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GENERAL AWARENESS

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Contents

CURRENT AFFAIRS April 2021 to May 2021	03-35
BULLET NEWS Dec 2020 to March 2021	36-58
LATEST 100 GK MCQs	59-66
SBI CLERK - Prelims MODEL TEST PAPER	67-83
Current GK Bytes	84-109

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

MAY

MODI ATTENDS EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually joined in the Meeting of the European Council on May 9 as a special invitee of European Council President, Charles Michel. The meeting was hosted by Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, as Portugal currently holds the Presidency of the European Union Council.

All the 27 heads of nations of European Union attended the Meeting. A wide range of issues were discussed at the meeting including Free Trade Agreement, Foreign policy and security, controlling COVID-19, Climate change and environment, Trade, connectivity and technology, Non-proliferation and Disarmament, among others.

MODI HOLDS VIRTUAL SUMMIT WITH UK PM

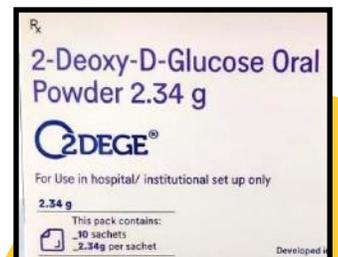
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson participated in the India UK Virtual Summit on May 04. The two sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral ties and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

They adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. The Roadmap will pave the way for a deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years in the areas of people-to-people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.

FINALLY, A DRUG FOR CURING COVID-19

The Drugs Controller General of India has given its approval for the emergency use of the anti-COVID drug- 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The drug has been approved as an adjunct therapy in the moderate to severe COVID-19 cases.

It can provide early relief from oxygen dependency among the patients, which can be helpful as the second Covid-19 wave rages on across the country, and more patients continue to need medical oxygen. The drug has been developed by DRDO's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, New Delhi in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad.



"SAMUDRA SETU-II" TO BRING OXYGEN



The Indian Navy launched "Operation Samudra Setu-II" to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.

INDIA TOPS IN RECEIVING REMITTANCES

India received over \$ 83 billion in remittances in 2020, a drop of just 0.2 per cent from the previous year, despite a pandemic that devastated the world economy, according to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief. China was at second spot receiving \$ 59.5 billion in remittances in 2020 against USD 68.3 billion the previous year. Remittance outflow was the maximum from the United States (\$ 68 billion), followed by UAE (\$ 43 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$ 34.5 billion).

INDIA GOOD IN GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS



India has been placed at 49th position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2021. The Index observed that "Civil service innovation and capacity building is a key focus for the Indian government". Finland has secured the top position in the Index, followed by Switzerland and Singapore at second and third spot, respectively. Venezuela is the last ranked country at 104th spot. *The CGGI is an annual index developed by the Chandler Institute of Governance, Singapore. It measures the effectiveness of the governments in 104 countries across the world in terms of their capabilities and outcomes. The index focuses on seven pillars: leadership and foresight; robust laws and policies; strong institutions; financial stewardship; attractive marketplace; global influence and reputation; and helping people rise.*

WORLD'S 1st VIRTUAL ARBITRATION PLATFORM

Jupitice Justice Technologies, a Chandigarh-based legal tech startup, has launched the world's first private digital platform to conduct virtual arbitration, conciliation, mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

Powered by AI & Blockchain, the startup has launched an online justice service marketplace to file and resolve disputes online between individuals, organizations and Governments, through ADR Mechanisms, i.e. Arbitration, Conciliation, Mediation, etc., all online on a single platform. Like any other arbitration award, any online arbitration award received on the Jupitice platform is as legally enforceable as a court decree.

APRIL

MODI HOLDS TALKS WITH NETHERLANDS PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte on April 9. The two leaders discussed measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation. They also exchanged views on the regional and global issues of mutual interest. Both countries have wide ranging cooperation in areas of water management, agriculture and food processing, healthcare, smart cities and urban mobility, science and technology, renewable energy and space.



The two countries also share a robust economic partnership with the Netherlands being the third largest investor in India. There are over 200 Dutch companies present in India with a similar presence of Indian businesses in the Netherlands.

6th RAISINA DIALOGUE HELD IN DELHI

The 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in virtual mode from April 13 to 16. The Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geoeconomics and geopolitics and is held annually since 2016. It represents India's contribution to the global efforts for discovering solutions, providing stability, and identifying opportunities to a century that has already witnessed an eventful two decades.

The Raisina Dialogue is jointly organised by the External Affairs Ministry and Observer Research Foundation, a Delhi based global think tank. The theme for the 2021 Edition is "#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control". The name Raisina Dialogue comes from Raisina Hills, the area where India's Rashtrapati Bhavan is located.

SC GOES IN FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



The Supreme Court of India on April 7 launched its Artificial Intelligence portal: SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency). The system is first of its kind in the world.

Through this portal, the SC intends to leverage machine learning to deal with the vast amounts of data received at the time of filing of cases. The apex court is burdened with pendency and the bulky volumes of records being filed.

This system will help in taking out the important facts and the issues that the parties have raised. The portal aims to assist the judges, court staff and litigants in several ways by addressing existing bottlenecks resulting in excessive delays.

IISC, B'LURU & CALCUTTA UNIV. RANKED BEST

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore) has secured the top position among the best higher education institutes in India, while Calcutta University was ranked as the best varsity in the country, as per the recently published Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU 2020). However, in the world ranking, their rank was below 500. At the global level, Harvard University, USA was placed at the top, followed by Stanford University, also from the USA.

DCGI ALLOWS EMERGENCY USE OF SPUTNIK V

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted its approval to Dr Reddy's Laboratories on April 13 for restricted emergency use of Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V in the country.

Initially, the company will import the Sputnik vaccine into India and later it will be produced locally. Sputnik V has been approved for use in countries with a total population of 3 billion people, or about 40 percent of the global population, and India has become the 60th country to approve Sputnik V.

Dr Reddy's had partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) in September 2020 to conduct clinical trials of Sputnik V and distribute the vaccine in India. Currently, India is using two vaccines - Covishield by Serum Institute of India Ltd. and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech.

INDIA FARES WELL IN INTERNET USAGE

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), in partnership with Facebook, released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021, which measures the extent to which internet is available and affordable and to what extent people around the world are using the web.

India has been ranked at 49th spot. The index was topped by Sweden, followed by the USA and Spain.

The Index surveyed 120 countries, representing 98 percent of global GDP and 96 percent of global population. The overall Index score is based on four parameters, which are: Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness categories.

INDIA AT 140th RANK IN GENDER EQUALITY

India has fallen 28 places in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021, and is now one of the worst performers in South Asia, trailing behind neighbours Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar — it is now ranked 140 among 156 countries. The country was ranked 112th among 153 countries in 2020.

According to the report, India has closed 62.5 percent of its gender gap till date. Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 12th time, followed by Finland and Norway.

INDIA FARES POORLY IN PRESS FREEDOM

Reporters Without Borders, a Paris based international NGO associated with guarding the freedom of press, released the World Press Freedom Index 2021 to evaluate the press freedom situation in 180 countries and territories.

The Index placed India pretty low at 142nd position. Norway retained its top spot for the fifth year in running, followed by Finland and Denmark at second and third place respectively. Eritrea is at the bottom of the index at 180th place.

INDIA NOT GOOD IN ENERGY PERFORMANCE

The World Economic Forum (WEF) prepared a report in collaboration with Accenture, an Ireland based multinational consulting firm to release the Energy Transition Index (ETI). The Index tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.

India has been ranked at the 87th position among 115 countries covered by the Index. The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries. Sweden secured the first position followed by Norway (2nd) and Denmark (3rd).



NEWS FROM STATES

MAY

SHERGAON IS THE BEST BMC IN INDIA



The Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has been given the 'Best BMC in India' award in the fifth edition of the India Biodiversity Awards, given by the National Biodiversity Authority of the union ministry of environment, forests & climate change. The award recognizes the efforts of individuals, communities and institutions working towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, and biodiversity governance.

The award was given on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity - May 22. The awards carry a memento, a certificate and cash prize of Rs 2 lakhs each for individuals and Rs 5 lakhs each for institutions.

KARNATAKA TOPS IN SETTING UP HWCs

Karnataka has emerged at the top in establishing Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the Ayushman Bharat Program to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas in 2020-21. A total of 5,832 HWC have been established till March 31 this year against the target of 4,653 centres given by the Centre. The State upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31 against the given target of 2263 centres.



JHARKHAND TOPS IN SMART CITY PROJECTS

Jharkhand clinched the first position in the recent ranking released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, based on the progress of the implementation of the Smart City Mission's schemes running in 100 different cities of the Country. It may be noted that Jharkhand has only one city selected under the Mission, Ranchi. The Mission was launched in 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 48,000 cr.

FIRST REAL TIME FLOOD REPORTING SYSTEM

Assam became the first Indian state to have a real-time digital flood reporting system Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS). With the river Brahmaputra flowing at the crux, Assam is prone to severe floods and erosion every year. FRIMS has been developed jointly by Assam State Disaster Management Agency and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

OIL PSUs TO DEVELOP BADRINATH DHAM

The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India, including IOC, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL, inked a MoU with the Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust on May 06 for construction and redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a Spiritual Smart hill Town. Under the MoUs, these PSUs will contribute Rs. 99.60 crore in the first phase of project.



Phase I will include developmental activities such as river embankment work, building all-terrain motorable roads, building bridges, beautifying existing bridges, establishing gurukul facilities, developing public conveniences, installing streetlights, etc.

APRIL

DISTRICT UDHAMPUR TOPS IN PMGSY

Udhampur district of the U T of Jammu and Kashmir bagged top position at National level for successfully implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2020-21. The district constructed 560.49 km roads in 2020-21.

Among states and UTs, Chhattisgarh secured top position for constructing the highest length of rural roads. PMGSY was launched on Dec 25, 2000 to provide all weather 'pucca' roads to connect villages with the nearest all weather road. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

RAJASTHAN TO PROVIDE FREE HEALTH INS.



Rajasthan became the first state in the country to provide free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state. Named Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme, it is a cashless 'mediclaim' scheme where each family will get annual health insurance up to 5 lakhs.

- ❖ The World Bank approved a \$ 32 million support for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
- ❖ The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan for \$ 300 million for canal-based drinking water project in Punjab for ensuring quality drinking water in Amritsar and Ludhiana.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank approved a \$ 484 million loan to improve the road maintenance and transport connectivity in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor- CKIC in Tamil Nadu.

GOVT. INITIATIVES

MAY

GOVT PLANS TO SET UP 10 OSCs ABROAD

The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs plans to set up 10 'One-Stop Centres' (OSCs) across nine countries to provide integrated comprehensive support to Indian women affected by violence in public or private places. Selected countries include Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Each country will have one center, except Saudi Arabia which will have two centers.

The OSCs assist women affected with violence with immediate emergency response and rescue services, medical assistance, aid women in filing FIR, psychological or counseling support, legal assistance, shelter facility such as stay homes, video conferencing facility along with free police and court proceedings, etc.

OSCs are formed under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women and are funded by the Nirbhaya Fund. They were recommended by the Usha Mehra Commission in February 2013 following the Nirbhaya gangrape in December 2012. Currently, 700 OSCs are operational in India and 300 more OSCs are to be set up across the country in 2021.

NATIONAL MISSION ON USE OF BIOMASS

The Union Power Ministry plans to set up a National Mission on the use of biomass in coal-based thermal power plants. It aims to address the issue of air pollution because of farm-stubble burning and reducing the carbon footprints of thermal power generation by using farm stubble and other such organic bio-waste as fuel for generating power. The mission will have a minimum duration of five years and will also contribute to the National Clean Air Programme.

Biomass is a plant or animal material that is used as a fuel to produce heat or electricity. Some examples of Biomass energy are crops residue, wood, and waste from yards, forests, or farms.

'SWAMIH' GIVES HOPE TO FLAT BUYERS

More than 600 home buyers of Rivali Park of Mumbai were handed over the much-awaited keys of their flats on May 13. This is the first stalled project completed with funding by SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund, which is managed by SBICap Ventures Ltd. The scheme is administered by the Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance. The government, in November 2019, announced a Rs 25,000 crore-SWAMIH fund to help complete over 1,500 stalled housing projects comprising 4.58 lakh housing units which were facing extreme cash crunch.

MIS LAUNCHED FOR AGARBATTI STICKS

The National Bamboo Mission launched an MIS (Management Information Systems) based reporting platform for agarbatti stick production. It will collate the locations of stick making units, availability of raw material, functioning of the units, production capacity, and marketing. With the help of this module, the linkages with the industry will be synergised better to enable seamless procurement from production units.

APRIL

STARTUP INDIA SEED FUND LAUNCHED

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) on April 19. The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.



An amount of 945 crore rupees corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India. The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.

THREE NEW INITIATIVES OF NIXI LAUNCHED



Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology unveiled three path breaking initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI. These initiatives are IP Guru, NIXI Academy and NIXI-IP-INDEX.

The IP Guru is a group to extend support to all the Indian entities who are finding it technically challenging to migrate and adopt Internet Protocol version, IPv6. The NIXI Academy has been created to educate technical and non-technical people in India about technologies like IPv6 which will lead to better management of Internet resources in the country.

The NIXI-IP-INDEX portal will showcase IPv6 adoption rate in India and across the world.

MISSION 'AAHAAR KRANTI' FOR NUTRITION

Government launched Aahaar Kranti, a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition. It is designed to address the peculiar problem of hunger and diseases despite abundance, being faced by India and the world. The movement proposes to address the problem by working to rouse the people to the values and richness of India's traditional diet, to the healing powers of local fruits and vegetables and to the miracles of a balanced diet.

Studies show that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories it consumes. However, many in the country are still malnourished. The root cause of this strange phenomenon is a lack of nutritional awareness. Keeping this in mind, Aahaar Kranti has been launched with the motto of Uttam Aahaar- Uttam Vichaar or Good Diet-Good Thought.

"SANKALP SE SIDDI" DRIVE LAUNCHED

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village and Digital Connect Drive. It is a 100-day drive starting from April 1 under which 150 teams (10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/Mentoring Agencies/Partners) will visit ten villages each. The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in these villages.

The teams will also identify tribal artisans and other groups and empanel them as suppliers so that they can have access to larger markets through the Tribes India network - both, physical outlets and online stores. It is expected that Sankalp Se Siddhi will aid in effecting a complete transformation of the tribal ecosystem across the country.

NOW A UNIQUE NUMBER FOR ALL LAND PLOTS

The Central Government plans to issue a 14-digit identification number "Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)" to every plot of land in the country within a year's time. It will subsequently integrate its land records database with revenue court records and bank records, as well as Aadhaar numbers on a voluntary basis. The ULPIN scheme has been launched in ten States this year and will be rolled out across the country by March 2022.

The ULPIN will be just like the "Aadhaar for land", a number that would uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud, especially in the hinterlands of rural India, where land records are outdated and often disputed. The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel, and will be supplemented by detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral (land record) maps

'ANAMAYA' INITIATIVE FOR TRIBAL HEALTH

The Government launched on April 7 the Tribal Health Collaborative 'Anamaya', a multi-stakeholder initiative to converge efforts of various government agencies and organizations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India.

The initiative has been launched in association with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Piramal Foundation. It aims at enhancing the health and nutrition eco-system of the tribal communities of India. Later on, efforts will be made to set up the National Council on Tribal Health and a Tribal Health Cell to monitor healthcare needs in the tribal areas as well as implement the Tribal Health Action Plan.

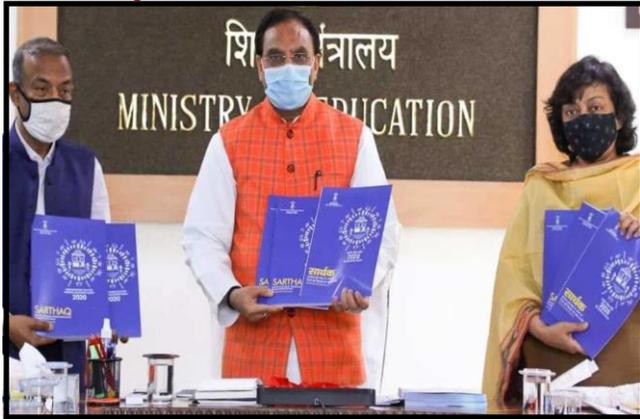
MANAS APP TO PROMOTE WELLBEING

MANAS App launched to promote wellbeing across all age groups. MANAS stands for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System. It has been endorsed as a national program by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council. It is a comprehensive, scalable, and national digital wellbeing platform.

The application integrates the health and wellness efforts of various government ministries, scientifically validated indigenous tools with gamified interfaces developed by various national bodies and research institutions.



'SARTHAQ' TO PROMOTE SCHOOL EDUCATION



Government released an implementation plan for school education under National Education Policy 2020, called "Students" and Teachers" Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)". Developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, it is an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education.

SARTHAQ will pave the way for children to meet the diverse national and global challenges of the present and the future. It would benefit all stakeholders including 25 crore students, 15 lakh schools, 94 lakh teachers.

'E-SANTA' TO PROMOTE MARINE PRODUCTS

Government launched the e-SaNta platform for promotion of marine products and for empowering farmers as they will be able to sell their products through this portal. The term eSaNta stands for "Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA Farmers Trade in Aquaculture".

The portal will revolutionise traditional aqua farming by providing a cashless, contactless and digital trade platform between farmers, exporters and domestic markets. It will act as a digital bridge for ending the market divide and will provide an alternative marketing tool between the farmers and buyers by eliminating the middlemen.

"MADHUKRANTI" LAUNCHED FOR HONEY

Government launched Madhukranti (Honey Revolution) Portal and Honey Corners by NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation) on April 7 to promote the honey mission in the country.

The Portal has been developed for online registration to achieve the traceability source of honey as well as other beehive products on the digital platform. The Honey Corners are special offline spaces earmarked in over 200 NAFED stores for facilitating the sale of honey.

The portal is an initiative of the National Bee Board under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission. Indian Bank is the technical and banking partner for the development of the digital platform. It will also help in checking the quality and the source of adulteration of honey.

INDIA'S BIGGEST FLOATING SOLAR PLANT

India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 MW is being set up by the NTPC at its Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir in Telangana. The project is expected to be completed by May this year. The solar panels will cover 450-acre area of the reservoir. NTPC's efforts to set up floating solar power projects is aimed at reducing its carbon footprints and accelerating its green energy production to 30 percent of its capacity.

ONLINE COMPLAINT PORTAL FOR SCS

Government has launched an online Grievance Management Portal of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to facilitate online filing of complaints. The portal will enable victims to file their application and other atrocity and services related grievances online and to get them addressed in a time bound manner.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is a constitutional body established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes. Vijay Sampla is the current chairman of the Commission.

APP TO HELP IN LEARNING SANSKRIT

A mobile application called "Little Guru" launched to enable the user to learn Sanskrit, the ancient language of the country, often called the 'Language of the Gods'. The app has been developed by the Indian council for cultural relations (ICCR) and produced by Bengaluru-based GamappSportsWizz Tech Pvt Ltd. It is available on Google Play Store.

TAX CONCESSION ON SCRAPPAGE OF VEHICLES

Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has proposed up to 25 percent tax concession on the purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate. Under the draft rules, people will get 25 percent concession on the purchase of personal vehicles with vehicle scrappage certificate while on the purchase of commercial vehicles, the tax relief will be 15 percent. In case of personal vehicles, the tax concessions will be available up to eight years while for commercial vehicles, it will be up to 15 years.



ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

MAY

F'GRAINS PRODUCTION TO TOUCH NEW HIGH



The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Third Advance Estimates of Principal Crops for 2020-21. As per the estimates, India is expected to register record foodgrain production of 305.44 million tonnes in the year 2020-21, 7.94 million tonnes higher than the previous high of 297.50 million tonnes achieved during the year 2019-20.

A record production of rice is estimated at 121.46 million tonnes whereas production of wheat is estimated at a record 108.75 million tonnes. During 2020-21, total pulses production is estimated at 25.58 million tonnes and of oilseeds at 36.57 million tonnes.

INDIA ATTRACTS HIGHEST EVER FDI IN 2020-21

Despite the Corona pandemic and economic slowdown, India attracted the highest ever total Foreign Direct Investment or FDI inflow of \$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21. It is 10% higher than the FDI received last year which was \$ 74.39 billion. Among states, Gujarat received the highest share, securing 37% of total FDI, followed by Maharashtra receiving 27% share and Karnataka receiving 13% share.

In terms of investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29% share, followed by the USA (23%) and Mauritius (9%). Industrywise, Computer Software & Hardware has emerged as the top sector with around 44% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (13%) and Services Sector (8%) respectively.



FDI RAISED TO 74% IN INSURANCE

The Finance Ministry notified final rules for raising foreign investment limit to 74 per cent (from 49% earlier) in the insurance sector, which came into effect on May 19, 2021. The new arrangement is expected to benefit 23 private life insurers, 21 private non-life insurers and 7 specialised private health insurance companies. It is felt that the finalisation of rules will be helpful for the insurance sector to meet capital requirements for pandemic induced expansion needs.

Foreign investment up to 26 per cent was permitted in the insurance sector in 2000. Later, in 2015, this limit was raised to 49 per cent. In this year's budget speech, the limit was raised further to 74 per cent.

SHE TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Tata Communications announced the launch of the 'School of Hope and Empowerment' (S.H.E.) at the 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. S.H.E. is a multi-media, multi-stakeholder impact communications initiative that aims to inspire at least a million women to realise their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs. Tata Communications will create enabling environments for women from marginalised communities to establish themselves as entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities.



UN PROJECTS INDIA'S GROWTH AT 10.1%

A report by the United Nations has projected that the Indian economy will grow at 7.5% in the calendar year 2021. However, it is expected to grow by 10.1% in the year 2022 which will make it the fastest-growing major economy. However, the report has also cautioned that the country's growth in 2021 was extremely fragile due to the second wave of the pandemic.

S&P SLASHES GDP GROWTH RATE TO 9.8%

The Standard and Poor's Global Ratings have revised down the GDP growth forecast of India to 9.8% for 2021-22, from 11% announced earlier. The downfall is because of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic which can derail the credit conditions and budding economic recovery of India.

"The increasing number of COVID-19 variants infection cases and limited vaccination coverage point towards a peak in infection rate around late June. This peak could have adverse effects on the funding and credit conditions", the study mentioned.



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INDIA TO GROW BY 12.5%: IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest World Economic Outlook report has upgraded its growth projection for India by one per cent to 12.5 per cent for the Financial Year 2021-22. As per the report, the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and vast sums of government aid will accelerate global economic growth to a record high this year in a powerful rebound from the pandemic recession.

For the year ended March 2021, it has projected a contraction of 8 percent while for next year (2022-23), growth is expected to be around 6.9 percent.

ADB PROJECTS INDIA'S GROWTH AT 11%

The Asian Development Bank, Manila released its flagship report Asian Development Outlook 2021 on April 28. As per the report Indian economy is projected to grow at 11 per cent in the current financial year (2021-22) amid the "strong" vaccine drive. However, the recent surge in Covid cases may put the country's economic recovery at "risk".

INDIAN GDP TO GROW BY 7.5 TO 12.5%

The latest South Asia Economic Focus report released by the World Bank says that India's economy has bounced back amazingly from the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown over the last year, but it is not out of the woods yet.

The slowdown was caused by a decline in private consumption growth and shocks to the financial sector, which compounded pre-existing weaknesses in investment. The report has predicted that the country's real GDP growth for fiscal year 2021-22 could range from 7.5 to 12.5 per cent.

**HSN/SAC CODE MADE MANDATORY**

From April 1 this year, GST taxpayers having turnover of more than 5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year will have to furnish 6 digits Harmonised System of Nomenclature HSN Code, or Service Accounting Code, SAC on the invoices issued for supplies of taxable goods and services. Those with turnover of up to ₹5 crore in the preceding financial year, would be required to mandatorily furnish four-digit HSN code on B2B invoices.

Six digits HSN codes for goods have been developed by the World Customs Organisation and are universally common. Therefore, common HSN codes apply to Customs and GST. HSN search facility is available on the GST portal.

For the services, the six-digit SAC codes are issued by CBIC to uniformly classify each service under the applicable rate of GST. Each service has a unique SAC.

BANKING & FINANCE**RBI IMPOSES Rs. 10 Cr. FINE ON HDFC BANK**

RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank on May 28 for violation of provisions under various sections of the Banking Regulation Act. The action was taken on the basis of deficiencies found in regulatory compliance of provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act states that a bank cannot directly or indirectly deal with buying, selling, or bartering of goods.

The penalty was imposed following a complaint that the Bank forced its customers to purchase a vehicle tracking device for four years. This was in contravention of the above-mentioned sections of the Banking Regulations Act that prohibit banks from indulging in non-financial businesses.

RBI TRANSFERS Rs. 99 BILLION TO GOVT

Reserve Bank decided to transfer Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to Centre for nine months ended March 31, 2021. The decision was taken at the Central Board meeting under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. It may be noted that the Reserve Bank's accounting year has changed from this year to April-March from earlier July-June.

The RBI also approved a Rs 1,76,000 crore (\$24.8 billion) dividend payment to the government, including Rs 1,48,000 crore for FY20. RBI earns via interest income on account of open market operations (OMOs), foreign exchange (FX) gains, and writing back of excess risk provisions.

