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## GENERAL AWARENESS

March 2021

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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

Ease of Doing Business	63 <sup>rd</sup>
Human Freedom Index	111 <sup>st</sup>
Human Development Index	131 <sup>st</sup>
Receiving Spam Calls	9 <sup>th</sup>
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>



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## NATIONAL NEWS

JANUARY

### INDIA LAUNCHES WORLD'S BIGGEST COVID VACCINATION



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged-off the first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive on January 16 at 10:30 a.m. via video conferencing. The world's largest vaccination programme began at a total of 3006 session sites across all States/UTs. Around 100 beneficiaries were vaccinated at each of the session sites.

Currently, two types of vaccine are being used - Covishield and Covaxin and beneficiaries will not have a choice between the two. Covishield is the Indian name for the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune. The Covaxin has been developed and produced indigenously by the Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech Ltd. in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Virology (NIV).

A dedicated 24x7 call centre with number 1075 has been established for addressing the queries related to the pandemic, vaccine rollout. An online digital platform CoWIN app has also been developed by the government to ensure smooth implementation of vaccination programmes.

As a goodwill gesture, India supplied the COVID-19 vaccine to several countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

### NETAJI'S B'DAY TO BE "PARAKRAM DIWAS"

Government has decided to celebrate the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as 'ParakramDiwas' on 23<sup>rd</sup> of January every year. A High-Level Committee, headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been constituted to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji. Further, one of the oldest (since Jan 1, 1866) trains of Indian Railways, the Howrah-Kalka Mail (running between Kalak in Haryana to Howrah in West Bengal) has been renamed as the 'Netaji Express'.



### 51st IFFI OPENS UP IN GOA



The 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th January in Goa, with the Indian premiere of 'Another Round', a movie by Thomas Vinterberg from Denmark.

*The Jury for the festival is headed by Pablo Cesar of Argentina as Chairman. The eight-day festival concluded on 24th January. Bangladesh was the country of focus at this festival. Veteran actor, director and singer Biswajit Chatterjee was conferred the 'Indian Personality of the Year' award.*

### INDIANS FORM WORLD'S LARGEST DIASPORA

As per the International Migration Report 2020 released by the UN's Population Division, India has the world's largest diaspora with about 18 million people born there now living abroad. On the other hand, the US emerged as the top host country for migrants with 51 million of them or 18 percent of the world's total living there.

*The report says that Indian diaspora is one of the most vibrant dynamic worlds, present in all continents, in all regions. The Indian diaspora is diverse, composed predominantly of persons who are workers but also students, and people who have moved for family reasons.*

### 16th PBD CONVENTION HELD VIRTUALLY

The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was held on Jan 9 in virtual format in the backdrop of Covid pandemic. The theme of the Convention this year was "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat". The Chief Guest for the celebrations was Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname.



### 40th SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from Goa on Jan 4 with 43 members onboard. The chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin will make this journey and will reach Antarctica in 30 days. On return, it will also bring back the winter team of the preceding trip.

### INDIA TO OPEN THREE NEW MISSION OFFICES

The Union Cabinet approved the opening of Indian Missions in three nations including Estonia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic in 2021. Estonia is a small country in Northern Europe, surrounded by Baltic Sea in the west and Gulf of Finland in the north. Paraguay is a landlocked country in central South America. Dominican Republic is a tiny island nation in Caribbean Sea, north of Venezuela.

### INDIA RANKED 4th IN MILITARY POWER



The USA retained the top spot with Russia a close second in the 2021 Military Strength Ranking by independent defense analytics website Global Firepower. In an annually updated list of 138 nations' military strength based on disclosed statistics across over 50 individual factors, Global Firepower ranked India at 4<sup>TH</sup> rank, China at 3rd & Pakistan at 10<sup>TH</sup> rank.

### INDIA SUFFERED MAX LOSSES IN CALAMITIES

As per an international report released by the London based humanitarian agency Christian Aid, floods and Cyclone Amphan in India accounted for maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020.

*The cyclone, which ravaged Sunderbans in the southern fringe of West Bengal and hinterland including Kolkata in May 2020, led to "the biggest displacement" in the world in 2020 caused by a natural calamity.*

*Amphan displaced 4.9 million people, accounting for the biggest displacement due to an extreme weather event anywhere in the world in 2020. It was also the costliest cyclone of the year, causing economic loss of more than \$13 billion.*

*The monsoon season brought extreme rainfall to India, causing widespread floods and landslides that displaced over four million people. Between June and October, there were at least 2,067 deaths and damages amounting to \$10 billion.*

## INDIA-EU IPR DIALOGUE HELD VIRTUALLY



The first India-EU IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) dialogue between the European Union Commission and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – DPIIT was held on Jan 14 in virtual mode.

## NATIONAL METROLOGY CONCLAVE 2021

The National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi. The theme of the conclave was “Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation”.

- ❖ *The Golden Peacock for the best film was won by the film from Denmark “Into the Darkness” directed by Anders Refn. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakh, to be shared equally between Refn and producer Lene Borlum.*

## DECEMBER

## MODI HONOURED WITH “THE LEGION OF MERIT”

The President of the United States of America conferred the country’s highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Dec 21. The award is in recognition of the Prime Minister’s steadfast leadership and vision for India’s emergence as a global power and exemplary contribution made by him for the advancement of the India-United States strategic partnership and promoting global peace and prosperity.

*The Legion of Merit, in the highest degree of the Chief Commander, is a prestigious award conferred by the President of the United States, typically upon Heads of State or Heads of Government of other countries in honour of their outstanding services.*

## PM ADDRESSES VIRTUAL GLOBAL CLIMATE SUMMIT



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Virtual Global Climate Summit on the fifth anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement on Dec 12. The summit named Climate

Ambition Summit 2020 is being co-hosted by the UK, UN, and France in partnership with China and Italy in virtual mode. The Paris Climate Agreement is legally binding. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. It came into force on 4 November 2016. It is an initiative of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## VICE PRESIDENT CHAIRS SCO MEETING

India hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format on Nov 30. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu chaired the meeting. India has hosted this meeting for the first time. By chairing the meeting, India hopes to further strengthen trade, economic and cultural cooperation within SCO. Prime Ministers from the SCO Member States of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the SCO meeting. Pakistan was represented by its Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

*SCO was formed in 2001 with headquarters in Beijing. It is a group of 8 countries. Its key person is Secretary General, Vladimir Norov.*

## BRITISH PM TO ATTEND R. DAY PARADE

The United Kingdom has confirmed that Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021. Johnson will be the second UK Prime Minister to attend the Republic Day celebrations after John Major in 1993.



## VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH UZBEKISTAN

A joint virtual summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Dec 11. The summit aimed to take India-Uzbekistan strategic partnership to a new and higher level. India extended a \$448 million Line of Credit for four developmental projects in Uzbekistan. The two countries signed nine Agreements and MoUs in various areas including in the field of Solar Energy, Digital Technologies and others.

## TRILATERAL GROUP MEET ON CHABAHAR

The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held on Dec 14 in virtual mode. Uzbekistan will use the Chabahar port as a transit port.

*The port is being developed jointly by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost trade ties among the three countries in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to India.*

*Located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the Iran’s southern coast, the port can be easily accessed from India’s western coast, bypassing Pakistan. It is considered to be a major transit point to connect with several Central Asian countries, bypassing Pakistan.*



## TWO UNIVERSITIES CELEBRATE CENTENARY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and of Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan (West Bengal) through video conferencing in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of December.

## ALL POLICE STATIONS TO HAVE CCTV SYSTEM

With a view to restrain police excesses, the Supreme Court on Dec 2 ordered the Centre, states and union territories to install CCTVs with night vision cameras in each and every police station, including central probe agencies such as CBI, ED, NIA etc across India.

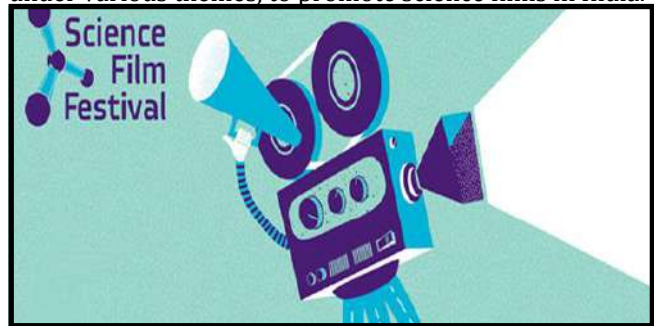
The CCTV systems “must be equipped with night vision and must necessarily consist of audio as well as video footage”. The SHO of the police station concerned shall be responsible for the working, maintenance and recording of CCTVs. The Court observed that CCTV camera footage should be stored in digital form for at least 18 months.

## RUSSIA TO MANUFACTURE VACCINE IN INDIA

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has tied up with Hyderabad-based drug maker Hetero Drugs for producing “over” 100 million doses of Sputnik V Corona vaccine. According to the latest interim analysis of data collected from participants undergoing Sputnik V trials in Russia, the vaccine seems to have demonstrated an efficacy of 91.4 per cent. The agreement makes it easier for India to get access to the Russian Covid-19 vaccine.

## 10<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL HELD

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November in a virtual mode. The festival was jointly organized by Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and the Tripura State Council of Science and Technology. The festival offered a unique platform to showcase the science films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers under various themes, to promote science films in India.



## JALLIKATTU NOMINATED FOR OSCARS

Malayalam film Jallikattu has been selected as India’s official entry for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards – Oscars in the foreign-language film category. The film directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, was unanimously chosen among 27 entries across Hindi, Marathi and other languages.

## UNDP TO PUSH INVESTMENT IN INDIA

The United Nations Development Programme, UNDP and Invest India launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map for India. It laid out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas in six critical SDG enabling sectors that will boost Sustainable Development in India.

*The UNDP is a wing of the UN Economic and Social Council, based in New York, USA. It works in 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty and help people build a better life for themselves.*

*The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> RE-INVEST 2020 HELD IN VIRTUAL MODE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) was held from Nov 26 to 28 in virtual mode. Several world leaders, Energy Ministers of 75 countries and 200 eminent speakers took part in the event organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

*The theme for the summit was ‘Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition’. The summit aimed to accelerate the worldwide effort to scale up development and deployment of renewable energy and connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders.*

## ‘IPL’: THE MOST SEARCHED WORD ON GOOGLE

Indian Premier League – IPL has beaten Coronavirus to second place to become India’s most searched word on Google in 2020, according to Google India’s ‘Year in Search’ results. Among personalities searched, Joe Biden was at top, followed by Arnab Goswami. Interestingly enough, in “How to” searches, “how to make Paneer” was at top.

### WORLD BANK APPROVES 4 INDIAN PROJECTS



The World Bank approved four Indian projects worth \$ 818 million. The projects which were accepted are:

- \$ 400 million for Second Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme
- \$ 100 million for Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG)
- \$ 68 million for Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project in Nagaland
- \$ 250 million for Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2) for improvements and strengthening of 120 dams in India.

### \$500 MILLION LOAN FOR NH CORRIDORS

The Centre and the World Bank signed a \$ 500 million deal for the Green National Highway Corridors Project to develop safe and green highways in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

### NDB APPROVES \$1BILLION LOAN FOR INDIA

The New Development Bank, Shanghai approved a loan for one billion dollar to provide support to Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme. The programme proposes creation of durable rural infrastructure assets and generation of employment opportunities for rural poor, especially migrant workers who have returned from urban areas and have lost their livelihoods due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will facilitate economic activity and stimulate rural demand which will counter the decline in economic activity due to the outbreak of pandemic.



### \$ 2.5 MILLION FUNDING BY ADB FOR BIOFUELS

The ADB approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India. The funding will support the development of advanced bio-ethanol, bio-compressed natural gas and biodiesel plants to demonstrate appropriate feedstock, efficient conversion technology and best practices for a sustainable biofuels value chain.

### INDIA FARES VERY WELL IN CLIMATE CONTROL

India has been ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) -2020. The index was released by the German environment watchdog Germanwatch. The top three ranks were not allotted to any country as no country could secure the required scores.

*Sweden topped the index at fourth spot, followed by UK and Denmark at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> spot. The Index is prepared after assessing the performances of 57 countries and the European Union (as a whole) in four categories. These countries collectively account for about 90 percent of the global GHG emissions.*

### INDIA JUMPS TO 63<sup>rd</sup> RANK IN EoDB



The World Bank recently came out with its revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report after suspending it in August 2020 due to what is referred to be several irregularities. It is pertinent to note that India has grown leaps and bounds in terms of its ranking on the Ease of Doing Business indices ever since the present government came to power in 2014.

*From languishing at 142 in 2014, India jumped 79 positions to 63 in the Ease of Doing Business rankings in 2020. As per the report, New Zealand tops the rankings, followed by Singapore at second and Hong Kong and China a joint third. At the bottom of ranking is Somalia at 190<sup>th</sup> spot.*

### INDIA 9<sup>th</sup> IN RECEIVING SPAM CALLS

Indian mobile users saw a 34 percent decline in spam calls received in 2020, helping the country move lower to the ninth position (from 5<sup>th</sup> last year) in the tally of most spammed countries, according to a report by Truecaller. Within India, Gujarat received the most spam calls in 2020. Truecaller, a Swedish company has over 250 million users globally, of which over 180 million are in India. Brazil receives the highest number of spam calls, followed by the USA and Hungary.



## INDIA FARES POORLY IN 'HUMAN FREEDOM'



The Human Freedom Index 2020, a worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, placed India at the 111<sup>th</sup> spot out of 162 countries. It slipped 17 spots from its ranking in 2019. The first three spots have been bagged by New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong, respectively. War-torn Syria ranked last on the list. The index was published by American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada. It takes into account 76 indicators of personal, civil, and economic freedoms to rank 162 countries.

## INDIA CONTINUES TO BE LOW ON HDI

India slipped by one spot to rank 131 among 189 countries covered in the 2020 Human Development Index, a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). India's HDI value for 2019 is 0.645 which puts it in the medium human development category. HDI is the measure of a nation's health, education, and standards of living. Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland, Switzerland and Hong Kong. At the bottom of the index were Niger-189 and Central African Republic-188.

## INDIA WORST IN CONTEXT OF BRIBERY

Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer – Asia" has found that India has the highest bribery rate at 39%.

As per the report, the top three countries having the highest rate of citizens using personal connections to access public services are India (46%), Indonesia (36%) and China (32%). Nearly 50% of total people giving or taking bribes said that it was demanded and 32% of people using personal links said that they would not get services without a bribe.

- ❖ *Keith Gomes' 15 minute short film 'Shameless' has been selected as India's official entry at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards (Oscars) in the 'Live Action Short Film' category.*



# NEWS FROM STATES

JANUARY

## KARNATAKA TOPS IN INNOVATION

NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020. The index demonstrates the government's continued commitment towards transforming the country into an innovation-driven economy. In the 2020 ranking, Karnataka retained its first position in the Major States category. In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal Pradesh stood first while Delhi secured the first position in the Union Territories and small States category.

## WMO RECOGNITION FOR PATNA MET. CENTRE

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" - COS to the Patna Meteorological Centre in recognition of its long-term meteorological observation exceeding over 100 years.

COS maintains the world's longest records of weather observation which help in understanding of the climate systems and global warming. The observatory was set up in 1867 by the then British Corps of Engineers.

## WORLD'S LARGEST SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

World's largest solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam on Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh. The project will



begin the power generation by the year 2022-2023. Electricity will be produced by installing floating solar panels in about 2000 hectare water area of the reservoir.

## INDIA'S FIRST LABOUR MOVEMENT MUSEUM

India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in Alappuzha in Kerala. It will showcase the fascinating history of the world labor movement that also left a deep imprint on the grim struggle of the workers here for their rights.

*The trend-setting museum will have a huge repository of documents and exhibits that shaped the labor movements across the continents and impacted Alappuzha, the cradle of the labor movement in the country, particularly in Kerala. Alappuzha is world famous for its wide variety of coir (processed coconut husk) products.*



### INDIA'S FIRST POLLINATOR PARK



Country's first Pollinator Park was thrown open to the public in Haldwani in Uttarakhand. Spread over 4 acres, the park has more than 40 pollinator species with displays on the mechanism of pollination of plant species by various species of butterflies, honey bees, birds, insects, moths, beetles, wasps, and small mammals.

*Pollination is the act of transferring pollen grains from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of another flower to facilitate formation of seeds to ensure generation of offspring. About 75% to 95% of all flowering plants on the earth need pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species.*

### INDIA'S HIGHEST METEOROLOGICAL CENTRE

The India Meteorological Department opened its second Meteorological Centre-MC in the himalayan region at Leh in Ladakh. The first one is at Itanagar in Arunachal. Located at 3,500 metres above sea level, it is the highest MC in India.

Even though there are only two districts, Kargil and Leh, the Union Territory has varying micro-climatic zones ranging from plains, cold desert, hills and extreme dry places, marking the need for a separate MC.

### INDIA'S FIRST HOT AIR BALLOON SAFARI

India's first hot air balloon safari in a tiger reserve was launched on December 25 in Madhya Pradesh's world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. The safari will give the tourists an aerial view of all the animals hosted by the tiger reserve. Madhya Pradesh was declared a Tiger State in 2019.



### VISAKHAPATNAM IS BEST MUNICIPALITY

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India. It has been chosen under the annual awards for excellence by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The award recognizes the outstanding contribution of PMAY-Urban in 2019.

### RATLE HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT IN J&K

The Union Cabinet approved the investment of 5200 crore rupees for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir. The project will be executed by a new joint venture company of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and J&K State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC) with equity contributions of 51 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively.

### AFSPA EXTENDED IN NAGALAND

The entire state of Nagaland was declared a disturbed area for another six more months from Dec 30 under the Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. The Home Ministry in a notification said, the central government is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary.



### \$ 231 MN LOAN BY ADB FOR ASSAM

The Asian Development Bank cleared a \$ 231 million loan to augment electricity generation capacity in the State of Assam through construction of a 120 Mega Watts hydroelectric power plant that will enhance availability of electricity for households.

### \$ 105 MN WB LOAN FOR WEST BENGAL

The World Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in West Bengal. The project will make passenger and freight movement across the Hooghly River easier and improve accessibility in Kolkata Metropolitan Area.

### CHERRY BLOSSOM MAO FESTIVAL

In Manipur, the Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held on Jan 9 in Mao town of Senapati district marking the beginning of pink season in the district. The district is famous for pink coloured flowers of Cherry.



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## KOCHI-MANGALURU GAS PIPELINE



A 450-km natural gas pipeline between Kochi in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka was inaugurated on Jan 5. The pipeline has been built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. - GAIL.

- ❖ The New Development Bank, Shanghai signed loan agreements worth \$646 million with the Government of India for two road projects in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$100 million loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in Bengaluru city.

## DECEMBER

### L'DWEEP GOES FOR 100% ORGANIC FARMING

Lakshadweep has become the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all the farming in the region is carried out without the use of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. The only major crop on the islands is coconut and in terms of production, there are eight lakh coconut trees in the entire region that produce 11 crore coconut in a year. Among states, Sikkim has already achieved this milestone.

### INDIA'S BEST POLICE STATION IS IN MANIPUR

NongpokSekmai police station in Manipur's Thoubal district has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. AWPS-Suramangalam police station in Tamil Nadu's Salem district and Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district have been adjudged as the second and third best performing police stations.

*The ranking process commenced with shortlisting of the best performing Police Stations, in each state on the basis of addressing, property offence, crime against women, crime against weaker sections and missing persons. The union government selects best performing Police Stations across the country every year to incentivize more effective functioning of police stations and bring healthy competition among them.*

## WORLD'S LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in Gujarat's Kutch. Spread over 72,600 hectares of waste land, the 30,000-megawatt capacity hybrid renewable energy park will be built along the Indo-Pak border at Khavda. It will produce power using the energy of the Sun and the wind. The mega project will not only help in better utilisation of a vast patch of desert, but also in securing the land border.

## UP TO START BLOCKCHAIN SOLAR TRADING

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) launched blockchain-enabled solar power trading, first in India and South Asia, in a project led by India Smart Grid Forum with Australian technology company Power Ledger. The Peer to Peer (P2P) trading platform has been launched with 12 participants comprising nine customers with rooftop solar (prosumers) and three customers without rooftop solar (net buyers).

## GWALIOR & ORCHHA GET HERITAGE STATUS



Gwalior and Orchha of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO. Orchha located in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh is famous all over the world for its temples and palaces. Orchha was the 16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty.

*Gwalior city has been the capital of Gurjar Pratihar, Tomar, Baghel Kachhwahs and Scindia Rajvansh. The ancient signs left by them are seen in the form of monuments, forts, palaces.*

## RAMCHARITMANAS CRUISE ON RIVER SARYU

Union ministry for ports and shipping and waterways announced a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana on the Saryu River in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. It aims to give a mesmerising experience to devotees with one-of-its-kind spiritual journeys while cruising through the famous ghats of the holy river Saryu. The tour will cover a distance of approximately 15-16 km. The fully air-conditioned 80 seats cruise boat's interior will depict various scenes from the great epic Ramayana.

## SONG DAM TO BE BUILT NEAR DEHRADUN



The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The scheme will provide 24-hour drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to River Rispana, a tributary of River Song. The dam will be about 148 meters high and will generate power up to six megawatts.

## LOAN FOR ASSAM HYDROPOWER PROJECT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project on River Kopili in district Dima Hasao in Assam. This project will produce clean energy and help address the growing demand for electricity in the state of Assam.

## PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE WINS TX2 AWARD

The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2 for more than doubling the number of tigers in the past four years, from 25 to 65. Pilibhit Reserve is the first to receive the award among 13 tiger range countries.

*TX2 is a prestigious global award which was set up in 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia by a number of international organizations working for tiger conservation.*



## ADB TO FUND SEVERAL PROJECTS IN INDIA

- \$430 million to Uttar Pradesh to strengthen 65,000 km of rural low-voltage distribution lines, benefitting 46,000 villages.
- \$133 million has been given to strengthen the power distribution sector in Meghalaya. The funds from ADB will be used for supporting the state's '24x7 Power for All' initiative.
- \$300 million to upgrade rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh.
- \$190 million for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in city of Bengaluru.
- \$2.86 million to the Tripura for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state.
- \$4.21 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in Tripura.



- ❖ *The Assam govt has proposed setting up of a 6th national park named Raimona National Park in an area of 422 sq km. in Ripu reserve forest.*
- ❖ *The largest Solar Project at a high altitude in the entire Leh -Ladakh UT has been established at the Air Force Station Leh with 15 megawatt capacity.*
- ❖ *The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode at the Naga Heritage village, Kisama in Nagaland from Dec 1 to 5.*
- ❖ *A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 and a postal stamp was released to mark the centennial foundation day of the University of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.*

## GOVT. INITIATIVES

JANUARY

### Rs. 1,000 CRORE TO BOOST STARTUPS

To spur entrepreneurship across the Nation, the government announced Startup India Seed Fund Scheme to provide financial assistance to startups for prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization. The scheme will have a fund base of Rs. 1,000 crore.

India is home to the world's third largest startup ecosystem which has helped several budding entrepreneurs to come up with innovative technologies and become big corporations. With just 4 unicorn startups in 2014, today there are more than 30 of them. A unicorn startup is one with a valuation of one billion dollar and above.



## **'TOYCATHON' FOR SELF RELIANCE IN TOYS**



Government launched an inter-ministerial venture 'Toycathon' to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system which will inculcate positive behaviour and good value among the children. The Toycathon will majorly focus on conceptualizing new and innovative toys using local material which are economical, affordable, safe and environment friendly.

*India imports 80 per cent of toys and the government is working towards promoting the indigenous toy industry for making the country self-reliant in this sector.*

## **SIX LIGHT HOUSE PROJECTS LAUNCHED**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of six Light House Projects under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) at six sites across six states. This programme seeks to build over 1,000 houses each in these cities in the next 12 months. The LHPs are being constructed at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

*Each Light House Project will showcase the best of new-age alternative global technologies, materials and processes in the construction sector for the first time in the country at such a large scale.*

## **INDIA'S FIRST DRIVERLESS TRAIN IN DELHI**



coaches.

Each coach can accommodate a maximum of 380 passengers, which translates to 2,280 passengers on each train. They are designed for a maximum speed of 95 kmph and operational speed of 85 kmph. With this, the Delhi Metro joined elite league of 7% of the world's Metro networks, which can operate without drivers.

India's first ever driverless train operations were flagged off on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line which connects Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden metro stations, covering 37 km stretch. The 'driverless' trains will have six

## **DIGIBOXX: INDIA'S OWN STORAGE CLOUD**

NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called 'DigiBoxx'. The fully 'Made in India' platform provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location.

*This cloud storage and file sharing service will be available for desktop, iOS, and Android users, including both regular users as well as businesses. DigiBoxx offers free 20GB cloud storage space, and 100GB space per month at just Rs 30.*

## **SAKSHAM CAMPAIGN FOR CLEANER FUELS**

With a view to create awareness among the consumers of fossil fuels, Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched a month-long campaign SAKSHAM on Jan 16 for highlighting the adverse health and environmental impacts of increasing carbon footprints. The campaign aims to convince consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and bring in behavioral change to use fossil fuel intelligently. The name Saksham is a short form for "Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav".

## **NATIONAL INNOVATION PORTAL**

The National Innovation Foundation, India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, opened the National Innovation Portal (NIP) to the general public.

The portal is currently home to about 1.15 lakh innovations scouted from common people of the country, covering Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary and Human Health.

*In terms of domain areas, presently the innovations cover Energy, mechanical, automobile, electrical, electronics, household, chemical, civil, textiles, Farm/cultivation practice, storage practice, plant variety, plant protection, poultry, livestock management, nutraceuticals etc.*

## **NDRF OPEN ITS DOORS TO WOMEN RESCUERS**

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers, thereby opening another frontier to women. The women personnel joined in the ranks of Sub-Inspector and Inspector.

*These women personnel have all required skills to play the role of rescuers. Each NDRF battalion of over 1,000 personnel will soon have over 100 women rescuers. The NDRF has 12 operational battalions stationed at various locations in the country.*

## **GLOBAL PRAVASI RISHTA PORTAL/APP**

Government launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and mobile App, to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world. The portal will act as a dynamic communication platform between NRIs, Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad and will help in engaging Indian diaspora more intensively.

## KVIC LAUNCHES E-COMMERCE PORTAL



The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com. Over 50,000 products, ranging from apparel to home decor, will be available on its newly launched platform.

*The portal is the first-of-its-kind government online shopping platform to boost the rural economy. It intends to make natural Khadi India products easily accessible to the new-generation consumers. It will fulfil the customer needs and supply the products at their doorsteps.*

## DECEMBER

### E-PORTAL FOR ALL GOVT PROPERTIES

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched a new web portal and mobile app named E-Sampada to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government.

It will be a single window for all the services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations in 45 office complexes in 28 cities and booking of 1,176 holiday home rooms. The portal provides online facility to users across India to lodge complaints, submit documents and appear for virtual hearing.



### CABINET NOD FOR A PUBLIC WI-FI NETWORK

The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 9 the setting up of public Wi-Fi networks across the length and breadth of the country. The public network will be set up by the public data office aggregators (PDOAs) to provide Wi-Fi service through the public data offices (PDOs) spread throughout the country. The public Wi-Fi network service will be known as PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) scheme.

*The proliferation of a public Wi-Fi network will not only create employment but also enhance the disposable incomes in the hands of small and medium entrepreneurs, which is likely to boost the gross domestic product (GDP).*

## ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA

The union cabinet approved on Dec 8 the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.

Under the scheme, the Government will provide subsidy for two years in respect of PF of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and upto 30th June, 2021. Government will pay both, 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution i.e. 24% of wages, towards EPF for new employees in establishments employing upto 1000 employees for two years.

## ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

## JANUARY

### NSO PROJECTS 7.7% SHRINKAGE IN GDP

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Jan 7, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by 7.7% in fiscal 2020-21. This is 20 basis points more than the 7.5% contraction projected by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank.

Segment wise, manufacturing is expected to contract 9.4% while in contrast, agriculture is projected to grow at 3.4%. The 7.7% contraction, if it materialises, would mark India's worst economic performance since 1961-62, the earliest period for which GDP data is available on the website of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).



### WB PROJECTS 9.6% SHRINKAGE IN INDIA'S GDP

In its latest January 2021 Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank has projected a 9.6 percent contraction for the Indian economy in FY 2020-2021 as the contraction in India's output reflected a sharp drop in household spending and private investment. However, growth is expected to recover to 5.4 percent in 2021-22, as the economy is expected to recover from the pandemic caused losses.

### FOREIGN TRADE POLICY -- 2021-26

Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that India's new Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect from April 1, 2021 for five years and will strive to make the country a leader in international trade. The policy aims to make India a \$5 trillion economy by boosting exports from both -- services and merchandise exports.



## IFFCO. AMUL AMONG TOP COOPERATIVES



According to the annual World Cooperative Monitor Report, 2020, released by the International Cooperative Alliance, Brussels (Belgium), Indian cooperative giant IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd.) has been ranked number one among 300 leading cooperatives in the world, on the basis of ratio of turnover over the GDP per capita.

The second rank also has been secured by an Indian cooperative - Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, popularly known as AMUL.

In terms of annual turnover, Groupe Cr dit Agricole of France is at number one with annual turnover of \$ 89.10 billion. Here IFFCO is placed at 65<sup>th</sup> rank with turnover of \$ 7.45 billion and AMUL is at 106<sup>th</sup> rank with turnover of \$ 4.85 billion.

## DECEMBER

### GDP SHRINKS BY 7.5% IN 2ND QUARTER

According to government data released by the National Statistics Office - NSO on Nov 27 for the second quarter (July-September) of 2020-21, the Indian economy contracted by 7.5% in the quarter ending Sep 30 against a fall of 23.9% during the stringent lockdown months of the first quarter (April to June).

*With the contraction in two successive quarters, India has entered into a technical recession but the Union Finance Ministry feels the latest data, especially the high frequency indicators, suggest a recovery is underway.*

*On the positive side, steel production and consumption gathered momentum, signaling the revival of construction activity. Power consumption and e-way bills also registered double-digit growth in October, suggesting buoyancy in industrial and commercial activities.*



### S&P RAISES GDP GROWTH RATE TO -7.7%

S&P Global Ratings (previously Standard & Poor's) has raised India's GDP growth projection for the FY 2020-21 to - 7.7 percent from - 9 percent estimated earlier. The lower contraction rate is based on rising demand and falling COVID infection rates.

### FITCH LOWERS GDP GROWTH TO -9.4%

Fitch Ratings in its Global Economic Outlook, raised India's GDP forecast to -9.4 percent on Dec 8 for the year ending March 31, 2021; from a previously projected contraction of 10.5 per cent after the economy staged a sharper rebound in the second quarter. Fitch said the Indian economy staged a sharper rebound in the July-September quarter from the coronavirus-induced recession.

### ASIA'S DEEPEST GAS BLOCK

The Reliance Industries-BP Plc combine started production of natural gas in Asia's deepest gas block: the deepwater R cluster.



*The gas field is located at a water depth of greater than 2000 meters in the Bay of Bengal, near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. The field is expected to reach gas production of about 12.9 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) in next year.*

### 100 OCTANE PREMIUM PETROL LAUNCHED

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol through video conferencing on Dec 1. The high octane premium grade petrol being marketed under the brand name 'XP-100' will be made available in 10 cities across the country including the national capital in the first phase.

*With the rolling out of XP-100 developed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited with indigenous technical know-how, India has joined a select league of nations having such super grade fuel. Octane ratings are measures of fuel stability that increases engine efficiency.*

### SINGAPORE TOPS IN FDI IN INDIA

During April-September 2020, India attracted FDI worth \$8.30 billion from Singapore, making it top source of FDI, followed by USA investing \$ 7.12 billion. In this period, India has attracted a total \$30 billion foreign direct investment of which \$17.5 billion was received in August month. This data was released by the DPIIT (Deptt. for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).

# BANKING & FINANCE

JANUARY

## RBI STARTS PIDF FOR DIGITAL PAYMENTS



The Reserve Bank operationalised its Payments Infrastructure Development Fund on Jan 5 to create 30 lakh new touch points every year for promoting digital payments in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres.

The RBI had announced the creation of this Fund in June, 2020 to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres, with special focus on the north-eastern states.

*An Advisory Council under the chairmanship of RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo, has been constituted for managing the PIDF.*

## RBI LAUNCHES DIGITAL PAYMENTS INDEX

In view of ever increasing digital transactions, the Reserve Bank of India has come up with a 'composite Digital Payments Index (DPI)' to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India. The Index comprises five key parameters that would capture deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.

The digital payments ecosystem is currently dominated by large technology players including Paytm, PhonePe, Google Pay, and recently launched WhatsApp Payments. *The RBI-DPI index was set-up with March 2018 as the base period with the score set at 100. Accordingly, the DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 work out to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth.*



## ICICI, SBI AND HDFC RETAIN D-SIB STATUS

Based on data as on March 31, 2020, the Reserve Bank declared the continuation of the D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) status for the three Indian Banks for the year 2020. The three Banks are -- ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank. *D-SIBs are the banks whose operations and stability is important for the entire system. Regarded as the "Banks too big to fail", they are required to maintain some extra capital to ensure their financial strength, as desired by the RBI from time to time.*

## RBI TO REVIEW DIGITAL LENDING

The Reserve Bank has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI to review the functioning of digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps. The Group will be responsible for suggesting specific regulatory measures in the realm of digital lending, among other things.

*The move is the latest in the central bank's attempt to tackle fly-by-night lending apps which have been offering digital loans to underserved customers. Of late, these platforms have come under the regulator's glare for their adoption of coercive means of loan recovery.*

## RBI MAKES USE OF LEI MANDATORY



The Reserve Bank of India has directed that the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI will be mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. 50 crore and above. LEI numbers of the beneficiaries and remitters must be included on all payment transactions of value Rs. 50 crore and above made via the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT).

*The LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties involved in financial transactions world over.*

## EXIM BANK LAUNCHES \$1 BILLION BOND ISSUE

The Exim Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment. The issue was launched in the Eastern markets (Hong Kong and Singapore) on January 4 and within three hours it was oversubscribed two times. India is engaged in infrastructure projects in a large number of countries, mainly in South East and Central Asia and Africa.



