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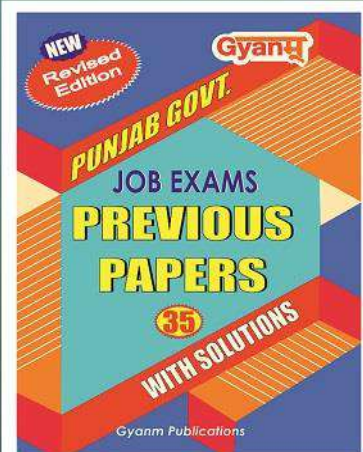
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GENERAL AWARENESS

May 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

E-commerce Index 2020	71 st
World Happiness Report 2021	139 th
Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2021	40 th
Economic Freedom Index	121 st
Scientific Articles Published	3 rd
The Global Climate Risk Index 2021	7 th
Democracy Index 2020	53 rd
The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020	86 th
Innovation Index	50 th
Ease of Doing Business	63 rd
Human Freedom Index	111 st
Human Development Index	131 st
Receiving Spam Calls	9 th
Global Hunger Index 2020	94 th
Teacher Status Index (GTSI)	6 th
Asia Power Index 2020	4 th
Global Economic Freedom Index	105 th
Human Capital Index	116 th
Global Innovation Index	48 th
World Risk Index (WRI)	89 th
Budget Transparency Index	53 rd



NATIONAL NEWS

MARCH

PM MODI MAKES TWO DAY VISIT TO BANGLADESH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited capital Dhaka on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on March 26-27. He addressed the National Day Programme of Bangladesh in Dhaka. The visit was in connection with the commemoration of three epochal events including Mujib Borsho, the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The other events were 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Bangladesh and 50 years of Bangladesh's war of liberation.

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh is the daughter of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, founding father and first President of Bangladesh. Mohammed Abdul Hamid is the current President of Bangladesh.

US DEFENCE SECRETARY VISITS INDIA

US Defence Secretary (counterpart of our defence minister) Lloyd J Austin III arrived in India on March 19 for a three-day visit. This is the first visit by a top Biden administration official to India. He met Prime Minister Modi, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and defence minister Raj Nath Singh. During the meeting, both discussed areas of mutual interest, strategic partnership and cooperation on various aspects of security and defence. The two nations reiterated their commitment to promote free & open regional order.

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH FINLAND PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland, on March 16. During the Summit, the two leaders covered the entire spectrum of bilateral relationship and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Around 100 Finnish companies are actively operating in India in various sectors such as telecom, elevators, machinery and energy including Renewable Energy. Around 30 Indian companies are also active in Finland mainly in the IT, auto-components and hospitality sector.

INDIA & NORWAY TO WORK IN MARINE SPACE



India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years. The two countries will extend support for sustainable utilisation of ocean resources such as energy, transportation, fisheries, aquaculture and tourism to advance economic and social development in coastal areas. *The initiative named as Marine Spatial Planning will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through the National Centre for Coastal Research for India.*

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH SWEDISH PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his Swedish counterpart Stefan Löfven on March 5. During the Summit, the two leaders held comprehensive discussions on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues including further strengthening of cooperation in the post-COVID era.

and Around 250 Swedish companies are actively operating in India in various sectors such as health and life sciences, auto industry, clean technology, defence, heavy machinery and equipment. Around 75 Indian companies are also active in Sweden.

INDIA TAKES OVER CHAIRMANSHIP OF BRICS

India began its BRICS Chairship for 2021 with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting on Feb 24-26 at New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA). The theme for this year is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus". India took over the chairmanship from Russia.



'AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV' LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Modi flagged off a Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Dandi in district Navsari (Gujarat) on March 12 to mark the beginning of mega event 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Government has asked all the Zonal Cultural Centres, the Archaeological Survey of India, Youth Affairs Ministry, Ministry of Culture, and TRIFED to plan various activities to mark the occasion. A National Implementation Committee headed by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also been constituted to plan various events to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence.

MARITIME INDIA SUMMIT-2021

A three-day Maritime India Summit-2021 was held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4. The Summit discussed a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade. The summit explored the prospects to propel India to the forefront of the Global Maritime Sector. Denmark was the partner country of the summit. The summit presented vast investment opportunities in each of the Indian maritime states and union territories.

INDIA TO RENOVATE HERITAGE SITES IN NEPAL



India has decided to fund the reconstruction of three more Cultural Heritage projects in Nepal at a cost of Rs. 15.50 crore. It may be noted that work on six out of the 28 heritage sites contracts has already completed. The MoU was signed for restoration and reconstruction of Jestha Varna Mahavihara in Lalitpur, Suligyang Gumba and Shermathang Gumba in Sindhupalchowk district.

UNDP LAUNCHES 'SAHI DISHA' IN INDIA

The United Nations Development Program- UNDP has launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' (Right Direction) in order to celebrate women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the rural part of India. The campaign also talks about the problems in establishing enterprises that will help women in becoming more self-reliant.

The Disha initiative is a five years collaboration between the IKEA Foundation and the United Nations Development Program. It has enabled around 1 million women through counselling and skilling services for accessing livelihood and job opportunities in rural India.

GOOGLE'S 'WOMEN WILL' TO TRAIN WOMEN



In a bid to support the economic empowerment of women in India, Google announced \$25 million in grants to NGOs and social enterprises in India and around the world. In India, it launched 'Women Will' web platform to help one million women in rural India to become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship, as part of the Google Internet Saathi programme.

Over six years, the Internet Saathi programme has benefitted over 30 million women across India through training provided by over 80,000 "Internet Saathis". The company also announced a \$500,000 grant to Nasscom Foundation to support one lakh women agriculture workers with digital and financial literacy.

2023: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS

The UN General Assembly adopted on March 3 an India sponsored resolution and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets. It is aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the millets and its suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions.

Millets are coarse grains and a repository of protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals. They include jowar (sorghum), ragi (finger millet), korra (foxtail millet), arke (kodo millet), sama (little millet), bajra (pearl millet), chena/barr (proso millet) and sanwa (barnyard millet).

WORLD'S 1ST ALL WOMEN CARGO SHIP CREW

As a part of its ongoing Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Shipping Corporation of India, to commemorate the International Women's Day, flagged off an 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna from JNPT Liquid Berth Jetty, Mumbai. This was the first time in the world maritime history that a ship was being sailed by all women officers.



LOK SABHA & RAJYA SABHA TV MERGED

Government has decided to merge the Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV channels. The new channel will now be known as Sansad TV. Retired IAS officer Ravi Capoor has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the new channel. Both the channels are owned by the government. The two dedicated satellite channels were set up in 2004 to telecast live the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament.

INDIA DONATES RS. 1.5 MILLION TO TAIWAN

India donated Rs. 1.5 million to Taiwan's National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine to boost cooperation in traditional medicine. This is the first time the Indian government has made a donation to a Taiwanese government institution.

INDIA BEST IN 'HUMAN PERFORMANCE'

The Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific region released by the JLL, world's leading commercial real estate and investment management company, has shown that India is leading with 81 percent of high performers practising flexible working, including flexible hours and work-from-home. The Asia Pacific HPI results were based on a study of 1,500 employees in five countries. HPI was based on factors like spaces, technology and culture to elevate human performance.

INDIA RANKED 71ST IN E-COMMERCE INDEX



According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Switzerland is the most prepared nation for adopting e-commerce. In 2019, 97% of the Swiss population used the internet for online shopping. It is followed by Netherland and Denmark at second and third rank. India was placed at 71st spot. The Index assessed 152 nations on their readiness for online shopping. The online market was estimated to be worth \$4.4 trillion globally in 2018, up 7% from the previous year.

Countries are scored on the basis of factors like access to secure internet servers, reliability of postal services and infrastructure, and the portion of their population that uses the internet and has an account with a financial institution or a provider of mobile money services.

INDIA SLIPS TO 88TH SPOT IN FREEDOM STATUS



Washington-based noted think tank Freedom House in its report, titled 'Democracy Under Siege', has demoted India's freedom status from "free" to "partly free", saying rights and civil liberties "have been eroding since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014", specifically referring to attacks on Muslims, use of the sedition law, and the government's coronavirus response including the lockdown.

India's score decreased from 71 to 67, with 100 being the score for the freest countries-- Finland, Norway, Sweden. In ranking India slipped to 88th rank out of 211 countries. At the bottom were Tibet and Syria with scores of just 1.

INDIANS PRETTY LOW IN HAPPINESS

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the UN World Happiness Report 2021 on March 19 to rank the world's 149 countries on "how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be". The report focuses on the effects of COVID-19 and how people all over the world have fared. Factors used for the assessment include GDP per capita, healthy years of life expectancy, freedom, and perceived corruption in government and business.

India has been placed pretty low at 139th rank. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world, followed by Iceland, Denmark. Surprisingly, our neighbours Bangladesh and Pakistan and China have fared much better than us at 101st and 105th and 84th rank, respectively. People in war-torn Afghanistan are the most unhappy with their lives, preceded by Zimbabwe (148th), and Rwanda (147th).

INDIA PLACED PRETTY LOW IN IP INDEX-2021

The US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) released the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2021 to evaluate the status of Intellectual Property Rights in 53 economies. The United States topped the Index with an overall score of 95.31%, followed by the UK (93.90%) and Germany (92.27%). India was placed at 40th rank with a score of 38.40%. Venezuela was at the bottom of the Index of 53 countries with a score of 14.10%, followed by Pakistan (26.43%).

The study was based on 50 intellectual property-related indicators, grouped in 9 categories: Patent, Copyrights, Trademarks, Design Rights, Trade Secrets and Market Access, Commercialization of IP Assets, Enforcement, Systematic Efficiency, and International Treaties.

INDIA VERY LOW IN ECONOMIC FREEDOM

A US Conservative think-tank, Heritage Foundation released the "Economic Freedom Index" for 184 countries, covering the period from July 2019 to June 2020. The index ranked the countries based on the extent of freedom available in four fields -- Rule of Law, Government Size, Regulatory Efficiency, and Open Markets. Singapore topped the rankings for the second consecutive year, followed by New Zealand and Australia. At the bottom of the index is North Korea, preceded by Venezuela and Cuba. India scored low in the Index securing 121st rank, one rank below its small neighbour Bangladesh (120th).

NEW DELHI IS MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL CITY

New Delhi has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir. Globally, New Delhi is ranked as the 10th most polluted city in the world. The most polluted city of the world is Xinjiang in China, followed by nine Indian cities as most polluted cities in the world. The IQAir report measures air quality levels based on the concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM 2.5, which is measured by ground-based monitoring stations.

FEBRUARY

INDIA HOSTED SAARC SECRETARY LEVEL MEET

India hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries on February 18 to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and exchange of best practices to tackle the pandemic.

SAARC includes Eight South Asian nations such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka & India. Nepal had hosted a SAARC leaders' summit in November 2014. It was the last time that SAARC leaders of these nations had shared a platform.



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



PM Modi virtually inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit on February 10. The theme of the summit is 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'. The Summit is the 20th edition of the flagship event organised by 'The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)', a New Delhi based research organisation.

CECPA SIGNED WITH MAURITIUS

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius on February 17. The CECPA will provide an institutional mechanism to boost trade between the two countries. This is the first trade agreement to be signed by India with an African country.

INDIA TO BUILD SHAHTOOT DAM IN KABUL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani held a virtual summit on Feb 09. Both the sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of Shahtoot dam project on the River Kabul.

The dam will meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas and also provide electricity to the region. The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.

UNICEF TIES UP WITH SII, PUNE FOR VACCINE

The Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune and UNICEF, Paris have entered into a long-term supply agreement for the AstraZeneca/Oxford and the Novavax vaccines for fighting Corona. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) plans to procure up to 1.1 billion doses of vaccines for around 100 countries.

The Serum Institute is producing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine of Britain as Covishield and the Novavax of US-based Novavax Inc. will be produced through technology transfer from Novavax.

UNICEF plans to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the key workers and other vulnerable people in 145 countries in the first half of this year, under the joint UN-led COVAX initiative for fair access to coronavirus vaccine.

'AATMANIRBHARTA': HINDI WORD OF 2020

'Aatmanirbharta' implying self-reliance has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020 as it "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic".

The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts.

One of the standout successes of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign is the successful large-scale manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccine in India.

INDIA GATE COMPLETES 100 YEARS

New Delhi's iconic monument "India Gate" completed 100 years of its foundation laying on Feb 10. According to historical records, the foundation stone of the All India War Memorial Arch in Delhi or India Gate as it is known today was laid on February 10 in 1921 by Price Arthur, British royal Duke of Connaught, during his visit to the country. The 42-metre-high Gate was completed in the next ten years.

It was built to honour the soldiers who died in the First World War (1914-1918) and the Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919). The landmark has the names of the 13,516 soldiers inscribed on its surface.

The memorial-gate was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, main architect of New Delhi and a leading designer of war memorials. In 1972, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was built inside the Gate to commemorate the soldiers who lost their lives in the Indo-Pak War of 1971.

INDIA RUNS WORLD'S LONGEST GOODS TRAIN

The South-East Central Railways (SECR) zone in Chhattisgarh created a new record by successfully operating the world's longest ever freight train by amalgamating 300 wagons in five rakes of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km in length.

Named as 'Vasuki', it covered the distance of 224 km between the railway stations of Bhilai and Korba in Chhattisgarh and took about seven hours.



8th INDIA INTERNATIONAL SILK FAIR



India's biggest silk fair, 8th India International Silk Fair was held from Jan 31 to Feb 4. It was hosted by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council in virtual mode due to COVID-19 pandemic. India has a long history of silk production and is the second largest producer of silk in the world, first being China.

India is the only country in the world which produces all the four major varieties of silk i.e. Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga. India has around 11 Geographical Indications such as Pochampally Ikat, Chanderpaul Silk, Mysore Silk, Kanchipuram Silk, Muga Silk, Salem Silk, ArniSilk, Champa Silk, Bhagalpur Silk, Banaras Brocade and Sarees etc.

INDIA 3rd IN PUBLISHING SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

According to data from the US agency, the National Science Foundation (NSF), India is currently in third place, only behind China and the United States, in terms of number of scientific articles published in 2018. With 1,35,788 scientific articles in the year 2018, India's growth rate of scientific publication was 12.9 percent, as against the world average of 4.9 percent.

INDIA RANKED 7th IN CLIMATE RISK INDEX

The Global Climate Risk Index 2021, published by the Bonn-based environmental think tank Germanwatch has placed India at seventh rank in terms of countries that suffered the most from extreme weather events like storms, floods and heatwaves in the year 2019.

Global warming is leading to an increase in the frequency of cyclones, the melting of glaciers at much faster rates, and heatwaves. Mozambique and Zimbabwe were the two most affected countries in 2019, primarily due to the catastrophic devastation caused by the Cyclone Idai in March 2019.



INDIA SLIPS 2 PLACES IN DEMOCRACY INDEX

According to the Democracy Index 2020 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit, London, India slipped two places to 53rd position in the 2020's global ranking due to the "democratic backsliding" by authorities and "crackdowns" on civil liberties. India's overall score fell from 6.9 in 2019 to 6.61 in the Index that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide for 167 countries.

The index stated that authorities' handling of the coronavirus pandemic led to a further erosion of civil liberties in 2020. The Index was topped by Norway, followed by Iceland and Sweden. North Korea ended at the bottom of the index.

INDIA SLIPS 6 STEPS IN CORRUPTION INDEX

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020, released by Berlin based NGO Transparency International for 180 countries, has placed India at 86th rank, six steps below last year's rank. The CPI score for India in 2020 is 40. India is sharing its position jointly with Burkina Faso, Morocco, East Timor, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey. New Zealand and Denmark have jointly secured the first position with scores of 88. Somalia and South Sudan rank lowest at 179th position with scores of 12.



INDIA RANKED 50th IN INNOVATION

According to the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index, South Korea is the most innovative nation, followed by Singapore at second and Switzerland at the third place. The index judges countries on the basis of seven equally-weighted parameters: research and development intensity, manufacturing capability, productivity, high-tech density, tertiary efficiency, research personnel concentration, and patent activity. India has been placed at 50th place in the study of 111 countries. Bloomberg is the New York based global financial and media group.

- ❖ *India and Nepal jointly inaugurated a 108-kilometre road connecting Indian borders with several areas of Nepal. The road runs from Laxmipur-Balara in India to Nepal's Gadhaiya in Sarlahi district.*
- ❖ *India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the reconstruction of six secondary schools in the Himalayan nation at a cost of Rs 32.63 crore.*

NEWS FROM STATES

MARCH

LAKSHADWEEP & BUDGAM ARE FREE FROM TB



On the occasion of the World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, the government declared Lakshadweep and Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district to be first in the country to be free from TB. Himachal Pradesh was declared first under the National TB Elimination Programme. India stands committed to eliminate TB by 2025. Currently India has 30% of the world's TB cases. The health targets under the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN aim to end TB by 2030.

BENGALURU TOPS THE EASE OF LIVING INDEX

As per the 'Ease of Living Index' released on March 4 by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Bengaluru topped the list as the most livable city among 111 cities covered in the index, followed by Pune, and Ahmedabad at second and third spot, respectively. In the category of cities with 'population less than million', Shimla was ranked at the top. It was based on indicators across 15 evaluation criteria grouped in four categories - Quality of Life, Economic ability, Sustainability and score in Citizen Perception Survey.

MANIPUR BEST IN VAN DHAN VIKAS YOJANA

Manipur has been declared as the best state under the government's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana for generating maximum employment for the local tribals. The Van Dhan program aims for branding, value addition, and marketing of the Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras in order to promote the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes. The scheme is being implemented by the state government with guidance from the TRIFED- Tribal Cooperative marketing Federation of India.

INDORE AND NDMC ARE BEST MUNICIPALITIES

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs released the final rankings of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 for the 111 Indian cities. The ranking classified municipalities into two categories based on their population: million-plus category and the less than million categories.

Indore Municipality topped in the million plus category, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the less than million category, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

The Index will help Municipalities in improving their planning and management, filling the gaps in city administration, and improving the liveability of cities for its citizens.

INDIA'S FIRST FOREST HEALING CENTER

The First Forest Healing center of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Uttarakhand. The center has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department after research on the healing properties of the forests and their revitalizing impact on overall health and wellbeing. Spread over an area of around 13 acres, the center is located in a pine-dominated forest.

Various studies have shown that coniferous trees like Pine emit certain oil compounds to safeguard themselves from various microbes and pathogens, which are called phytoncides. These in turn help to multiply natural killer cells in our blood, which help in fighting infections and cancerous growth and enhance overall immunity.

CARGO TERMINAL LAUNCHED AT BENGALURU

Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal was launched at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru. The terminal has been launched exclusively for meeting export/import operations of international couriers.

The new facility will increase the airport's processing capacity by 150,000 MT annually, taking the overall annual cargo capacity of the Bengaluru Airport from the existing 570,000 MT to 720,000 MT. The 200,000 square feet built-to-suit facility will house leading global express courier companies like DHL Express and FedEx Express.





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MAITRI SETU LINKS NE STATES TO SEA ROUTES



Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) on Feni river connecting Sabroom in South Tripura to Ramgarh in Bangladesh on March 9. The Setu will help improve people to people ties as well as open new opportunities for tourism and trade in the two countries. The bridge will reduce dependence of the North East on road connectivity alone for transportation as the region will now be directly connected through the Chittagong port in Bangladesh and inland waterways.

12 SITES - "SWACHH TOURIST DESTINATIONS"

In a significant boost to promoting tourism in the country, the central government has selected a total of 12 tourist sites spanning across nine states and UTs under the Swachh Iconic Places initiative of the newly formed Ministry of Jal Shakti. These places will be converted into "Swachh Tourist Destinations" to increase the footfall of not only domestic tourists but also international tourists at these famous sites. The twelve sites chosen under the initiative are:

1. Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh
2. Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, Telangana
3. Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
4. Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra
5. Agra Fort, Agra, Uttar Pradesh
6. Kalighat Temple, West Bengal
7. Kumbhalgarh Fort, Rajasthan
8. Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan
9. Ramdevra Temple, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
10. Rock Garden, Chandigarh
11. Banke Bihari Temple, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
12. Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha



LEH SELECTED UNDER PRASAD SCHEME

Leh, a great seat of Buddhism in Ladakh has been shortlisted under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme. The city will get nearly Rs 100 crore for the holistic development of the area. The selection is expected to promote economic development, employment generation, world-class tourist infrastructure and promotion of local art, culture and handicrafts.

PRASAD, a central government scheme, aims at integrated development in a planned, prioritised and sustainable manner to provide a complete and pleasant religious tourism experience.

- ❖ *Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. Almost 900 years old monastery was buried under a mound in a village of Jharkhand.*

FEBRUARY

INDIA'S FIRST DIGITAL UNIVERSITY IN KERALA



Kerala has set up the country's first Digital University by upgrading two-decade-old Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K) in Technocity at Mangalapuram near Thiruvananthapuram. The new institute will be known as the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.

INDIA'S FIRST CARBON WATCH

India's first Carbon Watch, a mobile app for assessing carbon footprints was launched by the Environment and Forest department of Chandigarh. It assesses the amount of carbon dioxide emission due to an individual into the atmosphere. It also suggests ways to reduce the carbon footprint at an individual level.

A Carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide emissions associated with all the activities of a person, corporation, building, etc. It includes all direct as well as indirect emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

INDIA'S FIRST GEOTHERMAL POWER PROJECT



India's first ever geothermal power project will be established at Puga village of eastern Ladakh. Puga has been identified as the hotspot of geothermal energy in the country by the scientists. The power project, known as the Geothermal Field Development Project is planned to be commissioned by the end of 2022.

In the first phase, the pilot project will explore within the depth of 500 metres and will supply 24 hours free power to 10 neighbouring villages which are not connected with the northern grid for power supply. A tripartite MOU was signed between ONGC Energy, LAHDC, Leh and the Power Department of UT Ladakh to implement the power project.

Geothermal power plants are used in order to generate electricity by the use of geothermal energy (the Earth's internal thermal energy). They essentially work the same way as a coal or nuclear power plant, the main difference being the heat source. With geothermal, the Earth's heat replaces the boiler of a coal plant or the reactor of a nuclear plant.

INDIA'S FIRST AC RAILWAY TERMINAL

India's first centralised AC railway terminal is about to be operational by February end in Bengaluru. The Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Byappanahalli will be the first railway terminal in the country with a centralised air-conditioned system. The railway terminal is being constructed to provide an airport-like experience for rail passengers as well. On a daily basis, approximately 50 trains can be operated from this terminal.

HIMACHAL FIRST STATE TO HAVE E-CABINET

Himachal Pradesh has become the first State in the country to make the end to end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application. The entire process from initiation of a cabinet memo, approval of the cabinet memo through concerned Secretary, Chief Secretary, concerned Minister and finally by Chief Minister to place in the cabinet, has been made online.

The e-cabinet application is also available as a mobile app on android devices.

LARGEST MULTI-MODAL LOGISTICS PARK

The Gujarat Government inked an agreement with India's largest ports operator, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), to set up India's largest multi-modal logistics park at Virochannagar in Ahmedabad. Spread across 1,450 acres near Sanand automobile hub, it will involve investments worth Rs. 50,000 crore in the logistics and transport space. The park will have a dedicated Air Cargo Complex with a 4.6-km runway to make it capable of handling large carrier vehicles like cargo aircrafts.

INDIA'S LONGEST SINGLE ARCH ROAD BRIDGE

The longest road arch bridge in India - the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya was formally inaugurated on Jan 22. The Single Arch Bridge has a span of 169.35 metre over the River Wahrew. The bridge connects Bholaganj & Sohbar to Nongiri.

SHRAVASTI TOPS IN ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

District Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh topped in the ranking of aspirational districts by government think tank Niti Aayog in December 2020. The rankings were done on the basis of improvement achieved in six parameters -- Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.

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

ANDHRA STARTS DOOR DELIVERY OF RICE

Andhra Pradesh launched door delivery of rice to ration card holders across the state. Using the village and ward volunteers system, the rice will be distributed at the doorstep of the cardholders by taking their fingerprints and supplying ration in reusable bags with precise weight.

Nearly 9,260 mobile vehicles were purchased at a cost of Rs 539 cr. to deliver the ration supplies. These vehicles were provided by the government at 60 % subsidy to eligible beneficiaries through various corp. under the Employment Guarantee Scheme for unemployed youth.



SIKKIM TO GIVE FREE MILK TO GIRL STUDENTS



Sikkim state launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students of Sikkim' initiative at the capital Gangtok. The initiative will benefit around 1,500 students who would be provided 200 mls of milk every day. The project aims to eradicate malnutrition and other health problems among the young generation.

HYDERABAD IS "TREE CITY OF WORLD"

The Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation have recognized Hyderabad as a 2020 Tree City of World out of 119 such cities selected in the world, for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests. The recognition is a testament to the city's sustained and institutional efforts to plant, nurture and celebrate trees, development of urban and semi-urban forests and strategic planning and commitment to building a healthy city.

NEW DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY

Union Transport Ministry has approved an investment of Rs. 13,000 crore for the proposed Delhi-Dehradun expressway that will reduce the travel time to 2.5 hours from 6.5 hours at present. The new expressway would have 10 elevated roads. It will be the country's first highway that will feature a 12 km elevated corridor for wildlife protection.



GLACIER BURST BRINGS DEVASTATION

A glacier burst took place on Feb 7 in the morning near the Rishi Ganga hydro power project after a portion of Nanda Devi glacier broke off in Tapovan area of Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. It caused heavy flash floods in river Rishi Ganga, destroying the Rishi Ganga hydro power project.

The flash flood also damaged the downstream hydro power project of NTPC at Tapovan on the river Dhauliganga, a tributary of the river Alaknanda. Over 60 persons lost their lives and about 150 people were reported missing.

LAKHWAR ELECTRICITY PROJECT APPROVED

Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project on Yamuna river in district Dehradun of Uttarakhand. It will produce 572.54 million units of electricity every year. Apart from electricity generation, the project will provide irrigation and pure drinking water to six states. The total cost of the Lakhwar power project is Rs 5747.17 crore. The six beneficiary states are Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan.



KHAJURAHO DANCE FESTIVAL

The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh from Feb 20 to 26. The festival based on the Indian classical dance tradition was held in the temple complex of the Western Temple Group of Khajuraho after a gap of 44 years.

WORLD BANK AID FOR 'STARS' PROJECT

The World Bank approved a \$500 million programme to support Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS) to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states. Some 250 million students (between the age of six and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the programme.

\$100 Mn WORLD BANK AID FOR 'CHIRAAG'

The World Bank approved a \$100 million support for CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth) project to develop sustainable production systems for tribal households in remote areas of Chhattisgarh.

\$304 MILLION AIIB LOAN FOR ASSAM



The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Beijing, approved a \$ 304 million dollar loan for Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the State of Assam.

- ❖ *Uttar Pradesh became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22. All members of the State Legislature were provided iPads to view the budget highlights.*
- ❖ *The Centre along with the Nagaland State government signed a 68 million dollar project with the World Bank to Improve the Quality of Education in Nagaland.*

GOVT. INITIATIVES

MARCH

CATCH THE RAIN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



Prime Minister Modi launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign on March 22. The campaign will cover both rural and urban areas, with the theme “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”. It will continue till 30th November - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.

It will be implemented as a Jan Andolan in all the 734 districts of the country to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation. The campaign will focus on five aspects - water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan is the Jal Shakti ministry's flagship water-conservation campaign. India sustains 18% of the world's population and 15% of global livestock with just about 4% of global freshwater resources. India's most water-stressed blocks are in Tamil Nadu (541) followed by Rajasthan (218), Uttar Pradesh (139) and Telangana (137).

NHAI TO LAUNCH 'WAYSIDE AMENITIES'

In a major move to improve commuters' experience on National Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to develop world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years. Out of these, 130 are targeted for development in 2021-22 itself. These wayside amenities will be developed every 30 to 50 kilometers along the current and upcoming Highways and Expressways. The amenities will include numerous facilities for passengers such as Fuel Station, Electric Charging Facilities, Food Court, Retail Shops, ATM, Toilets with shower facility, Children Playing Area, Clinic, Village Haat for local handicrafts etc.

'GRAM UJALA' TO OFFER CHEAPEST LED BULBS

Government launched an ambitious scheme “Gram Ujala”, for offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a nominal cost of Rs. 10 per bulb. Under the new scheme, revenue earned from carbon credits will contribute Rs. 60 per LED bulb, with the balance Rs. 10 to be paid by the rural consumer. The scheme will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.

The bulbs will be supplied by state-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd's subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) by leveraging scale. In its first phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of Arrah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and in western Gujarat.

MERA RATION MOBILE APP LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched Mera Ration Mobile App for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood. At present 32 States and UTs are covered under One Nation One Ration Card-ONORC and integration of the remaining four States and UTs is expected to be completed in next few months. The system covers nearly 69 crore National Food Security Act- NFSA beneficiaries in the country.

'MERA RATION'

Mobile Application for
One Nation One Ration Card



RAILWAY STARTS SINGLE HELPLINE NO. 139



Indian Railway has integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 which is Rail Madad Helpline for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. The Helpline 139 will be available in twelve languages and passengers can opt for Interactive Voice Response System- IVRS or directly connect to call-centre executives by pressing the asterisk button.