PPIs CAN WITHDRAW THROUGH ATMs/POS



Now money kept in various online wallets like Amazon pay, Ola money, Mobikwik, Phone pe, Delhi Metro Card etc. can be withdrawn using an ATM or PoS (Point of Sale Terminal). In a notification issued on May 19, Reserve Bank of India permitted all non-bank payment prepaid instruments (PPIs) to provide this service for cash withdrawal of up to Rs. 2,000 per transaction with maximum limit of Rs. 10,000 per month. However, for all such transactions, using card or wallet PIN or other additional authentication will be mandatory.

RBI JOINS SUPERVISORS NETWORK

The Reserve Bank of India joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Paris as a Member. RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on Green Finance which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.

The NGFS is a group of Central banks and supervisors willing to share the best practices and contribute to the development of the environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilising mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy. The System was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit in December 2017.

IDBI LAUNCHES DIGITAL LOAN PROCESSING

IDBI Bank launched its fully digitised, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its MSME and Agri borrowers. This new system seamlessly integrates all the essential steps of loan processing, right from application to processing, appraisal, assessment, sanction, documentation and disbursal.



RBI RETAINS REPO RATE AT 4 PERCENT

The Reserve Bank held the first bi-monthly meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in the current financial year on April 7. Concerned over the fresh Covid wave and elevated food inflation, the MPC decided to keep the benchmark interest rate - Repo Rate unchanged at 4 percent. Consequently, the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate would remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent. The reverse repo rate will also continue to be at 3.35 percent.

This is the fifth time in a row that the MPC has decided to keep the policy rate unchanged. The RBI had last revised its policy rate on May 22, 2020. The central bank has retained a growth projection of 10.5 per cent for the current financial year as was estimated in its February bi-monthly policy.

INFLATION TARGET FOR RBI RETAINED AT 4%



The government has decided to keep the inflation-targeting framework for the RBI unchanged for the next five-year period beginning 1 April, 2021. The inflation mandate requires RBI to keep inflation at 4%, with a 2 percentage point leeway on either side. This was announced by Tarun Bajaj, Economic Affairs Secretary in the Finance Ministry. The inflation target is reviewed every five years.

RBI FIXES TENURE OF BANK HEADS

The Reserve Bank has capped the tenure of Managing Director and Chief Executive (MD & CEO) of commercial banks to a maximum of 15 years. The same limit will also be applicable to whole time directors. Further, the MD & CEO or WTD who is also a promoter/ major shareholder, cannot hold these posts for more than 12 years. The upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in private banks has been retained at 70 years.

The revised instructions will be applicable to all the Private Sector Banks including Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and wholly owned subsidiaries of Foreign Banks. However, it will not be applicable to foreign banks operating as branches in India.

RBI RESTRICTS AMEX AND DINERS CLUB



Reserve Bank of India imposed restrictions on American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Limited from adding new customers to their card networks from 1st of May, 2021 for non-compliance of RBI's directions regarding mandatory storage of customer data within systems in India. The apex bank clarified that the order will not impact existing customers.

Both the companies are Payment System Operators authorised to operate card networks in the country under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). In April 2018, all payment system operators were directed by RBI to ensure that within a period of six months the entire data (full end-to-end transaction details/information collected/carried/processed as part of the message/payment instruction) relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

RBI PANEL TO REVIEW WORKING OF ARCS

The Reserve Bank constituted a six-member panel to carry out a comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem. The panel will be headed by former Executive Director of RBI, Sudarshan Sen.

ARC is a specialized financial institution that buys the NPAs or bad assets from banks and financial institutions at a mutually agreed value and attempts to recover the debts or associated securities by itself. The ARCs are registered under the RBI and regulated under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.



RBI's REGULATIONS REVIEW AUTHORITY

The Reserve Bank has decided to set up a new Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) from May 1, 2021, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures of the central bank for streamlining them and making them more effective and efficient. The RRA headed by M Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, will have a time frame of one year.

POs MAY OPEN 'ZERO BALANCE' ACCOUNTS

The government has amended the Post Office Savings Account Scheme rules to allow certain people to open zero balance basic savings accounts with the post office. Currently, post office savings accounts come with a minimum balance requirement that must be maintained mandatorily.

As per a notification by the Ministry of Finance dated April 9, a basic savings account (or zero balance account) with the post office can be opened by an individual (a) who is a registered adult member of any government welfare scheme and (b) by the guardian of a minor whose name is registered for any government benefit.



At present, banks allow customers to open zero balance accounts. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to open zero balance accounts under Jan-Dhan Yojana scheme/Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA).

MAX. BALANCE HIKED IN PAYMENT BANKS

The Reserve Bank has enhanced the limit of maximum balance at end of the day maintained in individual customers' accounts in Payments Bank to Rs 2 lakh from Rs. one lakh earlier. The step has been taken to encourage the efforts of Payments Bank for promoting financial inclusion and to expand their ability to cater to the needs of a wide base of their customers, including MSMEs, small traders and merchants.

RBI TO PUBLISH FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX

The Reserve Bank has decided to bring out a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) that will gauge the extent of financial inclusion in the country. It will attempt to measure the extent of broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country. The index based on multiple parameters will be published in July every year for the financial year ending previous March.

Financial Inclusion refers to ensuring last mile delivery, particularly in the unbanked areas.

AFA MADE MANDATORY FROM OCTOBER 1



From October 1, 2021, there will be no automatic recurring payment through cards or for various services, including recharge and utility bill, as RBI has made Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) mandatory after September 30. However, banks and payment gateways are seeking additional time to comply with the RBI directive on automatic recurring payment.

Last year, on December 4, RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that the processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using cards or Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface (UPI) under arrangements/practices not compliant with AFA would not be continued beyond March 31, 2021.

Under the new norms, banks will be required to inform customers in advance about recurring payment due and transactions would be carried following nod from the customer. So the transaction would not be automatic but would be done after authentication from the customer.

“PAYTM WEALTH COMMUNITY” LAUNCHED

India's leading digital financial services provider Paytm launched on April 26 India's first video-based wealth community called the “Paytm Wealth Community”.

It is an investing community based on video, and “will enable users to attend live sessions conducted by subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like Stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, Mutual Funds, Gold, Fixed Income, and Personal Finance”.

Users will be able to learn from experts, interact with them to clarify doubts, and also chat with other users on the platform to discuss various wealth-related topics.



DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MAY

PYTHON-5 MISSILE TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas added 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability on April 27. The maiden trial of the Python-5 missile was conducted by DRDO in Goa.

Developed by the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Israel, Python-5 is the most accurate and reliable AAM of the Israeli Air Force and one of the most sophisticated guided missiles in the world.

INDIAN NAVY SAYS 'GOODBYE' TO INS RAJPUT



INS Rajput, the first destroyer of the Indian Navy, was finally decommissioned on May 21 at Visakhapatnam Dockyard, putting an end to a glorious era of outstanding services. INS Rajput, the lead ship of the Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR was commissioned on 04 May 1980 and has rendered yeoman service to the Indian Navy for over 41 years. It was the first Indian Naval Ship to be affiliated with an Indian Army regiment – the Rajput Regiment.

INDIA TO GET 6 MORE P-81 AIRCRAFTS

The U.S. government approved the proposed sale of six P-81 patrol aircraft and related equipment on April 30. The deal is estimated to cost \$2.42 billion. The aircrafts will be part of the 312A Naval Air Squadron based at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu. The Indian Navy already has nine P-81 aircrafts in operation.

The P-81 based on the Boeing 737 commercial aircraft is the world's most advanced surveillance aircraft and India was its first international customer in December, 2012.

The order for procurement of the long-range maritime surveillance aircraft was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council in Nov 2019.

Indian and Indonesian navies carried out a military drill 'Passage' exercise (PASSEX) in the Southern Arabian Sea on May 8 with a focus on further improving their interoperability.

The first batch of women military police comprising 83 soldiers was inducted into the Army on May 8 at an attestation parade held at the Corps of Military Police Centre and School in Bengaluru.

CHINA'S OCEAN-MONITORING SATELLITE



China successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) into orbit on May 19 as part of its effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system which would provide early warning on marine disasters. The HY-2D will form a constellation with the HY-2B and HY-2C satellites to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system.

CHINA'S ROVER ZHURONG LANDS ON MARS

China succeeded for the first time in landing a spacecraft on Mars on May 15. The six-wheeled rover Zhurong robot landed in Utopia Planitia, a vast terrain in the planet's northern hemisphere. The vehicle used a combination of a protective capsule, a parachute and a rocket platform to make the successful descent.

The lander was launched from China under mission Tianwen-1 on July 23, 2020. After 7 months of transit, it entered orbit around Mars on February 10, 2021.

Until now only the Americans have been able to land on Mars. All other countries that have tried have either crashed or lost contact soon after reaching the surface. Currently, America's rover Perseverance is already operational on Mars.

CHINA TO COLLECT SPACE DEBRIS

China launched a robot prototype named 'NEO-01', in the Earth's low orbit, on board its Long March 6 rocket. The 30kg robot will use a large net to capture debris left behind by other spacecrafts and then burn it using its electric propulsion system.



CHINA - REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE

China successfully sent a new remote sensing satellite, Yaogan-34, into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on April 30. The optical remote sensing satellite will be used for the survey of land resources, urban planning, the confirmation of land rights, road network design, crop yield estimation, and disaster prevention and reduction

WORLD'S FIRST AI BASED SHIP

A team of researchers from the marine research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM built the world's first AI ship, the 'Mayflower 400'. The unmanned 15-mt -long trimaran that weighs nine tons is a completely autonomous ship. The ship is set to sail on a transatlantic voyage to track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution. The ship is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun's energy via solar panels.

NASA'S ROVER CREATES OXYGEN ON MARS



NASA's Perseverance rover has successfully created, for the first time, oxygen from the thin atmospheric carbon dioxide present on Mars. The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) aboard the rover on Mars carried out the experiment on 20 April, which was a technology demonstration.

MOXIE extracts carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which makes up about 96 per cent of the wispy air blanket around Mars. It then separates oxygen atoms from carbon dioxide molecules, releasing carbon monoxide as a byproduct.

APRIL

WORLD'S FIRST EXPLOSIVE TRACE DETECTOR

India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector (ETD), using a micro-electromechanical system (MEMS), called NanoSniffer. It provides trace detection of the nano-gram quantity of explosives, and delivers results in seconds. It can detect explosives in less than 10 seconds and also identifies and categorizes explosives into different classes. The core technology of NanoSniffer is protected by patents in the U.S. and Europe. The device will reduce India's dependency on imported explosive trace detector devices.

INDIA TOOK PART IN 'LA PEROUSE' DRILL



The Indian Navy participated in a France-led multi nation naval drill named "La Perouse", from April 5 to 7 in the Bay of Bengal.

The participating nations also included the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) member countries namely Australia, Japan and the USA. India participated in this exercise for the first time.

VARUNA-2021: The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise was held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27. The exercise involved high tempo-naval operations at sea, including advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises.

Khanjar: The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, the capital of the host Kyrgyzstan on April 16.

ShantiOgroshena: India participated in a 10-day multinational military exercise held in Bangladesh. The armed forces of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka along with observers from the US, UK, Turkey and Saudi Arabia participated in the multilateral UN-mandated counterterrorism exercise from April 4 to 12.

Vajra Prahar 2021: The 11th edition of Indo-US joint special forces exercise was conducted at Special Forces training school located at Bakloh, in Himachal Pradesh in March, 2021. The exercise aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.



India and the US held a two-day naval PASSEX exercise on March 28-29 in the Bay of Bengal. For the first time, Indian Air Force fighters also took part in the exercise to practice air interception and air defence with the US Navy.

The Pakistan Army successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-1A on March 26. It has a range of 900 kilometers.

DEBRIS FOUND OF INDONESIAN SUBMARINE

The Indonesian navy submarine 'KRI Nanggala (402)', that went missing on 21 April, 2021, in the waters off the coast of Bali Island, is reported to have been found split into three pieces on the sea bed, at a depth of 850 meters. All the 53 crew aboard the submarine have been confirmed dead.

WORLD'S FIRST: WATER FROM AIR

Maithri Aquatech, a Visakhapatnam based company has set up the 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' in the smart city of Visakhapatnam.



The kiosk will provide clean, mineral-enriched potable water harvested from the air with no dependency on scarce groundwater as well as surface water resources. The water generated meets the WHO as well as Indian Standards of potable water.

CHINA NAMES ITS MARS ROVER AS "ZHURONG"

China has named its first-ever Mars rover as "Zhurong" after an ancient fire god. The rover is slated to make a landing attempt on the Red Planet in May this year. The rover has six wheels and four solar panels and carries six scientific instruments. It weighs over 200 kg and will work for about three months on the planet. China National Space Administration had successfully launched its first Mars probe in July, 2020.

FIRST HELICOPTER FLIGHT OVER A PLANET

NASA's Mars helicopter named 'Ingenuity' made history with a successful flight on the Red Planet. The miniature robotic helicopter performed a successful take off and landing on Mars on April 19. The 1.8-kg twin-rotor helicopter hovered around 3 meter above the surface, performing its maiden 40-second flight as planned. This is the first powered, controlled flight by an aircraft over the surface of another planet.

WHO TO START FIRST BIOHUB FACILITY



The World Health Organization (WHO) and Switzerland signed a memorandum of understanding to launch the First WHO Biohub Facility. It will allow convenient rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and global partners. It will be installed in Spiez, Switzerland. Under this agreement, the Spiez Biocontainment Laboratory will be made available to the WHO and the lab will serve as a repository for the Sars-CoV-2 virus or other pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential.

G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN LONDON

The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven countries - G-7 was held in London on May 4-5. The group of the most advanced economies of the world discussed what it called as the biggest current threats: China, Russia and the coronavirus pandemic. Foreign Ministers from hosts Britain, plus the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan met for the first time in person in two years.

WORLD'S LARGEST ICEBERG FORMED

The European Space Agency has informed that the Iceberg A-76 calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica and is now floating on the Weddell Sea, some 2,000 km south of southern tip of Chile. The broken iceberg, reported to be the largest till date, measured around 170 kilometers in length and 25 kilometers in width, spreading over 4320 sq kms. It is larger than the Long Island in New York and half the size of Puerto Rico.

Icebergs are formed when a large piece of ice breaks off from the ice shelves or the glaciers and starts floating in the open water.



LEADERS CLIMATE SUMMIT HOSTED BY USA

US President Joe Biden hosted a two-day Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders on the Earth Day, April 22 to address the global climate crisis. The virtual summit was joined by 40 heads of government, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He announced a India- US partnership on clean energy and climate change.

The summit's theme was "Our Collective Sprint to 2030". It aimed at promoting efforts by the major economies to reduce greenhouse gas emission and meet the targets of the Paris Agreement to keep temperature rise to well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century.

BLUE NATURE ALLIANCE TO SAVE OCEANS



Some leading not-for-profit environmental and social organisations have come together to form the Blue Nature Alliance. It is a global partnership with five core partners: Conservation International, The Global Environment Facility, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Minderoo Foundation and Rob and Melani Walton Foundation.

Launched on April 20, it has raised \$125 million to protect the ocean from environmental threats. The Alliance is currently working with governments and other partners on large-scale efforts in Fiji's Lau Seascape, Antarctica's Southern Ocean, and Tristan da Cunha to collectively secure protections for over 4.8 million square kilometres of the ocean.

SINGAPORE FIRST TO RATIFY RCEP

Singapore became the first country on April 9 to complete the official process for ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.

The trade pact, which is the world's largest, was signed by all 10 ASEAN members and five key partners including China, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand at the 4th RCEP leaders' summit in November 2020. The RCEP Agreement will come into force 60 days after six ASEAN member states and three ASEAN FTA partners decide to ratify the Agreement.

JAPAN'S PASSPORT IS BEST IN THE WORLD



The Henley Passport Index on April 15 released its list of the most travel-friendly passports. The Index measures the world's most powerful passports on the basis of the number of countries their holders can visit without a prior visa. It is based on data from the International Air Transport Association-IATA.

India stands at number 84 in the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. The Index is topped by Japan, enjoying visa free access to 193 countries, followed by Singapore – 192 countries.

The weakest passport belongs to Afghanistan as it affords visa on arrival facility in only 26 countries while Pakistani passport is slightly better as its holders are allowed visa on arrival option in 32 countries.

US EXPELS 10 RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS

The US administration announced the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats on April 15. It also announced sanctions against nearly three dozen people and companies as it moved to hold Russia accountable for interference in last year's Presidential election and the hacking of Federal agencies. The actions represent the first retaliatory measures announced against the Kremlin for the hack, familiarly known as the SolarWinds breach.

It is alleged that Russian hackers infected widely used software with malicious code, enabling them to access the networks of at least nine agencies in what U.S. officials believe was an intelligence-gathering operation aimed at mining government secrets.

PUTIN TO REMAIN PRESIDENT TILL 2036

The President of Russia Vladimir Putin gave his final approval on April 5 to the constitutional legislation that allows him to hold office for two additional 6yrs terms. It gives him the possibility to stay in power till 2036.

The 68-years old President has already been in power for more than two decades. Currently he is serving his fourth Presidential term that will continue till end 2024. The new provisions were overwhelmingly backed by the Russians in a vote in July 2020. The Parliament also approved the bill in March 2021.

PERSONS IN NEWS

MAY

Ms. Jacinda Ardern: Prime Minister of New Zealand secured the top spot on Fortune magazine's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders. The annual list published on May 14 praised Ardern's leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as her "world-leading climate and gender-equity policies".

Sir David Attenborough: The 95-year-old renowned English broadcaster and natural historian has been named as the "People's Advocate" of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), which is scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021, under the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom. Attenborough's role will be to inspire people to act on climate change and protect the planet for future generations.

Kami Rita: 51-year-old Sherpa guide scaled Mount Everest for the 25th time on May 7, breaking his own record for the most ascents of the world's highest peak. Rita first scaled Everest in 1994. Expertise and skills of Sherpa guides are vital to the safety and success of the hundreds of climbers who dare to scale the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) mountain peak.

APRIL

The Great Khali: India's one-time World Heavyweight Champion has been inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame as part of the 2021 class. Standing 7'1" tall, Khali's official name is Dalip Singh Rana. He is the first Indian world champion in WWE. He made his professional wrestling debut in 2000.

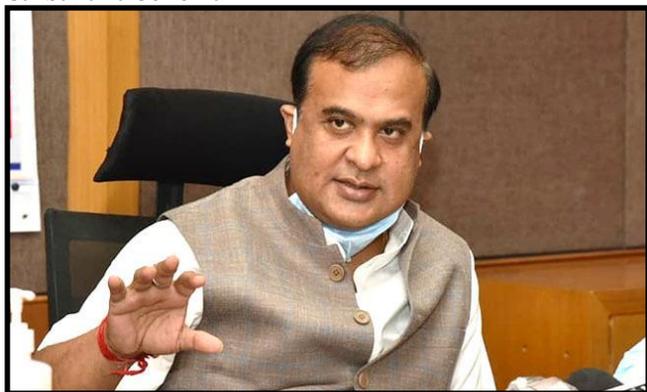
APPOINTMENTS

MAY

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal: The 1985-batch IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the next regular Director of the CBI by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).



Himanta Biswa Sarma: Elected as the new chief minister of Assam, replacing the current incumbent Sarbanand Sonowal.



MK Stalin: President of the Dravida MunnetraKazhagam party was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by the state Governor Banwarilal Purohit.

N Rengasamy: The NR Congress Chief was sworn in as the Chief Minister of UT of Puducherry by the Lt. Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan.

T Rabi Sankar: Appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI for a period of three years, by the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet. Sankar was Executive Director of the RBI before being elevated to the post of Deputy Governor.

He filled the vacancy created after the retirement of BP Kanungo on April 2. The other three Deputy Governors are Michael D Patra, Mukesh Kumar Jain and Rajeshwar Rao.

Jose J Kattoor: Appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India by the RBI. Prior to being promoted as ED, Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka.

T V Somanathan: Appointed as the new Finance Secretary by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Amitabh Chaudhry: Re-appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Bank.

Bashar Al-Assad: Re-elected as the President of Syria after winning the election for the fourth time. Assad, 55, has been President of the war-torn country since 2000.

Guillermo Lasso: Sworn in as the President of Ecuador, becoming the country's first right-wing leader in the last 14 years.

Anatole Collinet Makosso: Appointed by the President as the new prime minister of Republic of Congo, a small country in western central Africa.

It may be noted that a much bigger country on its eastern side is Democratic Republic of Congo.

Penpa Tsering: A former Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, has been elected as the new President of the Central Tibetan Administration, elected Parliamentary government of Tibet, based in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

Moctar Ouane: Re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali, a landlocked country in West Africa

Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli: Re-appointed as Nepal's care taker Prime Minister on May 14.

APRIL

Justice NV Ramana: Appointed as the 48th Chief Justice of India by the President Ram Nath Kovind. He will take oath on April 24 and will have a tenure of around 16 months.

Sushil Chandra: The senior-most Election Commissioner was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India by the President of India. He succeeds Sunil Arora who demitted office on April 13.

S Ramann: Appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a period of three years. Headquarters of SIDBI are in Lucknow, UP.

Tarun Bajaj: Appointed as the new Revenue Secretary under the Ministry of Finance. Prior to this, he was the Economic Affairs Secretary since April 30, 2020.

Ajay Seth: Appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, in place of Tarun Bajaj.

Mallika Srinivasan: Appointed as the Chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Currently, she is Chairperson and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited.

This is for the first time that a specialist from the private sector has been appointed as the head of the PESB, a body responsible for the appointment of top management posts in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

Soma Mondal: Chairperson of the state-owned Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), has been elected as the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE).

SCOPE is an apex professional organization representing the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

Rekha M Menon: Chairperson of IT firm Accenture India, appointed as chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), becoming the first woman to take the top role in the software lobby group's 30-year history.

Miguel Díaz-Canel: Appointed as the new President of Cuba, a tiny island country in the Caribbean Sea. He is also the chief of the Cuban Communist Party.

He is the first person without the surname Castro to run Cuba since the 1959 revolution. His predecessor Raul Castro stepped down on April 17.

Guillermo Lasso: Won Ecuador's presidential elections. 65-year-old Lasso is a former banker and a business tycoon.

Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of Niger, a land-locked country north of Nigeria, in Africa.

Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu: She has been elected to a five-year term as the President of Kosovo by its Parliament.

Pham Minh Chinh: Vietnam's National Assembly confirmed Chinh's appointment as the country's next Prime Minister.

Eduard Heger: Appointed as the Prime Minister of Slovakia wef April 1, 2021. Slovakia is a small country in central Europe.

AWARDS & HONOURS

MAY

Lifetime Award in honour of Satyajit Ray

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has decided to institute the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" to pay tributes to the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

A Bharat Ratna awardee, Ray was born on May 2, 1921. The award will be given at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) every year starting from this year. The Award will comprise a cash prize of 10 lakh rupees, a certificate, Shawl, along with a Silver Peacock medal and a Scroll.

International Eni Award 2020: Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao has been honoured with this prestigious global award for his research in renewable energy sources and energy storage. Dr. Rao has honorary doctorates from 60 universities around the world and has authored over 51 books and 1,600 research publications.

The Eni award is also known as the Energy Frontier Award and is considered to be the Nobel Prize in Energy Research. It is sponsored by Eni - the oil and gas giant of Italy. The Eni Award aims to promote better use of energy sources and encourage new generations of researchers in their work.

WILD Innovator Award 2021: Dr. Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 WILD Innovator Award. This award given by the "WILD ELEMENTS Foundation" brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation.

Rudolf V Schindler Award: Padma Bhushan awardee and noted gastroenterologist Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, was selected for this esteemed award by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. It is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as "the father of gastroscopy."

International Invincible Gold Medal: Conferred on Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life. The award is given at global level by the Maharshi Organisation Worldwide, Netherland.

Whitley Awards 2021: Y Nuklu Phom, noted conservationist from Nagaland is one of the seven winners of the prestigious award for conservation. Each awardee will receive a cash prize of 40,000 Pounds.

The award recognised his efforts in establishing a biodiversity peace corridor in Nagaland to protect the rare migratory bird Amur falcon. Also known as the Green Oscar, the award is given by the UK based charity Whitley Fund for Nature.

"Order of Rising Sun": Third highest civilian award of Japan The Japanese Government recently awarded to Bengaluru based Shyamala Ganesh, a teacher of Japanese at the Septuagenarian institution and also at the Ohara School of Ikebana in Bengaluru.

World Food Prize 2021: Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, a global nutrition expert of Indian descent, has won the prestigious prize for her groundbreaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems. 71-year-old Dr. Thilsted now serves as the Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health at WorldFish, a global CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) center headquartered in Malaysia.

The award is given by the World Food Prize Foundation, Iowa, USA. It carries a cash award of \$2,50,000. It was founded by the Nobel laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug in 1986 to inspire breakthrough achievements in improving the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world. Dr. Borlaug is regarded as the father of "Green Revolution" for inventing high yield disease resistant varieties of wheat that almost doubled the food output.

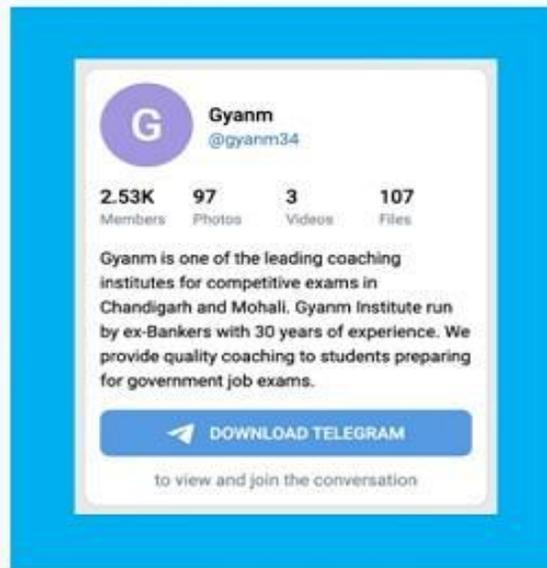
Templeton Prize 2021: World's foremost authority on Chimpanzees, world-famous conservationist and environmentalist Jane Goodall of UK won the prestigious \$1.5 million award.