## AIRTEL BANK LAUNCHES 'AIRTEL SAFE PAY'



Airtel Payments Bank launched a new innovative feature 'Airtel SafePay' to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds. Now the Airtel Payments Bank customers making UPI or net banking-based payments through Airtel, no longer have to worry about money flowing out of their accounts without their explicit consent.

An India-First innovation, 'Airtel SafePay' leverages Airtel's 'telco exclusive' strength of network intelligence to provide an additional layer of payment validation, compared to the industry norm of two-factor authentication.

## AUTH. CAPITAL OF P&SB IS Rs 10,000 Cr

The government has raised the authorised capital Punjab & Sind Bank to Rs.10,000 crore from Rs. 3,000 crore at present. The government had already approved capital infusion of Rs. 5,500 crore into the bank through preferential allotment of shares.

## ICICI BANK ISSUES CARDS FOR MSME WORKERS

ICICI Bank has tied up with Niyo, a new age fintech, to issue prepaid cards 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card' to the blue collar workers of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). With this, MSMEs can upload the salaries of their workers on the card, which the workers can then utilise as per their need in a seamless manner. The card allows an individual to receive funds up to Rs. 1 lakh into the card account.

## SHIVALIK SMALL FINANCE BANK



The Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank has become the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank. Based in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, the new bank will be named "Shivalik Small Finance Bank".

## DECEMBER

### CONTACTLESS CARD LIMIT RAISED

In order to expand the adoption of digital payments in a safe and secure manner, the RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021. In addition, the transaction limit on e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards and UPI has been proposed to be increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021. This increase in limits will, however, be at the discretion of the user.

### RBI RESTRAINS HDFC BANK

The Reserve Bank has asked HDFC Bank to temporarily stop all launches of the 'Digital Business generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers. The RBI's order dated December 2 comes after several instances of outages (failures) in the bank's online facilities or payment utilities occurred over the past 2 years, including the recent incident of failure in the internet banking and payment system on November 21 due to a power failure in the primary data centre.

### RTGS TO BE AVAILABLE 24X7 ON ALL DAYS



To give fillip to the digital transactions, the RBI extended timings for Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system to round the clock 24X7 on all days of the week with effect from December 14, 2020. Till November 30th, RTGS was available for customers from 7 am- 6 pm on all working days of a week, except second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

*RTGS enables instant transfer of funds of Rs. two lakh and above, with no upper limit. RBI does not take any charges from banks for providing this service, although banks are allowed to take nominal service charges. The money transfer under RTGS can be done through internet banking, mobile banking or by visiting a bank branch.*

### INDUSIND LAUNCHES METAL CREDIT CARD

The IndusInd Bank in partnership with Mastercard, launched India's first metal credit card - 'PIONEER Heritage' - for its ultra-high net worth segment of customers. The all-new credit card has been specially curated to match the requirements of affluent Indian professionals and entrepreneurs.

## POST BANK LAUNCHES APP 'DAK PAY'



The Department of Post (India Post) and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched a new digital payment app 'DakPay' for its customers to operate their banking services online. DakPay will provide digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post and IPPB through the postal network across the country. It will facilitate services such as sending money, scanning QR code and making payment for services and merchants digitally.

## 'INFINITE INDIA' PORTAL BY ICICI BANK

ICICI Bank has launched a new, first of its kind online platform for foreign firms looking to set up or expand their business in India. The platform named 'Infinite India', will offer foreign businesses banking solutions and value-added services. 'Infinite India' will seek to eliminate the need for coordinating with multiple touchpoints thus leading to a hassle-free experience for foreign companies in India.

## ICICI LAUNCHES OPEN MOBILE BANKING APP

ICICI Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which is interoperable and allows payments and other banking services to customers of any other bank.

Now customers of any other bank can also experience the ease, speed and safety of mobile banking through this app. They can link all their bank accounts to this app, generate a UPI ID and start paying, shopping, transferring funds to any bank account/payment apps.

## HDFC BANK CROSSES MARKET CAP OF 8 TRN.

HDFC Bank Ltd crossed Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time on Nov 25, becoming India's third firm and first bank to achieve this milestone. Shares of HDFC Bank touched a fresh record high of Rs.1464 a piece in the early deals on the BSE, led by which its market capitalization jumped to Rs. 8.02 trillion. Earlier, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd and Reliance Industries have achieved this landmark.



# DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY

## DRDO TESTS SMART ANTI-AIRFIELD WEAPON

DRDO successfully conducted a captive and release trial of indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon-- SAAW from Hawk-I aircraft of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) off the Odisha coast. This is 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kilometres.

## 'ASMI'-INDIA'S FIRST 9MM MACHINE PISTOL

The Pune-based facility of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army's Mhow (MP) based Infantry School have jointly developed India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol named 'Asmi'. The pistol is likely to have a production cost lower than Rs 50,000 each and has export potential as well. Machine pistols are primarily self-loading versions of pistols which are either fully automatic or can also fire bursts of bullets.

## AIR FORCE TO GET 83 TEJAS LCA

Government has approved procurement of 83 Tejas Light Combat Aircrafts (LCA) worth about Rs 48,000 crore from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru for Indian Air Force. About 500 Indian companies including MSMEs involved in the design and manufacturing sectors will be working with HAL in this procurement. The LCA-Tejas programme would act as a catalyst for transforming the Indian aerospace manufacturing ecosystem into a vibrant AtmaNirbhar or a self-sustaining ecosystem.

## GOVT APPROVES EXPORT OF AKASH MISSILE

The government has approved the export of the indigenously built Akash missile system. Akash is a surface-to-air missile with a range of 25 kilometres. Developed by DRDO, it is India's first indigenously designed missile system and can target fighter jets, cruise missiles, drones and other aerial assets.

## DRDO LAUNCHES 'RAKSHITA' AMBULANCES

The DRDO inducted twenty-one 'bike ambulances' in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for casualty evacuation tasks in remote Naxal violence and insurgency-affected areas. The customised 'Rakshita' ambulances have been developed on 350cc Royal Enfield Classic bikes by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, New Delhi, a scientific research body under the DRDO. The bikes are equipped with a variety of life saving devices and a full size stretcher.



## DRDO TESTS AIR DROPPED CONTAINER



DRDO along with Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of SAHAYAK-NG, India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft of Indian Navy off the coast of Goa. It will enhance the operational logistics capabilities of the Navy and provide critical engineering stores to ships which are deployed more than 2000 kilometres from the coast.

## JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE KAVACH

A large scale Joint Military exercise involving assets of Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard was conducted in the last week of January under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

The exercise executed multi-domain, high-intensity offensive and defensive manoeuvres in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to explore the synergy of all the four forces.

## NAVAL EXERCISE 'SEA VIGIL-21'

Indian Navy coordinated the second edition of the largest coastal defence exercise Sea Vigil-21 on Jan 12-13. The two-day biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise was undertaken along the entire 7,516-kilometre long coastline, covering all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories.

## EX DESERT KNIGHT-21

Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force conducted a five day (Jan 20 to 24) bilateral Air exercise at Air Force Station, Jodhpur. It is a unique exercise as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides.



**PASSEX:** Indian and Vietnamese Navy concluded the two-day naval passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in the South China Sea as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries.

## ISRO TO ADOPT 100 ATAL TINKERING LABS

Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO will adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs across the country to promote education in the field of Space Education and Space Technology related innovations for school students. ISRO Chairman Dr K. Sivan expressed hope that this will help in promoting innovation and the spirit of experiential learning among the school kids compared to traditional learning.

*An Atal Tinkering Lab provides a makerspace where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode and learn innovation skills. NITI Aayog has established over seven thousand Atal Tinkering Labs across the country under Atal Innovation Mission.*

## INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM COMPUTING LAB

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced the establishment of a first of its kind Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India in partnership with Amazon Web Services. The move will give select researchers, scientists access to Amazon's Braket cloud-based quantum computing service. The Lab will provide researchers access to quantum computing hardware, simulators, and programming tools, on-demand and at no cost, via Amazon Braket.



*Quantum computing is an emerging field, which aims to take computing beyond what existing conventional computers can achieve. Quantum computers rely on the laws of quantum mechanics to compute and solve problems that regular computers are unable to solve.*

## INDIA'S FIRST PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE

The world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses, Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) unveiled India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine on Dec 28. The vaccine would be sold under the name 'Pneumosil' and would be available either as a single dose in a vial and pre-filled syringe or as multi dose in vials at affordable prices.

## 1st ROCKET MOTOR FIRING IN PRIVATE SECTOR

Scripting a slice of history in the private space domain, Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace became the first private company to successfully test-fire the technology demonstration version of their solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor – Kalam-5. The test was conducted at the facility of Solar Industries in Nagpur, India's largest explosives manufacturer. The motor will be used to fire their launch vehicle rocket Vikram-1.

## UAV SEA GUARDIAN JOINS INDIAN NAVY



In a first, India has inducted two American drones — MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series — into the Navy, taken on lease from American firm, General Atomics, for a period of one year. They were put into flying operations on 21 November at Indian Navy base at INS Rajali at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu.

## A NEW POST OF 'DEPUTY' CHIEF IN ARMY

The government has given its nod to create a new position of a Deputy Chief of Army Staff - Strategy, who will act as a "single-point advice" person to the Vice Chief of Army on operational issues. The new Deputy Chief (Strategy) will head operations, intelligence, perspective and information warfare. Current DGMO Lt Gen Paramjit Singh is likely to be appointed the first Deputy Chief (Strategy).

## HYPERSONIC WIND TUNNEL FACILITY

The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO in Hyderabad. The state-of-the-art facility is a pressure vacuum driven enclosed free jet facility with nozzle exit of one-meter diameter which will simulate speeds of Mach 5 to 12.

*The facility has the capability to "simulate hypersonic flow over a wide spectrum and will play a major role in the realization of highly complex futuristic aerospace and defence systems. It makes India the third country after Russia and the United States to have such a facility.*



**ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet**, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) were commissioned at Goa. The OPVs are 105 metres in length and are equipped with the latest armour and guns. Both the OPVs have been built by public sector undertaking, Goa Shipyard Ltd.

**'INS Himgiri**, a Nilgiri-class frigate under 'Project 17A' was launched at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) facility at Kolkata. The ship will be armed and ready with the state-of-the-art Barak 8 and BrahMos surface-to-air and supersonic cruise missiles.

**The Indian Navy** has placed an order with the Israeli firm Smart Shooter for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems, which will be installed mainly on AK-47 and AK 203 rifles. SMASH is a kind of electro-optic sight system that boosts the sighting and shooting of targets.

**The Indian Air Force** carried out successful firing of the indigenously developed Akash missile system along with Russian short-range Igla missiles as part of a drill at air force station Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh.

**IND-INDO CORPAT:** The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in Indian Ocean from 17 to 18 December.

## Passage Exercise (PASSEX):

The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region from 4 to 5 December. The exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies.



## COMMUNICATION SATELLITE CMS-01

The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO, successfully launched the country's new communication satellite CMS-01 in the intended orbit in space. The satellite was launched onboard PSLV-C50 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

*The satellite will render its telecommunication service in the Extended C-Band. It will take over the mantle from the ageing telecommunication satellite GSAT-12 that has outlived its planned operational period.*

## ISRO's NETRA FOR SATELLITE TRACKING

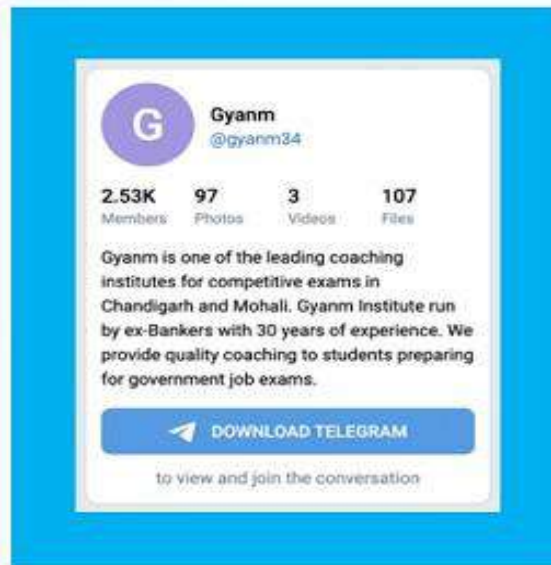
The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre named "NETRA", at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru. The "NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis (NETRA)" will monitor, track and protect India's space assets. It will function as a hub of all SSA activities within India.





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### RUSSIA LAUNCHES SPACE ROCKET ANGARA A5



Russian space agency Roscosmos successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14 from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia. It is capable of carrying payloads heavier than 20 tonnes into orbit. Angara A5 is designed to replace the Proton M heavy lift rocket, which was launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

### DoS ALLOWS ACCESS TO PRIVATE SECTOR

The Department of Space, for the first time, signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with Chennai-based small rocket company Agnikul Cosmos to allow them access to the facilities and technical expertise available in Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) centres to proceed with their launch vehicle development programme.

### EAST COAST RLY FIRST TO USE EoTT SYSTEM

The East Coast Railway has become the first railway zone in the country to commission the “End of Train Telemetry System” to run trains without guards. It is the cutting edge technology for operation of trains without a brake van and guards. The system mainly consists of Head of Train (HOT) fitted in locomotive and End of Train (EOT) fitted on the last bogie of the train.

### CHINA BRINGS BACK SAMPLES FROM MOON



China's Chang'e-5 probe successfully touched down on Earth on Dec 17, bringing home the first samples of the moon in over 40 years. It marks a successful conclusion of China's current three - step lunar exploration programme of orbiting and landing, and bringing back samples.

*The milestone mission has accomplished several firsts for China, including the first moon sampling, the first liftoff from an extraterrestrial body, the first rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit, and the first spacecraft carrying samples to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere at high speed. The Chang'e-5 lunar probe was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft launch site on November 24 this year.*

### CHINA UNFURLS ITS NATIONAL FLAG ON MOON

China's 'Chang'e 5 lunar probe achieved an historic feat on Dec 3 by planting China's national flag on the Moon's surface. China has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface. Earlier only the USA had its flag planted on the Moon during the Apollo mission in 1969.

### HAYABUSA SENDS BACK A CAPSULE TO EARTH

Japanese spaceship Hayabusa-2 successfully released the small capsule on Dec 5 and sent it towards Earth to deliver samples collected by it from a distant asteroid. Officials from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency - JAXA successfully retrieved the capsule from a remote, sparsely populated area of Woomera, Australia.

The content of the capsule could provide clues to the origin of the solar system and life on our planet. Hayabusa-2 had collected these samples in Nov 2019 from the asteroid Ryugu, which is about 300 million km away from earth.



### WORLD'S SUPER FAST QUANTUM COMPUTER

Chinese scientists have built the world's first light-based quantum computer which is one trillion times faster than the most powerful supercomputer, with potential for some real-life applications. The researchers claimed that using a process called “Gaussian boson sampling”, their prototype quantum computer named ‘Jiuzhang’ took a little over three minutes to complete a task that the world's fastest conventional machine would not be able to complete in 600 million years.

### WORLD'S SMALLEST MEMORY DEVICE

Researchers at University of Texas, USA, have created the world's smallest memory device yet. The scientists have reduced the size of the thinnest memory storage device by shrinking the cross-section area down to just one single square nanometre. This development may lead to the creation of faster, smaller and more energy-efficient electronic chips for consumer electronics and brain-inspired computing.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JANUARY

## BIDEN SWORN IN AS 46<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT OF USA



Joe Biden took oath on Jan 20 as the 46th President of the United States of America at a scaled-back ceremony in the US Capitol building in Washington DC. The ceremony was largely stripped of its usual pomp due to the Coronavirus and security concerns. 78 year old Biden has become the oldest US President in history.

His deputy Kamala Harris was also sworn in as 49th Vice-President of the country. The daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, Kamala made history as America's first woman and first person with south Asian roots to take the office of the Vice President.

Mr Trump along with Melania Trump left White House for Florida ahead of the oath taking ceremony, handing over the charge to the Biden administration.

*On the very first day of his assuming office, President Biden signed several executive orders to undo his predecessor Donald Trump's key policies over the last four years.*

*It included halting the construction of a wall on the Mexico border and construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline with Canada, returning back to WHO and re-joining the Paris Climate Accord. Another order lifted the Muslim travel ban, which blocked travelers from several predominantly Muslim and African countries to USA.*

## PRESIDENT TRUMP IMPEACHED SECOND TIME

On January 13, Donald Trump became the first president in US history to be impeached twice, as 10 of his fellow Republicans joined Democrats in the House of Representatives to charge him with inciting violent rampage in the Capitol Complex on Jan 9.

The House passed a single article of impeachment, accusing Trump of "incitement of insurrection". However, the Senate will not hold a trial before the 20th of January when Democrat Joe Biden assumes the presidency, meaning Mr Trump is likely to escape the risk of being forced to leave early.

## WORLD ECONOMY LIKELY TO GROW BY 4%

As the COVID-19 vaccine started rolling out in many countries, the World Bank expects that the global economy will expand 4% in 2021.

The Global Economic Prospects report by the World Bank mentioned that the global recovery, which has been dampened in the near term by a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, is expected to strengthen over the forecast horizon as confidence, consumption, and trade gradually improve, supported by ongoing vaccination. The global economy suffered a 4.3% contraction in 2020 as the pandemic has caused a heavy toll of deaths and illness, plunging millions into poverty.

## JAPAN'S PASSPORT BEST IN THE WORLD

The Henley's passport index has retained Japan on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world as it offers visa-free access to 191 destinations around the world. It is followed by Singapore (190) and Germany and S Korea (189).

Afghanistan is at the bottom of the Index as it is allowed visa free access only by 26 countries. India is in the middle with rank 85, Indian passport holders can access 58 countries in the world without a prior visa. Henley & Partners is a global citizenship and residence advisory firm based in London.

## 2020 WAS THE WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD

The US space agency NASA has revealed that 2020 was the warmest year on record, just barely exceeding the record set in 2016 by less than a tenth of a degree. Climate change has led to longer fire seasons, as vegetation dries out earlier and persistent high temperatures allow fires to burn longer.

Massive wildfires scorched Australia, Siberia, and the US west coast—and many of the fires were still burning during the busiest Atlantic hurricane season on record. According to NASA, carbon dioxide levels have increased by nearly 50 per cent since the 'Industrial Revolution' 250 years ago.

## FRANCE HOSTED 4<sup>th</sup> 'ONE PLANET SUMMIT'

The Government of France organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video conferencing on January 11. The summit aimed at protecting the world's biodiversity. The Summit was organised in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank. The theme of the Summit was "Let's act together for nature!"



## TRUMP SUPPORTERS STORM US CAPITOL



In the gravest assault on the symbol of American democracy in more than 200 years, hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan 6 in a stunning bid to overturn his election defeat. Rioters forced their way past metal security barricades, broke windows and scaled walls to fight their way into the Capitol (parliament building). The rioters roamed the hallways and scuffled with police officers. Four people died in rioting, one from gunshot wounds and three from medical emergencies.

## WORLD'S OLDEST KNOWN CAVE ART

Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art—a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia. The cave painting uncovered in South Sulawesi consists of a figurative depiction of a warty pig, a wild boar that is endemic to this Indonesian island. The team sampled the artwork for Uranium-series dating, a technique used to determine the age of calcium carbonate materials.

## DECEMBER

### BRITAIN FIRST TO APPROVE CORONA VACCINE

In a historic move, Britain has become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine. The vaccine has been developed by the American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.

It will be made available across the UK from the second week of December. Priority for vaccination will be given to healthcare workers and care home residents. The UK has ordered up to 40 million doses of the vaccine that will be given in two shots to every person.

*In a similar move, Russia also has directed its health authorities to start mass vaccination of Sputnik-V vaccine from the second week of December.*



## S'PORE's 'HAWKER CULTURE' IN UNESCO LIST

Singapore's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance. It has been added to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

*Singapore's hawker centres were set up to house former street vendors, or "hawkers" in an effort to clean up the island in the 1970s and serve a variety of cheap, no-frills dishes to locals as well as providing a social setting.*

## MOROCCO TO NORMALISE TIES WITH ISRAEL

Morocco has become the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help. As part of the deal, the US has agreed to recognise Morocco's claim over the disputed Western Sahara region. The other three countries are the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.

## UNESCO PRIZE IN THE NAME OF MUJIB



UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Starting November 2021, the \$ 50 thousand award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth. The award will recognise exceptional initiatives taken by cultural workers and organizations in the development of the creative economy.

**Sheikh Mujib** is known as the "Father of Nation" in Bangladesh for leading the freedom struggle of Bangladesh in 1971 against Pakistan. He was the first President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

**UNESCO** was founded in 1945 as a special agency of UNO. Its HQ is in Paris. It is headed by its Director General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay.

## WHO SIGNS MoU WITH RED CROSS

The World Health Organization and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), popularly known as 'Red Cross' launched a new collaboration to strengthen the delivery of emergency medical and health services during humanitarian crises. The MoU, also known as the Red Channel Agreement, will bring more synergies to health emergency response between the two international organizations, particularly in technical standards, accountability, and coordination.



## MT EVEREST IS TALLER BY 86 CM



Nepal and China jointly announced on Dec 8 that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest was 8,848.86 meter (29,031.7 feet), about 86 centimetres more than the previous measurement done by India in 1954. According to the measurement done in 1954 by Survey of India, the height of Mount Everest was 8,848 metres. The new measurement was done by using satellite data by a team of experts which actually stayed on the peak for about two hours.

*In Tibetan language, Mount Everest is known as Mount Qomolangma while Nepal calls it Sagarmatha. Scientists say Everest is getting taller. As the Indian plate slips under the Eurasian plate, it lifts up the Himalayas. But earthquakes can reduce peaks' heights.*

## FORBES RANKS ANGELA MERKEL AT THE TOP

In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is at number one, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. She is followed by European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde at second spot for the second straight year. Kamala Harris, the newly elected Vice President of the USA secured third spot.

From India, Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister is ranked 41<sup>st</sup> on the list, Nadar Malhotra, CEO of HCL comes in at the 55<sup>th</sup> spot, Mazumdar-Shaw, CEO Biocon, described as "India's richest self-made woman"—is ranked 68<sup>th</sup> and chairwoman of Landmark Group Renuka Jagtiani is ranked 98<sup>th</sup>. The women on the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Forbes Power List hail from 30 countries

## LAHORE IS MOST POLLUTED CITY IN WORLD

According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, Pakistani city Lahore was once again found to be the most polluted city in the world, reporting a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423. New Delhi came in second with a PM of 229, while Nepal's capital Kathmandu ranked the third-worst city with a PM of 178.

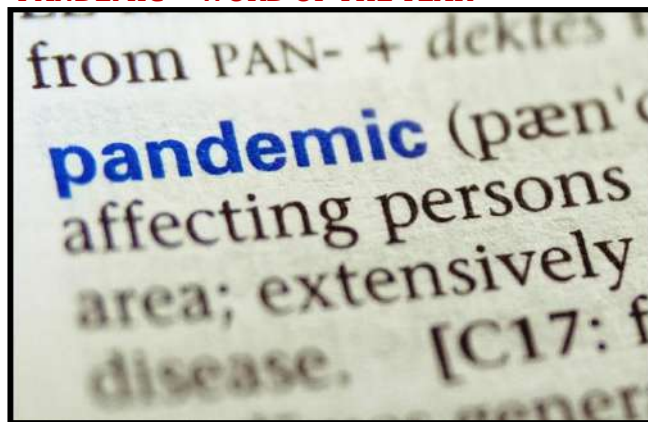
*The United States Environmental Protection Agency regards air quality satisfactory if the AQI is under 50. Lahore's AQI fell in the range of 301 and higher, which has been classified as "hazardous".*

## AFGHANISTAN WORST HIT BY TERRORISM

As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020 for the second year in a row, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019, recording more deaths than any other region, despite improvements in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The report has been released by the Institute for Economics & Peace, a global think tank based in Sydney, Australia.

*Afghanistan was reported to be the most impacted of the 163 countries with a score of 9.592, recording 5725 deaths in 1422 terror incidents. Iraq (8.682) was the second most affected nation, followed by Nigeria (8.314). India ranked eighth – with a score of 7.353, losing 277 lives in 558 terror incidents.*

## 'PANDEMIC' – WORD OF THE YEAR



Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced "pandemic" as its 2020 word of the year. On March 11, when the World Health Organisation declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic, searches for pandemic were 115,806 per cent higher than lookups experienced on the same date last year.

*Pandemic, with roots in Latin and Greek, is a combination of "pan," for all, and "demos," for people or population.*

## 'QUARANTINE' IS WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as Word of the Year 2020. Quarantine was the only word to rank in the top five for overall views (more than 183,000 by early November), and largest spike in searches (28,545) seen in the week of March 18-24, when many countries around the world went into lockdown as a result of Covid-19.

*Cambridge editors noticed that people are using the word in a new way this year for describing a "general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely so that they do not catch or spread a disease."*

- ❖ *The first coal-based power plant of Arab world is being developed in Saih Shuaib, Dubai, UAE. The 2,400MW Hassyan clean coal power station will be built at an estimated cost of \$ 3.4 billion.*

# PERSONS IN NEWS

## JANUARY

### MUSK ZOOMS TO BECOME RICHEST IN WORLD



According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021, despite global slowdown due to Corona crisis, the world's 500 richest people added \$1.8 trillion to their combined net worth this year.

Elon Musk of Tesla Motors, USA zoomed to top spot with a net worth of more than \$188.5 billion, pushing Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos to second position with net worth \$187 billion. Former King of billionaires, Bill Gates slipped to third spot with net worth of \$131 billion. Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani crashed to 12th spot with net worth of \$77 billion.

**Arya Rajendran:** The 21-year-old college student has been elected the new mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, of Kerala. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader, Arya is the youngest person in India to occupy the post of mayor anywhere in the country.

## DECEMBER



**Roshni Nadar Malhotra:** CEO of IT major HCL Technologies topped the list of the richest women in the country with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore, followed by Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at Rs 36,600 crore. The list

prepared by Hurun India and Kotak Wealth, has a total of 100 women having a networth of at least Rs 100 crore or more.

**Gitanjali Rao:** 15-year-old Indian-American girl, a "brilliant" young scientist and inventor, has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year' for her "astonishing work" using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying. Rao was selected from a field of more than 5,000 nominees as TIME's first-ever Kid of the Year.

**Parkash Singh Badal:** Former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron announced to return his Padma Vibhushan award in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws. Mr. Badal received Padma Vibhushan Award in 2015.

**Dr. Gaurav Sharma:** Member of Parliament (MP) in New Zealand created history by becoming the first Indian - origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land. Dr. Sharma is one of the youngest and newly-elected MPs from the Labour Party in the NZ Parliament. He hails from Himachal Pradesh. However, to show deep respect for the local cultural traditions, he took oath first in New Zealand's indigenous Maori language and then in Sanskrit.

**Kylie Jenner:** American media personality, model and businesswoman, was announced the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes in its Highest-Paid Celebrity List 2020. Financial experts calculated that her earning this year was \$590 million. She was followed by Kanye West, her brother-in-law, earning \$170 million.

### TIME 'Person of the year-2020'

US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year' for changing the American story, showing that the forces of empathy are greater than the forces of division and sharing a vision of healing in a grieving world.

# APPOINTMENTS

## JANUARY

**Subodh Kumar Jaiswal:** 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The force has its HQs in New Delhi and comes under purview of the Union Home Ministry.

**Suneet Sharma:** Appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO. He is the former general manager of Eastern Railway Zone.

**Yoweri Museveni:** Ugandan President scored a decisive election victory to win a record sixth term as the President.

**Sadyr Japarov:** Former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan elected as the new President of the country.

**Faustin-Archange Touadera:** Re-elected as the President of Central African Republic, a land-locked country in central Africa.

**Alexander Ellis:** Appointed as the new British High Commissioner to India in succession to Sir Philip Barton.

## DECEMBER

**Utpal Kumar Singh:** Appointed as Secretary-General of Lok Sabha with effect from 1 December, by Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla.

**Vineet Agarwal:** Elected as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham). He is the Managing Director of logistics major Transport Corporation of India Limited.



**Uday Shankar:** Elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21. He is currently the president of The Walt Disney Company, Asia Pacific and shall be quitting the position on Dec. 31, 2020.

**Anil Soni:** Appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer for the WHO Foundation by WHO. Based at Geneva, the WHO Foundation is an independent grant-making agency, which was launched in May 2020.

**Nana Akufo-Addo:** Re-elected as the President of Ghana, a country in West Africa.

**Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah:** Re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

**Roch Marc Christian Kabore:** Re-elected as the President of Burkina Faso, a small landlocked country in western Africa.

**Florin Citu:** Elected as the new Prime Minister of Romania, a country in south eastern Europe.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### JANUARY

**Golden Peacock award for the best film:** Danish World War II drama "Into the Darkness" directed by Anders Refn, was declared the best film at the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 40 lakh, to be shared equally between Refn and producer Lene Borglum.

**National Florence Nightingale Award:** Dr Shailla Cannie, Principal, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Katra (Jammu & Kashmir) has been selected for this prestigious, to be conferred by President of India. It is the highest national distinction awarded to nurses or nursing aides, which consists of a cash amount of Rs 50,000, a certificate and a medal.

**Eminent Engineer Award-2020:** Conferred upon V.K. Yadav, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board by the Institution of Engineering and Technology, London for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms over Indian Railways. IET is the largest global body of professional engineers.

**DRDO's Scientist of the Year Award:** Won by senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin for treatment of leucoderma.

**SKOCH Challenger Award:** Conferred upon Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda outstanding performance in e-Governance, for its IT-led initiatives and other transformational initiatives that led to outcome-based performance improvement.

### Canada Sahitya Gaurav:

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was felicitated with this international honour via video conferencing. The coveted award was given by the Hindi Writers' Guild, Canada. He has penned more than 75 books on wide ranging issues, which have also been translated into many national and foreign languages.



**2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize:** Nikhil Srivastava, a young Indian mathematician, won the prestigious prize along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs.

*The Michael and Sheila Held Prize is presented annually to honour outstanding and innovative research in the highly advanced areas of mathematical concepts related to computer science, such as the design and analysis of algorithms and complexity theory.*

### DECEMBER

**Global Teacher Prize 2020:** The one-million-dollar prize was won by Ranjitsinh Disale, 32, a primary school teacher from Paritewadi village in Maharashtra's Solapur district, in recognition of his efforts to promote girls' education and trigger a quick-response (QR) coded textbook revolution in India.

*The annual prize has been founded by the Varkey Foundation of London in 2014 to recognise an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession. As a goodwill gesture, Disale announced to give half the prize money to the nine co-competitors to appreciate their efforts.*

**The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians:** Awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Prize, given every year to young mathematicians less than 45 years of age who have conducted outstanding research in a developing country, has been instituted by the government's Department of Science and Technology in the memory of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a genius in pure mathematics.

**ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award:** Presented to Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the TATA group to mark the contribution of his business group in India's progress. The award was conferred by Sh. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

**Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020:** Won by the Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha for his novel, The City and The Sea. The award is given by the US based Maitreya publishing Foundation.

**Young Champions of the Earth 2020:** A 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur engineer, Vidyut Mohan is among the seven winners of the prestigious prize given by the UN environment agency to global change-makers using innovative ideas and ambitious action to help solve some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

*Vidyut is the co-founder of 'Takachar', a social enterprise enabling farmers to prevent open burning of their waste farm residues and earn extra income by converting them into value-added chemicals like activated carbon on-site.*

**Delhi Crime**, the web series on Netflix won the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards 2020, becoming the first web-series from India to win an International Emmy Award (of USA). The series written and directed by Richie Mehta is based on the infamous Delhi gangrape of 2012.

**International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, won the prestigious award from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for bringing issues to light about significance of soil wellbeing among all partners.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### JANUARY

**The Commonwealth of Cricket** by Ramchandra Guha  
**Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema** by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and scriptwriter Abhijat Joshi

**In Pursuit of Justice:** An autobiography by late Justice Rajinder Sachar, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court  
**Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo** by (Retd) Lt General Konsam Himalaya Singh

**Gazing Eastwards** by Romila Thapar, noted historian  
**The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India** by S Y Quraishi, former CEC of India  
**The Wife Upstairs** by Rachel Hawkins

**Lore** by Alexandra Bracken

**Concrete Rose** by Angie Thomas

### DECEMBER

**Oh Mizoram** by P S Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Mizoram

**The Light of Asia** by Jairam Ramesh, former union minister

**The Presidential Years 2012-2017** by Pranab Mukharjee, former President of India

**40 Years with Abdul Kalam - Untold Stories** by scientist A. Sivathanu Pillai

**The Patient Assassin** by Anita Anand

**Let Us Dream** by Pope Francis

**The City and the Sea** by Raj Kamal Jha

**Gun Island** by Amitav Ghosh

**Dharma:** Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life by Amish Tripathi and Bhavana Roy

**Reporting India** by Prem Prakash

**A Sky Beyond the Storm** by Sabaa Tahir

**Layla** by Colleen Hoover

**The Cousins** by Karen M. McManus

## OBITUARY

### JANUARY

**Ustad Mustafa Khan:** Renowned Indian classical musician of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana breathed his last at his Mumbai residence on Jan 17. He was 89. He taught music to AR Rahman, Shaan, Hariharan, Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle, Sonu Nigam, Alisha Chinoy and many others.



He sang for Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi films and had given his voice to over 70 documentary films by Films Division, many of which received national and international awards. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018.

**Dr. V. Shanta:** The world-renowned oncologist passed away due to brief illness in Chennai. She was 94. Her medical life of over 60 years was dedicated to cancer care. She was the Chairperson of Adyar Cancer Centre, Chennai. Dr. Shanta's contribution to the field of oncology, had earned her the Magsaysay, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards.

**Narendra Chanchal:** Popular bhajan singer from Amritsar passed away at a private hospital in New Delhi. He was 80. He will always be remembered for his numerous iconic bhajans devoted to Goddess Durga (Sheranwali Mata).

