SASTRA

	Ramanujan Prize? <b>Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA</b>
312)	What is the theme for this year's Global Handwashing Day? <b>Hand Hygiene for All</b>
313)	With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has banned imports of _____ with refrigerants: <b>Air conditioners</b>
314)	Name the India's first Oscar winner costume designer who died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness: <b>Bhanu Athaiya</b>
315)	Bhanu Athaiya won the Oscar for costume designing of which film? <b>Gandhi</b>
316)	Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd is going to set up India's largest greenfield zinc smelter in which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
317)	World Food Day commemorates the setting up of which special agency of UNO? <b>FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization</b>
318)	Establishment of FAO was done in which city in Canada? <b>Quebec</b>
319)	Headquarters of FAO is situated in which city? <b>Rome, Italy</b>
320)	Which University has emerged as the top varsity in India by filing the highest number -- 336 of patents in a year? <b>Chandigarh University</b>
321)	Chandigarh University is located at which place? <b>Gharuan near Mohali in Punjab</b>
322)	India ranked at which number among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020? <b>94<sup>th</sup></b>
323)	Which country scored the lowest rank in the Global Hunger Index 2020? <b>Chad</b>
324)	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? <b>Justice Madan B. Lokur</b>
325)	International Poverty Eradication Day is observed on which date? <b>October 17</b>
326)	Government launched a campaign named 'KAPILA' in the honour of which great leader? <b>Dr APJ Abdul Kalam</b>
327)	What is the objective of KAPILA campaign? <b>To promote patenting of inventions</b>
328)	What is the expansion of the acronym KAPILA? <b>Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness</b>
329)	What is the name of the 8th annual joint exercise held between Indian and Sri Lankan navies? <b>SLINEX - 20</b>
330)	Joint naval exercise SLINEX - 20 was held at which place? <b>Off the Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka</b>
331)	Which city of Denmark hosted the <b>Denmark Open Badminton Tournament</b> ? <b>Odense</b>
332)	Who won the men's singles title in the Denmark Open? <b>Anders Antonsen of Denmark</b>
333)	Women's singles title of Denmark Open was won by which player? <b>Nozomi Okuhara of Japan</b>

334)	Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21? <b>Rajkiran Rai G</b>
335)	Rajkiran Rai G is the MD & CEO of which bank? <b>Union Bank of India</b>
336)	Asian Development Bank, Manila approved a \$177-million loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in which state? <b>Maharashtra</b>
337)	Who has been reelected as the prime minister of New Zealand? <b>Jacinda Ardern</b>
338)	Which global institution awards the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award? <b>Natural History Museum of Britain</b>
339)	Name the young photographer who won this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award: <b>Aishwarya Sridhar</b>
340)	World Statistics Day is observed after an interval of how many years? <b>Five</b>
341)	World Osteoporosis Day is observed on which date? <b>October 20</b>
342)	Osteoporosis is an ailment related to which part of human body? <b>Bones</b>
343)	A person suffering from Osteoporosis is more prone to have _____ : <b>Fractures</b>
344)	Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation aims to help cooperatives play an important role in which field? <b>Creation of healthcare infrastructure</b>
345)	For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferulaassafetida) has been started in which area? <b>Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh</b>
346)	National Solidarity Day is observed on October 20 to salute the valour of our soldiers in which battle? <b>1962 Indo-China war</b>
347)	_____ has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition: <b>Singapore</b>
348)	Which special day is observed on October 21 to honour the sacrifice of ten CRPF men in 1959 in an ambush with Chinese army? <b>Police Commemoration Day</b>
349)	Which state topped the AnemiaMukt Bharat Index among 29 states in the country? <b>Haryana</b>
350)	Which public sector bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp? <b>IDBI Bank</b>
351)	Which country was ranked as the most powerful in influencing Asia Pacific region by the Asia Power Index 2020? <b>USA</b>
352)	What was India's rank in the recently released Asia Power Index 2020? <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>
353)	What is the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls? <b>Rs. 77 lakh</b>
354)	A candidate contesting state legislature elections cannot spend more than Rs. ____ for campaign expenditure: <b>30.80 lakh</b>
355)	What is the name of the low cost rapid diagnostic

	technology for COVID-19 developed by researchers at IIT, Kharagpur? <b>Covirap</b>
356)	Name the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette that was recently commissioned into Indian Navy: <b>INS Kavaratti</b>
357)	India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed SANT missile. What is the full form of SANT? <b>Stand-off Anti-tank</b>
358)	DRDO successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation ATGM Nag on October 21. Expand the abbreviation ATGM: <b>Anti-tank guided missile</b>
359)	Which Indian city recently inaugurated India's longest - 108 km long BRTS corridor? <b>Surat, Gujarat</b>
360)	What is the full form of the abbreviation BRTS? <b>Bus Rapid Transit System</b>
361)	In the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), what is the new Base Year? <b>2016</b>
362)	Which government agency compiles the CPI-IW? <b>Labour Bureau under Ministry of Labour and Employment</b>
363)	Which government agency releases the regular Consumer Price index? <b>Central Statistics Office</b>
364)	The CBSE has introduced a state of the art Facial Recognition technology for what purpose? <b>To enable students to securely download their digital academic documents of class X and XII</b>
365)	Saad al-Hariri, the Sunni Muslim politician, has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Lebanon</b>
366)	Which state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics, 2020? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
367)	Which state was visited by the largest number of foreign tourists in 2019? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
368)	Which micro nation joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 16 as its 190th member? <b>Andorra</b>
369)	Micro nation Andorra is located in which region? <b>Europe, between France in the north and Spain in the south</b>
370)	International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed on which date? <b>October 22</b>
371)	Stuttering is associated with deformity of which human skill? <b>Speech</b>
372)	Which e-portal has been launched to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system? <b>e-Dharti Geo Portal</b>
373)	India has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of which special UN agency? <b>ILO - International Labour Organization</b>
374)	International Snow Leopard Day is observed on which day of October? <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>
375)	Snow Leopard is the state animal of which state? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
376)	FX reserves crossed all time high of \$ 555 billion on

week ended October 16. This data is issued by which agency? <b>RBI – Reserve Bank of India</b>
377) Sakharov Prize for Peace is given by which organization? <b>European Union</b>
378) Alpha Conde has been elected as the President of ____ for a third term: <b>Guinea</b>
379) The United Nations Day is observed on Oct 24. Who is the current Secretary General of UNO? <b>Antonio Guterres</b>
380) Currently, how many countries are member of UNO? <b>193</b>
381) Which international day is observed on Oct 24 to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio? <b>World Polio Day</b>
382) Which are the only two countries where wild polio virus cases are still there? <b>Afghanistan and Pakistan</b>
383) The government announced waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs. ____ crore irrespective of whether moratorium was availed or not: <b>Two</b>
384) Wavel Ramkalawan has been elected as the President of Seychelles. He has linkages with which Indian state? <b>Bihar</b>
385) Lee Kun-hee, charismatic leader of South Korea's biggest conglomerate, died on Oct 25. He headed which corporate group? <b>Samsung</b>
386) World's longest passenger ropeway service was started at Girnar Mountain in Junagadh district of which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
387) India's first sand dune park is expected soon to come up in which state? <b>Goa</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2020</b>
388) International Translation Day is celebrated on which day of September? <b>30<sup>th</sup></b>
389) What is the theme for this year's World Heart Day? <b>Use Heart to beat CVD (cardiovascular diseases)</b>
390) World Rabies Day is observed on Sep 28 to mark the death anniversary of which noted microbiologist? <b>Louis Pasteur</b>
391) India was ranked ____ among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 released by the United Nations University: <b>89<sup>th</sup></b>
392) Which country was placed on top of World Risk Index, being the riskiest country? <b>Vanuatu</b>
393) Which country was ranked as the safest country on the World Risk Index? <b>Qatar</b>
394) Which state won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals? <b>Kerala</b>
395) The Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of which great philosopher, historian and political activist? <b>Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya</b>
396) What is the theme for this year's World Pharmacist Day? <b>Transforming Global Health</b>
397) FSSAI has made it mandatory to display "best before date" wef Oct 1 on which products? <b>Non-</b>