It is given annually by the John Templeton Foundation, Philadelphia, USA to recognise achievements of people "harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it."



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Millennium Technology Prize: Awarded to two British chemists who developed a super-fast DNA sequencing technique that paved the way for revolutionary healthcare advances. Cambridge University professors Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman will get one million Euro (\$1.22 million) for their work of over 27 years creating ever faster and cheaper ways to sequence the human genome. The prize is given once in two years by the Technology Academy, Finland.

Billboard 2021 Music Awards: The popular music award show of the USA was held on May 23 in Los Angeles. Canadian singer-songwriter The Weeknd dominated the ceremony with 10 awards, including the iconic Top Artist Trophy. His real name is Abel Makkonen Tesfaye.

Miss Universe 2020: Andrea Meza of Mexico won the contest held in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA.

APRIL

Saraswati Samman, 2020: Awarded to noted Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale for his book 'Sanatan'. The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.

Saraswati Samman, instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991, is recognised among the most prestigious and highest literary awards in the country, given in any of the 22 Indian languages.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019: Highest film award from the government side has been conferred on legendary actor and producer Rajinikanth for his vast and rich body of work through the decades. Born to a Marathi family in Bengaluru, Rajinikanth's original name is Shivaji Rao Gaekwad. Though his workplace is Tamil Nadu, he did his schooling in Bengaluru and spent much of his prime in that city.



The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh and a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus). Instituted in 1969, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards Ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

FILMFARE AWARDS 2021 DECLARED

The 66th Filmfare Awards for the year 2020 were given on 28 March in Mumbai to honour artistic and technical excellence in Hindi cinema.

Best Film: Thappad by Anubhav Sinha
Best Director: Om Raut for Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
Best Actor: Irrfan Khan for Angrezi Medium
Best Actress: Taapsee Pannu for Thappad

Guneet Monga: Acclaimed filmmaker known for backing films like "The Lunchbox" and "Masaan", selected for the French honour the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres). It is the second-highest civilian French honour.

International Ranger Award: Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve selected as the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious award for his contribution towards wildlife conservation. The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA.

OSCARs DECLARED FOR THE YEAR 2020

The 93rd Academy Awards ceremony, also known as Oscars Awards, was held in Los Angeles, USA on April 25. The awards are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

Best Picture: Nomadland by Ms. Chloé Zhao
Best Director: Ms. Chloé Zhao (USA) for Nomadland
Best Actress in a Leading Role: Frances McDormand for Nomadland
Best Actor in a Leading Role: Anthony Hopkins for The Father

BAFTA AWARDS 2021 ANNOUNCED

The 74th edition of the British Academy Film & Television Awards- BAFTA 2021 was held on April 11 at Royal Albert Hall in London in a virtual format due to prevailing pandemic conditions. The top award winners included:

Best Film: Nomadland by Ms. Chloe Zhao, USA
Best Director: Ms. Chloe Zhao for Nomadland
Best Leading Actress: Frances McDormand for Nomadland
Best Leading Actor: Sir Anthony Hopkins for The Father

AM Turing Award 2020: Won by Alfred V. Aho for his research and influential text books on fundamental algorithms and theory underlying programming language implementation.

Aho is Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Columbia University, USA. His books have educated generations of computer scientists. The Turing Award is considered to be the most prestigious award in computer science.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

MAY

Elephant by Paul Pickering
Things We Lost to the Water by Eric Nguyen
The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
Ariadne by Jennifer Saint
People We Meet on Vacation by Emily Henry
Sorrowland by Rivers Solomon
While Justice Sleeps by Stacey Abrams
Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro, Nobel laureate of literature, 2017
All Time Favourites for Children by Ruskin Bond, a collection of short stories
Sach Kahun Toh (Truly Speaking): Autobiography of Neena Gupta, veteran Bollywood actress
India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present by Shivshankar Menon, former National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary

APRIL

A Living Mountain by Amitav Ghosh
Whereabouts by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Cursed Inheritance by Sutapa Basu
The Crown of Gilded Bones by Jennifer L. Armentrout
When the Stars Go Dark by Paula McLain
The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth
The Hard Crowd by Rachel Kushner
Caul Baby by Morgan Jerkins
Broken by Jenny Lawson
Names of the Women by Jeet Thayil, renowned author best known for his book 'Narcopolis'
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, award winning US author; the novel explores the impact of Shakespeare's son Hamnet's illness and death, on his family.

OBITUARY

MAY

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee: Former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and a veteran Nuclear Scientist passed away at the age of 75 on May 23 in Navi Mumbai. He also served as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Tromby (Mumbai) in 2005-10. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 2005.

Sunderlal Bahuguna: Noted Environmentalist and pioneer of world famous "Chipko Movement" in 1974 to save trees, passed away in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand on May 21 due to COVID-19 related complications. He was 94. Government of India honoured him Padma Shri in 1981 and with Padma Vibhushan in 2009 for his outstanding contributions for environment conservation.

Jagannath Pahadia: The first Dalit Chief Minister of Rajasthan (1980-81) succumbed to death due to COVID-19 at the age of 89 on May 19. A four-time member of parliament, he was a union minister for several years. He also served as a former governor of Bihar (1989- 1990) and Haryana (2009-2014).



Prof. M S Narasimhan: Distinguished mathematician Padma Bhushan Prof. M S Narasimhan, passed away on May 16. He was 88. Famous for the Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem, he made pioneering contributions to differential & algebraic geometry. He played a key role in the development of Mathematics in India. He was a recipient of the Bhatnagar Prize in 1975, the Third World Academy Award for Mathematics in 1987, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society, London. In 2006 he was a recipient of the King Faisal International Prize for Science.

Raghunandan Lal Bhatia: Congress stalwart, popularly known as RL Bhatia, died of Covid in Amritsar on May 15. He would have turned 101 on July 3. Bhatia had an illustrious political career as he represented the Amritsar Lok Sabha constituency six times and also remained a Minister of State for External Affairs. He also served as Governor of Kerala and Bihar.

Raghunath Mohapatra: Eminent sculptor, architect, and Rajya Sabha member passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. He was 78. Hailing from Odisha, Mohapatra was awarded Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013 for his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture.

Ajit Singh: Former Union Minister, founder and current chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal passed away on May 6 losing battle with coronavirus. 82-year-old Singh was a prominent farmer leader and son of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh (1979-80). He was a 7-time MP from Baghpat in western UP and served as a union minister on multiple occasions. He was a computer scientist by profession and worked for 15 years in the US.

Jagmohan (Malhotra): Former Union Minister and former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir passed away in New Delhi on May 3 at a ripe age of 93. A civil servant, Jagmohan also served as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Goa. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha once and represented New Delhi in Lok Sabha thrice on a BJP ticket. He served as the Union Minister for Communications, Urban Development, Tourism and Culture. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016 for his outstanding services.

Pandit Debu Chaudhuri: Renowned Sitar maestro passed away following COVID-19 related complications. He was 85. The Legend of Sitar belonged to the Senia or Gharana style of music. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri.



Rohit Sardana: Renowned TV journalist and news anchor passed away, due to heart attack, following the deadly COVID-19 infection. The young journalist was just 41-year-old. Sardana was associated with Zee News since 2004, before moving to

AajTak in 2017. He was hosting the debate show 'Dangal' on the news channel Aaj Tak.

Soli Sorabjee: Former Attorney General, veteran lawyer and Padma Vibhushan awardee passed away on April 30 after getting infected with COVID-19. The 91-year-old legal luminary Sorabjee held several offices in organizations of national and international repute during his long and noted career in the field of law. Sorabjee served as the Attorney General of India twice — from 1989-90 during VP Singh's Government and from 1998 to 2004 during the AB Vajpayee government.

Manoj Das: A prolific Indian author who wrote in Odia and English languages, passed away on April 27, at the age of 87 due to age-related ailments. He was conferred with Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contributions in the field of education and philosophy. His search for mysticism motivated him to become an inmate of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry and since 1963, he has been a professor of Philosophy and English Literature there.

APRIL

Pt Rajan Mishra: Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist from Banaras gharana died on April 25 due to COVID-19 complications at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 70. Mishra, along with his brother Sajan Mishra was one of the foremost exponents of khayal gayaki. Mishra was honoured with a number of awards, including the Padma Bhushan.

M Narasimham: The former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, who was regarded as the "father of banking reforms in India" passed away on April 20 due to Covid-19 related illness. He was 94. The recommendations of the two committees he headed – Committee on the Financial System, 1991 and the Committee of Banking Sector Reforms, 1998 – formed the bedrock of reforms in the Indian financial and banking sectors.

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan: Noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author passed away on April 21 due to Covid-19 complications. He was 97.

Khan has written over 200 books on several aspects of Islam and is best known for having written a commentary on the Quran and its translation in English, Hindi and Urdu. He was recipient of several notable honors like Padma Vibhushan (2021), Padma Bhushan (2000) and the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award (2009).

Shankha Ghosh: Eminent Bengali poet passed away on April 21 losing his battle against COVID 19. He was 89. Considered to be an authority on Rabindranath Tagore, his famous works include Adim Lata – Gulmomey and Murkha Baro Samajik Nay, among other books. In 2011, he was awarded Padma Bhushan and in 2016 he received the prestigious Jnanpith Award.

Shashikala: Veteran actress of Hindi cinema passed away at her residence in Mumbai on April 4. She was 88 years old. More popularly known by her first name, Shashikala, her real name was Shashikala Jawalkar. She acted in over 100 movies. Shashikala was honoured with several awards and honours, including the prestigious Padma Shri in 2007.

Prince Philip: British Queen Elizabeth's husband, died at the age of 99. He was to mark his 100th birthday on June 10. Officially known as the Duke of Edinburgh, a Greek prince, he married Princess Elizabeth in 1947, five years before she became Queen.

He played a key role in modernising the British monarchy in the post-World War II period. In the closing years, at the age of 90, the Queen made him the Lord High Admiral. In 2017 when he demitted his official duties, the Queen awarded him the Royal Victorian Order that made him a Knight Grand Cross.

PLACES IN NEWS

MAY

Cyclone Yaas: A 'very severe' cyclone devastated the beach towns in north Odisha and neighbouring West Bengal as it hit the coast in the morning of May 26 with wind speed of 130-140 kmph. The location of the landfall was north of Dhamra in Odisha's Bhadrak district, 50 km south of Balasore. The seawater entered coastal areas in South 24 Parganas and adjoining areas in West Bengal. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) deployed the highest number of its 112 teams in Odisha and West Bengal for relief and rescue preparations.

Goma, Congo: The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on the night of May 22 sent about 5,000 people fleeing from the city of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, across the nearby border into Rwanda, while another 25,000 others sought refuge to safer areas. Torrents of lava poured into nearby villages with hardly any warning, destroying more than 500 homes and leaving at least 15 people dead.

Cyclone Tauktae: Kerala witnessed heavy rain in many parts of the State as an extremely severe cyclonic storm Tauktae passed by the coast on May 16 with wind speeds of up to 185 kmph. Widespread damage was reported from across the State. The cyclonic storm left at least six people dead while injuring 13 others.

The cyclone caused widespread damage in coastal districts of Konkan region belt of Maharashtra as heavy rains and gusty winds battered the area. Over 150 persons were drowned as a barge – used for engineering and cargo purposes -- sank near the 'Bombay High' oil-rig in the Arabian Sea.

On May 17 evening the cyclone devastated the coastal districts of southern Gujarat, causing widespread power outages. The cyclone weakened slightly after its landfall in Gujarat on the morning of 18th May.

Gaza Strip: Severe armed conflict erupted between Israel and the adjoining Palestine area Gaza Strip in second week of May after Palestinian militants of Hamas group fired barrages of rockets at southern Israeli cities. Israel conducted dozens of air strikes in retaliation hitting the facilities belonging to Hamas and several commanders' homes, damaging main roads and power lines.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate end to the fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.

A ceasefire mediated by Egypt came into force in the Gaza Strip on May 21, bringing to halt 11 days of fiercest fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Mount Sinabung: Indonesia's most active volcano erupted once again on May 7, spewing a thick column of volcanic ash 2.8 kms up into the sky. Sinabung is one of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia, and some 30,000 people have been forced to leave nearby homes in the past few years.

APRIL

Amboli: The Maharashtra government declared an area at Amboli in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district, as a biodiversity heritage site, after a rare freshwater fish species was discovered there. Schistura Hiranyakeshi is a rare sub-species of Schistura, a freshwater loach. The fish was named after the Hiranyakeshi river near Amboli village.

Jagargunda: As many as 23 CRPF jawans were killed and around 50 were injured after an encounter with local Naxalites on April 3 in Jagargunda area along the border between Bijapur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh. The fierce four-hour long encounter took place in the forests of South Bastar.

Cyclone Seroja: Floods and landslides triggered by tropical cyclone Seroja in a cluster of islands in southeast Indonesia and East Timor killed at least 100 people and displaced thousands of others.

The cyclone brought flash floods, landslides and strong winds amid heavy rain on April 4-5. A week later it ripped across a 1,000km stretch of Western Australia, leaving a trail of destruction with wind speeds of up to 170km/hour.

SPORTS WORLD

MAY

Achinta Sheuli, national weightlifting champion secured the silver medal in the men's 73-kilogram category at the Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Achinta lifted a total of 313 kg (141 kg snatch and 172 kg clean and jerk).

V Karthikeyan Pandian, an IAS officer, and private secretary to Odisha Chief Minister, was conferred with President's Award by International Hockey Federation for his contribution in promotion of hockey in Odisha.

Etienne Glichitch Award: Hockey Indiwon this prestigious award given by the International Hockey Federation in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.

Narinder Batra: Re-elected as the President of International Hockey Federation (FIH), Lausanne (Switzerland) for the second consecutive term, till 2024. Batra is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Ramesh Powar: Appointed as the Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team (Senior Women) by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30, 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

European Golden Boot: Won by Robert Lewandowski, star striker of Bayern Munich Football Club of Germany. He scored an incredible 41 goals in 29 Bundesliga (Germany's top football league) appearances to claim the top scorer spot in Europe.

Max Verstappen (Netherlands) of team Red Bull won the Formula One championship in Monaco Grand Prix at Monaco.

Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the Portuguese Grand Prix F1 championship for team Mercedes held at Portimao, Portugal.

Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes secured victory at the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona on May 9 beating his rival Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

Mark Selby of Britain won the World Snooker Championship for the fourth time. The event was held at Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (UK).



22nd Laureus World Sports Awards:

Most prestigious sports awards ceremony was held in Seville, Spain on May 6. The awards are given by the Laureus World Sports Awards Ltd, London every year.

Sportswoman of the Year: Naomi Osaka, world no. 2 tennis player from Japan, for the second time

Sportsman of the Year: Rafael Nadal, world no. 2 Tennis legend from Spain, for the fourth time

Team of the year: Bayern Munich football team from Germany, for the second time

Lifetime Achievement Award: Tennis legend Billie Jean King. The 77-year-old former world no one from the USA won 39 Grand Slam titles in her career.

Italian Open Tennis Tournament, Rome, Italy:

Women's Singles title: won by Polish teenager Iga Swiatek

Men's Singles title: won by Rafael Nadal of Spain

Arjan 'Singh' Bhullar became the first Indian origin fighter to win the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the top-level MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) Championship event in Singapore on May 16, after defeating the heavyweight king Brandon Vera, reigning champion for the last five years. Bhullar is a Canadian citizen.

Conor McGregor, the 32-year-old MMA star from Ireland topped the Forbes list of worlds 10 highest-earning athletes, having made \$180 million in 2020. The earnings are from prize money, contract fee and endorsement fee.

Lionel Messi was in second spot, having made \$130 million in 2020 followed by Cristiano Ronaldo at third rank, earning \$ 120 million.

Phil Mickelson, American professional golfer, created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship, at the age of 50, becoming the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour.

APRIL

Mirabai Chanu of Manipur set a new World Record in the women's 49kg Clean and Jerk with an impressive 119 kg lift at Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent on April 17.

The 26-year-old lifted 86 kg in snatch and a world record of 119 kg in clean and jerk for a total of 205kg which also won her the bronze medal at the event.

Sarita Mor (of Sonipat, Haryana) won the gold in the Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the women's 59 kg category. Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik also clinched their maiden Asian Championship titles. Besides, Seema and Pooja won the bronze in their categories.

World Youth Boxing Championships held in Kielce, Poland:

Indian women boxers put up sensational performances as they created history with seven gold medals while Sachin won the sole gold in the men's section. All women finalists -Gitika (48kg), NaoremBabyrojisana Chanu (51kg), Poonam (57kg), Vinka (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), T Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) finished at the top. Indian team topped the medal tally with 8 gold and three bronze medals.

In the Hyundai Archery World Cup held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Indian women's recurve team including Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari won a gold medal. Archery couple Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das, each won individual gold medal also.

The Indian shooters contingent topped the medal tally by a highly successful performance in the ISSF World Cup at Delhi, winning 30 medals in total - 15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze.

Virat Kohli has been named Wisden Almanack's ODI player of the 2010s. Kohli has amassed a staggering 12,169 runs from 254 ODIs. The highly-rated annual publication named England's all-rounder Ben Stokes as the 'Cricketer of the Year' for a second successive time.

INTERNATIONAL

Lewis Hamilton of Britain won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix F1 championship on March 28 for the team Mercedes.

Miami Open Tennis Tournament: Hubert Hurkacz of Poland won the men's singles title while Women's singles title won by Ashleigh Barty of Australia. The tournament was held in Miami, Florida, USA.



DAYS & DATES

MAY

May 01: International Labour Day



This day is celebrated to honour the contribution of workers across the world. It is also known as May Day. The Day commemorates the happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket massacre in Chicago, USA that led to 8 hour working norms for the workers. First Labour Day was observed on May 1, 1891.

This year's Labour Day is being celebrated amid the Coronavirus pandemic, which has threatened to put lakhs of workers and labourers out of job due to the emerging severe economic crisis.

May 2: World Tuna Day

Observed every year to raise awareness about the Tuna fish and its importance to humans and earth and also to promote more sustainable fishing practices to conserve the species. They are a significant source of food and have amazing qualities due to which they are threatened by overwhelming demand. The UNO officially recognised the World Tuna Day in 2017. Tuna is a saltwater fish comprising some 15 different species across five genera.

May (2): World Laughter Day

It is celebrated on the first Sunday of May every year. It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. The Day was first celebrated in 1998, in Mumbai upon the initiation of Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.

May 3: World Press Freedom Day

This day is celebrated across the globe to pay gratitude to those journalists who lost their lives in order to bring us honest and real news. The day commemorates the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek (a city in Namibia), a statement of press freedom principles made in 1991.

Considered as the fourth pillar of democracy, freedom of the press is implicit under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian constitution as well. The theme for this year's Day is "Information as a Public Good".

May 04: International Firefighters' Day

Observed every year to show our support and appreciation for the firefighters who work round the clock to protect us from incidents of fire and many other emergencies. The day was instituted, after the death of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December, 1998.

May (4): World Asthma Day

It is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May. The day spread awareness about asthma disease and its care around the world. The celebrations are supported by the USA based NGO - Global Initiative for Asthma - GINA. The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is "Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions".

May 05: Hand Hygiene Day

Celebrated with active support from WHO - World Health Organisation, to mobilize people around the world to increase adherence to hand hygiene in health care facilities, thus protecting health care workers and patients from infections.

This year, the campaign theme is "Seconds save lives – clean your hands!" It aims to highlight the fact that handwashing is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus.

May 05: World Athletics Day

This day was introduced by the IAAF in 1996 to increase awareness about athletics and to encourage the youth to take up sports. Although this day is celebrated in the month of May every year, the IAAF marked May 5 as the date for World Athletics Day in 2021.

IAAF, formerly known as the International Amateur Athletic Federation or International Association of Athletics Federations, is the international governing body for the sport of athletics. Recently, it changed its name to "World Athletics". Due to the ongoing Corona pandemic, all sports are down all over the world and so no theme has been chosen for this year.

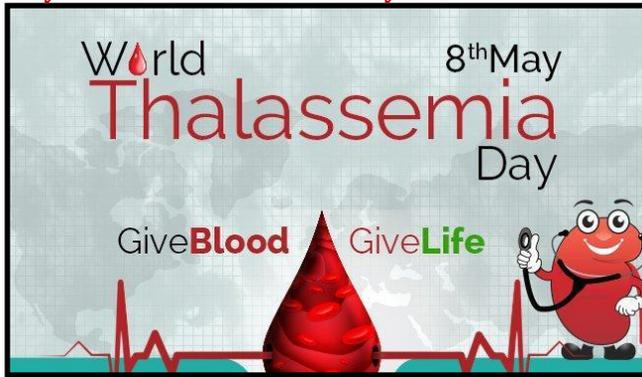
May 08: World Red Cross Day

The day is observed to celebrate the good work that the Red Cross Movement does around the world.

It's an opportunity to pay tribute to the volunteers for their unprecedented contribution to the people in need. The theme for this year is 'Unstoppable'. This day also marks the birth anniversary of Henri Dunant (May 08, 1928), the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland. He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.



May 08: World Thalassemia Day



This day is observed to raise awareness about thalassemia disease, its preventive measures and to avoid transmission and the importance of vaccination for children's health, society and among the people throughout the world.

This day is observed by the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF), a NGO based in Nicosia, Cyprus. The theme for this year's celebrations is - "Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassemia Community".

Thalassemia disease is a type of blood disorder where red blood cells get destroyed causing difficulty in the formation of hemoglobin which can cause anemia. It is a genetic disease which gets transferred from parents to children. Thalassemia patients need frequent transfusions of healthy blood to supplement their red blood cells.

May (08): World Migratory Bird Day

This day is officially celebrated twice in a year since it started in 2006. Firstly, it is held on the Second Saturday of May and again on the Second Saturday of October. The day aims to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them.

The theme selected for this year's celebration is "Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!" The theme appeals to people around the world to use their voices and creativity to express their shared appreciation of birds and nature.

May (9) : Happy Mothers' Day

Celebrated in India and many other countries on the second Sunday of May to honour the Mothers for the unconditional love, adoration and indispensable affection they bestow upon their children and providing unmatched lifetime emotional support. Some other countries celebrate it on some other days.

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in West Virginia, USA in 1908, when a school teacher Anna Jarvis organised a Memorial Service at St. Andrew's Methodist Church commemorating the immaculate contribution of her mother in her life, three years after she had passed away in 1905.

May 11: National Technology Day

This day is celebrated to commemorate the day on which India successfully test-fired its first nuclear bombs in 1998 under "Operation Shakti" in Pokhran. On the same day India also performed successful test firing of the Trishul Missile and had test flown the first indigenous aircraft - 'Hansa - 3'.

Although, India conducted its first nuclear test, codenamed "Smiling Buddha", at Pokhran in Rajasthan in 1974, but it was after the 1998 test that then prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee publicly declared India's status as a nuclear weapons power, then 6th in world.

May 12: International Nurses Day

This day is celebrated to thank all nurses, their dedication, their invaluable services, especially during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This day happens to be the birthday of the legendary nurse - Florence Nightingale.

A British social reformer, she earned the nickname of "Lady with the Lamp" as she used to attend the patients throughout the night, holding a lamp in her hand. The theme of 2021 International Nurses Day is 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare'.

May 15: International Family Day

The day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 to promote awareness of issues relating to families. This day provides an opportunity to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic factors affecting families.

The theme of this year's Day is "Families and New Technologies." It aims to focus on technological developments as to how they can impact families. With COVID-19, digital technology has taken center stage in our lives.

May 16: National Dengue Day

Observed every year with support from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures. Dengue is a viral disease, transmitted by the infective bite of the mosquito named Aedes Aegypti. It is common after the rainy season. It is highly contagious and spreads from one person to another through mosquito bites.



May 16: Inter. Day of Living Together in Peace

In 2017, the United Nations declared this Day to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity across the world. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.

May 17: World Hypertension Day

Observed every year to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer. Hypertension is a condition in which the force of the blood against the artery walls is too high.

Normal blood pressure is 140/90 and blood pressure above this is regarded as high and is considered severe if the pressure is above 180/120. The theme for this year is 'Measure your blood pressure, control it, live longer!' to raise awareness especially in low to middle income areas and promote the accurate blood pressure measurement methods.

May 17: World Telecommunication and Info. Society Day

Observed across the globe to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. The day marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union in 1865.

The theme for this year is "Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times". During lockdowns families are forced to stay at home and digital technology becomes the only way to stay in touch with friends and family.

May 18: International Museum Day

Celebrated every year to raise awareness about the importance of Museums which are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples. They enlighten us with the numerous unknowns and take us to places we have never been before. The theme of the day for the year 2021 "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine".

May 20: World Metrology Day

Observed globally every year to create awareness about metrology (weights and measurements) and its advancement in the respective field. On this day, many nations cooperate internationally to raise awareness about metrology and its progress in the relevant field.

The theme for the Day this year is "Measurement for Health". This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in health, and thus in the wellbeing of every one of us.

It may be noted that the similar sounding World Meteorological Day is observed on 23rd March.

May 20: World Bee Day

It is celebrated every year to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the conservation of the ecosystem.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia. The theme selected for the Day this year is "Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees".