Some of his hit numbers included: Chalo Bulawa Aaya Hai, Tune Mujhe Bulaya Sheran Waliye, Main Benaam ho Gaya. His immensely popular song "Beshak Mandir Masjid Todo" from the film Bobby won him the Filmfare Award for Best Male Singer.

**Madhavsinh Solanki:** A journalist-turned-politician who rose to become one of the tallest leaders of the Congress in Gujarat, holding the chief minister's post four times and later Union minister twice, passed away on Jan 9 at his residence in Gandhinagar. He was 93 years old.

*His KHAM formula entailed mobilisation of the Kshatriya, Harijan (Dalits), Adivasi (tribals) and Muslim, a formidable electoral combine that kept Solanki and the Congress in power for a long time in Gujarat.*



**Buta Singh:** Veteran Congress leader and former Union home minister passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi, on Jan 2. He left behind a rich political legacy and contribution to national affairs. He was instrumental in building and re-building many gurdwaras in India and in foreign countries, especially Sri Akal Takht Sahib after Operation Bluestar in 1984.

**Pierre Cardin:** French fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, died aged 98. Cardin was the first designer to sell clothes collections in department stores in the late 1950s, and the first to enter the licensing business for perfumes, accessories and even food.

## DECEMBER

**Motilal Vora:** Congress veteran, a long-time confidante of party Chief Sonia Gandhi, passed away a day after his 93rd birthday. Vora led an active political life spanning five decades starting as an MLA in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly in 1972. He was a six term MLA and a five term MP. Twice he was Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. He was also Governor of UP and union minister for civil aviation.

**Roddam Narasimha:** Eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14. He was 87. He taught Aerospace Engineering at the IISc, Bengaluru from 1962 to 1999. He also served as the director of the National Aerospace Laboratories from 1984 to 1993.

He was the chairperson of the Engineering Mechanics unit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bengaluru from 2000 to 2014. He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award of India, in 2013.

**Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya:** Renowned Sanskrit scholar, a propagator of the Madhva ideology and a great orator, died in Udupi, Karnataka due to age related illness. He was 85. Govindacharya had been conferred the Padma Shree in 2009. He was well-versed in Veda Bhashya, Upanishad Bhashya, Mahabharata, Ramayana and the Puranas and had written commentaries on Veda Suktas, Upanishads, ShataRudriya, Brahma Sutra Bhashya, and Gita Bhashya.

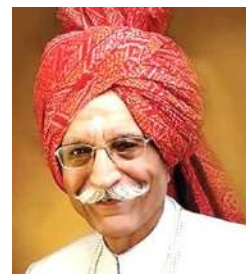
### **Astad Deboo:**

Contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, died in Mumbai on Dec 10. He was 73. Deboo is noted for creating a modern dance vocabulary that was uniquely Indian. With a dance career spanning half a century, he had performed in over 70 countries, including solo, group and collaborative choreography with artistes, at home and abroad. *Known for his charitable endeavours, Deboo worked with deaf children, both in India and abroad for two decades. He was a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2007.*

### **Mahashay Dharampaul**

**Gulati:** India's spice king and a noted philanthropist, owner of MDH (Mahashian di Hatti) spices, familiar to all those who watched him in his company's ads over the years, died in New Delhi on Dec. 3. He was 97. A school dropout, who moved to India after the partition, he had opened his first spices store in Delhi's Karol Bagh.

Despite the humble beginnings, MDH spices are not just popular in India but are also exported to many countries. A school dropout, who moved to India after the Partition, he had opened his first store in Delhi's Karol Bagh. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2019.



**Faqir Chand Kohli:** Known as Father of Indian IT Industry, Kohli passed away due to a heart attack on November 26 at his residence in Mumbai. He was 96. He played a pivotal role in setting the Indian IT services industry and contributing to its growth to being a \$ 200 billion industry.

*He was a visionary who saw the future of technology, a mentor to many current top executives, founder and first CEO of Tata Consultancy Services, a master strategist that earned him the sobriquet of 'Bhishma Pitamaha' of IT industry. The Government of India honoured him with Padma Bhushan for his meritorious services.*

## PLACES IN NEWS

### JANUARY

#### **NUBRA VALLEY HOSTS 1<sup>st</sup> ICE CLIMBING FESTIVAL**

India's first ever ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley in Leh, Ladakh. The seven day event was organized by Nubra Adventure Club. Ice climbing is a popular winter sport abroad. 18 participants across Nubra valley including 4 women, took part in Ice climbing.

#### **TIRTHAN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IS THE BEST**

Government released the Management Effectiveness Evaluation Report of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country. According to the survey, Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and Great Himalayan National Park, both in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh were declared the best among the surveyed protected areas.

*India has systematically designated its Protected Areas in four legal categories - National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.*

*India has 903 formally designated Protected Areas which include 101 National Parks, 553 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 86 Conservation Reserves and 163 Community Reserves.*

**Sulawesi Island:** In Indonesia a powerful earthquake rocked Sulawesi island, killing at least 92 people, with more feared dead as rescuers searched for survivors. The 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck on Jan15. Hundreds of people were injured and thousands displaced by the quake.

## DECEMBER

**Tso Kar Wetland:** To promote conservation of biodiversity, India has added Tso Kar wetland complex to the list of Ramsar Sites. This wetland is located at more than 4,500 metres above sea level in the Changthang region of Ladakh.

*A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Ramsar convention is an inter-governmental environmental treaty established by UNESCO and came into force in 1975.*

**Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad:** It has become the first zoo in the country to receive the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from the Accreditation Services for Certification Bodies (ASCB), UK. The certification has been accorded to the zoo for conservation of wildlife, particularly endangered species of Deccan through better upkeep, planned breeding, collaborative research and capacity building.

**Nivar:** Severe cyclonic storm, which made landfall early on Dec 3 at Marakkanam in Villupuram district, in Chennai, left three persons dead and caused considerable damage to crops and fields, besides leaving many areas inundated.

# SPORTS WORLD

## JANUARY

**Anshu Malik** has become the first wrestler of the country to win silver at the Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia.

### INDIA WINS SERIES AGAINST AUSTRALIA

India created history by defeating Australia by three wickets in the fourth and final Test at the Gabba in Brisbane and retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. India successfully chased the 328-run target to seal the four-match series 2-1. This was the first defeat for Australia at their fortress Gabba in 32 years.

### ZANSKAR WINTER SPORTS FESTIVAL

India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at Zaskar in district Kargil of Ladakh. The 13 day festival from Jan 21 to Feb 2 was organised by the Ladakh UT Administration to promote Zaskar as winter tourists' destination. Main features of the festival include Ice Climbing, trekking on frozen Zaskar River, Ice Hockey, snow sculpture and ethnic food fiesta.

## INTERNATIONAL

**The Yonex Thailand Open - 2021:** Year's first international Badminton tournament held in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Men's Singles title:** Victor Axelsen, Denmark;

**Women's Singles Title:** Carolina Marin, Spain

**Sir Lewis Hamilton:** Seven-time Formula One world champion and winner of all time record 95 wins in F1 races, was awarded knighthood in the United Kingdom New Year Honours list, adding title of 'Sir' to his name.

**Player of the Century Award:** Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal won the prestigious award at the Globe Soccer Awards. He plays for the Club Juventus.

**Claire Polosak, Australian** cricket coach scripted history on Jan 7 by becoming the first female match official in the 144 year old history of men's Test matches. She acted as the fourth umpire in the pink test between India and Australia played in Sydney.

### ICC Awards of the Decade declared

The prestigious cricket awards were declared in Dubai on Dec 28:

- Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade: Virat Kohli
- Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade: Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- Test/ODI/T-20 Male Cricketer of the Decade: Steve Smith/ Virat Kohli/Rashid Khan
- ODI/T-20 Female Cricketer of the Decade: Ellyse Perry/Ellyse Perry

ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade: M S Dhoni

## DECEMBER

**Yash Vardhan**, the 17-year-old shooter from Rajasthan won gold in the 10m air rifle at the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC).

**Amit Panghal**, ace boxer from Rohtak, Haryana won a gold medal in the 52 kg weight category at the World Cup in Cologne, Germany. Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur also won gold in the women's 57 kg and 60 kg category, respectively.

**Anshu Malik**, 19 year old female wrestler from Haryana won silver in the 57 kg category at the World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia.

**Jehan Daruvala**, India's top formula racer created history on Dec 6 as he became the first driver from the country to win a Formula 2 race when he finished on the top step of the podium at the Sakhir sprint race in Bahrain. 22 year old Daruvala hails from Mumbai and races for team Carlin of UK.

**FICCI Sportspersons of the Year: Men:** Wrestler Bajrang Punia **Women:** Shooter ElavenilValarivan



**Virat Kohli** scripted another record in the game by becoming the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs. He reached the milestone in his 462<sup>nd</sup> innings across all formats. Tendulkar batted 493 times to reach that mark.

#### **Four traditional sports at national level**

The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four indigenous games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. The games include Gatka (martial art of Punjab), Kalaripayattu (martial art of Kerala), Thang-Ta (martial art of Manipur) and Mallakhamb, traditional pole based gymnastics, very popular in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

#### **Yoga declared a competitive sport**

Government has decided to include Yoga henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games. The government will also be training and certifying coaches, referees, judges and directors of these competitions. The government's ultimate aim is to push for yogasana to be made a part of the Olympic Games.

#### **India donates \$1million to WADA**

India has decided to contribute \$ 1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to ensure an atmosphere of clean sport globally. The amount has been pledged towards the agency's scientific research budget, which will allow the development of innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods. Headquarters of WADA are located in Montreal, Canada. Its current President is Witold Banka (of Poland).

#### **Hockey World Cup 2023**

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in Odisha, for a second consecutive time. The tournament will be held at two venues, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

**Chetan Sharma:** Former Indian pacer was appointed chairman of the senior national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee.

**Parthiv Patel,** one of the youngest to have played Test cricket for India at the age of 17, announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game, three months short of his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday. The left-handed batsman and wicket keeper played 65 international games for the country, which included 25 Tests, 38 ODIs and two T20 Internationals. In domestic cricket, he will always be remembered for captaining his state Gujarat to maiden Ranji Trophy triumph in the 2016-17 season.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

**Sergio Perez** became the first Mexican victor (since 1970) in F1 race winning the Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain for team Racing Point.

**Max Verstappen** (Team Red Bull – Netherlands) won the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

**Lewis Hamilton,** seven-time F1 world champion from Britain won Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 for team Mercedes at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain.

**Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie** smashed the half marathon (21 km) world record by 29 seconds on Dec 7, becoming the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes. He won the Valencia Half Marathon in Spain in 57 minutes and 32 second, breaking the previous record of 58:01 set by compatriot Geoffrey Kamworor in September 2019.

**BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020:** Won by Formula 1 world champion, Lewis Hamilton of Britain. He drives for the Team Mercedes.

**Best FIFA Men's Player 2020:** Won by Robert Lewandowski of Poland, forward player of Bayern Munich club.

**Best FIFA Women's Player 2020:** Won by Lucy Bronze of England, full-back player of Manchester City club.

#### **World Athletics Awards 2020 announced**

**World Athlete of the Year – Male:** Mondo Duplantis of Sweden, for breaking the world record in the pole vault twice, topping 6.17Mt and 6.18Mt on back-to-back weekends in February, 2020. Just 21, he is the youngest athlete to win this title.

**World Athlete of the Year – Female:** Yulimar Rojas (25) of Venezuela, for breaking the world indoor record in triple jump by 7cm in Madrid.

**Greg Barclay,** head of the New Zealand Cricket team, elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Dubai.

**Belgium has been ranked at the top** in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA on November 27. France is placed second, while Brazil is on third place, England on fourth place and Portugal in fifth place. India jumped five places to secure 104<sup>th</sup> rank.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) ranked Indian men's hockey team at the fourth spot and the women's team at ninth spot in the final rankings of 2020. Team Belgium topped the men's ranking and Team Netherlands topped among women's teams.

#### **Asian Games 2030 & 2034**

The Olympic Council of Asia announced that the 2030 Asian Games will be hosted by Doha, the Capital of Qatar, while the 2034 edition of the games will be hosted by Riyadh, Capital of Saudi Arabia. It may be noted that the 2022 Asian Games are to be hosted by Hongzhou, China and 2026 edition by Nagoya, Japan.

### Russia to face ban from international sports



Russia was banned on December 17 from using its name, flag and anthem at the next Olympics or any world championships for the next two years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne (Switzerland). However, the Russian athletes and teams will be allowed to compete at all International events in the next two years as 'neutral' athletes. The ban was imposed after allegations of state-backed doping and cover-ups emerged against Russia after the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

### Break dance to enter Olympics

The International Olympic Committee announced that it had registered 'Breakdancing' as an official Olympic sport with the name Breaking. Additionally, it approved skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing as three other new games included in the Olympics. IOC President Thomas Bach said that Break Dance will make its Olympic debut in Paris 2024.

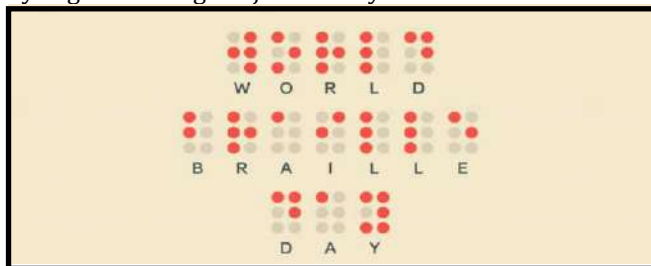
*Inclusion of the break-dance as the Olympics urban sport aims to expand the youth-focused activity and make Olympics more engaging and inclusive for the younger generation outside the arenas.*

## DAYS & DATES

### JANUARY

#### January 4: World Braille Day

The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille, a language based on six convex dots that form all the letters and symbols, using which the people with visual disabilities are able to read various text content. They are able to read the text by moving their hands over the dots. Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France. He lost his eyesight at the age of just three years.



#### January 6: World Day of War Orphans

The day aims to spread awareness and address the crises faced by war orphans or children in conflict. The Day was started by the French body, SOS Enfants enDétrese. According to UNICEF, an orphan is a "child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death". There were nearly 140 million orphans globally in 2015.

#### January 9: Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The day is celebrated once in every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. Established in 2003, the celebratory event is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs. It commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915. This year's celebrations were held in virtual mode due to the corona pandemic.

#### January 10: World Hindi Day



Celebrated every year, to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra in 1975 on this day. It intends to promote Hindi language around the world. Hindi has evolved from Sanskrit and is written in Devanagari script. It may be noted that National Hindi Diwas is observed on Sep 14.

#### January 12: National Youth Day

Celebrated across the country to promote youth related activities to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Swami ji, one of India's most revered spiritual leaders, was born in Kolkata on January 12, 1863, as Narendra Nath Datta. A prime disciple of 19th century Indian mystic Guru Ramakrishna Paramhansa, he effectively reintroduced the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world.

#### January 14: Makar Sankranti

May be observed on January 15 also, depending upon the end of winter solstice as the Sun enters the Makar Raashi (Capricorn) on this day. It is celebrated as the festival of harvest.

In the North it is popular as Maghi and Sankranti and the festival of Lohri is celebrated a night before Makar Sankranti.



*In Assam, it is celebrated as Magh Bihu, in Tamil Nadu as Pongal and as PoushParbo in West Bengal. In Gujarat, it is popularly known as 'Uttarayan' and the main attraction is the International Kite Festival celebrated all over the state but particularly at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.*

### **January 15: Army Day**

Celebrated every year to mark the taking over of command of Indian Army by then Lt Gen K M Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief, from General Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949. On this day tributes are paid to soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

### **January 24: National Girl Child Day**

The day is celebrated every year to promote awareness on a range of issues related to girls, such as education, health, and nutrition. It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The day aims to increase awareness among the people and ensure every girl gets equal importance as their counterparts. On this day in 1966, Indira Gandhi became the first woman Prime Minister of India.

**Please note that International Day of Girl Child is observed on October 11.**

### **January 24: International Day of Education**

The day is celebrated across the world with support from UNESCO to focus on improving the universal quality of education and its role in promoting peace and development. It aims to promote UNO's sustainable development goal no. 4 of 'Quality Education'. The theme for this year is 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'.

**Please note that in India, National Education Day is celebrated on November 11.**

### **January 25: National Voters Day**

Celebrated every year to spread awareness about the necessity of voting and to encourage the young generation towards voting rights because each vote decides the fate of the new government and democracy. It was first celebrated on January 25, 2011. This year's theme for the Day is - "Making our voters Empowered, vigilant, safe and informed". This day is the foundation day of the Election Commission of India which came into existence on this day in 1950.



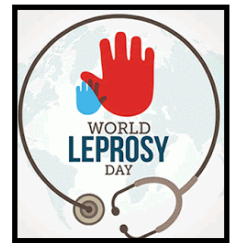
### **January (31): World Leprosy Day**

Observed on the last Sunday of January, the day focuses on the target of zero cases of leprosy-related disabilities in children. On an average, India has been reporting more than one lakh new leprosy cases annually since 2005. The focus this year is on the theme “#Beat Leprosy; End Stigma against Leprosy patients and work for their Mental Wellbeing”

*Leprosy is an infectious disease that affects the skin and nerves. Also known as Hansen's disease, it is caused by the slow multiplying bacteria Mycobacterium leprae and mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and eyes. Sadly, those affected with the disease were treated as outcasts and thrown out of the community from others. With the advancement in medical science, now it can be prevented, treated and cured.*

### **January 30: Martyrs Day/Anti Leprosy Day**

This day is observed to remember Mahatma Gandhi's selfless efforts and care for the people affected with Leprosy. He was also the most renowned name in the history of India's freedom struggle. He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House, New Delhi during evening prayers on January 30, 1948. He was 78 at that time.



## **DECEMBER**

### **December 1: World AIDS Day**

Observed every year to raise awareness and to unite people worldwide in the fight against the global health issue of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome - AIDS. AIDS is caused by the spread of the life-threatening human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which attacks the immune system of the patient and significantly reduces the body's resistance to other diseases. For 2020, the theme is, "Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact", which will focus on creating global solidarity among people who live with HIV and also seek to destigmatize the health issue.

### **December 2: National Pollution Control Day**

Observed every year in the remembrance of thousands of people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas tragedy on this day in 1984. It aims to bring awareness about the dire consequences of environmental pollution. It also aims to raise alertness towards industrial disasters. According to the National Health Portal of India, every year 7 million people die due to environmental pollution.

*Bhopal Gas tragedy occurred on 2-3 December, 1984 due to leakage of deadly Methyl Isocyanate - MIC gas from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, claiming 5 to 6,000 lives. Victims suffer physical deformities till date, even after 36 years of tragedy.*

### December 2: World Computer Literacy Day



Observed every year to create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide. The day promotes technological skills, especially in children and women. It inspires them to learn more and make their work/task easier by the use of computers.

### Dec 02: International Day for Abolition of Slavery

Observed to spread awareness about ending human trafficking and the exploitation of humans. As per the latest information released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) more than forty million people are victims of modern slavery.

There is no clear definition of modern slavery but it is considered as debt bondage, human trafficking, forced labour and forced marriages. It is basically referred to the situation where one experiences exploitation, violence and abuse.

### December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

Also called World Disability Day, it is observed every year to acknowledge the issues faced by persons with disabilities (PwD) around the world. The day aims to promote an awareness of disability issues and the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities. In 2020, the UN's theme for this day is "Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World".

### December 4: National/Indian Navy Day

Celebrated every year to mark the decisive Indian victory over Pakistan in 1971 through Indian Navy's Operation Trident in which the Indian Navy inflicted heavy damage on Pakistani ships in Karachi harbour. The Navy plans to celebrate 2021 as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' as part of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the victory in the 1971 War.

### December 4: International Day of Banks

Observed globally with the support of UNO to highlight the vital role of banking systems in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living of the people. It also recognises the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development.

### December 5: World Soil Day

The day highlights how soil is a fundamental natural resource and is the basis for all terrestrial life. Avoiding soil degradation is crucial to our well-being. This year's theme for the Day is 'Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity' that urges people to focus attention on the essential organisms below ground which contribute to processes that are crucial to life on Earth.

### December 5: International Volunteer Day

Also called International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, it celebrates with UN support people and organizations who volunteer their time and energy to improve the lives of others. This day is an opportunity for everyone to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts at local, national, and international levels.

*As per an estimate, there are 970 million volunteers throughout the world but many more could still be used! The theme for this year is 'Together We Can Through Volunteering'.*

### December 7: Armed Forces Flag Day

Observed throughout the country to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought & continue to fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour. Flag Day brings to the forefront our commitment to looking after our war disabled soldiers, valiant women and the families of martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country.

### December 7: International Civil Aviation Day

This day is celebrated worldwide every year to reinforce awareness of the role and importance of the International Civil Aviation Organisation in air travel across the globe. The ICAO based in Montreal, Canada, is an autonomous UN Body accountable for keeping up the safety standards of international aviation. The theme for this year is, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development". The council has decided to keep the same theme until the year 2023.

### December 09: National Submarine Day

The Indian Navy celebrates this day to commemorate the induction of the first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari, into the Navy on this day in 1967. The Foxtrot class submarine was decommissioned on the 31st May, 1996, after 29 years of service. This day is observed to remember and honour submariners who made supreme sacrifice in their service. Another modern submarine was commissioned in Indian Navy in December, 2017 with the same name – INS Kalvari.







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### December 09: International Anti-Corruption Day



Celebrated every year with UN support to spread awareness against corruption. The day also highlights the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combating and preventing it. This year the worldwide campaign against corruption will focus on "mitigating corruption and enhancing accountability in the public health sector and, emergency and economic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's theme for the Day is 'Recover With Integrity' as the world recovers from the pandemic.

### December 10: Human Rights Day

The day empowers and acknowledges the advocates and defenders of human rights around the world. It marks the anniversary of adoption by UNO in 1948, the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", a milestone document that proclaimed the inseparable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

This year's theme is "Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights". The theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts.

### December 11: International Mountain Day

Observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world. Mountains are the home to the 15% of the world's population and a quarter of the world's land animals and plants. They provide freshwater for everyday life to half of humanity. Their conservation is a key factor for sustainable development and is part of Goal 15 of the SDGs. The theme for 2020 IMD is 'Mountain Biodiversity'.



### December 11: UNICEF Day

Celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946. The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. The programme was initiated to provide supplies, assistance and to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children after World War II. However, in 1953, it became a permanent agency of the UN, and the words 'International' and 'Emergency' were dropped from the official name but the acronym continued. Its headquarter is in New York and the current head is Ms. Henrietta H. Fore.

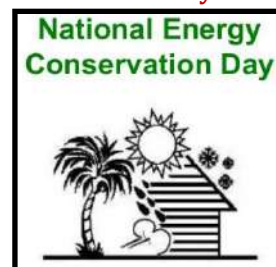
### Dec12: International Universal Health Coverage Day

The day celebrated with support from WHO aims to promote stronger, more equitable health systems to achieve universal health coverage, leaving no one out. The day emphasises the critical importance of strong health systems to reduce poverty, promote economic growth and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. This year's theme is "Health for all : protect everyone; To end this crisis and build a safer and healthier future, we must invest in health systems that protect us all".

### Dec. 14: The National Energy Conservation Day

It is celebrated every year by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), an agency under the Ministry of Power. It aims to raise awareness among the general public about the importance of energy conservation and energy efficiency.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency is a constitutional body that helps in the development of policies and strategies in order to reduce energy use.



### December 15: International Tea Day

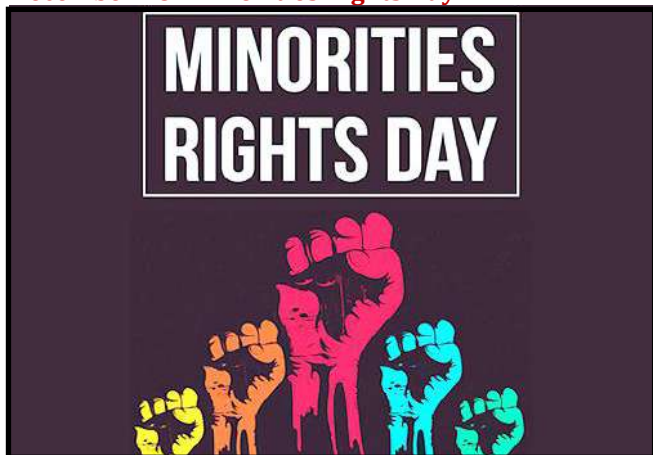
Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate this day to draw the attention of governments towards global tea trade and its impact on workers and growers. It may be noted that the United Nations General Assembly has designated May 21 as International Tea Day. The theme for this year's Day is "Harnessing Benefits for all From Field to Cup".

### December 16: Vijay Diwas

Observed every year to mark the victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that ended on December 16 when Pakistan's Army General A K Niazi surrendered before the Indian Army leading to the creation of a new nation "Bangladesh". On this day, the nation pays tribute to brave soldiers of India and Bangladesh who laid down their lives in the line of duty. This year being the 50th anniversary of the victory, is being celebrated as the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.



### December 18: Minorities Rights Day



It is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities in India which focuses on religious harmony, respect, and a better understanding of all minorities' communities. In India, six communities have been notified as 'minority' namely Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jain. The Union Government established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in 1993 under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to protect and promote the rights and interests of minority communities.

### December 18: International Migrants Day

It is observed every year to protect the rights of migrant workers and of members of their families. The UN Migration Agency (IOM) defines a migrant as "any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence". According to the UN, the number of migrants globally reached an estimated 272 million in 2019, from just 51 million in 2010. This year's theme for the day is 'Reimagining Human Mobility'.

### December 20: International Human Solidarity Day

The day seeks to celebrate the world's unity in diversity. The day was declared by the U N General Assembly, on December 22, 2005. It's also a day to raise awareness about the importance of solidarity. Solidarity is defined as an awareness of shared interests and objectives that create a psychological sense of unity. Solidarity also refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one.



### December 22: National Mathematics Day

Celebrated to make people aware about the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu, his theory of numbers contains revolutionary findings of the properties of the functions of partition. Unfortunately he passed away at an early age of 32 years.

### Dec 23: National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)

It is celebrated to commemorate the birth day of veteran farmer leader and former Prime Minister of India (28 July, 79 to 14 January, 80), Chaudhary Charan Singh, with the focus on the upliftment of the status of farmers. He brought many farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers.

### December 24: The National Consumer Day



On this day, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President. The day provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities. The theme this year is 'The Sustainable Consumer'. The theme is in view of the urgent need for action to approach the worldwide crisis, global temperature change and biodiversity loss.

### December 25: Good Governance Day

The day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to raise awareness about accountability in governance among the people of India. The day was established in 2014 to honor the Bharat Ratna Vajpayee. He died at the age of 93 on 16 August, 2018. His Samadhi namely 'Sadaiv Atal' is in New Delhi.

### December 27: The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

The day aims to promote international awareness and action on the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics. This was the first ever celebration of the Day on a call by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate the importance of the collective preparedness to fight against epidemics.

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

# Bullet News

(August 2020 – November 2020)

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### NOVEMBER

- PM Modi and his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19. This was the first stand-alone Summit between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.
- PM Modi attended the 12th BRICS Summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode. The summit was hosted by Russia, under the theme Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth.
- PM Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc on November 12.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Nepali President Bidya Devi Bhandari released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi) - during a ceremony at Kathmandu.
- Indian army gifted 20 fully trained military horses and 10 mine detecting dogs to the Bangladesh army.
- India was ranked 77<sup>th</sup> in a 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.

### OCTOBER

- India and the US signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister External affairs attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> QUAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, Japan on October 6.

✓ **QUAD** – Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations – India, Australia, Japan and USA and all four have conflict with China.

- Indian Prime Minister held a Virtual Bilateral Summit on Sep 28 with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen.
- Eight beaches from India have secured the coveted International Blue Flag Certification, one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches.
- 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 Oct 2020- June 2021.
- World's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel was inaugurated at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh.
  - ✓ Built in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 10,000 feet, it will connect Manali to Leh throughout the year.
- The CBSE launched Facial Recognition technology that will enable students to download their digital academic documents of class X and XII.
- The Government hiked the poll campaign spending limit by 10 percent for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
  - ✓ The new limit for Lok Sabha polls is now Rs. 77 lakh, up from Rs. 70 lakh earlier and for the Assembly election, it is Rs. 30.80 lakh, up from Rs. 28 lakh.
- The Supreme Court appointed former SC 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.
- Railways has decided to upgrade all non-AC sleeper coaches to AC ones for high speed trains (with speed of 130 kmph and above).



- The USAID to give \$1.9 million aid for informal sector workers whose livelihoods have been disrupted due to COVID-19.
- The New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank, approved funds worth USD 741 million for infrastructure projects in India.
- 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.
- A recent report 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.
- 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.
- India has announced \$ 15 million grant to Sri Lanka for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries.
- India re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance and France as the Co- President. Head Office of the ISA is in Gurugram, Haryana.
- 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.

## SEPTEMBER

- BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.) has entered into a MoU with the Swiss Rapide AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Sep 26 in virtual mode.
- The theme of the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Sep30 as fixed by the UGC.
- In the Global Innovation Index, released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, India jumped four positions to rank at 48<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 89<sup>th</sup> 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 105<sup>th</sup>. The Index has been released in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report.

- The 51<sup>st</sup> Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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).

## NEWS FROM STATES

### NOVEMBER

- The four-day celebrations of the 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.*
- Nitish Kumar (of Janta Dal - United) was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time on November 16.
- In a first of its kind in the world, the West Bengal Transport Corporation launched a maiden tram library service in Kolkata for children, including students preparing for competitive exams.
- The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur in Kerala is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world.
- The centre has facilities to accommodate 50 elephants including the existing 16 elephants.
- India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables.
- India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project was commissioned in Arunachal Pradesh.



- 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.
- A first of its kind solar energy-driven miniature train was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, situated 12 km away from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Water Awards, Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award in overall water conservation efforts.
- As per the ‘Vital Statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System’ report, Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country.
- *In Arunachal 1,085 females were born per thousand males, while Manipur fared the worst with just 757.*
- Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh created a new world record on Nov 13 by lighting 6,06,569 ‘diyas’ on the banks of River Saryu.
- 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 over the Tehri Lake.*
- Govt approved the 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project on Satluj River near Kotgarh, Shimla in HP.
- Tamil Nadu government is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment.

## OCTOBER

- As per the Indian Tourism Statistics released by the Ministry of Tourism for 2019, UP emerged at top attracting 53.6 crore domestic tourists.
  - ✓ *For Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu topped, attracting 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.*
- Haryana topped the Anemia Mukht Bharat Index. The Anemia Mukht Bharat is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF.
- India’s first sand dune park is soon to come up in the beach state Goa. The World Bank has sanctioned a sum of Rs 3 crore for the project.
- 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.
- Goa has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household under the “HarGhar Jal Yojna”.
- Kerala has become the first state in India to set up ‘Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board’ for the welfare of farmers in the state.
- India’s first-of-its-kind organic spices seed parks will come up in Gujarat with an aim to encourage capacity building and adoption of best practices.

- ✓ *NABARD-supported Organic Spices Seed Park for Saunf (fennel seed) will come up in the Banaskantha district and Jeera (cumin seed) in Patan.*

- 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.
- 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.
- Meghalaya to partner with Israel for the establishment of a one of its kind Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga launched Dolphin Safari in three states – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, on River Ganga
- Dalle Khursani, one of the hottest chillies in world, from Sikkim, is set to get a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India’s first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant.
- Haryana launched ‘Gram Darshan’, a digital platform making the accessibility of data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online.
- Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd signed a pact with Gujarat govt to set up India’s largest green field Zinc smelter in the Tapi district with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Niti Aayog 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.

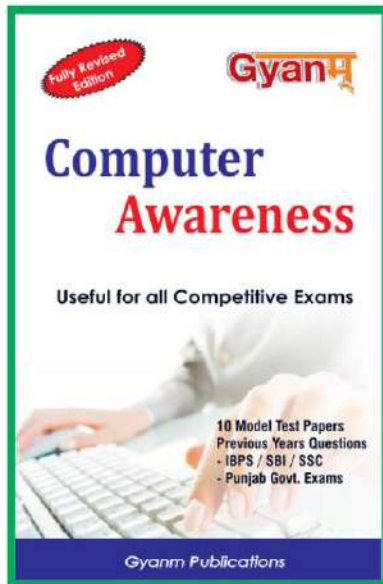
## GOVT INITIATIVES

## NOVEMBER

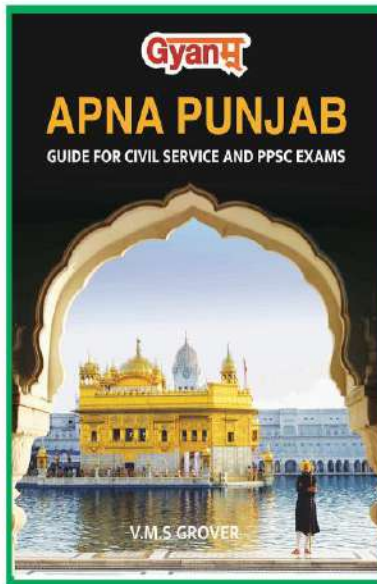
- 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' launched to promote safety of sewer and septic tank cleaners by promoting mechanized cleaning to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana" launched under which govt will pay PF contribution of both, employee and of employer in the EPF-registered organizations for newly recruited employees.
- *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 President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in NCR (National Capital Region) and adjoining areas.
- Railways launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey, from starting station to destination station.
- 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.
- 'SERB - POWER' scheme launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent women researchers to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering.