<b>packaged and loose sweets</b>
398) An iconic personality from film music world lost his battle to Corona on Sep 25. Identify him: <b>SP Balasubrahmanyam</b>
399) The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held next year in Goa in which month? <b>January</b>
400) Which institution has replaced Medical Council of India wef Sep 25? <b>National Medical Commission</b>
401) Who has been named as the Chairman of the National Medical Commission? <b>Suresh Chandra Sharma</b>
402) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed which number session of the United Nations General Assembly? <b>75<sup>th</sup></b>
403) The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in which area? <b>North Arabian Sea</b>
404) Which celebrity chef has authored the book Kitchens of Gratitude? <b>Vikas Khanna</b>
405) Which famous film celebrity has authored the book- "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv"? <b>Karan Johar</b>
406) What is the title of the latest book by noted authoress Arundhati Roy? <b>Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction</b>
407) <i>One by One</i> is a famous novel of which noted novelist? <b>Ruth Ware</b>
408) Mohamed Hussein Roble has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which East African country? <b>Somalia</b>
409) In a historic move, the Parliament passed how many labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws? <b>Three</b>
410) ICAR announced a hackathon to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization. What is its name? <b>KRITAGYA</b>
411) World Tourism Day is celebrated on which date? <b>September 27</b>
412) World Maritime Day is celebrated on which Thursday of September? <b>Last</b>
413) Name the noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson who died of Covid-19: <b>Dr. Sekhar Basu</b>
414) Which recently passed bill aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities? <b>The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020</b>
415) Which bill passed recently by the Parliament allows farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country? <b>Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020</b>
416) A virtual bilateral summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of which other country on 26 September? <b>Sri Lanka</b>
417) 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: <b>KushiChindaliya</b>
418) Alexander Lukashenko was sworn in as the President of which country for a record sixth term? <b>Belarus</b>
419) Railways have planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by which year? 2023
420) Which day is observed on Sep 23 to raise awareness about the importance of sign language? <b>International Day of Sign Languages</b>
421) Navies of India and _____ conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24: <b>Australia</b>
422) Which popular Bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine? <b>Ayushman Khurana</b>
423) Who won the Tour de France - the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world? <b>TadejPogacar</b>
424) TadejPogacar hails from which country? <b>Slovenia</b>
425) Chief Minister of which state announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built in his state? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
426) Which country accounts for the largest number of one horned Rhinos? <b>India</b>
427) Which Indian state is home to largest number of one horned Rhinos? <b>Assam</b>
428) The National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 proposes to establish National Forensic Sciences University in which city? <b>Gandhinagar</b>
429) Which university in Gujarat is to be upgraded as the new Rashtriya Raksha University? <b>Raksha Shakti University</b>
430) India successfully conducted the flight test of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle. What is its name? <b>ABHYAS</b>
431) The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to which country? <b>Nepal</b>
432) A direct cargo ferry service between India and _____ commenced for the first time on Sep 21: <b>Maldives</b>
433) Which UN Day has been observed for the first time to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap? <b>International Equal Pay Day, Sep 18</b>
434) The World Rose Day observed on Sep 18 is associated with which disease? <b>Cancer</b>
435) What is the theme of this year's World Alzheimer's Day? <b>Let's talk about dementia</b>
436) Which International Day encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage? <b>The International Coastal Cleanup Day</b>
437) The International Coastal Cleanup Day is observed on which Saturday of September? <b>Third</b>
438) Who won the men's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament? <b>Novak Djokovic</b>

439) _____ won the women's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament: <b>Simona Halep</b>
440) The Union Government announced an increase in the MSP of Wheat. What is the new MSP? <b>Rs. 1975/qtl</b>
441) In a first, two women officers have been selected to join as 'Observers' in which stream of the Indian Navy? <b>Fighter helicopters</b>
442) The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate classification and provisioning calculation process of which product? <b>NPAs – Bad loans</b>
443) Name the former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) who passed away in New Delhi: <b>Raghuvansh Prasad Singh</b>
444) Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is known as Father of which national flagship scheme? <b>MNREGA</b>
445) World Ozone Day commemorates the signing of _____ Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987: <b>Montreal</b>
446) The Ozone molecules are formed by how many atoms of Oxygen? <b>Three</b>
447) The Ozone layer helps in protecting our ecosystem from which rays from Sun? <b>Ultraviolet rays</b>
448) The Ozone layer is found in which layer of the atmosphere? <b>Stratosphere</b>
449) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 proposes how much cut in salaries and allowances for MPs? <b>30 percent</b>
450) Managing Director of which bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
451) Who is the Managing Director of the HDFC Bank? <b>Aditya Puri</b>
452) Name the 71 year old senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who has been elected as Japan's new Prime Minister: <b>Yoshihide Suga</b>
453) Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 16 for what purpose? <b>To bring Cooperative Banks' regulation at par with other banks</b>
454) Name the noted scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history who passed away recently? <b>Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan</b>
455) Which public sector power engineering has entered into a MoU with the SwissRapid AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India? <b>BHEL - Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd</b>
456) Which bank has tied up with Titan Watch Company to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'? <b>State Bank of India</b>
457) The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index, India has been placed at which rank? <b>116<sup>th</sup></b>
458) Which country secured the first rank in the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index? <b>Singapore</b>
459) The World Patient Safety Day is observed on which

date to create a global awareness for patient safety? <b>September 17</b>
460) India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at which international airport? <b>Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi</b>
461) _____ has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds? <b>Mexico</b>
462) Which social media platform has teamed up with Common Services Centers (CSC) to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services? <b>Whatsapp</b>
463) 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? <b>International Finance Corporation</b>
464) World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 with the support of which organisation? <b>World Bamboo Organization</b>
465) Which country is the largest producer of Bamboos in the world? <b>China</b>
466) Which state topped the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness? <b>Mizoram</b>
467) 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? <b>USA</b>
468) Armand Duplantis broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. He is from which country? <b>Sweden</b>
469) In the recently released Smart City Index 2020, which city secured the first rank? <b>Singapore</b>
470) 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? <b>Agriculture</b>
471) What is the theme of this year's International Day of Peace? <b>Shaping Peace Together</b>
472) International Day of Peace is celebrated on which date? <b>September 21</b>
473) Name the 35 year old striker from Portugal who became just the second footballer to reach a century of goals for a national team: <b>Christiano Ronaldo</b>
474) Which bank launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals? <b>Bank of India</b>
475) RBI has ceased the banking operations by which Payments Bank? <b>Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank</b>
476) Which state launched India's first integrated air ambulance service? <b>Karnataka</b>
477) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of which power company? <b>Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd</b>
478) Government has constituted a committee chaired