May 21: Anti-Terrorism Day

The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991. He was killed in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu in an attack by a suicide bomber of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), most dreaded terrorist group of Sri Lanka. Since then, the day has been declared Anti-Terrorism Day in India. The day aims to spread the message of peace, humanity, unity, and harmony among the people, and to make them aware of the anti-social acts of terrorism.

May 21: International Tea Day

The day aims to raise awareness about improving the condition of tea producers and tea workers across the world. Tea producing countries make a lot of profit but the condition of the labourers working in the tea plantations is very bad. This day endeavours to raise the status of tea workers, their rights, daily wages, social security, employment security, and health.

May (21): National Endangered Species Day

It is celebrated each year on the third Friday of May across the country. The day gives us the opportunity to be more aware of the conservation of endangered species and learn about the different steps the country is taking to properly protect these animals.

At the global level, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland maintains the most comprehensive Red List of Threatened Species around the world. It lists more than 31,000 species threatened with extinction, accounting for about 27% of all assessed species.

May 22: International Day for Biodiversity

Observed with the support from UNO to raise awareness on various issues related to threats that stare biodiversity in the face. The day aims to spread concern about the importance of biodiversity as well as focuses on global issues including biodiversity loss.

The theme for the year 2021 is "We're part of the solution#ForNature". It aims at strengthening biodiversity by undertaking activities such as planting more trees, consuming a variety of foods in our diets to promote crop diversity, avoiding food and water wastage, generating less waste and reusing and recycling products.

May 23: World Turtle Day

The day is celebrated with the purpose of increasing attention and knowledge about turtles and tortoises, and draw enough awareness from humans about the measures that should be taken to help them survive and thrive in their natural environment, without any human interruptions to spread awareness about the protection of the natural habitat of turtles and tortoises. The theme for this year is - Turtle Rocks !

Turtles belong to one of the oldest reptile groups in the world. Their origin dates back to the time of dinosaurs, which is nearly 200 million years back.

May 25: World Thyroid Day

Observed globally every year to raise awareness about the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases. This day was established in 2008 as a part of the campaign led by European Thyroid Association (ETA) and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) followed by Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS) and Asia Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA) to commemorate the patients with Thyroid diseases and doctors and physicians who treat them.

Thyroid disorders are conditions that affect the thyroid gland; a butterfly-shaped gland in the front of the neck, wrapped around the trachea (windpipe). The thyroid has important roles to regulate numerous metabolic processes throughout the body. Different types of thyroid disorders affect either its structure or function.

May (26): Vesak Day

Vesak is observed every year in May on the first Full Moon day, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day. It is the most sacred day to Buddhists all over the world. It is said that on this day, Lord Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment. The Day is commemorated by the United Nations every year.

May 28: World Hunger Day

Observed globally every year to raise awareness about more than 690 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide. The initiative recognizes the dire need to save nearly a quarter of a billion lives from malnourishment and chronic hunger. The United Nation's second sustainable development goal earmarks the importance of increased agricultural productivity to nourish the existing 690 million people.

May 28: Amnesty International Day

This day aims to promote human rights and raise awareness of their abuses and how our choices affect them every day.

Amnesty International is a London based global NGO that fights for human rights with over three million members and supporters around the world. It works hard to protect children, women, and men across the world in cases whereby their truth, dignity, and justice are denied.

May 28: World Menstrual Hygiene Day

Observed annually to create awareness among people regarding menstrual hygiene. The day aims to change the social stigma and taboo associated with menstruation and to promote awareness and education among girls and women regarding menstrual hygiene. This year's theme for the Day is 'Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health'.

May 29: International Day of UN Peacekeepers

The Day is observed globally to honour all the women and men who have served as military, police or civilians in UN Peacekeeping operations. This is the date when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission named the "United Nations Truce Supervision Organization", or UNTSO, began operations in the Middle East.

The theme for this year's celebrations is "The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security." It focuses on over 10,000 young peacekeepers aged between 18 – 29 years that are deployed in various corners of the world, performing their duties for protecting the lives of civilians.

May 29: International Everest Day

Celebrated annually to commemorate the first conquering of the highest peak on Earth -- Mount Everest by New Zealand's Edmund Hillary and Nepalese sherpa Tenzing Norgay on this day in 1953. Nepal decided to observe this day from 2008, when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

The 8849-meter-high peak is called Chomo-Lungma, or 'Mother Goddess of the Land' by the Tibetans, and 'Sagarmatha' by Nepal and Chinese call it Qololangma. However, the English named it after Sir George Everest, a 19th-century British Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843.

May 31: No Tobacco Day

Celebrated with active support from the World Health Organisation, the day tries to educate people about the harmful effect of tobacco consumption and the urgent need to quit it. Tobacco use is responsible for several lakh deaths each year. The theme for this year is "Quit tobacco to be a winner". WHO also launched a "Commit to Quit" campaign to encourage people who want to quit smoking.



April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

Observed globally every year to highlight the need to improve the quality of life of those with autism so that they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. The theme for this day for 2021 is "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World".

Autism is a developmental disorder characterized by difficulties faced in social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior.

April 2: International Children's Book Day

The Day is observed by the International Board on Books for Young People, an international non-profit organization based at Basel, Switzerland, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. The theme for this year is "The Music of Words."

April 5: National Maritime Day

Observed annually to raise awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy as the most well-organized, safe and sound, environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the world. *On this day in 1919, SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd sailed from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (London).*

April 5: International Day of Conscience

The United Nations has declared this day to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things. It's an opportunity to improve themselves and their communities, stimulating a crucial turning point for transforming our world.

The day aims to promote peace and love throughout the world by highlighting the role of conscience in stopping people from harming others orally, physically, sexually, or mentally.

April 07: World Health Day

It is an initiative taken by the World Health Organization to raise awareness about overall health and well-being of people across the world. The Day aims to highlight WHO's constitutional principle that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The theme for 2021 is "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone".

April 10: World Homoeopathy Day

This day is celebrated to honor the birth of the father of the Homoeopathic system of medicines Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. Born on this day in 1755 in Paris, France, he was a German physician, who was an acclaimed scientist, a great scholar, and linguist. Homeopathy is an alternative form of medicine, which believes that 'Like cures like.' This year the theme of the day in India is, "Homeopathy- Roadmap for Integrative Medicine".

April 11: National Safe Motherhood Day

It is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) to enforce that women must have the availability and adequate access to care during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services. At the request of WRAI, an alliance of 1800 organizations, in 2003, the Government of India declared April 11, the anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi's birth day, as National Safe Motherhood Day. India is the 1st country in the world to have socially declared a National Safe Motherhood Day.

April 11: World Parkinson's Day

The day aims to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease, which is a progressive nervous system disorder. It is a condition that affects the brain, resulting in a progressive loss of coordination and movement of muscles, often marked by shaking of hands.

It also marks the birthday of Dr James Parkinson (1755) from London, who was the first person to systematically describe the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson Disease in 1817.

April 12: International Day of Human Space Flight

The day is celebrated and supported by the UNO to mark the beginning of the space era for mankind and to highlight the contribution of space science and technology for peaceful purposes. On this day in 1961, the first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Russian citizen, who became the first person to journey into outer space.

April 13: India celebrates Baisakhi

The auspicious day of Baisakhi is celebrated all over India though under different names and with different sets of rituals. It marks the thanksgiving by the farmer community for the bumper Rabi crops.

In north India, it is one of the biggest festivals of the Sikhs as it marks the foundation of the Khalsa Panth on this day by the 10th Guru Sri Gobind Singh.

People of Assam celebrate April 13 as Rongali Bihu, while those in West Bengal celebrate it as Naba Barsha. Bihar celebrates Baisakhi as Vaishakha in honour of the Sun God, Surya while Kerala celebrates it as Vishu and Tamil Nadu as Puthandu.

April 13: Siachen Day

Celebrated annually to pay solemn tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives to capture the icy heights of Siachen in April 1984. The day commemorates the courage and fortitude displayed by Indian Army troops in securing the highest and coldest battlefield in the world. On 13 April 1984, the Indian Army launched 'Operation Meghdoot' to secure Bilafond La and other passes on the Saltoro Ridgeline, from Pakistani aggression.

April 15: World Art Day



Celebrated globally every year with support from UNESCO to promote the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art. This day is being celebrated all over the world to emphasize the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe. The day also commemorates the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, the famous painter of Mona Lisa.

April 17: World Haemophilia Day

Observed globally to raise awareness for Haemophilia and other similar bleeding disorders. The day happens to be the birthday of Frank Schnabelen, founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia, a Montreal, Canada based NGO. The theme for this year is “Adapting to Change: Sustaining care in a new world”.

Haemophilia is a mostly inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots, a process needed to stop bleeding. This results in people bleeding for a longer time after an injury, easy bruising, and an increased risk of bleeding inside joints or the brain.

April 18: World Heritage Day

Also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, it is observed every year with support from UNESCO to preserve the human heritage and recognize the efforts of the organizations working for it. It is a collective effort of the communities in the world to do the needful to maintain the legacy and save the rich heritage which has been given to us by our ancestors. The theme for this year is “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures”. Currently, there are 38 World Heritage Sites located in India.

April 19: World Liver Day

Observed every year to spread awareness about the liver, the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain. Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs. Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water.

April 21: Civil Services Day

The Government of India celebrates this day as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to

public service and excellence in work. The day provides an unique opportunity for introspection as also for working out future strategies to deal with the challenges being posed by the ever changing times.

This date commemorates the day when the first home minister of independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi; he referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.

April 21: World Creativity and Innovation Day

Observed globally every year to raise awareness about the importance of creativity and innovation in problem-solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the “global goals”. The main objective of the day is to encourage people to use new ideas, make new decisions, and do creative thinking.

April 22: The Earth day

Observed to create awareness about pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet. According to the United Nations, International Mother Earth Day is celebrated to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. The landmark Paris Agreement, which brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions, was signed on Earth Day 2016.

The theme of the day this year is 'Restore Our Earth'. The theme focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems.

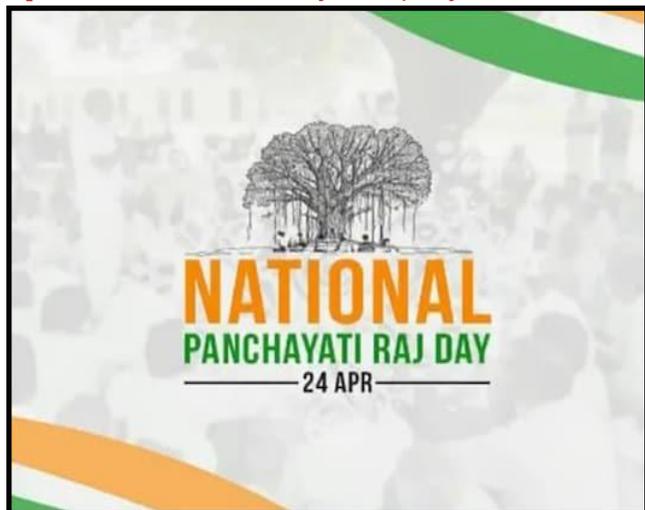
April 23: World Book and Copyright Day

Observed globally every year with support from UNESCO to pay tribute to all those writers and authors who have contributed to the social and cultural progress of humanity. The day aims at raising awareness about the "power of books" and encouraging people across the world to read. Each year, UNESCO and the international organizations representing the three major sectors of the book industry -- publishers, booksellers, and libraries -- select the World Book Capital for a one-year period. This year, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia has been selected as the World Book Capital for 2021.

April 23: English Language Day

Observed globally every year to mark the birthday and date of death of legendary writer William Shakespeare. This initiative was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010 “to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization”. The English language is spoken in 67 nations out of 195 countries in the world.

April 24: National Panchayati Raj Day



Celebrated to highlight the role of Panchayats as the first rung of local self-administration. Panchayati Raj Institutions are the cornerstone of decentralized governance and planning in India. Strengthening and modernizing of the Panchayati Raj system has given a new direction to the social and economic development of the villages.

On this day in 1993, the Panchayati Raj Act (73rd Amendment) came into existence. The Panchayati Raj is the oldest system of local government. The word 'Panchayat' is an amalgamation of two words where 'Panch' means 'five' and 'Ayat' means 'assembly' and 'Raj' means 'rule'.

April (24): World Veterinary Day

It is observed on the last Saturday of April every year. The day aims to promote the veterinary profession and work on improving animal and human welfare, the environment, food safety, and animal transport. The day was created by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society. The theme for this year is 'Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crisis.'

April 25: World Malaria Day

Celebrated internationally to raise awareness about the need for the prevention, control and elimination of malaria. It is an opportunity to educate people for better understanding of Malaria and how to cure it. Malaria is a life-threatening disease which is caused by Plasmodium Parasites. The parasite can be spread to humans through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. However, it is a preventable and treatable infectious disease. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Reaching the zero-malaria target."

April 26: World Intellectual Property Day

The day is celebrated to make people know how intellectual property (IP) rights encourage innovation and creativity. The celebrations are supported by the UN special agency - World Intellectual Property Office

(WIPO), Geneva. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is necessary to be safe, therefore, WIPO is not organising any physical events, and encouraged the community to celebrate via virtual channels. This year the theme is "SMEs & IP: Taking your ideas to market".

April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The day aims at promoting the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases at the workplace. In order to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, the International Labour Organization (ILO) started celebrating this day in 2003. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises: Invest now in resilient occupational safety and health (OSH) systems". It focuses on leveraging the elements of an OSH system as set out in the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006.

April 29: International Dance Day

This day was created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute, Paris, the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. The primary purpose of Dance Day is to attract the attention of the wider public to the art of dance. Emphasis should be given to addressing a new public, people who do not follow dance events during the year. This event marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the father of modern ballet. The theme of International Dance Day 2021 is 'Purpose of dance'.

April 30: Ayushman Bharat Diwas

The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database. It also aims to promote health and wellness and provide insurance benefits to the poor. This day marks the launch of Ayushman Bharat Yojana, which is also known as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in 2018. The Scheme has various benefits with an insurance cover of 5 lakh rupees per family per year.



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NATIONAL NEWS

MARCH

- P M 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 the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, called 'Father of the Nation in Bangladesh'.*
- India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years.
- US Defence Secretary (counterpart of our defence minister) Lloyd J Austin III visited India on March 19 for a three-day visit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland, on March 16.
- PM Modi held a virtual summit with his Swedish counterpart Stefan Löfven on March 5.
- India began its BRICS Chairship for 2021 with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting on Feb 24-26 at New Delhi.
- *The theme for this year is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus".*
- Prime Minister Modi flagged off a Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Dandi in district Navsari (Gujarat) on March 12.
- *It marked the beginning of mega event 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.*
- A National Implementation Committee set up headed by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to

plan celebrations of the 75 years of India's Independence.

- The Maritime India Summit-2021 was held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4 to discuss a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade.
- The United Nations Development Program- UNDP launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' (Right Direction) to facilitate and promote women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the rural India.
- Google launched 'Women Will' web platform to help one million women in rural India.
- *It will help them become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship, as part of the Google Internet Saathi programme.*
- 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.
- *Millets are coarse grains such as jowar (sorghum), ragi (finger millet), bajra (pearl millet).*
- The Shipping Corporation of India flagged off an 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna from Mumbai.
- *This was the first time in the world maritime history that a ship was being sailed by all women officers.*
- Government has decided to merge the Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV channels. The new channel will now be known as Sansad TV.
- The Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific has shown that India is at the top with 81 percent of high performers practising flexible working, including flexible hours and work-from-home.
- According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Switzerland is the

most prepared nation for adopting e-commerce. India was placed at 71st spot.

- The UN World Happiness Report 2021 ranked world's 149 countries on "how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be".
- *India has been placed low at 139th rank. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world.*
- The International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2021 evaluated the status of IP rights in 53 economies. The USA topped the Index while India was placed at 40th rank.
- The "Economic Freedom Index" for 184 countries, 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, while India scored low in the Index securing 121st rank.*

FEBRUARY

- India hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries on Feb. 18 to discuss COVID-19 crisis and exchange of best practices to tackle it.
- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit on Feb. 10. The theme of the summit was 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'.
- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement with Mauritius on Feb. 17.
- MoU signed with Afghanistan for construction of Shahtoot dam project on the River Kabul to provide safe drinking water to Kabul City.
- UNICEF signed an agreement with Serum Institute of India, Pune for long-term supply of AstraZeneca/Oxford and the Novavax vaccines for fighting Corona.
- 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".
- New Delhi's iconic monument "India Gate" completed 100 years of its foundation laying on Feb 10, 1921. It was built in commemoration of more than 80,000 Indian soldiers who were killed during World War I.
- The SE Central Railways in Chhattisgarh created a new record by operating the world's longest ever freight train by amalgamating 300 wagons of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km in length.

- Named as 'Vasuki', it covered the distance of 224 km between Bhilai and Korba in Chhattisgarh in about seven hours.
- India's biggest silk fair, 8th India International Silk Fair was held from Jan 31 to Feb 4 by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council in virtual mode.
- India is the only country in the world which produces all the four major varieties of silk i.e., Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.
- 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.
- The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 placed India at seventh rank in terms of losses suffered from extreme weather events like cyclones, storms, floods and heatwaves in the year 2019.
- The Democracy Index 2020 placed India at 53rd position due to the "democratic backsliding" by authorities and "crackdowns" on civil liberties.
- The Index was topped by Norway, followed by Iceland and Sweden. North Korea was at the bottom.
- The Corruption Perception Index, 2020, released by Transparency International for 180 countries, has placed India at 86th rank.
- New Zealand and Denmark jointly secured the first position while Somalia and South Sudan ranked lowest at 179th position.
- The Bloomberg Innovation Index ranked South Korea as the most innovative nation, followed by Singapore at second and Switzerland at the third place. India was ranked 50th in the study of 111 countries.
- 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 Gadhैया 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 32.63crore.

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.

NEWS FROM STATES

MARCH

- The government declared Lakshadweep and Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district to be first in the country to be free from TB.
- *Among states, Himachal Pradesh was declared first under the National TB Elimination Programme.*
- As per the 'Ease of Living Index' by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Bengaluru topped as the most liveable city among 111 cities covered in the index, followed by Pune, and Ahmedabad.

- 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 Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs released the Municipal Performance Index for the 111 Indian cities.
- *Indore Municipality topped in the million plus category, while New Delhi Municipal Council topped in less than million category.*
- The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.
- *The centre has been developed after research on the healing properties of the forests and their impact on overall health and wellbeing.*
- Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal was launched at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.
- *The terminal has been launched for meeting export/import operations of international couriers.*
 - The Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) was inaugurated on river Feni connecting Sabroom in South Tripura to Ramgarh in Bangladesh on March 9.
- *The bridge will connect landlocked Tripura with Chittagong port in Bangladesh and other inland waterways.*
- Govt has selected 12 tourist sites spanning across nine states and UTs under the Swachh Iconic Places initiative of the newly formed Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Leh, a great seat of Buddhism in Ladakh has been shortlisted under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme.
- 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

- Kerala has set up the country's first Digital University in Technocity at Mangalapuram near Thiruvananthapuram, named as the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.
- 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 made by an individual into the atmosphere.

- India's first ever geothermal power project named Geothermal Field Development Project, is to be established at Puga village in eastern Ladakh.
- India's first centralised AC railway terminal has been started at the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Byppanahalli, Bengaluru.
- Himachal Pradesh became the first State in the country to make the end-to-end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application.
- The Gujarat Govt inked an agreement with Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. to set up India's largest multi-modal logistics park at Virochannagar, Ahmedabad.
- The longest road arch bridge in India, the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar, Meghalaya was formally inaugurated on Jan 22. The Single Arch Bridge has a span of 169.35 metre over the River Wahrew.
- Sikkim state launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students of Sikkim' initiative at the capital Gangtok to eradicate malnutrition and other health problems among the young generation.
- 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.
- A glacier burst took place on Feb 7 near the Rishi Ganga hydro power project after a portion of Nanda Devi glacier broke off in Tapovan area of Uttarakhand.
- It caused heavy flash floods in river Rishi Ganga, destroying the Rishi Ganga hydro power project.
- Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project on Yamuna river in district Dehradun of Uttarakhand.
- The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh from Feb 20 to 26.
- Uttar Pradesh became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22.

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 Rattle 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 '24x7 Power for All' initiative.
- \$300 million to upgrade rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh.
- \$190 million for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in city of Bengaluru.
- \$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.

GOVT INITIATIVES

MARCH

- Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign launched for both rural and urban areas, with the theme "catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls".
- The National Highways Authority of India has decided to develop world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years.
- *The amenities will include numerous facilities such as Fuel Station, Electric Charging, Food Court, Retail*

Shops, ATM, Toilets, Children Playing Area, Clinic, Village Haat for local handicrafts etc.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Women and Child Development Ministry has decided to classify all its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes- Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0, and Mission Vatsalya- for their better implementation.
- Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for people with disabilities and even the elderly to register issues regarding physical accessibility to buildings, in modes of transport by uploading pictures on it.
- Government has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in online gaming with focus on VFX and Animation in collaboration with IIT Bombay.
- UGC has approved Chartered Accountant (CA), Company Secretary (CS) or Cost and Works Accountant (ICWA) degrees as equivalent to postgraduate degree.
- The government announced new policies for regulation of content on social media and over the top (OTT) platforms.
- *Now the govt can ask the social platforms to reveal the first originator of any message that appears 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.*

FEBRUARY

- The first-ever National Toy Fair was held in virtual mode from 27th Feb to 2nd March to boost toy making in India and improving its global market share.
- Government approved 8 toy manufacturing clusters with investment of Rs 2,300 crore.

- The National Urban Digital Mission launched for providing an online platform for harnessing potential from the urban domain and technology towards creating citizen-centric governance.
- Go Electric Campaign launched to boost the adoption of electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances to ensure energy security in the country.
- Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana launched to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems.
- It will strengthen existing health systems and support future health interventions with an outlay of about 64,180 crores over next 6 years.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 launched to expand immunization coverage across the nation with focus on children and pregnant women who did not get the vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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'.
- The National Informatics Centre 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.
- An online portal "e-Chhawani" launched to offer civil services to more than 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonments Boards across the country.
- 'Shram Shakti' portal launched to collect data related to the tribal migrant workers and to link them to the existing welfare schemes.
- A new Central Sector Scheme titled 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)' launched.
- The FPOs will form clusters to grow agricultural and horticultural products for leveraging economies of scale and improving market access.
- The FPOs will be provided financial assistance upto Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of three years.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) amended the Companies Rules to allow 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 or OPC shall not exceed Rs 2 crores and Rs. 20 crores, respectively.
- India established its first centre for wetland conservation in Chennai, named as 'Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management'.
- It is part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- The Election Commission launched 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.

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 décor, 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.

ECONOMY

MARCH

- Agriculture Ministry released the second advance estimates of production of principal crops in the year 2020-21.
- *Country's foodgrain production is projected at a record 303.34 million tonnes for crop year 2020- 21. The crop year in India is from July to June.*
- 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.*
- China pushed USA to 2nd spot to emerge India's biggest trade partner in 2020 as India continued to rely on import of machinery and telecom equipment from China.
- 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.

FEBRUARY

- As per the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021 report by the UN Deptt. Of Economic and Social Affairs, the Indian economy is estimated to contract by 9.6 per cent in the calendar year 2020.
- The Reliance Jio, the largest mobile network operator in India, has been ranked 5th on Brand Finance's Global 500 ranking of the strongest brands.

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 5 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 shrank 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%.

BANKING & FINANCE

MARCH

- The RBI has set up an 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.*
- 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 DFI will raise long-term funds for infrastructure development projects in the country.
- Govt 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.
- RBI has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System in all branches by

Sep. 30 this year to facilitate faster settlement of cheques.

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants.
- *This will transform NFC (Near Field Communication) enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers.*
- On March 10, Axis Bank became the first bank in India to launch its own range of wearable contactless payment devices.
- *Dubbed as 'Wear N Pay', these are available in many forms as arm band, key chain and watch loop.*

FEBRUARY

- The RBI brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview from Feb 22. Now, RBI will function as a banker to the state government of Sikkim.
- The RBI formed a committee headed by N.S.Vishwanathan for drawing a vision document to strengthen urban co-operative banks.
- The agricultural credit target for the public sector banks for the year 2021-22 hiked to Rs. 16.5 lakh crore with focus on animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries.
- State Bank of India crossed the Rs 5 lakh crore-mark in its home loan business in Feb. 2021, securing 34% of the market share.

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.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MARCH

- According to defence website Military Direct, China with 82 points has the strongest military force in the world.

- *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 the top with a budget of \$ 732 billion per year, followed by China (\$261 billion), and India - \$71 billion.*
- Indian Coast Guard ship 'Vajra' was commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24. The ship was indigenously designed and built by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding Ltd.
- The Ministry of Defence placed an order with Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles at a cost of Rs 1,188 crore.
- India is set to commission its first advanced surveillance ship INS Dhruv to track satellites, strategic missiles and map the Indian Ocean bed.
- DRDO successfully tested the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology for the long-range air to air missiles from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, 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.
- DUSTLIK-II: Second edition of the India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise was held in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand from March 10 to 19.
- Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise Desert Flag on March 3 along with France and the United States in the UAE.
- India signed a key pact with the Philippines for supply of defence material and equipment, including BrahMos Cruise Missiles to the Philippines.
- 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.
- France launched the world's first military exercise codenamed ASTREX in space from March 8 to 12 aimed at testing the country's abilities to protect its satellites and other defence equipment from other space forces.
- ISRO and NASA jointly developed a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint Earth

observation satellite mission that will be launched by ISRO in early 2022.