WCD MIN. LAUNCHES 3 UMBRELLA SCHEMES

The Women and Child Development Ministry has decided to classify all of its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes- Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0, and Mission Vatsalya- for their better implementation.

Mission Shakti will consist of the schemes and policies for the empowerment and protection of women covering schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Women's helpline and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

Mission Poshan 2.0 will be formed by merging Poshan Abhiyan and the supplementary nutrition programme and Anganwadi services.

Mission Vatsalya will be looking into the child welfare services and child protection services all over the country.

SUGAMYA BHARAT APP LAUNCHED

Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for sensitising and enhancing physical accessibility. It provides for five main features of which four are directly related to enhancing accessibility. They include registration of complaints of inaccessibility across the broad pillars of built environment, transportation sector and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem, positive feedback of examples and best practices worth emulating being shared by people as jan-bhagidari; Departmental updates; and guidelines and circulars related to accessibility.

The fifth feature is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID related issues. The app will enable people with disabilities as well as the elderly in registering accessibility-related problems in modes of transport, in buildings, or in any infrastructure by uploading the pictures on it.

GOVT TO PROMOTE INDIAN DIGITAL GAMES

Government has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in collaboration with IIT Bombay. The IIT will also launch courses with focus on VFX and Animation. The courses will endeavour to create our own games and apps based on our basic values that are an integral part of Indian ethos. This way we will be able to counter the undesirable foreign games, most of which have violent content.

CA/CS/ICWA AT PAR WITH POST-GRADUATION

Candidates who qualify for the Chartered Accountant (CA), Company Secretary (CS) or Cost and Works Accountant (ICWA) exams will now be treated equivalent to postgraduate degree holders, according to the University Grants Commission (UGC). This recognition will leverage the company secretary / CA's profession across the globe, giving the members of the institute an opportunity to pursue PhD in Commerce and allied disciplines.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, award the certification for CA, CS and ICWA, respectively. Now these will be treated as equivalent to postgraduate degrees.

TOUGH NORMS DECLARED FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

The government announced on Feb 25 new policies for regulation of content on social media and over the top (OTT) platforms. The norms, titled Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, empower the government to ask the social platforms to reveal the first originator of any message that the authorities consider to be anti-national and detrimental to the security and sovereignty of the country.

Further, all such messages may be asked to be removed within 36 hours of it being flagged under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000. Streaming services like Netflix, Amazon and Google's YouTube, etc. must self-regulate and classify content in categories according to age.

The new regulations have been framed under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and will be implemented within three months. The government has proposed voluntary verification of users and asked the firms to have a compliance officer, grievance officer and a nodal officer, all based in India.



MCA AND CBIC TO EXCHANGE DATABASES



The Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Feb 25 for exchange of data between the two organisations. It is in line with the vision of both organisations to harness data capabilities to ensure effective enforcement. Sharing of each other's databases which include details of import-export transactions and consolidated financial statements of companies registered in the country, will facilitate better enforcement of regulatory provisions.

FEBRUARY

INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL TOY FAIR

The first-ever National Toy Fair was held in virtual mode from 27th February to 2nd March. With over 1,000 participant stalls, the fair aimed at boosting toy manufacturing in India and improving its global market share. It helped in changing the attitude of parents as well as teachers towards toys. IIT Gandhinagar based Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) showcased its unique 75 toy creations in the fair.

8 NEW TOY MANUFACTURING CLUSTERS

To give a boost to the country's traditional toy industry, the government has approved 8 toy manufacturing clusters with investment of Rs 2,300 crore. The clusters will be for toys to be made with wood, lacquer, palm leaves, bamboo and cloth. These 8 clusters will be located as 3 in Madhya Pradesh, 2 in Rajasthan and one each in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.



NATIONAL URBAN DIGITAL MISSION

Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched on Feb 24 the National Urban Digital Mission aimed at providing an online platform for harnessing potential from the urban domain and technology towards creating citizen-centric governance.

The Mission will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022 and across all cities and towns in the country by 2024.

A Smart Code platform will enable all ecosystem stakeholders to contribute to a repository of open-source code for various solutions and applications for urban governance.

GO ELECTRIC CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Government launched the Go Electric Campaign to boost the adoption of electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances to ensure energy security in the country.

The campaign aims to promote cost effective, environment friendly and indigenous electric products. Fossil fuels like Petroleum have a huge cost of import. Moreover, carbon emission from transport vehicles is a major challenge and the country needs to promote usage of vehicles which operate on alternative modes of fuels like electric batteries, CNG and Bio-fuel.

PM ATMANIRBHAR SWASTH BHARAT YOJANA

The Finance Minister announced launch of Pradhan Mantri AtmanirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems, strengthen existing health systems and support future health interventions with an outlay of about 64,180 crores over next 6 years. This will be in addition to the National Health mission and will support 17,000 rural and 11,000 urban health care centres.

INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH 3.0

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, union minister for health launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 (IMI 3.0) to expand immunization coverage across the nation. Focus of IMI 3.0 will be the children and pregnant women who did not get the vaccine during COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to achieve 90% full immunization coverage in all districts of India. As of now, Mission Indradhanush has covered 690 districts and vaccinated 37.64 million children and 9.46 million pregnant women.

NETAJI S C BOSE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The Ministry of Education has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools and hostels'. It is said that the association of these schools with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will "act as an inspiration" to children and also motivate teachers, staff and administration to enable them to achieve high standards of excellence.

SANDES: NEW INSTANT MESSAGING PLATFORM



The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes, the Indian version of WhatsApp. Sandes can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id. The launch of the app is also a part of the government strategy to push for use of India-made software so as to build an ecosystem of indigenously developed products. Open initially only to government officials, it has now been opened for the common public as well. It also offers features such as group making, broadcast message, message forwarding and emojis.

“E-CHHAWANI” PORTAL FOR CANTONMENTS

The government has introduced an online portal “e-Chhawani” to offer civil services to more than 20 lakh citizens who have been living in 62 Cantonments Boards across the country.

The portal will provide online municipal services through a multi-tenancy central platform. The residents of the cantonments will be able to register their complaints regarding the civic issues and resolve them while sitting at home.

‘SHRAMSHAKTI’ SITE FOR TRIBAL MIGRANTS

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the ‘ShramShakti’ portal to collect data related to the tribal migrant workers and will also link them to the existing welfare schemes. The data collected through the ‘ShramShakti’ portal will include the livelihood options demographic profile, migration pattern, and skill mapping.

The absence of data on the migrant workers was also preventing the governments from formulating effective policy decisions and strategies for the welfare of migrant workers.



FORMATION AND PROMOTION OF 10,000 FPOs

The Ministry of Agriculture launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled ‘Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)’. The FPOs will be developed to produce clusters, wherein agricultural and horticultural products are grown for leveraging economies of scale and improving market access for members. The FPOs will be provided financial assistance upto Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of three years.

LIMITS RAISED FOR OPCs

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) amended the Companies Rules to revise the definition of a small company and to allow non-resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate one person companies (OPCs) in India. Further, the residency condition for NRIs has been reduced to 120 days from 182 days earlier.

Under the new rules, the paid-up capital and turnover of the small company/OPC shall not exceed rupees two crores and rupees twenty crores respectively. The move is expected to lighten the compliance burden of about 200,000 companies.

INDIA’S 1st WETLAND CONSERVATION CENTRE

On the occasion of Wetland Conservation Day on February 2, India established its first centre for wetland conservation in Chennai. The specialized institution known as ‘Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management’ is part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management- NCSCM, which comes under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The centre will assist the national and state governments in the formulation and the implementation of the regulatory framework and policy for the wetland management. It will be a knowledge hub for the wetland researchers, managers, policymakers, and users.

A wetland is a distinct ecosystem which is flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently, where the oxygen-free processes prevail. Currently, India has 42 sites that are designated as the wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. These wetlands cover a surface area of 1.08 million hectares, occupying around 4.6% of the country’s landmass.

EC LAUNCHES DIGITAL VOTER I-CARD

The Election Commission rolled out the electronic version of the voters’ photo identity card e-EPIC (electoral photo identity card), which can be stored on mobile phones and downloaded on personal computers. The idea is to provide faster delivery and easy accessibility to the document as the physical card takes time to print and reach the voter.

The e-EPIC is a non-editable digital version of the electoral photo identity card and can be saved in facilities such as a digital locker as well as can be printed in the PDF format.

ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

MARCH

INDIAN ECO. TO GROW BY 13.7%: MOODY'S



Global rating agency Moody's in its 'Global Macro Outlook 2021-22' hiked India's growth projection for the financial year 2021-22 to 13.7 percent from 10.8 percent projected earlier. The revised numbers came on the back of normalisation of economic activity and growing confidence in the market with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. *Moody's said, India's Economy has rebounded quickly from one of the world's longest and most stringent lockdowns, which also came with the steepest fall in GDP in the second quarter of 2020.*

INDIA POISED TO GROW BY 12.8% IN 2021-22

American credit rating agency Fitch has revised India's GDP growth estimate for the fiscal 2021-22 to 12.8%, from its previous estimate of 11%, in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO). The improvement in growth rate is based on factors like stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment.

OECD PROJECTS 12.6% GROWTH FOR INDIA

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) raised the projection for India's economic growth rate by 4.7 percentage points at 12.6 percent for 2021-22. This would enable India to retain its earlier tag of the fastest growing large economy in the world. In its interim report on economic outlook, OECD said, activity moved above pre-pandemic levels in India, helped by strong fiscal and quasi-fiscal measures and a recovery in manufacturing and construction.



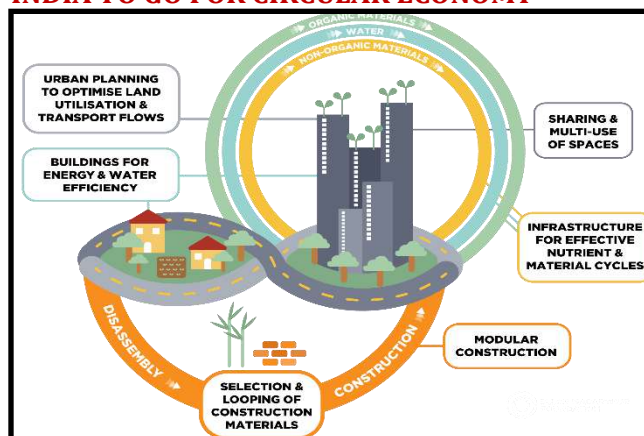
AGRI. PRODUCTION BREAKS ALL RECORDS

The second advance estimates of production of principal crops in the year 2020-21, released by the Union Agriculture Ministry informed that the country's foodgrain production is projected at a record 303.34 million tonnes for the crops year 2020-21. It is higher by 5.84 million tonnes than the production of foodgrain of 297.50 million tonnes achieved during 2019-20.

As per second advance estimates, total production of Rice is estimated at record 120.32 million tonnes, 7.88 million tonnes more than the last five years' average production of 112.44 million tonnes. Wheat production is estimated at a record 109.24 million tonnes, 8.81 million tonnes more than the average wheat production of 100.42 million tonnes. Total Pulses production is estimated at 24.42 million tonnes, 2.43 million tonnes more than the last five years' average production of 21.99 million tonnes.

The higher production clearly outlines the tireless hard work of farmers, research by the agricultural scientists, and farmer-friendly policies of the Government. Besides, the 9 percent higher cumulative rainfall during this year's southwest monsoon season upto 30th September, also supported the bumper harvest.

INDIA TO GO FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY



To expedite the transition of the country from a linear economy to a circular economy, 11 committees have been formed by the NITI Aayog. A circular economy approach aims at eliminating wastages and ensuring continual use of resources by taking a comprehensive view of products and processes. The focus areas include 11 end-of-life products/recyclable materials/wastes that either continue to pose considerable challenges or are emerging as new challenge areas that must be addressed in a holistic manner.

These committees will be led by the concerned ministries and comprising officials from NITI Aayog, domain experts, academics and industry representatives. The committees will prepare comprehensive action plans for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy in their respective focus areas and will ensure the effective implementation of their findings and recommendations.

'RED RICE' EXPORTED TO USA



In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was sent to the USA on March 4. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of Assamese food.

CHINA BECOMES INDIA'S TOP TRADE PARTNER

China pushed USA to second spot to emerge as India's biggest trade partner in 2020. This happened despite the rise in anti-China sentiment in India amid months of conflict between the two neighbouring nations at the Ladakh border.

According to news agency Bloomberg, China regained its position as India continued to rely on import of machinery and telecom equipment from China.

According to provisional data from the commerce ministry, the two-way trade with China stood at \$77.7 billion in 2020. Although the amount is lower than the previous year's \$85.5 billion, yet it was enough to push China on top.

The two-way trade between India and the US stood at \$75.9 billion as Covid-19 restrictions impacted trade between the two countries. Meanwhile, UAE continues to remain India's third-biggest trading partner.

TAX EXEMPTION LIMIT RAISED ON PF

Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to Rs. 5 lakh per annum in specified cases as against 2.5 lakh rupees proposed in the Budget. This exemption, however, is subject to the condition that up to Rs 5 lakh contribution does not include employer's contribution beyond the statutory limit of up to 12 percent of the basic pay.

FEBRUARY

IMF PROJECTS 11.5% GROWTH FOR INDIA

The latest World Economic Outlook Update released by the International Monetary Fund on Jan 26 projected an impressive 11.5% growth rate for India in 2021, making the country the only major economy of the world to register a double-digit growth this year amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

This growth projection reflected a strong rebound in the economy, which is estimated to have contracted by 8% in 2020 due to slowdown caused by the pandemic.

UN PROJECTS 9.6% GROWTH FOR INDIA'S GDP

The Indian economy is estimated to contract by 9.6 per cent in the Calendar year 2020, as per the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). However, in the year 2021 Indian economy is projected to grow by 7.3 per cent.

JIO 5th STRONGEST BRAND IN WORLD

The four-year-old telecom venture Reliance Jio has been ranked 5th on Brand Finance's Global 500 ranking of the strongest brands globally. Reliance Jio has become the largest mobile network operator in India and the third-largest mobile network operator globally, with almost 400 million subscribers.

Jio is behind the likes of Coca-Cola (4th), Ferrari (2nd) and Russian Bank SBER (3rd), while WeChat topped the list determining and ranking the brands on their relative strength.

It may be noted that in terms of value, Apple continues to be the most valuable brand, followed by Google and Amazon.

BANKING & FINANCE

MARCH

C'TTEE FOR GRANTING ON-TAP LICENSES

The Reserve Bank of India has set up a five-member standing external advisory committee to evaluate applications for "on-tap" licensing of universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs). The committee will be chaired by the former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath. The panel will have a tenure of three years.

An 'on-tap' facility means that RBI will accept applications and grant licenses for banks throughout the year. The policy allows aspirants to apply for universal bank license at any time, subject to the fulfillment of the set conditions.



NEW DFI FOR INFRA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



The Union Cabinet has approved a bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with an initial capital infusion of 20 thousand crore rupees. The announcement for the same was made in the Parliament during the current Budget Session.

The DFI is expected to raise long-term funds for infrastructure development projects in the country. It will be governed by a professional board and 50 percent of them will be non-official directors. The DFI will seek to raise funds from global pension and insurance sectors for investment in new projects and will also have tax benefits.

PRIVATE BANKS ALLOWED GOVT BUSINESS

The Centre has lifted embargo on private sector banks for conduct of government business related transactions such as tax collection and other revenue payment facilities, pension payment and small saving schemes.

Earlier, only few private banks were permitted for such transactions. The move is expected to further enhance customer's convenience, spur competition and higher efficiency in the standards of customer services. With the lifting of embargo, there is now no bar on Reserve Bank of India for authorisation of private sector banks for government business.

It may be noted that conducting government business is very lucrative for banks as the RBI pays to the banks agency commission per transaction at rates determined by it.

ALL BANKS TO IMPLEMENT CTS BY SEP 30



The Reserve Bank has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by September 30

this year to facilitate faster settlement of cheques resulting in better customer service. Truncation process involves discontinuing the flow of the physical cheque in its way of clearing. Instead of physical movement of cheque, a digital image of the cheque is transferred to the payee branch with vital essential data.

NPCI LAUNCHES 'RUPAY SOFTPOS'

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants. This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC (Near Field Communication) enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to Rs. 5000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smartphones. Merchants can convert their existing android smartphone devices into a payment terminal by simply downloading a supported app.

HDFC BANK BEST FOR SMES

HDFC Bank was adjudged the India's best bank for SMEs at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021. The Annual Best Banks survey of the financial magazine based in Hong Kong, aims to identify those banks in each market that have excelled across a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months.

AXIS BANK LAUNCHES 'WEAR N PAY' DEVICES



Axis Bank became the first bank in India on March 10 to launch its own range of wearable contactless payment devices. Dubbed as 'Wear N Pay', these devices are available in a variety of accessories like band, key chain and watch loop. Users need not carry their smartphone and wallet for payments anymore. Wearers can make payments up to Rs. 5,000 merely by waving their device at a POS machine that accepts contactless payments.

HDFC BANK LAUNCHES 'SMARTUP UNNATI'

To commemorate the International Women' Day on March 08, HDFC Bank launched a dedicated mentoring programme 'SmartUp Unnati', to support women entrepreneurs. Under this programme, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank having expertise in various domains will mentor women entrepreneurs, over the next one year, to help them achieve their goals.

- ❖ Exim Bank will provide funding of \$130 million to finance the design and construction of 2,000 dwelling units in Hulhumale, Maldives.



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STATE BANK OF SIKKIM BROUGHT UNDER RBI



The Reserve Bank brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulation. With this development, now, RBI will function as a banker to the state government of Sikkim. The State Bank of Sikkim was established as an autonomous body wholly owned by the Government of Sikkim, in the year 1968, five years before Sikkim became part of India in 1973.

RBI COMMITTEE FOR URBAN COOP BANKS

The Reserve Bank of India formed a committee for drawing a vision document to strengthen urban co-operative banks and to explore the potential of consolidation in this sector. The eight member committee will be headed by the former Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India N S Vishwanathan. The Committee will submit its report to the RBI in three months.

FARM CREDIT RAISED TO Rs. 16.5 LAKH CRORE

To provide adequate credit to farmers, the government has enhanced the agricultural credit target to 16.5 lakh crore rupees for the year 2021-22 with focus on ensuring increased credit flows to animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries.

The target for ground level credit for agriculture for the year 2020-21 was fixed at Rs.15.00 lakh crore. The enhancement of Ground Level Credit target to Rs.16.5 lakh crore will further boost the efforts of doubling farmers' income by reducing the cost of credit.

EXIM BANK'S \$400 MN CREDIT FOR MALDIVES

The Reserve Bank of India notified that the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide USD 400 million to fund Maldives' Greater Male Connectivity Project. It is the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting the capital Male with three neighbouring islands.

EXIM BANK CREDIT LINE FOR SIERRA LEONE

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended a line of credit (LOC) of \$15 million to the Republic of Sierra Leone for expansion of the ongoing projects for rehabilitation of existing potable water facilities in the country.

- ❖ *State Bank of India crossed the Rs 5 lakh crore-mark in its home loan business. Bank's housing loan business grew 5 times in the last 10 years with an asset under management of Rs 5 lakh crore in 2021.*

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INDIAN ARMY - 4TH STRONGEST IN WORLD

According to a study released by defence website Military Direct on March 21, China with 82 points has the strongest military force in the world. The study compiled the Ultimate Military Strength Index after taking into consideration various factors including budgets, number of inactive and active military personnel, total air, sea, land and nuclear resources, average salaries, and weight of equipment.

The USA, despite its enormous military budgets, came in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India - 61 and then France with 58 points. In terms of military spending, the USA is at top with a budget of \$ 732 billion per year, followed by China (\$261 billion), and India - \$71 billion.

ICGS VAJRA JOINS INDIAN COAST GUARD

Indian Coast Guard ship 'Vajra', the sixth offshore patrol vessel to enhance coastal security, was formally commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24. Sixth in the series of seven offshore patrol vessels, Vajra is fitted with highly sophisticated navigation and communication systems. The ship was indigenously designed and built by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding Ltd.

BDL TO SUPPLY MILAN-2T ATGMS

The Ministry of Defence placed an order with Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) to Indian Army at a cost of Rs 1,188 crore. The Milan-2T is a Tandem Warhead ATGM with a range of 1,850 metres.

The missile is being produced by BDL under license from MBDA Missile Systems, France.



NAVY TO GET ITS FIRST SURVEILLANCE SHIP



India is set to commission its first advanced surveillance ship INS Dhruv to track satellites, strategic missiles and map the Indian Ocean bed. The 15,000-tonne ship, part of a classified project, will not only create maritime domain awareness for India in the Indian Ocean but also act as an early warning system for adversary missiles headed towards Indian cities and military establishments.

It will act as a major force multiplier to India's ocean surveillance capabilities. Once the vessel is commissioned, India will be the only country outside the P-5 - the US, the UK, China, Russia and France - to have this capability.

DRDO TESTS AIR INDEPENDENT PROPULSION

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) conducted the final development test of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system in Mumbai on Mar 8. It is a major step that will make Indian submarines more lethal. AIP allows a submarine to be submerged for longer periods under water and makes the sub-surface platform more deadly by making it quieter than a nuclear submarine.

SFDR TECHNOLOGY TESTED BY DRDO

DRDO successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology for the long-range air to air missiles from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

The INS Shardul and MNS Trozona of Madagascar carried out their first Passage Exercise (PASSEX) on 24 March in western Indian Ocean near Madagascar.

The Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Bahrain Naval Force under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf on March 17 to enhance interoperability and bilateral maritime cooperation.

DUSTLIK-II: Second edition of the India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise was held in Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand from March 10 to 19. Both contingents will be sharing their expertise and skills in the field of counter terrorist operations in mountainous or rural or urban scenarios under UN mandate.

Desert Flag: A special contingent of the Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise "Desert Flag" on March 3 along with France and the United States in the United Arab Emirates. In total 10 countries participated in the exercise.

INDIA TO SUPPLY BRAHMOS TO PHILIPPINES

India signed a key pact with the Philippines on March 2 for the supply of defence material and equipment, including BrahMos Cruise Missiles to the Philippines. The missile has been produced by BrahMos Aerospace Ltd, New Delhi, a Joint Venture of India and Russia. It can be launched from ships, submarines, land platforms, or aircraft.

Indian Air Force gifted a legacy Alouette III helicopter to the Bangladesh Air Force to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of 1971 War of Liberation. Bangladesh Air Force in return gifted a legacy F-86 Sabre fighter jet to India.

WORLD'S FIRST MILITARY EXERCISE IN SPACE

France launched the world's first military exercise in space from March 8 to 12. The exercise codenamed ASTREX was aimed at testing the country's abilities to protect its satellites as well as other defence equipment from other space forces. The German Space force and the US Space force also participated in it. The French Space Command was created on July 13, 2019.

ISRO-NASA TO LAUNCH SAR

The Indian Space Research Organisation- ISRO and the US space agency NASA have completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR. It is capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint Earth observation satellite mission that will be launched by ISRO in early 2022. NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (S-band and L-band) for measuring the changes in Earth's surface less than a centimeter across.

SATELLITE SINDHU NETRA LAUNCHED

ISRO successfully launched surveillance satellite Sindhu Netra on Feb 28. It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The satellite will boost India's surveillance capabilities to monitor activities of both military warships and merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The satellite is capable of automatically identifying the warships and merchant ships operating in the IOR.



ADVANCED BATTERY DEVELOPED FOR EVS



A Bengaluru based deep-tech start-up 'Log 9 Materials' announced the launch of a rapid charging battery technology for electric vehicles. Based on supercapacitor technology and 'Graphene', these batteries used in 2-wheeler and 3-wheeler EVs can be fully charged

within just 15 minutes and have a longer life of over 15 years. Furthermore, these batteries offer up to 5 times more power and are five times safer in terms of fire-resistance and impact-resistance, when compared to the popular Lithium-Ion batteries that are being used widely at present.

ISRO LAUNCHED 19 SATELLITES

ISRO launched 19 satellites from Brazil, USA and India on board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C51 (PSLV-C51) rocket from Sriharikota on Feb 28. Of the 19 satellites, Brazil's 637-kilogram Amazonia 1 optical earth observation satellite was the primary passenger.

The satellites were launched by New Space India Ltd, ISRO's commercial arm set up in 2019. One of the Indian satellites in the batch included an engraved image of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and another carried a copy of "Bhagavad Gita" in SD (secured digital) card.

"FUGAKU" IS READY FOR OPEN USE

The world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku", developed by Japanese scientific research institute RIKEN and Fujitsu, has been made available for research work. Fugaku achieved astonishing high speed of processing of 442 petaflops, making it suitable for carrying out high-resolution, large-scale, and long-duration simulations across multiple fields of research. The supercomputer next to it is IBM's Summit that could reach processing speed of 148.8 petaflops.

A petaflop is a measure of a computer's processing speed and is expressed as a thousand trillion (10^{15}) floating point operations per second.

WORLD'S 1ST: HYDROGEN FROM BROWN COAL

A Japanese-Australian venture has begun producing hydrogen from brown coal in a test project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced and exported safely to Japan. Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries is running the pilot project with government financial support from both Japan and Australia in the state of Victoria, Australia, home to a quarter of the world's known brown coal reserves. The project is key to helping Japan meet its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES ARCTIC SATELLITE

The Russian space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment. The satellite called "Arktika-M", was launched on February 28, onboard Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

FEBRUARY

L&T DELIVERS 100th K-9 VAJRA GUN

Larsen and Toubro (L&T) delivered to Indian Army the 100th and final unit of indigenously made K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/ 52 calibre self-propelled guns built at its Hazira plant near Surat, Gujarat. The gun is Indian version of the K-9 Thunder gun of South Korea and has a strike range of over 40 km. The company was awarded the contract for supply of 100 K-9 Vajra guns by the Ministry of Defence in May 2017.

INS KARANJ JOINS INDIAN NAVY

The Indian Navy got its third indigenously built Scorpene Submarine on Feb 15. It will be commissioned as INS Karanj in March, 2021. The other two submarines delivered already are INS Khanderi and INS Kalvari. The submarines have been built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

AKASH - NG MISSILE TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

The DRDO conducted a successful maiden launch of Akash-NG (New Generation) Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha.

Akash-NG is a new generation Surface-to-Air Missile meant for use by the Indian Air Force with an aim of intercepting high maneuvering aerial threats. It has a range of over 30 kms.

ARJUN MARK 1-A TANK INDUCTED IN ARMY

Indian Army placed an order for 118 indigenously manufactured Arjun Mark 1-A tanks - 'Hunter Killers', which will have all-weather capability and better fire power and stability than the Arjun main battle tank (MBT) currently in use.

The Mark 1-A has automatic target tracking to track moving targets automatically, and engage them even when the tank is on the move.

This tank has been developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment at Avadi, Chennai and mass produced by the Indian Ordnance Factory's production facility in Avadi, Tamil Nadu.



HELINA AND DHRUVA STRA TESTED



The Indian Army successfully tested the Helina (Army Version) and Dhruv Astra (Air Force Version) Missile Systems designed and developed by DRDO. The tests were carried out from Advanced Light Helicopter-ALH platform in desert ranges of Rajasthan.

HELINA is a third generation, lock on before launch fire and forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile that can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.

1st WOMEN UNIT INDUCTED IN COBRA FORCE

For the first time in the history of CRPF, a contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into specialised jungle warfare commando force CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action). CoBRA was raised under the CRPF in 2009 for undertaking intelligence-based jungle warfare operations. It has been an all-male affair for this unit till now.

The CRPF, with strength of about 3.25 lakh personnel, is the country's premium internal security force. Its maximum deployment is in three major theatres of Jammu and Kashmir, Left Wing Extremism (Naxalites) affected states and insurgency-hit areas in India's northeast.

"AERO INDIA-2021" HELD IN BENGALURU

Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India-2021" was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka from Feb 3 to 5. For the first time the event took place in a hybrid mode due to Covid Pandemic.

The show was dedicated to showcasing India's prowess in defence production to focus on the export of fighter jets, helicopters and missiles.

The defence ministers of 27 countries from Indian Ocean region participated in a conclave organised on the sidelines to discuss shared threats and cooperation in disaster management.

PASSEX: The Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted bilateral military exercise PASSEX in the Arabian Sea on Feb 18 aimed at strengthening Bilateral Maritime Cooperation between the two navies.

Yudh Abhyas 20: The India-US joint military exercise was held in Mahajan Field Firing Range of Bikaner district in Rajasthan from Feb 8 to 21. This was the 16th edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of the armies.

Indian Navy took part in the two-day naval exercise of Iran and Russia -- 'Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021' that was held on Feb 16-17 in the northern part of the Indian Ocean.

AMPHEX-21: A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX - 21 was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from January 21-25. The tri-service exercise involved the participation of Indian Naval ships, Indian Army troops and different types of aircraft from the Air force.

The Border Security Force (BSF) launched "Operation Sard Hawa" from Jan 21 to 27 to increase security on the borders in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan to check the incidence of intrusion ahead of Republic Day.

PAKISTAN SUCCESSFULLY TESTED 'BABUR'

Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of the surface-to-surface ballistic cruise missile 'Babur'. This is the third missile launch by Pakistan in less than a month, with launches of the Shaheen-3 and Ghaznavi ballistic missiles being conducted in late January and early February respectively. The cruise missile has a range of 450 kilometres and can be launched from either a submarine or a land-based quad-launcher.