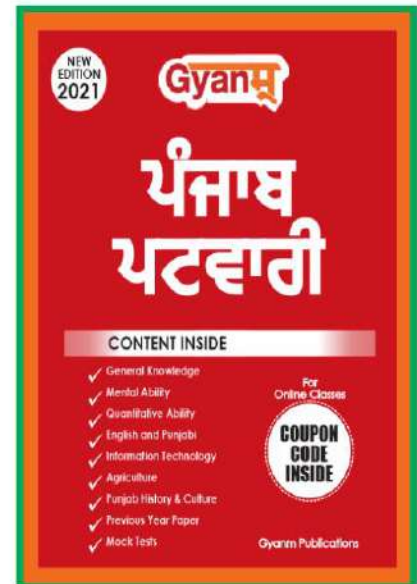
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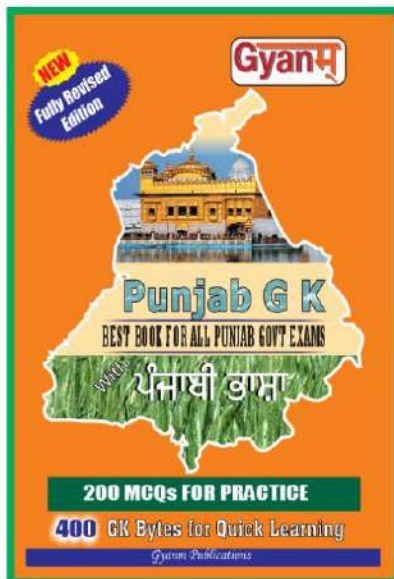
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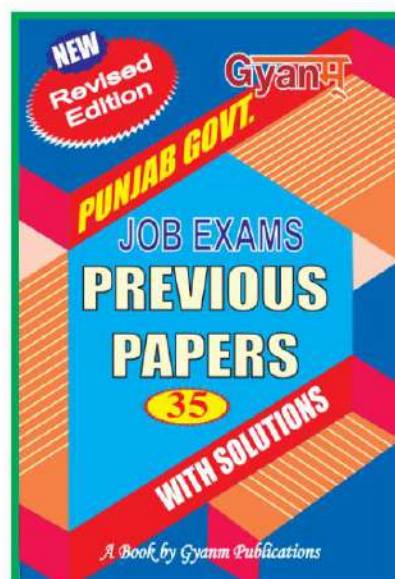
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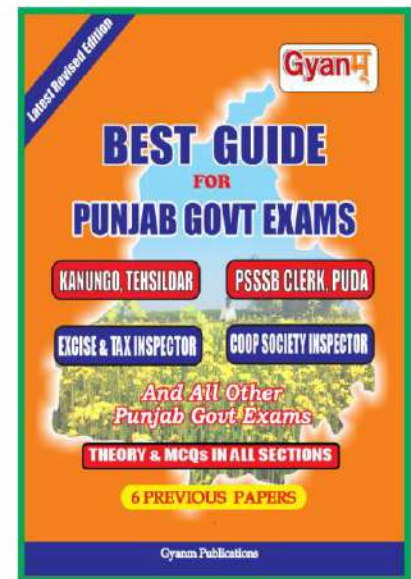
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- SERB-POWER stands for Science and Engineering Research Board – Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research.
- The National Board for Wildlife approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25 under which five vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- 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.

## OCTOBER

- The Finance Minister announced 2 schemes to boost consumer spending:
  - ✓ **LTC Cash Voucher scheme:** Allows govt employees to receive cash equal to leave encashment plus 3 times ticket fare, to buy items that attract a GST of 12% or more, before March 31, 2021.
  - ✓ **Special Festival Advance Scheme:** To give interest-free advance of Rs 10,000 to all central government employees, to be spent by March 31, 2021.
- 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.
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation.
- The Union Cabinet approved the “Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States” -STARS project supported by the World Bank.
  - ✓ *The Project aims to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.*
- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog started a nation-wide campaign to celebrate Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan for promoting extensive use of cow-dung products during this Diwali Festival.
- ‘SVAMITVA’ scheme launched on Oct 11 to enable around 1 lakh household property holders in rural areas to get their property cards.
  - ✓ *They can download their property cards through the SMS link which will be delivered on their registered mobile phones.*
  - ✓ **SVAMITVA**-“Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas”
- On the 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, govt launched ‘KAPILA’ program to promote patenting of inventions.
  - ✓ **KAPILA:** Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness

- Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik, VAIBHAV Summit held on October 2 to bring together overseas and Indian researchers and academicians to explore possibilities for collaboration for global development.
- Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission launched under Venture Capital Fund for SCs.
  - ✓ *It aims to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students in higher educational institutions.*
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into a MoU with Swiggy, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform.

## 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.
- "Surakhya": 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.

## ECONOMY

### NOVEMBER

- Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund - MIC Redwood 1 RSC Ltd became the first foreign SWF to be granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.

### OCTOBER

- New series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) released with the new Base Year 2016.
  - ✓ *The CPI-IW is used for measuring Dearness Allowance payable to workers in PSUs, Banks and Insurance companies besides government employees.*
- For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferulaasafoetida) 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.*
- State-run power giant NTPC topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes.
- Amazon India has collaborated with IRCTC to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site.
- With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has banned imports of air conditioners with refrigerants.

### 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.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### NOVEMBER

- RBI has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging technology and promoting innovation.
- *Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.*
- The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts.
- In view of its weak financials, the RBI has announced the merger The Lakshmi Vilas Bank with Delhi based DBS Bank India Limited, a subsidiary of DBS Bank of Singapore.

- 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.*
- NPCI has approved payments feature on WhatsApp for users across the country in 10 regional languages.
- DBS Bank, Singapore 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."
- HDFC Bank Ltd. has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India, in a poll conducted by the UK based publication Asiamoney.

### OCTOBER

- M Rajeshwar Rao, RBI's senior-most executive director has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the central bank.
- 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.*
- To make digital payments more secure, both debit & credit cardholders will be able to register for some new options wef Oct 1, 2020.
  - ✓ *The options are opt-in or opt-out, spend limits for online transactions, international transactions and contactless transactions.*
- RBI launched a safer "Positive Pay System" for cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees. The system will be implemented by NPCI w.e.f. 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.*
- IDBI Bank launched WhatsApp banking to provide services like balance information, last five transactions, request for a cheque book, account statement, etc. on WhatsApp.
- A commemorative coin of 75 rupees denomination was released to mark the 75th Anniversary of the FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy.
- A commemorative 100-rupee coin was released in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on her 100th birth anniversary.
- RBI has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign: "RBI Kehta Hai... Jaankaar Baniye.. Satark Rahiye"

## 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 Bio Gas 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.

## DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## NOVEMBER

- Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first heavyweight anti-submarine electrically-propelled Torpedo, Varunastra, to the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy received the ninth Boeing P-8I surveillance plane from the USA at its naval air base in Goa on November 18.

- Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class advanced stealth submarine INS Vagir, was launched on Nov 12 at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai.
- 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.
- Three French Rafale fighter jets landed in Jamnagar in Gujarat on Nov 4, taking the total number of jets received till date to eight. Later, they flew to their home base at Ambala, Haryana.
- Army Chief General MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepali Army" by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu.
- 'Bull Strike': A joint military exercise of Army, Navy and Air Force was carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Nov 3 to 5.
- **MALABAR EXERCISE:** Joint exercise of the QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6.
- **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 in Andaman Sea for two days - Nov 21-22.
- **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.
- India's AI supercomputer 'Param Siddhi' achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world.
- *The supercomputer is installed in the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing' (C-DAC) in Pune, Maharashtra.*
- 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).
- ISRO's rocket PSLV-C49 successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and placed into its intended orbit on November 7.
- Indian researchers discovered a genus of tree frog in the Andaman Islands and in the northeast. The new genus is named Rohanixalus after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda.
- A mushroom documentation project has discovered a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom 'Roridomyces Phyllostachys' in forests of East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya.
- China has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully sent the 6G communications test satellite into the orbit.

## OCTOBER

- INS Kavaratti, anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile near Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
  - ✓ *It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa). Developed by DRDO, it has a range of 15 to 20 km.*
- 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 DRDO successfully test-fired Rudram-1, India's first indigenously developed new generation anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
- Nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile 'Shaurya' tested successfully with a strike range of around 1,000 km.
- DRDO and Indian Navy successfully test fired BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile from the warship INS Chennai.
- DRDO successfully tested BrahMos missile fitted with a homemade booster, airframe and other components for a strike range of 400 km.
- 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 Indian Air Force 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.
- **Sagar Kavach:** A two-day Coastal Security Exercise - was conducted on October 8-9 in the Arabian Sea alongside the western coast.
- **Bongosagar-2:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Indo-Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise was held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5.
- **ICGS Kanaklata Barua,** a fast patrol vessel built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata, was inducted in the Indian Coast Guard on October 1 at Kolkata.
- **SLINEX-20:** The 8<sup>th</sup> annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies took place off Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October.
- DRDO successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo", SMART on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Russia successfully test-fired its hypersonic cruise missile Tsirkon (Zircon) having speed of more than Mach 8 (9800 kmph) and a range of 1,000 km.



## 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.
- Ministry of Defence launched portal SRIJAN, a 'one stop shop' that provides access to the vendors to

take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.

- Israel successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2" ballistic missile interceptor.
- ICGS Sarthak: An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) indigenously built by the Goa Shipyard Limited was formally inducted in the Indian Coast Guard
- The Terrain Mapping Camera – 2 onboard ISRO's Chandrayaan 2 captured an image of a crater on the Moon.
- ✓ *ISRO named this crater after Indian astrophysicist Vikram Sarabhai on the occasion of his birth centenary.*
- ISRO is all set to allow the private sector to set up their own launchpad at the Sriharikota Launch Centre (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh, so that they can launch their own rocket or spacecraft.
- A Hyderabad based space-tech startup – Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine.
- ✓ *Used in the launch vehicle Vikram-I, it is named 'Raman' after Nobel laureate Dr. C V Raman.*
- Techgentsia Software, a startup by Joy Sebastian of Kerala won the national competition for developing a world-class indigenous video conference solution.
- ✓ *The product named 'Vconsole' won Rs. One crore prize from the Ministry of Information and Technology.*
- The tech giant Google launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card and build their public profile for search engine.
- NASA successfully sent its Mars Rover Perseverance on a seven-month journey to the red planet.
- ✓ *It is one of the biggest, most sophisticated Mars rovers ever built — a car-sized six wheel vehicle weighing over a ton, equipped with cameras, microphones, drills and lasers.*

## INTERNATIONAL

## NOVEMBER

- The 15th G20 Summit was held on Nov 21-22 in virtual mode, chaired by Saudi Arabia. The theme of the summit was "Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All".
- 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.

- 15 Asia Pacific countries formed world's largest trading bloc, comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries, and South Korea, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand.
- *The deal named 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP) is led by China.*
- FAO of the UN formally launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems and agriculture worldwide.
- Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States.
- *Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris also secured her position as the first woman to be the Vice President of the USA.*
- The USA formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Nov 4.
- *Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025.*
- 'Lockdown', the containment measure adopted around the world to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020 by the Collins online dictionary, Glasgow, Scotland.

## OCTOBER

- The Principality of Andorra joined the IMF on Oct 16 as its 190<sup>th</sup> member. It is a micro nation, sandwiched between France in the north and Spain in the south.
- The World Economic Outlook report by the IMF predicted a deep global recession in 2020 and shrinkage of 4.4% in the world economic growth.
- Singapore has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition.
- The 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.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Unit got operational on July 31.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### NOVEMBER

- Azim Premji: The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, has topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020 with highest contribution of Rs 7,904 crore
- Priyanka Radhakrishnan: 41 year old Indian-origin politician created history by becoming the first Indian-Kiwi woman to become a minister in New Zealand.

NOTIFICATION  
OUT

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## OCTOBER

**Ayushmann Khurrana:** Popular Bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine.

### 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 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.

**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.

## 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.

# APPOINTMENTS

## NOVEMBER

**Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha:** Appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner, head of Central Information Commission, a statutory body.

**Girish Chandra Murmu:** Comptroller & Auditor General of India was elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva.

**Dr. M. M. Kuty:** 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 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.

**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:** Appointed as the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, New Delhi.

**Wavel Ramkalawan:** Elected as the President of Seychelles. His ancestors hail from Bihar.

**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:** Elected as the Prime Minister of New Zealand 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

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

## SEPTEMBER

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

**Pareesh 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 Nath Kovind.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 ironing box.

**UN Global Climate Action Award:** Won by Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh for helping remote communities in accessing solar energy.

**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'.

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

### 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.

**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 the black hole.

**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.

**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'.

**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.

**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.

**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 in Maths..

#### **"Earthshot Prize" to save environment**

The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William of Britain) launched new global prize for the environment, designed to incentivise change and help to repair our planet over the next ten years

✓ *Five £1million prizes will be awarded each year for next 10 years, to provide at least 50 solutions to some of the world's top environmental problems.*

**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 helping lakhs of migrants in getting 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 CSIR on Sep 26.

## **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.

# **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 an eight-time parliamentarian -- five times in the Rajya Sabha and 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.

**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).

**Diego Maradona:** Argentinean football legend passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest on Nov 25. The flamboyant player, best known for leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title, was 60.

**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.

**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. *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.

**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 Delhi.

**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.

**BhanuAthaiya:** 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".

**Lee Kun-hee:** Charismatic leader of Samsung Group, South Korea's biggest conglomerate, died on Oct 25 at the age of 78.

**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.

## SEPTEMBER

**Pranab Mukherjee:** Former President of India passed away on August 31 at the age of 84. He had served as the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Metre wave 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.

## 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 experts from Canada, with the help of a 60 tonnes snubbing unit, killed the blowout well.

**Kabartal Wetland, Begusarai (Bihar),** also known as 'Kanwar Jheel'; **Sur Sarovar,** also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh and **Lonar Lake,** the Crater Lake in Buldhana district of Maharashtra, all three have been declared as wetlands of international importance under 'Ramsar Convention'.

**Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh:** It has been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that will explore innovative ways to achieve eco-conservation and sustainability.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Storm Eta:** A powerful hurricane with wind speeds up to 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains hit Nicaragua in Central America on Nov 3.

**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.

### OCTOBER

**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.

### 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.

## 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 clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals in the final at Dubai on Nov10.

**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 Nadal** became the fourth player in history to win 1,000 matches on the ATP Tour, after beating Feliciano Lopez (Spain) in the Paris Masters on Nov 4.

**The ICC** 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 ICC** has introduced a minimum age policy, according to which, a player must be of minimum 15-years of age to play international cricket.

**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 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 equalled the all time record of 91 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany.

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

#### 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.

**Polish teenager IgaSwiatek** 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 NozomiOkuhara of Japan clinched the women's singles title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the finals held in Odense, Denmark.

**SEPTEMBER**

**P Iniyan, 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.	Dhyana 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 MsVinesh 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.

### Dhyana Chand Award

Given for lifetime contribution in development and enrichment of sports. Named after wizard of Hockey - Major Dhyana 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, MAKAT 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 Jacques Kallis, Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar, were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony.

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

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

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

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

# Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



## JANUARY GK TEST - 01

1. **Dr. V. Shanta, the world renowned \_\_\_\_\_ passed away due to brief illness in Chennai.**  
a. Gynecologist                      b. Oncologist  
c. Heart Surgeon                      d. Orthopaedician  
e. Pulmonologist
2. **What was the name of the joint exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force in Jodhpur?**  
a. Parakram-21                      b. Shorya-2021  
c. Ex Desert Knight-21                      d. Desert Strike - 21  
e. Ex Air Knight - 21
3. **India created history by winning the series in Australia by winning the fourth and final Test at which place?**  
a. Sydney                      b. Brisbane  
c. Melbourne                      d. Perth  
e. Adelaide
4. **Which Indian union minister has been honoured with the Canada Sahitya Gaurav award by the Hindi Writers' Guild, Canada?**  
a. Prakash Javadekar                      b. Jitendra Singh  
c. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank  
d. Pralhad Joshi                      e. Harsh Vardhan
5. **Which global body recently approved a loan for one billion dollar to provide support to 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' through MGNREGA Scheme?**  
a. World Bank  
b. New Development Bank  
c. Asian Development Bank  
d. International Monetary Fund  
e. Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development
6. **China's lunar probe successfully brought samples from the Moon. What is its name?**  
a. Feng-II                      b. Shen-I  
c. Cheng Fi                      d. Chang'e-5  
e. Dong Fi
7. **ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite on Dec 17. What is its name?**  
a. CMS-01                      b. C-SAT- 3  
c. GSAT-5                      d. CMS-III  
e. PSLV-11
8. **The Bharat QR Code is related to which of the following?**  
a. Digital payment initiative promoted by the RBI  
b. Facts and figures about India  
c. Web portal for various mobile wallets  
d. Aadhar card based payment system  
e. RBI portal for regulation of digital payments
9. **RBI has mandated that all banks having more than \_\_\_\_ branches, must appoint their Internal Ombudsman:**  
a. 10                      b. 15  
c. 20                      d. 25  
e. None of these
10. **Which of the following is highest mountain peak of India?**  
a. Mount Everest                      b. Nanda Devi  
c. Kanchenjunga                      d. Kamet  
e. None of these
11. **Who was the first Indian woman to be crowned Miss Universe?**  
a. Priyanka Chopra                      b. Aishwarya Rai  
c. Sushmita Sen                      d. Zeenat Aman  
e. None of these

- 12. The DRDO inducted 21 'bike ambulances' in the CRPF for casualty evacuation tasks in remote Naxal violence and insurgency-affected areas. What is its name?**  
 a. Chikitsa                      b. Vaidyak  
 c. Rakshita                     d. Aapatika  
 e. Ambubike
- 13. India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in which city in Kerala?**  
 a. Kochi                         b. Thrissur  
 c. Alappuzha                   d. Trichy  
 e. Kollam
- 14. Union Ministry of commerce and Industry announced India's new Foreign Trade Policy. What is its duration?**  
 a. 2021-22                      b. 2021-23  
 c. 2021-24                      d. 2021-25  
 e. 2021-26
- 15. The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in Gujarat's \_\_\_\_\_ district:**  
 a. Banaskantha                 b. Kutch  
 c. Bharuch                      d. Bhavnagar  
 e. Vadodara
- 16. India has decided to contribute \$ 1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Where are its headquarters?**  
 a. Rio-de-Janeiro               b. Los Angeles  
 c. Paris                          d. Montreal  
 e. London
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first zoo in the country to receive the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from the Accreditation Services for Certification Bodies, UK:**  
 a. National Zoo Park, Delhi  
 b. Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune  
 c. Chatbir Zoo, Mohali  
 d. Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar  
 e. Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad
- 18. Who won this year's Best FIFA Men's Player award?**  
 a. Lionel Messi                 b. Robert Lewandowski  
 c. Cristiano Ronaldo           d. Neymar  
 e. K Mbappe
- 19. Which of the following is not a mobile wallet?**  
 a) Paytm                         b) Mobikwik  
 c) Oxigen                         d) PhonePe  
 e) Aadharpay
- 20. Which of the following bodies releases the Global Financial Stability Report?**  
 a. World Bank  
 b. IMF (International Monetary Fund)  
 c. BIS (Bank for International Settlements)  
 d. World Economic Forum  
 e. None of these
- 21. Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres has been added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?**  
 a. Indonesia                     b. Malaysia  
 c. Singapore                    d. Taiwan  
 e. Hong Kong
- 22. The Olympic Council of Asia awarded the hosting rights of 2030 and 2034 Asian Games to which two countries, respectively?**  
 a. Qatar and UAE                b. South Korea and Japan  
 c. Malaysia and Qatar          d. Qatar and Saudi Arabia  
 e. Japan and China
- 23. India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO has been inaugurated in which city?**  
 a. Bengaluru                     b. Chandipur  
 c. Pune                            d. Hyderabad  
 e. Mangaluru
- 24. India has been placed at which rank in the recently released Human Freedom Index 2020?**  
 a. 97th                              b. 103rd  
 c. 111th                            d. 117th  
 e. 123rd
- 25. The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four traditional indigenous Games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021. Which one of the following is NOT one of them?**  
 a. Gatka                            b. Kalaripayattu  
 c. Thang-Ta                        d. Mallakhamb  
 e. Silambam
- 26. Which country conferred its highest civil decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**  
 a. Norway                         b. Sweden  
 c. Britain                         d. USA  
 e. France
- 27. National Mathematics Day is observed on December 22 to mark the birthday of which great mathematician?**  
 a. C R Rao                         b. Srinivasa Ramanujan  
 c. Aryabhatta                     d. P C Mahalanobis  
 e. S N Bose



- 28. Which two prominent Indian universities held their centenary celebrations in the month of December 2020?**  
a. Banaras Hindu University & Jamia Millia Islamia  
b. Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia  
c. Kolkata University and Banaras Hindu University  
d. Aligarh Muslim University and Visva-Bharati University  
e. Delhi University and Kolkata University
- 29. Which digital payment system can be used by a person, who has neither a Smartphone nor a basic feature phone?**  
a. M-wallet                                      b. USSD  
c. AEPS -Aadhaar Enabled Payment System  
d. UPI    e. None of these
- 30. Ramnath Goenka Excellence Awards are given in the field of \_\_\_\_\_.**   
a. Literature                                      b. Sports  
c. Journalism                                      d. Social activism  
e. Education
- 31. UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), an agency of United Nations that works in the field of environment conservation, has its headquarters in which city?**  
a. Nairobi    b. Geneva  
c. Paris    d. New York  
e. Zurich
- 32. Which Bank launched a new, first of its kind online platform for foreign firms looking to set up or expand their business in India?**  
a. HDFC Bank                                      b. ICICI Bank  
c. SBI    d. PNB                                      e. CBI
- 33. India has added Tso Kar wetland complex to the list of Ramsar Sites. It is located in which state/UT?**  
a. Ladakh    b. Jammu & Kashmir  
c. Uttarakhand                                      d. Meghalaya  
e. Arunachal Pradesh
- 34. What is the title of the recent book authored by Pranab Mukharjee, former President of India?**  
a. Stint in Rashtrapati Bhavan  
b. The View from the Top  
c. Presidential Years 2012-2017  
d. Five Years at the Top  
e. From the President's Point
- 35. India's first ever driverless train operations were flagged off on the metro in which city?**  
a. Kolkata    b. Chennai  
c. Lucknow    d. Delhi  
e. Mumbai
- 36. Who is the author of the recently published book "The Light of Asia"?**  
a. Amish Tripathi                                      b. Mani Shankar Iyer  
c. Salman Khurshid                                      d. Jairam Ramesh  
e. Prannoy Rai
- 37. NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, named \_\_\_\_\_ :**  
a. Digicloud    b. E-store  
c. Digibank    d. DigiBoxx  
e. E-cloud
- 38. Who is the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade?**  
a. Babar Azam    b. Virat Kohli  
c. Kane Williamson                                      d. Marnus Labuschagne  
e. Steve Smith
- 39. Which of the following scientific instruments is used to measure the speed, direction of the wind?**  
a. Altimeter    b. Ammeter  
c. Barograph    d. Anemometer  
e. None of these
- 40. Which of the following is the only active volcano of India as well as that of South Asia?**  
a. Barren Islands    b. Narcon Point  
c. Deccan Traps    d. Mt. Karakatau  
e. None of these
- 41. Which municipal corporation has been declared as the best performing civic body in India?**  
a. New Delhi    b. Brihat Mumbai  
c. Bengaluru    d. Visakhapatnam  
e. Trivandrum
- 42. India's first hot air balloon safari in a tiger reserve was launched on December 25 in which National Park?**  
a. Ranthambore National Park  
b. Kanha National Park  
c. Jim Corbett National Park  
d. Satpura National Park  
e. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- 43. Pierre Cardin, the fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, died aged 98. He hailed from which country?**  
a. Spain    b. Portugal  
c. France    d. Serbia  
e. Italy
- 44. India has been placed at which rank in the revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report by the World Bank?**

- a. 57th                      b. 63rd  
c. 77th                      d. 89th  
e. 97th

**45. Which cyclone in India caused maximum loss of lives and displaced over 4.9 million people?**

- a. Nisarga                      b. Gati  
c. Amphan                      d. Nivar  
e. Burevi

**46. What is the name of India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine?**

- a. Pneumokill                      b. Neumovac  
c. Mocco Vac                      d. Pneumosil  
e. Pneumovax

**47. Government launched which portal and mobile App to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world?**

- a. Global Pravasi Rishta      b. PravasiBandhu  
c. Vishwa Parvasi Mitra      d. Global NRI Hub  
e. World NRI Union

**48. The government has approved the export of which indigenously built missile?**

- a. Prithvi                      b. Agni  
c. Akash                      d. BrahMos  
e. Nag

**49. The Home Ministry declared which state as a 'disturbed area' for another six months from Dec 30 under AFSPA?**

- a. Manipur                      b. Nagaland  
c. Mizoram                      d. Assam  
e. Tripura

**50. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, a 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of which para military force?**

- a. BSF                      b. ITBP  
c. CRPF                      d. CISF  
e. SSB

#### ANSWER KEY | JANUARY GK TEST | 1

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

## JANUARY GK TEST - 02

**1. Ms. Arya Rajendran, the 21-year-old college student has been elected as the youngest Mayor of the country in which city?**

- a. Kochi                      b. Salem  
c. Mysuru                      d. Thiruvananthapuram  
e. Pune

**2. Country's first Pollinator Park has been thrown open to the public at which place in Uttarakhand?**

- a. Rishikesh                      b. Haridwar  
c. Haldwani                      d. Nainital  
e. Pauri

**3. As per an international report released recently, which country suffered maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020?**

- a. Philippines                      b. Japan  
c. USA                      d. Mexico  
e. India

**4. Suneet Sharma has been appointed as the new Chairman and CEO of which apex national organisation?**

- a. NITI Aayog                      b. UGC  
c. National Pollution Board  
d. Railway Board                      e. DRDO

**5. Government has launched how many Light House Projects under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)?**

- a. Two                      b. Four  
c. Six                      d. Eight  
e. Ten

**6. The Braille language is based on \_\_\_\_ convex dots that form all the letters and symbols:**

- a. Four                      b. Six  
c. Eight                      d. Ten  
e. Fourteen

**7. RBI recently launched Digital Payment Index with \_\_\_\_ as the base year:**

- a. 2017                      b. 2018  
c. 2019                      d. 2020  
e. 2021

**8. In the Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021, who has zoomed to the first spot?**

- a. Bill Gates                      b. Jeff Bezos  
c. Elon Musk                      d. Warren Buffet  
e. Zhong Shanshan



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9. A 450-km natural gas pipeline between Kochi in Kerala and \_\_\_\_\_ in Karnataka was inaugurated on Jan 5:
- Bengaluru
  - Mysuru
  - Kalaburagi
  - Mangaluru
  - Hubli
10. India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from \_\_\_\_ on Jan 4 with 43 members onboard.
- Kochi
  - Mumbai
  - Surat
  - Goa
  - Mangaluru
11. RBI maintains 'SACHET' web portal for what purpose?
- To control the incidents of unauthorized acceptance of deposits by unscrupulous entities.
  - To help the public in identifying entities authorized by RBI for collection of deposits.
  - To facilitate detection of fraud in the banks
  - Both b and c
  - Only a and b
12. NASSCOM is a trade association of Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry. What is full form of NASSCOM?
- National Association of Software and Supply Companies
  - National Association of Supply and Services Companies
  - National Association of Social and Security Companies
  - National Association of Software and Social Companies
  - National Association of Software and Services Companies
13. Hirakud Dam built across the Mahanadi River is one of the first major multipurpose river valley projects started after India's independence. In which state is it situated?
- Andhra Pradesh
  - Chhattisgarh
  - Jharkhand
  - Bihar
  - Odisha
14. The NDRF inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers. The letter 'R' in NDRF denotes what?
- Rescue
  - Royal
  - Response
  - Revenue
  - Resource
15. Which institution raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment?
- FEDAI
  - RBI
  - IDBI Bank
  - EXIM Bank
  - DPIIT
16. The Reserve Bank operationalised its PIDF on Dec 5 to create 30 lakh new touch points every year for promoting digital payments in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres. What does 'I' denote in PIDF?
- Industrial
  - Investment
  - Internal
  - Institutional
  - Infrastructure
17. World's largest solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam on Narmada River in which state?
- Gujarat
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Chattisgarh
  - Telangana
  - Andhra Pradesh
18. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Meteorological Centre in India?
- Mysuru
  - Chennai
  - Pune
  - Patna
  - Kanpur
19. Headquarters of Security Printing And Minting Corporation Of India Limited are located in which city?
- Hyderabad
  - Nashik
  - Dewas
  - New Delhi
  - Bengaluru
20. Government launched an inter-ministerial venture named \_\_\_\_\_ to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system:
- Toyventure
  - Innotoys
  - Toython
  - Toycathon
  - Newtoys
21. The Reserve Bank of India has directed that the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI will be mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. \_\_\_\_ crore and above:
- 10
  - 20
  - 30
  - 40
  - 50
22. The Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank has become the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank. Its head office is in which city?

- a. Kangra                                  b. Bhopal  
c. Lucknow                                 d. Gorakhpur  
e. Saharanpur
- 23. Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Parliament building on Jan 6 in a stunning bid to overturn his election defeat. What is the name of the building of U.S. Parliament?**  
a. Liberty House                         b. White House  
c. Downing Street                        d. Capitol  
e. Camp David
- 24. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from \_\_\_\_\_ to India on 9 January 1915.**  
a. Spain                                      b. South Africa  
c. Uganda                                  d. Britain  
e. Kenya
- 25. Dr. Shailla Cannie, Principal, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), won the National Florence Nightingale Award. What is the cash component of this national award?**  
a. Rs. 50,000                                b. Rs. 75,000  
c. Rs. 1, 00,000                            d. Rs. 2,00,000  
e. Rs. 5,00,000
- 26. Which city holds a week long International Kite Festival on the occasion of the Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti?**  
a. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh  
b. Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
c. Indore, Madhya Pradesh  
d. Mysore, Karnataka  
e. Amritsar, Punjab
- 27. Bhimbetka rock shelters, an archaeological site that spans the prehistoric, Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, are located in which state?**  
a. Gujarat                                  b. Maharashtra  
c. Karnataka                                d. Madhya Pradesh  
e. Rajasthan
- 28. National Youth Day is observed on January 12 to commemorate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. What was his original name?**  
a. Virendra Nath                            b. Surendra Paul  
c. Dushyant Kumar                        d. Narendra Nath Datta  
e. Ramakrishna Datta
- 29. The Henley's passport index has retained \_\_\_\_\_ on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world:**  
a. Singapore                                b. Hong Kong  
c. Britain                                      d. Japan                                      e. USA
- 30. Madhavsinh Solanki, a journalist-turned-politician, four times chief minister of \_\_\_\_\_ and later two time union minister passed away on Jan 9:**  
a. Gujarat                                    b. Karnataka  
c. Rajasthan                                 d. Goa  
e. Maharashtra
- 31. The Cherry Blossom Mao festival is associated with which state?**  
a. Mizoram                                  b. Meghalaya  
c. Tripura                                    d. Manipur  
e. Arunachal
- 32. India's first ever ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley. It is at which place?**  
a. Tehri                                        b. Leh  
c. Kargil                                        d. Spiti  
e. Keylong
- 33. The Management Effectiveness Evaluation Report of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country has declared Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary as the best protected area. It is in which state/UT?**  
a. Ladakh                                      b. Kashmir  
c. Himachal Pradesh                        d. Uttarakhand  
e. Arunachal
- 34. Which country organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video-conferencing on January 11?**  
a. Britain                                      b. Chile  
c. Peru                                         d. Japan                                      e. France
- 35. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd, which provides export credit insurance to Indian exporters, is based in which city?**  
a. Gurgaon                                    b. New Delhi  
c. Mumbai                                    d. Pune  
e. Hyderabad
- 36. Sadyr Japarov has been elected as the new President of which central Asian country?**  
a. Uzbekistan                                b. Kyrgyzstan  
c. Turkmenistan                                d. Kazakhstan  
e. Ukraine
- 37. The Reserve Bank has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash for what purpose?**  
a. To review functioning of Payment Banks  
b. To review the functioning of digital lending  
c. To suggest measures for reducing NPAs  
d. To study problems of micro financing  
e. A purpose other than given here

**38. What is the name of India's first 9mm machine pistol developed by the DRDO and the Indian Army's Mhow-based Infantry School?**

- a. Agni
- b. Fire
- c. Blast
- d. Asmi
- e. Maxo

**39. Which Indian ministry has won the SKOCH Challenger Award for outstanding performance in e-Governance?**

- a. Ministry of Railways
- b. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- c. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- d. Ministry of External Affairs
- e. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers

**40. The government announced Startup India Seed Fund Scheme to provide financial assistance to startups with a corpus of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore:**

- a. 500
- b. 800
- c. 1,000
- d. 1,200
- e. 1,500

**41. A powerful earthquake rocked Sulawesi Island, killing at least 92 people, and displacing thousands of residents. It is in which country?**

- a. Indonesia
- b. Malaysia
- c. Vietnam
- d. Philippines
- e. Japan

**42. Ustad Mustafa Khan, renowned Indian classical musician passed away on Jan 17. He was a maestro of which field?**

- a. Tabla playing
- b. Sitar playing
- c. Classical singing
- d. Music direction
- e. Both c & d

**43. Payment Banks are required to invest \_\_\_\_ % of their demand deposit balances in SLR securities.**

- a. 75
- b. 20.5
- c. 40
- d. 50
- e. 60

**44. The Sambhar Salt Lake, India's largest inland salt lake, is situated in which of the following states?**

- a. Rajasthan
- b. Gujarat
- c. Karnataka
- d. Goa
- e. Andhra Pradesh

**45. The Orang National Park in Assam, which is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam, is known by which other name?**

- a. Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park
- b. Indira Gandhi Orang National Park

- c. Sangama Orang National Park
- d. Jawahar Lal Nehru Orang National Park
- e. Mahatma Gandhi Orang National Park

**46. Bathukamma floral festival celebrated predominantly by the Hindu women as per Sathavahana calendar for nine days starting Bhadrapada Pournami till Durgashtami, is celebrated in which state?**

- a. Odisha
- b. Telangana
- c. Andhra Pradesh
- d. Tamil Nadu
- e. Kerala

**47. The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) launched which campaign to create awareness among the consumers of fossil fuels?**

- a. Bachat
- b. Save fuel
- c. Eandhan
- d. Saksham
- e. Swachh

**48. Which Bank issued Niyo Bharat Payroll Card for the blue collar workers of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)?**

- a. Yes Bank
- b. ICICI Bank
- c. HDFC Bank
- d. Axis Bank
- e. PNB

**49. The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th January in Goa. It is which edition of the festival?**

- a. 33rd
- b. 41st
- c. 47th
- d. 51st
- e. 60th

**50. Who publishes the Human Development Index?**

- a. United Nations Development Program
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- d. The World Bank
- e. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

#### ANSWER KEY | JANUARY GK TEST | 2

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



# SSC-CGL

## TIER - 1 Model Test Paper



### REASONING ABILITY

**Directions (1 - 2):** In each of the following questions, select the related number / word / letter from given alternatives.