by _____ to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers: <b>Rajiv Mehrishi</b>
479) Which country will host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020: <b>India</b>
480) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO is a permanent inter-governmental international organisation of how many countries? <b>Eight</b>
481) Reliance Industries Ltd.'s market cap crossed which milestone on Sep 10? <b>\$ 200 billion</b>
482) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National School of Drama, New Delhi? <b>Paresh Rawal</b>
483) National School of Drama is a premier national institute set up by which union ministry? <b>Ministry of Culture</b>
484) Which programme has been launched for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly? <b>Streets for People Challenge</b>
485) A National Evaluation Centre, 'Parakh' has been set up for overall improvement in the evaluation system. What is full form of PARAKH? <b>Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development</b>
486) What is the expansion of the acronym PISA, a programme associated with educational evaluation? <b>Programme for International Student Assessment</b>
487) Name the veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist who passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure: <b>Swami Agnivesh</b>
488) Which is the second country, first being UAE, to normalise diplomatic ties with Israel? <b>Bahrain</b>
489) Which country played the crucial role in bringing together Israel and Bahrain? <b>USA</b>
490) Which state topped the second edition of State Startup Rankings announced recently by the government? <b>Gujarat</b>
491) In the context of startups, what is a 'unicorn'? <b>A privately held startup company with a current valuation of \$1 billion or more</b>
492) What is the name of the new dispute redressal mechanism launched for the maritime sector? <b>"SAROD-Ports"</b>
493) In the name "SAROD-Ports", what is the full form of SAROD? <b>Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes</b>
494) Which Bank launched a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs? <b>ICICI Bank</b>
495) To enforce uniform compliance practices across banks, RBI has asked banks to create which new post? <b>Chief Compliance Officer</b>
496) Which government department has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? <b>Department of Posts</b>
497) What is the objective of the scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? <b>To ensure universal coverage of</b>

**flagship postal schemes in rural areas**

- 498) 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**
- 499) Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out on Sep 10 in which state? **Meghalaya**
- 500) India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to be ranked at \_\_\_\_ spot. **105<sup>th</sup>**
- 501) Which country topped the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020? **Hong Kong**
- 502) UNICEF India has selected which Bollywood actor as its advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child"? **Ayushmann Khurrana**
- 503) The World First Aid Day is celebrated on which Saturday of September? **Second**
- 504) In the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York, who won the men's singles title? **Dominic Thiem of Austria**
- 505) Who won the women's singles title in the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York? **Japan's Naomi Osaka**
- 506) Which national day is observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect forest resources? **The National Forest Martyrs Day**
- 507) The National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on which date? **September 11**
- 508) In which year Hindi was adopted as another official language of India? **1949**
- 509) Which international day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries? **International Day of Democracy**
- 510) Engineer's Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of which acclaimed civil engineer? **Bharat Ratan M Visvesvaraya**
- 511) Name the JDU MP who has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha: **Harivansh Narayan Singh**
- 512) India has been elected as the member of which body of the UN Economic and Social Council? **Commission on Status of Women**
- 513) The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed which university at the top rank? **University of Oxford, UK**
- 514) With which country India finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India? **Russia**
- 515) India will manufacture the AK-47/203 rifles in which of its ordnance factory? **Korwa Ordnance Factory, UP**
- 516) Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first \_\_\_\_\_ of independent India: **Vice President**
- 517) International Day of Charity is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of which great personality? **Mother Teresa**

- 518) Loans up to Rs. \_\_\_\_ crore to the startups have now been covered under the Priority Sector Lending: **50**
- 519) All scheduled commercial banks in India are required to allocate \_\_\_\_ percent of their total lending to priority sector: **40**
- 520) Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend \_\_\_\_ percent of their total lendings to the priority sector: **70**
- 521) Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament: **P Iniyar**
- 522) 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**
- 523) Which state topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings? **Andhra Pradesh**
- 524) Which organisation conducts the Business Reform Action Plan rankings? **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**
- 525) The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of which country? **Russia**
- 526) The first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was celebrated in which year? **2020**
- 527) India observes which month as the 'PoshanMah'? **September**
- 528) The often quoted court case on constitutional law, was filed by the Swami Kesavananda Bharti against which state? **Kerala**
- 529) 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**
- 530) Which two telecom companies rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'? **Vodafone and Idea**
- 531) India successfully flight tested HSTDV missile technology on Sep 7. What is full form of HSTDV? **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle**
- 532) Which powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea? **Haishen**
- 533) International Literacy Day is celebrated on which day? **Sep 8**
- 534) Dr. Govind Swarup, a noted scientist passed away in Pune. He worked in which field? **Radio Astronomy**
- 535) Pierre Gasly from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020. He hails from which country? **France**
- 536) Which UN agency has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine? **UNICEF**
- 537) The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8 by which global organisation? **International Solar Alliance**

538)	Which day is dedicated to raising awareness of the risks of suicide and the challenges faced in trying to prevent suicide? <b>World Suicide Prevention Day</b>
539)	Which organisation confers the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? <b>Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust</b>
540)	Who won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019? <b>David Attenborough</b>
541)	David Attenborough is a noted personality from which field? <b>Natural History</b>
542)	What is the cash award of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? <b>Rs. 25 lakh</b>
543)	The global under-five mortality rate declined by 59 per cent, from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to _____ in 2019. <b>38</b>
544)	The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 has been compiled by which UN agency? <b>UNICEF</b>
545)	As per a recent report from the National Sample Survey, India's overall literacy rate has improved to _____ percent: <b>77.7</b>
546)	Which state has the lowest literacy rate as per a recent report from the National Sample Survey? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
547)	The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the _____ State Roads Transformation Project: <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
548)	Which state started the celebration of Himalayan Day on Sep 9 in 2010? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
549)	What is the theme for this year's Himalayan Day? <b>Himalayas and Nature</b>
550)	Which organisation announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks? <b>IBA - Indian Banks Association</b>
551)	Which bank secured the first spot in the EASE Banking Reforms Index? <b>Bank of Baroda</b>
552)	The public sector banks recently launched Doorstep Banking Services in how many cities? <b>100</b>
553)	Where are the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organisation? <b>Geneva, Switzerland</b>
554)	World Coconut Day is observed on which day of September? <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
555)	Which state is the largest producer of coconut in India? <b>Kerala</b>
556)	Which major economy slipped into recession after registering negative growth successively in two quarters? <b>Australia</b>
557)	Which country appointed Mustapha Adib as its Prime Minister? <b>Lebanon</b>
558)	Who has been appointed as the first ever CEO of the Railway Board? <b>Vinod Kumar Yadav</b>
559)	Which country hosted the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group in virtual mode? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
560)	The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in _____ started recently: <b>Tripura</b>
561)	The new water way Dadukandi and Sonamura has been started through which river? <b>Gumti</b>