ISRO TIES UP WITH MAPMYINDIA

In one more step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has tied up with the digital mapping and location-based deep-tech company MapmyIndia to offer a fully indigenous, mapping portal and related geospatial services.

The services will combine the power of MapmyIndia's digital maps and technologies with ISRO's catalogue of satellite imagery and earth observation data. They aim to provide comprehensive services to counter Google Map.

It will empower Indian scientists, academia, researchers and government organisations with the best of India's satellite imagery, earth observation data and digital map data and advanced geospatial technologies, all combined together in a fully indigenous ISRO-MapmyIndia platform.



FIRST THUNDERSTORM RESEARCH TESTBED



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) plans to set up India's first thunderstorm research testbed at Balasore, Odisha. The project will be developed by the IMD jointly with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to implement the project. The testbed is aimed at reducing fatalities and loss of property due to frequent cyclones and lightning strikes in Odisha and the eastern states. Top academic institutes from the region will also be involved to conduct research on the data that will be shared with them by the project.

COUNTRY'S FIRST CNG TRACTOR LAUNCHED

The Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first CNG tractor on Feb 12. The conversion has been carried out jointly by Tomasetto Achille India and Rawmatt Techno Solutions. It will save about Rs. 1 lakh annually on fuel costs of an average tractor. The conversion will help the Indian farmers in increasing their income by lowering the costs as well as help in creating job opportunities in rural India. CNG - Compressed Natural Gas is a clean fuel that has the lowest content of carbon and other pollutants.

NASA ROVER 'PERSEVERANCE' LANDS ON MARS

The American space agency NASA successfully landed its fifth rover 'Perseverance' on Mars on Feb 18 in a deep crater near the planet's equator called Jezero. It touched down the surface of Mars after successfully overcoming a risky landing phase known as the seven minutes of terror.

The six-wheeled vehicle will now spend at least the next two years drilling into the local rocks, looking for evidence of past life. About the size of an SUV, it weighs around a ton. It is equipped with a seven feet long robotic arm, 19 cameras, two microphones and an array of cutting-edge instruments to achieve its scientific goals.

NEW SPECIES OF GECKO DISCOVERED

A team of researchers from five institutes across India have discovered a new gecko species in Arunachal Pradesh. The new species belongs to the genus *Cyrtodactylus* commonly known as bent-toed geckos. The researchers have named the species *Cyrtodactylus Arunachalensis* after the state in which it was discovered.

AIRTEL FIRST TO SHOWCASE 5G TECHNOLOGY

Bharti Airtel became the country's first telecom operator to successfully demonstrate live fifth-generation (5G) service over a commercial network in Hyderabad city on Jan 28. The users in Hyderabad were able to download a full-length movie in a matter of seconds on a 5G phone.

However, the full impact of the 5G experience is expected to be made available to customers across the country when the adequate spectrum is available and required government approvals have been received.

143 SATELLITES LAUNCHED IN ONE GO

A rocket from Elon Musk's SpaceX, an US aerospace company created a new record by launching 143 satellites at one time into space on January 24. The reusable Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The reusable rocket launched 143 satellites into space, of which 133 were government and commercial satellites and 10 were Starlink satellites. SpaceX has beaten the ISRO's record of Feb 2017 when it deployed 104 satellites in a single launch.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MARCH

WORLD'S FIRST SHIP TUNNEL IN NORWAY

Norway plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadshavet Sea. At present it is considered as one of the most exposed and dangerous areas for vessels along the coast of Norway, sometimes experiencing more than 100 storm days per year and a dangerous combination of wind, currents, and waves.

The 1700 metre long, 37 metre high and 26.5-metre-wide tunnel will burrow through the mountainous Stadshavet peninsula in northwestern Norway. At the moment, ships navigating the surrounds of Stadshavet Peninsula are often impacted by rough tides and bad weather. Building this engineering marvel will cost somewhere around \$330 million and take between three to four years to complete.



FIRST QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT HELD



The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and US President Joseph R Biden participated in the first Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework.

The Leaders discussed regional and global issues of common interest and exchanged views on critical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The Summit provided an opportunity to exchange views on contemporary challenges such as resilient supply chains, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security and climate change.

The "Quad" or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is an informal strategic forum of the US, Japan, Australia, and India. It was revived in 2017 as a buffer against Beijing. The Quad nations have one strong common factor that each had conflicts with China in recent years.

G-20 MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated virtually in the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting on Feb 26 under the Italian Presidency. The meeting discussed policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery in the post Corona period. The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors also discussed the implications of climate change on global growth and financial stability.

MIT, USA-- BEST UNIVERSITY IN WORLD

The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings was released on March 04 for the top 1,000 universities from around the world. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA retained its top position for the ninth year in a row. Stanford University, USA and the University of Cambridge, UK were placed at second and third rank, respectively.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has emerged as the best institution in India at 172nd rank. No institute from India could make it to the top 100.

GIANT ICEBERG BREAKS AWAY IN ANTARCTICA

A giant iceberg, larger than some of the largest cities like Mumbai and New York, broke off from the ice shelf of Antarctica. The alarming incident was notified by the British Antarctic Survey which reported that the iceberg of approximately 490 square miles in size, detached itself from the Brunt Ice Shelf in February 2021.

The break showcased a new chasm, named the North Rift, in the Brunt Ice Shelf. Icebergs are pieces of ice that have broken off from glaciers or ice shelves and float in open water.

AUSTRALIA TO REIN IN MEDIA PLATFORMS

Australia's Parliament on Feb 25 passed amendments to their News Media Bargaining Code as per which Facebook agreed to lift a ban on Australians accessing and sharing news. The new rules force online platforms like Google and Facebook to pay for news they source from local media. The amendments were designed to curb the outsized bargaining power of Facebook and Google in their negotiations with Australian news providers.

It is expected that the digital giants now would not be able to abuse their positions by making take-it-or-leave-it payment offers to news businesses for their journalism.

FEBRUARY

MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR

The Myanmar Military Tatmadaw (official name of Myanmar Military) executed a coup in the country on Feb 1 by arresting the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior leaders from the ruling party National League for Democracy (NLD). A one-year state of emergency was declared in the country.

The Vice President MyintSwe has been made the acting President and all powers have been transferred to the Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing. The Military said that the leaders have been detained for committing fraud in the national elections held on Nov. 8, 2020.

Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi took over as the head of the civilian government in 2015 after a long period of military rule in Myanmar. The National Elections held on Nov. 8 saw a massive victory for NLD, badly defeating the military supported USD Party. She was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1991 for her valiant struggle for restoration of democracy in Myanmar.



WORLD'S FIRST ENERGY ISLAND



Denmark plans to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy to cover the electricity needs of 3 million European households. The energy hub will serve as an offshore power plant gathering and distributing green electricity from hundreds of wind turbines surrounding the island directly to consumers in countries surrounding the North Sea.

The island will be located 80 kilometres off Denmark's west coast. Its surrounding wind turbines will have capacity of 3 gigawatt and be operational around 2033.

US EXTENDS NEW START TREATY FOR 5 YEARS

The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years from Feb 2021. The treaty aims to make the world safer as unconstrained nuclear competition would endanger the entire world. The Russian President also signed a legislation on Jan 29, 2021 extending the treaty for another five years.

The Treaty was set to expire on February 5, 2021, as the Trump administration had refused to approve the extension. The Treaty was originally signed by the then US President Barack Obama in 2010. The treaty restricts the number of nuclear warheads that can be deployed by Russia and the United States to 1,550.

GLOBAL FDI COLLAPSED IN 2020 BY 42%



An 'investment trends monitor' issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on January 24 said that global FDI collapsed in 2020 by 42% to an estimated \$859 billion from \$1.5 trillion in 2019. The decline in FDI inflows was concentrated in developed countries, where fund flows fell by 69% to an estimated \$229 billion.

However, FDI in India rose by 13% in 2020, attracting \$ 57 billion, boosted by investments in the digital sector. China attracted the highest FDI of \$ 163 billion, despite being the epicenter of the Corona pandemic.

CHINA TOPS IN CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS

As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, the world trade witnessed a tectonic shift triggered by the coronavirus crisis as higher demand across the globe for medical protection gear and electronic devices boosted Chinese exports.

China accounted for the highest current account surplus of \$310 billion, pushing Germany to second place. Germany's current account surplus shrank to \$261 billion in 2020 as demand for cars, machinery and equipment fell in many of its key export markets. Japan came in third with a current account surplus of \$158 billion.

The United States remained the country with the world's largest current account deficit which rose roughly by a third to \$635 billion in 2020.

Current account surplus denotes the excess of value of exports of goods, services and investments over the value of their imports.

BRITAIN SUFFERS WORST FALL IN ECONOMY



The Office for National Statistics, UK stated that the British economy suffered its biggest decline in more than 300 years in 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic closed shops and restaurants, devastated the travel industry and curtailed manufacturing. The economy shrank 9.9% last year, more than twice the figure for 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis of that time. This decline is the largest since 1709.

NUCLEAR BAN TREATY COMES INTO FORCE

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into effect from January 22, 2021. The treaty was adopted by UNO in July 2017 as a legally binding treaty prohibiting the signatories to develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The treaty currently has 86 signatories, with 52 member states having submitted instruments of ratification. India has reiterated that it is neither party to nor bound by any obligations of this international pact.

India had boycotted the negotiations which had begun in March 2017, asserting that only the Geneva-based UN's Conference on Disarmament had the mandate of prohibiting nuclear weapons. India was among 35 states, including the P-5 nations and Pakistan, who did not attend the deliberations.

TRUMP ACQUITTED FOR THE SECOND TIME



The US Senate acquitted former President Donald Trump for a second time blocking the Democrat's attempt to punish him for the storming of the Capitol by his supporters. After a week of the impeachment trial, only 57 Senators, including seven Republicans voted to convict him.

Mr. Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives in January this year on the charge that he incited an insurrection when his supporters attacked the Capitol on January 6. The House accused him of inciting the riot in which his supporters entered the Senate chamber and other offices.

- ❖ South Korea has signed a 48 trillion Won (\$43 billion) agreement to build the world's largest offshore wind farm near Sinan in its southwest with a capacity of producing 8.2 GigaWatts.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia has allowed women to join the armed forces. They can now be appointed as soldiers, corporals, lance corporals, staff sergeants, and sergeants.

PERSONS IN NEWS

MARCH



Gautam Adani: Adani Group Chairman has achieved a remarkable milestone amid the Covid-19 pandemic, as he added the highest wealth in the world to his fortune, as per the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Adani added \$16.2 billion so far in the year 2021, taking his total net worth to \$50 billion.

With this surge in his wealth, Adani is now the 26th richest person in the world. He surpassed two of the world's richest individuals, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, in terms of wealth generation this year. While Musk has added \$10.3 billion to his net worth so far, Bezos has seen a downturn of 7.59 billion.

Jasmine Harrison: A 21-year-old British woman from England became the youngest woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She achieved the feat by finishing top in the 2020 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, organized by Atlantic Campaigns.

FEBRUARY

Dr. Kiran Bedi: Former IPS Officer has been removed from the post of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor by the orders of the President of India. For the time being, Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilsai Soundararajan has been given additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

APPOINTMENTS

MARCH

Saurabh Garg: Appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

Dr Ajay Mathur: Appointed as the Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Gurugram, Haryana with effect from March 15, 2021 for a period of four years.

MA Ganapathy: Senior IPS officer of Uttarakhand cadre appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG)

Kuldip Singh: Senior IPS officer of West Bengal cadre appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Dr. G P Samanta: Appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India by the Central Government for a period of two years. He will be the head of the National Statistical Organisation and Secretary of the National Statistical Commission.

Vijay Sampla: Appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. A senior BJP leader from Punjab, he was the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment from 2014 to 2019.

Tirath Singh Rawat: In Uttarakhand, Rawat was sworn-in as the new chief minister on March 10. He was administered the oath of office by Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya at Raj Bhawan in Dehradun.

Girish Chandra Murmu: Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the year 2021.

Matam Venkata Rao: Appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India for a period of three years by the Central government.

Denis Sassou Nguesso: Re-elected as the President of Republic of Congo for the next five years. He has already served as President for 36 years, making him one of the longest serving Presidents in the world.

Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan: Sworn in as the sixth President of Tanzania, becoming the first female leader of the East African country.

Mark Rutte: Netherlands Prime Minister won the 2021 parliamentary elections for the fourth term in a row.

Mohamed Bazoum: Elected as the new President of Niger, a land-locked country north of Nigeria, in Africa.

Irakli Garibashvili: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of Georgia by the Parliament of Georgia.

FEBRUARY

S N Subrahmanyam: Appointed as the head of the National Safety Council for a period of three years by the Labour Ministry. He is an eminent engineer, currently CEO and Managing Director of Larsen & Toubro.

Dr. Ajay Mathur: Selected as the new Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Presently, he is Director General of The Energy & Resources Institute. *A coalition of 73 member countries, ISA was established in 2015 to accelerate the demand for and use of safe, sustainable, and affordable solar energy for all.*

Ajai Malhotra: Elected as the first Indian Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. He is a senior diplomat and IFS officer of 1977 batch.

Mallikarjun Kharge: The Indian National Congress named the party veteran as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. The post fell vacant with the retirement of veteran MP Ghulam Nabi Azad on February 15. Mallikarjun Kharge had earlier served as the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: The former Finance Minister of Nigeria and a former MD of the World Bank was selected by the UN General Assembly as the next Director General of the World Trade Organisation. She will hold the position from March 1, 2021, to August 31, 2025. Earlier chief Roberto Azevedo resigned on August 31, 2020, one year before the end of his tenure.

The WTO is an intergovernmental organization that looks after the regulation of international trade between nations. It was formed January 1, 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 1948. It is the largest international economic organization in the world.

Mario Draghi: Sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Italy. He is the former head of the European Central Bank.

Kaja Kallas: Leader of the Reform Party elected as the first female President of Estonia, a small country in central Europe, east of Baltic Sea.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa: Won a second five-year term after winning the 2021 Portuguese Presidential election with a landslide victory.

AWARDS & HONOURS

MARCH

The 67th National Film Awards - 2019

The 67th National Film Awards were announced on March 22 New Delhi for the films from the year of 2019. The event was organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Some of the top awards include:

Best Feature Film: Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam) by Priyadarshan

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Maharishi (Telugu) by Vamshi Paidipally

Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration: Tajmahal (Marathi) by Niyaz Mujawar

Best feature film in Hindi: Chhichhore by Nitesh Tiwari

Best Director: Sanjay Puri Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi) (72 Fairies)

Best Actress: Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)

Best Actor: Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)

Most Film Friendly State: Sikkim

The Gandhi Peace Prize - 2019: Conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman in recognition of his outstanding contributions for social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.

The Gandhi Peace Prize - 2020: Conferred on late Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his life long struggle to ensure the freedom, rights, aspiration and emancipation of his people and building a world free of hunger, poverty and exploitation.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs. one crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft item. Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government since 1995, the 125th Birth Anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

Vyas Samman-2020: Well-known Hindi writer Prof. Sharad Pagare has been selected for the 31st Vyas Samman for his novel 'Patliputra Ki Samragyi.'

The Vyas Samman was started in 1991 by K K Birla Foundation to be given every year for outstanding literary work in Hindi.

The work should be authored by an Indian citizen and published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of Rs 4 lakh along with a citation and plaque.

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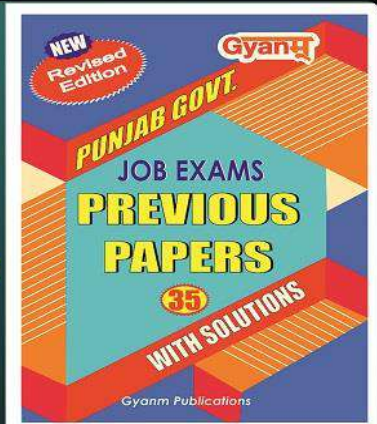
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CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award: Conferred upon PM Narendra Modi via video conferencing on March 5 at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week (CERAWEEK) held at Houston, USA for showing exemplary commitment of leadership for the securing future of global energy and environment.



The Prime Minister dedicated the award to the people of India and the glorious tradition of the country that shows the way to care for the environment.

CERAWEEK is considered the world's premier energy platform and is held annually in Houston. It was founded in 1983 by Dr. Daniel Yergin.

Film Archive Award-2021: Conferred upon megastar Amitabh Bachchan for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage by the Brussels based International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF), a worldwide organisation comprising film archives and museums from across the world.

U N's Asia Environmental Enforcement Award: In a first for India, a female forest officer from Odisha, Sasmita Lenka has been felicitated with this award. Lenka, who is a divisional forest officer in Athgarh, Cuttack, received the award under the 'Gender Leadership and Impact' category for her work in busting pangolin smuggling rackets in the state.

International Anti-corruption Champions Award: Anjali Bharadwaj, an Indian social activist in the field of Right to Information in India for over two decades, was among the 12 individuals selected by the US government from across the globe for their deep dedication towards combating corruption.

Dadasaheb Phalke awards announced

The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Awards 2021 were announced at a glittering ceremony in Mumbai on Feb 20. Some top winners were as under:

Best Actor (Female) - Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak
Best Actor (Male) - Akshay Kumar, Laxmii
Best Film - Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
Best Director - Anurag Basu, Ludo
Best Web Series - Scam: 1992

Pritzker Architecture Prize-2021: Architecture's highest honor, has been won by Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, founders of Lacaton & Vassal, the French duo renowned for their multiple sustainable housing projects.

Regarded as the Nobel of Architecture, the award consists of \$100,000 and a bronze medallion and is granted by the Pritzker family of Chicago through their Hyatt Foundation.

Grammy Awards declared for best in music

The 63rd annual Grammy Awards were presented at the Los Angeles Convention Center on March 15, 2021. The awards are known for recognising best in music (in 84 categories) in the world. Some of the top Grammys are:

Record of the Year: Everything I Wanted by Billie Eilish

Album of the Year: Folklore by Taylor Swift

Song of the Year: I Can't Breathe by H.E.R.

Best New Artist: Megan Thee Stallion

Best Pop Solo Performance: Watermelon Sugar by Harry Styles

Best Pop Vocal Album: Future Nostalgia by Dua Lipa

The 78th Golden Globe Awards ceremony took place in a hybrid format on February 28. The event was filmed from Los Angeles and New York City. The Awards were the first major televised awards show of 2021.

Best Motion Picture - Drama: Nomadland by Chloé Zhao

Best Director: Chloé Zhao for Nomadland

Best Actor - Male: Chadwick Boseman (posthumously) for "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"

Best Actor - Female: Andra Day for "The United States vs. Billie Holiday"

Prize for Achievement in African Leadership-2020:

World's largest leadership prize, worth \$5 million conferred upon Mahamadou Issoufou, the incumbent President of Niger. The prize was introduced in 2006, by Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim's foundation to promote good governance in African countries.

FEBRUARY

MANASA VARANASI CROWNED MISS INDIA

Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana, emerged as the top winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020 at a grand ceremony held in Hyatt Regency, Mumbai on Feb 10.

Manika Sheokand from Haryana was declared VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020 and Manya Singh from Uttar Pradesh was crowned VLCC Femina Miss India 2020 - runner-up. These beauties will now be India's official representative in various International beauty pageants. For the first time in the history of Femina Miss India contest the entire process was held digitally owing to the Covid pandemic.

Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award: Given to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in recognition of his government's "revolutionary measures" in governance in the past two years.

Koozhangal wins Tiger award for the best film

The Tamil film "Koozhangal" won "Tiger" award for the best film at the 50th edition of the Rotterdam International Film Festival 2021 in Netherlands. Koozhangal (meaning Pebbles) has been produced by Nayanthara and directed by Vinod Raj PS.

Global Citizenship Ambassador: Indian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar was honoured by a prominent American university, Northeastern University Center for Spirituality, Dialogue and Service, Boston, USA in recognition of his pioneering work as peacemaker, humanitarian, spiritual teacher and global interfaith leader.

PADMA AWARDS DECLARED



The Government announced the Padma Awards, 119 in total, on the eve of 72nd Republic Day.

Seven persons were selected for Padma Vibhushan.

They include former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, veteran sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo from Puri, Odisha, Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan from Uttar Pradesh, B M Hegde, renowned cardiologist and ex-vice chancellor, Manipal University, Karnataka and B B Lal, acclaimed Archaeologist. Eminent Singer late S P Balasubramaniam from Tamil Nadu and late N S Kapany, renowned physicist from Moga, Punjab will be awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

Ten persons will get Padma Bhushan. They include former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Singer K S Chithra, prominent poet Chandrashekhara Kambara and retired Civil Servant Nripendra Misra. Former Gujarat Chief Minister late Keshubhai Patel, Former Assam Chief Minister late Tarun Gogoi and Former Union Minister late Ram Vilas Paswan and Islamic scholar late Kalbe Sadiq from Uttar Pradesh will be honoured with Padma Bhushan posthumously.

102 persons will get Padma Shri. They include Social Worker Sindutai Sapkal, Musician Bombay Jayashri, British film director Peter Brook and Greek Indologist Nicholas Kazanas. Former Governor of Goa late Mridula Sinha, Spanish-Indian Jesuit priest and author late Father Vallés will be given the award posthumously.

Padma awards are the highest civilian honours of India after the Bharat Ratna Award. They are approved by the President of India on the recommendations of the Home Ministry. They are awarded to honour outstanding achievements in any field of human

excellence. No cash amount is given with these awards. Maximum 120 Padma awards can be given in one year, excluding the awards given posthumously and given to foreigners. Serving government servants are not eligible for these awards.

MahaVir Chakra: The second highest war time military honour was conferred posthumously upon Colonel B Santosh Babu, the Commanding Officer of 16 Bihar Regiment, who lost his life during the Galwan Valley clash last year. Besides, 5CRPF personnel were awarded Kirti Chakra, peacetime equivalent of MahaVir Chakra.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar: Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society and Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari, renowned expert of landslides management, both won the award for their excellent work in Disaster Management.

The award is announced by the Union Home Ministry every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees and a certificate in case of an institution and five lakh rupees and a certificate in case of an individual.

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 Borlum.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

MARCH

Undertow by Jahnvi Barua

India's Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution by Sanjaya Baru, former media adviser to former prime minister Man Mohan Singh

Baanjh by Susmita Mukherjee, popular Bollywood actor and film producer

Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture by Ram Madhav, a senior RSS leader

Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor: Memoirs of Kabir Bedi, veteran Bollywood actor

The Lost Soul by Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk (2018)

What's Mine and Yours by Naima Coster

The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro, Nobel Laureate in Literature (2017)

Joe Biden: American Dreamer by Evan Osnos, a biography of American President

My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future - Memoirs of Indra Nooyi, Former CEO of Pepsico

The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle - English translation of the autobiography of freedom fighter, Bharat Ratna awardee Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, fondly known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan, translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada.

The autobiography was first published in Pukhto in 1983, in Kabul. Khan (1890-1988), popularly called the 'Frontier Gandhi', was born in Utmanzai in the North-West Frontier Province of British India. In India, he is known for his close association with Mahatma Gandhi and his leadership of the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement from 1930-47.

FEBRUARY

Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha (Nation First - The Golden Story of 82 Years) compiled by Dr. Bhuwan Kumar Jha; Story of CRPF since its inception in 1939.

Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World by Sangeet Paul Choudary

Asoca: A Sutra by Irwin Allan Sealy, imagined memoirs of Ashoka The Great

The Epic Battle of Longewala by Air Marshal Bharat Kumar (Retd.)

The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News by Meghna Pant

Mapping Love by Aswiniyer Tiwari, noted filmmaker and director

Unfinished: A Memoir - Autobiography of actor-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas

The Little Book of Encouragement by Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama

Whereabouts by Jhumpa Lahiri

1857 - The Sword of Mastan by Vineet Bajpai

Beautiful Things: Memoirs of Hunter Biden, son of US President Joe Biden

By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life by Hamid Ansari, Former Vice President of India

Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive by Peter Mukerjee, former chief executive of Star India TV channel

A Court of Silver Flames by Sarah J. Maas

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

OBITUARY

MARCH



K C Chakrabarty: Former deputy governor of Reserve Bank passed away following a heart attack on March 26 at his home in Mumbai. He was 68. After his stint at state-run lenders like Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank and Punjab National Bank, Chakrabarty had joined the RBI as a DG in 2009 and resigned in 2014, three months before his term ended.

Anil Dharker: Noted journalist and author died in Mumbai on March 26. He was 74. He was the founder director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival, held in November every year. Dharker had been the editor of a variety of publications, starting with Debonair (a monthly), Mid-Day and Sunday Mid-Day (evening papers); The Independent, a morning broadsheet from the Times of India group and The Illustrated Weekly of India.

Laxman Pai: Renowned Indian artist and painter passed away at his residence in Goa on March 14. He was 95. He served as the Principal of the Goa College of Art from 1977 to 1987. He was a recipient of several awards including the prestigious Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award and Lalit Kala Akademi Award.

FEBRUARY

Justice (Retd) M Rama Jois: The former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand and eminent jurist, passed away on February 16 in Bengaluru due to old age-related ailments. He was 89 years old. A former Rajya Sabha member, he had also served as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

PLACES IN NEWS

MARCH



Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus: This Railway Station of Central Railway is the first railway station in Maharashtra to be awarded with Gold certification as per CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) ratings. Central Railway has implemented various green initiatives across its zone, with plantations creating green areas, installation of solar panels, customer-friendly initiatives at many stations, LED bulbs and lights etc.

El Salvador became the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization.

WHO grants a certification of malaria elimination when a country proves "beyond a reasonable doubt" that there has been no indigenous transmission of the disease nationwide for the previous three consecutive years.

FEBRUARY

Bhimbetka: The three fossils of the world's earliest known living animal- the 550 million years old Dickinsonia- have been discovered by the researchers on the roof of the Bhimbetka rock shelters. They are about 40 km from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Bhimbetka caves are a heritage site of UNESCO.

Sidhi: At least 51 persons, including 20 women, were killed when a bus skidded off the road and plunged into a canal in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on the morning of Feb 16. The accident took place near Patna village, 80 km from the Sidhi district headquarters, when the ill-fated bus was on its way to Satna from Sidhi. Rescuers could save 6 persons.

Chauri Chaura: Small town in district Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh was in news as the state government launched the year long Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations here on Feb 4.

On this day in 1922 a large group of protesters participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police at Chauri Chaura who opened fire. In retaliation the protestors attacked the police and set fire to the police station, lynching all the policemen inside. Disturbed with the violence, Mahatma Gandhi called off the non-cooperation movement at the national level on February 12, 1922.

Texas: In the United States, millions of people in Texas state suffered in extreme cold as they were forced to spend winter days with no electricity. Known as the oil and gas capital of the US, it witnessed an unusual winter storm named Uri that struck the southeastern part of the country.

The state lost 40% of its generating capacity, with natural gas wells and pipelines, along with wind turbines, frozen shut. Over 4.3 million people across the state were left without power after high demand for electricity caused the power grid to fail repeatedly.

SPORTS WORLD

MARCH

India's Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE.



Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup held in Delhi. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Ganemat Sekhon won the gold in the skeet mixed team event.

Achanta Sharath Kamal became the first Indian Table Tennis player to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games after a dominant win over Pakistan's Muhammad Rameez at the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament in Doha.

Tamil Nadu's CA Bhavani Devi became the first ever Indian fencer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games. She secured the spot in the World Cup Sabre Fencing Tournament held at Budapest in Hungary.

Boxer Manish Kaushik clinched gold at the Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain. The team won overall 10 medals in the tournament.

Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal on Feb 28 in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat won gold in the Matteo Pellicone World Ranking Series event in Rome. The victories by both the wrestlers pushed their rankings to number one in the world.

Virat Kohli became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T-20 Internationals. Kohli achieved the milestone on March 14 during the second T20-International against England at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Mithali Raj became the first player in the world to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket. She achieved the landmark in her 213th match, playing against South Africa in Lucknow.

Mithali Raj, veteran batswoman became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats. The 38-year-old Mithali achieved the feat playing against South Africa in Lucknow. The only other woman to cross 10,000 mark is England's Charlotte Edwards.

Chess player Koneru Humpy from Andhra Pradesh won the "BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year" (ISWOTY) award for 2020, following a public vote. The 33-year-old Humpy beat sprinter Dutee Chand, airgun shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India hockey captain Rani Rampal to the award.

21st National Sqay Championship: Ladakh Sqay Team won eight medals and won an Outstanding Performance Award at the 21st National Sqay Championship held at Jaipur in Rajasthan. Sqay is the traditional martial art of Kashmir in which players use a curved single-edged sword paired with a shield.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Team Mumbai led by Captain Prithvi Shaw delivered a crushing defeat to Uttar Pradesh in the finals played in Delhi. The tournament is the national cricket event played in ODI format.

Khelo India Winter National Games: Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally in the second edition of Khelo India Winter National Games. J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals in the five-day mega sports event which concluded on March 2 in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. More than 1,000 athletes from 27 states and UTs took part in the event.

Mary Kom, six times world champion, was appointed as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee at Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dushyant Chautala, Deputy CM of Haryana, re-elected as the President of Table Tennis Federation of India for a four-year term.