- 1)  $9 : 7 :: 80 : ?$   
a) 48  
b) 50  
c) 78  
d) 82
- 2) **Defer : Put off :: Deduce : ?**  
a) Infer  
b) Protect  
c) Delate  
d) Oppose

**Directions (3- 4):** In each of the following questions, which one set of letters when sequentially placed at the gaps in the given letter series shall complete it?

- 3) **a \_ \_ b abba\_abb a\_ba**  
a) abab  
b) abba  
c) aabb  
d) aaab
- 4) **AZB \_ AZ\_Y, A\_BY, \_ZBY**  
a) YBZA  
b) BYAZ  
c) BZYA  
d) AZBY
- 5) **Find out the wrong number in the sequence**  
102, 101, 98, 93, 86, 74, 66, 53  
a) 101  
b) 66  
c) 74  
d) 93

**Directions (6- 7):** In each of the following questions, select the one which is different, from other three responses.

- 6) a) Detach  
c) Append  
b) Affix  
d) Fasten
- 7) a) Man = 13114  
c) Jug = 10217  
b) Ram = 18113  
d) Hub = 82110

- 8) The set which resembles the given set 1, 5, 12 is  
a) 7, 11, 35  
b) 4, 8, 24  
c) 10, 14, 44  
d) 9, 13, 42

**Directions (9):** In each of the following questions, a series is given, with one term missing. Choose the correct alternative from the given ones that will complete the series.

- 9) **ELFA, GLHA, ILJA, \_ , MLNA**  
a) OLPA  
b) KLMA  
c) LLMA  
d) KLLA
- 10) **4, 18, 48, \_ , 180**  
a) 80  
b) 100  
c) 105  
d) 125
- 11) **In a certain code, LONDON is coded as 24 - 30 - 28 - 8 - 30 - 28. How will FRANCE be coded?**  
a) 10 - 24 - 6 - 28 - 6 - 12  
b) 12 - 26 - 6 - 28 - 8 - 10  
c) 12 - 36 - 2 - 28 - 6 - 10  
d) 12 - 26 - 2 - 28 - 8 - 10
- 12) **In a certain code, MAARK is written as KRAAM. How PASSI can be written in that code?**  
a) ISSAP  
b) ISSPA  
c) SSIPA  
d) ASSIP
- 13) **If  $29 \times 48 = 576$ ,  $35 \times 16 = 90$ ,  $22 \times 46 = 96$ , then  $42 \times 17 = ?$**   
a) 56  
b) 286  
c) 48  
d) 64
- 14) **If 'P' denotes 'multiplied by', 'T' denotes 'subtracted from', 'M' denotes 'added to' and 'B' denotes 'divided by' then: what should be the correct responses of**

12 P 6 M 15 T 16 B 4 ?

- a) 70                      b) 75  
c) 83                      d) 110

**Directions (15):** In each of the following questions, select the missing number form the given responses:

15) 95, 115, 145, 155, ?

- a) 215                      b) 175  
c) 185                      d) 165

16) Rohan walks a distance of 3 km towards North, then turns to his left and walks for 2 km. He again turns left and walks 3 km. At this point he turns to his left and walks for 3 km. How many kilometers is he from the starting point?

- a) 1 km                      b) 2 km  
c) 3 km                      d) 4 km

17) Rani and Sarita started from a place X. Rani went West and Sarita went North, both travelling with the same speed. After sometimes, both turned their left and walked a few steps. If they again turned to their left, in which directions' the faces of Rani and Sarita will be with respect to X?

- a) North and East                      b) North and West  
c) West and North                      d) East and South

**Directions (18):** In each of the following questions, one/two statements are given followed by three conclusions. You have to consider the statements to be true even it they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. You have to decide which of the given conclusions. If any, follow from the given statements.

18) **Statements:**

Some ladies are beautiful.

Some beautiful are honest.

All honest are sensitives.

Conclusion I: Some sensitives are beautiful.

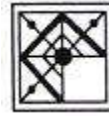
Conclusion II: Some honest are ladies.

Conclusion III: Some sensitives are ladies.

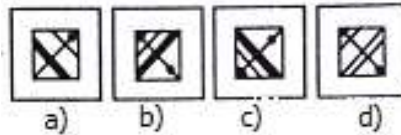
- a) None of the Conclusion follows.  
b) Only Conclusion I follows.  
c) Only Conclusion I and II follow.  
d) All Conclusions follow.

19) Which one of the answer figures shall complete the given question figure?

Question Figure:

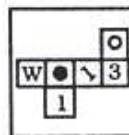


Answer Figures:

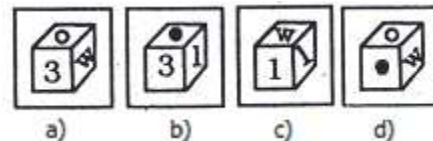


20) Which of the four cubes pictured below are correct view when the six squares are folded (in clockwise direction) into a cube?

Question Figure:



Answer Figures:



21) Which one of the following diagrams best depicts the relationship among Black eyed people, Brown haired people, Indian

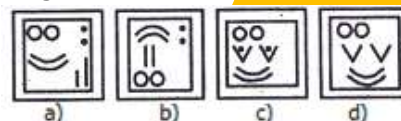


22) Find out which of the following answer figures will exactly make up the question figure?

Question Figure:



Answer Figures:

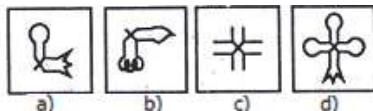


- 23) Which one of the answer figures is hidden in the following question figure?

Question Figure:



Answer Figures:

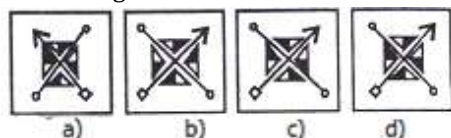


- 24) From the answer figures, find out the figure which is the exact mirror image of the question figure, when the mirror is placed on the line MN.

Question Figure:



Answer Figures:



- 25) In the following question, a word is represented by a set of numbers as given in any one of the alternatives. The sets of numbers given in the alternatives are represented by alphabets as in the matrices given below. The columns and rows of matrix are numbered from 1 to 6. A letter from these matrices can be represented first by its row and next by its column number, e.g., 'A' can be represented by 42, 'S' can be represented by 21, etc. Similarly, you have to identify the set for the word 'PLAY'.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	H	R	E	I	P	S
2	S	G	N	D	Z	I
3	B	U	F	T	K	L
4	V	A	P	C	Y	A
5	H	W	C	O	X	N
6	B	A	E	F	L	Q

- a) 43, 36, 42, 23      b) 43, 32, 33, 33  
c) 15, 12, 42, 45      d) 43, 65, 62, 45

## NUMERICAL ABILITY

- 26) If the side of a square is reduced by 50% its area will be reduced by  
a) 75%      b) 80%  
c) 60%      d) 50%
- 27) Two triangles ABC and PQR are congruent. If the area of  $\triangle ABC$  is 60 sq. cm. then area of  $\triangle PQR$  will be  
a) 60 sq. cm.      b) 30 sq. cm.  
c) 15 sq. cm.      d) 120 sq. cm.
- 28) The least number which must be added to 1728 to make it a perfect square is .....  
a) 36      b) 32  
c) 38      d) 30
- 29) For a triangle ABC, D and E are two points on AB and AC such that  $AD = \frac{1}{4} AB$ ,  $AE = \frac{1}{4} AC$ ,  
If BC = 12 cm, the DE is  
a) 5cm      b) 4 cm  
c) 3 cm      d) 6 cm
- 30) If  $\tan \theta + \cot \theta = 2$  then the value of  $\theta$  is  
a)  $45^\circ$       b)  $60^\circ$   
c)  $90^\circ$       d)  $30^\circ$
- 31) The term to be added to  $121a^2 + 64b^2$  to make a perfect square is  
a) 176 ab      b)  $276 a^2b$   
c) 178 ab      d)  $188 b^2a$
- 32) A can do a piece of work in 6 days. B in 10 days and C in 15 days. They jointly complete the work and earn Rs 300. The sum of their wages for 2 days is  
a) Rs 180      b) Rs 200  
c) Rs 160      d) Rs 120
- 33) A sum of Rs 76 is divided among A, B and C in such a way that A gets Rs 7 more than that what B gets and B gets Rs 6 more than what C gets. The ratio of their shares is  
a) 19 : 24 : 33      b) 32 : 25 : 19  
c) 32 : 24 : 20      d) 19 : 25 : 33



34) If the opposite sides of a quadrilateral and also its diagonals are equal, then each of the angles of the quadrilateral is

- a)  $90^\circ$                       b)  $120^\circ$   
c)  $100^\circ$                       d)  $60^\circ$

35) If  $\cos \pi x = x^2 - x + \frac{5}{4}$ , then value of x will be

- a) 0                              b) 1  
c) -1                            d) None of the above

36) A tank 40 m long, 30m broad and 12m deep is dug in a field 1000m long and 30m wide. By how much will the level of the field rise if the earth dug out of the tank is evenly spread over the field?

- a) 2 metre                      b) 1.2 metre  
c) 0.5 metre                    d) 5 metre

37) In a triangle, if orthocentre, circumcentre, incentre and centroid coincide, then the triangle must be

- a) obtuse angled              b) isosceles  
c) equilateral                d) right-angled

38) If  $a = 2 + \sqrt{3}$ , then the value of  $\left(a^2 + \frac{1}{a^2}\right)$  is

- a) 12  
b) 14  
c) 16  
d) 10

39) For what value(s) of k the expression  $p + \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{p} + k^2$  is a perfect square?

- a)  $\pm \frac{1}{3}$                       b)  $\pm \frac{1}{4}$   
c)  $\pm \frac{1}{8}$                       d)  $\pm \frac{1}{2}$

40) If 15% of x is same as 20% of y then x : y is

- a) 4 : 3                      b) 5 : 4  
c) 6 : 5                      d) 3 : 4

41) If  $\frac{b-c}{a} + \frac{a+c}{b} + \frac{a-b}{c} = 1$  and  $a - b + c \neq 0$  then which one of the following relations is true?

- a)  $\frac{1}{c} = \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b}$               b)  $\frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}$   
c)  $\frac{1}{b} = \frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{c}$               d)  $\frac{1}{b} = \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{c}$

42) A train crosses a platform in 30 seconds travelling with a speed of 60km/h. If the length of the train be 200 metres then the length (in metres) of the platform is

- a) 400                            b) 300  
c) 200                            d) 500

43) If  $\triangle FGH$  is isosceles and  $FG < 3$  cm,  $GH = 8$  cm, then of the following the true relation is

- a)  $GH = FH$                       b)  $GF = GH$   
c)  $FH > GH$                       d)  $GH < GF$

44) The numerical value of  $1 + \frac{1}{\cot^2 63^\circ} - \sec^2 27^\circ + \frac{1}{\sin^2 63^\circ} - \operatorname{cosec}^2 27^\circ$  is

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

45) A and B together can complete a job in 8 days. Both B and C, working alone can finish the same job in 12 days. A and B commence work on the job, and work for 4 days, whereupon A leaves. B continues for 2 more days, and then he leaves too. C now starts working, and finishes the job. How many days did C require?

- a) 5                              b) 8  
c) 3                              d) 4

46) If  $x = \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$  then the value of  $x^3 - \frac{1}{x^3}$  is

- a)  $10\sqrt{2}$                       b)  $14\sqrt{2}$   
c)  $22\sqrt{2}$                       d)  $8\sqrt{2}$

47) What is the product of the roots of the equation  $x^2 - \sqrt{3} = 0$  ?

- a)  $+\sqrt{3}$                                       b)  $\sqrt{3}i$   
c)  $-\sqrt{3}i$                                       d)  $-\sqrt{3}$

48) If  $x = \frac{\cos \theta}{1 - \sin \theta}$ , then  $\frac{\cos \theta}{1 + \sin \theta}$  is equal to

- a)  $x - 1$                                       b)  $\frac{1}{x}$   
c)  $\frac{1}{x + 1}$                                       d)  $\frac{1}{1 - x}$

49) On what sum of money will the difference between S.I and C.I for 2 years at 5% per annum be equal to Rs 25?

- a) Rs 10,000                                      b) Rs 10,500  
c) Rs 9,500                                      d) Rs 9000

50) In  $\triangle ABC$ ,  $\angle B = 90^\circ$  and  $AB : BC = 2 : 1$ . The value of  $\sin A + \cot C$  is

- a)  $3 + \sqrt{5}$                                       b)  $\frac{2 + \sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}$   
c)  $2 + \sqrt{5}$                                       d)  $3\sqrt{5}$

## GENERAL AWARENESS

51) The companies contributing to the Swachh Bharat campaign can claim tax rebate under the CSR guidelines. The acronym CSR stands for

- A. Corporate Social Responsibility  
B. Common Social Responsibility  
C. Cumulative Social Rejuvenation  
D. Community Social Responsibility

52) The respiratory centre in humans is situated on the

- A. Cerebrum                                      B. Cerebellum  
C. Medulla oblongata                                      D. Diencephalon

53) The pH of human blood ranges between

- A. 6.5-7                                      B. 7.5-8  
C. 8-9                                      D. 4.5-5

54) Which of the following schemes aims at constructing two crore houses with a grant of Rs. 1-2.30 lac per house?

- A. Housing for All  
B. Indira Awas Yojana  
C. Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana  
D. Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana

55) Which of the following is INCORRECT in the context of Union Budget 2017-18?

1. The exemption limit for Income Tax has been fixed at Rs.3 lac.  
2. Out of every rupee spent by the government, the highest amount goes towards interest payments.  
3. The highest government tax receipts come from Corporate Tax collections.  
A. 1, 2                                      B. 1 Only  
C. 1, 3  
D. All these statements are incorrect

56) The normal temperature of a human body is

- A.  $90^\circ\text{F}$                                       B.  $98.4^\circ\text{C}$   
C.  $98.4^\circ\text{F}$                                       D.  $96.4^\circ\text{F}$

57) Malik Kafur was a favourite general of

- A. Balban                                      B. Alauddin Khalji  
C. Mohammad Tughlaq                                      D. Firoz Tughlaq

58) The Funny Bone in the human body is actually

- A. A muscle                                      B. A nerve  
C. A bone                                      D. A blood vessel

59) Photosynthesis involves

- A. oxidation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and release of  $\text{O}_2$   
B. reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  and oxidation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
C. reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  and release of  $\text{O}_2$   
D. reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$ , oxidation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and release of  $\text{O}_2$

60) The Mohemmadan Anglo-Oriental college of Aligarh was founded by

- A. Md. Ali Jinnah                                      B. Mohammad Ali  
C. Shaukat Ali  
D. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

61) The words Satyameva Jayate in the State Emblem of India have been adopted from

- A. Mundak Upanishad  
B. Brahma Upanishad

- C. Mudgala Upanishad  
D. Maitreyi Upanishad

- 62) **The expounder of Yoga philosophy was**  
A. Patanjali B. Gautam  
C. Jaimini D. Sankaracharya
- 63) **The Preamble to our Constitution describes India as**  
A. Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic  
B. Sovereign, Democratic, Socialist, Secular Republic  
C. Socialist, Sovereign, Democratic, Secular Republic  
D. Democratic, Sovereign, Secular, Socialist Republic
- 64) **Mahaparinirvan refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Buddha.**  
A. Passing away B. First sermon  
C. Marriage  
D. Departure from home
- 65) **Jharoka Darshan was a practice followed by**  
A. Akbar B. Shahjehan  
C. Babar D. Jahangir
- 66) **The President's Rule in a state means that the state is ruled by**  
A. A caretaker government  
B. The Chief Minister nominated by the President  
C. The Governor of the State  
D. The President directly
- 67) **The largest gland in the human body is**  
A. heart B. liver  
C. kidney D. brain
- 68) **The Mid Day Meal scheme was launched first of all by**  
A. Tamil Nadu B. Rajasthan  
C. Goa D. Kerala
- 69) **..... had a separate department of slaves.**  
A. Feroz Tughlaq B. Mohd Tughlaq  
C. Aurangzeb D. Qutbuddin Aibak
- 70) **Match List-1 with List - II and select the correct answer from the codes given below the lists:**

List - I	List - II
(Forms of Government)	(Principles)
A. Presidential system	1. Separation of powers
B. Parliamentary system	2. Close relationship between executive and

	legislature
C. Federal System	3. Concentration
D. Unitary System	4. Division of power

Code:	A	B	C	D
A.	1	2	3	4
B.	2	1	3	4
C.	2	1	4	3
D.	1	2	4	3

- 71) **Our skin colour is due to the presence of**  
A. rennin B. melanin  
C. mesotosin D. metatonin
- 72) **The Hazarat Nizamuddin Auliya shrine is in**  
A. Aligarh B. Roorkee  
C. Delhi D. Ajmer
- 73) **The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a formal organization which originated from the erstwhile**  
A. League of Nations B. GATT  
C. Brettonwoods Agreement  
D. European Economic Community
- 74) **Match the following:**
- | Element       | Nature              |
|---------------|---------------------|
| A. Sodium     | 1. Gas              |
| B. Phosphorus | 2. Halogen          |
| C. Iodine     | 3. Alkali metal     |
| D. Radon      | 4. Transition metal |
|               | 5. Non-metal        |
- |    |         |            |
|----|---------|------------|
|    | A B C D | A B C D    |
| A. | 2 5 3 1 | B. 3 5 2 1 |
| C. | 4 2 3 5 | D. 5 3 4 2 |
- 75) **Match the following:**
- | Process        | Changes              |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A. Evaporation | 1. Liquid into gas   |
| B. Sublimation | 2. Gas into liquid   |
| C. Freezing    | 3. Solid into gas    |
| D. Melting     | 4. Solid into liquid |
|                | 5. Liquid into solid |
- |    |         |            |
|----|---------|------------|
|    | A B C D | A B C D    |
| A. | 1 2 5 4 | B. 3 1 2 4 |
| C. | 3 1 5 4 | D. 1 3 5 4 |

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Directions (76- 80): In the following questions, some parts of the sentences have errors and some are correct. Find out which part of a sentence has an error. The number of that part is your answer. If a sentence is free from error, then your answer is (4) i.e. No error**





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- 76) After tasting both /(a) John prefers /(b) tea than coffee /(c) No error (d)  
 a) After tasting both                      b) John prefers  
 c) Tea to coffee                              d) No error
- 77) I loved /(a) the drawings /(b) they were so real /(c) No error (d)  
 a) ) I loved                                      b) the drawings  
 c) they were so real                          d) No error
- 78) Suddenly they saw a car coming /(a) at a break neck speed /(b) An old man were crossing the road at the zebra crossing /(c) No error (d)  
 a) Suddenly they saw a car coming  
 b) at a break neck speed  
 c) An old man were crossing the road at the zebra crossing  
 d) No error
- 79) I sprained my ankle /(a) When I was /(b) playing basketball /(c) No error (d)  
 a) I sprained my ankle                      b) When I was  
 c) playing basketball                          d) No error
- 80) It is time /(a) we should accept all our people as equals /(b) and as partners in the task of building a strong and united nation /(c) No error (d)  
 a) It is time  
 b) we should accept all our people as equals  
 c) and as partners in the task of building a strong and united nation  
 d) No error

**Directions (81– 85): In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four.**

- 81) Lella said the new restaurant was nothing to write about. She thought it was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) just average                                  b) really terrible  
 c) splendid                                      d) excellent
- 82) My Nigerian friend, Fela is having trouble finding work here in London, but he says if push comes to shove he can always \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) go to jail                                      b) win the lottery  
 c) end of the journey that is life  
 d) go back to Nigeria

- 83) If you say to someone. "You're so full of yourself" they'll probably feel \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) upset    b) pleased  
 c) calm    d) proud
- 84) The archer missed the \_\_\_\_\_ by an inch.  
 a) score    b) point  
 c) blow    d) aim
- 85) Bob and Jane decided to tie the knot because  
 a) they loved one another  
 b) they needed to save money  
 c) they wanted to make a long rope  
 d) it had come undone

**Directions (86–88): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given word.**

- 86) **CREDIBLE**  
 a) Charming                                      b) Serious  
 c) Believable                                      d) Worthy
- 87) **EXTRICATE**  
 a) Free    b) Tie  
 c) Complicate                                      d) Pull
- 88) **OBSTREPEROUS**  
 a) Unrule    b) Lazy  
 c) Awkward    d) Sullen

**Directions (89– 91): In the following questions, choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.**

- 89) **ACQUIT**  
 a) Despair    b) Mild  
 c) Smart    d) Condemn
- 90) **DISSENT**  
 a) Discord    b) Disagreement  
 c) Unacceptable                                      d) Agreement
- 91) **GROUP**  
 a) Singular    b) Individual  
 c) Alone    d) Solitary

**Directions (92– 93): In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.**

- 92) After his business failed, he had to work very hard to **keep the wolf from the door**  
 a) keep away extreme poverty  
 b) earn an honest living  
 c) regain his lost position  
 d) defend from enemies
- 93) The mention of her former husband's name still makes Rita **foam at the mouth**.  
 a) angry  
 b) vomit  
 c) shy  
 d) fall sick
- 94) He found a **wooden chair that has broken** in the room.  
 a) wooden and broken chair  
 b) broken wooden chair  
 c) broken and wooden chair  
 d) No improvement
- 95) The hosts were taken aback when many guests who **had been invited** did not turn up for the party.  
 a) had been invited  
 b) had invited  
 c) was invited  
 d) No improvement

**Directions (96– 100): In the following questions, you have two passages with 5 questions in each passage. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.**

The National Highways Network of India measures over 70,934 km as of 2010, including over 1,000 Km of limited -access expressways. Out of 71,000 km of National Highways 15,000 plus km are 4 or 6 lanes and remaining 50,000 km are 2 lanes. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is the nodal agency responsible for building upgrading and maintaining most of the National Highways network. The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a major effort to expand and upgrade the network of highways. NHAI often uses a public -private partnership model for highway development, maintenance and toll -collection. National Highways constituted about 2% of all the roads in India, but carried about 40% of the total road traffic as of 2010. The majority of existing National Highways are two lane roads (one lane in each direction), through much of this is being expanded to four lanes, and some to six or eight lanes. Some sections of the network are toll roads. Over 30,000 km of new highways are planned or under construction as part of

the NHDP, as of 2011. This includes over 2,600 km of expressways currently under construction.

- 96) **What is the current measurement of expressways under construction in India?**  
 a) 15,000 km  
 b) 30,000 km  
 c) 2,600 km  
 d) 1,000 km
- 97) **What is the responsibility of the NHAI?**  
 a) planning of National Highways  
 b) building upgrading and maintaining of National Highways  
 c) control of National Highways  
 d) expansion of National Highways
- 98) **What is the measurement of two -lane National Highways of India?**  
 a) 15,000 km  
 b) 61,000 km  
 c) 50,000 km  
 d) 71,000 km
- 99) **What percentage of roads in India are National Highways?**  
 a) 2%  
 b) 30%  
 c) 4%  
 d) 40%
- 100) **The majority of National Highways in India have:**  
 a) two -lanes  
 b) six -lanes  
 c) eight -lanes  
 d) four -lanes

## ANSWER KEY

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	C	2	A	3	A	4	A	5	C
6	A	7	D	8	B	9	D	10	B
11	C	12	A	13	A	14	C	15	B
16	A	17	D	18	D	19	B	20	A
21	A	22	B	23	C	24	D	25	D
26	A	27	A	28	A	29	C	30	A
31	A	32	B	33	B	34	A	35	D
36	C	37	C	38	B	39	C	40	A
41	C	42	B	43	A	44	D	45	D
46	C	47	D	48	B	49	A	50	B
51	A	52	C	53	B	54	A	55	C
56	C	57	B	58	B	59	C	60	D
61	A	62	A	63	A	64	A	65	A





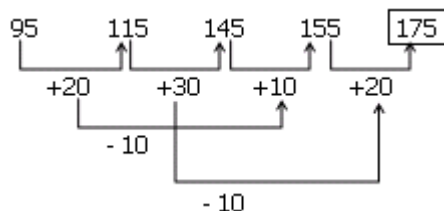
Therefore,  
 $42 \times 17$   
 $\Rightarrow 4 \times 2 \times 1 \times 7 = \boxed{56}$

14) c)

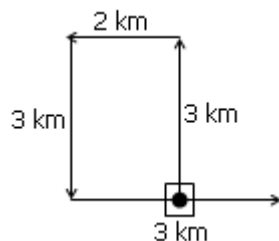
$P \Rightarrow \times$	$T \Rightarrow -$
$M \Rightarrow +$	$B \Rightarrow \div$

$12 P 6 M 15 T 16 B 4 = ?$   
 $\Rightarrow ? = 12 \times 6 + 15 - 16 \div 4$   
 $\Rightarrow ? = 72 + 15 - 4 = \boxed{83}$

15) b)

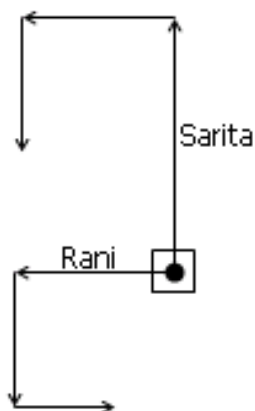


16) a)



Required distance = 1 km

17) d)



Rani is facing towards East and Sarita is facing towards South.

18) b) The first and second Premises are Particular Affirmative (I - type).  
The Third Premise is Universal Affirmative (A - type).

Some beautifuls are honest.

All honest are sensitives.

$I + A \Rightarrow I$  - type of Conclusion

"Some beautifuls are sensitives."

Conclusion I is Converse of it.

19) b)



20) a)

3 lies opposite ●.  
 $\sim$  lies opposite W.  
1 lies opposite ○.

In option (b) 3 is on the adjacent face of dot.

In option (c)  $\sim$  is on the adjacent face on W.

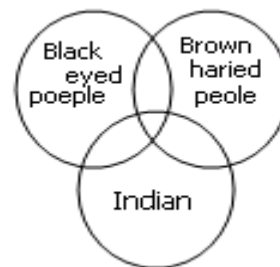
In option (d) ● is on the top and hence the positions of dot (.) and W are not correct.

21) a) Some black eyed people may be brown haired and vice-versa.

Some black eyed people may be Indians and vice-versa.

Some brown haired people may be Indians and vice-versa.

Some black eyed and brown haired people may be Indians and vice-versa.



22) b) All the components of the Question Figure are present in the answer figure (b)



23) c)



24) d)



25) d)  $P \Rightarrow 15, 43$ ;

$L \Rightarrow 36, 65$ ;

$A \Rightarrow 42, 46, 62$ ;

$Y \Rightarrow 45$

Option	P	L	A	Y
(1)	43	36	42	<del>23</del>
(2)	43	<del>32</del>	<del>33</del>	<del>33</del>
(3)	15	<del>12</del>	42	45
(4)	43	65	62	45

26. a) Required percentage decrease

$$= \left( -50 - 50 + \frac{-50 \times -50}{100} \right) \%$$

$$= -100 + 25 = 75\%$$

27. a) Both the triangles are congruent.

$$\therefore \Delta ABC = 60 \text{ sq. cm.}$$

$$\Delta PQR = 60 \text{ sq. cm.}$$

28. a)  $41 \times 41 = 1681$

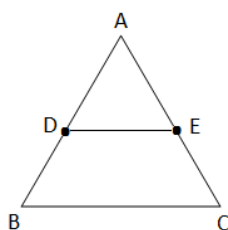
$$42 \times 42 = 1764$$

$\therefore$  Required answer

$$= 1764 - 1728$$

$$= 36$$

29. c)



$$\frac{AD}{AE} = \frac{AB}{AC}$$

$$\Delta ADE \sim \Delta ABC$$

$$\therefore DE = \frac{1}{4} \times 12 = 3 \text{ cm}$$

30. a)  $\tan \theta + \cot \theta = 2$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \theta + \frac{1}{\tan \theta} = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\tan^2 \theta + 1}{\tan \theta} = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan^2 \theta + 1 = 2 \tan \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan^2 \theta - 2 \tan \theta + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\tan \theta - 1)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \theta = 1 = \tan 45^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = 45^\circ$$

31. a)  $121a^2 + 64b^2$

$$(11a)^2 + (8b)^2$$

$$\therefore (x + y)^2 = x^2 + y^2 + 2xy$$

$\therefore$  Required expression

$$= 2 \times 11a \times 8b$$

$$= 176ab$$

32. b)  $(A + B + C)$ 's 1 day's work

$$= \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15} = \frac{5+3+2}{30} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Hence, the work will be completed in 3 days.

$$\therefore \text{Their 2 day's wages} = \text{Rs. } 200$$

33. b) B's share = Rs. B

$$A's \text{ share} = \text{Rs. } (b + 7)$$

$$C's \text{ Share} = \text{Rs. } (b - 6)$$

$$\therefore b + b + 7 + b - 6 = 76$$

$$\Rightarrow 3b = 76 - 1 = 75$$

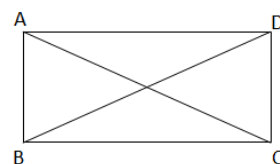
$$\Rightarrow b = \text{Rs. } 25$$

$$\therefore A's \text{ share} = 25 + 7 = \text{Rs. } 32$$

$$C's \text{ share} = 25 - 6 = \text{Rs. } 19$$

$$\therefore \text{Required ratio} = 32 : 25 : 19$$

34. a)



$$AB = CD$$

$$BC = AD$$

$$AC = BD$$

It will be a rectangle and each angle will be right angle.

$$35. d) \cos \pi x = x^2 - x + \frac{5}{4}$$

$$= x^2 - 2 \cdot x \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{5}{4}$$

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



We know that  $-1 \leq \cos x \leq 1$

So answer is None of these

36. c) Volume of earth taken out

$$= 40 \times 30 \times 12$$

$$= 1440 \text{ cu. Metre}$$

Area of the rectangle field

$$= 1000 \times 30 = 30000 \text{ sq. metre}$$

Area of the region of tank

$$= 40 \times 30 = 1200 \text{ sq. metre}$$

Remaining area

$$= 30000 - 1200$$

$$= 28800 \text{ sq. metre}$$

Increase in level

$$= \frac{14400}{28800} = 0.5 \text{ metre}$$

37. c) In an equilateral triangle, orthocenter, circumcentre, incentre and centroid coincide.

38. b)  $a = 2 + \sqrt{3}$

$$\frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{2 + \sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{(2 + \sqrt{3})} \times \frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{2 - \sqrt{3}}$$

$$= \frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{4 - 3} = 2 - \sqrt{3}$$

$$\therefore a^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} = \left(a + \frac{1}{a}\right)^2 - 2$$

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

$$= 16 - 2 = 14$$

39. c)  $p + \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{p} + k^2$

$$= (\sqrt{p})^2 + 2 \cdot \sqrt{p} \cdot \frac{1}{8} + \left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^2 + k^2$$

$$\Rightarrow k^2 = \left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^2 \Rightarrow k = \pm \frac{1}{8}$$

40. a)  $x \times \frac{15}{100} = y \times \frac{20}{100}$

$$\Rightarrow x \times 15 = y \times 20$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = \frac{20}{15} = \frac{4}{3}$$

41. c)  $\frac{b-c}{a} + \frac{a+c}{b} + \frac{a-b}{c} = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b-c}{a} + \frac{a-b}{c} + \frac{a+c}{b} - 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b-c}{a} + \frac{a-b}{c} + \frac{a+c-b}{b} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{c-b}{a} + \frac{b-a}{c} = \frac{a+c-b}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{c^2 - bc + ab - a^2}{ac} = \frac{a+c-b}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(c^2 - a^2) - (bc - ab)}{ac} = \frac{a+c-b}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(c-a)(c+a) - b(c-a)}{ac}$$

$$= \frac{a+c-b}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(c-a)(c+a-b)}{ac} = \frac{a+c-b}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{c-a}{ac} = \frac{1}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{a}{ac} - \frac{a}{ac} = \frac{1}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{c} = \frac{1}{b}$$

42. b) Speed of train = 60 kmph

$$= \left(60 \times \frac{5}{18}\right) \text{ m/sec.}$$

$$= \frac{50}{3} \text{ m/sec}$$

If the length of platform be

= x metre, then

Speed of train

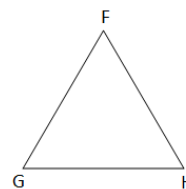
$$= \frac{\text{Length of (train + platform)}}{\text{Time taken in crossing}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{50}{3} = \frac{200 + x}{30}$$

$$\Rightarrow 50 \times 10 = 200 + x$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 500 - 200 = 300 \text{ metre}$$

43. a)



FG = 3 cm

G H = 8 cm

Clearly, FH = GH

The sum of two sides to a triangle is greater than its third side.

$$\begin{aligned}
 44. d) & 1 + \frac{1}{\cot^2 63^\circ} - \sec^2 27^\circ + \frac{1}{\sin^2 63^\circ} - \operatorname{cosec}^2 27^\circ \\
 &= 1 + \tan^2 63^\circ - \sec^2 27^\circ + \operatorname{cosec}^2 63^\circ - \operatorname{cosec}^2 27^\circ \\
 &= 1 + \tan^2 (90^\circ - 27^\circ) - \sec^2 27^\circ + \operatorname{cosec}^2 (90^\circ - 27^\circ) \\
 &\quad - \operatorname{cosec}^2 27^\circ \\
 &= 1 + \cot^2 27^\circ - \sec^2 27^\circ = \sec^2 27^\circ - \operatorname{cosec}^2 27^\circ \\
 &= 1 + \cot^2 27^\circ - \operatorname{cosec}^2 27^\circ \\
 &= 1 - 1 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$[\because \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta - \cot^2 \theta = 1]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 45. d) & \text{Work done by A and B in first 6 days} \\
 &= (A + B)'s \text{ 4 day's work} + B's \text{ 2 day's work} \\
 &= 4 \times \frac{1}{8} + \frac{2}{12} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3+1}{6} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Remaining work

$$= 1 - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\therefore \text{Time taken by C} = \frac{1}{3} \times 12 = 4 \text{ days}$$

$$46. c) x = \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{3 - 2} = \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}$$

$$\therefore x - \frac{1}{x} = \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}$$

$$= 2\sqrt{2}$$

$$\therefore x^3 - \frac{1}{x^3} = \left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 + 3\left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right)$$

$$= (2\sqrt{2})^3 + 3 \times 2\sqrt{2} = 16\sqrt{2} + 6\sqrt{2} = 22\sqrt{2}$$

$$47. d) x^2 - \sqrt{3} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - (3)^{\frac{1}{2}} = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - \left(3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(x + 3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right)\left(x - 3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right) = 0$$

$$\therefore x = 3^{1/4} \text{ or } -3^{1/4}$$

$\therefore$  Product or roots

$$= 3^{1/4} x - 3^{1/4} = -\sqrt{3}$$

Note : Product of the roots of

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \text{ is } \frac{c}{a}$$

$\therefore$  Product of the roots of

$$x^2 - b.0 - \sqrt{3} = 0 \text{ is } -\sqrt{3}$$

$$48. b) x = \frac{\cos \theta}{1 - \sin \theta} = \frac{\cos \theta(1 + \sin \theta)}{(1 - \sin \theta)(1 + \sin \theta)}$$

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

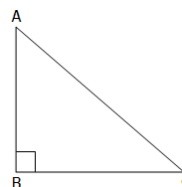
$$= \frac{\cos \theta(1 + \sin \theta)}{\cos^2 \theta}$$

$$= \frac{1 + \sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \quad \therefore \frac{\cos \theta}{1 + \sin \theta} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$49. a) \text{Difference} = \frac{PR^2}{10000}$$

$$\Rightarrow 25 = \frac{P \times 5 \times 5}{10000} \Rightarrow P = \text{Rs. } 10000$$

50. b)



$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{2}{1}$$

$$\Rightarrow AB = 2k, BC = k$$

$$\therefore AC = \sqrt{(2k)^2 + k^2} = \sqrt{5k^2} = 5\sqrt{k}$$

$$\therefore \sin A + \cot C = \frac{BC}{AC} + \frac{BC}{AB}$$

$$= \frac{k}{5\sqrt{k}} + \frac{k}{2k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2 + \sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}$$

76. c) If prefer is followed by a Noun, preposition 'to' should be used. Hence, **tea to coffee** should be used here.