- ISRO successfully launched surveillance satellite 'Sindhu Netra' on Feb 28. It has been developed by the DRDO to monitor activities of both military warships and merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean.
- 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 can be fully charged in just 15 minutes and have a longer life of over 15 years.*
- 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 world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku", developed by RIKEN and Fujitsu of Japan, is now available for research work. It has astonishing high speed of processing of 442 petaflops.
- 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.
- The Russian space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its first satellite "Arktika-M" to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.

FEBRUARY

- L&T delivered to Indian Army the 100th and final unit of K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/ 52 calibre self-propelled guns built at its Hazira plant in Gujarat.
- The Indian Navy got its third indigenously built Scorpene Submarine on Feb 15, to be commissioned as INS Karanj in March, 2021.
- Indian Army placed an order with Indian Ordnance Factory, Avadi, Tamil Nadu for 118 Arjun Mark 1-A tanks - 'Hunter Killers'.
- It has all-weather capability and better fire power and stability than the Arjun main battle tank (MBT) currently in use.
- The Indian Army successfully tested the Helina (Army Version) and Dhruv Astra (Air Force Version) Missile Systems designed and developed by DRDO.
- 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).

- Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India-2021" was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka from Feb 3 to 5.
- **PASSEX:** The Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted bilateral military exercise PASSEX in the Arabian Sea on Feb 18
- **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.
- **AMPHEX-21:** A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX - 21 was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from January 21-25.
- Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of the surface-to-surface ballistic cruise missile 'Babur', having a range of 450 kms.
- ISRO has tied up with the digital mapping/location tech company MapmyIndia to offer a fully indigenous, mapping portal and related geospatial services.
- The India Meteorological Department plans to set up India's first thunderstorm research testbed at Balasore, Odisha, jointly with ISRO and DRDO.
- The project aims at reducing fatalities and loss of property due to frequent cyclones and lightning strikes in Odisha and the eastern states.
- 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.
- 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.
- Gecko is a small size lizard found in warm climates.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

INTERNATIONAL

MARCH

- Norway plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadshavet Sea.
- *The 1700 metre long, 37 metre high and 26.5-metre-wide tunnel will burrow through the mountainous Stadshavet peninsula in northwestern Norway.*
- The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. Prime Ministers of India, Australia, Japan and US President participated in the Summit.
- Union Finance 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 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings placed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA at top for the ninth year in a row.
- 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.*

FEBRUARY

- The Myanmar Military Tatmadaw (official name of Myanmar Military) executed a coup in the country on Feb 1.
- Military arrested the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior leaders of the ruling party National League for Democracy.
- Denmark plans to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea to cover the electricity needs of 3 million European households.
- The energy will be generated from hundreds of wind turbines surrounding the island.
- 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 Office for National Statistics, UK stated that the British economy suffered its biggest decline in more than 300 years in 2020 as it shrank by 9.9%.
- The fall was due to coronavirus pandemic that closed shops and restaurants, devastated the travel industry and curtailed manufacturing.
- 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.
- It is a legally binding treaty prohibiting the signatories to develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
- South Korea 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.

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- Hassyam is being developed in Saih Shuaib, Dubai, UAE.

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- \$16.2 billion so far in the year 2021 in the world to his fortune, as per the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Jasmine Harrison: A 21-year-old British woman from England became the youngest woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

FEBRUARY

Dr. Kiran Bedi: Former IPS Officer was removed from the post of Puducherry Lieutenant Governor by the orders of the President of India.

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'.

APPOINTMENTS

MARCH

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

Dr Ajay Mathur: Appointed as the Director General of the International Solar Alliance, Gurugram, Haryana.

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

Kuldiep 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: A senior BJP leader appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

Tirath Singh Rawat: In Uttarakhand, Rawat was sworn-in as the new chief minister on March 10.

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.

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.

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.

Mario Draghi: Sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Italy.

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.

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.

AWARDS & HONOURS

MARCH

The 67th National Film Awards - 2019

Best Feature Film: Marakkur: 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 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.

✓ *Given by govt of India, the award carries a cash prize of Rs. one crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft item.*

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

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.

Film Archive Award-2021: Conferred upon megastar Amitabh Bachchan for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage.

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.

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

(These awards are different from Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award which is presented by GOI)

Pritzker Architecture Prize-2021: Architecture's highest honour, awarded to 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.

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.

FEBRUARY

Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana, emerged as the top winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020 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.

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 and 102 persons will get Padma Shri.

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.

Subhas 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Laxman Pai: Renowned Indian artist and painter passed away at his residence in Goa on March 14. He was 95. 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.

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 (Sherawali 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.

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.

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

FEBRUARY

Bhimbetka: The three fossils of the world's earliest known living animal- the 550 million years old Dickinsonia- were discovered by the researchers in the Bhimbetka rock shelters near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

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

(On Feb 4, 1922, a large group of protesters participating in the non-cooperation movement, clashed with police resulting in death of 3 civilians and lynching of 22 policemen. Hurt by this, Gandhi ji decided to halt the movement).

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 as a unusual severe winter storm named Uri struck the south-eastern part of the country.

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.

Zanskar: India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at Zanskar 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.

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.

Tamil Nadu's CA Bhavani Devi became the first ever Indian fencer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

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.

Mithali Raj became the first player in the world to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket.

Mithali Raj, veteran batswoman became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats.

Chess player Koneru Humpy from Andhra Pradesh won the "BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year" (ISWOTY) award for 2020, following a public vote.

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: Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally at the event held at famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

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 became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021.

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

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.

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).

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy: Won by team Tamil Nadu after defeating team Baroda in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Jan 31.

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.

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.

Ajay Singh re-elected as President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). He is sports manager and chairman of Spicejet Airlines.

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that the second Khelo India University Games will be hosted by Karnataka in Bengaluru.

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GRAND SLAM held in Melbourne Park, Australia

Men's title: Defending Champion Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won his ninth Australian Open title, beating Daniil Medvedev of Russia.

Women's title: Japan's Naomi Osaka won her fourth Grand Slam title by beating American Jennifer Brady

Badminton World Tour Finals: World No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying (China) defeated Olympian Carolina Marin (Spain) in the finals at Bangkok.

Men's title was won by Denmark's Anders Antonsen beating former world champion Viktor Axelsen, also from Denmark.

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.

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Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



MAY GK TEST - 01

- What is the title of the recent novel written by noted novelist Jhumpa Lahiri?**
 - Whereabouts
 - The Namesake
 - Interpreter of Maladies
 - The Lowland
 - Brotherly Love
- Which country has the most travel-friendly passport as per the latest Henley Passport Index released on April 15?**
 - Singapore
 - Switzerland
 - Japan
 - Sweden
 - Norway
- NASA's Mars helicopter named _____ made history with a successful flight on the Red Planet.**
 - Curiosity
 - Ingenuity
 - Inspire
 - Voyager
 - Perseverance
- An Asset Reconstruction Company buys the _____ from banks and financial institutions at a mutually agreed value:**
 - Fixed assets
 - Property
 - Bad loans
 - Old assets
 - Scrap items
- MCLR is the minimum interest rate, below which a bank is not permitted to lend. What is the full form of MCLR?**
 - Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate
 - Marginal Cost of Finance based Lending Rate
 - Maximum Cost based Lending Rate
 - Minimum Cost of Funds based Lending Rate
 - Marginal Capital and Lending Ratio
- The Sudirman Cup is associated with which sport?**
 - Hockey
 - Tennis
 - Badminton
 - Basketball
 - Chess
- In the recent rankings released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which state was ranked at number one in implementation of Smart City Projects?**
 - Telangana
 - Rajasthan
 - Haryana
 - Jharkhand
 - Sikkim
- China successfully sent a new satellite Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) into orbit on May 19 for what purpose?**
 - For 6G tele-communications
 - For weather monitoring
 - For military surveillance
 - For ocean-monitoring
 - For GPS network
- What is the formal name of the widely prevalent deadly infection Black Fungus?**
 - Mycoriamiseptic
 - Mucormycosis
 - Mycorolysis
 - Mucosis
 - Mycophytolosis
- Indian Navy decommissioned its first destroyer warship on May 21 at the Visakhapatnam Dockyard, putting an end to a glorious era of 41 years of outstanding services. What was its name?**
 - INS Trishul
 - INS Dogra
 - INS Rajput
 - INS Khanderi
 - INS Mysore
- Maharana Pratap, heroic warrior of Rajasthan, was the king of which area?**
 - Jodhpur
 - Chittor
 - Mewar
 - Haldighati
 - Udaipur
- Which one of the following is NOT a tool of Fiscal Policy?**
 - Taxation
 - Pubic Expenditure
 - Interest Rate
 - Pubic Debt
 - None of these

13. As per recent RBI directions, cash withdrawal of up to Rs. _____ per transaction now can be made from online wallets like Amazon pay, Ola money, Mobikwik, Phone pe, etc. by using ATMs or PoS machines:
- 1,000
 - 2,000
 - 3,000
 - 4,000
 - 5,000
14. Moctar Ouane has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali. It is located in which part of Africa?
- Northern
 - Southern
 - Western
 - Eastern
 - Central
15. Arjan 'Singh' Bhullar became the first Indian origin fighter to win the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the top-level MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) Championship. He hails from which country?
- USA
 - Canada
 - Australia
 - New Zealand
 - Britain
16. Penpa Tsering has been elected as the new _____ of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, based in Dharamshala:
- Chairman
 - Governor
 - President
 - Prime Minister
 - Premier
17. Jagannath Pahadia, the first Dalit Chief Minister of _____ succumbed to death due to COVID-19 at the age of 89 on May 19:
- Madhya Pradesh
 - Gujarat
 - Rajasthan
 - Odisha
 - Haryana
18. What was the theme of this year's World Metrology Day celebrated on May 20?
- Metrology to push trade
 - Measures: Tool to kill Corona
 - Metrology for Health
 - Measurement for Health
 - Better Measurements: Better World
19. Which state emerged at the top in establishing Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the Ayushman Bharat Program?
- Kerala
 - Karnataka
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Telangana
 - Assam
20. Which of the following is NOT a part of the famous "Char Dham Yatra" of Uttarakhand?
- Kedarnath
 - Rudraprayag
 - Gangotri
 - Badrinath
 - Yamunotri
- 21) The 'SBI Life Insurance' is a joint venture life insurance company between State Bank of India and _____.
- New York Life Insurance
 - Prudential Life Insurance
 - Standard Life Insurance
 - BNP Paribas
 - Metlife Insurance
- 22) Micro Credit means:
- Loans up to Rs. 1 lakh to people in unorganized sector
 - Loans to Self-Help Groups
 - Loan for micro-nutrients
- Only 1
 - Only 2
 - Only 1 and 2
 - All 1, 2 and 3
 - None of these
23. Ramesh Powar has been appointed as the head coach of which national women's team
- Hockey
 - Cricket
 - Kabaddi
 - Tennis
 - Football
24. Who secured the top spot on Fortune magazine's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders, released on May 14?
- Jacinda Ardern
 - Robert Mueller
 - Jack Ma
 - Satya Nadella
 - Greta Thunberg
25. Sir David Attenborough, the 95-year-old renowned English broadcaster and natural historian has been named as the _____ of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26):
- Chairperson
 - Patron d Chief
 - People's Advocate
 - Brand Ambassador
 - Chief Delegate
26. Which militant group launched repeated rocket attacks in the second week of May on adjoining areas of Israel?
- Hezbollah
 - Al Qaeda
 - ISIS
 - Hamas
 - Fatah
27. Coastal areas of the six states were devastated by the Super Cyclone Tauktae. Which of the following was NOT one of them?
- Kerala
 - Gujarat
 - Karnataka
 - Maharashtra
 - Tamil Nadu
28. Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, a Congress stalwart passed away on May 15. He represented which Lok Sabha constituency six times?
- Ludhiana
 - Patiala
 - Amritsar
 - Jalandhar
 - Gurdaspur
29. Drugs Controller General of India is very much in news these days as it permits the usage of drugs and vaccines in India, including those for COVID-19. Where are its headquarters?
- Hyderabad
 - Lucknow
 - Pune
 - Bengaluru
 - New Delhi
- 30) Some of the activities undertaken by the Central Banks are
- Lending money for infrastructure

- 2) Creation of currency chests at various places
 3) Maintaining electronic funds transfer systems
 a. Only 1 and 2 b. Only 1 and 3
 c. Only 2 and 3 d. 1, 2, & 3
 e. None of these
- 31) Which of the following broadly describes Fiscal Deficit?**
 a. Total income less Government borrowing
 b. Total expenditure less total receipts
 c. Total payments less capital receipts
 d. Total taxes raised by Govt.
 e. None of these
- 32. 'KUSUM' (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) covers which of the following?**
 a. Setting up of 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Solar Power Plants
 b. Installation of 17.50 lakh Stand-alone Solar Pumps
 c. Solarisation of 10 lakh Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps and 50 Thousand Tube-wells/Lift Irrigation Projects
 d. Only a and b
 e. All of the above
- 33. Which vitamin is provided by sunlight to the body?**
 a. Vitamin A b. Vitamin B
 c. Vitamin C d. Vitamin D
 e. Vitamin E
- 34) What is the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha?**
 a. 545 b. 542
 c. 554 d. 553
 e. 543
- 35. Foot and mouth disease is found in which of the following?**
 a. Cats b. Dogs
 c. Cattle d. Poultry
 e. Birds
- 36. The indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' is being manufactured by Bharat Biotech at which place?**
 a. Visakhapatnam b. Mysore
 c. Bengaluru d. Hyderabad
 e. Pune
- 37) The prestigious Palme d'Or award for the best film is given at which international film festival?**
 a. Venice International Film Festival
 b. Cannes Film Festival
 c. Toronto International Film Festival
 d. Berlin Film Festival
 e. Sundance Film Festival
- 38) Which of the following statement regarding money market is true?**
 i) It provides investment avenues of short-term tenor up to one year
 ii) Money market is classified into overnight market, notice money market and term money market
 iii) It caters to investors with a long-term investment horizon
 Select the right option:
 a. Only a and b b. Only a and c
 c. Only a d. Only b
 e. All of these
- 39) The term bridge loan refers to**
 a. Loan given to a bridge company
 b. Loan given for construction of a bridge
 c. Short-term loan given before main loan
 d. Loan given to bridge the gap in term loan
 e. None of these
- 40. The Maharishi Organisation Worldwide selected which Indian union minister for the International Invincible Gold Medal?**
 a. Dr. Harsh Vardhan b. Dr. S. Jaishankar
 c. Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
 d. Nitin Gadkari e. Nirmala Sitharaman
- 41. Padma Bhushan Prof. M S Narasimhan, passed away on May 16. He was an eminent professor of which subject?**
 a. Physics b. Mathematics
 c. Medicine d. Astronomy
 e. Nuclear Science
- 42. Iga Swiatek won the Women's Singles title at the Italian Open Tennis Tournament. She hails from which country?**
 a. Spain b. Serbia
 c. France d. Italy
 e. Poland
- 43. Andrea Meza, winner of Miss Universe 2020 title, represents which country?**
 a. France b. Chile
 c. Mexico d. Croatia
 e. Hungary
- 44) RBI has directed banks to pay interest in savings bank accounts at _____ or shorter intervals:**
 a. Weekly b. Fortnightly
 c. Monthly d. Quarterly
 e. Half Yearly
- 45) Indian Banking Association has issued advisory requesting banks to waive off the processing, documentation, inspection and all other service charges for Kisan Credit Card and crop loans up to _____ lakh rupees.**

- a. 15 lakh rupees b. 10 lakh rupees
 c. 5 lakh rupees d. 6 lakh rupees
 e. 3 lakh rupees
46. **Sunderlal Bahuguna, pioneer of world famous "Chipko Movement" in 1974, died on May 21. He hailed from which state?**
 a. Himachal Pradesh b. Odisha
 c. Jharkhand d. Chhattisgarh
 e. Uttarakhand
47. **The National Bamboo Mission recently launched an MIS (Management Information Systems) based reporting platform for which item?**
 a. Match sticks b. Agarbatti sticks
 c. Handicrafts d. Furniture
 e. Mats
48. **Y Nuklu Phom, noted conservationist from _____ is one of the seven winners of the prestigious Whitley Award:**
 a. Manipur b. Nagaland
 c. Meghalaya d. Tripura
 e. Mizoram
49. **Rivali Park of Mumbai is the first stalled housing project completed with funding by SWAMIH. What does the letter 'S' denote in the acronym SWAMIH?**
 a. Social b. Society
 c. Special d. Sample
 e. Sanction
50. **May 15 is observed as the International Family Day. What is this year's theme for the Day?**
 a. Family: Let's live together
 b. Living Together - Best Option
 c. Save Family: Save Society
 d. Families and New Technologies
 e. Family: Hope for Survival

ANSWER KEY | MAY GK TEST | 1

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

1. **The Reserve Bank constituted a six-member panel headed by _____ to carry out a comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):**
 a. Ms. Revathy Iyer b. Sachin Chaturvedi
 c. Debashish Panda d. Sudarshan Sen
 e. Tarun Bajaj
2. **India celebrates April 21 as the Civil Services Day. Who referred civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'?**
 a. Dada Bhai Naoroji
 b. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel
 c. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 d. Mahatma Gandhi
 e. Jawahar Lal Nehru
3. **Which country retained its top spot for the fifth year in running in the World Press Freedom Index 2021?**
 a. Denmark b. France
 c. Peru d. Japan
 e. Norway
4. **Chhau dance is a traditional folk dance of which state?**
 a. Kerala b. Nagaland
 c. Sikkim d. Jharkhand
 e. Telangana
5. **Which country hosted a two-day Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders in virtual mode on Earth Day, April 22 to address the global climate crisis?**
 a. France b. Belgium
 c. Japan d. USA
 e. Canada
6. **Maulana Wahiduddin Khan who passed away recently was a renowned _____ :**
 a. Islamic scholar b. Spiritual leader
 c. Author d. Only a
 e. All a, b and c
7. **The Panchayati Raj Act came into existence in 1953 by which amendment of the Indian Constitution?**
 a. 43rd b. 57th
 c. 73rd d. 88th
 e. 96th
8. **Which country topped the medal tally along with Russia in the World Youth Boxing Championships held in Kielce, Poland?**

- a. Bulgaria b. Poland
c. Iran d. India
e. Ukraine
9. **Rekha M Menon, Chairperson of IT firm Accenture India, has been appointed as chairperson of which apex business body?**
a. ASSOCHAM b. FICCI
c. NASSCOM d. CII
e. CAIT
- 10) **Which of the following is NOT correct regarding National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)?**
a. Under this Scheme, individuals, firms and corporates can electronically transfer funds
b. One can transfer a maximum of Rs. one crore via NEFT
c. NEFT operates in half hourly batches
d. It takes advantage of the core banking solutions in banks
e. It is available 24X7 all the 365 days
- 11) **Which of the following assets will NOT be considered as a non-performing asset (NPA)?**
a. Standard assets b. Doubtful assets
c. Loss assets d. Sub-standard assets
e. None of the above
12. **What was the name of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27?**
a. Shastra b. Varun
c. Marinex d. Tarun
e. Meghdoot
13. **Pair of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das represent India's top slot in which sports?**
a. Table tennis b. Rowing
c. Fencing d. Archery
e. Athletics
14. **M Narasimham, the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, was regarded as the "Father of _____" in India:**
a. Commercial Banking b. Banking Reforms
c. Financial Sector d. Money Market
e. Rural Banking
15. **A Living Mountain is a recent novel authored by:**
a. Sutapa Basu b. Aravind Adiga
c. Amitav Ghosh d. Jenny Lawson
e. Jhumpa Lahiri
- 16) **An increase in CRR by the Reserve Bank of India results in:**
a. Decrease in debt of the government
b. Reduction in liquidity in the economy
c. Attracting more FDI in the country
d. More flow of credit to desired sectors
e. None of these
17. **The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) offers a free medical insurance cover of _____ lakh rupees per family per year:**
a. One b. Two
c. Five d. Seven
e. Ten
18. **Which picture won the Oscar Award for the Best Picture?**
a. The Father b. Mank
c. Minari d. Nomadland
e. Sound of Metal
19. **The Reserve Bank has capped the tenure of MDs and CEOs of commercial banks to a maximum of _____ years:**
a. 5 b. 7
c. 10 d. 12
e. 15
20. **China has named its first-ever Mars rover as _____ after an ancient fire god.**
a. Yan Wang b. Nezha
c. Zhurong d. Canshen
e. Fuxing
21. **The submarine 'KRI Nanggala' went missing on 21 April, 2021, killing all its crew of 53 members. It belonged to which country?**
a. North Korea b. Malaysia
c. Thailand d. Indonesia
e. South Korea
22. **Which digital financial services provider launched on April 26 India's first video-based wealth community?**
a. InstaKash b. MobiKwik
c. Paytm d. PhonPe
e. PayU
23. **Gudi Padwa is a famous traditional festival of which state?**
a. Gujarat b. Rajasthan
c. Maharashtra d. Karnataka
e. Madhya Pradesh
24. **Some leading not-for-profit environmental and social organisations have come together to form the 'Blue Nature Alliance' for what purpose?**
a. To protect freshwater lakes
b. To work for conservation of glaciers
c. For cleansing of rivers
d. to protect the ocean's environment

- d. Only those banks are called public sector whose shares are traded in stock markets.
e. Those in which government owns some part of capital of the bank.
- 40) **When a cheque is crossed, it means that it cannot be:**
a. Paid in cash when presented for payment
b. The payment can be made through a bank account only
c. The cheque can be paid only to the person whose name appears on the cheque
d. Both a and b e. All a, b & c
- 41) **The Public Ltd companies can raise capital through public issues. These issues are known as:**
i. Initial Public Offering (IPO)
ii. Follow-on Public Offering (FPO)
iii. New Shares Offer
iv. First Public Offering
a. Only i b. Only i & ii
c. Only ii & iii d. Only iv
e. All of these
- 42) **The 'Nifty 50' or 'Nifty' is benchmark stock market index of _____.**
a. NASDAQ of New York
b. National Stock Exchange of India
c. Bombay Stock Exchange of India
d. Shanghai Stock Exchange of China
e. Taiwan Stock Exchange of Taipei
- 43) **Which sector of Indian economy contributes maximum to the Gross Domestic Product?**
a. Primary Sector b. Secondary Sector
c. Tertiary Sector d. Public Sector
e. Private sector
44. **Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu?**
a. Thambidurai M
b. Edappadi K Palaniswami
c. V K Sasikala d. Udhyanidhi Stalin
e. M K Stalin
45. **Mount Sinabung, a most active volcano erupted once again on May 7, spewing a thick column of volcanic ash 2.8 kilometres (1.7 miles) up into the sky. It is in which country?**
a. Malaysia b. Indonesia
c. Philippines d. Laos
e. Vietnam
46. **The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India have signed a MoU with the Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust on May 06 for construction and**

redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand. Which one of the following is NOT an oil & gas PSU?

- a. IOC b. HPCL
c. BPCL d. BHEL
e. GAIL
47. **RT-PCR test is used to identify Corona cases. Here the letter T stands for what?**
a. Transmission b. Traceable
c. Transcription d. Transfer
e. Transition
48. **The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven countries - G-7 was held in _____ on May 4-5:**
a. Ottawa b. Brussels
c. Tokyo d. London
e. Chicago
49. **India and many other countries celebrate Happy Mother's Day on the _____ Sunday of May:**
a. First b. Second
c. Third d. Fourth
e. Last
- 50) **Sometimes the public limited companies having good financial returns offer their shares free of cost to their existing share holders as reward for their loyalty. Such shares are known as -**
a. Free shares b. Preference shares
c. Equity shares d. Rights shares
e. Bonus shares

ANSWER KEY | MAY GK TEST | 2

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

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS TO FOCUS ON GOALS, NOT OBSTACLES.

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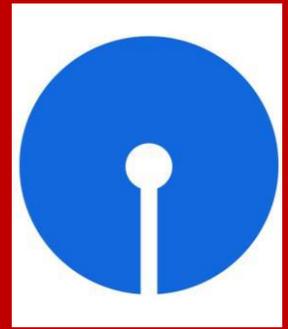


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SBI CLERK – PRELIMS

(MODEL TEST PAPER)



REASONING ABILITY

Directions - These questions consists of a question and two statements numbered I and II given below it. You have to decide whether the data given in the statements are sufficient to answer the questions. Read both the statements and choose the most appropriate option.

- 1) How many people are standing between L and K in the line of 19 people (Note: All are standing in a straight line facing north)?
I. Y stands to the extreme left end of the line. Only five people stand between Y and K. Only six people stand between K and R. Only four people stand between R and L.
II. J stands exactly in the centre of the line. Only two people stand between I and J. Only five people stand between I and L. I stands to the left of L. K stands third to the left of J.
- a) The data given in both statements I and II together are **not** sufficient to answer the question
b) The data in **both** statements I and II together are necessary to answer the question
c) The data in statement **II alone** is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question
d) The data **either** in statement I alone or statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question
e) The data in statement **I alone** is sufficient to answer the question while the data in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question
- 2) Among six people - A, B, C, D, E and F standing around a circle some facing the centre while some facing outside (i.e.

opposite to the centre) what is the position of A with respect to E?

(Note: Facing the same direction means, if one is facing the centre then the other also faces the centre and vice versa. Facing the opposite directions means if one is facing the centre then the other faces outside and vice versa)

I. C stands second to the right of E. E faces outside. C is an immediate neighbour of both D and B. F stands second to the left of D. D faces the same direction as E.