Virat Kohli: Captain of the Indian Cricket Team became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021. The Indian skipper is the fourth most followed sports person on Instagram. Cristiano Ronaldo tops the list, among sports persons, with the following of 266 million while the second place is acquired by Lionel Messi with 187 million followers and Brazil's Neymar is at third spot with 147 million followers.

World's largest cricket stadium



President Ram Nath Kovind formally inaugurated the newly constructed world's largest Cricket Stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad on Feb 24. The new stadium located in the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave is named Narendra Modi Stadium.

The stadium has the capacity to seat 1.32,000 spectators. Spread over 63 acres, the stadium has 11 pitches in the square, besides possessing a unique sub-soil drainage system that helps in draining the wet ground in 30 minutes.

INTERNATIONAL

Kieron Pollard: West Indies ODI and T20I skipper became the third batsman in the history of international cricket to hit six 6s in an over on March 3, 2021. Pollard achieved the feat in West Indies' first T20 match against Sri Lanka in Osbourn, Antigua.

All England Badminton Championships: World's oldest badminton tournament was held at Birmingham, England. Men's singles title won by Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia and women's singles title won by Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

Thomas Bach was re-elected as the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for an additional four-year term till 2025 on March 10.

FEBRUARY

Sathiyan Gnanasekaran became Table Tennis Men's national champion by defeating nine-time national champion Sharath Kamal at the 82nd National Table Tennis Championships in Panchkula, Haryana.

Manika Batra won her second women's national title at the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championships held at Panchkula, Haryana.

Rishabh Pant: The Indian wicketkeeper-batsman won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award 2021. Pant was honoured for his superlative performances in the two Tests against Australia in January 2021.

Arundhati Choudhary and Naorem B. Chanu won gold medals at the 30th Adriatic Pearl Boxing Tournament in Budva, Montenegro (a tiny country in southern Europe), Indian team topped the medal tally with five gold, three silver and five bronze medals.

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy: Won by team Tamil Nadu after defeating team Baroda by seven wickets in the final at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Jan 31. 38 domestic teams played for the tournament organised by the BCCI.

Syed Mushtaq Ali was a noted all rounder from Indore who played for India from 1934 to 1952. He holds the distinction of scoring the first overseas Test century by an Indian player when he scored 112 against England at Old Trafford in 1936.

India's 24-member shooting contingent topped the medals tally in the first Asian Online Shooting Championship hosted online by Kuwait. The squad won four gold medals, two silver and five bronze medals.

10th National Ice Hockey Championship: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) won the trophy after a win over Ladakh in the finals played in Gulmarg, J&K. Eight teams participated in the championship held at an altitude of 8,700 feet and temperatures below freezing point.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen. He achieved the feat during the second day of India's second Test against England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.

March 07: Janaushadhi Diwas



Celebrated to create awareness about the use of generic medicines available at much cheaper rates at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras all over India. Currently, over 6,600 Jan Aushadhi stores across all the districts are providing quality medicines at highly subsidised prices. “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana” is a noble initiative by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India.

March 8: International Women's Day

It is an occasion to celebrate the progress made by women in all walks of life. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary role played by women over the years in the overall development of the society. Women across the globe come together on this day to rally for gender parity and highlight the role of women in bringing out important changes. This year's women's day theme is #ChooseToChallenge. It indicates that a "challenged world is an alert world, and from challenge comes change"

March (11): World Kidney Day

Observed globally on the second Thursday of March every year. It is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness about the importance of kidneys. The theme for this year is “Living Well with Kidney Disease”. World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

March 14: International Day of Mathematics



The day was initiated by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life. The celebrations are supported by UNESCO. The day is written in the MM/DD format so that it represents the value of Pi that is $3/14$. Moreover, mathematician and physicist, Albert Einstein was also born on this date. The theme for 2021 IDM is “Mathematics for a Better World”.

March 15: World Consumer Rights Day

Observed across the world to promote basic rights of consumers and to ensure that these rights are respected and protected. Consumer rights mean that every consumer or buyer across the world has the right to have information on the quality, purity, price and standard of various products, goods and services. The theme of this day in 2021 is ‘Tackle plastic pollution’ as plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues facing our planet.

March 16: The National Vaccination Day

Also called the National Immunization Day, it is celebrated every year to highlight the importance of vaccination to the entire nation. The day was first observed in the year 1995 when on this day the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given under the Pulse Polio Programme.

According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a process through which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against foreign harm causing agents.

March 18: Ordnance Factory Day

Observed every year to commemorate the foundation of the first Ordnance Factory by the British in colonial India at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801. The Indian Ordnance Factories operate under the Ministry of Defence.



The IOFs play a vital role in the production, testing, logistics, research, development, and marketing of a comprehensive product range in the area of land, sea and air systems. They form an integrated base for indigenous production of defence hardware and equipment. As of today, the Ordnance Factories organisation comprises 41 factories organised into five operational divisions of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

March 18: Global Recycling Day

Observed across the world to help recognise, and celebrate the importance recycling plays in preserving the precious primary resources. The day aims to exhort people not to waste natural resources and to tell leaders of the world about the importance of recycling. Recycling helps in reducing carbon emissions by over 700 million tonnes every year.

The theme for this year is “Recycling Heroes”. Its main aim is to recognise the people, places and activities that showcase the importance of recycling in preserving natural resources. The Day is organised by the Global Recycling Foundation.

March (19): World Sleep Day

The day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth, when the subsolar point appears to leave the Southern Hemisphere and cross the celestial equator, heading northward as seen from Earth. The day aims to raise awareness regarding sleep disorders and promote their prevention and management. The theme this year is 'Regular Sleep, Healthy Future'. It is organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society.

March 20: International Day of Happiness

Celebrated with UN support as a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. Some of the big causes of unhappiness around the world are hunger, lack of education and awareness, lack of affordable medical facilities and violation of human rights. The day aims to address these issues. The theme for this year is 'Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind'.

March 20: World Sparrow Day

Observed annually to raise awareness about the House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations. The day was initiated in 2010 by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world. The theme this year has been kept 'I Love Sparrows' with the hope that more people will celebrate the relationship between people and sparrows.

March 20: World Oral Health Day

The day aims to raise global awareness about the importance of oral health so that all concerned can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives. The theme for the next three years, 2021-2023 is: Be Proud of Your Mouth.

March 21: International Day of Forests

The day is observed every year to raise awareness on how sustainably managed forests provide a wide array of contributions in our life. Forests cover roughly one third of the Earth's land mass. Forests are home to about 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, with more than 60,000 tree species. Around 1.6 billion people depend directly on forests for food, shelter, energy, medicines and income. The theme selected for this year is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being". The restoration and sustainable management of forests helps in managing the climate-change and biodiversity crises.

March 21: World Poetry Day

Celebrated every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world. With a number of words coming together and rhyming, it is one of the most beautiful and prolific ways in which one can express in any dialect.

The day was declared by UNESCO in 1999, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

March 22: World Water Day

The day is celebrated worldwide with an aim to tackle the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left behind. It also aims to achieve the UN's sixth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6: Clean Water And Sanitation) - water for all by 2030. The theme for the day this year is "valuing water". The value of water is about much more than its price - water has enormous and complex value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment.

March 23: Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's Day

Observed every year to pay homage to the great revolutionary fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev who sacrificed their lives for the country. It was on this day in 1931, that these three revolutionaries were hanged to death in the Lahore Central Jail and were later cremated at Hussainiwala on the banks of River Sutlej, near Pakistan border in district Ferozepur. *Please note that January 30 is also observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1948.*

March 23: World Meteorological Day

Every year, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) celebrates this day to commemorate its founding day in the year 1950. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, WMO has a membership of 193 countries. The day aims to highlight the importance of the role that people and their behaviour play in protecting Earth's atmosphere. This year, the theme is "The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather." According to WMO's website, the theme has been chosen to reflect the organisation's focus on "connecting the ocean, climate and weather within the Earth System."

March 24: World Tuberculosis Day

The day is observed every year to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of Tuberculosis, TB, and to step up efforts to end the global epidemic. The day commemorates the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacteria on this day in 1882. The theme for this year is 'The Clock is Ticking'. It signifies the urgency to act against the disease, which has long been neglected.

March 27: World Theatre Day



Initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute, Paris, it is celebrated annually by ITI Centres and the international theatre community across the world. The Day aims to highlight the importance of art form around the world. Various national and international theatre events are organized across the world to mark this occasion.

Earth Hour 2021: March (27)

Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). It calls upon individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The theme for this year is "Climate Change to Save Earth."

FEBRUARY

February 2: World Wetlands Day

Observed every year to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. This year's theme for the Day is 'Wetlands and Water,' highlighting the importance of wetlands as a source of freshwater.

Wetlands are land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally. Inland wetlands include marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, rivers, floodplains, and swamps. Coastal wetlands include saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and even coral reefs. Some examples of human-made wetlands are fishponds, rice paddies, and saltpans. 40% of the world's species live or breed in wetlands, yet they are disappearing 3x faster than forests.

Feb 04: World Cancer Day

Observed to create awareness about cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally. The day is organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The theme for the day from 2019 to 2021 is 'I am and I will'.

Cancer refers to a group of over 100 diseases characterised by the uncontrolled growth of a group of cells, usually forming a tumor. It may occur in any part of the body which if not detected at the right time and not treated, may spread and damage the tissues, increasing the risk of death.

Various types of cancer occur but the most common cancers that affect people of India are lung, breast, cervical, neck, brain, and colorectal cancer. According to the official figures, nearly 9.6 million people die in the world from cancer, every year.

February (08): International Epilepsy Day

Observed on the second Monday of February every year across the world to raise awareness about epilepsy and highlight the kinds of problems faced by victims, their friends and family. The day is organised jointly by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). Epilepsy is a neurological disorder which makes a person go through sudden and recurrent episodes of muscular convulsions.

February (9): Safer Internet Day

Observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with an aim to provide safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked. This year, the theme is "Together for a better internet". It reminds us that a lot of bad things can happen on the Internet if we don't take appropriate precautions.

February 10: The National Deworming Day

Organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the objective of the day is to deworm children and adolescents to reduce the prevalence of parasitic worms in the intestine. To achieve this aim, children and adolescents in the age group of 1-19 years are administered a single dose of a safe medicine Albendazole, in all states and Union Territories, on this day.

It may be noted that this day is observed on a half yearly basis, on Feb 10 and again on August 10.

February 10: World Pulses Day:

The Day is a designated United Nations global event supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognize the importance of pulses (chickpeas, dry beans, lentils, dry peas and lupins beans among others) as a global food. Pulses are the edible seeds of plants in the legume family.

Pulses grow in pods and come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. They are healthy, nutritious and easy to cook with. The theme for this year continues to be "Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future".

February 11: Unani Day

Celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan. He was an eminent Indian Unani physician who was a versatile genius, freedom fighter, educationist and founder of scientific research in Unani Medicine. It is based on Greek philosophy of Hippocrates (460-377 BC). The term Unani is derived from the word 'Unaan', Arabic and Urdu name for the country 'Greece'.

Feb 11: Inter. Day of Women and Girls in Science

The day recognises the critical role women and girls play in development of science and technology. The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science. The 2021 theme of the Day is "Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19".

February 12: National Productivity Day

Observed to commemorate the establishment of the National Productivity Council-NPC on this day in 1958 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The main objective of the celebration is to encourage stakeholders in implementing productivity tools and techniques. NPC, established in the year 1958, is an autonomous organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

February 13: World Radio Day

Supported by UNESCO, this day is celebrated all over the world to raise greater awareness among the public and the media of the importance of radio. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the world radio day and more than 110 years of radio. This year's theme is "New World, New Radio". It focuses on three aspects of radio communication: "Evolution, Innovation, Connection". The theme highlights the services provided by the radio amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

February 13: National Women's Day

Celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Sarojini Naidu, India's first women governor (15 Aug, 1947 - 2 March, 1949) and also famous as 'Bharat Kokila' for her excellence in poetry. She actively participated in the Indian National Movement for the independence of the country.

February 19: Soil Health Card Day

Celebrated to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card Scheme from Rajasthan on this day in 2015. The card carries crop wise recommendations and scientific advice on nutrients, fertilizers, water etc required by farmers to improve the quality of their crops and their production. The Scheme aims to help farmers across the nation in increasing the productivity and quality of their crops. Till date, around 16 crore soil cards have been issued all over India.

February 20: The World Social Justice Day

The day is celebrated annually all over the world with support from the International Labour Organization, Geneva to focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and to press for improvements and solutions. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. This year's theme is - "A call for social justice in the Digital Economy."

February 21: International Mother Language Day

The Day is celebrated across the globe with support from UNESCO, Paris to celebrate the linguistic diversity that exists in the world. In India, the HRD Ministry observes Matrihasha Divas on this day to highlight the linguistic diversity of our country. The central theme for the day this year is "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society".

February 24: Central Excise Day

The Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 which was enacted on this day in 1944. The day aims to honour the contribution of the Central Board of Indirect taxes and Custom to India's economy. CBIC is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Union Ministry of Finance.

February 28: National Science Day

Celebrated every year to attract and motivate the students towards science and to make the public aware of science and scientific achievements.

On this day in 1928, Indian Scientist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (Sir CV Raman) made the discovery of the Raman Effect for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

Raman Effect refers to the inelastic scattering of photons from the molecules such that they are excited to higher levels.

February 27: National Protein Day

Observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of consuming protein, which helps our body to function better and keeps us energized. Protein is known to be the "macronutrient" that our body requires in abundance. The human body requires protein for the growth and maintenance of tissues. The theme for this year is "Powering with plant protein".

February 28/29: The World Rare Disease Day

Observed on the last day of February each year. It aims to raise awareness about rare diseases and their impacts. The day is coordinated by the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS), which promotes research on rare diseases and commercial development of orphan drugs.

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NATIONAL NEWS

JANUARY

- The world's largest vaccination programme began in India on Jan 16 across all States/UTs. Currently, two types of vaccine are being used:
- Covishield: Indian name for the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune.
- Covaxin: Developed and produced by the Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech Ltd. in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology of ICMR.
- Government has decided to celebrate the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Diwas' on 23rd of January every year.
- Further, one of the oldest trains of Indian Railways, the Howrah-Kalka Mail has been renamed as the 'Netaji Express'.
- The USA retained the top spot with Russia at second spot in the 2021 Military Strength Ranking while India was placed at 4th rank. The 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th Jan in Goa, with the premiere of 'Another Round', a movie by Thomas Vinterberg from Denmark.
- Bangladesh was the country of focus at this festival. Veteran actor, director Biswajit Chatterjee was conferred the 'Indian Personality of the Year' award.
- The Golden Peacock for the best film was won by the film from Denmark "Into the Darkness" directed by Anders Refn.
- International Migration Report 2020 says that 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 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was held on Jan 9 in virtual format with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
- The Chief Guest was Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname.
- India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from Goa on Jan 4 with ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin.
- The Union Cabinet approved the opening of Indian Missions in three nations including Estonia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic in 2021.
- As per an international report released 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 National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

DECEMBER

- USA conferred the country's highest military decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Dec 21.
- 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 was co-hosted by the UK, UN, and France in partnership with China and Italy in virtual mode.
 - ✓ The Paris Climate Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015.

- India hosted the 19th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format on Nov 30.
- 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.
- The centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and of Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan (West Bengal) were held in the 4th week of December.
- The Supreme Court 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.
- 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.
- The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November in a virtual mode.
- Malayalam film Jallikattu directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery selected as India’s official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards – Oscars in the foreign-language film category.
- The 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) was held from Nov 26 to 28 in virtual mode.
- Indian Premier League – IPL was India’s most searched word on Google in 2020, according to Google India’s ‘Year in Search’ results.
- 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.
- 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 New Development Bank, Shanghai approved a loan for one billion dollar to provide support to AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme.

- The Asian Development Bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India.
- India has been ranked 10th in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) - 2020.
 - ✓ Sweden topped the index at fourth spot, followed by UK and Denmark at 5th and 6th spot.
- The World Bank recently came out with its revised ‘Ease of Doing Business’ report for 2020 placing India at 63rd rank. New Zealand topped the rankings.
- The Human Freedom Index 2020, a worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, placed India at the 111th spot out of 162 countries.
 - ✓ The first three spots have been bagged by New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong, respectively.
- India ranked 131st among 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index, a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
 - ✓ Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland, Switzerland and Hong Kong.
- Transparency International’s report titled “Global Corruption Barometer – Asia” has found that India has the highest bribery rate at 39%.
- Keith Gomes’ short film ‘Shameless’ selected as India’s official entry at the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars) in the ‘Live Action Short Film’ category.

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 15th 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 77th 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 2nd 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 4th 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.

NEWS FROM STATES

JANUARY

- As per the Innovation Index-2020 by NITI Aayog, Karnataka retained its first position in the Major States category.
- *In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal stood first while Delhi was first in the UTs and small states category.*
- The World Meteorological Organisation awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to the Patna Meteorological Centre in recognition of its meteorological observations for over 100 years.
- World's largest floating solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam in Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first Labour Movement Museum is being launched in Alappuzha, Kerala
- Country's first Pollinator Park was opened in Haldwani in Uttarakhand. Spread over 4 acres, the park has more than 40 pollinator species.
- 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.*
- India's first hot air balloon safari in a tiger reserve was launched on Dec 25 in Madhya Pradesh's world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
- The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India.
- The Union Cabinet approved 5200 crore rupees for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir.

- 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.
- 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.
- A 450-km natural gas pipeline between Kochi in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka was inaugurated on Jan 5.

DECEMBER

- Lakshadweep has become the first U T to become 100% organic as all the farming here is carried out without the use of chemical pesticides/fertilizers.
- Nongpok Sekmai police station in Manipur's Thoubal district has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country.
- The foundation stone for the world's largest renewable energy park was laid at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch to produce power from energy of Sun and the wind.
 - ✓ *Spread over 72,600 hectares of waste land, the 30,000-MW hybrid renewable energy park will be built along the Indo-Pak border at Khavda.*
- Gwalior and Orchha of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO.
 - ✓ *Orchha in Bundelkhand region is famous for its 16th century temples and palaces. Gwalior city is known for its historic monuments, forts, and palaces.*
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project on River Rispanain Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- 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.
- 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.

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 '24X7Power 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.
- \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project on River Kopili in district Dima Hasao in Assam.
- \$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.

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 2nd 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 Sarayu.
- 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 Mukta Bharat Index. The Anemia Mukta 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.

GOVT INITIATIVES

JANUARY

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme launched with Rs. 1,000 crore fund base to provide financial assistance to startups for their overall development.
- Government launched an inter-ministerial venture 'Toycathon' to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system.
- Six Light House Projects launched under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India in six states to build over 1,000 houses in each project.
- India's first ever driverless train was flagged off on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line covering 37 km stretch, having ability to run with speed up to 95 kmph.
- NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called 'DigiBoxx' to provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location.
- Petroleum Conservation Research Association under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched a month-long campaign SAKSHAM on Jan 16.
- *It aims to highlight the adverse impacts of increasing carbon footprints and need to switch to cleaner fuels.*

- The National Innovation Foundation, an autonomous body of the Deptt. of Science and Technology, Govt of India, opened the National Innovation Portal to the general public.
- *The portal is home to 1.15 lakh innovations scouted from public, covering Engineering, Agriculture, and Human Health.*
- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers, thereby opening another frontier to women.
- Global Pravasi Rishta portal and app launched to act as a dynamic communication platform between NRIs, Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com. Over 50,000 products, ranging from apparel to home decor, will be available on this portal.

DECEMBER

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched a new web portal and mobile app named E-Sampada to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government.
- The Union Cabinet approved setting up of public Wi-Fi networks across the country by the name PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) scheme.
- The union cabinet approved the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana to boost employment in the formal sector during the Covid recovery phase.
 - ✓ *Govt. 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.*

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.
- 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.

ECONOMY

JANUARY

- As per the data released by the National Statistical Office on Jan 7, India's GDP is expected to contract by 7.7% in fiscal 2020-21, India's worst economic performance since 1961-62.
- 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.

As per the annual World Cooperative Monitor Report, 2020, Indian coop. giant IFFCO has topped among 300 leading cooperatives in the world, on the basis of ratio of turnover over the GDP per capita.

DECEMBER

- Data released by the National Statistics Office showed that Indian economy shrunk by 7.5% in the quarter ending Sep 30 against a fall of 23.9% during the stringent lockdown months of quarter ending June 30.
- The Reliance Industries-BP Plc combine started production of natural gas in Asia's deepest gas block at 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.*
- India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched under the brand

name 'XP-100' on Dec 1 by the Indian Oil Corporation.

- 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. FDI in India has increased by 13%, though globally it fell by 42%.

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 (Ferulaasfoetida) 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.

BANKING & FINANCE

JANUARY

- RBI has started 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.
- RBI launched a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India, with March 2018 as the base period with the score set at 100.

- Accordingly, the DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 is 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth.
- RBI declared the continuation of the D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) status for 3 Banks for the year 2020 - ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank.
- RBI has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash to review the functioning of digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps.
- RBI has directed that the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI will be mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. 50 crore and above made via RTGS/NEFT.
- The LEI is a 20-digit number to identify parties involved in financial transactions world over.
- The Exim Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment.
- Airtel Payments Bank launched a new feature 'Airtel SafePay' to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds.
- The government has raised the authorised capital Punjab & Sind Bank to Rs.10, 000 crore from Rs. 3,000 crore at present.

The Shivalik Mercantile Coop Bank, HO- Saharanpur, UP has become the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank.

DECEMBER

- RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021.
 - ✓ Limit on e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards and UPI will be increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021.
- RBI extended timings for RTGS to round the clock 24X7 on all days of the week wef Dec. 14, 2020.
- The IndusInd Bank in partnership with Mastercard launched India's first metal credit card - 'PIONEER Heritage' - for its ultra-high net worth customers.
- India Post and the India Post Payments Bank launched a new digital payment app 'DakPay' for its customers to operate their banking services online.
- ICICI Bank launched a first of its kind online platform 'Infinite India' for foreign firms looking to set up their business in India. It will offer them banking solutions along with other value-added services.
- ICICI Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which allows payments and other banking services to customers of any other bank.

- HDFC Bank Ltd crossed market capitalisation of Rs. 8 trillion for the first time on Nov 25, becoming India's first bank to achieve this milestone.

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”

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY

- DRDO successfully tested indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon--SAAW from Hawk-I aircraft off the Odisha coast.
- *It is capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kilometres.*
- DRDO and the Indian Army's Infantry School at Mhow (MP) have jointly developed India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol named 'Asmi'.
- The govt approved the export of the indigenously built surface-to-air missile system Akash.
- *It has a range of 25 km and can target fighter jets, cruise missiles, drones, etc.*
- The DRDO inducted twenty-one 'bike ambulances' in the CRPF for casualty evacuation tasks in remote Naxal violence and insurgency-affected areas.
- *The customised 'Rakshita' ambulances have been built on 350cc Royal Enfield motorcycles by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, New Delhi.*
- DRDO & Indian Navy successfully tested SAHAYAK-NG, India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft of Indian Navy off the coast of Goa.
- **KAVACH:** A joint exercise of Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard conducted in the last week of January under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

- **Sea Vigil-21:** Indian Navy coordinated the largest coastal defence exercise along the entire 7,516-kilometre long coastline on Jan 12-13.
- **Ex Desert Knight-21:** Joint exercise of Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force conducted at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, Jan 20-24.
- **PASSEX:** Indian and Vietnamese Navy's two-day passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in the South China Sea.
- The Ministry of Electronics and IT 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.*
- Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) unveiled India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine 'Pneumosil' on Dec 28.

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.

DECEMBER

- In a first, India has inducted two American drones — MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series — into the Navy.
 - ✓ *They were put into flying operations at Indian Navy base INS Rajali at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu.*
- Govt approved a new post 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.
- India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was launched in Hyderabad. It is capable of simulating speeds of Mach 5 to 12. (mach is speed of sound. One mach= 1234.8 km per hour)
- **ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet**, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) were commissioned at Goa.
- **INS Himgiri**, a Nilgiri-class frigate under 'Project 17A' was launched at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) facility at Kolkata.
- The Indian Navy has placed an order with the Israeli firm Smart Shooter for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems for fitting on AK-47 and AK 203 rifles.
- Ind-Indo Corpat: The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in Indian Ocean on Dec 17-18.
- Passage Exercise (PASSEX): The Indian Navy along with Russian Navy conducted a joint naval exercise in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region on Dec 4-5.

- ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite CMS-01 onboard PSLV-C50 rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness 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.*
- Russian space agency Roscosmos 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.*
- The East Coast Railway became the first railway zone in the country to commission the "End of Train Telemetry System" to run trains without guards.
- 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.
- 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 became the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon, first being the USA during the Apollo mission in 1969.*
- On Dec 5, Japanese spaceship Hayabusa-2 successfully released towards earth a small capsule containing samples from the asteroid Ryugu, which is about 300 million km away from earth.
- Chinese scientists have built the world's first light-based quantum computer 'Jiuzhang' which is one trillion times faster than the most powerful supercomputer.
 - ✓ *It took a little over three minutes to complete a task that the world's fastest conventional machines would not be able to complete in 600 million years.*
- Researchers at University of Texas, USA, have created the world's smallest memory device yet down to just one single square nanometre.

NOVEMBER

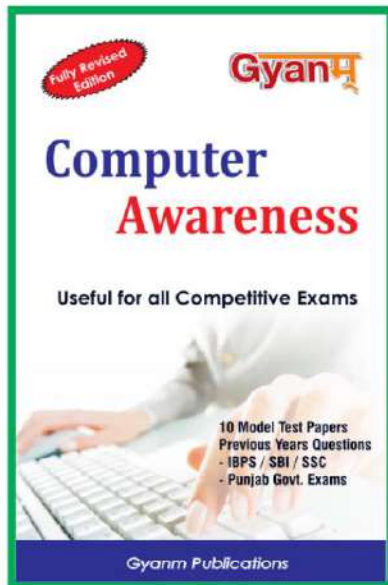
- Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first heavyweight anti-submarine electrically-propelled Torpedo, Varunastra, to the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy received the ninth Boeing P-8I surveillance plane from the USA at its naval air base in Goa on November 18.
- Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class 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 27th 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 30th 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.

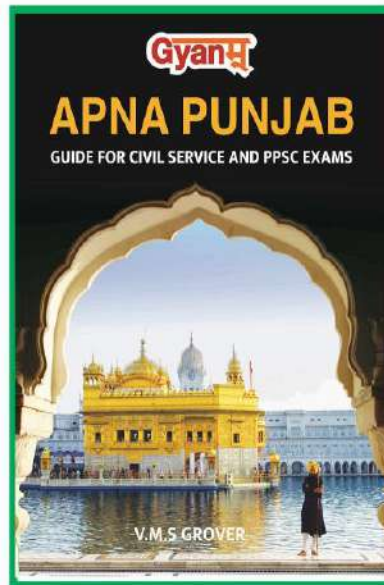
OCTOBER

- INS Kavaratti, anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

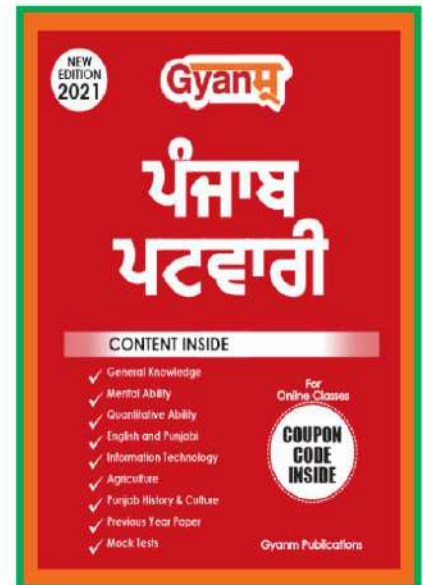
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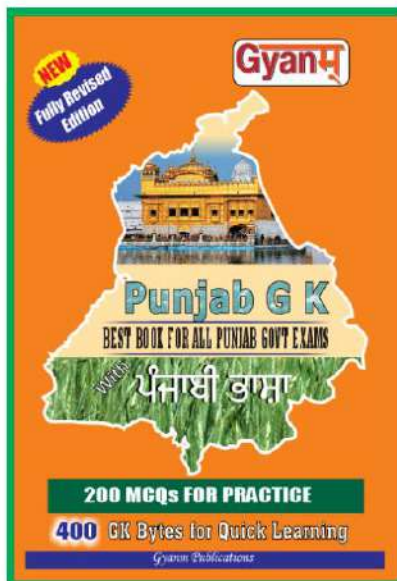
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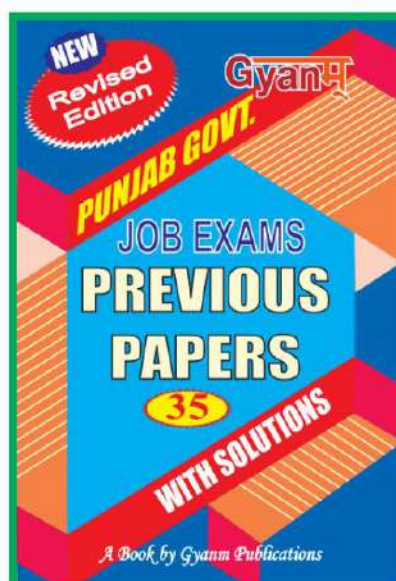
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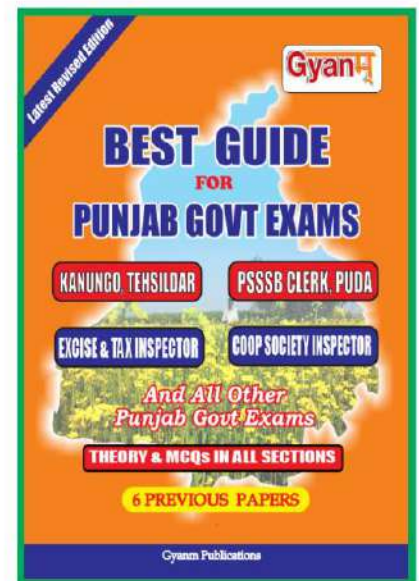
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- India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile near Chandipur, off Odisha coast.
 - ✓ *It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa). Developed by DRDO, it has 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 2nd 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 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies took place off Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October.
- DRDO successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo", SMART on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Russia 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.

INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY

- Joe Biden took oath on Jan 20 as the 46th President of the United States of America. 78 year old Biden has become the oldest US President in history.
- *Kamala Harris was sworn in as 49th Vice-President of the country. Kamala is America's first woman and first person with south Asian roots to take the office of the Vice President.*
- On January 13, Donald Trump became the first president in US history to be impeached twice.
- *He was charged with inciting violent rampage by his supporters in the Capitol Complex on Jan 9.*
- *However, he was acquitted by the Senate (Upper House) as motion of impeachment could not muster the required two third support.*
- The Henley's passport index retained Japan on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world while India secured 85th spot.
- *It offers visa-free access to 191 destinations around the world. It is followed by Singapore (190) and Germany and S Korea (189).*
- 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 with the theme "Let's act together for nature!"*
- In the gravest assault on the symbol of American democracy in more than 200 years, hundreds of Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol on Jan 6 in a shocking bid to overturn his election defeat.
- *Rioters crashed their way past metal security barricades, broke windows and scaled walls to fight their way into the parliament building.*
- Archaeologists 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.

DECEMBER

- Britain became the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine developed by the American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.
- Singapore's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Morocco has become the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help.

- UNESCO 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.*
- 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 cm more than the last measurement in 1954.
- In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is at number one, for the 10th year in a row.
- 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.
- As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, Afghanistan was the most impacted of the 163 countries, recording 5725 deaths in 1422 terror incidents.
- Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced "pandemic" as its 2020 word of the year.
- Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as Word of the Year 2020.
- The first clean coal-based power plant of Arab world- Hassyan is being developed in Saih Shuaib, Dubai, UAE.

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 190th 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.

PERSONS IN NEWS

JANUARY

Arya Rajendran: The 21-year-old college student has been elected as the youngest Mayor in India, of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala.

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.

Gitanjali Rao: 15-year-old Indian-American girl, 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.

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.

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.

Kylie Jenner: American media personality, model and businesswoman, was the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 as per the Forbes Highest-Paid Celebrity List, earning \$590 million in 2020.

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'.

NOVEMBER

Azim Premji: The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, has topped the EdelGiveHurun India Philanthropy List 2020 with highest contribution of Rs 7,904 crore

Priyanca Radhakrishnan: 41 year old Indian-origin politician created history by becoming the first Indian-Kiwi woman to become a minister in New Zealand.

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.

APPOINTMENTS

JANUARY

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal: 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Suneet Sharma: Appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO.

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.

Alexander Ellis: Appointed as the new British High Commissioner to India.

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.

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.

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.

AWARDS & HONOURS

JANUARY

Golden Peacock award for the best film: Won by Danish film "Into the Darkness" directed by Anders Refn at the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

National Florence Nightingale Award: Won by Dr Shailla Cannie. It is the highest national distinction awarded to nurses or nursing aides.

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 in Indian Railways.

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 for outstanding performance in e-Governance.

Canada Sahitya Gaurav: Given by the Hindi Writers' Guild, Canada to Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank for his rich contribution to literature.

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.

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 for his efforts to promote girls' education using QR codes.

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. (First non Indian women mathematician to get this award)

- ✓ *The Prize is given every year to mathematicians less than 45 years of age who have conducted outstanding research in a developing country.*
- ✓ *Given 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.

Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020: Won by the Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha for his novel, The City and The Sea.

Delhi Crime, the web series on Netflix won the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards 2020.

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.

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.

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 likes of AR Rahman, Shaan, Hariharan, Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle, Sonu Nigam, Alisha Chinoy and many others.

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018.

Dr. V Shanta: The world-renowned oncologist passed away after 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. Her contribution to Oncology earned her the Magsaysay award, 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).

Madhavsinh Solanki: A senior Congress leader who held the chief minister's post four times in Gujarat and later Union minister twice, passed away in Gandhinagar. He was 93 years old.

Buta Singh: Veteran Congress leader and former Union home minister passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi, on Jan 2.

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.

DECEMBER

Motilal Vora: Congress veteran, a long-time confidante of party Chief Sonia Gandhi, passed away a day after his 93rd birthday. He was a six term MLA and a five term MP and twice Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Roddam Narasimha: Eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka died in Bengaluru on Dec 14. He was 87. He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan 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.

Astad Deboo:

Contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, died in Mumbai on Dec 10. He was 73.

Mahashay Dharampal 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.

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

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.

BhanuAithaiya: India's first Oscar winner costume designer died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness. She was 91. Aithaiya 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.

PLACES IN NEWS

JANUARY

Nubra Valley: India's first ever ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley in Leh, Ladakh.

Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary, Kullu: Declared best sanctuary in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation Report of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country.

Zaskar: India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at Zaskar in district Kargil of Ladakh.

Sulawesi Island: In Indonesia a powerful earthquake rocked Sulawesi island, killing at least 92 people, with more feared dead as rescuers searched for survivors.

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.

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.

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

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.

SPORTS WORLD

JANUARY

Anshu Malik became 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.

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: Won by Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal at the Globe Soccer (Football) 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 6th 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, became the first driver from the country to win a Formula 2 race. He won 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 Elavenil Valarivan

The Sports Ministry 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.*

Government has decided to include Yoga henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games.

India has decided to contribute \$ 1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to ensure an atmosphere of clean sport globally.

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.

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 36th birthday.

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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.

Asian Games 2030 & 2034: The Olympic Council of Asia announced that the 2030 Asian Games will be hosted by Doha, Qatar, while the 2034 edition will be hosted by Riyadh, 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 was banned on Dec 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).

- ✓ *The ban was imposed after allegations of state-backed doping and cover-ups emerged against Russia after the 2014 Sochi Olympics.*

The International Olympic Committee had recognised 'Breakdancing' as an official Olympic sport with the name Breaking, beginning from 2024 Paris Olympics.

- ✓ *It also approved skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing as three other new games included in the Olympics.*

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 93rd 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 Nozomi Okuhara of Japan clinched the women's singles title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the finals held in Odense, Denmark.



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MARCH GK TEST - 01

- The 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held recently in February 2021. Khajuraho is in which state?**
a. Rajasthan b. Madhya Pradesh
c. Chhattisgarh d. Jharkhand
e. Odisha
- 'Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha' is a chronology of which Indian security force?**
a. CRPF b. BSF
c. CISF d. NSG
e. ITBP
- Government launched the National Urban Digital Mission for what purpose?**
a. To provide online maps of urban areas
b. To provide digital map of urban roads
c. To facilitate citizen-centric governance
d. To create centralised database of all municipalities
e. To improve land use in urban areas
- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Beijing, approved a \$ 304 million dollar loan for _____ Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the which state?**
a. Odisha b. Manipur
c. Kerala d. Assam
e. Sikkim
- State Bank of which state was brought under the regulation of the Reserve Bank of India in the last week of February?**
a. Goa b. Meghalaya
c. Assam d. Sikkim
e. Jammu & Kashmir
- The sensitive price index of National Stock Exchange (NSE) is known as CNX Nifty. The value of Nifty is calculated on the basis of market price of large, liquid stocks of how many companies?**
a. 50 b. 40
c. 35 d. 30
e. 25
- What is the minimum age required to be eligible to contest election to the state legislative assembly?**
a. 18 years b. 21 years
c. 25 years d. 30 years
e. 35 years
- _____ became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22:**
a. Karnataka b. Uttar Pradesh
c. Telangana d. Andhra Pradesh
e. Kerala
- Which Arabian country has permitted the women of the country to join the armed forces?**
a. Kuwait b. Jordan
c. Syria d. Saudi Arabia
e. Yemen
- Which state has set up the country's first Digital University?**
a. Kerala b. Delhi
c. Telangana d. Odisha
e. Andhra Pradesh
- "Unfinished: A Memoir" is the autobiography of which Bollywood celebrity?**
a. Deepika Padukon b. Anushka Sharma
c. Priyanka Chopra d. Madhuri Dixit
e. Kangana Ranaut
- The Centre has lifted embargo on private sector banks for conduct of _____ business related transactions:**

- a. Industry b. Priority Sector
c. Agriculture d. Government
e. Rural
13. **What is the formal name of the newly constructed world's largest Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad?**
a. Motera Stadium
b. Narendra Modi Stadium
c. Sardar Patel Stadium
d. Amit Shah Stadium
e. Gujarat Cricket Stadium
14. **Which law governs the functioning of stock exchanges?**
a. Indian Contract Act
b. Forward Contract Act
c. Securities Contract (Regulation) Act
d. Stock Exchange Regulation Act
e. None of these
15. **If you plan to enjoy a Tiger Safari in the Ranthambore National Park, you will have to visit which state?**
a. Madhya Pradesh b. Uttar Pradesh
c. Rajasthan d. West Bengal
e. Gujarat
16. **Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes?**
a. Jugal Kishore b. Nihal Chand
c. Dr. Sambit Patra d. Vijay Sampla
e. Arjun Ram Meghwal
17. **Which film won the award for the best film at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Awards 2021?**
a. Thappad b. Sir
c. Tanhaji d. Chhalaang
e. Chhapaak
18. **Which country passed amendments to its News Media Bargaining Code for compelling social media giants like Facebook, Google to pay for the news sourced from local media?**
a. Australia b. New Zealand
c. Switzerland d. France
e. Britain
19. **Which country emerged as India's biggest two-way trade partner in 2020?**
a. USA b. UAE
c. Saudi Arabia d. China
e. Japan
20. **Which north India hill station has been shortlisted under the National Mission on**

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme?

- a. Dharamsala b. Chamoli
c. Kullu d. Leh
e. Kumaon
21. **Under which section / law the govt. of India can issue directions to RBI?**
a. Section 2 of Banking Regulation Act
b. Section 5 of Companies Act
c. Section 138 of Banking Regulation Act
d. Section 7 of RBI Act
e. None of these
22. **One of India's largest multi-cultural street festivals is held in Mumbai annually in first week of February. What is its name?**
a. Laal Ghoda Kala Parv
b. Kala Ghoda Arts Festival
c. Aamchi Mumbai Art Fair
d. Art of Mumbai Festival
e. Kaala Mrig Parv
23. **The central government has selected a total of 12 tourist sites under the Swachh Iconic Places initiative. Which union ministry will implement this project?**
a. Ministry of Tourism
b. Ministry of Social Welfare
c. Ministry of Home Affairs
d. Ministry of Jal Shakti
e. Ministry of Art and Culture
24. **Government has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in collaboration with which IIT?**
a. IIT Delhi b. IIT Madras
c. IIT Bombay d. IIT Guwahati
e. IIT Kanpur
25. **ISRO launched 19 satellites from on board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C51 on Feb 28. In the 19 satellites, the major satellite was from which country?**
a. USA b. Brazil
c. UAE d. Egypt
e. Britain
26. **Archaeological Survey of India discovered a 900 years old Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh district of which state?**
a. Bihar
b. Uttar Pradesh
c. Chhattisgarh
d. Jharkhand
e. West Bengal

27. **Central government appointed Matam Venkata Rao as Managing Director & CEO of which public sector bank?**
 a. Bank of Baroda b. Canara Bank
 c. Central Bank of India d. Indian Bank
 e. Union Bank of India
28. **In the banking system the data is stored in the digital form and is accessible anywhere, anytime. This computerized environment is called:**
 a. Central Banking Platform
 b. Core Banking Solution
 c. Central Banking Solution
 d. Net Banking Solution
 e. Online Digital Platform
29. **Which of the following statements are true for National Commission for Backward Classes?**
 1. It is a constitutional body formed in terms of 123rd constitutional amendment.
 2. It is under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 3. Bhagwan Lal Sahni is the Chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
 a. 1 and 2 only b. 1 and 3 only
 c. 2 and 3 only d. 3 only
 e. All 1, 2, and 3
30. **Government has launched the 'Setu Bhartam' scheme for what purpose?**
 a. For eliminating level road railway crossings on national highways
 b. For replacement of very old bridges
 c. For improving quality of rail bridges
 d. For increasing quality of bridges on national highways
 e. For improving road connectivity of all capital cities
31. **A three-day Maritime India Summit-2021 was held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4. Which country was the partner country in the summit?**
 a. Norway b. New Zealand
 c. Britain d. France
 e. Denmark
32. **21st National Sqay Championship was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Sqay is the martial art of which state?**
 a. Manipur b. Nagaland
 c. Odisha d. Kashmir
 e. Jharkhand
33. **Which film won the Golden Globe for the 'Best Picture - Drama' category?**
 a. The Father b. Mank
 c. Nomadland
 d. Promising Young Woman
 e. The trial of the Chicago 7
34. **Virat Kohli recently achieved 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram. Which sportsperson has the highest followers on Instagram?**
 a. Cristiano Ronaldo b. Lionel Messi
 c. Neymar d. Roger Federer
 e. Serena Williams
35. **ISRO successfully launched a surveillance satellite developed by DRDO on Feb 28. What is its name?**
 a. Suraksha b. Super Netra
 c. Nabh Netra d. Sindhu Netra
 e. Nabh Prahari
36. **One rupee currency notes bear the signature of**
 a. Finance Minister b. RBI Governor
 c. President of India d. Finance Secretary
 e. Chief Economic Advisor
37. **Stockholm Convention is a global treaty associated with which of the following fields?**
 a. Protection of the environment from persistent organic pollutants
 b. Phasing out hydro-fluorocarbons
 c. Restricting transborder movement of hazardous wastes
 d. Sustainable use of forest resources
 e. Restricting the use of nuclear weapons
38. **A special contingent of the Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise "Desert Flag" on March 3. It was held at which place?**
 a. Israel b. UAE
 c. Britain d. France
 e. USA
39. **The second edition of Khelo India Winter National Games was held at which place?**
 a. Leh b. Pahalgam
 c. Gulmarg d. Kargil
 e. Spiti
40. **What is the theme of this year's Zero Discrimination Day observed on March 01?**
 a. Fight Discrimination
 b. End Inequalities
 c. Let's end Discrimination
 d. Calling all to resist Inequalities
 e. Say No to Discrimination
41. **World Wildlife Day is observed on which day of March?**
 a. 3rd b. 13th
 c. 17th d. 21st
 e. 27th
42. **As per the 'Ease of Living Index' released on March 4, which city topped the list as the most**

livable city among 111 Indian cities with population of more than one million covered in the index?

- a. New Delhi
- b. Bengaluru
- c. Jaipur
- d. Indore
- e. Hyderabad

43. Government of India, for the first time nationalized 14 large commercial banks in which year?

- a. 1956
- b. 1959
- c. 1969
- d. 1971
- e. 1980

44. Which of the following is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia?

- a. Chilika Lake
- b. Loktak Lake
- c. Wular Lake
- d. Nal Sarovar
- e. Dal Lake

45. In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was sent to the USA on March 4. This rice is grown in which state of India?

- a. West Bengal
- b. Odisha
- c. Tamil Nadu
- d. Uttarakhand
- e. Assam

46. With which country India signed a pact on March 2 for the supply of BrahMos Cruise Missiles?

- a. Japan
- b. Brunei
- c. Philippines
- d. Vietnam
- e. South Korea

47. In which country India has agreed to fund the reconstruction of three cultural heritage projects?

- a. Myanmar
- b. Nepal
- c. Afghanistan
- d. Sri Lanka
- e. Bhutan

48. Which country hosted the year's first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting on Feb 26 in virtual mode?

- a. France
- b. Italy
- c. Japan
- d. Sweden
- e. Canada

49. Which Indian statesman has been honoured with the CERAGlobal Energy and Environment Leadership Award?

- a. Nirmala Sitharaman
- b. Rajnath Singh
- c. Narendra Modi
- d. Prakash Javadekar
- e. Smriti Irani

50. Pritzker Architecture Prize-2021, Architecture's highest honor, has been won by Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. They hail from which country?

- a. Germany
- b. Portugal
- c. Norway
- d. France
- e. Belgium

1. Which city topped the final rankings of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 in the million plus population category?

- a. Delhi
- b. Bengaluru
- c. Chennai
- d. Indore
- e. Visakhapatnam

2. Which university topped the 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings released on March 04?

- a. Cambridge University, UK
- b. Oxford University, UK
- c. MIT, USA
- d. Stanford University, USA
- e. Harvard University, USA

3. The UN General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Which of the following is NOT a millet?

- a. Ragi (Finger Millet)
- b. Bajra (Pearl Millet)
- c. Makai (Maize)
- d. Jowar (Sorghum)
- e. Kuttu (Buckwheat)

4. World's first 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna was flagged off from which port?

- a. Kandla
- b. Mormugao
- c. Kandla
- d. Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai
- e. Kochi

5. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with which company to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS', a payment solution for millions of Indian merchants?

- a. SBI Payments
- b. Paytm
- c. PhonePay
- d. PNB Pay
- e. RazorPay

6. Which of the following is located in Cambodia?

- 1. Angkor Thom
- 2. Bayon Temple
- 3. Angkor Wat

Select the correct option:

- a. 1 and 2
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 0 1 and 3
- d. All of the above
- e. None of these

7. The Women and Child Development Ministry has decided to classify all of its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes for

their better implementation. Select the right option:

- a. Mission Mahila, Mission Poshan 2.0, and Mission Balak
 - b. Mission Shakti, Mission Poshak, and Mission Vatsalya
 - c. Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0, and Mission Vatsalya
 - d. Mission Shakti, Mission Aahaar 2.0, and Mission Shishu
 - e. Mission Janani, Mission Aahaar 2.0, and Mission Vatsalya
- 8. Google launched _____ web platform to train one million women in rural India to become entrepreneurs:**
- a. Stree Shakti
 - b. Mahila Shakti
 - c. Naree Udyam
 - d. Women Will
 - e. Internet Saathis
- 9. Which country topped the UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020?**
- a. Norway
 - b. Switzerland
 - c. Sweden
 - d. Canada
 - e. Singapore
- 10. India has 15106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7516.6 Km. With how many countries does India share its land border?**
- a. Six
 - b. Seven
 - c. Eight
 - d. Nine
 - e. Four
- 11. Khardung La mountain pass is located in which Indian state/UT?**
- a. Himachal Pradesh
 - b. Uttarakhand
 - c. Jammu & Kashmir
 - d. Sikkim
 - e. Ladakh
- 12. Which global organisation raised the projection for India's economic growth rate by 4.7 percentage points at 12.6 percent for 2021-22.**
- a. IMF
 - b. World Bank
 - c. OECD
 - d. UNDP
 - e. ADB
- 13. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) on Feni river in which state?**
- a. Meghalaya
 - b. Assam
 - c. Manipur
 - d. Tripura
 - e. Mizoram
- 14. Indian Railway has integrated all railway helplines into single number ____ named Rail Madad Helpline:**
- a. 131
 - b. 139

- c. 121
- d. 189
- e. 112

- 15. 'National Security Guard (NSG)' deals with which of the following areas specifically?**
- a. Serious Anti-Terrorist Operations
 - b. UN Peace Keeping Operations
 - c. Deep Insurgency Operations
 - d. Serious Communal Conflicts
 - e. Strong security of VVIPs
- 16. Which Indian player won the "BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year" (ISWOTY) award for 2020, following a public vote?**
- a. Dutee Chand
 - b. Manu Bhaker
 - c. Vinesh Phogat
 - d. Koneru Humpy
 - e. P V Sindhu
- 17. The First Forest Healing centre of the country has been inaugurated at Ranikhet in which state?**
- a. Uttar Pradesh
 - b. Uttarakhand
 - c. Ladakh
 - d. Himachal
 - e. Arunachal
- 18. DRDO conducted the final development test of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) in Mumbai. AIP technology is to be used in which field?**
- a. Aircrafts
 - b. Missiles
 - c. Submarines
 - d. Warships
 - e. Main Battle Tanks
- 19. Which Bank launched a dedicated mentoring programme 'SmartUp Unnati', to support women entrepreneurs?**
- a. ICICI Bank
 - b. HDFC Bank
 - c. Bank of Baroda
 - d. Punjab National Bank
 - e. SBI
- 20. With which country India conducted the second edition of the joint military exercise DUSTLIK-II in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand from March 10 to 19?**
- a. Tanzania
 - b. Thailand
 - c. Britain
 - d. Uzbekistan
 - e. Mongolia
- 21. Which of the following statements is TRUE about International Monetary Fund (IMF)?**
- a. It provides Ways and Means Funds to member countries.
 - b. It is an agency of the World Bank and is situated in New York.
 - c. It makes all the rules and regulations in relation to the world trade between the nations.
 - d. On becoming its member, countries are eligible for loan to meet temporary balance of payment needs.
 - e. It is an economic organization floated by the members of NATO.

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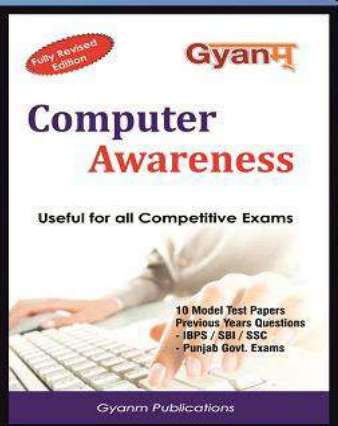
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22. Which country topped the "Economic Freedom Index" for 184 countries, released by the Heritage Foundation, USA?
 a. Sweden b. New Zealand
 c. Singapore d. Australia
 e. Switzerland
23. Which country launched the world's first military exercise in space from March 8 to 12?
 a. France b. China
 c. Britain d. Russia
 e. USA
24. The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. Which of the following is not a member of Quad?
 a. India b. Australia
 c. New Zealand d. USA
 e. Japan
25. Which Bank became the first bank in India on March 10 to launch its own range of wearable contactless payment devices named 'Wear N Pay'?
 a. Canara Bank b. State Bank of India
 c. HDFC Bank d. Axis Bank
 e. ICICI Bank
26. Thomas Bach has been re-elected as the President of which International sports body?
 a. FIFA b. ICC
 c. IBA d. IOC
 e. BWF
27. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India by the Central Government?
 a. Bibek Roy b. TCA Anant
 c. Prabin Kumar d. V. Srinivasan
 e. G P Samanta
28. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched a Mobile App for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood. What is its name?
 a. Pravasi Mitra b. Shramik Anaaj
 c. Mera Ration d. Ration Bandhu
 e. Ration Mitra
29. A National Implementation Committee headed by _____ has been constituted to plan various events to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence:
 a. Narendra Modi b. Ram Nath Kovind
 c. Amit Shah d. J P Nadda
 e. Om Birla
30. Who became the first player in the world to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket?
 a. Shafali Verma b. Laura Marsh
 c. Mithali Raj d. Smriti Mandhana
 e. Sarah Taylor
31. The headquarters of World Trade Organization (WTO) is situated at _____ :
 a. Doha b. Geneva
 c. Rome d. New York
 e. Brussels
32. Who was the first Indian in independent India to have won a medal in an individual Olympic event?
 a. Dhyan Chand b. K D Jadhav
 c. Prithipal Singh d. Rajpal Singh
 e. Milkha Singh
33. BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is an international organisation. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of BIMSTEC?
 a. Pakistan b. Bhutan
 c. Nepal d. Myanmar
 e. India
34. The world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku" has been developed by which country?
 a. South Korea b. Japan
 c. USA d. France
 e. Sweden
35. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of _____, on March 16:
 a. Norway b. Portugal
 c. Argentina d. Sweden
 e. Finland
36. All companies registered under Companies Act are required to use the word "Limited" in their name. What is the meaning of word Limited in the context of Companies Act?
 a. The company can raise "Limited" capital for its business
 b. The company can undertake only "Limited" activities mentioned in the companies Act
 c. The liability of the shareholder is "Limited" to the extent of his investment
 d. The promoters have a "Limited" interest in the running of the business
 e. None of these
37. Money market in India is regulated by which of the following organization?
 a. Securities & Exchange Board of India
 b. Ministry of Finance
 c. Reserve Bank of India
 d. Financial Stability & Development Council
 e. Money Market Regulatory Authority
38. In India, the bank NABARD does NOT provide refinance to:
 a. Scheduled Commercial Banks
 b. Regional Rural Banks
 c. State Land Development Banks
 d. Exporters / Importers
 e. Cooperative Banks
39. The Reserve Bank has asked all banks to implement the image-based CTS in all branches

by September 30 this year. What the letter 'T' denotes in CTS?

- a. Transaction
- b. Transmission
- c. Truncation
- d. Transfer
- e. Transit

40. The UGC has recognised three professional qualifications as equivalent to post-graduation. Select the correct option:

- a. CFA--CA--CS
- b. CA--CFA--ICWA
- c. CS--CA--ICWA
- d. ICWA--CPA--CA
- e. CFA--CPA--CS

41. Grammy awards are given to recognise excellence in which field?

- a. Arts
- b. Cinema
- c. TV
- d. Music
- e. Literature

42. Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee Laxman Pai passed away on March 14. He was a renowned _____?

- a. Musician
- b. Painter
- c. Cartoonist
- d. Poet
- e. Classical Dancer

43. Which of the following is the limitation of the ATMs owing to which people are required to visit branches of the bank?

- 1. It does not exchange soiled notes
- 2. It has a limited cash disbursement capacity
- 3. It lacks human interface
- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Only 3
- d. All 1, 2 and 3
- e. None of these are limitations

44. Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal was launched at which international airport?

- a. Delhi
- b. Mumbai
- c. Chennai
- d. Bengaluru
- e. Kochi

45. Which country topped the Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific region released by the JLL?

- a. Thailand
- b. Japan
- c. India
- d. Philippines
- e. New Zealand

46. The Union Cabinet approved a bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with an initial capital infusion of 20 thousand crore rupees for what purpose?

- a. For long term funding of highway projects
- b. For long-term funding of infrastructure development projects
- c. To raise funds for solar power plants
- d. To raise funds for construction of agro markets
- e. To raise funds for construction of airports

47. _____ became the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization:

- a. Panama
- b. Costa Rica

- c. Nicaragua
- d. El Salvador
- e. Honduras

48. Which capital city has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city for the third straight year in the 2020 World Air Quality Report?

- a. Beijing
- b. Dhaka
- c. New Delhi
- d. Damascus
- e. Beirut

49. What is the name of the Indian Navy's first advanced surveillance ship to be commissioned shortly?

- a. INS Drishti
- b. INS Dhruv
- c. INS Disha
- d. INS Satark
- e. INS Sachet

50. The bank rate means

- a. Rate of interest charged by commercial banks from borrowers
- b. Rate of interest at which commercial banks discount bill of their borrowers
- c. Rate of interest allowed by commercial banks on their deposits
- d. Rate at which RBI purchases or rediscounts bills of exchange of scheduled banks
- e. None of these

ANSWER KEY | MARCH GK TEST | 1

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

ANSWER KEY | MARCH GK TEST | 2

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

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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 b) Affix
c) Append d) Fasten
- 7) a) Man = 13114 b) Ram = 18113
c) Jug = 10217 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.

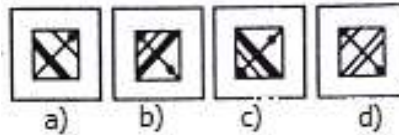
- a) None of the Conclusion follows.
b) Only Conclusion I follows.
c) Only Conclusion I and II follow.
d) All Conclusions follow.

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

Question Figure:

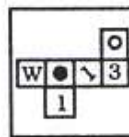


Answer Figures:

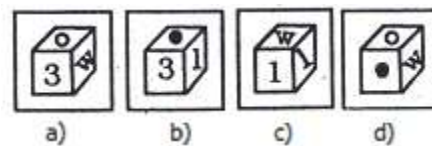


20) Which of the four cubes pictured below are correct view when the six squares are folded (in clockwise direction) into a cube?

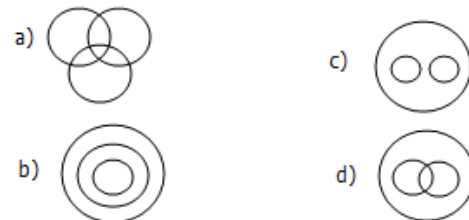
Question Figure:



Answer Figures:

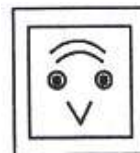


21) Which one of the following diagrams best depicts the relationship among Black eyed people, Brown haired people, Indian

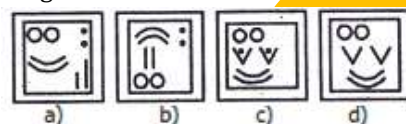


22) Find out which of the following answer figures will exactly make up the question figure?