77. c) Here, which seemed so real/which looked so real ..... should be used.

78. c) Here, subject (An old man) is singular. Hence, singular very i.e. An oldman was ..... should be used.
80. b) 'It is time' is followed by Past Simple, Hence, we accepted all our ..... should be used.
81. a) Nothing much to write home about = not especially good : ordinary.
82. d) When push comes to shove = when there is no other choice, when everything has failed.
83. d) Full of yourself = very proud ; thinking only of yourself.
85. a) Tie the knot = to get married.
86. c) Credible (Adjective) = that can be believed or trusted; convincing.  
Look at the sentence.  
It is just not credible that he would cheat.
87. a) Extricate (Verb) : to escape or enable somebody to escape from a difficult situation; to free somebody.  
Look at the sentence :  
They managed to extricate the pilot from the tangled control panel.
88. a) Obstreperous (Adjective) = noisy and difficult to control.
89. d) Acquit (Verb) = to decide and state officially in court that somebody is not guilty of a crime.  
Condemn (verb) = to express strong disapproval; to sentence.  
Look at the sentences:  
The jury acquitted him of murder.  
She was condemned to hang for killing her husband.
90. d) Dissent (Noun) = disagreement : expressing different opinions from those that are officially accepted.
91. b) Group (Noun) = disagreement : expressing different opinions from those that are officially accepted.
92. a) To keep the wolf from the door = to have enough money to avoid going hungry.
93. a) Foam at the mouth = to be very angry

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FAILURE IS NOT FATAL:  
IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE  
THAT COUNTS.**

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# LATEST GK BYTES

## JANUARY 2021

- 1) India's first ever driverless train operations were flagged off on \_\_\_\_\_ Metro's Magenta Line: **Delhi**
- 2) Indian and Vietnamese Navy concluded the two-day naval passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in which area? **South China Sea**
- 3) Which Football player won the FIFA Player of the Century Award? **Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal**
- 4) NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called \_\_\_\_\_: **'DigiBoxx'**
- 5) Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade? **Virat Kohli**
- 6) Who won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade? **Ellyse Perry (Australia)**
- 7) India's first hot air balloon safari in a tiger reserve was launched on December 25 in which national park? **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh**
- 8) Which Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India? **Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh**
- 9) The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ day of December: **27<sup>th</sup>**
- 10) The India Meteorological Department opened its highest Meteorological Centre located at 3,500 metres above sea level at which place? **Leh, Ladakh**
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first wrestler of the country to win silver at the Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia: **Anshu Malik**
- 12) Name the French fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, who died aged 98: **Pierre Cardin**
- 13) As per an international report which country suffered maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020? **India**
- 14) Which is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses? **Serum Institute of India, Pune**
- 15) What is the name of India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine? **Pneumosil**

- 16) Government launched which portal and mobile app to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world? **The Global Pravasi Rishta**
- 17) The government has approved the export of which indigenously built missile system? **Akash**
- 18) The entire state of \_\_\_\_\_ was declared a disturbed area for another six more months from Dec 30: **Nagaland**
- 19) What is the name of India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container? **SAHAYAK-NG**
- 20) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of which para-military force? **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- 21) Winner of the Scientist of the Year Award, senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey hails from which apex organization? **DRDO**
- 22) Who has been elected as the youngest mayor of India in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala? **Arya Rajendran**
- 23) Which F1 driver has been honoured with the Knighthood in Britain? **Lewis Hamilton**
- 24) Country's first Pollinator Park was thrown open to the public in \_\_\_\_\_ in Uttarakhand: **Haldwani**
- 25) Who has been appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO? **Suneet Sharma**
- 26) The Asian Development Bank cleared a \$ 231 million loan to augment electricity generation capacity in which state? **Assam**
- 27) Name the veteran Congress leader and former Union home minister who passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi: **Buta Singh**
- 28) Winner of Eminent Engineer Award-2020, V.K. Yadav, is Chairman & CEO of which apex organization? **Railway Board**
- 29) Which is the first private company to successfully test-fire the technology demonstration version of their solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? **Skyroot Aerospace, Hyderabad**
- 30) What is the name of India's first private sector solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? **Kalam-5**
- 31) Which apex organisation has unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com? **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**

32)	World Braille Day is celebrated on Jan 4 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? <b>Louis Braille</b>
33)	How many convex dots are used in the Braille language that forms all the letters and symbols? <b>Six</b>
34)	The Reserve Bank of India launched _____ Index to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India: <b>Digital Payments</b>
35)	Which billionaire has zoomed to the second spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021? <b>Elon Musk</b>
36)	Billionaire Elon Musk is associated with which business? <b>Tesla Motors, USA</b>
37)	A 450-km natural gas pipeline between _____ in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka, was inaugurated on Jan 5: <b>Kochi</b>
38)	The National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the CSIR & National Physical Laboratory. Metrology is associated with which field? <b>Weight and measures</b>
39)	Alexander Ellis has been appointed as the new British High Commissioner to which country? <b>India</b>
40)	India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from _____ on Jan 4: <b>Goa</b>
41)	Which Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment? <b>EXIM Bank</b>
42)	The Reserve Bank operationalised its Payments Infrastructure Development Fund on Dec 5 for what purpose? <b>For promoting digital payments</b>
43)	The Asian Development Banksanctioned a \$100 million loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in which city? <b>Bengaluru city</b>
44)	The World Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in which state? <b>West Bengal</b>
45)	The World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Meteorological Centre in India? <b>Patna</b>
46)	Which special force inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers? <b>National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)</b>
47)	Headquarters of the Exim Bank are located in which city? <b>Mumbai</b>
48)	World's largest solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam on _____ River: <b>Narmada</b>
49)	Omkareshwar dam project is located in which state? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>

50)	Which global Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in West Bengal? <b>The World Bank</b>
51)	The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Indian Meteorological Centre? <b>Patna</b>
52)	What is the name of the inter-ministerial venture launched to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system? <b>Toycathon</b>
53)	RBI has made use of the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. ____: <b>50crore and above</b>
54)	LEI is a unique identification code comprising of ____ digits: <b>20</b>
55)	Which organization brings out the Global Economic Prospects Report? <b>World Bank</b>
56)	Faustin-Archange Touadera has been re-elected as the President of Central _____ Republic: <b>African</b>
57)	World Day of War Orphans is observed on which day of January? <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
58)	What is the cash prize given in the National Florence Nightingale Award? <b>Rs. 50,000</b>
59)	As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Jan 7, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by _____ % in fiscal 2020-21: <b>7.7</b>
60)	The NewDevelopment Bank, Shanghai signed loan agreements worth \$646 million with the Government of India for two road projects in which Indian State? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
61)	Which is the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a license from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank? <b>The Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Saharanpur</b>
62)	Claire Polosak scripted history on Jan 7 by becoming the first female _____ in the 144 year old history of men's Test matches: <b>Match official</b>
63)	Claire Polosak hails from which country? <b>Australia</b>
64)	Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed which building on Jan 6 in a stunning bid to overturn his election defeat? <b>US Capitol</b>
65)	Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9 marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 from which country? <b>South Africa</b>
66)	World Hindi Day is observed on January 10 to mark the holding of which event for the first time in 1975? <b>World Hindi Conference</b>
67)	The National Hindi Diwas is observed on which date? <b>Sep 14</b>

68)	Who was the Chief Guest for the celebrations of this year's PravasiBharatiya Divas? <b>Chandrikapersad Santokhi</b>
69)	Who is Sh.Chandrikapersad Santokhi? <b>President of Suriname</b>
70)	What was the theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas? <b>Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat</b>
71)	Indian Navy coordinated the second edition of the largest coastal defence exercise named _____ : <b>Sea Vigil-21</b>
72)	Naval defence exercise Sea Vigil-21 was conducted at which place? <b>All along the Indian coast and EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)</b>
73)	EEZ is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources. It extends up to what limit: <b>200 nautical miles (370.4 km)</b>
74)	Which organization has offered to adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs to promote Space Education and related innovations for school students? <b>Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO</b>
75)	Which organization looks after the functioning of Atal Tinkering Labs? <b>NITI Aayog</b>
76)	National Youth Day is observed on January 12to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? <b>Swami Vivekananda</b>
77)	What was the original of Swami Vivekananda? <b>Narendra Nath Datta</b>
78)	Who was the Guru of of Swami Vivekananda? <b>Ramakrishna Paramhansa</b>
79)	The Henley's passport index has retained _____ on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world: <b>Japan</b>
80)	The Indian passport was placed at which rank in the Henley's Passport Index? <b>85</b>
81)	Four times Chief Minister of Gujarat and two times union minister from Gujarat passed away on Jan 9. Who was he? <b>Madhavsingh Solanki</b>
82)	The Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held on Jan 9 in Mao town of Senapati district of which state? <b>Manipur</b>
83)	Government has approved procurement of 83 Tejas LCA worth about Rs 48,000 crore. What is LCA? <b>Light Combat Aircraft</b>
84)	Which company will supply 83 Tejas LCA to Indian Air Force? <b>Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru</b>
85)	Makar Sankranti is celebrated by which name in Gujarat? <b>Uttarayan</b>
86)	State of Assam celebrates Makar Sankranti in the form of which festival? <b>Magh Bihu</b>
87)	India's first ever ice climbing festival was held in Nubra valley in which place? <b>Leh, Ladakh</b>

88)	According to a recent government survey, Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and Great Himalayan National Park were declared the best. They are in which place? <b>Kullu, HP</b>
89)	Which country organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video conferencing on January 11? <b>France</b>
90)	SadyrJaparov, former Prime Minister of _____ has been elected as the new President of the country: <b>Kyrgyzstan</b>
91)	Which National Day is celebrated on Jan 15 to mark the taking over of command of Indian Army by then Lt Gen K M Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief? <b>Army Day</b>
92)	Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, some 45,500 years old, in which country? <b>Indonesia</b>
93)	The Reserve Bank has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI for what purpose? <b>To review the functioning of digital lending</b>
94)	As per the International Migration Report 2020 released by the UN's Population Division, _____ has the world's largest Diaspora: <b>India</b>
95)	Which country is host to the largest number of migrants in the world? <b>USA</b>
96)	What is the name of the India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol developed by DRDO? <b>Asmi</b>
97)	Which Indian ministry won the SKOCH Challenger Award for outstanding performance in e-Governance? <b>Ministry of Tribal Affairs</b>
98)	International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th January in Goa. It was which edition of the festival? <b>51<sup>st</sup></b>
99)	Who was the head of the jury at the 51 <sup>st</sup> IFFI? <b>Pablo Cesar of Argentina</b>
100)	Which was the country of focus at the 51 <sup>st</sup> IFFI? <b>Bangladesh</b>
101)	To spur entrepreneurship across the Nation, the government announced Startup India Seed Fund Scheme with a corpus of Rs._____ crore: <b>1,000</b>
102)	A unicorn startup is one with a valuation of _____ dollar and above: <b>One billion</b>
103)	In Indonesia a powerful earthquake rocked _____ island, killing at least 92 people: <b>Sulawesi</b>
104)	Who was the renowned Indian classical musician of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana who breathed his last at his Mumbai residence on Jan 17? <b>Ustad Mustafa Khan</b>
105)	Ustad Mustafa Khan was honoured with which of the national Awards - Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan? <b>All three</b>
106)	What does letter 'R'stands for in the abbreviation PCRA? <b>Research</b>



107)	What is the name of the one month long awareness campaign launched by the PCRA on Jan16? <b>SAKSHAM</b>
108)	The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, opened which portal to the general public? <b>National Innovation Portal</b>
109)	ICICI Bank has tied up with Niyo to issue prepaid cards 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card' to which segment of customers? <b>The blue collar workers of MSMEs</b>
110)	What is the name of the bike ambulances launched by the DRDO for the CRPF? <b>Rakshita</b>
111)	Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that India's new Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect from April 1, 2021 for which period? <b>2021 to 26</b>
112)	The new Foreign Trade Policy aims to make India a \$_____ trillion economy by boosting exports: <b>Five</b>
113)	President of which African country scored a decisive election victory in third week of January to win a record sixth term as the President? <b>Uganda</b>
114)	Who has won the sixth term as President in Uganda? <b>Yoweri Museveni</b>
115)	Which city hosted the Yonex Thailand Open – 2021 Badminton Tournament? <b>Bangkok</b>
116)	India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in _____ in Kerala: <b>Alappuzha</b>
117)	Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force conducted a five day (Jan 20 to 24) bilateral Air exercise at which place? <b>Air Force Station, Jodhpur</b>
118)	What was the name of the 5 day joint Indo-French air exercise held in Jodhpur? <b>Ex Desert Knight-21</b>
119)	Dr. V. Shanta, the world renowned _____ passed away due to brief illness in Chennai: <b>Oncologist</b>
120)	An oncologist specializes in which field of medicine? <b>Cancer treatment</b>
121)	India created history by winning series against Australia. Where was the fourth and final match played? <b>Brisbane</b>
122)	Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was recently felicitated with which international honour in literature? <b>Canada Sahitya Gaurav</b>
123)	The 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built on which river? <b>Chenab</b>
124)	The Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built in which state/UT? <b>J&amp;K</b>
125)	NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020. Which major state topped the index? <b>Karnataka</b>

126)	Which small state or UT stood first in the India Innovation Index-2020? <b>Delhi</b>
127)	Which state topped the India Innovation Index-2020 in the North East and Hill States category? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
128)	Indian Defence Forces conducted which joint exercise in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to explore the synergy of all the four forces? <b>Exercise Kavach</b>
129)	The first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive was launched on which date? <b>January 16</b>
130)	What is the name of the covid vaccine developed and produced indigenously in India? <b>Covaxin</b>
131)	What is the name of the covid vaccine being produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune? <b>Covishield</b>
132)	Covishield vaccine has been developed by whom? <b>University of Oxford and AstraZeneca</b>
133)	Which mobile app has been developed by the Central government to ensure smooth implementation of Covid vaccination across the country? <b>CoWIN</b>
134)	Joe Biden was sworn in as the ____ President of USA on Jan 20: <b>46<sup>th</sup></b>
135)	New US President has declared that the USA will re-join international organization ____: <b>WHO – World Health Organisation</b>
136)	USA has announced that it will not boycott the _____ Accord: <b>Paris Climate</b>
137)	India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at which place? <b>Zaskar in district Kargil of Ladakh</b>
138)	Name the Indian who won the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize given for outstanding and innovative research in mathematics: <b>Nikhil Srivastava</b>
139)	Government has decided to celebrate Jan 23, birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as which national day? <b>Parakram Diwas</b>
140)	Indian Railways has decided to rename one of its oldest trains -- Howrah-Kalka Mail. What's the new name? <b>Netaji Express</b>
141)	Airtel Payments Bank launched which new innovative feature to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds? <b>Airtel SafePay</b>
142)	Which ministry announced the establishment of a first of its kind Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India? <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</b>
143)	Quantum Computing Applications Lab will be established with technical collaboration with which global tech venture? <b>Amazon Web Services</b>

<b>144)</b> The Reserve Bank declared the continuation of the D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) status for which three Indian Banks for the year 2020? <b>ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank</b>
<b>145)</b> Global Firepower ranked India at which rank in terms of Military Strength? <b>Fourth</b>
<b>146)</b> What is Pakistan's rank in the Military Strength Ranking released by the Global Firepower? <b>Tenth</b>
<b>147)</b> India celebrates National Girl Child Day on which date? <b>January 24</b>
<b>148)</b> The International Day of Girl Child is observed on which date? <b>October 11</b>
<b>149)</b> Which day of January is celebrated as the International Day of Education? <b>24<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>150)</b> In India which day has been selected to be observed as the National Education Day? <b>November 11</b>
<b>151)</b> The Election Commission of India came into existence on Jan 25, 1950. Which national day is observed to commemorate this day? <b>National Voters Day</b>
<b>152)</b> Internationally, World Leprosy Day is observed on which day? Last Sunday of January
<b>153)</b> Leprosy is also known as _____ disease: <b>Hansen's</b>
<b>154)</b> Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on Jan 31 in 1948. This day is nationally observed as which day? <b>Martyrs Day/Anti Leprosy Day</b>
<b>155)</b> The Commonwealth of Cricket is a recent book written by whom? <b>Ramchandra Guha</b>
<b>156)</b> What is the title of the recent novel authored by Rachel Hawkins? <b>The Wife Upstairs</b>
<b>157)</b> Gazing Eastwards is a book written by which noted historian? <b>Romila Thapar</b>
<b>158)</b> What is the title of the recent book written by S Y Quraishi, former CEC of India? <b>The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India</b>
<b>159)</b> According to the annual World Cooperative Monitor Report, 2020, which Indian cooperative ranked number one in terms of ratio of turnover over the per capita GDP? <b>IFFCO-- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd.</b>
<b>160)</b> Which cooperative has been declared as the biggest cooperative in the world in terms of annual turnover? <b>Groupe Cr�dit Agricole of France</b>
<b>161)</b> Name the popular iconic bhajan singer from Amritsar who passed away in New Delhi: <b>Narendra Chanchal</b>
<b>162)</b> DRDO successfully conducted a captive and release trial of indigenously developed SAAW from Hawk-i aircraft. Expand the term SAAW: <b>Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon</b>

<b>163)</b> The government has raised the authorised capital of which Bank to Rs.10,000 crore from Rs. 3,000 crore at present? <b>Punjab &amp; Sind Bank</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>
<b>164)</b> Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavy Weight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? <b>Varunastra</b>
<b>165)</b> What is the strike range of Varunastra? <b>40 kms</b>
<b>166)</b> Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? <b>Meghalaya</b>
<b>167)</b> International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women is celebrated on which day? <b>November 25</b>
<b>168)</b> National Milk Day is observed on Nov 26 to mark the birth anniversary of which great pioneer of milk industry? <b>Dr. Verghese Kurien</b>
<b>169)</b> World Milk Day is observed around the world on which date? <b>June 01.</b>
<b>170)</b> The Constitution Day celebrated on Nov 26 is also known as _____ Day: <b>National Law Day</b>
<b>171)</b> Which national day is observed on Nov 27 to promote organ donation? <b>Indian Organ Donation Day</b>
<b>172)</b> Name the Congress veteran and AICC treasurer who passed away on Nov 25: <b>Ahmed Patel</b>
<b>173)</b> The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held on Nov 20 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister of which country? <b>Malaysia</b>
<b>174)</b> Which country will host APEC summit in 2021? <b>New Zealand</b>
<b>175)</b> Name the strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal which crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on Nov 25: <b>Nivar</b>
<b>176)</b> World Heritage Week is celebrated every year from Nov 19-25 with the support of which UN agency? <b>UNESCO</b>
<b>177)</b> Name the Argentinean football legend who passed away on Nov 25: <b>Diego Maradona</b>
<b>178)</b> Who has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Dubai? <b>Greg Barclay</b>
<b>179)</b> Which web series has become first from India to win the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards, 2020? <b>Delhi Crime</b>
<b>180)</b> Which film has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category? <b>Jallikattu</b>
<b>181)</b> Jallikattu film has been made in which language? <b>Malyalam</b>
<b>182)</b> Which Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2? <b>Pilibhit Tiger Reserve</b>
<b>183)</b> Pilibhit Tiger Reserve won the TX2 award for which achievement? <b>For more than doubling</b>

<b>the number of tigers in the past four years, from 25 to 65.</b>
<b>184)</b> The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November with association of which state? <b>Tripura</b>
<b>185)</b> In which country Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Member of Parliament (MP) created history by becoming the first Indian-origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land? <b>New Zealand</b>
<b>186)</b> Faqir Chand Kohli passed away due to a heart attack on November 26 at his residence in Mumbai. He was known as the "Father of ____ Industry": <b>IT</b>
<b>187)</b> Faqir Chand Kohli was the first CEO of which major IT company? <b>TCS – Tata Consultancy Services</b>
<b>188)</b> According to data by the NSO on Nov 27, the Indian economy contracted by ____ per cent in the quarter ending Sep 30: <b>7.5</b>
<b>189)</b> Which country has been ranked at the top in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA on November 27? <b>Belgium</b>
<b>190)</b> Russia has selected which Indian drug company to manufacture Sputnik V Corona vaccine in India? <b>Hetero Drugs, Hyderabad</b>
<b>191)</b> Govt has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in which state? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>192)</b> Roch Marc Christian Kaboré has been re-elected as the President of Burkina Faso, a small landlocked country in ____? <b>Western Africa</b>
<b>193)</b> Cambridge Dictionary has named ____ as Word of the Year 2020: <b>'Quarantine'</b>
<b>194)</b> Which Indian short film has been selected as India's official entry at the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars) in the 'Live Action Short Film' category? <b>Shameless</b>
<b>195)</b> Who from India chaired the 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format? <b>Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu</b>
<b>196)</b> How many countries are the members of SCO? <b>Eight</b>
<b>197)</b> Who is the Secretary General of SCO? <b>Valadimir Norov</b>
<b>198)</b> A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 was released to mark the centennial foundation day of which university? <b>University of Lucknow</b>
<b>199)</b> MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series was recently inducted into Indian Navy. What is it? <b>Drone</b>
<b>200)</b> Which country has supplied MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone to India? <b>USA</b>

<b>201)</b> Where in India the largest Solar Project is being set up at a high altitude place? <b>Air Force Station, Leh.</b>
<b>202)</b> Which bank became the first bank in India to cross Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalization? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
<b>203)</b> The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf countries is being developed in Saih Shuaib, in which country? <b>UAE</b>
<b>204)</b> Which batsman recently created a new record for becoming the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs? <b>Virat Kohli</b>
<b>205)</b> December 1 is observed as the World AIDS Day. Which virus causes AIDS? <b>HIV - human immunodeficiency virus</b>
<b>206)</b> RBI has increased the timings for RTGS transactions wef Dec 14, 2020. What are the new timings? <b>24x7 – round the clock – all the days</b>
<b>207)</b> During April-September 2020, India attracted highest amount of FDI from which country? <b>Singapore</b>
<b>208)</b> India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched recently under which brand name? <b>XP-100</b>
<b>209)</b> Which public sector oil marketing company has launched XP_100 petrol? <b>Indian Oil Corporation Limited</b>
<b>210)</b> _____ become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine: <b>Britain</b>
<b>211)</b> Nongpok Sekmai police station has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. It is in which state? <b>Manipur</b>
<b>212)</b> The Reserve Bank has asked which Bank to temporarily stop all launches of the 'Digital Business generating activities'? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
<b>213)</b> India's spice king and a noted philanthropist, owner of MDH spices, passed away on Dec 3. What was his name? <b>Mahashay Dharampal Gulati</b>
<b>214)</b> What is the full form of MDH? <b>Mahashian di Hatti</b>
<b>215)</b> Researchers at which university have created the world's smallest memory device: <b>University of Texas, USA</b>
<b>216)</b> International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also called World Disability Day is observed on which date? <b>December 3</b>
<b>217)</b> December 2 is observed as the National Pollution Control Day. It is associated with which big industrial disaster? <b>Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Dec 2-3, 1984</b>
<b>218)</b> What was the name of the highly poisonous gas leakage of which in Bhopal claimed over 6,000 lives in 1984? <b>Methyl Iso-cyanate – MIC</b>



219)	Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as _____ of Lok Sabha with effect from 1 December: <b>Secretary-General</b>
220)	Who appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha? <b>Lok Sabha Speaker</b>
221)	The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode in which state? <b>Nagaland</b>
222)	According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, _____ is the most polluted city in the world: <b>Lahore</b>
223)	As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, _____ is the most impacted country by terrorism, for the second year in a row: <b>Afghanistan</b>
224)	What was India's rank as per the Global Terrorism Index 2020? <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
225)	Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced _____ as its 2020 word of the year: <b>Pandemic</b>
226)	World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated around the world on which date? <b>December 2</b>
227)	Government has announced launch of a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana, on which river? <b>Saryu</b>
228)	Severe cyclonic storm Nivar made landfall early on Dec 3 at Marakkanam in which state? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
229)	Which national day is observed on Dec 4 to mark the fierce attack by Indian Navy on Karachi harbour? <b>National/Indian Navy Day</b>
230)	The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise named _____ from 4 to 5 December: <b>PASSEX</b>
231)	The PASSEX exercise with Russian Navy was conducted in which area? <b>Eastern Indian Ocean Region</b>
232)	Name the former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron who announced to return his Padma Vibhushan award in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws: <b>Parkash Singh Badal</b>
233)	The RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs _____ from January 1, 2021: <b>Rs. 5,000</b>
234)	Who has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year'? <b>Gitanjali Rao</b>
235)	Who is the winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020? <b>Ranjitsinh Disale from Gujarat</b>
236)	What is the cash award given with the Global Teacher Prize? <b>\$ 1 million</b>
237)	Who has topped the list of the richest women in India with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore? <b>Roshni Nadar Malhotra</b>
238)	Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the CEO of which company? <b>HCL Technologies</b>

239)	Scientists in which country have built the world's first light-based quantum computer which is one trillion times faster than the most powerful supercomputer? <b>China</b>
240)	Who has been elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21? <b>Uday Shankar</b>
241)	International Day of Banks is observed on which day of December? <b>Fourth</b>
242)	What is the theme of the World Soil Day observed on Dec 5? <b>Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity</b>
243)	Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer – Asia" has found that _____ has the highest bribery rate at 39%: <b>India</b>
244)	The Indian Air Force carried out successful firing of the short-range Igla missiles. They have been supplied by which country? <b>Russia</b>
245)	Which state proposes to set up Raimona National Park that will cover an area of 422 sq km.? <b>Assam</b>
246)	The government has given its nod to create a new position in the India army. What is its name? <b>Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy</b>
247)	Who is the first appointee to the newly created post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy? <b>Lt Gen Paramjit Singh</b>
248)	Japanese spaceship _____ successfully sent on earth a small capsule to deliver samples collected by it from a distant asteroid: <b>Hayabusa-2</b>
249)	What is the name of the space agency of Japan? <b>Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency – JAXA</b>
250)	International Volunteer Day is observed on which date? <b>December 5</b>
251)	Which two cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO? <b>Gwalior and Orchha</b>
252)	Name the India's top formula racer who created history on Dec 6 as he became the first driver from the country to win a Formula 2 race: <b>Jehan Daruwalla</b>
253)	International Civil Aviation Day is observed on Dec 7 to highlight the role and importance of which international organization? <b>International Civil Aviation Organisation</b>
254)	Where are the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organisation located? <b>Montreal, Canada</b>
255)	Which national day is observed throughout the country on Dec 7 to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform: <b>Armed Forces Flag Day</b>
256)	Asian Development Bank approved a \$ 190 million loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in which Indian city? <b>Bengaluru</b>
257)	Which International day is observed on Dec 2 to spread awareness about ending human

trafficking and the exploitation of humans? <b>International Day for Abolition of Slavery</b>
258) Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of which international foundation? <b>WHO Foundation</b>
259) Which Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which allows its use to customers of any other bank? <b>ICICI Bank</b>
260) The International Olympic Committee has registered which dance form as an official Olympic sport with the name breaking? <b>Break-dance</b>
261) _____ has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface: <b>China</b>
262) Which global bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India? <b>Asian Development Bank</b>
263) Who has been declared World Athlete of the Year – Male by the World Athletics? <b>Mondo Duplantis of Sweden</b>
264) Mondo Duplantis is associated with which sports? <b>Pole Vault</b>
265) Who is the winner of the World Athlete of the Year – Female award? <b>Yulimar Rojas</b>
266) Yulimar Rojas is an outstanding champion of which athletic event? <b>Triple jump</b>
267) Sergio Perez became the first Mexican victor (since 1970) in F1 race winning the Sakhir Grand Prix in which country? <b>Bahrain</b>
268) Sergio Perez, winner of the Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain, hails from which country? <b>Mexico</b>
269) Who became the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes? <b>Kibiwott Kandie</b>
270) Kibiwott Kandie is a marathon runner from which country? <b>Kenya</b>
271) International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on which day of December? <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
272) What is the theme of this year's International Anti-Corruption Day? <b>Recover With Integrity</b>
273) The Indian Navy celebrates National Submarine Day on Dec 9 to commemorate the induction of the first submarine named _____ : <b>INS Kalvari</b>
274) Nepal and China jointly announced on Dec 8 that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest. The new height is higher by which amount? <b>86cm</b>
275) In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, who has been placed at top? <b>Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany</b>
276) Which politician has secured highest rank, 41 <sup>st</sup> , among Indians in the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women? <b>Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister</b>

277) Parthiv Patel announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game. He led which Ranji team to its first victory? <b>Gujarat</b>
278) Which Indian organization won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award? <b>Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</b>
279) The ICAR is based in which city? <b>New Delhi</b>
280) Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for which of his novel? <b>The City and the Sea</b>
281) India has been ranked at which place in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) -2020? <b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
282) Which day of December has been selected for celebrating the Human Rights Day? <b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
283) _____ has beaten Coronavirus to second place to become India's most searched word on Google in 2020: <b>IPL - Indian Premier League</b>
284) The union cabinet approved on Dec 8 which scheme to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities? <b>Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana</b>
285) Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana government will provide PF contribution of both employee and of employer for how many years? <b>Two</b>
286) _____ has become the first Union Territory to practise 100% organic farming? <b>Lakshadweep</b>
287) The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 9 the setting up of public Wi-Fi networks across the length and breadth of the country, by which name? <b>PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI)</b>
288) The Indian Navy has placed an order for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems with which country? <b>Israel</b>
289) According to a report by Truecaller, India has been placed at which place in terms of the number of spam calls? <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
290) Who has been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year'? <b>Joe Biden and Kamala Harris</b>
291) Name the contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, who died in Mumbai on Dec 10: <b>Astad Deboo</b>
292) Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of which Arabian country? <b>Kuwait</b>
293) Which international day is observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world? <b>International Mountain Day</b>
294) Who won FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Men for 2020? <b>Wrestler Bajrang Punia</b>

295)	Which female shooter won the FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Women for 2020? <b>Elavenil Valarivan</b>
296)	A joint virtual summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of _____ Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Dec 11: <b>Uzbekistan</b>
297)	The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 was awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from _____: <b>Brazil</b>
298)	Which international day is celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946? <b>UNICEF Day, Dec 11</b>
299)	Headquarters of UNICEF are located in which city? <b>New York</b>
300)	Who is the current head of the UNICEF? <b>Ms. Henrietta H. Fore</b>
301)	Which UN agency celebrates the International Universal Health Coverage Day on Dec 12? <b>WHO – World Health Organisation</b>
302)	The summit named Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was held recently to mark fifth anniversary of which climate agreement? <b>Paris Climate Agreement</b>
303)	_____ became the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help: <b>Morocco</b>
304)	The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, _____ and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held on Dec 14 in virtual mode: <b>Iran</b>
305)	Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and propagator of the Madhva ideology, passed away recently. He hailed from which state? <b>Karnataka</b>
306)	Which UN organization has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu? <b>UNESCO</b>
307)	Which great Bangladeshi leader is popularly known as Bangabandhu? <b>Sheikh Mujibur Rahman</b>
308)	Headquarters of UNESCO are located in which city? <b>Paris</b>
309)	Who is the current Director General of UNESCO? <b>Ms. Audrey Azoulay</b>
310)	WHO signed a MoU also known as 'Red Channel Agreement' with which popular NGO? <b>Red Cross</b>
311)	What is the name of the Nilgiri-class frigate that was recently launched at Kolkata? <b>INS Himgiri</b>
312)	Max Verstappen, winner of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, hails from which country? <b>Netherlands</b>
313)	The National Energy Conservation Day is observed on which day of December? <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>