562)	S Krishnan has been appointed MD & CEO Of which bank? <b>Punjab &amp; Sind Bank</b>
563)	What was the name of the one of the most powerful storms that struck a south eastern state of the USA? <b>Hurricane Laura</b>
564)	Hurricane Laura devastated which state of USA? <b>Louisiana</b>
565)	Assam government signed an agreement with which e-commerce platform to promote the state's local artefacts and handloom products on its digital marketplace? <b>Flipkart</b>
566)	The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the setting up of _____ new administrative circles: <b>Seven</b>
567)	Which West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket? <b>Dwayne Bravo</b>
568)	What is the name of the toll-free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation on August 27? <b>Kiran</b>
569)	What is the name of the Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to further boost startups and software products? <b>Chunauti</b>
570)	What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award? <b>Rs.25 lakh</b>
571)	What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Arjuna Award? <b>Rs. 15 lakh</b>
572)	Government has revised the cash award for the Dhyan Chand Award to what amount? <b>Rs. 10 lakh</b>
573)	Prime Minister of which major economy resigned on health grounds? <b>Japan</b>
574)	Name the SBI's senior-most managing director who has been appointed as the next chairman of the State Bank of India: <b>Dinesh Kumar Khara</b>
575)	Government has launched a first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal for what purpose? <b>To help investors zero in on land located in various states for potential projects</b>
576)	International Booker Prize 2020 has been won by which Dutch author? <b>Marieke Lucas Rijneveld</b>
577)	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? <b>USA</b>
578)	Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of which retail chain for Rs 24,713 crore? <b>Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar)</b>
579)	International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on which date? <b>August 29</b>
580)	A new Roll-on-Roll-off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in which state? <b>Maharashtra</b>
581)	Onam is a popular cultural festival of which state? <b>Kerala</b>
582)	India was declared joint winner of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad, with which other country? <b>Russia</b>

583)	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: <b>23.9</b>
584)	Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India passed away on August 31. He was ___ the President of India: <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
585)	The CSIR-CMERI has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in which city? <b>Durgapur, West Bengal</b>
586)	Dr S. Padmavati, India's first female and oldest _____ died at the age of 103. <b>Cardiologist</b>
587)	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? <b>'AstroSat'</b>
588)	The European Investment Bank is set to invest EUR650 million for the construction of first city metro line of which city? <b>Kanpur</b>
589)	The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi to lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants. What is its formal name? <b>National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building</b>
590)	Which organisation released the Global Innovation Index? <b>World Intellectual Property Organisation</b>
<b>AUGUST 2020</b>	
591)	SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product. What is its name? <b>Shagun – Gift an Insurance</b>
592)	Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 million on August 26. Who is he? <b>Jeff Bezos</b>
593)	_____ became the first bank in India to use satellite data—imagery from Earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of farmers. <b>ICICI Bank</b>
594)	Sanjiv Singh, former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman has joined Reliance Industries in what capacity? <b>President for the firm's oil-to-chemicals business</b>
595)	NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. Which state topped the Index? <b>Gujarat</b>
596)	Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, the 20-year-old boy from _____ won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title: <b>Hyderabad</b>
597)	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? <b>My IAF</b>
598)	What is the title of the latest novel by Chetan Bhagat? <b>One Arranged Murder</b>
599)	Name the former Deputy Governor of RBI who has authored the book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India": <b>Viral V. Acharya</b>
600)	Which union minister has authored the book titled " <i>The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World</i> "? <b>Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar</b>

601)	Name the German professional sports club that won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20: <b>Bayern Munich</b>
602)	Name the renowned Indian scientist, was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of DRDO: <b>G Satheesh Reddy</b>
603)	Which state extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28? <b>Assam</b>
604)	Which England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets? <b>James Anderson</b>
605)	Overall which bowler holds the world record for taking highest number of wickets? <b>Muttiah Muralitharan</b>
606)	WHO has declared entire Africa free from wild polio. Which was the last African country to get rid of Polio? <b>Nigeria</b>
607)	Which are the only two countries in the world where polio cases still occur? <b>Pakistan and Afghanistan</b>
608)	In its annual report released on August 25, the Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at _____ for 2020-21: <b>-4.5%</b>
609)	Government has made _____ mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country: <b>FASTag</b>
610)	National Sports Day is celebrated every year on _____ to mark the birthday of Major Dhyani Chand: <b>August 29</b>
611)	Which day is observed every year to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment in USA in 1878 that provided voting rights to women? <b>Women's Equality Day, August 26</b>
612)	Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index. What is its name? <b>Bulldex</b>
613)	Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India? <b>Ashwani Bhatia</b>
614)	Name the legendary South African all-rounder who has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame: <b>Jaquie Kallis</b>
615)	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? <b>Australia</b>
616)	What is the name of the GPS based mobile app launched to monitor the plantation along the national highways? <b>'Harit Path'</b>
617)	Which international Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III? <b>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank</b>
618)	Where are the headquarters of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? <b>Beijing</b>
619)	Who is the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? <b>JinLiquan</b>
620)	The Reserve Bank of India has extended a _____ million dollar currency swap facility to the Central Bank of _____ till November 2022: <b>400; Sri Lanka</b>

621)	Which state will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, 2021? <b>Haryana</b>
622)	India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to which country in July last week? <b>Bangladesh</b>
623)	Which Ministry launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department? <b>Ministry of Earth Sciences</b>
624)	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? <b>Climate conservation</b>
625)	Which country has honoured Kala Narayanasamy with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic? <b>Singapore</b>
626)	India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to which country in response to a request received from the WHO? <b>North Korea</b>
627)	Which city is the capital of North Korea? <b>Pyongyang</b>
628)	This year is the ____ anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. <b>21<sup>st</sup></b>
629)	Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on which date? <b>26<sup>th</sup> July</b>
630)	World _____ Day is observed on July 28 to raise awareness about which disease? <b>Hepatitis</b>
631)	Who invented the diagnostic test and vaccine for the Hepatitis? <b>Dr Baruch Blumberg, USA</b>
632)	Which International Day is observed to increase awareness about the best practices to protect our natural resources? <b>World Nature Conservation Day</b>
633)	World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated across the world on which day? <b>28<sup>th</sup> July</b>
634)	The world celebrated Global / International Tiger Day on which date? <b>July 29</b>
635)	The India Report on Digital Education, 2020 was released on July 29. Name any two prominent digital initiatives in education: <b>DIKSHA platform, Swayam Prabha TV Channel</b>
636)	IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) has launched its new co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform with which card company? <b>SBI Cards</b>
637)	HichemMechichi has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia. Where is this country? <b>In North Africa</b>
638)	Which union ministry launched a mobile app named 'BIS-Care'? <b>Ministry of Consumer Affairs</b>
639)	Which quality certification mark is used in India for gold jewellery? <b>Hallmark</b>
640)	The ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for _____ products in India since 1955: <b>Industrial</b>
641)	The Cabinet has approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to _____: <b>Education Ministry</b>
642)	The new National Education Policy has been developed on the recommendations of the panel