II. Only two people stand between B and E. Both B and E face outside. E is an immediate neighbour of both D and F. B is an immediate neighbour of both C and A. A is not an immediate neighbour of D.

a) The data in **both** statements I and II together are necessary to answer the question

b) The data in statement **II alone** is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question

c) The data given in both statements I and II together are **not** sufficient to answer the question

d) The data **either** in statement I alone or statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question

e) The data in statement **I alone** is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question

3) How is X related N?

I. X is mother of J. T is married to Z. N is the daughter of T. Z is the brother of J.

II. X is married to Y. Y is the father of J. J is married to M and Z is the uncle of N.

- a) The data given in both statements I and II together are **not** sufficient to answer the question
- b) The data in statement **I alone** is sufficient to answer the question while the data in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question
- c) The data **either** in statement I alone or statement II alone are sufficient to answer the question
- d) The data in **both** statements I and II together are necessary to answer the question
- e) The data in statement **II alone** is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question

4) **Among mobiles R, S, T, U, V and W which is costlier?**

I. T is costlier than only two mobiles. S is costlier than R but not the costliest. V is costlier than only W.

II. R is cheaper than only two mobiles. V is costlier than W but cheaper than T. T is cheaper than R. S is cheaper than U.

- a) The data in statement **II alone** is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question
- b) The data given in both statements I and II together are **not** sufficient to answer the question
- c) The data **either** in statement I alone or statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question
- d) The data in statement **I alone** is sufficient to answer the question while the data in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question
- e) The data in **both** statements I and II together are necessary to answer the question

5) **In a six story building (consisting of floors numbered 1 to 6, wherein the topmost floor is numbered 6 and the ground floor is numbered 1) each of the six friends namely M, N, O, P, Q and R lives on a different floor (Not necessarily in the same order). Who amongst them lives on the lower most floor?**

I. M lives on floor numbered five. Only two people live between M and N. Q lives immediately above P.

II. P lives on floor numbered three. Only two people live between P and O. N lives immediately above R. N lives on even numbered floor.

- a) The data given in both statements I and II together are **not** sufficient to answer the question
- b) The data in statement **II alone** is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question
- c) The data in statement **I alone** is sufficient to answer the question while the data in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question
- d) The data **either** in statement I alone or statement II alone are sufficient to answer the question
- e) The data in **both** statements I and II together are necessary to answer the question

Directions – In these questions there are given four statements followed by five conclusions, one of which definitely does not logically follow (or is not a possibility or occurrence) from the given statements. That conclusion is your answer.

(Note: You have to take the four given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from the given statements disregarding commonly known facts.)

6) **Statements:**

- No toy is a doll.
All guns are toys.
All houses are dolls.
All dolls are baskets.

Conclusions:

- a) All baskets are toys
b) No gun is a house
c) All guns being baskets is a possibility
d) All houses are baskets
e) No doll is a gun

7) **Statements:**

- Some logics are reasons.
All reasons are arguments.
All arguments are fights.
No fight is a discussion.

Conclusions:

- a) All discussions being logics is a possibility
b) No discussion is an argument
c) All logics being discussion is a possibility

- d) All reasons are fights
- e) No reason is a discussion

8) Statements:

- All references are mails.
- All mentions are references.
- All comments are mentions.
- No mail is a declaration.

Conclusions:

- a) No reference is a declaration
- b) All comments are mails.
- c) No mention is a declaration
- d) All declarations being comments is a possibility
- e) Atleast some mails are mentions

9) Statements:

- Some moments are flashes.
- All moments are seconds.
- All flashes are instances.
- No instance is an hour.

Conclusions:

- a) All hours being second is a possibility
- b) No second is a flash
- c) No hour is a flash
- d) Atleast some moments are instances
- e) Atleast some seconds are instances

10) Statements:

- All circles are spheres.
- All spheres are rectangles.
- No rectangle is a pyramid.
- No pyramid is a triangle.

Conclusions:

- a) Atleast some circles are pyramids
- b) All triangles being circles is a possibility
- c) All rectangles being triangles is a possibility
- d) Atleast some rectangles are circles
- e) No pyramid is a sphere

Directions - Study the following information and answer the question.

Seven friends namely L, M, N, O, P, Q and R like the different animated movies namely, Finding Nemo, Rio, Frozen, Up, Lion King, Shrek and Cars but not necessarily in the same order. Each friend also has a presentation on topics of different subjects namely Civics, History, English, Geography, Chemistry, Physics and Biology but not necessarily in the same order.

Q has a presentation on Civics and likes neither Frozen nor Up. The one who likes Finding Nemo has a presentation on History. L likes Rio and has a presentation neither on Geography nor on Chemistry.

The one who likes Cars has a presentation on Biology. M has a presentation on Physics and does not like up. The one who likes Up does not have a presentation on chemistry. O likes Lion King. R does not have a presentation on History and does not like Up. P does not like Up.

11) On which of the following subjects P has a presentation?

- a) Chemistry
- b) English
- c) Biology
- d) Other than those given as options
- e) Geography

12) Four of the following five form a group as per the given arrangement. Which of the following does not belong to that group?

- a) R - Cars
- b) Q - Shrek
- c) N - Up
- d) M - Frozen
- e) P - Rio

13) Which of the following combinations is definitely correct?

- a) N - Chemistry
- b) R - History
- c) L - English
- d) All the give combinations are definitely correct
- e) P - Geography

14) Which of the following combinations of movie and subject is definitely correct with respect to N?

- a) Up - Chemistry
- b) Other than those given as options
- c) Shrek - Geography
- d) Up - Geography
- e) Finding Nemo - History

15) Four of the following five form a group as per the given arrangement. Which of the following does not belong to that group?

- a) Biology - cars
- b) Chemistry - Lion King
- c) Civics - Shrek
- d) English - Frozen
- e) Geography - Up

16) Which of the following movies does Q like?

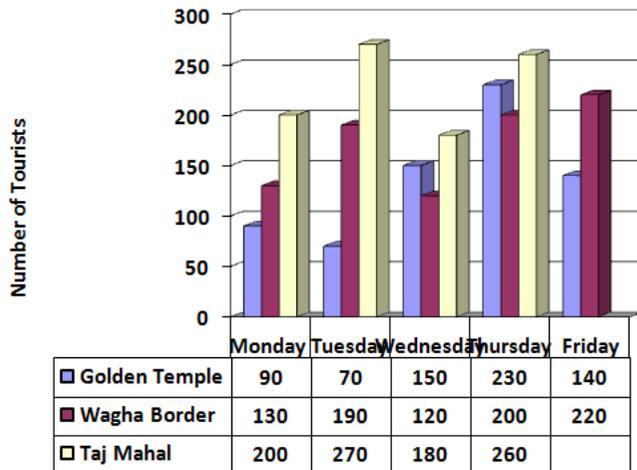
- a) Shrek
- b) Other than those given as options
- c) Finding Nemo
- d) Lion King
- e) Cars

Directions - In the given question assuming the given statements to be true, find which of the given four conclusion I, II, III and IV is true and give your answer accordingly.

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Directions (Q. 36-40): Study the following graph carefully to answer the questions -

Number of foreign tourists who visited three different places in five different days



- 36) What is the average number of foreign tourists who visited Wagha Border on all the days together?
 a) 184 b) 172
 c) 186 d) 174
 e) None of these
- 37) On which day was the difference between the number of foreign tourists who visited Taj Mahal and Golden Temple, second highest?
 a) Monday b) Tuesday
 c) Wednesday d) Thursday
 e) Friday
- 38) What is the respective ratio between the number of foreign tourists who visited Taj Mahal on Thursday and the number of foreign tourists who visited Golden Temple on Friday?
 a) 14 : 9 b) 8 : 13
 c) 13 : 8 d) 13 : 7
 e) None of these
- 39) On which day was the total number of foreign tourists who visited all the three places together second lowest?
 a) Monday b) Tuesday
 c) Wednesday d) Thursday
 e) Friday

- 40) Total number of foreign tourists who visited all the three places on Tuesday together is what per cent of the total number of foreign tourists who visited Wagha Border on Monday and Wednesday together?
 a) 168 b) 124
 c) 112 d) 224
 e) 212
- 41) The present ages of Vishal and Shekhar are in the ratio of 14 : 17 respectively. Six years from now, their ages will be in the ratio of 17 : 20 respectively. What is Shekhar's present age?
 a) 17 years b) 51 years
 c) 34 years d) 28 years
 e) None of these

Directions (Q. 42 - 46): Study the following table carefully to answer the questions that follow-

Number of Units Manufactured (in thousands) by Six different Companies over the Years

Year	Company					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
2004	14.5	13.8	11.6	16.2	13.9	15.1
2005	15.8	14.9	12.4	16.3	14.1	15.2
2006	15.9	14.6	12.7	16.0	15.4	15.5
2007	16.0	15.0	12.9	15.3	15.7	16.1
2008	15.4	15.5	13.8	15.6	16.4	16.7
2009	16.2	16.7	14.9	16.3	16.6	16.7

- 42) What is the respective ratio of total number of units manufactured by company A and B together in the year 2009 to those manufactured by companies C and D together in the same year?
 a) 312 : 329 b) 317 : 311
 c) 329 : 312 d) 311 : 317
 e) None of these
- 43) The number of units manufactured by company E in the year 2005 is approximately what per cent of the total number of units manufactured by it in all the years together?
 a) 31 b) 27
 c) 7 d) 15
 e) 23
- 44) What is the average number of units manufactured by company D in the years 2004 and 2007 together?

- a) 14650 b) 15750
c) 13750 d) 16470
e) None of these
- 45) What is the total number of units manufactured by Company C over all the years together?
a) 783 b) 7830
c) 783000 d) 78.3
e) None of these
- 46) What is the per cent increase in the number of units manufactured by company F in the year 2008 from the previous year? (rounded off to two digits after decimal)
a) 3.73 b) 3.62
c) 4.35 d) 4.16
e) None of these
- 47) Population of a village increases every year by 15%. If its population in January 2015 was 2,60,000, what will be its population in January 2016?
a) 2,99,000 b) 2,86,000
c) 3,43,850 d) 3,38,000
e) None of these
- 48) Shelly could get equal number of Rs. 25 per piece, Rs. 40 piece and Rs. 65 per piece bangles. She spends a total of Rs. 1,560 for all the bangles. How many of each type did she buy?
a) 12 b) 14
c) 16
d) Cannot be determined
e) None of these
- 49) What is the approximate total surface area of a right circular cone of height 14 cm and base radius 7 cm?
a) 510 b) 511
c) 490 d) 505
e) 499
- 50) Two stations A and B are 110 km apart on a straight line. One train starts from A at 7 am and travels towards B at 20 kmph. Another train starts from B at 8 am and travels towards A at a speed of 25 kmph. At what time will they meet?
a) 9 am b) 11 am
c) 11:30 am d) 10 am
e) 12:30 pm

Directions (Q. 51-55): What should come in place of the question mark (?) in the following questions?

- 51) $\{(52)^2 + (45)^2\} \div ? = 8$
a) 611.345 b) 487.225
c) 591.125 d) 372.425
e) None of these
- 52) $14.2\% \text{ of } 5500 + 15.6\% \text{ of } ? = 1795$
a) 6500 b) 6200
c) 5600 d) 5800
e) None of these
- 53) $(5696 \div 4 - ?) \times 5 = 1020$
a) 1180 b) 1200
c) 1240 d) 1220
e) None of these
- 54) $118963 - 107958 - 9589 = ?$
a) 1420 b) 1404
c) 1416 d) 1412
e) None of these
- 55) $\frac{12.5 \times 2.4 + 5.5 \times 0.8}{?} = 8$
a) 3.4 b) 4.8
c) 3.8 d) 4.3
e) None of these

Direction (Q. 56- 60): In each of the following a number series is given. Below it a number is given followed by (a) (b) (c) (d) & (e). You have to complete the series starting with the number given according to the sequence for the given series?

56)

	5	12	60	340	
7	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)

Which of the following number will come in place of (d)?

- a) 172 b) 5044
c) 1012 d) 20164
e) 28

57)

	11	15	38	126	
7	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)

Which of the following number will come in place of (c)?

- a) 102 b) 30
c) 2140 d) 80
e) 424

58)

	2	3	8	27	
5	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)

Which of the following number will come in place of (e)?

- a) 184 b) 6
c) 925 d) 45
e) 14

59)

	12	28	64	140	
37	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)

Which of the following number will come in place of (e)?

- a) 1412 b) 164
c) 696 d) 78
e) 340

60)

	2	3	9	40.5	
4	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)

Which of the following number will come in place of (b)?

- a) 486 b) 81
c) 3645 d) 18
e) 6

61) The difference between a two-digit number and the number obtained by interchanging the digits is 36. What is the difference between the sum and the difference of the digits of the number if the ratio between the digits of the number is 1 : 2?

- a) 10 b) 9
c) 11 d) 8
e) 7

62) In a lottery, there are 15 boys and 10 girls. Three students are selected at random. What is the probability that 1 girl and 2 boys are selected?

- a) $\frac{31}{47}$ b) $\frac{21}{46}$
c) $\frac{22}{47}$ d) $\frac{31}{46}$
e) $\frac{21}{47}$

63) I. $x^2 - 10x + 21 = 0$
II. $y^2 - 16y + 63 = 0$

- a) $x > y$ b) $x \geq y$
c) $x < y$
d) relationship between x and y cannot be determined
e) $x \leq y$

64) I. $x^2 - (16)^2 = (23)^2 - 56$

II. $y^{1/3} \cdot 55 + 376 = (18)^2$

- a) $x > y$ b) $x \geq y$
c) $x < y$
d) relationship between x and y cannot be determined
e) $x \leq y$

65) I. $\frac{12}{\sqrt{x}} + \frac{8}{\sqrt{x}} = \sqrt{x}$

II. $y^2 - \frac{(18)^{5/2}}{\sqrt{y}} = 0$

- a) $x > y$ b) $x \geq y$
c) $x < y$
d) relationship between x and y cannot be determined
e) $x \leq y$

66) I. $\sqrt{(36)x} + \sqrt{(64)} = 0$

II. $\sqrt{(81)y} + (4)^2 = 0$

- a) $x > y$
b) $x \geq y$
c) $x < y$
d) relationship between x and y cannot be determined
e) $x \leq y$

67) I. $\frac{25}{\sqrt{x}} + \frac{9}{\sqrt{x}} = 17\sqrt{x}$

II. $\frac{\sqrt{y}}{3} + \frac{5\sqrt{y}}{6} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{y}}$

- a) $x > y$ b) $x \geq y$
c) $x < y$
d) relationship between x and y cannot be determined
e) $x \leq y$

68) Three taps A, B and C can fill a tank in 12, 15 and 20 hours respectively. If A is open all the time and B and C are open for one hour each alternately, in what time will the tank be full?

- a) 9 hours b) 7 hours
c) 8 hours d) 10 hours
e) 11 hours

69) A and B started a business in partnership investing Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. After six months, C joined them with Rs. 20,000. What will be B's share in

total profit of Rs. 25,000 earned at the end of 2 years from the starting of the business?

- a) Rs. 8,000
- b) Rs. 8,500
- c) Rs. 9,000
- d) Rs. 7,500
- e) Rs. 9,500

70) A boatman goes 2 km against the current of the stream in 1 hour and goes 1 km along the current in 10 minutes. How long will it take to go 5 km in stationary water?

- a) 80 minutes
- b) 75 minutes
- c) 70 minutes
- d) 72 minutes
- e) 84 minutes

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (71-80): Read the following passage carefully and the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

China's rising power is based on its remarkable economic success. Shanghai's overall economy is currently growing at around 13% per year, thus doubling in size every five or six years. Everywhere there are start-ups, innovations, and young entrepreneurs hungry for profits. In a series of high-level meetings between Chinese and African officials, the advice that the African leaders received from the Chinese was sound, and more practical than they typically get from the World Bank. Chinese officials **stress** the crucial role of public investments, especially in agriculture and infrastructure, to lay the basis for private sector-led growth. In a hungry and poor rural economy, as China was in the 1970s and as most of Africa is today, a key starting point is to raise farm productivity. Farms need the benefits of fertilizer, irrigation and high-yield seeds, all of which were a **core** part of China's economical take off. Two other equally critical investments are also needed: roads and electricity, without which there cannot be a modern economy. Farmers might be able to increase their output, but it won't be able to reach the cities, and the cities won't be able to provide the country-side with inputs. The government has taken pains to ensure that the electricity grids and transportation networks reach every village in China. China is prepared to help Africa in substantial ways in agriculture, roads, power, health and education. And that is not an **empty** boast. Chinese leaders are prepared to share new high-yield rice varieties, with their African counterparts and, all over Africa, China is financing and, constructing basic infrastructure.

This illustrates what is wrong with the World Bank. The World Bank has often forgotten the most basic lessons of development, preferring to lecture the poor and force them to privatise basic infrastructure, which is **untenable**, rather than to help the poor to invest in infrastructure and other crucial sector. The Bank's failure began in the early 1980s when under the ideological **sway** of then American President and British Prime Minister it tried to get Africa and other poor regions to cut back or close down government investments and services. For 25 years, the bank tried to get governments out of agriculture, leaving impoverished peasants to fend for themselves. The result has been a disaster in Africa, with farm productivity stagnant for decades. The bank also pushed for privatization of national health systems, water utilities, and road and power networks, and has grossly underfinanced these critical sectors. This extreme free-market ideology, also called "**structural adjustment**", went against the practical lessons of development successes in China and the rest of Asia. Practical development strategy recognises that public investments – in agriculture, health education, and infrastructure – are necessary complements to private investments. The World Bank has instead wrongly seen such vital public investments as an enemy of private sector development. Whenever the bank's ideology failed, it has blamed the poor for corruption, mismanagement, or lack of initiative. Instead of focusing its attention on helping the poorest countries to improve their infrastructure, there has been a crusade against corruption. The good news is that African governments are getting the message on how to spur economic growth and are getting crucial help from China and other partners that are less wedded to extreme free-market ideology than the World Bank. They have declared their intention to invest in infrastructure, agriculture modernization, public health, and education. It is clear the Bank can regain its relevance only if it becomes practical once again, by returning its focus to financing public investments in priority sectors. If that happens, the Bank can still do justice to the bold vision of a world of shared prosperity that prompted its creation after World War II.

71) The author's main objective in writing the passage is to

- a) make a case for the closure of the World Bank since it promotes US interests over those of other countries.

- a) Only (B) b) Both (A) & (B)
 c) Both (B) & (C) d) All (A), (B), & (C)
 e) None of these

79) **Why is the author optimistic about Africa's future?**

- a) The World Bank has committed itself to invest huge sums in Africa's development.
 b) Africa has decided to adopt a structural adjustment ideology which has benefited many nations.
 c) Africa has committed itself to adopting China's strategy for economic growth.
 d) China has urged the World Bank to waive the interest on its loans to Africa.
 e) None of these

80) **What advice has the author given the World Bank?**

- a) Support China's involvement in developing Africa
 b) Reduce the influence of the US and Britain in its functioning
 c) Adopt a more practical ideology of structural adjustment
 d) Change its ideology to one encouraging both public and private sector investment in basic infrastructure
 e) Focus on fighting corruption rather than interfering in the governance of developing countries

Directions (81-83): Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

- 81) **sway**
 a) fluctuate b) influence
 c) govern d) dependence
 e) unsteady
- 82) **core**
 a) centre b) heart
 c) adequate d) intermediate
 e) essential
- 83) **stress**
 a) highlight b) strain
 c) taxing d) tension
 e) emphasis

Directions (84-85): Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

- 84) **untenable**
 a) viable b) unsound
 c) consistent d) superior

- e) attractive
 85) **empty**
 a) full b) objective
 c) meaningful d) occupied
 e) intelligent

Directions (86-89): Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part off the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (e). (Ignore errors of punctuation, if any).

- 86) It is not worthy(a)/the company's reputation(b/to compromise on quality(c)/ for the sake of profit. (d) No error (e)
- 87) The company which has (a) /won the government contract (b)/ also plans to invest (c)/ with the power sector. (d)/ No error (e)
- 88) Implementing these measures (a) / will help the government (b)/ to save more of (c)/ 400 crores each year. (d)/No error (e)
- 89) You have failed to produce (a)/ no evidence to support (b)/ the charge that he (c)/ is responsible for the error. (d) /No error (e)

Directions (90-93): Which of the phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d) given below should replace the phrase given in bold in the following sentences to make the sentence grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is and there is no correction required, mark (e), i.e. 'No correction required' as the answer.

- 90) The minimum eligibility age **shall be less** to sixty years to allow more senior citizens to avail of the benefits of the scheme,
 a) should be lowered b) should be lower
 c) being lesser d) must be lessen
 e) No correction required
- 91) The latest study by Nasscom indicates **possibly short of** five lakh qualified engineers in the IT industry.
 a) the possible shortage off
 b) possibly short by
 c) possibility of shortage
 d) a possible shortage of
 e) No correction required
- 92) China **has to be prepared to** meet many age-related social and financial challenges in the coming years.
 a) is been preparing
 b) was prepared
 c) have been prepared
 d) has preparations
 e) No correction required



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- 93) It is necessary to ascertain **that we can do to** attract investment to the manufacturing sector.
 a) how we can do b) what we can do
 c) more can be done d) that has been done
 e) No correction required

Directions (94-95): In each of the following sentences there are two blank spaces. Below each five pairs of words have been denoted by numbers (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Find out which pair of words can be filled up in the blanks in this sentence in the same sequence to make the sentence meaningfully complete.

- 94) **The Chairman in his speech stated the ____ in company profits was ____ to team building.**
 a) incline, owing b) rise, liable
 c) slump, accountable d) surge, due
 e) plunge, response
- 95) **The main ____ of Healthcare reforms is ____ medical care to every citizen.**
 a) purpose, available b) cause, providing
 c) challenge, accessing
 d) assurance, qualified
 e) focus, extending

Directions (96-100): Rearrange the following six sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

- (A) In fact, today, social entrepreneurship is no different from starting a profit-motivated company.
 (B) The major challenge they face is employee selection and retention.
 (C) For decades social development in India meant charity.
 (D) However, the challenges social organizations experience are tougher.
 (E) This is because while volunteering for social work is not new, attracting talented people and tapping their potential at lower costs is difficult.
 (F) In recent years, however, economic changes have brought business sense and professionalism to the sector.

- 96) **Which of the following should be the FIFTH sentence in the paragraph?**
 a) A b) B
 c) C d) D
 e) E
- 97) **Which of the following should be the SIXTH (LAST) sentence in the paragraph?**
 a) B b) C
 c) D d) E
 e) F

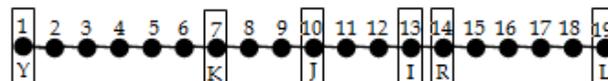
- 98) **Which of the following should be the SECOND sentence in the paragraph?**
 a) B b) C
 c) D d) E e) F
- 99) **Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence in the paragraph?**
 a) A b) B
 c) C d) D e) E
- 100) **Which of the following should be the THIRD sentence in the paragraph?**
 a) A b) B
 c) C d) D e) E

ANSWER KEY

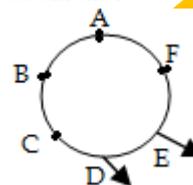
Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	B	2	E	3	B	4	A	5	B
6	A	7	C	8	D	9	B	10	A
11	D	12	E	13	C	14	D	15	D
16	A	17	A	18	B	19	D	20	D
21	B	22	E	23	A	24	C	25	E
26	E	27	E	28	A	29	B	30	A
31	B	32	B	33	E	34	A	35	B
36	B	37	E	38	D	39	A	40	E
41	C	42	C	43	D	44	B	45	E
46	A	47	A	48	A	49	E	50	D
51	C	52	A	53	D	54	C	55	D
56	B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

SOLUTIONS

1) b): From statement I and II, we get

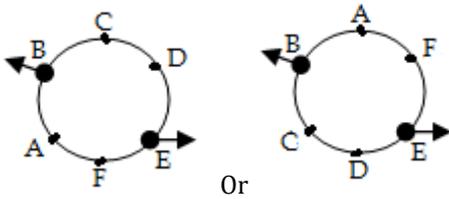


2) e): Hint – From Statement I



'A' is second to the left of 'E' and fourth right of E.

From Statement II

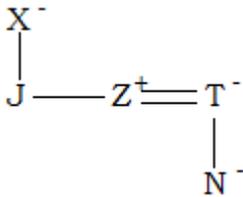


Or

Two possibilities come. So answer is 'A' is second to right of E or A is second to the left of E.

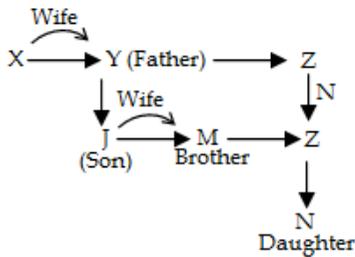
Hence we cannot decide the result.

3) b): From Statement I



Hence 'X' is grandmother of N.

From Statement II

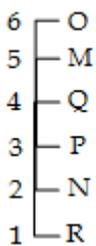


Can't say about 'N'.

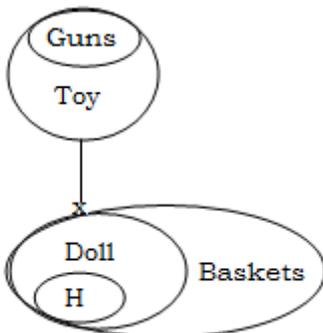
4) a): By combining both the statements mobile is costliest.