Question Figure:



Answer Figures:

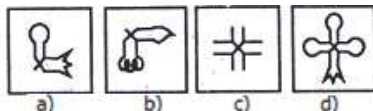


- 23) Which one of the answer figures is hidden in the following question figure?

Question Figure:



Answer Figures:

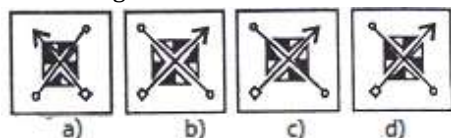


- 24) From the answer figures, find out the figure which is the exact mirror image of the question figure, when the mirror is placed on the line MN.

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) 5 cm b) 4 cm
c) 3 cm d) 6 cm
- 30) If $\tan \theta + \cot \theta = 2$ then the value of θ is
a) 45° b) 60°
c) 90° d) 30°
- 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° b) 120°
c) 100° d) 60°

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) A treaty was signed between Amar Singh Thapa and Major General David Ochterlony. Which of the following is that treaty?
- A. Treaty of Arki
 B. Treaty of Jawallamukhi
 C. Treaty of Saran
 D. Treaty of Sagauli
- 56) The normal temperature of a human body is
- A. 90°F B. 98.4°C
 C. 98.4°F D. 96.4°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 H_2O and release of O_2
 B. reduction of CO_2 and oxidation of H_2O
 C. reduction of CO_2 and release of O_2
 D. reduction of CO_2 , oxidation of H_2O and release of 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

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

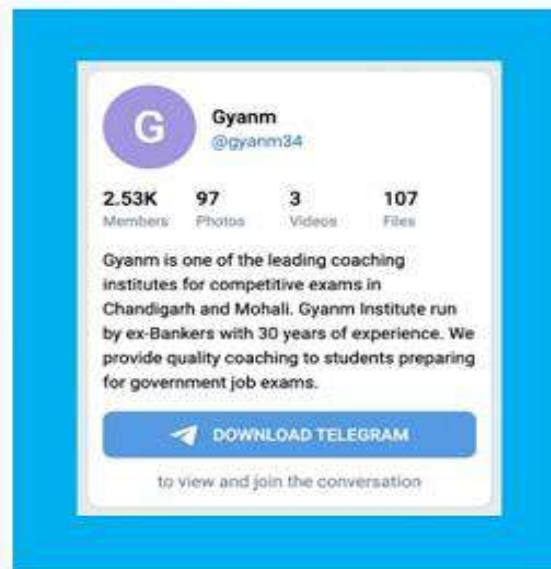
- a) Singular b) Individual
c) Alone d) Solitary

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.



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- 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	D

56	C	57	B	58	B	59	C	60	D
61	A	62	A	63	A	64	A	65	A
66	C	67	B	68	A	69	A	70	B
71	B	72	C	73	B	74	B	75	D
76	C	77	C	78	C	79	D	80	B
81	A	82	D	83	D	84	D	85	A
86	C	87	A	88	A	89	D	90	D
91	B	92	A	93	A	94	B	95	D
96	C	97	B	98	C	99	A	100	A

SOLUTIONS

1) c) $(3)^2 = 9 : (3)^2 - 2 = 7$

Similarly,

$$(3)^4 - 1 = 81 - 1 = 80$$

$$(3)^4 - 3 = 81 - 3 = 78$$

In simple way, $9 - 2 = 7$ and $80 - 2 = 78$

2) a) **Defer** means 'to delay something until a later time', 'to postpone'.

Put off means 'to put something to a later time or date', 'to delay'.

Thus, **Defer** and **Put off** are synonymous to one another.

Deduce means 'to infer', 'to arrive at facts'.

Infer means 'to arrive at a conclusion'

3) a)

a [a] [b] b a b b a / [a] a b b a [b] b a

4) a)

A Z B [Y] / A Z [B] Y / A [Z] B Y / [A] Z B Y

5) c) $102 - 1 = 101$

$$101 - 3 = 98$$

$$98 - 5 = 93$$

$$93 - 7 = 86$$

$$86 - 9 = \boxed{77}$$

$$77 - 11 = 66$$

$$66 - 13 = 53$$

Therefore, the number 74 is wrong in the sequence.

6) a) 'Detach' is different from the other three words.

Detach means 'to separate or remove something from a large or longer part'

Affix means 'to stick fasten or attach something.'

Append means 'to attach to add something'.

7) d)

M ↓ 13
a ↓ 1
n ↓ 14

The position number of letters in the English alphabet.

R ↓ 18
J ↓ 10
H ↓ 8
a ↓ 1
u ↓ 21
u ↓ 21
m ↓ 13
g ↓ 7
g ↓ 2

8) b) $1 + 5 = 6$ and $6 \times 2 = 12$

Similarly, $4 + 8 = 12$ and $12 \times 2 = 24$

9) d)

E $\xrightarrow{+2}$ G $\xrightarrow{+2}$ I $\xrightarrow{+2}$ K $\xrightarrow{+2}$ M
L \longrightarrow L \longrightarrow L \longrightarrow L \longrightarrow L
F $\xrightarrow{+2}$ H $\xrightarrow{+2}$ J $\xrightarrow{+2}$ L $\xrightarrow{+2}$ N
A \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow A

10) b)

4 $\xrightarrow{+14}$ 18 $\xrightarrow{+30}$ 48 $\xrightarrow{+52}$ 100 $\xrightarrow{+80}$ 180
 $\xrightarrow{+16}$ $\xrightarrow{+22}$ $\xrightarrow{+28}$
 $\xrightarrow{+6}$ $\xrightarrow{+6}$

11) c) $L \Rightarrow 12; 12 \times 2 = 24$

$$O \Rightarrow 15; 15 \times 2 = 30$$

$$N \Rightarrow 14; 14 \times 2 = 28$$

$$D \Rightarrow 04; 04 \times 2 = 08$$

$$O \Rightarrow 15; 15 \times 2 = 30$$

$$N \Rightarrow 14; 14 \times 2 = 28$$

Therefore,

$$F \Rightarrow 06; 06 \times 2 = 12$$

$$R \Rightarrow 18; 18 \times 2 = 36$$

$$A \Rightarrow 01; 01 \times 2 = 02$$

$$N \Rightarrow 14; 14 \times 2 = 28$$

$$C \Rightarrow 03; 03 \times 2 = 06$$

$$E \Rightarrow 05; 05 \times 2 = 10$$

12) a) The letter have been written in the reverse order.

M A A R K \Rightarrow K R A A M

Therefore,

P A S S I \Rightarrow I S S A P

13) a) 29×48

$$\Rightarrow 2 \times 9 \times 4 \times 8 = 576$$

$$35 \times 16$$

$$\Rightarrow 3 \times 5 \times 1 \times 6 = 90$$

$$22 \times 46$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \times 2 \times 4 \times 6 = 96$$

Therefore,

$$42 \times 17$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 \times 2 \times 1 \times 7 = \boxed{56}$$

14) c)

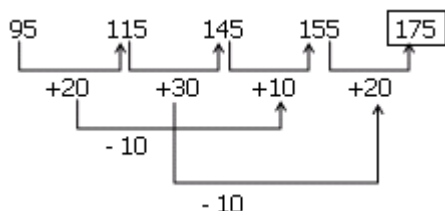
$P \Rightarrow \times$	$T \Rightarrow -$
$M \Rightarrow +$	$B \Rightarrow \div$

$$12 P 6 M 15 T 16 B 4 = ?$$

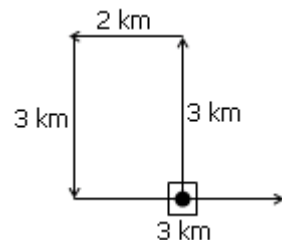
$$\Rightarrow ? = 12 \times 6 + 15 - 16 \div 4$$

$$\Rightarrow ? = 72 + 15 - 4 = \boxed{83}$$

15) b)

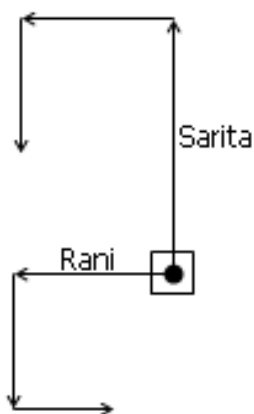


16) a)



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 ●.

↘ lies opposite W.

1 lies opposite ○.

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

In option (c) ↘ is on the adjacent face on W.

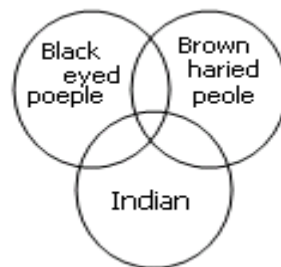
In option (d) ● is on the top and hence the positions of dot (.) and W are not correct.

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	23
(2)	43	32	33	33
(3)	15	12	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) $41 \times 41 = 1681$

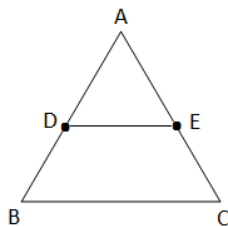
$$42 \times 42 = 1764$$

\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

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

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

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

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

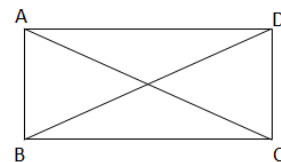
$$\Rightarrow b = \text{Rs. } 25$$

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

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

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

34. a)



$$AB = CD$$

$$BC = AD$$

$$AC = BD$$

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

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

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

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

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, circumcenter, 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

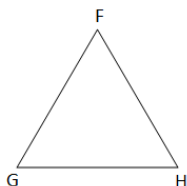
$$= \frac{\text{Length of (train + platform)}}{\text{Time taken in crossing}}$$

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

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

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

43. a)



$$FG < 3 \text{ cm}$$

$$GH = 8 \text{ cm}$$

Clearly, $FH = GH$

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} 46. c) & x = \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} \\ \therefore \frac{1}{x} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}}{3 - 2} = \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2} \\ \therefore x - \frac{1}{x} &= \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2} \\ &= 2\sqrt{2} \\ \therefore x^3 - \frac{1}{x^3} &= \left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 + 3\left(x - \frac{1}{x}\right) \\ &= (2\sqrt{2})^3 + 3 \times 2\sqrt{2} = 16\sqrt{2} + 6\sqrt{2} = 22\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$47. d) x^2 - \sqrt{3} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - \left(3\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - \left(3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(x + 3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right)\left(x - 3^{\frac{1}{4}}\right) = 0$$

$$\therefore x = 3^{1/4} \text{ or } -3^{1/4}$$

\therefore Product or roots

$$= 3^{1/4} \times -3^{1/4} = -\sqrt{3}$$

Note : Product of the roots of

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \text{ is } \frac{c}{a}$$

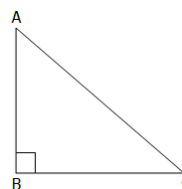
\therefore Product of the roots of

$$x^2 - b.0 - \sqrt{3} = 0 \text{ is } -\sqrt{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 48. b) & x = \frac{\cos \theta}{1 - \sin \theta} = \frac{\cos \theta(1 + \sin \theta)}{(1 - \sin \theta)(1 + \sin \theta)} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta(1 + \sin \theta)}{1 - \sin^2 \theta} \\ &= \frac{\cos \theta(1 + \sin \theta)}{\cos^2 \theta} \\ &= \frac{1 + \sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \quad \therefore \frac{\cos \theta}{1 + \sin \theta} = \frac{1}{x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 49. a) & \text{Difference} = \frac{PR^2}{10000} \\ \Rightarrow 25 &= \frac{P \times 5 \times 5}{10000} \Rightarrow P = \text{Rs. } 10000 \end{aligned}$$

50. b)



$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{2}{1}$$

$$\Rightarrow AB = 2k, BC = k$$

$$\therefore AC = \sqrt{(2k)^2 + k^2} = \sqrt{5k^2} = 5\sqrt{k}$$

$$\therefore \sin A + \cot C = \frac{BC}{AC} + \frac{BC}{AB}$$

$$= \frac{k}{\sqrt{5k}} + \frac{k}{2k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2 + \sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}}$$

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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MARCH 2021

1. The book 'India's Power Elite' is written by____: **Sanjay Baru, ex-media to former prime minister Manmohan Singh**
2. What is the name of the sixth offshore patrol vessel commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24? **ICGS Vajra**
3. Who has been selected to head the RBI committee formed to evaluate applications for "on-tap" licensing of universal banks and small finance banks? **Ms. Shyamala Gopinath**
4. NITI Aayog formed 11 committees to expedite the transition of the country from a linear economy to a _____ economy: **Circular**
5. _____ has decided to develop world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years: **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**
6. Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to Rs. _____lakh: **Five**
7. Which country plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadhavet Sea? **Norway**
8. Vyas Samman is associated with which field? **Hindi literature**
9. Who is the winner of Vyas Samman – 2020? **Prof. Sharad Pagare**
10. Prof. Sharad Pagare won the Vyas Samma for which book? **Patliputra Ki Samragyi**
11. What is the amount of cash award given in the Vyas Samman? **Rs. four lakhs**
12. Name the former Deputy Governor of the RBI who left for heavenly abode on March 26: **KC Chakrabarty**
13. Name the noted journalist and author who died in Mumbai on March 26: **Anil Dharker**
14. Which country topped the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? **USA**
15. India was placed at which spot in the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? **40th**
16. Which district has been declared as the first TB free district in India? **Budgam, J&K**
17. With which country India conducted its first Passage Exercise (PASSEX) on 24 March in western Indian Ocean? **Madagascar**
18. Denis Sassou Nguesso has been re-elected as the President of which country for the next five years? **Republic of Congo**

19. Bangladesh is celebrating which year of its liberation? **50th**
20. Who is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh? **Sheikh Hasina Wajed**
21. Who has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)? **Saurabh Garg**
22. World Theatre Day is observed on which day of March? **27th**
23. Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the _____ Saturday of March: **Last**
24. Which bank has been adjudged the India's best bank for SMEs at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 202? **HDFC Bank**
25. Out of wheat and rice, which crop is produced more in India? **Rice**
26. The Centre has lifted embargo on private sector banks for conduct of _____ business related transactions: **Government**
27. What is the formal name of the world's largest cricket stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad? **Narendra Modi Stadium**
28. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes? **Vijay Sampla**
29. Jasmine Harrison, a 21-year-old British woman from England became the youngest woman to do what? **To row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.**
30. Which film won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the best film? Tanhaji: **The Unsung Warrior**
31. Akshay Kumar won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the Best Actor for which film? **Laxmii**
32. Irakli Garibashvili has been appointed as the new _____ of Georgia: **Prime Minister**
33. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs signed a MoU on Feb 25 for exchange of data with which Central Board? **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**
34. Under which Act the government announced new policies for regulation of content on social media and over the top (OTT) platforms? **Information Technology Act, 2000**
35. Which country passed amendments to their News Media Bargaining Code to force online platforms like Google and Facebook to pay for news they source from local media? **Australia**

36.	Which country emerged as India's biggest trade partner in 2020? China
37.	Which Buddhist pilgrimage city has been selected recently under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme? Leh, Ladakh
38.	Name the Indian social activist in the field of Right to Information in India who has been selected by the US government for the International Anti-corruption Champions Award? Anjali Bharadwaj
39.	Mohamed Bazoum has been elected as the new President of which African country? Niger
40.	Dushyant Chautala, Deputy CM of Haryana, has been re-elected as the President of which sports federation of India? Table Tennis
41.	The central government has selected 12 tourist sites under the Swachh Iconic Places under an initiative of which ministry? Ministry of Jal Shakti
42.	The famous historical monument Sanchi Stupa is in which state? Madhya Pradesh
43.	Which state is famous for Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ramdevra Temple? Rajasthan
44.	Government has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in collaboration with which IIT of the country? IIT Bombay
45.	ISRO launched the Amazonia 1 optical earth observation satellite for which country? Brazil
46.	Who won the gold medal on Feb 28 in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament in Kyiv, Ukraine? Vinesh Phogat
47.	Which country has taken over chairmanship of BRICS group for 2021? India
48.	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh. It is in which state? Jharkhand
49.	Matam Venkata Rao has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of which Bank? Central Bank of India
50.	Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for what purpose? For enhancing physical accessibility for elderly and the disabled
51.	Which was the partner country in the Maritime India Summit-2021 held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4? Denmark
52.	Which national day is celebrated on March 01 to commemorate the creation of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) on this day in 1976? Civil Accounts Day
53.	March 07 is observed as Janaushadhi Diwas. Jan Aushadhi Kendras are the initiative of which government department? Department of Pharmaceuticals
54.	21st National Sqay Championship was held at which place? Jaipur, Rajasthan
55.	Sqay is the traditional martial art of which area? Kashmir

56.	Golden Globe Awards are associated with which field? Cinema & TV
57.	Which film won the Golden Globe for the Best Motion Picture – Drama? Nomadland
58.	Chloé Zhao won the Golden Globe for the best director for which film? Nomadland
59.	India donated Rs. 1.5 million to the National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine of which country? Taiwan
60.	Indian Air Force gifted a legacy Alouette III helicopter to which country? Bangladesh
61.	A giant iceberg, around 490 sq km in size, broke off from the ice shelf in which area? Antarctica
62.	Who became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021? Virat Kohli
63.	Who is the most followed sportsperson on the Instagram, having 266 million followers? Cristiano Ronaldo
64.	ISRO successfully launched satellite Sindhu Netra on Feb 28. It is what type of satellite? Surveillance satellite
65.	A special contingent of the Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise "Desert Flag" in which country? UAE – United Arab Emirates
66.	Which state/UT topped the medals tally in the 2 nd Khelo India Winter National Games? J&K
67.	2nd Khelo India Winter National Games were held in which city in J&K? Gulmarg
68.	Government has decided to merge the Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV channels. The new channel will be known as ____ TV: Sansad TV
69.	What is the theme for this year's Zero Discrimination Day? End Inequalities
70.	Which country successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment? Russia
71.	Which are the two international days that are observed on March 3? World Wildlife Day and World Hearing Day
72.	With which country India agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years? Norway
73.	Which city is the capital of Norway? Oslo
74.	Which heritage iconic railway station in Mumbai is popularly known as CST station? Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
75.	As per the 'Ease of Living Index' _____ topped the list as the most livable city among 111 cities (with population above 1 million) covered in the index: Bengaluru
76.	In the category of cities with 'population less than million', _____ was ranked at the top in the Ease of Living Index: Shimla
77.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with Stefan Löfven on March 5. Who is he? Prime Minister of Sweden

78.	India exported the first consignment of 'red rice' on March 4 to which country? USA
79.	Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in which Indian river valley? Brahmaputra valley in Assam
80.	Name the West Indies ODI and T20I skipper became the third batsman in the history of international cricket to hit six 6s in an over on March 3: Kieron Pollard
81.	With which country India signed a key pact on March 2 for the supply of BrahMos supersonic missiles? Philippines
82.	BrahMos missiles are built in India in collaboration with which country? Russia
83.	Which Indian boxer has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee? Mary Kom
84.	India has decided to fund the reconstruction of three more Cultural Heritage projects in which country? Nepal
85.	Which country hosted the 2021's first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in virtual mode on Feb 26? Italy
86.	Which prestigious environment prize was conferred upon PM Narendra Modi via video conferencing on March 5 at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week? CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award
87.	DRDO successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on SFDR technology for the long-range air to air missiles. What is SFDR? Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet
88.	Which city topped the final rankings in million plus cities of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 for the 111 Indian cities? Indore
89.	The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings ranked which university as the best in the world? Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA
90.	Which Indian Institute/University secured highest (172nd) rank in the QS World University Rankings? Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
91.	The UN General Assembly has declared on March 3 year 2023 as the year of ____? Millet
92.	Among Ragi, Bajra, Makai and Jowar, which one is NOT a millet? Makai
93.	What is this year's theme of the National Safety Day? "Sadak Suraksha" (Road Safety)
94.	India observes National Security Day on March 4. Who is India's National Security Advisor? Ajit Kumar Doval
95.	Washington-based noted think tank Freedom House in its report, titled 'Democracy Under Siege', has ranked India at which rank? 88th
96.	What is the theme of this year's International Women's Day? #ChooseToChallenge
97.	Which Indian boxer won gold at the Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain? Manish Kaushik

98.	Which Indian boxers reached number one world ranking in both men's and women's category? Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat
99.	Which Indian organization launched an 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna? Shipping Corporation of India
100.	An 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna was launched from which Indian port? Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai
101.	NPCI partnered with which company to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants? SBI Payments
102.	Which ministry has decided to classify all of its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes for their better implementation? Women and Child Development Ministry
103.	Google launched which web platform to help one million women in rural India to become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship? Women will
104.	Which country topped the UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020? Switzerland
105.	What was India's rank in the recently released UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020? 71st
106.	Which global organization raised the projection for India's economic growth rate by 4.7 percentage points at 12.6 percent for 2021-22? OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris
107.	The Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) on Feni river is located in which state? Tripura
108.	Indian Railway integrated all its helplines into single number. What is this number? 139
109.	The Maitree Setu will link South Tripura to which International port in Bangladesh? Chittagong
110.	Koneru Humpy won the "BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year" (ISWOTY) award for 2020. She plays which sports? Chess
111.	The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated recently at which place in Uttarakhand? Ranikhet
112.	ISRO and the NASA recently completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR. What is its name? NISAR
113.	DRDO conducted the final development test of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system on Mar 8. It is to be used at which place? Submarines
114.	Which bank launched 'SmartUp Unnati'-- a dedicated mentoring programme to support women entrepreneurs? HDFC Bank
115.	What is the name of the second edition of the India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise held in Ranikhet in Uttarakhand? DUSTLIK-II
116.	The "Economic Freedom Index" released by the US based think tank - Heritage Foundation placed which country at the top? Singapore

117.	India was ranked at which spot in the Economic Freedom Index? 121st
118.	Which country launched the world's first military exercise in space from March 8 to 12? France
119.	What was the name of the military space exercise launched by France? AstreX
120.	President of which country was selected for the Prize for Achievement in African Leadership-2020? Niger
121.	Who has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the year 2021? Girish Chandra Murmu
122.	The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. How many countries are member of Quad group? Four
123.	Who is the Prime Minister of Japan? Yoshihide Suga
124.	What is the full form of the acronym QUAD? Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
125.	Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand? Tirath Singh Rawat
126.	Who is the Governor of Uttarakhand? Ms. Baby Rani Maurya
127.	Who became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats? Mithali Raj
128.	_____ became the first bank in India on March 10 to launch its own range of wearable contactless payment devices named as 'Wear N Pay': Axis Bank
129.	What is the upper limit of amount of transactions that can be done through 'Wear N Pay' devices? Rs. 5,000/-
130.	Thomas Bach has been re-elected as the President of which international sports body? International Olympic Committee (IOC)
131.	Where are the headquarters of the IOC located? Lausanne, Switzerland
132.	Who has been appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India by the Central Government? Dr. G P Samanta
133.	Which two countries signed a MoU to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries? China and Russia
134.	Which Indian actress has joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum? Deepika Padukon
135.	Which mobile app has been launched for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood? Mera Ration
136.	Which Indian Industrialist added the highest wealth in the world to his fortune in 2021? Gautam Adani
137.	World Kidney Day is observed globally on the _____ Thursday of March every year: Second
138.	Prime Minister Modi launched the celebrations for the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' from which place? Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
139.	Who became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T-20 Internationals? Virat Kohli

140.	Which team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for 2021? Team Mumbai
141.	Vijay Hazare Trophy is played in which format of cricket? 50 over one day
142.	Tamil Nadu's CA Bhavani Devi became the first ever Indian _____ to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games: Fencer
143.	Who became the first player in the world to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket? Mithali Raj
144.	'The Lost Soul' is a novel written by Olga Tokarczuk. She belongs to which country: Poland
145.	The world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku" has been developed by which country? Japan
146.	International Day of Mathematics is observed on March 14. It also commemorates the birthday of a great mathematician. Who is he? Albert Einstein
147.	What is the value of Pi expressed in a fraction? 14/3
148.	World Consumer Rights Day is observed on which day of March month? 15th
149.	What is the theme of this year's World Consumer Rights Day? Tackle plastic pollution
150.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of _____, on March 16: Finland
151.	RBI has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by _____ this year: September 30
152.	The UGC has recognised three professional qualifications as equivalent to post-graduation. Can you name them? CA, CS, and ICWA
153.	Grammy awards are given to recognise excellence in which field? Music
154.	Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee Laxman Pai passed away on March 14. He was a renowned _____? Artist and painter
155.	Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal has been launched at which international airport? Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
156.	Which country topped the Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific region released by the JLL? India
157.	Which artist created a record of winning highest number of Grammy awards (28), after winning 4 Grammys this year? Beyonce
158.	Which artist won the Grammy this year for the "Record of the Year"? Billie Eilish
159.	The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with an initial capital infusion of 20 thousand crore rupees for what purpose? For long-term funding of infrastructure development projects
160.	Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Security Guard? M A Ganpathy

161.	Kuldip Singh, Sr IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of which para-military force? CRPF
162.	_____ became the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization: El Salvador
163.	_____ has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city by World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir: New Delhi
164.	What is the name of the Indian Navy's first advanced surveillance ship? INS Dhruv
165.	What is the name of the world's highest honor in architecture, also known as Nobel of architecture? Pritzker Architecture Prize
166.	Pritzker Architecture Prize for 2021 has been won by Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. They hail from which country? France
167.	India's first ordnance factory was established at which place in 1801? Cossipore, West Bengal
168.	What is the theme for this year's Global Recycling Day observed on March 18? Recycling Heroes
169.	Which International day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth? World Sleep Day
170.	Dr Ajay Mathur has been appointed as the Director General of which global organization? International Solar Alliance, Gurugram, Haryana
171.	Who is Lloyd J Austin III who arrived in India on March 19 for a three-day visit? Defence Secretary of USA
172.	International Day of Happiness is observed on which day of March? 20th
173.	What is the theme of this year's World Sparrow Day observed on March 20? I love sparrows
174.	As per the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released on March 19, _____ is the happiest country to live in the world: Finland
175.	What was India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2021? 139th
176.	_____ has been declared as the best state under the government's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana: Manipur
177.	Which Indian film celebrity has been honoured with the prestigious Film Archive Award-2021? Amitabh Bachchan
178.	With which firm the Ministry of Defence placed an order for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles? Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad
179.	Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan has been sworn in as the first female President of which African country? Tanzania
180.	Mark Rutte won the 2021 parliamentary elections for the fourth term in a row to become Prime Minister in which country? Netherlands
181.	The Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf with the navy of which country? Bahrain

182.	Which global organization launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' to promote women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the rural India? UNDP-United Nations Development Program
183.	Who became the first Indian Table Tennis player to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games? Achanta Sharath Kamal
184.	What is the theme of this year's World Water Day observed on March 22? Valuing Water
185.	What is the name of the water conservation campaign launched by the Prime Minister Modi on March 22? Catch the Rain Campaign
186.	India's Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 _____ World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE: Para Shooting
187.	Who won the men's singles title at the All-England Badminton Championships? Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia
188.	Nozomi Okuhara won the women's singles title at the All-England Badminton Championships. She represents which country? Japan
189.	Government launched an ambitious scheme named _____ for offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas: Gram Ujala
190.	The memorial in the honour of great revolutionary fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev is located at which place on the banks of River Satluj? Hussainiwala
191.	Which film won the National Award for the 'Best Feature Film' for 2019? Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
192.	Who won the National Award for the Best Director for 2019? Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain
193.	National award for the Best Actress for 2019 has been won by: Kangana Ranaut
194.	_____ was declared as the most film friendly state for 2019: Sikkim
195.	The Gandhi Peace Prize – 2019 was conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. He was former head of which country? Oman
196.	Government of India honoured Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with which prestigious global award? The Gandhi Peace Prize-2020
197.	What is the amount of the cash prize given with the Gandhi Peace Prize? Rs. One crore
198.	According to a study released by defence website Military Direct on March 21, Indian army is the _____ strongest army of the world: Fourth
199.	According to Military Direct, which is the strongest military force in the world: China
200.	Which two other countries are ahead of India in military force: USA (2nd) and Russia (3rd)
201.	World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on March 24 to commemorate the discovery of TB on this day by _____ : Dr. Robert Koch in 1882
202.	RBI has decided to grant 'on-tap' banking licenses to Universal banks and Small Finance Banks. What does 'on-tap' mean? RBI will accept applications and grant banking licenses throughout the year