314)	The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated by which organization under the Ministry of Power? <b>Bureau of Energy Efficiency</b>
315)	Yash Vardhan, the 17-year-old shooter from _____ won gold in the 10m air rifle at the 6th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship: <b>Rajasthan</b>
316)	Vijay Diwas is observed every year on Dec 16 to mark the victory over Pakistan in which war? <b>1971</b>
317)	India Post Payments Bank launched a new digital payment app for its customers to operate their banking services online. What is its name? <b>Dak Pay</b>
318)	The United Kingdom has confirmed that Britain's Prime Minister _____ will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021: <b>Boris Johnson</b>
319)	The International Hockey Federation had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in _____, India: <b>Odisha</b>
320)	ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) were commissioned at Goa in which wing of Indian forces? <b>Indian Coast Guard</b>
321)	Name the eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka who died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14: <b>Roddam Narasimha</b>
322)	Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate Tea Day on which date? <b>Dec. 15</b>
323)	Which is the largest tea producing state of India? <b>Assam</b>
324)	Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14? <b>Russia</b>
325)	What is the name of the space agency of Russia? <b>Roscosmos</b>
326)	The New Development Bank approved a \$1 billion loan to provide support to _____ Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme: <b>Atma Nirbhar Bharat</b>
327)	Name the 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur engineer who won the Young Champions of the Earth 2020: <b>Vidyut Mohan</b>
328)	India slipped by one spot to rank _____ among 189 countries covered in the 2020 Human Development Index: <b>131</b>
329)	Which country topped the 2020 Human Development Index? <b>Norway</b>
330)	A capsule from which Chinese spacecraft successfully brought back samples from the Moon's surface? <b>Chang'e-5</b>
331)	India signed a \$400 million pact with the _____ to protect the poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19: <b>World Bank</b>



<b>332)</b> Name the American media personality who was announced the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes in its Highest-Paid Celebrity List 2020: <b>Kylie Jenner</b>
<b>333)</b> Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected as the President of _____, a country in west Africa: <b>Ghana</b>
<b>334)</b> ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite. What is its name? <b>CMS-01</b>
<b>335)</b> Government has decided to include _____ henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games: <b>Yoga</b>
<b>336)</b> ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre named _____, at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru: <b>NETRTA</b>
<b>337)</b> The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in _____, Gujarat: <b>Kutch</b>
<b>338)</b> India contributed \$ 1 million to which global sports body? <b>World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)</b>
<b>339)</b> Which country has been banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the next Olympics or any world championships for the next two years? <b>Russia</b>
<b>340)</b> Which international day is observed every year on Dec 18 to protect the rights of migrant workers and of members of their families? <b>International Migrants Day</b>
<b>341)</b> What is the theme for this year's International Migrants Day? <b>Reimagining Human Mobility</b>
<b>342)</b> India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on Dec 18. How many minority communities are recognized in India? <b>Six</b>
<b>343)</b> _____ has become the first zoo in the country to receive the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from the Accreditation Services for Certification Bodies (ASCB), UK: <b>Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad</b>
<b>344)</b> Who won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2020 Award? <b>Robert Lewandowski</b>
<b>345)</b> Robert Lewandowski hails from which country? <b>Poland</b>
<b>346)</b> Which player won the Best FIFA women's Player 2020 Award? <b>Lucy Bronze, England</b>
<b>347)</b> The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in which area? <b>Indian Ocean</b>
<b>348)</b> The Olympic Council of Asia awarded hosting of 2030 Asian Games to _____ and of 2034 Asian Games to _____: <b>Doha, Qatar; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, respectively</b>

<b>349)</b> Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance? <b>Singapore</b>
<b>350)</b> Which Bank in partnership with Mastercard, launched India's first metal credit card - 'PIONEER Heritage'? <b>IndusInd Bank</b>
<b>351)</b> The Human Freedom Index 2020 placed India at the _____ spot out of 162 countries: <b>111<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>352)</b> Which country topped the Human Freedom Index 2020? <b>New Zealand</b>
<b>353)</b> India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was inaugurated at which place? <b>Hyderabad</b>
<b>354)</b> The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of which four indigenous games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021? <b>Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang Ta and Mallakhamb</b>
<b>355)</b> Martial art Thang Ta is associated with which state? <b>Manipur</b>
<b>356)</b> Name the Congress veteran, who was twice Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and former Governor of UP, who passed away a day after his 93rd birthday: <b>Motilal Vora</b>
<b>357)</b> International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on which date? <b>Dec 20</b>
<b>358)</b> Name the 19 year old female wrestler from Haryana who won a silver in the 57 kg category at the World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia: <b>Anshu Malik</b>
<b>359)</b> President of which country conferred the country's highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi? <b>USA</b>
<b>360)</b> Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur, all three won gold medal in the World Cup of which sports? <b>Boxing</b>
<b>361)</b> Who has been honoured with the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award? <b>Ratan Tata</b>
<b>362)</b> National Mathematics Day is observed in India on which date? <b>Dec 22</b>
<b>363)</b> National Mathematics Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which legendary mathematician? <b>Srinivasa Ramanujan</b>
<b>364)</b> Which state became first to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>365)</b> The World Bank recently came out with its revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report. India was placed at which spot in this report? <b>63<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>366)</b> ADB approved a \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project in which state? <b>Assam</b>
<b>367)</b> Who is the winner of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020 Award? <b>Lewis Hamilton</b>
<b>368)</b> The Reliance Industries-BP Plc combine started production of natural gas in Asia's deepest gas

block in Bay of Bengal near which place? <b>Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh</b>
369) Which two prominent universities held their centenary celebrations in the month of December? <b>Aligarh Muslim University and Viswa Bharti University</b>
370) National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) on Dec 23 marks the birth anniversary of which veteran farmer leader? <b>Chaudhary Charan Singh</b>
371) Which day in December is observed as the National Consumer Day in India? <b>Dec 24</b>
372) Which Bank sanctioned a Rs 2,100 crore loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state? <b>Asian Development Bank</b>
373) Who has been elected as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)? <b>Vineet Aggarwal</b>
374) Which bank launched a first of its kind portal 'Infinite India' to attract foreign firms to India? <b>ICICI Bank</b>
375) Which country topped the final rankings for 2020 for men's team released by the International Hockey Federation? <b>Belgium</b>
376) India has added Tso Kar wetland complex to the list of Ramsar Sites. It is in which state? <b>Ladakh</b>
377) Who has been appointed chairman of the senior national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee? <b>Chetan Sharma</b>
378) 'Oh Mizoram' is a book written by P S Sreedharan Pillai. Who is he? <b>Governor of Mizoram</b>
379) What is the title of the recent book by Pranab Mukharjee, former President of India? <b>The Presidential Years 2012-2017</b>
380) Noted journalist and author Raj Kamal Jha won an international prize for which of his books? <b>The City and the Sea</b>
381) Who is the author of the recently published popular book "A Sky Beyond the Storm"? <b>Sabaa Tahir</b>
382) India celebrates Good Governance Day on December 25 in the honour of which great statesman of India? <b>Atal Bihari Vajpayee</b>
383) What is the name of the Samadhi of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi? <b>Sadaiv Atal</b>
384) What is the name of the web portal launched to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government? <b>E-Sampada</b>
385) Florin Citu has been elected as the new _____ of Romania, a country in south eastern Europe: <b>Prime Minister</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>
386) Which Indian organization has won the UN Global Climate Action Award? <b>Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh</b>

387) Luis Arce has been elected as the President of which country? <b>Bolivia</b>
388) The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in which region? <b>NCR – National Capital Region</b>
389) As per the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25, how many vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established? <b>Five</b>
390) Which state is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
391) _____ has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. <b>Kerala</b>
392) Railways has launched which initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones? <b>'Meri Saheli'</b>
393) Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging app like Whatsapp, Telegram. What is its name? <b>Secure Application for Internet (SAI)</b>
394) Why October 29 has been selected as the International Internet Day? <b>First internet transmission took place on this day in 1969</b>
395) Which bank has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance? <b>DBS Bank, Singapore</b>
396) Which bank has been ranked as the "Best Bank in The World" by the Global Finance? <b>DBS Bank, Singapore</b>
397) Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India? <b>Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha</b>
398) Kabartaal Wetland, also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', has been designated as Ramsar site. It is in which state? <b>Bihar</b>
399) Which agency grants the 'Ramsar site' status? <b>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland</b>
400) The Indian Navy successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from which war ship on October 30? <b>INS Kora</b>
401) Which national park has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve? <b>Panna National Park</b>
402) Panna National Park is located in which state? <b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
403) Panna National Park is associated with conservation of which animal? <b>Tiger</b>
404) An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern _____ on Oct 30, killing over 50 people: <b>Turkey</b>
405) Name the Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom playing British agent James Bond, 007: <b>Sir Sean Connery</b>

<b>406)</b> Lewis Hamilton celebrated a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in which country? <b>Italy</b>
<b>407)</b> Which two Indians won the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France? <b>Amit Panghal and Sanjeet</b>
<b>408)</b> World Savings Day is observed on which day in India? <b>October 30</b>
<b>409)</b> The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of which country with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph? <b>Philippines</b>
<b>410)</b> A new scheme 'SERB – POWER' has been launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent _____: <b>Women researchers</b>
<b>411)</b> The SERB POWER scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of _____ years: <b>35-55</b>
<b>412)</b> World Vegan Day is observed on which date? <b>November 01</b>
<b>413)</b> In which country gunmen stormed a book fair being held in a university, killing over 25 persons? <b>Afghanistan</b>
<b>414)</b> The central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for what purpose? <b>Improvement of air quality measures</b>
<b>415)</b> The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on _____ accounts: <b>Basic Savings Bank Deposit</b>
<b>416)</b> 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? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>417)</b> The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade, by which name? <b>Malabar Exercise</b>
<b>418)</b> The Malabar Exercise was conducted in which area? <b>Bay of Bengal</b>
<b>419)</b> Priyanka Radhakrishnan, 41 year old politician created history by becoming the first Indian-origin woman minister in which country? <b>New Zealand</b>
<b>420)</b> Which Indian bank has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India by Asiamoney? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
<b>421)</b> Alassane Ouattara has been elected as the _____ of the Ivory Coast for the third time: <b>President</b>
<b>422)</b> Which tennis star recently became fourth player in the history to win 1,000 ATP matches? <b>Rafael Nadal</b>
<b>423)</b> India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated in which city? <b>Nagpur</b>

<b>424)</b> The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$132.8 loan to _____ for upgrading the power distribution network: <b>Meghalaya</b>
<b>425)</b> In which country John Magufuli secured 84% votes to become the President for the second term? <b>Tanzania</b>
<b>426)</b> Which company built the ship ICGS C-452, recently inducted in the Indian Coast Guard? <b>L&amp;T Shipbuilding, Surat</b>
<b>427)</b> Which nation conferred the honorary rank of "General" upon our Army Chief General M M Naravane? <b>Nepal</b>
<b>428)</b> 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>
<b>429)</b> Which Social media platform has recently been allowed to use India's UPI platform to make bank payments? <b>WhatsApp</b>
<b>430)</b> The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in which state? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
<b>431)</b> The Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is being built on which river? <b>Satluj</b>
<b>432)</b> _____ is the first country to announce its exit from the Paris Climate Agreement – 2015: <b>USA</b>
<b>433)</b> Which country is the largest producer of the Green House Gases in the world? <b>China</b>
<b>434)</b> World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on which day of November? <b>5th</b>
<b>435)</b> The Sendai Framework-2015 is associated with what? <b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
<b>436)</b> The Sendai Framework-2015 was adopted in which city? <b>Sendai, Japan</b>
<b>437)</b> The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for category of its customers? <b>Millenials</b>
<b>438)</b> The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in India at which airbase? <b>Jamnagar, Gujarat</b>
<b>439)</b> Gyanendro Ningombam has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India. He is former Hockey chief of which state? <b>Manipur</b>
<b>440)</b> 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>
<b>441)</b> 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>
<b>442)</b> 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>
<b>443)</b> Which district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September? <b>Chandauli</b>



<b>444)</b> 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. Kuttu</b>
<b>445)</b> ISRO successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite named _____ : <b>EOS-01</b>
<b>446)</b> Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the _____ President of the United States: <b>46th</b>
<b>447)</b> Who has been elected as the new Vice President of USA? <b>Kamala Harris</b>
<b>448)</b> International Day of Radiology is associated with which great scientist? <b>Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen</b>
<b>449)</b> The X-radiation is measured in which unit? <b>Roentgen</b>
<b>450)</b> President of which country released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi)? <b>Nepal</b>
<b>451)</b> The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for which period? <b>2021-26</b>
<b>452)</b> A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article ____ of the Constitution: <b>280</b>
<b>453)</b> India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project has been commissioned in which state? <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>
<b>454)</b> National Legal Services Day observed on Nov 9 is associated with enactment of which Act? <b>Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987</b>
<b>455)</b> World Town Planning Day or World Urbanism Day is celebrated on which day? <b>Nov 08</b>
<b>456)</b> Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as what? <b>Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways</b>
<b>457)</b> Which UN organization supports the celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development on Nov 10? <b>UNESCO</b>
<b>458)</b> The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in which state? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>459)</b> Indian army gifted 20 trained horses and 10 sniffer dogs to the army of which country? <b>Bangladesh</b>
<b>460)</b> _____ clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals: <b>Mumbai Indians</b>
<b>461)</b> Which word has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020? <b>Lockdown</b>
<b>462)</b> 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>

<b>463)</b> National Education Day is associated with the birth day of which great leader? <b>Maulana Abul Kalam Azad</b>
<b>464)</b> Maulana Abul Kalam Azad held which portfolio in the first cabinet of free India? <b>Education Ministry</b>
<b>465)</b> World Pneumonia Day is observed on which date? <b>Nov 12</b>
<b>466)</b> Pneumonia affects which part of human body? <b>Lungs</b>
<b>467)</b> Public Service Broadcasting Day is associated with the sole visit of which great leader to radio station, Delhi? <b>Mahatma Gandhi</b>
<b>468)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of which other country? <b>Vietnam</b>
<b>469)</b> Which state topped the Second National Water Awards announced on November 11? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
<b>470)</b> The world's longest serving Prime Minister, who died recently, was from which country? <b>Bahrain</b>
<b>471)</b> Armenia and Azerbaijan engaged in a fierce military battle over which disputed territory? <b>Nagorno-Karabakh</b>
<b>472)</b> What is the name of the Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine that was launched recently? <b>INS Vagir</b>
<b>473)</b> A recession is defined as _____ successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP: <b>Two</b>
<b>474)</b> Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought OTT digital/online media under its purview. What is OTT? <b>Over The Top</b>
<b>475)</b> _____ has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully launched the 6G communications test satellite: <b>China</b>
<b>476)</b> Which corporate leader has topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020? <b>Azim Premji</b>
<b>477)</b> Which country's Sovereign Wealth Fund has become the first foreign SWF to get 100% income-tax exemption in India? <b>Abu Dhabi</b>
<b>478)</b> 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>
<b>479)</b> 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>
<b>480)</b> Sadat Rahman who won the International Children's Peace Prize, hails from which country? <b>Bangladesh</b>

<b>481)</b> 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>
<b>482)</b> Which city created a world record for lighting largest number of diyas (over 6 lakh) at one time? <b>Ayodhya</b>
<b>483)</b> Over 6 lakh diyas were lighted on the banks of which river? <b>Saryu</b>
<b>484)</b> Typhoon Vamco devastated dozens of towns in Cagayan region of which country? <b>Philippines</b>
<b>485)</b> World Kindness Day is observed on which date? <b>November 13</b>
<b>486)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Diabetes Day? <b>The Nurse and Diabetes</b>
<b>487)</b> National Press Day is observed on Nov 16 to mark the founding of which organization? <b>Press Council of India</b>
<b>488)</b> International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 with the support of which UN agency? <b>UNICEF</b>
<b>489)</b> 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>
<b>490)</b> 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>
<b>491)</b> Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog named Rhaniaxalus. <b>It is found in which area? Andaman Islands and the northeast</b>
<b>492)</b> World Ayurveda Day is associated with which great ancient sage? <b>Dhanwantari</b>
<b>493)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Ayurveda Day? <b>Ayurveda for Covid</b>
<b>494)</b> National Epilepsy Day is observed on which day of November? <b>17th</b>
<b>495)</b> Epilepsy is associated with which organ of human body? <b>Brain</b>
<b>496)</b> Which country hosted the 12th BRICS summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode? <b>Russia</b>
<b>497)</b> Which country has been given the hosting of 13th BRICS Summit? <b>India</b>
<b>498)</b> Who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time? <b>Nitish Kumar</b>
<b>499)</b> The blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. It is in which state? <b>Assam</b>
<b>500)</b> The Baghjan oil well is owned by which oil company? <b>OIL - Oil India Ltd.</b>
<b>501)</b> 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>
<b>502)</b> 15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc. What is its name? <b>Regional</b>

<b>Comprehensive (RCEP)</b>	<b>Economic</b>	<b>Partnership'</b>
<b>503)</b> World's first of its kind tram car library has been started in which Indian city? <b>Kolkata</b>		
<b>504)</b> Which F1 champion equaled the Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles? <b>Lewis Hamilton, Britain</b>		
<b>505)</b> Lewis Hamilton drives for which F1 team? <b>Mercedes</b>		
<b>506)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his _____ counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19: <b>Luxembourg</b>		
<b>507)</b> 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>		
<b>508)</b> RBI placed which bank under moratorium from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days? <b>Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Chennai</b>		
<b>509)</b> Which country will now host FIFA Women's Under-17 Football World Cup? <b>India</b>		
<b>510)</b> Storm Iota, a strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across which area? <b>Central America</b>		
<b>511)</b> RBI launched Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation in which field? <b>Financial sector</b>		
<b>512)</b> Who will be the first chairperson of the RBIH? <b>Kris Gopalakrishnan</b>		
<b>513)</b> The Naturopathy Day is celebrated on which date? <b>Nov 18</b>		
<b>514)</b> In the acronym AYUSH, what the letter 'S' stands for? <b>Siddha</b>		
<b>515)</b> Siddha refers to which line of treatment? <b>Ayurveda as it is practiced in Kerala</b>		
<b>516)</b> World celebrates World Toilet Day on which day of November? <b>19th</b>		
<b>517)</b> What is the name of the surveillance plane recently inducted in the Indian Navy? <b>Boeing P-81</b>		
<b>518)</b> World Philosophy Day is observed on which Thursday of November? <b>Third</b>		
<b>519)</b> Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Children's Day on Nov 20? <b>UNICEF</b>		
<b>520)</b> Which bank approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project? <b>New Development Bank</b>		
<b>521)</b> Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? <b>Shanghai</b>		
<b>522)</b> The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of which state? <b>Meghalaya</b>		
<b>523)</b> Booker Prize for Fiction has been won by which noted author? <b>Douglas Stuart</b>		

524)	Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for which novel? <b>Shuggie Bain</b>
525)	What is the amount of cash award in the Booker Prize? <b>Pound 50,000</b>
526)	Government launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' for the safety of which segment of workers? <b>Sewer or septic tank cleaners</b>
527)	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>
528)	What is the sex ratio at birth in Arunachal Pradesh as per a recent report? <b>1085 girls per 1000 boys</b>
529)	World Economic Forum (WEF) selected how many Indian cities to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities? <b>Four</b>
530)	In this latest World's Best Cities Report, which city has been ranked at the top? <b>London</b>
531)	Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed on ____ November: <b>19th</b>
532)	What is the theme of this year's International Men's Day observed on Nov 19? <b>Better Health for Men and Boys</b>
533)	_____ has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus: <b>Mumbai</b>
534)	World Fisheries Day is observed on which day? <b>Nov 21</b>
535)	World Television Day is observed on Nov 21. Who invented TV? <b>John Logie Baird</b>
536)	India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in which state? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
537)	As per new rule by ICC, a player must be of minimum ____ years of age to play international cricket: <b>15</b>
538)	The Women's T20 World Cup will now be hosted in Feb 2023 by which country? <b>South Africa</b>
539)	Who has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva? <b>G C Murmu</b>
540)	India celebrates NCC Day every year on ____ Sunday of November: <b>Fourth</b>
541)	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>
542)	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>
543)	Which country hosted the 15th G20 Summit on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
544)	The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held from Nov 18 to 20 at which place? <b>Andaman Sea</b>
545)	India observed the National Newborn Week from ____ to ____ November: <b>15 to 21</b>

546)	India has been placed at which rank in a global list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020? <b>77th</b>
547)	What is the title of the latest novel by Paulo Coelho? <b>The Archer</b>
548)	'Boskiyana' is a book written by Yashwant Vyas. It is the story of the life of which famous lyricist? <b>Gulzar</b>
549)	What is the title of the book that is memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President? <b>A Promised Land</b>
550)	"I am no Messiah" is the title of the autobiography of which popular Bollywood star? <b>Sonu Sood</b>
551)	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>
552)	The immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21. It is associated with worship of which deity? <b>Sun</b>
553)	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>
554)	What is the operational name of Indian GPS (IRNSS)? <b>NavIC</b>
555)	Name the Indian girl who won the Children's Climate Prize of Norway: <b>Vinisha Umashankar</b>
556)	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>
557)	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>
558)	Name the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam who passed away recently? <b>Tarun Gogoi</b>
559)	Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first HeavyWeight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? <b>Varunastra</b>
560)	What is the strike range of Varunastra? <b>40 kms</b>
561)	Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? <b>Meghalaya</b>
<b>OCTOBER 2020</b>	
562)	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>
563)	201. Which national day is observed on October 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? <b>Rashtriya Ekta Diwas</b>
564)	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>
565)	"The Battle of Belonging" is a book written by which former Congress union minister? <b>Shashi Tharoor</b>



<b>566)</b> What is the title of the latest book by V E Schwab? <b>The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue</b>
<b>567)</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>568)</b> The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on which day of October? <b>27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>569)</b> Which company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes? <b>NTPC Ltd.</b>
<b>570)</b> Which F1 driver broke the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher? <b>Lewis Hamilton</b>
<b>571)</b> India has secured which rank in the Global Teacher Status Index? <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>572)</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>573)</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>574)</b> Which Bank approved two loans totalling \$570 million for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh? <b>Asian Development Bank</b>
<b>575)</b> Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the AIFF Footballer of the Year award. Who is he? <b>Goalkeeper of Indian men's team</b>
<b>576)</b> Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? <b>Telecom Regulatory Authority of India</b>
<b>577)</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>578)</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>579)</b> Name the 74-year old renowned economist, who passed away in New Delhi: <b>Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia</b>
<b>580)</b> Who has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune? <b>Shekhar Kapur</b>
<b>581)</b> The Reserve Bank of India has roped in which Bollywood megastar for its customer awareness campaign? <b>Amitabh Bachchan</b>
<b>582)</b> Moctar Ouane has been appointed as new prime minister of Mali. Where is this country? <b>Western Africa</b>
<b>583)</b> The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund has been launched for which segment of people? <b>SC</b>

<b>students studying in higher educational institutions</b>
<b>584)</b> Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been sworn in as the ruling Emir of which oil-rich country? <b>Kuwait</b>
<b>585)</b> Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing award has been won by Tourism department of which state? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>586)</b> Which Bollywood actor has been conferred with SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award? <b>Sonu Sood</b>
<b>587)</b> Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding scientists below the age of ____ years: <b>45</b>
<b>588)</b> Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding Scientists in how many fields: <b>Seven</b>
<b>589)</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>590)</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>591)</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>592)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik Summit on October 2. What is its short name? <b>VAIBHAV</b>
<b>593)</b> International Day of Older Persons is observed on which date? <b>October 01</b>
<b>594)</b> Which global human rights organisation freezed its operations in India? <b>Amnesty International</b>
<b>595)</b> Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? <b>London</b>
<b>596)</b> 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>
<b>597)</b> ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) was inducted in to Indian Coast Guard at which place? <b>Kolkata</b>
<b>598)</b> Which International day aims to highlight the benefits of vegetarianism? <b>World Vegetarian Day, Oct 01</b>
<b>599)</b> National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed in India on which date? <b>October 01</b>
<b>600)</b> Which international day is observed to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence? <b>International Day of Non-violence</b>
<b>601)</b> 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>

<b>602)</b> The Atal Tunnel has been built across which mountain range? <b>Pir Panjal</b>
<b>603)</b> The Atal Tunnel connects Manali with the area of which valley? <b>Lahaul Spiti Valley</b>
<b>604)</b> 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>
<b>605)</b> Which country has committed \$1.9 million to support Indian workers whose livelihoods were disrupted due to COVID-19? <b>USA</b>
<b>606)</b> 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>
<b>607)</b> 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>
<b>608)</b> Which state launched 'Gram Darshan' portal to bring data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online? <b>Haryana</b>
<b>609)</b> 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>
<b>610)</b> 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>
<b>611)</b> The World Habitat Day is observed on which Monday of October? <b>First</b>
<b>612)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Habitat Day? <b>Housing For All: A better Urban Future</b>
<b>613)</b> Which country will host the 12th BRICS Summit on 17th November 2020 via video conferencing? <b>Russia</b>
<b>614)</b> 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>
<b>615)</b> What is the amount of cash award for the 2020 Nobel Prize? <b>Swedish Kroner 10 million</b>
<b>616)</b> Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020? <b>Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden</b>
<b>617)</b> 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>
<b>618)</b> Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physics? <b>Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden</b>
<b>619)</b> Name the 16-year-old Indian shooter who won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the

International Championship: <b>Vishnu Shivaraj Pandian</b>	Online Shooting
<b>620)</b> World Teachers' Day is celebrated on which day of October? <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>621)</b> Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of _____ got a GI tag recently: <b>Sikkim</b>	
<b>622)</b> GI tag registry is located at which place? <b>Chennai</b>	
<b>623)</b> World Animal Day is celebrated on which day of October? <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>624)</b> M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director General of which national body? <b>Bureau of Civil Aviation Security</b>	
<b>625)</b> 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>	
<b>626)</b> 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>	
<b>627)</b> The 2nd QUAD Ministerial Meeting was held on October 6 in which city? <b>Tokyo</b>	
<b>628)</b> QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations - India, Australia, Japan and _____: <b>USA</b>	
<b>629)</b> Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA) won the Nobel Prize in which field? <b>Chemistry</b>	
<b>630)</b> 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>	
<b>631)</b> India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed park will come up at two places in which state? <b>Gujarat</b>	
<b>632)</b> India celebrates October 5 every year as the '_____ River Dolphin Day': <b>Ganga</b>	
<b>633)</b> '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>	
<b>634)</b> The Indian Air Force celebrates its raising day on which date? <b>October 8</b>	
<b>635)</b> Who was the first Indian chief of the Indian Air Force? <b>Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee</b>	
<b>636)</b> The World Cotton Day is observed on which day? <b>October 7</b>	
<b>637)</b> Which country is the largest producer of cotton in the world? <b>India</b>	
<b>638)</b> Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI? <b>M Rajeshwar Rao</b>	
<b>639)</b> The Offshore Patrol Vessel "Vigraha" recently handed over to the Indian Coast Guard, has been built by which company? <b>Larsen and Toubro</b>	
<b>640)</b> Which country successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon (Zircon)? <b>Russia</b>	

<b>641)</b> Who has been selected for the Nobel Prize for Literature 2020? <b>Ms. Louise Glück</b>
<b>642)</b> Ms. Louise Glück is a famous poet of which country? <b>America</b>
<b>643)</b> 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>
<b>644)</b> 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>
<b>645)</b> Which day is observed on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment? <b>World Sight Day</b>
<b>646)</b> Bisher Al-Khasawneh has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Jordan</b>
<b>647)</b> Which e-commerce major has collaborated with IRCTC to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site? <b>Amazon India</b>
<b>648)</b> World Egg Day is celebrated on the _____ Friday in October every year to raise awareness about the benefits of eggs: <b>Second</b>
<b>649)</b> World Post Day is observed to mark the anniversary of establishment of which organization in 1874? <b>Universal Postal Union</b>
<b>650)</b> World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on second Saturday of which two months? <b>May and October</b>
<b>651)</b> _____ has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household: <b>Goa</b>
<b>652)</b> What is the name of India's first new generation anti-radiation missile successfully test-fired by DRDO? <b>Rudram</b>
<b>653)</b> Which UN agency has been selected for the prestigious Nobel Prize 2020? <b>World Food Programme</b>
<b>654)</b> Which official body decides the winner of Nobel Peace Prize? <b>The five-member committee of the Parliament of Norway</b>
<b>655)</b> Which Bank approved funds worth \$741 million for infrastructure projects in India? <b>New Development Bank</b>
<b>656)</b> Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? <b>Shanghai</b>
<b>657)</b> 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>
<b>658)</b> Headquarters of the World Trade Organisation are in which country? <b>Switzerland</b>
<b>659)</b> Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Mental Health Day on October 10? <b>WHO – World Health Organisation</b>

<b>660)</b> 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>
<b>661)</b> The Indian Air Force created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at which place? <b>Khardung La, near Leh</b>
<b>662)</b> How many beaches from India have secured the coveted _____ International _____ Blue Flag Certification? <b>Eight</b>
<b>663)</b> 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>
<b>664)</b> A commemorative 100 rupee coin was released in the honour of _____ Scindia on her 100 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary: <b>Vijaya Raje</b>
<b>665)</b> What is the popular name for the French Open Grand Slam held in Paris? <b>Roland Garros</b>
<b>666)</b> Who lifted the men's singles title in the French Open Grand Slam? <b>Rafael Nadal</b>
<b>667)</b> _____ won the women's singles title in the French Open in Paris: <b>Iga Swiatek</b>
<b>668)</b> Iga Swiatek hails from which country? <b>Poland</b>
<b>669)</b> Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the coveted Nobel Prize in which field? <b>Economics</b>
<b>670)</b> Government launched which two schemes for its employees to boost the consumer spending? <b>LTC Cash Voucher scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme</b>
<b>671)</b> Which scheme has been launched on Oct 11 for physical distribution of house property cards in rural areas? <b>'SVAMITVA'</b>
<b>672)</b> The SVAMITVA scheme has been launched by which central ministry? <b>Panchayati Raj Ministry</b>
<b>673)</b> World Arthritis Day is observed on which date? <b>October 12</b>
<b>674)</b> Arthritis is an ailment related to which part of body? <b>Inflammation of joints</b>
<b>675)</b> Which national day marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on postal stamps? <b>National Philately Day</b>
<b>676)</b> 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>
<b>677)</b> Which country is the largest producer of milk in the world? <b>India</b>
<b>678)</b> ADB approved a \$ 300 million loan to finance water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 14 secondary towns of which state? <b>Rajasthan</b>
<b>679)</b> Who has equaled the all time record of 91 F1 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany? <b>Lewis Hamilton</b>



<b>680)</b> _____ has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools: <b>Kerala</b>
<b>681)</b> Which global organization has projected 4.4 percent shrinkage in growth of world economy? <b>IMF - International Monetary Fund</b>
<b>682)</b> International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed on which day of October? <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>683)</b> Which international day is observed on Oct 14 to raise awareness about importance of standardization in the global economy? <b>World Standards Day</b>
<b>684)</b> What is the name of the most prestigious global environment prize announced in history? <b>Earthshot Prize</b>
<b>685)</b> _____ has become the first state in India to set up Farmers Welfare Fund Board for the welfare of farmers: <b>Kerala</b>
<b>686)</b> 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>
<b>687)</b> World Students' Day is observed on Oct 15 to commemorate the birthday of which great leader? <b>APJ Abdul Kalam</b>
<b>688)</b> Which union ministry sponsors the celebration of Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas? <b>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry</b>
<b>689)</b> 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>
<b>690)</b> 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>
<b>691)</b> Where are the headquarters of the FAO? <b>Rome, Italy</b>
<b>692)</b> Which country has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? <b>India</b>
<b>693)</b> 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>
<b>694)</b> International E-Waste Day is observed on which day of October? <b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>695)</b> SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is sponsored by which institution? <b>SASTRA University, Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu)</b>
<b>696)</b> Who has been selected for this year's SASTRA Ramanujan Prize? <b>Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA</b>
<b>697)</b> What is the theme for this year's Global Handwashing Day? <b>Hand Hygiene for All</b>

<b>698)</b> 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>
<b>699)</b> Name the India's first Oscar winner costume designer who died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness: <b>Bhanu Athaiya</b>
<b>700)</b> Bhanu Athaiya won the Oscar for costume designing of which film? <b>Gandhi</b>
<b>701)</b> Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd is going to set up India's largest greenfield zinc smelter in which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
<b>702)</b> World Food Day commemorates the setting up of which special agency of UNO? <b>FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization</b>
<b>703)</b> Establishment of FAO was done in which city in Canada? <b>Quebec</b>
<b>704)</b> Headquarters of FAO is situated in which city? <b>Rome, Italy</b>
<b>705)</b> 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>
<b>706)</b> Chandigarh University is located at which place? <b>Gharuan near Mohali in Punjab</b>
<b>707)</b> India ranked at which number among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020? <b>94<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>708)</b> Which country scored the lowest rank in the Global Hunger Index 2020? <b>Chad</b>
<b>709)</b> 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>
<b>710)</b> International Poverty Eradication Day is observed on which date? <b>October 17</b>
<b>711)</b> Government launched a campaign named 'KAPILA' in the honour of which great leader? <b>Dr APJ Abdul Kalam</b>
<b>712)</b> What is the objective of KAPILA campaign? <b>To promote patenting of inventions</b>
<b>713)</b> What is the expansion of the acronym KAPILA? <b>Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness</b>
<b>714)</b> What is the name of the 8th annual joint exercise held between Indian and Sri Lankan navies? <b>SLINEX - 20</b>
<b>715)</b> Joint naval exercise SLINEX - 20 was held at which place? <b>Off the Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka</b>
<b>716)</b> Which city of Denmark hosted the Denmark Open Badminton Tournament? <b>Odense</b>
<b>717)</b> Who won the men's singles title in the Denmark Open? <b>Anders Antonsen of Denmark</b>
<b>718)</b> Women's singles title of Denmark Open was won by which player? <b>Nozomi Okuhara of Japan</b>