	headed by _____: <b>K Kasturirangan, former ISRO chief</b>
643)	Which PG programme has been discontinued as per the new NEP? <b>M Phil</b>
644)	The new NEP has decided to do away with board exam for which class? <b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
645)	The new NEP has divided total schooling structure, from pre-nursery to class 12 in to how many stages? <b>Four</b>
646)	The 'Foundation Stage' will cover students of which age group? <b>3 to 8 years</b>
647)	Students of class 3 to 5 have been classified in which stage? <b>Preparatory Stage</b>
648)	The 'Middle Stage' will comprise of students of which age group? <b>11 to 14 years</b>
649)	What is the name given to the stage comprising of students of 9 to 12 class? <b>Secondary Stage</b>
650)	The first batch of five Rafale jets landed on July 29 in which Air Force base? <b>Ambala, Haryana</b>
651)	What is the name of the 17 squadron of Indian Air Force that will host Rafale jets? <b>Golden Arrows</b>
652)	What is the name of the French firm that supplied Rafale jets to India? <b>Dassault</b>
653)	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? <b>Aditya</b>
654)	What is the name of the Mars rover launched recently by NASA? <b>Perseverance</b>
655)	Niti Aayog's AIM joined hands with Gates Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST for what purpose? <b>For enhancement of incubator capabilities</b>
656)	What is the full form of AIM? <b>Atal Innovation Mission</b>
657)	ISRO is allowing the private players to set up their own launch pad at SHAR. What is the full form of SHAR? <b>Sriharikota Launch Centre</b>
658)	The Sriharikota Launch Centre is located in which state? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
659)	Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to which apex authority? <b>Prime Minister</b>
660)	Which district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by Niti Aayog? <b>Bijapur</b>
661)	How many districts are there in the Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme? <b>115</b>
662)	Which union ministry won the SKOCH award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project? <b>Ministry of Tribal affairs</b>
663)	Which apex Financial Institution has launched a one-stop knowledge portal named as "MSMESaksham" in association with TransUnion CIBIL? <b>SIDBI</b>
664)	_____ became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as its Barakah Nuclear Power Plant became operational? <b>UAE - United</b>

<b>Arab Emirates</b>
665) The Government clarified that any FDI in commercial coal mining from an entity of a country _____ will have to go through the government route: <b>That shares land border with India</b>
666) The Union Defence Ministry has formed which policy to provide a significant thrust to India's defence production capabilities? <b>Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy, 2020</b>
667) Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been elected as the President of Guyana. Where is this country? <b>On the northern edge of the South American continent</b>
668) Name the new scheme launched by KVIC to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti (incense sticks) production: <b>Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission</b>
669) Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of markets regulator SEBI was in news recently for what reasons? <b>He was given 18 month extension</b>
670) Who has been appointed as the new Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir? <b>Manoj Sinha</b>
671) Which Indian brand has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020? <b>Reliance Industries Ltd.</b>
672) There are total how many IIMs in India? <b>20</b>
673) Which bank launched Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT? <b>Axis Bank</b>
674) What is the name of the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train, flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra? <b>Kisan Rail</b>
675) Who has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of the country? <b>Girish Chandra Murmu</b>
676) Hiroshima Day is celebrated to mark the dropping of nuclear bomb on the city. This incident occurred in which year? <b>1945</b>
677) Celebration of National Handloom Day on August 7 coincides with the launch of which national movement? <b>Swadeshi Movement in 1905</b>
678) Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905 to protest against which decision of British Viceroy? <b>Partition of Bengal</b>
679) RBI has prohibited banks from opening _____ accounts for customers who have availed cash credit or overdraft facilities, with a view to improve credit discipline: <b>Current</b>
680) The railways has decided to end a colonial-era practice of appointing _____ who worked at the residences of senior officials: <b>Khalasis or bungalow peons</b>
681) India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN _____ Fund for supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities: <b>Development Partnership</b>
682) Which institute won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020? <b>Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune</b>

683) 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? <b>RBI</b>
684) Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex organisation of India? <b>Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)</b>
685) Which Indian company has tied up with US based Novavax for the development and commercialization of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India: <b>Serum Institute of India, Pune</b>
686) The Forest Department of _____ has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani: <b>Uttarakhand</b>
687) 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: <b>Odisha</b>
688) International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on August 9. What is its popular short name? <b>World Tribal Day</b>
689) Name the India's biggest public sector power producer which achieved over 100 billion units of cumulative generation in the current financial year: <b>NTPC</b>
690) 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? <b>Maharashtra</b>
691) 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: <b>Australia</b>
692) The 2021 edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted by which country? <b>India</b>
693) RBI has set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of _____ to oversee the resolution of NPAs created by COVID-19: <b>K V Kamath</b>
694) A 2313 kilometer submarine optical fibre cable network has been laid between _____ and Andaman and Nicobar Islands: <b>Chennai</b>
695) World Bio-fuel Day is celebrated on which date? <b>August 10</b>
696) Name the three most popular bio-fuels: <b>Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas</b>
697) What is the theme for the World Bio-fuel Day this year in India? <b>Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat</b>
698) Nation Deworming Day is observed twice every year, on August ___ and on February ___. <b>10 and 10</b>
699) Which leading digital payment service provider recently launched an Android-based, pocket-sized portable point of sale (PoS) device? <b>Paytm</b>
700) Which state has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product scheme? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
701) Which state has decided to provide urban

forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes? <b>Chhattisgarh</b>
702) Which Municipal Corporation became the first urban body in the country to provide land entitlement in city's forests to the urban tribals? <b>Jagdapur, Chhattisgarh</b>
703) Name the Indonesia's major volcano that erupted once again on August 10, spewing a massive tower of smoke and ash into the sky: <b>Mount Sinabung</b>
704) World Elephant Day is celebrated on which date? <b>August 12</b>
705) What is the name of the COVID-19 vaccine launched by Russia? <b>Sputnik V</b>
706) Reliance Industries Ltd. became the first Indian company to figure in the top 100 in the Fortune Global 500 list. What is its rank? <b>96<sup>th</sup></b>
707) The Fortune Global 500 list of top corporate is topped by which company? <b>Walmart Group</b>
708) What is the name of the National Portal on human elephant conflict (HEC) launched recently? <b>Surakhsya</b>
709) Walter Roger Martos Ruiz has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of a South American Country. Can you name it? <b>Peru</b>
710) Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new _____ of Mauritania, a country in Western Africa: <b>Prime Minister</b>
711) Who has been chosen as Vice Presidential candidate by the Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden? <b>Kamala Harris</b>
712) _____ launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card: <b>Google</b>
713) What is the name of the new income tax reform package launched recently by the Prime Minister? <b>Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest</b>
714) Who is the only Indian to figure in the top 10 highest paid male actors in recent Forbes list? <b>Akshay Kumar</b>
715) Name the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine: <b>SkyrootAerspace, Hyderabad</b>
716) What is the name of the India's first rocket engine launched by a private firm? <b>Raman</b>
717) Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without _____: <b>Pre-fitted batteries</b>
718) 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? <b>ICGS Sarthak</b>
719) Israel recently revived its diplomatic relations with which country? <b>UAE</b>
720) RBI has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs _____ and above. <b>50,000</b>
721) Which Indian bank has already been following 'Positive Pay' system? <b>ICICI Bank</b>