203.	Who was called by the name of Frontier Gandhi? Late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (also known as Badshah Khan)
204.	'My Life in Full' is a book written by which corporate honcho? Indra Nooyi, former CEO of Pepsico
205.	The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle is English translation of autobiography of which freedom fighter? Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
206.	What is the name of the book recently written by senior RSS leader Ram Madhav? Because India Comes First
FEBRUARY 2021	
207.	Who became Table Tennis Men's national champion at the 82nd National Table Tennis Championships in Panchkula, Haryana? Sathiyam Gnanasekaran
208.	The Reserve Bank brought the State Bank of _____ under its regulation: Sikkim
209.	_____ became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22: Uttar Pradesh
210.	Which Arabian country has permitted the women of the country to join the armed forces? Saudi Arabia
211.	India's first Carbon Watch, a mobile app for assessing carbon footprints has been developed by which state/UT? Chandigarh
212.	Government has approved _____ toy manufacturing clusters with investment of Rs 2,300 crore: 8
213.	Which state has set up the country's first Digital University? Kerala
214.	What is the name of India's first Digital University? Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology
215.	The Indian Army successfully tested the Helina and Dhruv Astra Missile Systems. They are what type of missiles? Anti Tank Guided Missiles
216.	The Soil Health Card Day is observed on which day of February? 19th
217.	The World Social Justice Day is observed on Feb 20 with the support of which UN agency? International Labour Organization
218.	Government launched the Go Electric Campaign to boost the adoption of which items? Electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances
219.	Government launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 (IMI 3.0) for what purpose? To expand immunization coverage across the nation
220.	The Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted bilateral military exercise PASSEX on Feb 18 in which area? Arabian Sea
221.	Which Indian company indigenously made K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/ 52 calibre self-propelled guns for Indian Army? Larsen and Toubro (L&T)
222.	International Mother Language Day is observed on which day? February 21

223.	The second Khelo India University Games will be hosted by which state? Karnataka
224.	The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held in which state from Feb 20 to 26? Madhya Pradesh
225.	Australian Open Grand Slam was held in which Australian city? Melbourne
226.	Who won men's singles title at the Australian Open? Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
227.	_____ won the Australian Open Women's singles title: Naomi Osaka
228.	The book <i>Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha</i> is the life story of which para military force? CRPF
229.	'Unfinished: A Memoir' is the autobiography of which Indian cinema celebrity? Priyanka Chopra Jonas
230.	What is the title of the recent book by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama? The Little Book of Encouragement
231.	Central Excise Day is observed on Feb 24 to mark the enactment of which act that was enacted on this day in 1944? Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944
232.	National Science Day is observed on Feb 28 to mark which scientific recovery on this day in 1928? Raman Effect by Sir C V Raman
233.	Sir C V Raman was awarded Nobel Prize in 1930 in which field? Physics
234.	Government launched the National Urban Digital Mission aimed at providing an online platform for what purpose? For creating a platform for citizen-centric governance
235.	Which bank approved a \$ 304 million dollar loan for Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project? The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
236.	The World Bank granted a \$68 million support to improve the quality of education in which state? Nagaland
237.	The 30th Adriatic Pearl Boxing Tournament was held in Budva. It is in which country? Montenegro
238.	Which film won the Golden Peacock Award for the best film at the 51 st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa? "Into the Darkness" directed by Anders Refn
239.	Director Anders Refn hails from which country? Denmark
240.	What is the cash amount given in the Golden Peacock Award? Rs. 40 lakh
241.	Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is given for outstanding performance in which field? Disaster management
242.	Who is the winner of this year's Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar in individual category? Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari
243.	What is the amount of cash award won by Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari? Rs. Five lakh

244.	10 th National Ice Hockey Championship was held at which place? Gulmarg, J&K
245.	Which team won the 10 th National Ice Hockey Championship? Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
246.	The longest road arch bridge in India - the Wahrew Bridge has been built in which state? Meghalaya
247.	The Wahrew Bridge in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya has been built across which river? Wahrew
248.	A rocket from which US aerospace company created a new record by launching 143 satellites at a time into space? SpaceX
249.	The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the 'Shram Shakti' portal to collect data related to the _____ workers? Tribal migrant
250.	The Gujarat Government plans to set up India's largest multi-modal logistics park in which city? Ahmadabad
251.	The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into effect from which date? January 22, 2021
252.	Is India a signatory to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? No
253.	Which state launched door delivery of rice to ration card holders across the state? Andhra Pradesh
254.	India's top civilian awards, Padma awards are approved by which authority? President of India
255.	Which union ministry makes recommendations for the Padma Awards? Ministry of Home Affairs
256.	How many Padma Awards have been declared this year? 119
257.	Who is the only foreign dignitary to be honoured this year with Padma Vibhushan? Shinzo Abe, former PM of Japan
258.	Maximum how many Padma awards can be declared in total in one year (excluding awards given posthumously and to foreigners)? 120
259.	Who is the winner of the only MahaVir Chakra declared this year? Colonel B Santosh Babu
260.	Colonel B Santosh Babu has been decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra for display of outstanding gallantry in which area? Galwan Valley
261.	The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 has placed India at which rank? Seventh
262.	Which were the two most affected countries in 2019 as per the Global Climate Risk Index 2021? Mozambique and Zimbabwe
263.	The South-East Central Railways created a new record by successfully operating the world's longest ever freight train in which state? Chhattisgarh
264.	BSF launched "Operation Sard Hawa" from Jan 21 to 27 to increase security on the borders in which area? Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
265.	As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, which country recorded highest trade surplus in 2020? China

266.	As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, which country recorded highest trade deficit in 2020? USA
267.	A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 was conducted in which area from January 21-25? Andaman & Nicobar Islands
268.	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa won a second five-year term after winning the 2021 Presidential election with a landslide victory in which country? Portugal
269.	The International Customs Day is celebrated on which date? January 26
270.	The DRDO conducted a successful maiden launch of which missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha. Akash-NG (New Generation) ----- upto 28/1
271.	Kaja Kallas has been elected as the first female President of which country? Estonia, Central Europe
272.	The Election Commission rolled out the electronic version of the voters' photo identity card e-EPIC. What is EPIC? Electoral photo identity card
273.	Which Indian company has been ranked 5th on Brand Finance's Global 500 ranking of the strongest brands globally? Reliance Jio
274.	Which global financial body approved a \$500 million programme to support Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS) of India? The World Bank
275.	The Corruption Perception Index, 2020, released by Berlin based NGO Transparency International has placed India at which rank? 86th
276.	Which country topped the Corruption Perception Index, 2020? New Zealand and Denmark, jointly
277.	According to the National Science Foundation, USA, India is at which rank in terms of number of scientific articles published in 2018? Third
278.	World Wetlands Day is observed on which day of February? 2nd
279.	Out of Mulberry, Eri, Chanderi, Tassar, and Muga – which one is NOT a variety of Silk? Chanderi
280.	In which South Asian country military executed a coup on Feb 1 after arresting the top political leaders? Myanmar
281.	Which team won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy on Jan 31? Tamil Nadu
282.	Which word has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020? Aatmanirbharta
283.	Badminton World Tour Finals were played on Jan 31 in which city? Bangkok
284.	Who won women's singles title at the Badminton World Tour Finals? Tai Tzu Ying (China)
285.	Men's singles title at the Badminton World Tour Finals was won by: Anders Antonsen, Denmark
286.	The BCCI has decided to not to conduct which national tournament for the first time in its history of 87 years? Ranji Trophy

287. The Finance Minister announced launch of Pradhan Mantri Bharat _____ Yojana to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems? Atmanirbhar Swasth	308. What is the full form of CoBRA? Commando Battalion for Resolute Action
288. Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India-2021" was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in which city? Bengaluru	309. Who has been appointed as the head of the National Safety Council by the Labour Ministry? S N Subrahmanyam
289. The defence ministers of 27 countries from Indian Ocean region participated in a conclave held at _____ in first week of February: Bengaluru	310. Which country plans to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea? Denmark
290. A team of researchers from five institutes across India have discovered a new gecko species in which state? Arunachal Pradesh	311. Government has enhanced the agricultural credit target to _____ lakh crore rupees for the year 2021-22: 16.5
291. Which state government launched the year long Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations here on Feb 4? Bihar	312. With which country India signed a MoU for the construction of Shahtoot dam project? Afghanistan
292. Ajay Singh has been re-elected as President of the _____ Federation of India: Boxing	313. The Shahtoot dam project is to be built across which river? Kabul
293. According to the Democracy Index 2020 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit, London, India secured _____ rank in the Index: 53rd	314. Who has been honoured as the Global Citizenship Ambassador by the Northeastern University Center for Spirituality, Dialogue and Service, Boston, USA? Sri Sri Ravishankar
294. What is the theme of this year's World Cancer Day observed on Feb 4? I am and I will	315. Who won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award 2021? Rishabh Pant
295. India established its first centre for wetland conservation in which place? Chennai	316. With which neighbouring country India recently inaugurated a newly constructed 108-kilometre road? Nepal
296. The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with which country? Russia	317. The Ministry of Agriculture launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations FPOs'. What is a FPO? Farmer Produce Organization
297. The New START has been extended for how many years? Five	318. Which country signed a \$43 billion agreement to build the world's largest offshore wind farm? South Korea
298. District Shravasti topped in the ranking of aspirational districts done by the Niti Aayog in December 2020. It is in which state? Uttar Pradesh	319. With which Indian firm UNICEF, Paris entered into a long-term supply agreement for the AstraZeneca/Oxford and the Novavax vaccines? Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune
299. The ministry of corporate affairs has allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate OPCs. What is OPC? One Person Company	320. Novavax vaccines are the product of which country? USA
300. Which country topped the medal tally at the first Asian Online Shooting Championship hosted online by Kuwait? India	321. India's first centralised AC railway terminal is about to be operational by February end in which city? Bengaluru
301. _____ has become the first State in the country to make the end to end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application: Himachal Pradesh	322. According to the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index, which country is the most innovative nation? South Korea
302. Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project in which district of Uttarakhand? Dehradun	323. India has been placed at which rank in the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index? 50th
303. The Lakhwar electricity project is being constructed on which river? Yamuna	324. Who is the top winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020? Manasa Varanasi
304. YudhAbhyas 20, the India-US joint military exercise was held in Mahajan Field Firing Range in which state? Rajasthan	325. Which iconic historical monument in the Indian capital completed 100 years of its foundation laying on Feb 10? India Gate
305. India's first ever geothermal power project will be established at Puga village in which area? Eastern Ladakh	326. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) plans to set up India's first thunderstorm research testbed at _____, Odisha: Balasore
306. In which state a glacier burst caused widespread devastation on Feb 7? Uttarakhand	327. The National Deworming Day is observed two times in a year on which dates? Feb 10 and August 10
307. For the first time in the history of CRPF, a contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into which of its units? CoBRA	328. Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Pulses Day on Feb 10? Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

329.	The Unani Day is celebrated every year on Feb 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim _____. _____ : Ajmal Khan
330.	The Unani medicine is based on the philosophy of which Greek thinker? Hippocrates
331.	ISRO has tied up with which digital mapping and location-based deep-tech company to offer a fully indigenous, mapping portal and related geospatial services? MapmyIndia
332.	Which national day is observed on Feb 12 to commemorate the establishment of a council on this day in 1958, based on its name? National Productivity Day
333.	What is the three pronged theme for this year's World Radio Day? Evolution, Innovation, Connection
334.	India celebrates National Women's Day on Feb 13 to commemorate the birthday of which great Indian woman? Sarojini Naidu
335.	What was the popular sobriquet attributed to Sarojini Naidu? Bharat Kokila
336.	Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first CNG tractor on Feb 12. What is CNG? Compressed Natural Gas
337.	The Tamil film "Koozhangal" won "Tiger" award for the best film at the 50th edition of the _____. International Film Festival: Rotterdam
338.	The Export-Import Bank of India has approved a \$400 million credit a mega connectivity project in which country? Maldives
339.	Which country conducted a successful training launch of the surface to surface ballistic cruise missile 'Babur'? Pakistan
340.	Mario Draghi has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of which European country? Italy
341.	The World Bank approved a \$100 million support for CHIRAG project in which state? Chhattisgarh
342.	Indian Army placed an order for 118 indigenously manufactured Arjun Mark 1-A tanks. What is its popular name? Hunter Killer
343.	Arjun Mark 1-A tanks are built at the Indian Ordnance Factory's production facility at which place? Avadi, Chennai
344.	The Indian National Congress named which party veteran as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha? Mallikarjun Kharge
345.	Who has been selected as the new Director General of the International Solar Alliance? Dr. Ajay Mathur
346.	Who became the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen? Ravichandran Ashwin
347.	RBI formed a committee headed by _____ for drawing a vision document to strengthen urban co-operative banks: N S Vishwanathan
348.	Who has been named as the new Director General of the World Trade Organisation? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
349.	Which state launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students' initiative? Sikkim

350.	Dr. Kiran Bedi, former IPS Officer has been removed from the post of Lieutenant Governor of which UT? Puducherry
351.	Which State's Chief Minister has been honoured with the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award? Andhra Pradesh
352.	Who is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh? Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
353.	In which state at least 51 persons, including 20 women, were killed when a bus skidded off the road and plunged into a canal? Madhya Pradesh
354.	The government launched an online portal _____ to offer civil services in 62 Cantonments Boards across the country: e-Chhawani
355.	The Indian Navy got its third indigenously built Scorpene Submarine on Feb 15. What is its name? INS Karanj
356.	Name the former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand and eminent jurist, who passed away on February 16 in Bengaluru: Justice (Retd) M Rama Jois
357.	At which place three fossils of the world's earliest known living animal- the 550 million years old Dickinsonia- have been discovered by the researchers? Bhimbetka rock shelters, Madhya Pradesh
358.	In which US state millions of people suffered in extreme cold as a severe winter storm snapped electricity supply? Texas
359.	Which country hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with other SAARC countries on February 18 to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis? India
360.	The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with which country? Mauritius
361.	The Ministry of Education has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as _____. : Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools and hostels
362.	The Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation have recognized _____ as a 2020 Tree City of World: Hyderabad
363.	The American space agency NASA successfully landed its fifth rover named _____ on Mars on Feb 18: Perseverance
364.	Who won her second women's national title at the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championships? Manika Batra
365.	The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called _____. : Sandes
366.	The Exim Bank extended a line of credit (LOC) of \$15 million to which country for improving potable water facilities? Sierra Leone
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367.	India's first ever driverless train operations were flagged off on _____ Metro's Magenta Line: Delhi

368.	Indian and Vietnamese Navy concluded the two-day naval passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in which area? South China Sea
369.	Which Football player won the FIFA Player of the Century Award? Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal
370.	NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called _____: 'DigiBoxx'
371.	Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade? Virat Kohli
372.	Who won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade? Ellyse Perry (Australia)
373.	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
374.	Which Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India? Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh
375.	The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on ____ day of December: 27th
376.	The India Meteorological Department opened its highest Meteorological Centre located at 3,500 metres above sea level at which place? Leh, Ladakh
377.	_____ has become the first wrestler of the country to win silver at the Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia: Anshu Malik
378.	Name the French fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, who died aged 98: Pierre Cardin
379.	As per an international report which country suffered maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020? India
380.	Which is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses? Serum Institute of India, Pune
381.	What is the name of India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine? Pneumosil
382.	Government launched which portal and mobile app to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world? The Global Pravasi Rishta
383.	The government has approved the export of which indigenously built missile system? Akash
384.	The entire state of _____ was declared a disturbed area for another six more months from Dec 30: Nagaland
385.	What is the name of India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container? SAHAYAK-NG
386.	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of which paramilitary force? Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
387.	Winner of the Scientist of the Year Award, senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey hails from which apex organization? DRDO

388.	Who has been elected as the youngest mayor of India in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala? Arya Rajendran
389.	Which F1 driver has been honoured with the Knighthood in Britain? Lewis Hamilton
390.	Country's first Pollinator Park was thrown open to the public in _____ in Uttarakhand: Haldwani
391.	Who has been appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO? Suneet Sharma
392.	The Asian Development Bank cleared a \$ 231 million loan to augment electricity generation capacity in which state? Assam
393.	Name the veteran Congress leader and former Union home minister who passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi: Buta Singh
394.	Winner of Eminent Engineer Award-2020, V.K. Yadav, is Chairman & CEO of which apex organization? Railway Board
395.	Which is the first private company to successfully test-fire the technology demonstration version of their solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? Skyroot Aerospace, Hyderabad
396.	What is the name of India's first private sector solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? Kalam-5
397.	Which apex organisation has unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com? Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
398.	World Braille Day is celebrated on Jan 4 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? Louis Braille
399.	How many convex dots are used in the Braille language that forms all the letters and symbols? Six
400.	The Reserve Bank of India launched _____ Index to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India: Digital Payments
401.	Which billionaire has zoomed to the second spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021? Elon Musk
402.	Billionaire Elon Musk is associated with which business? Tesla Motors, USA
403.	A 450-km natural gas pipeline between _____ in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka, was inaugurated on Jan 5: Kochi
404.	The National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the CSIR & National Physical Laboratory. Metrology is associated with which field? Weight and measures
405.	Alexander Ellis has been appointed as the new British High Commissioner to which country? India
406.	India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from _____ on Jan 4: Goa
407.	Which Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment? EXIM Bank
408.	The Reserve Bank operationalised its Payments Infrastructure Development Fund on Dec 5 for what purpose? For promoting digital payments

409. The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$100 million loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in which city? Bengaluru city	430. Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed which building on Jan 6 in a stunning bid to overturn his election defeat? US Capitol
410. The World Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in which state? West Bengal	431. Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9 marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 from which country? South Africa
411. The World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Meteorological Centre in India? Patna	432. World Hindi Day is observed on January 10 to mark the holding of which event for the first time in 1975? World Hindi Conference
412. Which special force inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers? National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)	433. The National Hindi Diwas is observed on which date? Sep 14
413. Headquarters of the Exim Bank are located in which city? Mumbai	434. Who was the Chief Guest for the celebrations of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas? Chandrikapersad Santokhi
414. World's largest solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam on _____ River: Narmada	435. Who is Sh.Chandrikapersad Santokhi? President of Suriname
415. Omkareshwar dam project is located in which state? Madhya Pradesh	436. What was the theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas? Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
416. Which global Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in West Bengal? The World Bank	437. Indian Navy coordinated the second edition of the largest coastal defence exercise named _____ : Sea Vigil-21
417. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Indian Meteorological Centre? Patna	438. Naval defence exercise Sea Vigil-21 was conducted at which place? All along the Indian coast and EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)
418. What is the name of the inter-ministerial venture launched to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system? Toycathon	439. 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: 200 nautical miles (370.4 km)
419. RBI has made use of the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. ____ : 50crore and above	440. Which organization has offered to adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs to promote Space Education and related innovations for school students? Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO
420. LEI is a unique identification code comprising of ____ digits: 20	441. Which organization looks after the functioning of Atal Tinkering Labs? NITI Aayog
421. Which organization brings out the Global Economic Prospects Report? World Bank	442. National Youth Day is observed on January 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? Swami Vivekananda
422. Faustin-Archange Touadera has been re-elected as the President of Central _____ Republic: African	443. What was the original of Swami Vivekananda? Narendra Nath Datta
423. World Day of War Orphans is observed on which day of January? 6th	444. Who was the Guru of of Swami Vivekananda? Ramakrishna Paramhansa
424. What is the cash prize given in the National Florence Nightingale Award? Rs. 50,000	445. The Henley's passport index has retained _____ on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world: Japan
425. 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: 7.7	446. The Indian passport was placed at which rank in the Henley's Passport Index? 85
426. The New Development Bank, Shanghai signed loan agreements worth \$646 million with the Government of India for two road projects in which Indian State? Andhra Pradesh	447. Four times Chief Minister of Gujarat and two times union minister from Gujarat passed away on Jan 9. Who was he? Madhavsingh Solanki
427. Which is the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a license from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank? The Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Saharanpur	448. The Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held on Jan 9 in Mao town of Senapati district of which state? Manipur
428. Claire Polosak scripted history on Jan 7 by becoming the first female _____ in the 144 year old history of men's Test matches: Match official	449. Government has approved procurement of 83 Tejas LCA worth about Rs 48,000 crore. What is LCA? Light Combat Aircraft
429. Claire Polosak hails from which country? Australia	450. Which company will supply 83 Tejas LCA to Indian Air Force? Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru

451.	Makar Sankranti is celebrated by which name in Gujarat? Uttarayan
452.	State of Assam celebrates Makar Sankranti in the form of which festival? Magh Bihu
453.	India's first ever ice climbing festival was held in Nubra valley in which place? Leh, Ladakh
454.	According to a recent government survey, Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and Great Himalayan National Park were declared the best. They are in which place? Kullu, HP
455.	Which country organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video conferencing on January 11? France
456.	SadyrJaparov, former Prime Minister of _____ has been elected as the new President of the country: Kyrgyzstan
457.	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? Army Day
458.	Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, some 45,500 years old, in which country? Indonesia
459.	The Reserve Bank has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI for what purpose? To review the functioning of digital lending
460.	As per the International Migration Report 2020 released by the UN's Population Division, _____ has the world's largest Diaspora: India
461.	Which country is host to the largest number of migrants in the world? USA
462.	What is the name of the India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol developed by DRDO? Asmi
463.	Which Indian ministry won the SKOCH Challenger Award for outstanding performance in e-Governance? Ministry of Tribal Affairs
464.	International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th January in Goa. It was which edition of the festival? 51st
465.	Who was the head of the jury at the 51 st IFFI? Pablo Cesar of Argentina
466.	Which was the country of focus at the 51 st IFFI? Bangladesh
467.	To spur entrepreneurship across the Nation, the government announced Startup India Seed Fund Scheme with a corpus of Rs. _____ crore: 1,000
468.	A unicorn startup is one with a valuation of _____ dollar and above: One billion
469.	In Indonesia a powerful earthquake rocked _____ island, killing at least 92 people: Sulawesi
470.	Who was the renowned Indian classical musician of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana who breathed his last at his Mumbai residence on Jan 17? Ustad Mustafa Khan
471.	Ustad Mustafa Khan was honoured with which of the national Awards - Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan? All three

472.	What does letter 'R' stands for in the abbreviation PCRA? Research
473.	What is the name of the one month long awareness campaign launched by the PCRA on Jan16? SAKSHAM
474.	The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, opened which portal to the general public? National Innovation Portal
475.	ICICI Bank has tied up with Niyo to issue prepaid cards 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card' to which segment of customers? The blue collar workers of MSMEs
476.	What is the name of the bike ambulances launched by the DRDO for the CRPF? Rakshita
477.	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? 2021 to 26
478.	The new Foreign Trade Policy aims to make India a \$ _____ trillion economy by boosting exports: Five
479.	President of which African country scored a decisive election victory in third week of January to win a record sixth term as the President? Uganda
480.	Who has won the sixth term as President in Uganda? Yoweri Museveni
481.	Which city hosted the Yonex Thailand Open - 2021 Badminton Tournament? Bangkok
482.	India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in _____ in Kerala: Alappuzha
483.	Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force conducted a five day (Jan 20 to 24) bilateral Air exercise at which place? Air Force Station, Jodhpur
484.	What was the name of the 5 day joint Indo-French air exercise held in Jodhpur? Ex Desert Knight-21
485.	Dr. V. Shanta, the world renowned _____ passed away due to brief illness in Chennai: Oncologist
486.	An oncologist specializes in which field of medicine? Cancer treatment
487.	India created history by winning series against Australia. Where was the fourth and final match played? Brisbane
488.	Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was recently felicitated with which international honour in literature? Canada Sahitya Gaurav
489.	The 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built on which river? Chenab
490.	The Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built in which state/UT? J&K
491.	NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020. Which major state topped the index? Karnataka
492.	Which small state or UT stood first in the India Innovation Index-2020? Delhi
493.	Which state topped the India Innovation Index-2020 in the North East and Hill States category? Himachal Pradesh

494.	Indian Defence Forces conducted which joint exercise in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to explore the synergy of all the four forces? Exercise Kavach
495.	The first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive was launched on which date? January 16
496.	What is the name of the covid vaccine developed and produced indigenously in India? Covaxin
497.	What is the name of the covid vaccine being produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune? Covishield
498.	Covishield vaccine has been developed by whom? University of Oxford and AstraZeneca
499.	Which mobile app has been developed by the Central government to ensure smooth implementation of Covid vaccination across the country? CoWIN
500.	Joe Biden was sworn in as the ____ President of USA on Jan 20: 46th
501.	New US President has declared that the USA will re-join international organization ____: WHO – World Health Organisation
502.	USA has announced that it will not boycott the ____ Accord: Paris Climate
503.	India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at which place? Zaskar in district Kargil of Ladakh
504.	Name the Indian who won the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize given for outstanding and innovative research in mathematics: Nikhil Srivastava
505.	Government has decided to celebrate Jan 23, birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as which national day? Parakram Diwas
506.	Indian Railways has decided to rename one of its oldest trains -- Howrah-Kalka Mail. What's the new name? Netaji Express
507.	Airtel Payments Bank launched which new innovative feature to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds? Airtel SafePay
508.	Which ministry announced the establishment of a first of its kind Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India? Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
509.	Quantum Computing Applications Lab will be established with technical collaboration with which global tech venture? Amazon Web Services
510.	The Reserve Bank declared the continuation of the D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) status for which three Indian Banks for the year 2020? ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank
511.	Global Firepower ranked India at which rank in terms of Military Strength? Fourth
512.	What is Pakistan's rank in the Military Strength Ranking released by the Global Firepower? Tenth
513.	India celebrates National Girl Child Day on which date? January 24

514.	The International Day of Girl Child is observed on which date? October 11
515.	Which day of January is celebrated as the International Day of Education? 24th
516.	In India which day has been selected to be observed as the National Education Day? November 11
517.	The Election Commission of India came into existence on Jan 25, 1950. Which national day is observed to commemorate this day? National Voters Day
518.	Internationally, World Leprosy Day is observed on which day? Last Sunday of January
519.	Leprosy is also known as ____ disease: Hansen's
520.	Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on Jan 31 in 1948. This day is nationally observed as which day? Martyrs Day/Anti Leprosy Day
521.	The Commonwealth of Cricket is a recent book written by whom? Ramchandra Guha
522.	What is the title of the recent novel authored by Rachel Hawkins? The Wife Upstairs
523.	Gazing Eastwards is a book written by which noted historian? Romila Thapar
524.	What is the title of the recent book written by S Y Quraishi, former CEC of India? The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India
525.	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? IFFCO-- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd.
526.	Which cooperative has been declared as the biggest cooperative in the world in terms of annual turnover? Groupe Cr�dit Agricole of France
527.	Name the popular iconic bhajan singer from Amritsar who passed away in New Delhi: Narendra Chanchal
528.	DRDO successfully conducted a captive and release trial of indigenously developed SAAW from Hawk-i aircraft. Expand the term SAAW: Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon
529.	The government has raised the authorised capital of which Bank to Rs.10,000 crore from Rs. 3,000 crore at present? Punjab & Sind Bank
DECEMBER 2020	
530.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavy Weight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? Varunastra
531.	What is the strike range of Varunastra? 40 kms
532.	Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? Meghalaya
533.	International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women is celebrated on which day? November 25
534.	National Milk Day is observed on Nov 26 to mark the birth anniversary of which great pioneer of milk industry? Dr. Verghese Kurien

535.	World Milk Day is observed around the world on which date? June 01.
536.	The Constitution Day celebrated on Nov 26 is also known as _____ Day: National Law Day
537.	Which national day is observed on Nov 27 to promote organ donation? Indian Organ Donation Day
538.	Name the Congress veteran and AICC treasurer who passed away on Nov 25: Ahmed Patel
539.	The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held on Nov 20 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister of which country? Malaysia
540.	Which country will host APEC summit in 2021? New Zealand
541.	Name the strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal which crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on Nov 25: Nivar
542.	World Heritage Week is celebrated every year from Nov 19-25 with the support of which UN agency? UNESCO
543.	Name the Argentinean football legend who passed away on Nov 25: Diego Maradona
544.	Who has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Dubai? Greg Barclay
545.	Which web series has become first from India to win the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards, 2020? Delhi Crime
546.	Which film has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category? Jallikattu
547.	Jallikattu film has been made in which language? Malyalam
548.	Which Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2? Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
549.	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve won the TX2 award for which achievement? For more than doubling the number of tigers in the past four years, from 25 to 65.
550.	The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November with association of which state? Tripura
551.	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? New Zealand
552.	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": IT
553.	Faqir Chand Kohli was the first CEO of which major IT company? TCS – Tata Consultancy Services
554.	According to data by the NSO on Nov 27, the Indian economy contracted by ____ per cent in the quarter ending Sep 30: 7.5
555.	Which country has been ranked at the top in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA on November 27? Belgium

556.	Russia has selected which Indian drug company to manufacture Sputnik V Corona vaccine in India? Hetero Drugs, Hyderabad
557.	Govt has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in which state? Uttarakhand
558.	Roch Marc Christian Kaboré has been re-elected as the President of Burkina Faso, a small landlocked country in ____? Western Africa
559.	Cambridge Dictionary has named ____ as Word of the Year 2020: 'Quarantine'
560.	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? Shameless
561.	Who from India chaired the 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format? Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu
562.	How many countries are the members of SCO? Eight
563.	Who is the Secretary General of SCO? Valadimir Norov
564.	A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 was released to mark the centennial foundation day of which university? University of Lucknow
565.	MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series was recently inducted into Indian Navy. What is it? Drone
566.	Which country has supplied MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone to India? USA
567.	Where in India the largest Solar Project is being set up at a high altitude place? Air Force Station, Leh.
568.	Which bank became the first bank in India to cross Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalization? HDFC Bank
569.	The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf countries is being developed in Saih Shuaib, in which country? UAE
570.	Which batsman recently created a new record for becoming the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs? Virat Kohli
571.	December 1 is observed as the World AIDS Day. Which virus causes AIDS? HIV - human immunodeficiency virus
572.	RBI has increased the timings for RTGS transactions wef Dec 14, 2020. What are the new timings? 24x7 – round the clock – all the days
573.	During April-September 2020, India attracted highest amount of FDI from which country? Singapore
574.	India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched recently under which brand name? XP-100
575.	Which public sector oil marketing company has launched XP_100 petrol? Indian Oil Corporation Limited
576.	_____ become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine: Britain