$U > S > R > T > V > W$

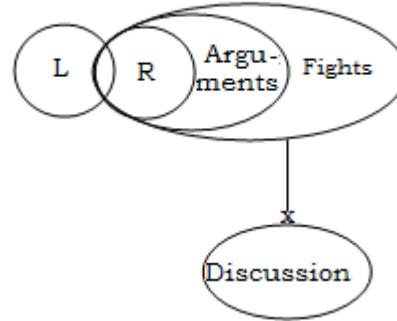
5) b): From statement II 'R' lives on the lower most floor.



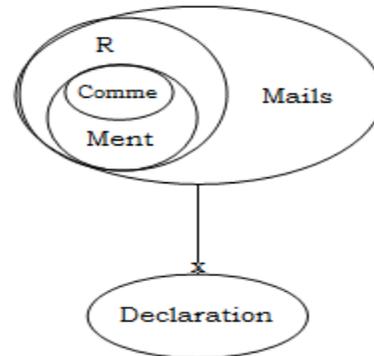
6) a):



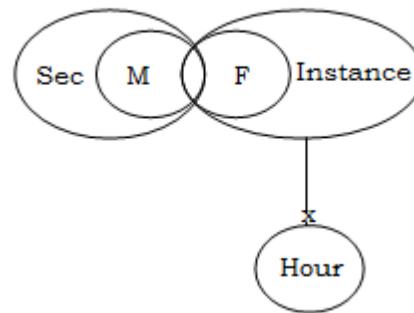
7) c):



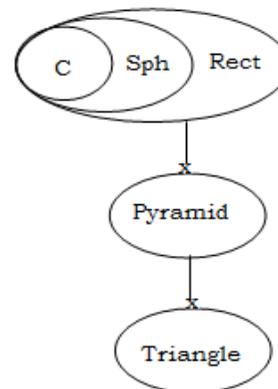
8) d):



9) b):



10) a):



11 - 16):

Name of the Friends	Movie	Subject
L	Rio	English
M	Frozen	Physics
N	Up	Geography

O	Lion King	Chemistry
P	Finding Nemo	History
Q	Shrek	Civics
R	Cars	Biology

17) a): Hint – Statement:

$$S > M \geq D > H \leq R \leq T < W$$

Conclusions:

I. $S > H \rightarrow$ True

II. $W > H \rightarrow$ True

III. $R < W \rightarrow$ True

IV. $M > T \rightarrow$ False

Hence, only I, II and III are true.

Hence 'A' is true.

18) b): Hint – Statement:

$$M > U > L \leq N; L \geq Y > A$$

Solution:

\Rightarrow

$$M > U > L \leq N$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{IV} \\ Y \\ \vee \\ A \end{array}$$

i) $Y < N$ False

ii) $M > N$ False

iii) $N = Y$ False

iv) $M > A$ (same sign) True

Hence 'C' is true.

19) d):

Hint – Statement: $J \geq A > D = E; L < A < M$

Solution:

$$\begin{array}{c} L \\ \wedge \\ J \geq A > D = E \\ \wedge \\ M \end{array}$$

i) $M < J$ (x)

ii) $J > L$ (\checkmark)

iii) $D > L$ (x)

\therefore (opposite sign)

iv) $E < M$ (\checkmark)

Hence 'D' is true.

20) d):

Statement: $Y > F \leq O \leq P; F \geq U < T$

Solution:

$$Y > F \leq O \leq P$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{IV} \\ U \\ \wedge \\ T \end{array}$$

i) $Y > P$ (x)

ii) $T < F$ (x)

iii) $O > T$ (x)

iv) $P < U$ (x)

Hence, 'D' is true.

21) b):

Hint – Statement: $M \geq N \leq Y \leq R < U = Z \geq E$

Solution:

i) $M > R$ (x)

ii) $Z \leq R$ (x)

iii) $R > E$ (x)

iv) $Z > Y$ (\checkmark)

Hence 'B' is true.

22) e):

Hint – Statement: $P \geq Q \leq C \leq B = M > D$

Solution:

i) $P \geq Q \leq C \leq B = M > D$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Same sign} \\ M > Q \end{array} (\checkmark)$$

ii) $P \geq Q \leq C \leq B = M > D$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{opposite sign} \\ D \leq P \end{array} (x)$$

iii) $M = Q$ (\checkmark)

$M \geq Q$ (\checkmark)

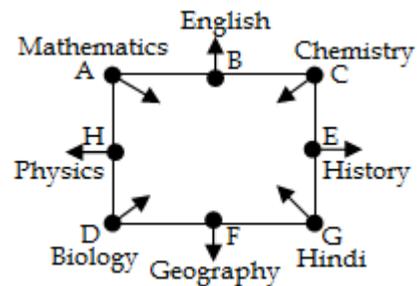
Either I or III true.

iv) $P > Q \leq C \leq B = M < D$

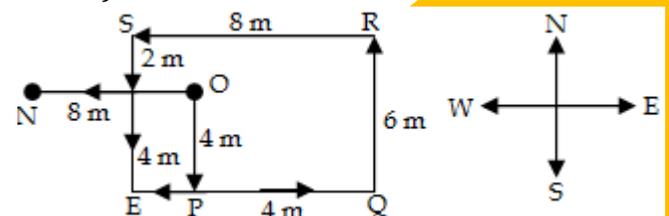
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{opposite sign} \\ C > D \end{array} (x)$$

Hence 'E' is true.

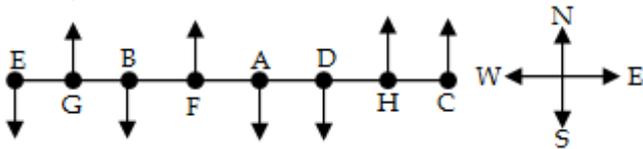
23 – 29):



30 – 31):



32 - 35):



36. (b) $\frac{130+190+120+200+220}{5} = \frac{860}{5} = 172$

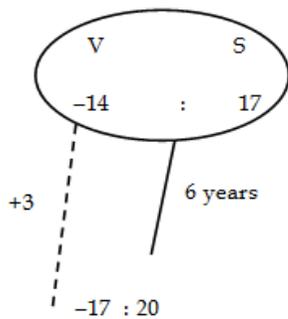
37. (a) Monday

38. (d) 260 : 140
13 : 7

39. (a) Monday

40. (e) $\frac{537}{250} \times 100 = 212\%$

41. (c)



1 : 2

S's percentage = $17 \times 2 = 34$ years

42. (c) 32.9 : 31.2
329 : 312

43. (d) $\frac{14.1}{91.2} \times 100 = 15.3 \approx 15\%$

44. (b) $\frac{16200+15300}{2} = 15750$

45. (d) 78.3

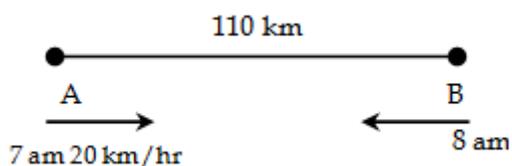
46. (a) $\frac{16.7-16.1}{16.1} \times 100 = 3.73$

47. (a) $2,60,000 \times \frac{115}{100} = 299000$

48. (a) Total Expenditure for Rs. = 25+40 + 65
Rs. 130

No. of Pcs. = $\frac{1560}{130} = 12$ Pcs

50. (d)



After one hour one train covered distance = 20 km

Remaining Distance = 110 - 20 = 90 km

Relative speed = 20 + 25 = 45 km/hr

They will meet After = $\frac{90}{45} = 2$ hrs

Meeting Time = 8 am & 2 hrs = 10 am

51. (c) (2704 + 2025) ÷ ? = 8

? = $\frac{4729}{8} = 591.125$

52. (a) 781 + 15.6% of ? = 1795
? = 6500

53. (d) (1424 - ?) × 5 = 1020
? = 1220

54. (c) 1416

55. (d) $\frac{30+4.4}{8} = ?$

4.3 = ?

56. (b) The series is x8 - 28, x7 - 24, x6 - 20, ...

57. (a) The series is x1 + 4, x2 + 8, x3 + 12, ...

58. (c) The series is x1 + 1, x2 + 2, x3 + 3, ...

59. (a) The series is x2 + 4, x2 + 8, x2 + 12, ...

60. (d) The series is x1.5, x3, x4.5, ...

61. (d) Always divided by 9, $\frac{36}{9} = 4$

∴ Difference between two digits = 4

Difference between their ratio = 1

∴ 1 = 4

∴ No is 48

(4 + 8) - (8 - 4) = 8

62. (b) $\frac{{}^{10}C_1 \times {}^{15}C_2}{{}^{25}C_3} = \frac{10 \times \frac{15 \times 14}{2 \times 1}}{\frac{25 \times 24 \times 23}{3 \times 2 \times 1}} = \frac{10 \times 15 \times 7}{25 \times 24 \times 23}$

= $\frac{21}{46}$

63. (e) $x^2 - 10x + 21 = 0$

$y^2 - 16y + 63 = 0$

-7, -3

x = 7, 3

-7, -9

y = 7, 9

x | y
7 | 7

3 | 9

x = y

x < y

- $x < y$
 $x < y$
 $\therefore x \leq y$
64. (e) $x^2 - 256 = 529 - 56$
 $y^{1/3} + 321 = 324$
 $x^2 = 729$
 $y^{1/3} = 3$
 $x = \pm 27$ $y = 27$
- | | |
|-----|----|
| x | y |
| 27 | 27 |
| -27 | |
- $x = y$
 $x < y$
 $\therefore x \leq y$
65. (a) $\frac{20}{\sqrt{x}} = \sqrt{x}$ $y^2 = \frac{18^{5/2}}{\sqrt{y}} \Rightarrow y^2 \times \sqrt{y}$
 $= 18^{5/2}$
 $x = 20$ $y^{2+\frac{1}{2}} = 18^{5/2} \Rightarrow y = 18^{2 \times \frac{5}{2}} = 18^5$
 $\therefore y = 18$ $\therefore x > y$
66. (a) $6x + 8 = 0$
 $9y + 16 = 0$
 $x = -8/6 = -4/3$ $y = -16/9$
- | | |
|------|-------|
| x | y |
| -4/3 | -16/9 |
- $x > y$
 $\therefore x > y$
67. (c) $\frac{34}{\sqrt{x}} = 17\sqrt{x}$
 $\frac{2\sqrt{y} + 5\sqrt{y}}{6} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{y}}$
 $x = 2$ $7y = 18$
 $y = 18/7$
- | | |
|---|------|
| x | y |
| 2 | 18/7 |
- $x < y$
 $\therefore x < y$
68. (b) A – 12 hrs 5l
B – 15 hrs 4l
60 l
C – 20 hrs 3l
- A + B, A + C
1st hour 2nd hour
 $5 + 4 = 9l$ $4 + 3 = 8l$
In 2 hours tanker filled = 17l
 $51l + 9l = 60l$
6hrs next hour 7 hrs

69. (d) A B C
 $20,000 \times 24$ $15,000 \times 24$ $20,000 \times 18$
4 : 3 : 3
B's share = 2500×3
 $10 = 25,000$
 $= 7500/-$ $1 = 2500$
70. (b) Upstream (U_s) = 2 km/hr
Downstream = (D_s) = 1 km per 10 mins
or 6 km/hr
S of man = $\frac{D_s + U_s}{2} + \frac{2+6}{2} = 4$ km/hr
Time taken by him for 5 km in
stationary water = $\frac{D}{S}$
 $= \frac{5}{4}$ hr = $\frac{5}{4} \times 60 = 75$ minutes
81. In the given sentence 'Sway' means 'influence'
82. Here, 'core' means 'important' so 'essential' is the right option
83. Here, 'stress' refers to 'highlight'
84. 'untenable' means 'indefensible' so the opposite should be 'viable'
85. in the sentence, 'empty' refers to 'meaningless' so opposite should be 'meaningful'
86. Add 'of' after 'worthy'
87. Replace 'with' by 'in'
88. Replace 'of' by 'than'
89. Replace 'no' by 'any'
90. 'Shall be less' should be replaced by 'should be lowered'
91. 'A possible shortage of' is the right option
92. No error
93. 'what we can do' should be used

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MAY 2021

1)	Which day of May has been selected to observe "No Tobacco Day"? 31st
2)	What is the theme of this year's No Tobacco Day? Quit Tobacco to be a Winner
3)	Bashar Al-Assad has been re-elected as the President of _____ after winning the election for the fourth time: Syria
4)	Which city is the capital of Syria? Damascus
5)	RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on which bank on May 28 for violation of provisions of the Banking Regulation Act? HDFC Bank
6)	The headquarters of HDFC Bank are located at which place? Mumbai
7)	UNO celebrates which international Day on May 29 to pay respects to persons involved in UN peacekeeping mission? International Day of UN Peacekeepers
8)	Which global day is observed on May 29 to commemorate the first-time scaling of Mount Everest? International Everest Day
9)	The Tibetans call the Mt Everest by which name? Chomo-Lungma
10)	In Nepal, the Mt Everest is known by which name? Sagarmatha
11)	Amnesty International Day is observed on May 28. Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? London
12)	The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs plans to set up 10 OSCs across nine countries. What is OSC? One Stop Centre
13)	The OSCs are set up under which apex national body? National Mission for Empowerment of Women
14)	Guillermo Lasso has been sworn in as the President of which country? Ecuador
15)	International Eni Award is conferred for showing outstanding excellence in which field? Energy Research
16)	Who has been honoured with this year's International Eni Award 2020? Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao
17)	The International Eni Award is sponsored by which energy giant of Italy? Eni
18)	The WHO signed a MoU with which country to launch the First WHO Biohub Facility? Switzerland

19)	Robert Lewandowski won the European Golden Boot. He hails from which country? Poland
20)	European Golden Boot is awarded to recognize which achievement? For scoring highest number of goals in football league
21)	World Hunger Day is observed on which day of May? 28th
22)	The United Nation's which number sustainable development goal- SDG is associated with achieving zero hunger? Second
23)	Which day of May has been selected for observing World Menstrual Hygiene Day? 28th
24)	Achinta Sheuli is the national champion in the men's 73-kilogram category in which sports? Weightlifting
25)	Achinta Sheuli secured the silver medal at the Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2021 held at which place? Tashkent, Uzbekistan
26)	Which Indian scientist has been honoured with the esteemed Rudolf V Schindler Award? Dr D Nageshwar Reddy
27)	Which global organization confers the Rudolf V Schindler Award? American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
28)	Phil Mickelson, American professional golfer, created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship in which regard? Being the oldest person to win this championship at age of 50
29)	Which Indian civil servant has been honoured with the President's Award by International Hockey Federation for his contribution in promotion of hockey? V Karthikeyan Pandian
30)	Who is the author of the recently published novel? Paul Pickering
31)	"Sach Kahun Toh" (Truly Speaking) is the autobiography of which veteran Bollywood actress? Neena Gupta
32)	Which Nobel laureate has authored the novel Klara and the Sun? Kazuo Ishiguro
33)	All Time Favourites for Children is a collection of short stories by which noted India author? Ruskin Bond
34)	India recently added 5th generation Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability. What is its name? Python-5
35)	Python-5 air to air missile has been supplied by which country? Israel

36)	Manoj Das, a prolific Indian author who wrote in _____ and English languages, passed away on April 27: Odia
37)	India has been placed at which position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index 2021? 49th
38)	Which country topped the Chandler Good Government Index 2021? Finland
39)	Who has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet? T V Somanathan
40)	Amitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of which bank? Axis Bank
41)	China launched a robot prototype named 'NEO-01', in the Earth's low orbit for what purpose? To capture debris left behind by other spacecrafts
42)	Name the former Attorney General, veteran lawyer and Padma Vibhushan awardee who passed away on April 30: Soli Sorabjee
43)	International Labour Day on May 01 commemorates the happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket massacre in _____, USA? Chicago
44)	_____ joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Paris as a Member: RBI
45)	_____, renowned TV journalist and news anchor passed away at a very young age of just 41: Rohit Sardana
46)	Rohit Sardana was the host of the debate show 'Dangal' on which popular news channel? Aaj Tak
47)	NASA's Perseverance rover successfully created, for the first time, _____ from the thin atmospheric carbon dioxide present on Mars: Mars
48)	May 2 is observed as the World _____ Day to raise awareness about which fish? Tuna
49)	Pandit Debu Chaudhuri, renowned _____ maestro passed away following COVID-19 related complications: Sitar
50)	The Indian Navy launched "Operation Samudra Setu-II" in first week of May for what purpose? To urgently bring medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries
51)	Which country approved the proposed sale of six P-8I aircraft to Indian Navy? USA
52)	P-8I is what type of military aircraft? Maritime surveillance
53)	Which international day is celebrated on May 3 to pay gratitude to journalists who bring us honest and real news? World Press Freedom Day
54)	Which article of Indian Constitution assures freedom of press? Article 19(1)(a)
55)	Which former Lt. Governor of Delhi, Goa and twice Governor of J&K passed away recently on May 3? Jagmohan
56)	Mark Selby of _____ won the World Snooker Championship for the fourth time: Britain

57)	Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI for a period of three years? T Rabi Sankar
58)	World Laughter Day is celebrated on which Sunday of May? First
59)	International Firefighters' Day is celebrated on which day of May? Fourth
60)	Bengaluru based Shyamala Ganesh, a teacher of Japanese has been honoured with Order of Rising Sun by which country? Japan
61)	With which country India adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'? Britain
62)	World Asthma Day is observed on _____ Tuesday of May: First
63)	May 05 is observed as _____ Hygiene Day with active support from WHO: Hand
64)	The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has decided to institute the "_____ Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" to pay tributes to the legendary filmmaker: Satyajit Ray
65)	What is the cash award given with the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema"? Rs. Ten lakh
66)	Ajit Singh, former Union Minister, founder and current chief of _____ passed away on May 6: Rashtriya Lok Dal
67)	Name the President of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? M K Stalin
68)	N Rengasamy, Chief of the NR Congress has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of _____: Puducherry
69)	Mount Sinabung, one of the most active volcanoes, erupted once again on May 7. It is in which country? Indonesia
70)	Global rating agency S&P slashed India's GDP growth rate to 9.8%. What is full form of S&P? Standard and Poor's
71)	The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India have signed a MoU to develop which famous pilgrimage center in Uttarakhand? Shri Badrinath Dham
72)	Which country successfully sent a new remote sensing satellite, Yaogan-34, into space? China
73)	The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven countries - G-7 was held in which place? London
74)	Kami Rita, the 51-year-old Sherpa guide from Nepal created which new record? Scaling Mt Everest 25 times
75)	World Red Cross Day is celebrated on May 8 to commemorate the birth day of its founder. Who was he? Henri Dunant
76)	Where is the headquarter of Red Cross? Geneva, Switzerland
77)	World Thalassaemia Day is observed on May 08. It is associated with which ailment? Blood disorder

78)	India and many other countries celebrate Happy Mother's Day on _____ Sunday of May: Second
79)	Who has been declared Laureus Sportswoman of the Year? Naomi Osaka
80)	Naomi Osaka is a noted player of which sports form? Tennis
81)	Laureus Sportsman of the Year award has been won by: Rafael Nadal
82)	Which sports person was awarded Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award? Tennis legend Ms. Billie Jean King, USA
83)	The navies of India and Indonesia carried out a military drill 'Passage' exercise (PASSEX) on May 8 in which area? In the Southern Arabian Sea
84)	Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as the new chief minister of which state? Assam
85)	What is the theme of this year's World Migratory Day observed on May 8 (second Sunday)? Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!
86)	The Drugs Controller General of India has given its approval for the emergency use of the anti-COVID drug developed by DRDO. What is its name? 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG)
87)	The DRDO has collaborated with which drug firm to produce 2-deoxy-D-glucose drug? Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad
88)	The Meeting of the European Council held on May 9 was hosted by which country? Portugal
89)	How many countries are the member of European Union? 27
90)	Raghunath Mohapatra, eminent sculptor, architect, and Rajya Sabha member passed away recently. He hailed from which state? Odisha
91)	_____ became the first Indian state to have a real-time digital flood reporting system Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS): Assam
92)	National Technology Day is celebrated on May 11 to commemorate the day on which India successfully test-fired its first _____: Nuclear bomb in 1998
93)	The World Food Prize was started by which great Nobel laureate? Dr. Norman Borlaug
94)	Dr. Norman Borlaug is remembered for his contribution in developing high yield disease resistant varieties of which crop? Wheat
95)	International Nurses Day is observed on May 12 to commemorate the birth day of which legendary nurse? Florence Nightingale
96)	What was the popular nick name of Florence Nightingale? Lady with the lamp
97)	Jose J Kattoor has been appointed as the _____ of the Reserve Bank of India: Executive Director (ED)
98)	Who is the chairman of the board of directors of RBI? Shaktikanta Das, Governor RBI
99)	According to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief, which country received highest amount of inward remittances in 2020? India

100)	From which country outflow of remittances was the highest in the year 2020? USA
101)	The National Bamboo Mission launched an MIS based reporting platform for _____ production: Agarbatti stick
102)	What is the name of the China's robotic rover that landed on Mars? Zhurong
103)	Who has been re-appointed as Nepal's Prime Minister on May 14? K P Sharma Oli
104)	Whitley Awards are given for recognizing outstanding contribution in which field? Nature's conservation
105)	What is another popular name for the Whitley awards? Green Oscar
106)	Which Indian is one of the seven winners of this year's prestigious Whitley Award? Y Nuklu Phom, Nagaland
107)	The central government launched a Rs 25,000 crore-SWAMIH fund for what purpose? For funding housing projects facing acute financial crunch
108)	What is the full form of SWAMIH? Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing
109)	Which company is responsible for managing the SWAMIH fund? SBCap Ventures Ltd.
110)	Which union ministry is responsible for the administration of the SWAMIH Fund? Ministry of Finance
111)	International Family Day is observed on which date? May 15
112)	What is the theme of this year's International Family Day? Families and New Technologies
113)	Which union minister has been honoured with the International Invincible Gold Medal? Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank
114)	Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is heading which union ministry? Ministry of Education
115)	Padma Bhushan Prof. M S Narasimhan passed away on May 16. He was an eminent _____ of India? Mathematician
116)	Italian Open Tennis Tournament was held in which Italian city? Rome
117)	Iga Swiatek, 2winner of the women's singles title at the Italian Open, hails from which country? Poland
118)	Andrea Meza, winner of Miss Universe 2020 title is beauty queen of which country? Mexico
119)	Who has been appointed as the Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team (Senior Women)? Ramesh Powar
120)	Who secured the top spot-on Fortune magazine's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders? Jacinda Ardern, PM of New Zealand
121)	Sir David Attenborough has been named as the "_____" of the UN Climate Change Conference: People's Advocate
122)	The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), is scheduled to be held in _____, Scotland in November 2021: Glasgow
123)	National Dengue Day is observed on which day of May month? 16th

124)	Dengue is transmitted by the infective bite of which mosquito? Aedes Aegypti
125)	May 17 is dedicated to promote public awareness about which common ailment and its prevention? Hypertension
126)	Which group of Palestinian militants was engaged in a fierce battle with Israel in the mid of May? Hamas
127)	Severe Cyclone Tauktae devastated large areas of which part of Indian coast? Western coast
128)	Raghubandan Lal Bhatia, Congress stalwart, died of Covid in Amritsar. He represented which Lok Sabha constituency six times? Amritsar
129)	As per new RBI guidelines, how much money can be now withdrawn from online wallets through ATMs/PoS machines? Up to Rs. 2,000 per transaction, maximum 10,000 in a month
130)	Moctar Ouane has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali, a landlocked country in _____ Africa: Western
131)	Arjan 'Singh' Bhullar, winner of the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the top-level MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) Championship, Singapore, hails from which country? Canada
132)	Penpa Tsering has been elected as the new _____ of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile: President
133)	Jagannath Pahadia, the first Dalit Chief Minister of _____, succumbed to death due to COVID-19 at the age of 89 on May 19: Rajasthan
134)	What is the theme of this year's World Metrology Day observed on May 20? Measurement for Health
135)	The World Bee Day is observed on which day of May? 20th
136)	Which state emerged at the top in establishing Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the Ayushman Bharat Program? Karnataka
137)	Which state stood first in implementation of the Smart City Mission? Jharkhand
138)	Smart City Mission is the flagship project of which union ministry? Ministry of Urban Development
139)	China successfully sent Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite into orbit on May 19 for what purpose? Ocean monitoring
140)	The Indian Navy decommissioned on May 21 its first destroyer warship named _____: INS Rajput
141)	Sunderlal Bahuguna, noted environmentalist passed away on May 21. He was pioneer of which world-famous conservation movement? "Chipko Andolan" in 1974 in Uttarakhand to prevent felling of trees
142)	Reserve Bank decided to transfer over ___ billion rupees as surplus to Centre for nine months ended March 31, 2021: 99
143)	The one million Euro Millennium Technology Prize is given by the Technology Academy of which country? Finland