722) Atal Innovation Mission rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with which IT giant? <b>Dell Technologies</b>
723) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched which project to promote indigenisation initiatives with focus on innovation in Indian Navy? <b>Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation</b>
724) India approved a \$500-million package to help the _____ build a connectivity project: <b>Maldives</b>
725) 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? <b>SRIJAN</b>
726) Which organisation approved the transfer of 57,128 crore rupees as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20? <b>RBI</b>
727) Which country successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2"? <b>Israel</b>
728) Three products - sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy HarmalChilli and Mandoli Banana, of which state have been granted GI tag? <b>Goa</b>
729) Which day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives? <b>World Organ Donation Day</b>
730) Prime Minister announced the launching of which completely technology-based health initiative on Independence Day? <b>National Digital Health Mission</b>
731) ISRO in collaboration with which institute has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface? <b>IISc, Bengaluru</b>
732) M S Dhoni will be remembered always for his _____ ICC World Cup victory. <b>2011</b>
733) Following the footsteps of Dhoni, which other leading cricketer announced his retirement? <b>Suresh Raina</b>
734) Government approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps to expand in to _____ coastal and border districts. <b>173</b>
735) The NCC was raised in which year? <b>1948</b>
736) Where are the headquarters of NCC? <b>New Delhi</b>
737) Name the former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister who passed away recently. <b>Chetan Chauhan</b>
738) ISRO has decided to name a crater on Moon after which great scientist? <b>Vikram Sarabhai</b>
739) The Central Government is planning to launch Project _____ and Project _____ to replicate the success of Project Tiger. <b>Lion; Dolphin</b>
740) Who has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force? <b>Rakesh Asthana</b>
741) Name the legendary Indian classical vocalist who passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. <b>Pandit Jasraj</b>
742) Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Meghalaya? <b>Satya Pal Malik</b>
743) What is the name of the e-portal launched for

promoting health of tribals? <b>Swasthya</b>
744) Prime Minister Modi announced launch of mega programme OSOWOG for what purpose? <b>Promoting solar energy</b>
745) What is the full form of OSOWOG? <b>One Sun, One World, One Grid</b>
746) Which Bank launched a first-of-its-kind product for the armed forces called 'Shaurya KGC Card'? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
747) Which institute has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India? <b>IIT Madras</b>
748) Which bank has waived SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance? <b>State Bank of India</b>
749) RBI has unveiled the framework for setting up pan-India Umbrella Entity for which financial segment? <b>Retail Payments</b>
750) Keith Rowley has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which island nation? <b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>
751) The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has tied up with which global IT company to undertake flood forecasting initiatives? <b>Google</b>
752) Which country has launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India? <b>Britain</b>
753) Which bank has approved a loan of \$1 billion for construction of Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System? <b>Asian Development Bank</b>
754) What is the name of the new body to be set up for conducting CET for recruitment to Grade B & C posts? <b>National Recruitment Agency - NRA</b>
755) The NRA will initially replace 3 recruiting agencies. Which are these agencies? <b>Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS</b>
756) The score of the CET will be valid for how much period? <b>Three years</b>
757) Which city has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards? <b>Indore</b>
758) _____ has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country: <b>New Delhi</b>
759) Which city was awarded for being the cleanest city among the cities with over 40 lakh population? <b>Ahmedabad</b>
760) Which country has ranked first in the world in terms of number of organic farmers? <b>India</b>
761) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane at Rs. ___ per quintal? <b>285</b>
762) Which one of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country, has recently been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity? <b>Vijaynagar</b>
763) World Humanitarian Day is observed on which date? <b>August 19</b>
764) Which global day is observed on August 19 to pay tribute to art and science of photography? <b>World</b>

<b>Photography Day</b>
765) Which day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi who served as Prime Minister from 1984 -89? <b>Sadbhavna Diwas</b>
766) World Senior Citizens Day is observed across the world on which day of August? <b>21<sup>st</sup></b>
767) Techgentsia Software, a startup won the national competition to develop Indian video conferencing solution. What is its name? <b>Vconsole</b>
768) Which film won the first prize in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting? <b>Am I?</b>
769) Name the former finance secretary who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. <b>Rajiv Kumar</b>
770) Who headed the Selection Committee for the National Sports Awards 2020? <b>Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma</b>
771) How many sportspersons have been awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 2020? <b>Five</b>
772) Name the para athlete who has been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: <b>Mariyappan</b>
773) Which national sports award is given for outstanding performance by coaches? <b>Dronacharya Award</b>
774) Which corporate entity has been selected for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility? <b>Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, ONGC</b>
775) Which university won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments? <b>Panjab University, Chandigarh</b>
776) Which IT company launched its job search app named 'Kormo Jobs' in India? <b>Google</b>
777) Government launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat " for developing products based on which two microprocessors? <b>SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)</b>
778) Where in USA widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres statewide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes? <b>California</b>
779) Ronnie O'Sullivan of England is a six time world champion in which sports? <b>Snooker</b>
780) The Uttar Pradesh government signed a MoU with _____ for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state: <b>Israel</b>
781) Which country has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea? <b>Turkey</b>
782) As per the new announcement made by the Finance Ministry, businesses with annual turnover up to Rs. _____ lakh will be exempted from GST: <b>40</b>
783) India's longest cable ropeway running for nearly 2 km over Brahmaputra River has been started in

which city? Guwahati

**JULY 2020**

- 784)** India celebrates National Statistics Day on which date? **June 29**
- 785)** National Statistics Day is celebrated to pay respects to which great Indian statistician? **Dr P C Mahalanobis**
- 786)** Govt of India recently banned how many China based mobile apps? **59**
- 787)** The 59 apps have been banned under the provisions of which Indian law? **Information and Technology Act, 2000**
- 788)** Which union ministry launched "PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises" (PM FME) scheme on 29th June? **Ministry for Food Processing Industries**
- 789)** Who is the present Attorney General for India? **K K Venugopal**
- 790)** Why K K Venugopal was in news recently? **His term has been extended by one year**
- 791)** Who is the current Solicitor General of India? **Tushar Mehta**
- 792)** Government has extended the term of Tushar Mehta by how many years? **Three**
- 793)** 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**
- 794)** Forest department of which state has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari Park? **Uttarakhand**
- 795)** India and \_\_\_\_\_ signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project? **Bhutan**
- 796)** The 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project is being built on which river? **Kholongchu**
- 797)** Lazarus Chakwera has been elected as the new President of Malawi. It is in which continent? **Africa**
- 798)** Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of which country? **Ireland**
- 799)** On which date India celebrates National Doctor's Day? **July 01**
- 800)** National Doctor's Day commemorates the birthday of which great Indian physician? **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**
- 801)** National Postal Worker Day is observed on which day of July? **First**
- 802)** Which apex Indian institute has launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science? **IIT, Madras**
- 803)** Which global FI has announced a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response Program to increase the flow of funds to MSMEs in India? **World Bank**
- 804)** Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Iceland for a second four-year term: **President**
- 805)** Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award is given for the

outstanding contribution in which field? **Official Statistics**

- 806)** Who has been selected for the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? **C. Rangarajan**
- 807)** Which union ministry has instituted Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- 808)** Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mobile app named "NADA App". What is the full form of NADA? **National Anti-Doping Agency**
- 809)** On July 1 Indian Railways achieved which milestone for the first time in its history? **Running all trains on time**
- 810)** 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**
- 811)** 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**
- 812)** Who is India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNO headquarters? **T S Tirumurti**
- 813)** People of which country voted in majority to approve constitutional reforms that could keep their President in power until 2036? **Russia**
- 814)** Who is the current President of Russia? **Vladimir Putin**
- 815)** Indian government has extended AFSPA for another six months till December, 2020 in which state? **Nagaland**
- 816)** What is the full form of AFSPA? **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958**
- 817)** Which international institution announced \$400 million support for India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga river and stem pollution in the river? **World Bank**
- 818)** Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has been appointed as the new chairman of which apex Maharatna company? **Indian Oil Corporation**
- 819)** Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)? **Ravinder Bhakar**
- 820)** Who has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' of the 21st century by Wisden? **Ravindra Jadeja**
- 821)** Which bank launched an all-in-one app 'e-KisaanDhan' to meet all banking and farming requirements of farmers? **HDFC Bank**
- 822)** In which country, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in Hpakant? **Myanmar**
- 823)** India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in which city? **New Delhi**
- 824)** Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country? **France**