577.	Nongpok Sekmai police station has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. It is in which state? Manipur
578.	The Reserve Bank has asked which Bank to temporarily stop all launches of the 'Digital Business generating activities'? HDFC Bank
579.	India's spice king and a noted philanthropist, owner of MDH spices, passed away on Dec 3. What was his name? Mahashay Dharampal Gulati
580.	What is the full form of MDH? Mahashian di Hatti
581.	Researchers at which university have created the world's smallest memory device: University of Texas, USA
582.	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also called World Disability Day is observed on which date? December 3
583.	December 2 is observed as the National Pollution Control Day. It is associated with which big industrial disaster? Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Dec 2-3, 1984
584.	What was the name of the highly poisonous gas leakage of which in Bhopal claimed over 6,000 lives in 1984? Methyl Iso-cyanate – MIC
585.	Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as _____ of Lok Sabha with effect from 1 December: Secretary-General
586.	Who appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha? Lok Sabha Speaker
587.	The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode in which state? Nagaland
588.	According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, _____ is the most polluted city in the world: Lahore
589.	As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, _____ is the most impacted country by terrorism, for the second year in a row: Afghanistan
590.	What was India's rank as per the Global Terrorism Index 2020? 8th
591.	Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced _____ as its 2020 word of the year: Pandemic
592.	World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated around the world on which date? December 2
593.	Government has announced launch of a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana, on which river? Saryu
594.	Severe cyclonic storm Nivar made landfall early on Dec 3 at Marakkanam in which state? Tamil Nadu
595.	Which national day is observed on Dec 4 to mark the fierce attack by Indian Navy on Karachi harbour? National/Indian Navy Day
596.	The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise named _____ from 4 to 5 December: PASSEX
597.	The PASSEX exercise with Russian Navy was conducted in which area? Eastern Indian Ocean Region

598.	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: Parkash Singh Badal
599.	The RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs _____ from January 1, 2021: Rs. 5,000
600.	Who has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year'? Gitanjali Rao
601.	Who is the winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020? Ranjitsinh Disale from Gujarat
602.	What is the cash award given with the Global Teacher Prize? \$ 1 million
603.	Who has topped the list of the richest women in India with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore? Roshni Nadar Malhotra
604.	Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the CEO of which company? HCL Technologies
605.	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? China
606.	Who has been elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21? Uday Shankar
607.	International Day of Banks is observed on which day of December? Fourth
608.	What is the theme of the World Soil Day observed on Dec 5? Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
609.	Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer – Asia" has found that _____ has the highest bribery rate at 39%: India
610.	The Indian Air Force carried out successful firing of the short-range Igla missiles. They have been supplied by which country? Russia
611.	Which state proposes to set up Raimona National Park that will cover an area of 422 sq km.? Assam
612.	The government has given its nod to create a new position in the India army. What is its name? Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy
613.	Who is the first appointee to the newly created post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy? Lt Gen Paramjit Singh
614.	Japanese spaceship _____ successfully sent on earth a small capsule to deliver samples collected by it from a distant asteroid: Hayabusa-2
615.	What is the name of the space agency of Japan? Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency – JAXA
616.	International Volunteer Day is observed on which date? December 5
617.	Which two cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO? Gwalior and Orchha
618.	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: Jehan Daruwalla

619. International Civil Aviation Day is observed on Dec 7 to highlight the role and importance of which international organization? International Civil Aviation Organisation	640. 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? 86cm
620. Where are the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organisation located? Montreal, Canada	641. In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, who has been placed at top? Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
621. Which national day is observed throughout the country on Dec 7 to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform? Armed Forces Flag Day	642. Which politician has secured highest rank, 41 st , among Indians in the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women? Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister
622. Asian Development Bank approved a \$ 190 million loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in which Indian city? Bengaluru	643. Parthiv Patel announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game. He led which Ranji team to its first victory? Gujarat
623. Which International day is observed on Dec 2 to spread awareness about ending human trafficking and the exploitation of humans? International Day for Abolition of Slavery	644. Which Indian organization won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award? Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
624. Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of which international foundation? WHO Foundation	645. The ICAR is based in which city? New Delhi
625. Which Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which allows its use to customers of any other bank? ICICI Bank	646. Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for which of his novel? The City and the Sea
626. The International Olympic Committee has registered which dance form as an official Olympic sport with the name breaking? Break-dance	647. India has been ranked at which place in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) -2020? 10th
627. _____ has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface: China	648. Which day of December has been selected for celebrating the Human Rights Day? 10th
628. Which global bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India? Asian Development Bank	649. _____ has beaten Coronavirus to second place to become India's most searched word on Google in 2020: IPL - Indian Premier League
629. Who has been declared World Athlete of the Year – Male by the World Athletics? Mondo Duplantis of Sweden	650. The union cabinet approved on Dec 8 which scheme to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities? Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana
630. Mondo Duplantis is associated with which sports? Pole Vault	651. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana government will provide PF contribution of both employee and of employer for how many years? Two
631. Who is the winner of the World Athlete of the Year – Female award? Yulimar Rojas	652. _____ has become the first Union Territory to practise 100% organic farming? Lakshadweep
632. Yulimar Rojas is an outstanding champion of which athletic event? Triple jump	653. 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? PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI)
633. Sergio Perez became the first Mexican victor (since 1970) in F1 race winning the Sakhir Grand Prix in which country? Bahrain	654. The Indian Navy has placed an order for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems with which country? Israel
634. Sergio Perez, winner of the Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain, hails from which country? Mexico	655. According to a report by Truecaller, India has been placed at which place in terms of the number of spam calls? 9th
635. Who became the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes? Kibiwott Kandie	656. Who has been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year'? Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
636. Kibiwott Kandie is a marathon runner from which country? Kenya	657. Name the contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, who died in Mumbai on Dec 10: Astad Deboo
637. International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on which day of December? 9th	658. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of which Arabian country? Kuwait
638. What is the theme of this year's International Anti-Corruption Day? Recover With Integrity	
639. The Indian Navy celebrates National Submarine Day on Dec 9 to commemorate the induction of the first submarine named _____ : INS Kalvari	

659.	Which international day is observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world? International Mountain Day
660.	Who won FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Men for 2020? Wrestler Bajrang Punia
661.	Which female shooter won the FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Women for 2020? Elavenil Valarivan
662.	A joint virtual summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of _____ Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Dec 11: Uzbekistan
663.	The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 was awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from _____: Brazil
664.	Which international day is celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946? UNICEF Day, Dec 11
665.	Headquarters of UNICEF are located in which city? New York
666.	Who is the current head of the UNICEF? Ms. Henrietta H. Fore
667.	Which UN agency celebrates the International Universal Health Coverage Day on Dec 12? WHO - World Health Organisation
668.	The summit named Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was held recently to mark fifth anniversary of which climate agreement? Paris Climate Agreement
669.	_____ became the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help: Morocco
670.	The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, _____ and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held on Dec 14 in virtual mode: Iran
671.	Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and propagator of the Madhva ideology, passed away recently. He hailed from which state? Karnataka
672.	Which UN organization has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu? UNESCO
673.	Which great Bangladeshi leader is popularly known as Bangabandhu? Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
674.	Headquarters of UNESCO are located in which city? Paris
675.	Who is the current Director General of UNESCO? Ms. Audrey Azoulay
676.	WHO signed a MoU also known as 'Red Channel Agreement' with which popular NGO? Red Cross
677.	What is the name of the Nilgiri-class frigate that was recently launched at Kolkata? INS Himgiri
678.	Max Verstappen, winner of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, hails from which country? Netherlands
679.	The National Energy Conservation Day is observed on which day of December? 14th

680.	The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated by which organization under the Ministry of Power? Bureau of Energy Efficiency
681.	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: Rajasthan
682.	Vijay Diwas is observed every year on Dec 16 to mark the victory over Pakistan in which war? 1971
683.	India Post Payments Bank launched a new digital payment app for its customers to operate their banking services online. What is its name? Dak Pay
684.	The United Kingdom has confirmed that Britain's Prime Minister _____ will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021: Boris Johnson
685.	The International Hockey Federation had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in _____, India: Odisha
686.	ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) were commissioned at Goa in which wing of Indian forces? Indian Coast Guard
687.	Name the eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka who died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14: Roddam Narasimha
688.	Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate Tea Day on which date? Dec. 15
689.	Which is the largest tea producing state of India? Assam
690.	Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14? Russia
691.	What is the name of the space agency of Russia? Roscosmos
692.	The New Development Bank approved a \$1 billion loan to provide support to _____ Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme: Atma Nirbhar Bharat
693.	Name the 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur engineer who won the Young Champions of the Earth 2020: Vidut Mohan
694.	India slipped by one spot to rank _____ among 189 countries covered in the 2020 Human Development Index: 131
695.	Which country topped the 2020 Human Development Index? Norway
696.	A capsule from which Chinese spacecraft successfully brought back samples from the Moon's surface? Chang'e-5
697.	India signed a \$400 million pact with the _____ to protect the poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19: World Bank
698.	Name the American media personality who was announced the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes in its Highest-Paid Celebrity List 2020: Kylie Jenner
699.	Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected as the President of _____, a country in west Africa: Ghana
700.	ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite. What is its name? CMS-01

701. Government has decided to include _____ henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games: Yoga
702. ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre named _____, at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru: NETRTA
703. The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in _____, Gujarat: Kutch
704. India contributed \$ 1 million to which global sports body? World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
705. 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? Russia
706. Which international day is observed every year on Dec 18 to protect the rights of migrant workers and of members of their families? International Migrants Day
707. What is the theme for this year's International Migrants Day? Reimagining Human Mobility
708. India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on Dec 18. How many minority communities are recognized in India? Six
709. _____ 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: Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad
710. Who won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2020 Award? Robert Lewandowski
711. Robert Lewandowski hails from which country? Poland
712. Which player won the Best FIFA women's Player 2020 Award? Lucy Bronze, England
713. The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in which area? Indian Ocean
714. The Olympic Council of Asia awarded hosting of 2030 Asian Games to _____ and of 2034 Asian Games to _____ : Doha, Qatar; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, respectively
715. Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance? Singapore
716. Which Bank in partnership with Mastercard, launched India's first metal credit card – 'PIONEER Heritage'? IndusInd Bank
717. The Human Freedom Index 2020 placed India at the _____ spot out of 162 countries: 111th
718. Which country topped the Human Freedom Index 2020? New Zealand
719. India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was inaugurated at which place? Hyderabad
720. The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of which four indigenous games to be a part of Khelo

India Youth Games 2021? Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang Ta and Mallakhamb
721. Martial art Thang Ta is associated with which state? Manipur
722. 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: Motilal Vora
723. International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on which date? Dec 20
724. 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: Anshu Malik
725. President of which country conferred the country's highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi? USA
726. Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur, all three won gold medal in the World Cup of which sports? Boxing
727. Who has been honoured with the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award? Ratan Tata
728. National Mathematics Day is observed in India on which date? Dec 22
729. National Mathematics Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which legendary mathematician? Srinivasa Ramanujan
730. Which state became first to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India? Uttar Pradesh
731. The World Bank recently came out with its revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report. India was placed at which spot in this report? 63rd
732. ADB approved a \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project in which state? Assam
733. Who is the winner of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020 Award? Lewis Hamilton
734. The Reliance Industries-BP Plc combine started production of natural gas in Asia's deepest gas block in Bay of Bengal near which place? Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
735. Which two prominent universities held their centenary celebrations in the month of December? Aligarh Muslim University and Viswa Bharti University
736. National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) on Dec 23 marks the birth anniversary of which veteran farmer leader? Chaudhary Charan Singh
737. Which day in December is observed as the National Consumer Day in India? Dec 24
738. Which Bank sanctioned a Rs 2,100 crore loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state? Asian Development Bank
739. Who has been elected as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)? Vineet Aggarwal

740.	Which bank launched a first of its kind portal 'Infinite India' to attract foreign firms to India? ICICI Bank
741.	Which country topped the final rankings for 2020 for men's team released by the International Hockey Federation? Belgium
742.	India has added Tso Kar wetland complex to the list of Ramsar Sites. It is in which state? Ladakh
743.	Who has been appointed chairman of the senior national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee? Chetan Sharma
744.	'Oh Mizoram' is a book written by P S Sreedharan Pillai. Who is he? Governor of Mizoram
745.	What is the title of the recent book by Pranab Mukharjee, former President of India? The Presidential Years 2012-2017
746.	Noted journalist and author Raj Kamal Jha won an international prize for which of his books? The City and the Sea
747.	Who is the author of the recently published popular book "A Sky Beyond the Storm"? Sabaa Tahir
748.	India celebrates Good Governance Day on December 25 in the honour of which great statesman of India? Atal Bihari Vajpayee
749.	What is the name of the Samadhi of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi? Sadaiv Atal
750.	What is the name of the web portal launched to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government? E-Sampada
751.	Florin Citu has been elected as the new _____ of Romania, a country in south eastern Europe: Prime Minister
NOVEMBER 2020	
752.	Which Indian organization has won the UN Global Climate Action Award? Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh
753.	Luis Arce has been elected as the President of which country? Bolivia
754.	The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in which region? NCR – National Capital Region
755.	As per the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25, how many vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established? Five
756.	Which state is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment? Tamil Nadu
757.	_____ has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. Kerala
758.	Railways has launched which initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones? 'Meri Saheli'
759.	Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging app like Whatsapp, Telegram. What is its name? Secure Application for Internet (SAI)

760.	Why October 29 has been selected as the International Internet Day? First internet transmission took place on this day in 1969
761.	Which bank has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance? DBS Bank, Singapore
762.	Which bank has been ranked as the "Best Bank in The World" by the Global Finance? DBS Bank, Singapore
763.	Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India? Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
764.	Kabartaal Wetland, also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', has been designated as Ramsar site. It is in which state? Bihar
765.	Which agency grants the 'Ramsar site' status? Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland
766.	The Indian Navy successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from which war ship on October 30? INS Kora
767.	Which national park has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve? Panna National Park
768.	Panna National Park is located in which state? Madhya Pradesh
769.	Panna National Park is associated with conservation of which animal? Tiger
770.	An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern _____ on Oct 30, killing over 50 people: Turkey
771.	Name the Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom playing British agent James Bond, 007: Sir Sean Connery
772.	Lewis Hamilton celebrated a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in which country? Italy
773.	Which two Indians won the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France? Amit Panghal and Sanjeet
774.	World Savings Day is observed on which day in India? October 30
775.	The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of which country with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph? Philippines
776.	A new scheme 'SERB – POWER' has been launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent _____. Women researchers
777.	The SERB POWER scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of _____ years: 35-55
778.	World Vegan Day is observed on which date? November 01
779.	In which country gunmen stormed a book fair being held in a university, killing over 25 persons? Afghanistan
780.	The central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for what purpose? Improvement of air quality measures

781.	The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on _____ accounts: Basic Savings Bank Deposit
782.	A solar energy-driven miniature train, billed as the country's first of its kind, was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village in which state? Kerala
783.	The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade, by which name? Malabar Exercise
784.	The Malabar Exercise was conducted in which area? Bay of Bengal
785.	Priyanka Radhakrishnan, 41 year old politician created history by becoming the first Indian-origin woman minister in which country? New Zealand
786.	Which Indian bank has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India by Asiamoney? HDFC Bank
787.	Alassane Ouattara has been elected as the _____ of the Ivory Coast for the third time: President
788.	Which tennis star recently became fourth player in the history to win 1,000 ATP matches? Rafael Nadal
789.	India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated in which city? Nagpur
790.	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$132.8 loan to _____ for upgrading the power distribution network: Meghalaya
791.	In which country John Magufuli secured 84% votes to become the President for the second term? Tanzania
792.	Which company built the ship ICGS C-452, recently inducted in the Indian Coast Guard? L&T Shipbuilding, Surat
793.	Which nation conferred the honorary rank of "General" upon our Army Chief General M M Naravane? Nepal
794.	Name the powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains that hit Nicaragua in Central America: Storm Eta
795.	Which Social media platform has recently been allowed to use India's UPI platform to make bank payments? WhatsApp
796.	The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in which state? Himachal Pradesh
797.	The Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is being built on which river? Satluj
798.	_____ is the first country to announce its exit from the Paris Climate Agreement – 2015: USA
799.	Which country is the largest producer of the Green House Gases in the world? China
800.	World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on which day of November? 5th
801.	The Sendai Framework-2015 is associated with what? Disaster Risk Reduction
802.	The Sendai Framework-2015 was adopted in which city? Sendai, Japan

803.	The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for category of its customers? Milleniala
804.	The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in India at which airbase? Jamnagar, Gujarat
805.	Gyanendro Ningombam has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India. He is former Hockey chief of which state? Manipur
806.	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? Marie Curie
807.	What was the name of the military exercise involving Special Forces of Army, Navy and Air force, held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands? Bull Strike
808.	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? Kerala
809.	Which district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September? Chandauli
810.	Who has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas? Dr M. M. Kuttu
811.	ISRO successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite named _____: EOS-01
812.	Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the _____ President of the United States: 46th
813.	Who has been elected as the new Vice President of USA? Kamala Harris
814.	International Day of Radiology is associated with which great scientist? Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen
815.	The X-radiation is measured in which unit? Roentgen
816.	President of which country released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi)? Nepal
817.	The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for which period? 2021-26
818.	A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article ____ of the Constitution: 280
819.	India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project has been commissioned in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
820.	National Legal Services Day observed on Nov 9 is associated with enactment of which Act? Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
821.	World Town Planning Day or World Urbanism Day is celebrated on which day? Nov 08
822.	Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as what? Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
823.	Which UN organization supports the celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development on Nov 10? UNESCO

824.	The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in which state? Uttarakhand
825.	Indian army gifted 20 trained horses and 10 sniffer dogs to the army of which country? Bangladesh
826.	_____ clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals: Mumbai Indians
827.	Which word has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020? Lockdown
828.	Which UN agency launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation
829.	National Education Day is associated with the birth day of which great leader? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
830.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad held which portfolio in the first cabinet of free India? Education Ministry
831.	World Pneumonia Day is observed on which date? Nov 12
832.	Pneumonia affects which part of human body? Lungs
833.	Public Service Broadcasting Day is associated with the sole visit of which great leader to radio station, Delhi? Mahatma Gandhi
834.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of which other country? Vietnam
835.	Which state topped the Second National Water Awards announced on November 11? Tamil Nadu
836.	The world's longest serving Prime Minister, who died recently, was from which country? Bahrain
837.	Armenia and Azerbaijan engaged in a fierce military battle over which disputed territory? Nagorno-Karabakh
838.	What is the name of the Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine that was launched recently? INS Vagir
839.	A recession is defined as ____ successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP: Two
840.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought OTT digital/online media under its purview. What is OTT? Over The Top
841.	_____ has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully launched the 6G communications test satellite: China
842.	Which corporate leader has topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020? Azim Premji
843.	Which country's Sovereign Wealth Fund has become the first foreign SWF to get 100% income-tax exemption in India? Abu Dhabi
844.	The Finance Ministry has extended the ECLGS for small businesses, individual loans for business purposes till March 31, 2021. What is expansion of ECLGS? Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

845.	Which new scheme has been launched to give Employees contribution and employer's contribution to EPF-registered organizations on recruiting new people? Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
846.	Sadat Rahman who won the International Children's Peace Prize, hails from which country? Bangladesh
847.	Lonar Lake, the Crater Lake in Buldhana, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It is in which state? Maharashtra
848.	Which city created a world record for lighting largest number of diyas (over 6 lakh) at one time? Ayodhya
849.	Over 6 lakh diyas were lighted on the banks of which river? Saryu
850.	Typhoon Vamco devastated dozens of towns in Cagayan region of which country? Philippines
851.	World Kindness Day is observed on which date? November 13
852.	What is the theme for this year's World Diabetes Day? The Nurse and Diabetes
853.	National Press Day is observed on Nov 16 to mark the founding of which organization? Press Council of India
854.	International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 with the support of which UN agency? UNICEF
855.	Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh was in news for what reasons? It has been declared 'Ramsar wet land'
856.	Soumitra Chatterjee, a Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient, passed away at Kolkata Nursing Home at the age of 85. He was associated with which field? Acting
857.	Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog named Rhaniaxalus. It is found in which area? Andaman Islands and the northeast
858.	World Ayurveda Day is associated with which great ancient sage? Dhanwantari
859.	What is the theme for this year's World Ayurveda Day? Ayurveda for Covid
860.	National Epilepsy Day is observed on which day of November? 17th
861.	Epilepsy is associated with which organ of human body? Brain
862.	Which country hosted the 12th BRICS summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode? Russia
863.	Which country has been given the hosting of 13th BRICS Summit? India
864.	Who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time? Nitish Kumar
865.	The blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. It is in which state? Assam
866.	The Baghjan oil well is owned by which oil company? OIL - Oil India Ltd.
867.	Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with

	which global body to receive advisory services for asset monetization? World Bank
868.	15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc. What is its name? Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP)
869.	World's first of its kind tram car library has been started in which Indian city? Kolkata
870.	Which F1 champion equaled the Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles? Lewis Hamilton, Britain
871.	Lewis Hamilton drives for which F1 team? Mercedes
872.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his _____ counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19: Luxembourg
873.	India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer _____ has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world: 'Param Siddhi'
874.	RBI placed which bank under moratorium from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days? Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Chennai
875.	Which country will now host FIFA Women's Under-17 Football World Cup? India
876.	Storm Iota, a strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across which area? Central America
877.	RBI launched Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation in which field? Financial sector
878.	Who will be the first chairperson of the RBIH? Kris Gopalakrishnan
879.	The Naturopathy Day is celebrated on which date? Nov 18
880.	In the acronym AYUSH, what the letter 'S' stands for? Siddha
881.	Siddha refers to which line of treatment? Ayurveda as it is practiced in Kerala
882.	World celebrates World Toilet Day on which day of November? 19th
883.	What is the name of the surveillance plane recently inducted in the Indian Navy? Boeing P-81
884.	World Philosophy Day is observed on which Thursday of November? Third
885.	Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Children's Day on Nov 20? UNICEF
886.	Which bank approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project? New Development Bank
887.	Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? Shanghai
888.	The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of which state? Meghalaya
889.	Booker Prize for Fiction has been won by which noted author? Douglas Stuart
890.	Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for which novel? Shuggie Bain

891.	What is the amount of cash award in the Booker Prize? Pound 50,000
892.	Government launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' for the safety of which segment of workers? Sewer or septic tank cleaners
893.	According to a 2018 report on the 'Vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System', which state has best sex ratio? Arunachal Pradesh
894.	What is the sex ratio at birth in Arunachal Pradesh as per a recent report? 1085 girls per 1000 boys
895.	World Economic Forum (WEF) selected how many Indian cities to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities? Four
896.	In this latest World's Best Cities Report, which city has been ranked at the top? London
897.	Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed on ____ November: 19th
898.	What is the theme of this year's International Men's Day observed on Nov 19? Better Health for Men and Boys
899.	_____ has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus: Mumbai
900.	World Fisheries Day is observed on which day? Nov 21
901.	World Television Day is observed on Nov 21. Who invented TV? John Logie Baird
902.	India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in which state? Uttarakhand
903.	As per new rule by ICC, a player must be of minimum ____ years of age to play international cricket: 15
904.	The Women's T20 World Cup will now be hosted in Feb 2023 by which country? South Africa
905.	Who has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva? G C Murmu
906.	India celebrates NCC Day every year on ____ Sunday of November: Fourth
907.	Which national day is celebrated every year on Nov 20 to mark the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin? Awaas Diwas
908.	What was the name of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise conducted by the Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand in Andaman Sea? SITMEX- 20
909.	Which country hosted the 15th G20 Summit on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format? Saudi Arabia
910.	The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held from Nov 18 to 20 at which place? Andaman Sea
911.	India observed the National Newborn Week from ____ to ____ November: 15 to 21
912.	India has been placed at which rank in a global list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020? 77th
913.	What is the title of the latest novel by Paulo Coelho? The Archer
914.	'Boskiyana' is a book written by Yashwant Vyas. It is the story of the life of which famous lyricist? Gulzar

915.	What is the title of the book that is memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President? A Promised Land
916.	"I am no Messiah" is the title of the autobiography of which popular Bollywood star? Sonu Sood
917.	Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise from Nov 23 to 25. What was its name? SIMBEX-20
918.	The immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21. It is associated with worship of which deity? Sun
919.	The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in which state? West Bengal
920.	What is the operational name of Indian GPS (IRNSS)? NavIC
921.	Name the Indian girl who won the Children's Climate Prize of Norway: Vinisha Umashankar
922.	Vinisha Umashankar won the Children's Climate Prize for which invention? A mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box
923.	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? Hong Kong, Zurich and Paris
924.	Name the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam who passed away recently? Tarun Gogoi
925.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first HeavyWeight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? Varunastra
926.	What is the strike range of Varunastra? 40 kms
927.	Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? Meghalaya
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928.	India and the US signed which agreement at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit? Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)
929.	201. Which national day is observed on October 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? Rashtriya Ekta Diwas
930.	Which International day is observed across the world on October 31 to work together for planned and sustainable urban life? World Cities Day
931.	"The Battle of Belonging" is a book written by which former Congress union minister? Shashi Tharoor
932.	What is the title of the latest book by V E Schwab? The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue
933.	Who is the author of the recently released book titled "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside"? N K Singh, renowned politician and economist
934.	The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on which day of October? 27th
935.	Which company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes? NTPC Ltd.

936.	Which F1 driver broke the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher? Lewis Hamilton
937.	India has secured which rank in the Global Teacher Status Index? 6th
938.	Army celebrates Infantry Day on October 27 to commemorate the sacrifice of its soldiers in which battle? Indo Pak battle of 1947
939.	One of the founding members of BJP, a towering leader of BJP from Rajasthan, breathed his last on Sep 27. Who was he? Jaswant Singh
940.	Which Bank approved two loans totalling \$570 million for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh? Asian Development Bank
941.	Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the AIFF Footballer of the Year award. Who is he? Goalkeeper of Indian men's team
942.	Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
943.	The Reserve Bank has introduced which system for safer cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees to prevent cases of fraud? Positive Pay System
944.	Neetu David, one of finest women cricketers of India in the late '90s and early 2000, has been appointed to which important position? Chairman of the women's national selection panel
945.	Name the 74-year old renowned economist, who passed away in New Delhi: Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia
946.	Who has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune? Shekhar Kapur
947.	The Reserve Bank of India has roped in which Bollywood megastar for its customer awareness campaign? Amitabh Bachchan
948.	Moctar Ouane has been appointed as new prime minister of Mali. Where is this country? Western Africa
949.	The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund has been launched for which segment of people? SC students studying in higher educational institutions
950.	Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been sworn in as the ruling Emir of which oil-rich country? Kuwait
951.	Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing award has been won by Tourism department of which state? Kerala
952.	Which Bollywood actor has been conferred with SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award? Sonu Sood
953.	Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding scientists below the age of ____ years: 45
954.	Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding Scientists in how many fields: Seven
955.	Alyssa Healy surpassed Dhoni's world record of 91 dismissals by a wicket keeper in T20i. She plays for which country? Australia

956. RBI has deferred implementation of which provisions made under Basel III capital norms? **Capital Conservation Buffer and Net Stable Funding Ratio**
957. India has announced USD 15 million grant assistance to which country for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries? **Sri Lanka**
958. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik Summit on October 2. What is its short name? **VAIBHAV**
959. International Day of Older Persons is observed on which date? **October 01**
960. Which global human rights organisation freed its operations in India? **Amnesty International**
961. Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? **London**
962. The RBI has excluded how many public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934? **Six**
963. ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) was inducted in to Indian Coast Guard at which place? **Kolkata**
964. Which International day aims to highlight the benefits of vegetarianism? **World Vegetarian Day, Oct 01**
965. National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed in India on which date? **October 01**
966. Which international day is observed to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence? **International Day of Non-violence**
967. At which place Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated on Oct 3 the world's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel? **At Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh**
968. The Atal Tunnel has been built across which mountain range? **Pir Panjal**
969. The Atal Tunnel connects Manali with the area of which valley? **Lahaul Spiti Valley**
970. What is the name of the 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5? **Bongosagar-2**
971. Which country has committed \$1.9 million to support Indian workers whose livelihoods were disrupted due to COVID-19? **USA**
972. What is the name of indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile, with a strike range of around 1,000 km? **Shaurya**
973. A Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: "Summit RAISE 2020" was held from 5 to 9 of October. What is full form of RAISE? **Responsible AI for Social Empowerment**
974. Which state launched 'Gram Darshan' portal to bring data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online? **Haryana**

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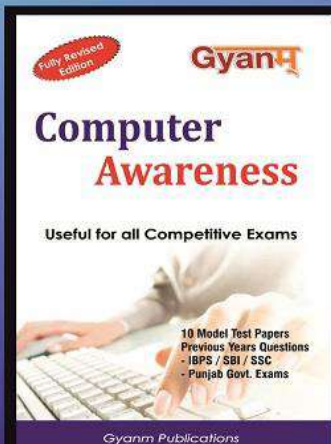
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