<b>719)</b> Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21? <b>Rajkiran Rai G</b>
<b>720)</b> Rajkiran Rai G is the MD & CEO of which bank? <b>Union Bank of India</b>
<b>721)</b> 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>
<b>722)</b> Who has been reelected as the prime minister of New Zealand? <b>Jacinda Ardern</b>
<b>723)</b> Which global institution awards the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award? <b>Natural History Museum of Britain</b>
<b>724)</b> Name the young photographer who won this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award: <b>Aishwarya Sridhar</b>
<b>725)</b> World Statistics Day is observed after an interval of how many years? <b>Five</b>
<b>726)</b> World Osteoporosis Day is observed on which date? <b>October 20</b>
<b>727)</b> Osteoporosis is an ailment related to which part of human body? <b>Bones</b>
<b>728)</b> A person suffering from Osteoporosis is more prone to have ____ : <b>Fractures</b>
<b>729)</b> 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>
<b>730)</b> For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferulaassafetida) has been started in which area? <b>Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh</b>
<b>731)</b> National Solidarity Day is observed on October 20 to salute the valour of our soldiers in which battle? <b>1962 Indo-China war</b>
<b>732)</b> _____ has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition: <b>Singapore</b>
<b>733)</b> 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>
<b>734)</b> Which state topped the AnemiaMukt Bharat Index among 29 states in the country? <b>Haryana</b>
<b>735)</b> Which public sector bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp? <b>IDBI Bank</b>
<b>736)</b> Which country was ranked as the most powerful in influencing Asia Pacific region by the Asia Power Index 2020? <b>USA</b>
<b>737)</b> What was India's rank in the recently released Asia Power Index 2020? <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>738)</b> What is the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls? <b>Rs. 77 lakh</b>

<b>739)</b> A candidate contesting state legislature elections cannot spend more than Rs. ____ for campaign expenditure: <b>30.80 lakh</b>
<b>740)</b> What is the name of the low cost rapid diagnostic technology for COVID-19 developed by researchers at IIT, Kharagpur? <b>Covirap</b>
<b>741)</b> Name the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette that was recently commissioned into Indian Navy: <b>INS Kavaratti</b>
<b>742)</b> India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed SANT missile. What is the full form of SANT? <b>Stand-off Anti-tank</b>
<b>743)</b> 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>
<b>744)</b> Which Indian city recently inaugurated India's longest - 108 km long BRTS corridor? <b>Surat, Gujarat</b>
<b>745)</b> What is the full form of the abbreviation BRTS? <b>Bus Rapid Transit System</b>
<b>746)</b> In the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), what is the new Base Year? <b>2016</b>
<b>747)</b> Which government agency compiles the CPI-IW? <b>Labour Bureau under Ministry of Labour and Employment</b>
<b>748)</b> Which government agency releases the regular Consumer Price index? <b>Central Statistics Office</b>
<b>749)</b> 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>
<b>750)</b> Saad al-Hariri, the Sunni Muslim politician, has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? <b>Lebanon</b>
<b>751)</b> Which state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics, 2020? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>752)</b> Which state was visited by the largest number of foreign tourists in 2019? <b>Tamil Nadu</b>
<b>753)</b> Which micro nation joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 16 as its 190th member? <b>Andorra</b>
<b>754)</b> Micro nation Andorra is located in which region? <b>Europe, between France in the north and Spain in the south</b>
<b>755)</b> International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed on which date? <b>October 22</b>
<b>756)</b> Stuttering is associated with deformity of which human skill? <b>Speech</b>
<b>757)</b> 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>

<b>758)</b> India has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of which special UN agency? <b>ILO - International Labour Organization</b>
<b>759)</b> International Snow Leopard Day is observed on which day of October? <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>760)</b> Snow Leopard is the state animal of which state? <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
<b>761)</b> 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>
<b>762)</b> Sakharov Prize for Peace is given by which organization? <b>European Union</b>
<b>763)</b> Alpha Conde has been elected as the President of _____ for a third term: <b>Guinea</b>
<b>764)</b> The United Nations Day is observed on Oct 24. Who is the current Secretary General of UNO? <b>Antonio Guterres</b>
<b>765)</b> Currently, how many countries are member of UNO? <b>193</b>
<b>766)</b> Which international day is observed on Oct 24 to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio? <b>World Polio Day</b>
<b>767)</b> Which are the only two countries where wild polio virus cases are still there? <b>Afghanistan and Pakistan</b>
<b>768)</b> 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>
<b>769)</b> Wavel Ramkalawan has been elected as the President of Seychelles. He has linkages with which Indian state? <b>Bihar</b>
<b>770)</b> Lee Kun-hee, charismatic leader of South Korea's biggest conglomerate, died on Oct 25. He headed which corporate group? <b>Samsung</b>
<b>771)</b> World's longest passenger ropeway service was started at Girnar Mountain in Junagadh district of which state? <b>Gujarat</b>
<b>772)</b> India's first sand dune park is expected soon to come up in which state? <b>Goa</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2020</b>
<b>773)</b> International Translation Day is celebrated on which day of September? <b>30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>774)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Heart Day? <b>Use Heart to beat CVD (cardiovascular diseases)</b>
<b>775)</b> World Rabies Day is observed on Sep 28 to mark the death anniversary of which noted microbiologist? <b>Louis Pasteur</b>
<b>776)</b> 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>
<b>777)</b> Which country was placed on top of World Risk Index, being the riskiest country? <b>Vanuatu</b>
<b>778)</b> Which country was ranked as the safest country on the World Risk Index? <b>Qatar</b>

<b>779)</b> Which state won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>780)</b> The Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of which great philosopher, historian and political activist? <b>Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya</b>
<b>781)</b> What is the theme for this year's World Pharmacist Day? <b>Transforming Global Health</b>
<b>782)</b> FSSAI has made it mandatory to display "best before date" wef Oct 1 on which products? <b>Non-packaged and loose sweets</b>
<b>783)</b> An iconic personality from film music world lost his battle to Corona on Sep 25. Identify him: <b>SP Balasubrahmanyam</b>
<b>784)</b> The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held next year in Goa in which month? <b>January</b>
<b>785)</b> Which institution has replaced Medical Council of India wef Sep 25? <b>National Medical Commission</b>
<b>786)</b> Who has been named as the Chairman of the National Medical Commission? <b>Suresh Chandra Sharma</b>
<b>787)</b> Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed which number session of the United Nations General Assembly? <b>75<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>788)</b> The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in which area? <b>North Arabian Sea</b>
<b>789)</b> Which celebrity chef has authored the book Kitchens of Gratitude? <b>Vikas Khanna</b>
<b>790)</b> Which famous film celebrity has authored the book- " <i>The Big Thoughts of Little Luv</i> "? <b>Karan Johar</b>
<b>791)</b> What is the title of the latest book by noted authoress Arundhati Roy? <b>Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction</b>
<b>792)</b> <i>One by One</i> is a famous novel of which noted novelist? <b>Ruth Ware</b>
<b>793)</b> Mohamed Hussein Roble has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which East African country? <b>Somalia</b>
<b>794)</b> In a historic move, the Parliament passed how many labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws? <b>Three</b>
<b>795)</b> ICAR announced a hackathon to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization. What is its name? <b>KRITAGYA</b>
<b>796)</b> World Tourism Day is celebrated on which date? <b>September 27</b>
<b>797)</b> World Maritime Day is celebrated on which Thursday of September? <b>Last</b>



<b>798)</b> Name the noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson who died of Covid-19: <b>Dr. Sekhar Basu</b>
<b>799)</b> 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>
<b>800)</b> 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>
<b>801)</b> 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>
<b>802)</b> 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>
<b>803)</b> Alexander Lukashenko was sworn in as the President of which country for a record sixth term? <b>Belarus</b>
<b>804)</b> Railways have planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by which year? <b>2023</b>
<b>805)</b> Which day is observed on Sep 23 to raise awareness about the importance of sign language? <b>International Day of Sign Languages</b>
<b>806)</b> Navies of India and _____ conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24: <b>Australia</b>
<b>807)</b> Which popular Bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine? <b>Ayushman Khurana</b>
<b>808)</b> Who won the Tour de France - the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world? <b>TadejPogacar</b>
<b>809)</b> TadejPogacar hails from which country? <b>Slovenia</b>
<b>810)</b> Chief Minister of which state announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built in his state? <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
<b>811)</b> Which country accounts for the largest number of one horned Rhinos? <b>India</b>
<b>812)</b> Which Indian state is home to largest number of one horned Rhinos? <b>Assam</b>
<b>813)</b> The National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 proposes to establish National Forensic Sciences University in which city? <b>Gandhinagar</b>
<b>814)</b> Which university in Gujarat is to be upgraded as the new Rashtriya Raksha University? <b>Raksha Shakti University</b>

<b>815)</b> India successfully conducted the flight test of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle. What is its name? <b>ABHYAS</b>
<b>816)</b> The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to which country? <b>Nepal</b>
<b>817)</b> A direct cargo ferry service between India and _____ commenced for the first time on Sep 21: <b>Maldives</b>
<b>818)</b> 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>
<b>819)</b> The World Rose Day observed on Sep 18 is associated with which disease? <b>Cancer</b>
<b>820)</b> What is the theme of this year's World Alzheimer's Day? <b>Let's talk about dementia</b>
<b>821)</b> Which International Day encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage? <b>The International Coastal Cleanup Day</b>
<b>822)</b> The International Coastal Cleanup Day is observed on which Saturday of September? <b>Third</b>
<b>823)</b> Who won the men's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament? <b>Novak Djokovic</b>
<b>824)</b> _____ won the women's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament: <b>Simona Halep</b>
<b>825)</b> The Union Government announced an increase in the MSP of Wheat. What is the new MSP? <b>Rs. 1975/ql</b>
<b>826)</b> In a first, two women officers have been selected to join as 'Observers' in which stream of the Indian Navy? <b>Fighter helicopters</b>
<b>827)</b> The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate classification and provisioning calculation process of which product? <b>NPAs – Bad loans</b>
<b>828)</b> Name the former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) who passed away in New Delhi: <b>Raghuvansh Prasad Singh</b>
<b>829)</b> Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is known as Father of which national flagship scheme? <b>MNREGA</b>
<b>830)</b> World Ozone Day commemorates the signing of _____ Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987: <b>Montreal</b>
<b>831)</b> The Ozone molecules are formed by how many atoms of Oxygen? <b>Three</b>
<b>832)</b> The Ozone layer helps in protecting our ecosystem from which rays from Sun? <b>Ultraviolet rays</b>
<b>833)</b> The Ozone layer is found in which layer of the atmosphere? <b>Stratosphere</b>
<b>834)</b> The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 proposes how much cut in salaries and allowances of MPs? <b>30 percent</b>

<b>835)</b> Managing Director of which bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020? <b>HDFC Bank</b>
<b>836)</b> Who is the Managing Director of the HDFC Bank? <b>Aditya Puri</b>
<b>837)</b> 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>
<b>838)</b> 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>
<b>839)</b> Name the noted scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history who passed away recently? <b>Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan</b>
<b>840)</b> Which public sector power engineering has entered into a MoU with the SwissRapi AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India? <b>BHEL - Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd</b>
<b>841)</b> 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>
<b>842)</b> 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>
<b>843)</b> Which country secured the first rank in the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index? <b>Singapore</b>
<b>844)</b> The World Patient Safety Day is observed on which date to create a global awareness for patient safety? <b>September 17</b>
<b>845)</b> India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at which international airport? <b>Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi</b>
<b>846)</b> _____ has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds: <b>Mexico</b>
<b>847)</b> 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>
<b>848)</b> 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>
<b>849)</b> World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 with the support of which organisation? <b>World Bamboo Organization</b>
<b>850)</b> Which country is the largest producer of Bamboos in the world? <b>China</b>
<b>851)</b> Which state topped the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness? <b>Mizoram</b>

<b>852)</b> 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>
<b>853)</b> Armand Duplantis broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. He is from which country? <b>Sweden</b>
<b>854)</b> In the recently released Smart City Index 2020, which city secured the first rank? <b>Singapore</b>
<b>855)</b> 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>
<b>856)</b> What is the theme of this year's International Day of Peace? <b>Shaping Peace Together</b>
<b>857)</b> International Day of Peace is celebrated on which date? <b>September 21</b>
<b>858)</b> 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>
<b>859)</b> Which bank launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals? <b>Bank of India</b>
<b>860)</b> RBI has ceased the banking operations by which Payments Bank? <b>Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank</b>
<b>861)</b> Which state launched India's first integrated air ambulance service? <b>Karnataka</b>
<b>862)</b> The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of which power company? <b>Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd</b>
<b>863)</b> Government has constituted a committee chaired by _____ to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers: <b>Rajiv Mehrishi</b>
<b>864)</b> 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>
<b>865)</b> Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO is a permanent inter-governmental international organisation of how many countries? <b>Eight</b>
<b>866)</b> Reliance Industries Ltd.'s market cap crossed which milestone on Sep 10? <b>\$ 200 billion</b>
<b>867)</b> Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National School of Drama, New Delhi? <b>Paresh Rawal</b>
<b>868)</b> National School of Drama is a premier national institute set up by which union ministry? <b>Ministry of Culture</b>
<b>869)</b> Which programme has been launched for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly? <b>Streets for People Challenge</b>
<b>870)</b> 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>
871) What is the expansion of the acronym PISA, a programme associated with educational evaluation? <b>Programme for International Student Assessment</b>
872) Name the veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist who passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure: <b>Swami Agnivesh</b>
873) Which is the second country, first being UAE, to normalise diplomatic ties with Israel? <b>Bahrain</b>
874) Which country played the crucial role in bringing together Israel and Bahrain? <b>USA</b>
875) Which state topped the second edition of State Startup Rankings announced recently by the government? <b>Gujarat</b>
876) 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>
877) What is the name of the new dispute redressal mechanism launched for the maritime sector? <b>"SAROD-Ports"</b>
878) In the name "SAROD-Ports", what is the full form of SAROD? <b>Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes</b>
879) Which Bank launched a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs? <b>ICICI Bank</b>
880) To enforce uniform compliance practices across banks, RBI has asked banks to create which new post? <b>Chief Compliance Officer</b>
881) Which government department has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? <b>Department of Posts</b>
882) What is the objective of the scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? <b>To ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas</b>
883) The Union Cabinet approved a new policy for raising the cap of FDI in which sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent? <b>Defence</b>
884) Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out on Sep 10 in which state? <b>Meghalaya</b>
885) India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to be ranked at ____ spot. <b>105<sup>th</sup></b>
886) Which country topped the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020? <b>Hong Kong</b>
887) UNICEF India has selected which Bollywood actor as its advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child"? <b>Ayushmann Khurrana</b>
888) The World First Aid Day is celebrated on which Saturday of September? <b>Second</b>

889) In the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York, who won the men's singles title? <b>Dominic Thiem of Austria</b>
890) Who won the women's singles title in the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York? <b>Japan's Naomi Osaka</b>
891) Which national day is observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect forest resources? <b>The National Forest Martyrs Day</b>
892) The National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on which date? <b>September 11</b>
893) In which year Hindi was adopted as another official language of India? <b>1949</b>
894) Which international day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries? <b>International Day of Democracy</b>
895) Engineer's Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of which acclaimed civil engineer? <b>Bharat Ratan M Visvesvaraya</b>
896) Name the JDU MP who has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha: <b>Harivansh Narayan Singh</b>
897) India has been elected as the member of which body of the UN Economic and Social Council? <b>Commission on Status of Women</b>
898) The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed which university at the top rank? <b>University of Oxford, UK</b>
899) With which country India finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India? <b>Russia</b>
900) India will manufacture the AK-47/203 rifles in which of its ordnance factory? <b>Korwa Ordnance Factory, U P</b>
901) Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first _____ of independent India: <b>Vice President</b>
902) International Day of Charity is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of which great personality? <b>Mother Teresa</b>
903) Loans up to Rs. ____ crore to the startups have now been covered under the Priority Sector Lending: <b>50</b>
904) All scheduled commercial banks in India are required to allocate ____ percent of their total lending to priority sector: <b>40</b>
905) Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend ____ percent of their total lendings to the priority sector: <b>70</b>
906) Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament: <b>P Iniyan</b>
907) 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: <b>Indra Navy</b>
<b>908)</b> Which state topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
<b>909)</b> Which organisation conducts the Business Reform Action Plan rankings? <b>Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade</b>
<b>910)</b> The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of which country? <b>Russia</b>
<b>911)</b> The first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was celebrated in which year? <b>2020</b>
<b>912)</b> India observes which month as the 'PoshanMah'? <b>September</b>
<b>913)</b> The often quoted court case on constitutional law, was filed by the Swami Kesavananda Bharti against which state? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>914)</b> SpaceX successfully sent 60 Starlink satellites into orbit aboard a Falcon 9 rocket for what purpose? <b>To provide low cost internet services in remote areas</b>
<b>915)</b> Which two telecom companies rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'? <b>Vodafone and Idea</b>
<b>916)</b> India successfully flight tested HSTDV missile technology on Sep 7. What is full form of HSTDV? <b>Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle</b>
<b>917)</b> Which powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea? <b>Haishen</b>
<b>918)</b> International Literacy Day is celebrated on which day? <b>Sep 8</b>
<b>919)</b> Dr. Govind Swarup, a noted scientist passed away in Pune. He worked in which field? <b>Radio Astronomy</b>
<b>920)</b> Pierre Gasly from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020. He hails from which country? <b>France</b>
<b>921)</b> Which UN agency has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine? <b>UNICEF</b>
<b>922)</b> The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8 by which global organisation? <b>International Solar Alliance</b>
<b>923)</b> 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>
<b>924)</b> Which organisation confers the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? <b>Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust</b>
<b>925)</b> Who won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019? <b>David Attenborough</b>
<b>926)</b> David Attenborough is a noted personality from which field? <b>Natural History</b>

<b>927)</b> What is the cash award of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? <b>Rs. 25 lakh</b>
<b>928)</b> 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>
<b>929)</b> The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 has been compiled by which UN agency? <b>UNICEF</b>
<b>930)</b> As per a recent report from the National Sample Survey, India's overall literacy rate has improved to ____ percent: <b>77.7</b>
<b>931)</b> Which state has the lowest literacy rate as per a recent report from the National Sample Survey? <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
<b>932)</b> The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the _____ State Roads Transformation Project: <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
<b>933)</b> Which state started the celebration of Himalayan Day on Sep 9 in 2010? <b>Uttarakhand</b>
<b>934)</b> What is the theme for this year's Himalayan Day? <b>Himalayas and Nature</b>
<b>935)</b> Which organisation announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks? <b>IBA – Indian Banks Association</b>
<b>936)</b> Which bank secured the first spot in the EASE Banking Reforms Index? <b>Bank of Baroda</b>
<b>937)</b> The public sector banks recently launched Doorstep Banking Services in how many cities? <b>100</b>
<b>938)</b> Where are the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organisation? <b>Geneva, Switzerland</b>
<b>939)</b> World Coconut Day is observed on which day of September? <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>940)</b> Which state is the largest producer of coconut in India? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>941)</b> Which major economy slipped into recession after registering negative growth successively in two quarters? <b>Australia</b>
<b>942)</b> Which country appointed Mustapha Adib as its Prime Minister? <b>Lebanon</b>
<b>943)</b> Who has been appointed as the first ever CEO of the Railway Board? <b>Vinod Kumar Yadav</b>
<b>944)</b> Which country hosted the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group in virtual mode? <b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>945)</b> The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in _____ started recently: <b>Tripura</b>
<b>946)</b> The new water way Dadukandi and Sonamura has been started through which river? <b>Gumti</b>
<b>947)</b> S Krishnan has been appointed MD & CEO Of which bank? <b>Punjab &amp; Sind Bank</b>
<b>948)</b> 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>

<b>949)</b> Hurricane Laura devastated which state of USA? <b>Louisiana</b>
<b>950)</b> 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>
<b>951)</b> The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the setting up of _____ new administrative circles: <b>Seven</b>
<b>952)</b> Which West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket? <b>Dwayne Bravo</b>
<b>953)</b> What is the name of the toll-free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation on August 27? <b>Kiran</b>
<b>954)</b> What is the name of the Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to further boost startups and software products? <b>Chunauti</b>
<b>955)</b> What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award? <b>Rs.25 lakh</b>
<b>956)</b> What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Arjuna Award? <b>Rs. 15 lakh</b>
<b>957)</b> Government has revised the cash award for the Dhyan Chand Award to what amount? <b>Rs. 10 lakh</b>
<b>958)</b> Prime Minister of which major economy resigned on health grounds? <b>Japan</b>
<b>959)</b> 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>
<b>960)</b> 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>
<b>961)</b> International Booker Prize 2020 has been won by which Dutch author? <b>Marieke Lucas Rijneveld</b>
<b>962)</b> 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>
<b>963)</b> Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of which retail chain for Rs 24,713 crore? <b>Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar)</b>
<b>964)</b> International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on which date? <b>August 29</b>
<b>965)</b> A new Roll-on-Roll-off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in which state? <b>Maharashtra</b>
<b>966)</b> Onam is apopular cultural festival of which state? <b>Kerala</b>
<b>967)</b> India was declared joint winner of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad, with which other country? <b>Russia</b>
<b>968)</b> 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>
<b>969)</b> Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India passed away on August 31. He was _____ the President of India: <b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>970)</b> The CSIR-CMERI has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in which city? <b>Durgapur, West Bengal</b>
<b>971)</b> Dr S. Padmavati, India's first female and oldest _____ died at the age of 103. <b>Cardiologist</b>
<b>972)</b> 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>
<b>973)</b> The European Investment Bank is set to invest EUR650 million for the construction of first city metro line of which city? <b>Kanpur</b>
<b>974)</b> 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>
<b>975)</b> Which organisation released the Global Innovation Index? <b>World Intellectual Property Organisation</b>
<b>AUGUST 2020</b>
<b>976)</b> SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product. What is its name? <b>Shagun – Gift an Insurance</b>
<b>977)</b> 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>
<b>978)</b> _____ 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>
<b>979)</b> 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>
<b>980)</b> NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. Which state topped the Index? <b>Gujarat</b>
<b>981)</b> Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, the 20-year-old boy from _____ won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title: <b>Hyderabad</b>
<b>982)</b> 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>
<b>983)</b> What is the title of the latest novel by Chetan Bhagat? <b>One Arranged Murder</b>
<b>984)</b> 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>

- 985) Which union minister has authored the book titled "*The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World*"? **Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar**
- 986) Name the German professional sports club that won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20: **Bayern Munich**
- 987) Name the renowned Indian scientist, was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of DRDO: **G Satheesh Reddy**
- 988) Which state extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28? **Assam**
- 989) Which England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets? **James Anderson**
- 990) Overall which bowler holds the world record for taking highest number of wickets? **Muttiah Muralitharan**
- 991) WHO has declared entire Africa free from wild polio. Which was the last African country to get rid of Polio? **Nigeria**
- 992) Which are the only two countries in the world where polio cases still occur? **Pakistan and Afghanistan**
- 993) In its annual report released on August 25, the Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at \_\_\_\_ for 2020-21: **-4.5%**
- 994) Government has made \_\_\_\_ mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country: **FASTag**
- 995) National Sports Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ to mark the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand: **August 29**
- 996) Which day is observed every year to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment in USA in 1878 that provided voting rights to women? **Women's Equality Day, August 26**
- 997) Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index. What is its name? **Bulldex**
- 998) Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India? **Ashwani Bhatia**
- 999) Name the legendary South African all-rounder who has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame: **Jaque Kallis**
- 1000) Lisa Sthalekar is the first player to achieve the double of 2000 runs and 100 wickets in Women's ODIs. She plays for which country? **Australia**

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# BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22

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## UNION BUDGET -- 2021-22

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for the FY 2021-22 on Feb 1 in the Lok Sabha by way of a budget speech.

The 2021-22 budget focuses on strengthening the vision of Nation First, doubling farmers' income, strong infra, women's empowerment, healthy India, good governance, education for all, inclusive development.

Budget 2021 proposals rest on six pillars. These are:

- Health and Well-Being,
- Physical and Financial capital and infrastructure,
- Inclusive Development for Aspirational India,
- Reinvigorating Human Capital,
- Innovation and R&D,
- Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.

Some major budget allocations are as under:

## HEALTH SECTOR

Rs. 2.24 lakh crore allocated for the health and well being sector

**PM Aatmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana:** New Centrally Sponsored Scheme to be launched with an outlay of Rs 64,180 crore over 6 years to develop capacities of health care systems, develop institutions for detection and cure of new and emerging disease,

Main interventions under PM Aatmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana include - Support for 17,788 Rural and 11024 Urban Health and Wellness Centres, Setting up Integrated Public Health labs in all districts, Critical care hospital blocks, and Strengthening of National Centre for Disease Control.



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Rs 35,000 crore provided for Covid-19 vaccination in 2021-22

Supplementary Nutrition Programme and POSHAN Abhiyaan to be merged, Mission POSHAN 2.0 to be launched to strengthen nutritional content, delivery and outcome, intensified strategy for improving nutritional outcomes in aspirational districts.

The pneumococcal vaccine, limited to only 5 states at present, will be rolled out across the country. It will avert more than 50,000 child deaths annually,

Swachh Bharat 2.0 to be launched with focus on The urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 to be launched with a total financial allocation of Rs 1.41 lakh crore over a period of 5 years from 2021. The Mission will focus on complete fecal sludge management.

Other focus areas to include: Waste water treatment,  
Segregation of garbage, reduction in single use plastics,

Reduction in air pollution by managing waste from construction sites and demolition activities;  
Bio-re-mediation of all legacy dump sites.

Rs 2.87 lakh crore allocated for the Jal Jeevan Mission (urban) over next five years covering 4,378 urban local bodies for household tap connections and liquid waste management in 500 AMRUT cities.





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Rs 2,217 crore allocated for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population, to tackle burgeoning problem of air pollution,

Voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to be introduced to phase out old and unfit vehicles. Vehicles to undergo fitness test in automated fitness centres after completing 20 years (personal vehicles) and 15 years (commercial vehicles).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

A sharp increase in capital expenditure for next fiscal at Rs 5.54 lakh crore, up from Rs 4.39 lakh crore of last year.

Rs. 20,000 crore allocated for capitalization of a new Development Financial Institution for meeting long term debt financing of infrastructure.

Rs. 1.03 lakh crore allocated for national highways in Tamil Nadu; Rs 25,000 crore allocated for road projects in West Bengal, Rs 65,000 crore for road, highway projects in Kerala, and 3,4000 crore for Assam. 8,500 km of roads to be built under the Bharat Mala project.

Another 11,000 kms of national highway to be built.

Rs 18,000 crore for scheme to augment public bus transport services in urban areas.

Rs. 3,05,984 allocated for over 5 years for Power distribution companies for Infrastructure creation including pre-paid smart metering and feeder separation.



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National Hydrogen Energy Mission will be launched in 2021-22 for generating hydrogen from green power sources.

Ujjwala scheme for providing free LPG to rural women has been extended to cover one crore more beneficiaries. It has already covered 8 crore beneficiaries.

A gas pipeline project will be taken up in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

To further boost to the non-conventional energy sector, Rs 1,000 crore capital infusion in Solar Energy Corporation of India and Rs.1,500 crores in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency

## RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Rs 40,000 crore allocated to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Rs 10,000 crore more than last year.

1,000 more mandis will be integrated with the electronic national market and the agriculture infrastructure fund would be made available to APMCs to augment infrastructure facilities.

Micro-Irrigation Fund corpus to be raised to Rs 10,000 crore, from existing Rs. 5,000 crore.

Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess proposed on specified goods, to be effective from Feb 2, 2021. It will be @ Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol, Rs 4 per litre on diesel.





Agricultural credit target for banks increased to Rs. 16.5 lakh crores for 2021-22.

## INDUSTRY

A production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to be launched with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for duration of five years starting this fiscal.

Rs 15,700 crore provided for MSME sector, more than double of what it was last year.

Seven Mega Textile parks will be launched in three years under MAITRI (Mega Investment Textiles Parks) scheme. The mega textile parks will have integrated facilities and quick turnaround time for minimizing transportation losses.

Proposal to amend the definition of Small companies under section 2(85) of the Companies Act by increasing the thresholds of paid-up capital from Rs 50 lakhs to Rs 2 crore and turnover from Rs 2 crore to Rs 20 Crore.

Eligibility for claiming tax holiday for startups extended by one more year to March 31, 2022

The startups will be allowed to grow without any restriction on paid-up capital or turnover and to convert into any other type of company at any time, Non-resident individuals with entrepreneurial potential are now enabled to set up One Person Companies (OPC) with no paid up capital and turnover restrictions, reducing registration timeline from 182 days to 120 days



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## RAILWAYS

Rs 1,10,055 crore allocated for Indian Railways. Out of this Rs 1,07,100 crore will be provided for capital expenditure.

There will be 100 per cent electrification of broad gauge railway tracks across the Indian Railways network by the end of the year 2023.

Proposal to complete Eastern and Western Freight corridors by June 2022 will scale up warehouse business.

## BANKING & INSURANCE

Announced a further infusion of Rs 20,000 crore for public sector banks for providing continued credit access to wholesale and retail borrowers, and therefore push growth agenda

Two Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and one general insurance company will be divested, legislations amendments to be introduced in this session.

Rs. 1,500 crore for a proposed scheme that will provide financial incentive to promote digital modes of payment.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance sector raised to 74 per cent from 49 per cent earlier.

The loan amount limit for initiating recovery proceedings under the SARFAESI Act by the NBFCs reduced from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.



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## PERSONAL FINANCE

No change in Income Tax slabs.

Pensioners aged more than 75 having only pension and interest income will not be required to file Income Tax Returns

Pre-filled income tax returns with details on capital gains from listed securities, dividend income and interest income from banks and post offices would be available soon.

Government will set-up a faceless dispute resolution mechanism for small taxpayers.

The time allowed for re-opening of tax investigation to be reduced to 3 years from 6 years at present.

## EDUCATION

100 new Sainik schools will be set up in partnership with NGOs, private schools, and states.

A legislation to be introduced this year to implement the setting-up of Higher Education Commission of India.

A central university to be set up in Leh, Ladakh

Unit cost of each Eklavya model residential schools in tribal areas raised to Rs. 38 crores, and for hilly and difficult areas, to Rs. 48 crores.



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Rs. 35,219 crores allotted for 6 years till 2025-2026 for the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, for the welfare of Scheduled Castes.

Rs. 50,000 crore allocated for the next five years for the National Research Foundation.

## TRIBAL WELFARE

Rs. 1,000 crores allocated for the welfare of Tea workers especially women and their children in Assam and West Bengal.

## CENSUS 2021

The forthcoming census would be the first digital census in the history of India. Rs 3,768 crore allocated for this monumental task in 2021-22,

## DISINVESTMENT

Rs. 1,75,000 crores planned to be raised from receipts from disinvestment in various PSUs.

*In total, government plans a total expenditure of Rs. 34,83,236 crore for the year 2021-22.*

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## BUDGET AT GLANCE 2021 – 22

	BUDGET HEAD	(in Rs. crore) Budget Estimates
<b>1</b>	<b>Revenue Receipts</b>	<b>1788424</b>
	2. Tax Revenue (Net to centre)	1545396
	3. Non-Tax Revenue	243028
<b>4</b>	<b>Capital Receipts</b>	<b>1694812</b>
	5. Recovery of Loans	13000
	6. Other Receipts	175000
	7. Borrowings & Other Liabilities	1506812
<b>8</b>	<b>Total Receipts (1+4)</b>	<b>3483236</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (10+13)</b>	<b>3483236</b>
10	On Revenue Account of which	2929000
11	Interest Payments	809701
12	Grants in Aid for creation of capital assets	219112
13	On Capital Account	554236
<b>14</b>	<b>Revenue Deficit (10-1) 2.7% of GDP</b>	<b>1140576 (5.1)</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Effective Revenue Deficit (14-12) 1.8% of GDP</b>	<b>921464 (4.1)</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Fiscal Deficit [9-(1+5+6)] 3.5% of GDP</b>	<b>1506812 (6.8)</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Primary Deficit (16-11) 0.4% of GDP</b>	<b>697111 (3.1)</b>

**\*GDP for BE 2021-2022 has been projected at Rs. 22287379 crore assuming 14.4% growth over the estimated GDP of Rs. 19481975 crore for 2020-2021 (RE)**





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<b>GOVT. HOUSE KEEPING (%)</b>			
<b>RUPEE COMES FROM</b>		<b>RUPEE GOES TO</b>	
Borrowings	<b>36</b>	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	<b>9</b>
Corporate Tax	<b>13</b>	States Share of Taxes	<b>16</b>
Income Tax	<b>14</b>	Finance Commission & other Transfers	<b>10</b>
Customs Duties	<b>3</b>	Other Expenditure	<b>10</b>
Excise Duty	<b>8</b>	Central Sector Schemes	<b>13</b>
GST	<b>15</b>	Interest Payments	<b>20</b>
Non-Tax Revenue	<b>6</b>	Defence	<b>8</b>
Non-Debt Capital Receipts	<b>5</b>	Subsidies	<b>9</b>
		Pension	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Major Allocations</b>		
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Allocation (Rs. In Crores)</b>
<b>1</b>	Housing & Urban Affairs	54581
<b>2</b>	Health & Family Welfare	73932
<b>3</b>	Education	93224
<b>4</b>	Railway	110055
<b>5</b>	Road & Transport	118101
<b>6</b>	Agriculture & Farmer Welfare	131531
<b>7</b>	Rural Development	133690
<b>8</b>	Home Affairs	166547
<b>9</b>	Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	256948
<b>10</b>	Defence	478196



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Allocations to Major Schemes		
S.No.	Scheme	Allocation (Rs. In Crores)
1	MNREGA	73000
2	PM-KISAN	65000
3	National Education Mission	34300
4	National Health Mission	37130
5	Jal Jeevan Mission	50011
6	Metro Projects	18998
7	AMRUT & Smart Cities	13750
8	National Social Assistance Program	9200
9	Green Revolution	13408
10	Food Subsidy	242616
11	Fertiliser Subsidy	79530
12	LPG subsidy (under DBT)	12480

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