825)	The RBI issued operational guidelines for the Rs 30,000-crore special liquidity facility for _____ companies: <b>Non-banking finance</b>
826)	In keeping with its spirit to give a fillip to Indian languages, All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in _____ language from June 4: <b>Sanskrit</b>
827)	Which country has passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038? <b>Germany</b>
828)	The government plans to launch TOPS for the junior athletes also. What is the full form of TOPS? <b>Target Olympic Podium Scheme</b>
829)	Name the former world number one badminton player, two-times Olympic (2008 and 2012) champion from China, who announced his retirement from the sport: <b>Lin Dan</b>
830)	NLC India Ltd and _____ have joined hands to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW in India: <b>Coal India Ltd.</b>
831)	Which state created a new record on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
832)	What is the name of the India's first social media super app which has been created by more than 1000 IT professionals? <b>Elyments</b>
833)	Ennio Morricone, Oscar-winning film composer, who composed music for over 500 films, passed away recently. He hailed from which country? <b>Italy</b>
834)	Which Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
835)	_____ has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections: <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
836)	Valtteri Bottas, winner of the season's first F1 race, the Austrian Grand Prix 2020, hails from which country? <b>Finland</b>
837)	_____ Tourism launched "IntzaarAap Ka" campaign on social media platforms to attract tourists in the state. <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
838)	Name the veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "SoormaBhopali" in blockbuster "Sholay", who passed away in Mumbai: <b>Jagdeep</b>
839)	G Akash from _____ became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster: <b>Chennai</b>
840)	Name the American wrestler-turned-actor, who has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity recently: <b>Dwayne Johnson</b>
841)	The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with _____ to offer digital skills to India's youth in the next 12 months amid the COVID-19 crisis: <b>Microsoft</b>
842)	One of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia is being established in Rewa in which state? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
843)	The Indian Railways has decided to run how many trains by private operators? <b>151</b>
844)	AIB has given \$50 million loan to L&T for what

	purpose? <b>For funding renewable energy projects in India</b>
845)	What is the name butterfly that has been named as India's largest butterfly? <b>Himalayan Golden Birdwing</b>
846)	If you want to see the Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly, which place you will have to visit? <b>Didihat town in district Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand</b>
847)	The Paris Agreement on climate control was entered in which year? <b>2015.</b>
848)	The Paris Agreement 2015 was entered into under the aegis of UNFCCC. Write full form of UNFCCC: <b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>
849)	The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an agreement with which apex body for data exchange and sharing of information between the two organisations? <b>Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)</b>
850)	WHO has declared which two South East Asian nations free from Measles and Rubella? <b>Sri Lanka and Maldives</b>
851)	What is the name of the special insurance policy approved by IRDAI for covering Corona cases? <b>CoronaKavach</b>
852)	India celebrates National Fish Farmers' Day on which date? <b>July 10</b>
853)	In which country world's first Fish Cryobank is being established? <b>India</b>
854)	Which ministry launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. <b>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</b>
855)	Which is the first Arab country that has sent a probe to Mars? <b>UAE</b>
856)	As per the Global Real Estate Transparency Index, India has been placed at which rank? <b>34<sup>th</sup></b>
857)	Which country secured the top spot in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index? <b>United Kingdom</b>
858)	The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has entered into a partnership with which global organisation for clean energy development? <b>The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)</b>
859)	Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Population Day on July 11? <b>United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)</b>
860)	The 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook is what type of helicopter? <b>Heavy lift cargo helicopter</b>
861)	What is the name of the most advanced multirole attack helicopter acquired by India from Boeing? <b>AH-64E Apache</b>
862)	Lee Hsien Loong has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Singapore</b>
863)	_____ has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID

vaccine. <b>Russia</b>
<b>864)</b> Which apex body has approached all IITs, NITs to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of National Highways on voluntary basis as part of Institutional Social Responsibility? <b>National Highway Authority of India</b>
<b>865)</b> Who is the Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India? <b>Sukhbir Singh Sandhu</b>
<b>866)</b> Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? <b>Turkmenistan</b>
<b>867)</b> Which IIT has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH? <b>IIT Kanpur</b>
<b>868)</b> 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? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
<b>869)</b> Maximum how much loan can be given to a street vendor under the PM SwaNidhi? <b>10,000/-</b>
<b>870)</b> Which global IT giant has announced to invest \$10 billion for promotion of digital India? <b>Google</b>
<b>871)</b> Andrzej Duda has been re-elected as the _____ of Poland for another term of five years. <b>President</b>
<b>872)</b> Which Maharatna energy corporate has been awarded with the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019? <b>NTPC Ltd</b>
<b>873)</b> The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of which family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple? <b>Travancore royal family</b>
<b>874)</b> Sree-Padmanabhaswamy Temple, reportedly the richest temple of world, is located at which place? <b>Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala</b>
<b>875)</b> Shark Awareness Day is observed on which day of July? <b>July 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>876)</b> Which UN special agency supports the celebration of World Youth Skills Day on July 15? <b>UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>
<b>877)</b> Which Indian bureaucrat has been appointed as the vice president of the Asian Development Bank? <b>Ashok Lavasa</b>
<b>878)</b> Where is the head office of the Asian Development Bank? <b>Manila, Philippines</b>
<b>879)</b> Who is the President of ADB? <b>Masatsugu Asakawa</b>
<b>880)</b> K Sivan has been honoured with the Von Karman Award 2020. He heads which organisation? <b>ISRO</b>
<b>881)</b> Latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce shows that the _____ has emerged as India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal year in 2019-20: <b>United States of America</b>
<b>882)</b> Low-cost test kit "Corosure", claimed to be the world's most affordable diagnostic kit for coronavirus, has been developed by which IIT of India? <b>Delhi</b>
<b>883)</b> The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent

capital acquisition up to Rs ____ crore: <b>300</b>
<b>884)</b> _____ has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket: <b>China</b>
<b>885)</b> Name the NGO that gives away the Global Humanitarian Award: <b>World Humanitarian Drive, London</b>
<b>886)</b> Which country has allowed India access to its Mongla and Chattogram ports for trade purposes? <b>Bangladesh</b>
<b>887)</b> Which three India states will benefit from the opening of the Mongla and Chattogram ports? <b>Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura</b>
<b>888)</b> In which state the NISHTHA programme of central government was launched for the first time in virtual mode? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
<b>889)</b> What is the full form of the acronym NISHTHA? <b>National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement</b>
<b>890)</b> The NISHTHA project is the part of which major educational programme? <b>Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan</b>
<b>891)</b> India has entered into the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany. It is for what purpose? <b>To facilitate mutual international flights</b>
<b>892)</b> The Rail Coach Factory, _____ launched a new state-of-the-art, 'Post COVID Coach' in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus infection: <b>Kapurthala, Punjab</b>
<b>893)</b> Union HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for what purpose? <b>To set the guidelines for digital education by schools</b>
<b>894)</b> The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge - the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge is being built across which river? <b>Chenab</b>
<b>895)</b> Which Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway has bagged the Water Heroes Award? <b>Ongole</b>
<b>896)</b> Name India's richest woman who became the first woman to head a listed Indian IT company: <b>Roshni Nadar</b>
<b>897)</b> Roshni Nadar has become chairperson of which major IT company? <b>HCL Technologies, Gurugram</b>
<b>898)</b> Which International Day is observed on July 17 to highlight the work of the International Criminal Court? <b>World Day for International Justice</b>
<b>899)</b> The International Criminal Court is located at which place? <b>The Hague, Netherlands</b>
<b>900)</b> In which year Nelson Mandela dethroned white Europeans from South Africa and became first Black President of South Africa? <b>1994</b>
<b>901)</b> DRDO has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System capable of para dropping military stores of up to 7-ton weight from which military cargo aircraft? <b>IL 76 'Gajraj'</b>
<b>902)</b> India opened a new Land Customs Station at Ahllay, Pasakha to promote trade with which country? <b>Bhutan</b>

903)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address on July 17 at which high-level segment of the United Nations? <b>Economic and Social Council</b>
904)	Which Bollywood actor has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020? <b>Priyanka Chopra Jonas</b>
905)	India ranks ____ in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions: <b>Third</b>
906)	Which country topped the Global Manufacturing Risk Index, 2020? <b>China</b>
907)	CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21 in collaboration with which IT major? <b>IBM, New York</b>
908)	Which state government plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity through 'Waste to Energy' initiative? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>JUNE 2020</b>	
909)	World Asteroid Day is observed on June 30 to commemorate the crashing of a huge asteroid in _____ in Siberia on this day in 1908? <b>Tunguska</b>
910)	What is the name of the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System inducted in the Indian Navy? <b>Maareech</b>
911)	FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to which country? <b>Australia and New Zealand</b>
912)	The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in which city? <b>Los Angeles, USA</b>
913)	What is the name of the behaviour change campaign launched by the NITI Aayog recently in partnership with several other agencies? <b>Navigating the New Normal</b>
914)	Which multi governmental organisation supports the celebration of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day on June 27? <b>United Nations Organisation - UNO</b>
915)	International Widows Day is observed on which day of June? <b>23rd</b>
916)	Why June 23 has been selected to be celebrated as World Olympic Day? <b>The day marks the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement in 1894</b>
917)	The German Book Trade has chosen which Indian Nobel laureate for its Peace Prize 2020? <b>Amartya Sen</b>
918)	Moody's Investors Service in its Global Macro Outlook (2020-21) has projected the Indian economy to shrink by ____ in the fiscal year 2020: <b>3.1%</b>
919)	Which institution has created Indian GPS beneficiary chip "Dhruva"? <b>IIT Bombay</b>
920)	Name the veteran journalist, former Member of Parliament and founder member of the Press Club of India, who passed away at the age of 94. <b>Vishwa Bandhu Gupta</b>

921)	NITI Aayog launched which project on June 24 to develop a low-carbon transport system in the country? <b>Decarbonising Transport in India</b>
922)	The government introduced a Rs. ____ crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund for infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises: <b>15,000/-</b>
923)	The IMF has predicted that the global economy will shrink by ____ per cent this year: <b>4.9</b>
924)	Which major European country has decided to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cotton buds and food containers, as well as polystyrene cups and boxes by July 3, 2021? <b>Germany</b>
925)	The union cabinet approved the move to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of _____? <b>Reserve Bank of India</b>
926)	Which state has launched a scheme to procure cow dung from livestock owners at a fixed procurement rate? <b>Chhattisgarh</b>
927)	Which state won the first prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
928)	The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for what purpose? <b>To encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities</b>
929)	Which international day is observed on June 25 to pay respect to sailors around the world for the valuable services rendered by them? <b>Day of the Seafarer</b>
930)	Who was Wajid Khan, a noted Bollywood personality, who passed away recently at a young age of 42 years? <b>Popular music composer, with brother Sajid Khan</b>
931)	On which date UNO supports the celebration of Global Day of Parents? <b>June 01</b>
932)	To highlight the importance of milk in our diet, we celebrate World Milk Day on which day of June? <b>First</b>
933)	What is the theme of this year's Global Day of Parents? <b>"Honour Your Parents"</b>
934)	Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which country? <b>United Kingdom</b>
935)	Government launched PM SVANidhi, a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to which category of people? <b>Street Vendors</b>
936)	What is the full form of the newly launched micro credit scheme PM SVANidhi? <b>Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi</b>
937)	What is the maximum amount of loan available under PM SVANidhi scheme? <b>Rs. 10,000/-</b>
938)	What is the name of the disinfection unit developed by the DRDO especially for disinfecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items,

fabrics and others? <b>Ultra Swachh</b>
939) Which private company became the first space company to send two astronauts from the Earth to the International Space Station? <b>SpaceX</b>
940) Which country recently faced nationwide street protests over the death of a non white person by a white police man? <b>USA</b>
941) What is the name of the black man whose death in police action generated nationwide protests? <b>George Floyd</b>
942) Who is the only Indian sports person to figure in the Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020? <b>Virat Kohli, 66</b>
943) Who has been ranked at number one in the Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020? <b>Swiss tennis star Roger Federer</b>
944) What were the last words uttered by George Floyd just before his death that became a war cry for protesters around the world? <b>"I can't breathe"</b>
945) Which global organisation launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) to share with all the latest scientific and technological advancements to fight COVID-19? <b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b>
946) Union Government has launched a new initiative named 'SWADES' for what purpose? <b>To conduct a skill mapping exercise of the Indians returning from abroad</b>
947) What is the full form of SWADES? <b>"Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support"</b>
948) SWADES is a joint initiative of three ministries -- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, _____ Ministry and External Affairs Ministry: <b>Civil Aviation</b>
949) Under the new definition of MSMEs, manufacturing and services enterprises with investments up to Rs 10 crore and turnover up to Rs 50 crore will be classified as _____ enterprises: <b>Small</b>
950) As per the new definition of MSMEs, Enterprises with investment up to Rs ___ crore and turnover up to Rs ___ crore will be termed as 'medium' enterprises. <b>20; 100</b>
951) Name the severe cyclonic storm that landed in Raigad district in Maharashtra on June 3 and caused widespread devastation: <b>Nisarga</b>
952) Name the veteran filmmaker-screenwriter best known for directing films like ChotisiBaat, Rajnigandha, BaatonBaaton Mein, and many others, who died recently: <b>Basu Chatterjee</b>
953) The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched a joint initiative, TULIP for which target group? <b>Fresh engineering graduates</b>
954) What is the full form of the recently launched program "TULIP"? <b>"The Urban Learning Internship Programme"</b>

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