144)	World's largest ever reported iceberg has been sighted in which area? Weddell Sea in Southern Ocean
145)	Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21 marks the death anniversary of which great Indian leader? Rajiv Gandhi
146)	Which Bank launched its fully digitised, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its MSME and Agri borrowers? IDBI Bank
147)	International Tea Day is observed across the world on which date? May 21
148)	The 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup will be held in _____ from October 11 to 30, 2022: India
149)	International Day for Biodiversity is observed on which day of May? 22nd
150)	Who is the winner of this year's prestigious Templeton Prize? World-famous conservationist and environmentalist Jane Goodall of UK
151)	The Templeton Prize is given by which organization? John Templeton Foundation, Philadelphia, USA
152)	What is the amount of cash award given in Templeton Prize? \$ 1.5 million
153)	Who topped the Forbes list of the world's 10 highest-earning athletes, having made \$180 million in 2020? Conor McGregor
154)	Conor McGregor is associated with which sports? Mixed Martial Arts - MMA
155)	Conor McGregor is citizen of which nation? Ireland
156)	What is the theme of this year's World Turtle Day? Turtle Rocks!
157)	World famous sea turtle hatching site Gahirmatha beach is in which Indian state? Odisha
158)	The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo volcano sent about 5,000 people fleeing from the city of Goma in which country? Democratic Republic of the Congo
159)	Max Verstappen of team Red Bull won the Formula One championship in Monaco Grand Prix. He hails from which country? Netherlands
160)	Name the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and a veteran Nuclear Scientist who passed away recently: Dr. Srikumar Banerjee
161)	Who has been re-elected as the President of International Hockey Federation (FIH)? Narinder Batra
162)	International Hockey Federation (FIH) is based at which place? Lausanne (Switzerland)
163)	The Finance Ministry notified final rules for raising foreign investment limit to ___ per cent (from 49% earlier) in the insurance sector: 74
164)	Which organization announced the launch of the 'School of Hope and Empowerment' (S.H.E.) at the 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development? Tata Communications
165)	India observes National Endangered Species Day on _____ Friday of May: Third

166) Which international body maintains the most comprehensive Red List of Threatened Species around the world? International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland
167) May 24 is devoted to raise awareness at global level about which ailment? Thyroid disorders
168) _____ won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award given by the International Hockey Federation: Hockey India
169) Billboard 2021 Music Awards are the popularity-based music awards of which country? USA
170) Who won the 10 Billboard 2021 Music Awards, including the iconic Top Artist Trophy? The Weeknd
171) Anatole Collinet Makosso has been appointed as the new _____ of Republic of Congo: Prime Minister
172) The Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) won the 'Best BMC in India' award. It is in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
173) Which international day is observed every year in May on the first full moon day, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima? Vesak Day
174) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, the 1985-batch IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the next Director of which apex organization? CBI – Central Bureau of Investigation
175) Cyclone Yaas, a 'very severe' cyclone devastated the beach towns in which two states? North Odisha and adjoining West Bengal
176) Which union Ministry plans to set up a National Mission on the use of biomass in coal-based thermal power plants? The Union Power Ministry
177) From which country India received highest amount of FDI in 2020-21? Singapore
178) Which Indian state received the highest amount of FDI in 2020-21? Gujarat
APRIL 2021
179) What was the name of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27? VARUNA 2021
180) The Hyundai Archery World Cup was hosted by which country? Guatemala
181) Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das are the top India players of which sports? Archery
182) Name the renowned Hindustani classical vocalist from Banaras gharana who died on April 25 due to COVID-19 complications: Pandit Rajan Mishra
183) Which former Governor of Reserve Bank of India was regarded as the "Father of banking reforms in India"? M Narasimham
184) Malaria is caused through the bites of infected female _____ mosquitoes: Anopheles
185) Celebrations of the World Intellectual Property Day on April 26 are supported by which UN Agency? World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), Geneva
186) What is the title of the latest novel written by noted novelist Amitav Ghosh? A Living Mountain

187) 'Whereabouts' is the title of the latest novel written by? Jhumpa Lahiri
188) Who is the author of the popular novel titled "The Hard Crowd"? Rachel Kushner
189) Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28? International Labour Organization (ILO)
190) The Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed on April 30 is associated with which national health scheme? Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)
191) Which picture won the Oscar for the Best Picture for 2020? Nomadland
192) Ms. Chloé Zhao of USA won the Oscar for the best director for which movie? Nomadland
193) Who won the Oscar for the Best Actor in a leading role? Anthony Hopkins for The Father
194) The RBI has capped the tenure of MD & CEO of commercial banks to a maximum of ___ years: 15
195) The Asian Development Bank has projected Indian economy to grow at ___ per cent in the current financial year: 11
196) China has named its first-ever Mars rover as _____ after an ancient fire god: Zhurong
197) What is the official name of the China's space agency? China National Space Administration
198) The submarine 'KRI Nanggala (402)', that went missing on 21 April, 2021, killing all the 53 mariners on board, belonged to which country? Indonesia
199) Which leading Indian digital financial services provider launched on April 26 India's first video-based wealth community? Paytm
200) Some leading not-for-profit environmental and social organisations came together to form the Blue Nature Alliance for what purpose? To protect the oceans from environmental threats
201) India and the US held a two-day naval PASSEX exercise on March 28-29 in which place? Bay of Bengal
202) Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve was selected recently for which international award? International Ranger Award
203) Which country topped the medal tally in the ISSF World Cup at Delhi? India
204) Which country successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-1A on March 26? Pakistan
205) 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' has been set up in which Indian city? Visakhapatnam
206) Who has been elected as the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)? Ms. Soma Mondal
207) Soma Mondal is the chairperson of which public sector organization? Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
208) Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has proposed up to ___ percent tax concession on the

purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate: 25
209) RBI has made use of AFA mandatory for all recurring payments through cards or UPI, wef April 1, 2021. What is AFA? Additional Factor of Authentication
210) Who is the director of the film 'Thappad', winner of Filmfare Award for the Best Film? Anubhav Sinha
211) Who won the Filmfare Award for the Best Actor in lead role? Irrfan Khan for Angrezi Medium
212) Om Raut won the Filmfare Award for the Best Director for which film? Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
213) Taapsee Pannu won the Filmfare Award for the Best Actress in lead role for which film? Thappad
214) The International Day of Drug Checking is observed every year on which day of March? 31st
215) Lewis Hamilton of Britain won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix F1 championship on March 28 for which team? Team Mercedes
216) What is the cash award given in the national Dadasaheb Phalke Award? Rs. 10 lakh
217) Who won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019? Superstar Rajnikant
218) What is the real name of Rajnikant? Shivaji Rao Gaekwad
219) Which country fared best in the gender parity as per the WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2021? Iceland
220) What was India's rank in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021? 140th
221) Where are the headquarters of the World Economic Forum? Cologne, Switzerland
222) What was the name of the 11th edition of Indo-US joint special forces exercise held at Special Forces training school, Bakloh? Vajra Prahar 2021
223) Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh is in which state? Himachal Pradesh
224) Saraswati Samman is bestowed for outstanding contribution in which field? Literature
225) What is the cash award given with the Saraswati Samman? Rs. 15 lakh
226) Who is the winner of the Saraswati Samman for 2020? Dr Sharankumar Limbale
227) Dr Sharankumar Limbale won the Saraswati Samman for which book? Sanatan
228) Dr. Limbale is a renowned writer of which language? Marathi
229) World Autism Awareness Day is observed on which date? April 2
230) An area at Amboli in Western ghats has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site. It is in which state? Maharashtra
231) India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 MW is being set up by the NTPC at its Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir. It is in which state? Telangana
232) Who is the Governor of Telangana? Tamilisai Soundararajan

233) The Central Government plans to issue a ___ digit identification number "Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)" to every plot of land in the country: 14
234) From April 1 this year, GST taxpayers having turnover of more than 5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year, will have to furnish 6 digits HSN Code. What is HSN? Harmonised System of Nomenclature
235) CBIC issues 6-digit SAC to uniformly classify each service under the applicable rate of GST. What is SAC? Service Accounting Code
236) The government has decided to keep the inflation-targeting framework for the RBI unchanged at ___ % for the next five-year period: Four
237) Sankalp se Siddhi" drive is an initiative of which union ministry? Ministry of Tribal Affairs
238) Veteran actress of over 100 Hindi films passed away at her residence in Mumbai on April 4. What was her real name? Shashikala Jawalkar
239) As many as 23 CRPF jawans were killed and around 50 were injured after an encounter with local Naxalites on April 3 in Jagargunda area. It is in which state? Chhattisgarh
240) Hubert Hurkacz won the men's singles title at the Miami Open Tennis Tournament. He hails from which country? Poland
241) Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board? Mallika Srinivasan
242) The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan for \$ 300 million for canal-based drinking water project in which state? Punjab
243) India celebrates National Maritime Day on which day of April? 5th
244) Justice NV Ramana has been appointed as the ___ Chief Justice of India: 48th
245) Which country suffered flash floods and landslides triggered by tropical cyclone Seroja? Indonesia
246) ___ became the first state in the country to provide free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state: Rajasthan
247) RBI in its first MPC meeting kept the benchmark interest rate - Repo Rate unchanged at ___ percent: Four
248) Which big country passed a law to facilitate its current President to hold office for two additional 6-year terms till 2036? Russia
249) The Indian Navy participated in a France-led multi nation naval drill named ___ from April 5 to 7 in the Bay of Bengal: "La Perouse"
250) Tarun Bajaj has been appointed as the new ___ Secretary under the Ministry of Finance: Revenue
251) ___ appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance: Ajay Seth

252)	The Reserve Bank has decided to bring out a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index). It will be released annually in the month of _____ : July
253)	AM Turing Award is given for recognizing outstanding excellence in which field? Computer Science
254)	Who won the AM Turing Award for the year 2020? Prof. Alfred V Aho of USA
255)	The Reserve Bank has enhanced the limit of maximum balance to Rs. _____ in accounts of Payment Banks? Two lakh
256)	_____ has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI: S Ramann
257)	The Supreme Court of India on April 7 launched its Artificial Intelligence portal by what name? SUPACE
258)	What is the full form of SUPACE? Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency
259)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his _____ counterpart Mark Rutte on April 9: Netherlands
260)	Government launched which portal on April 7 to promote the honey mission in the country? Madhukranti
261)	The Government launched on April 7 the Tribal Health Collaborative named: Anamaya
262)	What is the name of the Indian World Heavyweight Champion recently inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame? Dalip Singh Rana (Great Khali)
263)	India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector named: Nano Sniffer
264)	Prince Philip, British Queen Elizabeth's husband, died at the age of 99. What was his official title? Duke of Edinburgh
265)	Which Bank approved a \$ 484 million loan to improve the road maintenance and transport connectivity in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor? Asian Development Bank
266)	World Homoeopathy Day is observed on April 10 to commemorate the birthday of _____: Dr. Samuel Hahnemann
267)	The National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on which date? April 11
268)	As per the recently published Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU 2020), which university topped the rankings in India? Calcutta University
269)	Which university topped in the world the Academic Ranking of World Universities? Harvard University, USA
270)	Which film won the BAFTA award for the best film? Nomadland
271)	Who won the BAFTA for the Best Director? Ms. Chloe Zhao
272)	Yuri Gagarin, the first human being to undertake the space flight, hailed from which country? Russia
273)	The Parkinson disease is associated with which system of human body? Nervous

274)	Festival of Baisakhi marks the thanksgiving by the farmer community for the bumper _____ crops: Rabi
275)	In which state Baisakhi is celebrated as Rongali Bihu? Assam
276)	In Kerala, festival of Baisakhi is celebrated as _____: Vishu
277)	Name the Election Commissioner who has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sushil Chandra
278)	India participated in a 10-day multinational military exercise held in Bangladesh. What was its name? Shantir Ogroshena
279)	Which country hosted the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in virtual mode from April 13 to 16? India
280)	Guneet Monga has been selected for the French civilian honour the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. She is a renowned _____: Film maker
281)	Government launched the e-SaNta platform for promotion of _____ products: Marine
282)	Government launched a mobile application called "Little Guru" to enable the user to learn _____ language: Sanskrit
283)	The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted its approval to _____ Laboratories for restricted emergency use of Russian COVID-19 vaccine: Dr. Reddy's
284)	What is the name of Russian COVID - 19 vaccine? Sputnik V
285)	Guillermo Lasso has been elected as the President of which South American country? Ecuador
286)	The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is headed by _____: Vijay Sampla
287)	Government launched _____, a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition: Aahaar Kranti
288)	Government launched MANAS App to promote wellbeing across all age groups. What is the full form of MANAS? Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
289)	Which Indian cricketer has been named Wisden Almanack's ODI player of the 2010s? Virat Kohli
290)	World Art Day celebrated on April 15 is associated with birthday of which legendary artist/painter? Leonardo da Vinci
291)	Which district bagged top position at National level for successfully implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during 2020-21? Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir
292)	Indian Army celebrates April 13 as Siachen Day to mark its victorious operation _____ in 1984 against Pakistan: Meghdoot
293)	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology unveiled three path breaking initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India. What is its short name? NIXI
294)	Which country announced the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats on April 15? USA

295)	Sarita Mor (of Sonipat, Haryana) won the gold in the Asian _____ Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan: Wrestling
296)	The Reserve Bank has decided to set up a new Regulations Review Authority headed by _____? M Rajeshwar Rao
297)	Which country topped the Inclusive Internet Index 2021? Sweden
298)	What was India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2021? 49th
299)	Which Indian set a new World Record in the women's 49kg Clean and Jerk at Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent? Mirabai Chanu of Manipur
300)	The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was held at which place? Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
301)	World Haemophilia Day is observed on April 17. Haemophilia is associated with which ailment? Bleeding disorders
302)	Celebration of World Heritage Day on April 18 is supported by which UN agency? UNESCO
303)	The Henley Passport Index placed which country's passport at the top? Japan
304)	What was Indian passport's rank on the Henley Passport Index? 84th
305)	Miguel Díaz-Canel has been appointed as the new President of which country? Cuba
306)	NASA's Mars helicopter named _____ made history with a successful flight on the Red Planet: 'Ingenuity'
307)	The World Liver Day is observed on which date? April 19
308)	The Reserve Bank constituted a panel to carry out a review of the working of ARCs. What is the full form of ARC? Asset Reconstruction Company
309)	ARC is a specialized financial institution that buys the _____ from banks at a mutually agreed value: Bad loans (NPAs)
310)	The ARCs are to be registered with which apex organization? RBI
311)	The Government of India celebrates Civil Services Day on which date? April 21
312)	Who referred to civil servants as the 'Steel frame of India' in 1947? Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
313)	Which country secured top rank in the Energy Transition Index released by the WEF? Sweden
314)	What was India's rank in the Energy Transition Index released by the WEF? 87th
315)	The Press Freedom Index 2021 that evaluates the press freedom situation in 180 countries, ranked which country at the top? Norway
316)	India was placed at _____ rank in the recently released Press Freedom Index 2021: 142nd
317)	Which international day is observed on April 22 to create awareness about pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet? The Earth Day

318)	What is the theme of this year's Earth Day? Restore our Earth
319)	Which city has been selected as the World Book Capital for a one-year period on the occasion of the World Book and Copyright Day on April 23? Tbilisi in Georgia
320)	Which international day marks the birthday and death anniversary of the legendary writer William Shakespeare on April 23? The English Language Day
321)	_____ hosted a two-day Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders on the Earth Day, April 22: US President Joe Biden
322)	What was the theme of the Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders held on the Earth Day, April 22? Our Collective Sprint to 2030
323)	Name the noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author who passed away on April 21 due to Covid-19 complications: Maulana Wahiduddin Khan
324)	Shankha Ghosh, an eminent Bengali _____ passed away on April 21 losing his battle against COVID 19: Poet
325)	_____ became the first country to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement on April 9: Singapore
326)	In which year government enacted the Panchayati Raj Act? 1993
327)	Which number amendment of the Indian Constitution is associated with the enactment of Panchayati Raj Act? 73rd
328)	Which country, along with Russia, topped the medal tally at the World Youth Boxing Championships held in Kielce, Poland? India
329)	Rekha M Menon, Chairperson of IT firm Accenture India, has been appointed as chairperson of which apex business body? National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
330)	The World Veterinary Day is observed on the _____ Saturday of April every year: Last
MARCH 2021	
331)	The book 'India's Power Elite' is written by_____: Sanjay Baru, ex-media to former prime minister Manmohan Singh
332)	What is the name of the sixth offshore patrol vessel commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24? ICGS Vajra
333)	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
334)	NITI Aayog formed 11 committees to expedite the transition of the country from a linear economy to a _____ economy: Circular
335)	_____ 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)

336)	Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to Rs. ___ lakh: Five
337)	Which country plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadhavet Sea? Norway
338)	Vyas Samman is associated with which field? Hindi literature
339)	Who is the winner of Vyas Samman – 2020? Prof. Sharad Pagare
340)	Prof. Sharad Pagare won the Vyas Samma for which book? Patliputra Ki Samragyi
341)	What is the amount of cash award given in the Vyas Samman? Rs. four lakhs
342)	Name the former Deputy Governor of the RBI who left for heavenly abode on March 26: KC Chakrabarty
343)	Name the noted journalist and author who died in Mumbai on March 26: Anil Dharker
344)	Which country topped the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? USA
345)	India was placed at which spot in the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? 40th
346)	Which district has been declared as the first TB free district in India? Budgam, J&K
347)	With which country India conducted its first Passage Exercise (PASSEX) on 24 March in western Indian Ocean? Madagascar
348)	Denis Sassou Nguesso has been re-elected as the President of which country for the next five years? Republic of Congo
349)	Bangladesh is celebrating which year of its liberation? 50th
350)	Who is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh? Sheikh Hasina Wajed
351)	Who has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)? Saurabh Garg
352)	World Theatre Day is observed on which day of March? 27th
353)	Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the ___ Saturday of March: Last
354)	Which bank has been adjudged the India's best bank for SMEs at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 202? HDFC Bank
355)	Out of wheat and rice, which crop is produced more in India? Rice
356)	The Centre has lifted embargo on private sector banks for conduct of ___ business related transactions: Government
357)	What is the formal name of the world's largest cricket stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad? Narendra Modi Stadium
358)	Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes? Vijay Sampla

359)	Jasmine Harrison, a 21-year-old British woman from England became the youngest woman to do what? To row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
360)	Which film won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the best film? Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
361)	Akshay Kumar won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the Best Actor for which film? Laxmii
362)	Irakli Garibashvili has been appointed as the new ___ of Georgia: Prime Minister
363)	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
364)	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
365)	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
366)	Which country emerged as India's biggest trade partner in 2020? China
367)	Which Buddhist pilgrimage city has been selected recently under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme? Leh, Ladakh
368)	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
369)	Mohamed Bazoum has been elected as the new President of which African country? Niger
370)	Dushyant Chautala, Deputy CM of Haryana, has been re-elected as the President of which sports federation of India? Table Tennis
371)	The central government has selected 12 tourist sites under the Swachh Iconic Places under an initiative of which ministry? Ministry of Jal Shakti
372)	The famous historical monument Sanchi Stupa is in which state? Madhya Pradesh
373)	Which state is famous for Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ramdevra Temple? Rajasthan
374)	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
375)	ISRO launched the Amazonia 1 optical earth observation satellite for which country? Brazil
376)	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
377)	Which country has taken over chairmanship of BRICS group for 2021? India

378)	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh. It is in which state? Jharkhand
379)	Matam Venkata Rao has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of which Bank? Central Bank of India
380)	Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for what purpose? For enhancing physical accessibility for elderly and the disabled
381)	Which was the partner country in the Maritime India Summit-2021 held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4? Denmark
382)	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
383)	March 07 is observed as Janaushadhi Diwas. Jan Aushadhi Kendras are the initiative of which government department? Department of Pharmaceuticals
384)	21st National Sqay Championship was held at which place? Jaipur, Rajasthan
385)	Sqay is the traditional martial art of which area? Kashmir
386)	Golden Globe Awards are associated with which field? Cinema & TV
387)	Which film won the Golden Globe for the Best Motion Picture – Drama? Nomadland
388)	Chloé Zhao won the Golden Globe for the best director for which film? Nomadland
389)	India donated Rs. 1.5 million to the National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine of which country? Taiwan
390)	Indian Air Force gifted a legacy Alouette III helicopter to which country? Bangladesh
391)	A giant iceberg, around 490 sq km in size, broke off from the ice shelf in which area? Antarctica
392)	Who became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021? Virat Kohli
393)	Who is the most followed sportsperson on the Instagram, having 266 million followers? Cristiano Ronaldo
394)	ISRO successfully launched satellite Sindhu Netra on Feb 28. It is what type of satellite? Surveillance satellite
395)	A special contingent of the Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise “Desert Flag” in which country? UAE – United Arab Emirates
396)	Which state/UT topped the medals tally in the 2 nd Khelo India Winter National Games? J&K
397)	2 nd Khelo India Winter National Games were held in which city in J&K? Gulmarg
398)	Government has decided to merge the Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV channels. The new channel will be known as ____ TV: Sansad TV
399)	What is the theme for this year's Zero Discrimination Day? End Inequalities

400)	Which country successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment? Russia
401)	Which are the two international days that are observed on March 3? World Wildlife Day and World Hearing Day
402)	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
403)	Which city is the capital of Norway? Oslo
404)	Which heritage iconic railway station in Mumbai is popularly known as CST station? Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
405)	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
406)	In the category of cities with 'population less than million', _____ was ranked at the top in the Ease of Living Index: Shimla
407)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with Stefan Löfven on March 5. Who is he? Prime Minister of Sweden
408)	India exported the first consignment of 'red rice' on March 4 to which country? USA
409)	Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in which Indian river valley? Brahmaputra valley in Assam
410)	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
411)	With which country India signed a key pact on March 2 for the supply of BrahMos supersonic missiles? Philippines
412)	BrahMos missiles are built in India in collaboration with which country? Russia
413)	Which Indian boxer has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee? Mary Kom
414)	India has decided to fund the reconstruction of three more Cultural Heritage projects in which country? Nepal
415)	Which country hosted the 2021's first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in virtual mode on Feb 26? Italy
416)	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
417)	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
418)	Which city topped the final rankings in million plus cities of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 for the 111 Indian cities? Indore

419)	The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings ranked which university as the best in the world? Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA
420)	Which Indian Institute/University secured highest (172nd) rank in the QS World University Rankings? Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
421)	The UN General Assembly has declared on March 3 year 2023 as the year of ____? Millet
422)	Among Ragi, Bajra, Makai and Jowar, which one is NOT a millet? Makai
423)	What is this year's theme of the National Safety Day? "Sadak Suraksha" (Road Safety)
424)	India observes National Security Day on March 4. Who is India's National Security Advisor? Ajit Kumar Doval
425)	Washington-based noted think tank Freedom House in its report, titled 'Democracy Under Siege', has ranked India at which rank? 88th
426)	What is the theme of this year's International Women's Day? #ChooseToChallenge
427)	Which Indian boxer won gold at the Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain? Manish Kaushik
428)	Which Indian boxers reached number one world ranking in both men's and women's category? Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat
429)	Which Indian organization launched an 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna? Shipping Corporation of India
430)	An 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna was launched from which Indian port? Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai
431)	NPCI partnered with which company to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants? SBI Payments
432)	Which ministry has decided to classify all of its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes for their better implementation? Women and Child Development Ministry
433)	Google launched which web platform to help one million women in rural India to become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship? Women will
434)	Which country topped the UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020? Switzerland
435)	What was India's rank in the recently released UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020? 71st
436)	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
437)	The Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) on Feni river is located in which state? Tripura
438)	Indian Railway integrated all its helplines into single number. What is this number? 139

439)	The Maitree Setu will link South Tripura to which International port in Bangladesh? Chittagong
440)	Koneru Humpy won the "BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year" (ISWOTY) award for 2020. She plays which sports? Chess
441)	The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated recently at which place in Uttarakhand? Ranikhet
442)	ISRO and the NASA recently completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR. What is its name? NISAR
443)	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
444)	Which bank launched 'SmartUp Unnati'-- a dedicated mentoring programme to support women entrepreneurs? HDFC Bank
445)	What is the name of the second edition of the India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise held in Ranikhet in Uttarakhand? DUSTLIK-II
446)	The "Economic Freedom Index" released by the US based think tank - Heritage Foundation placed which country at the top? Singapore
447)	India was ranked at which spot in the Economic Freedom Index? 121st
448)	Which country launched the world's first military exercise in space from March 8 to 12? France
449)	What was the name of the military space exercise launched by France? AstreX
450)	President of which country was selected for the Prize for Achievement in African Leadership-2020? Niger
451)	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
452)	The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. How many countries are member of Quad group? Four
453)	Who is the Prime Minister of Japan? Yoshihide Suga
454)	What is the full form of the acronym QUAD? Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
455)	Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand? Tirath Singh Rawat
456)	Who is the Governor of Uttarakhand? Ms. Baby Rani Maurya
457)	Who became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats? Mithali Raj
458)	_____ 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
459)	What is the upper limit of amount of transactions that can be done through 'Wear N Pay' devices? Rs. 5,000/-
460)	Thomas Bach has been re-elected as the President of which international sports body? International Olympic Committee (IOC)

461)	Where are the headquarters of the IOC located? Lausanne, Switzerland
462)	Who has been appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India by the Central Government? Dr. G P Samanta
463)	Which two countries signed a MoU to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries? China and Russia
464)	Which Indian actress has joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum? Deepika Padukon
465)	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
466)	Which Indian Industrialist added the highest wealth in the world to his fortune in 2021? Gautam Adani
467)	World Kidney Day is observed globally on the _____ Thursday of March every year: Second
468)	Prime Minister Modi launched the celebrations for the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' from which place? Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
469)	Who became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T-20 Internationals? Virat Kohli
470)	Which team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for 2021? Team Mumbai
471)	Vijay Hazare Trophy is played in which format of cricket? 50 over one day
472)	Tamil Nadu's CA Bhavani Devi became the first ever Indian _____ to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games: Fencer
473)	Who became the first player in the world to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket? Mithali Raj
474)	'The Lost Soul' is a novel written by Olga Tokarczuk. She belongs to which country: Poland
475)	The world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku" has been developed by which country? Japan
476)	International Day of Mathematics is observed on March 14. It also commemorates the birthday of a great mathematician. Who is he? Albert Einstein
477)	What is the value of Pi expressed in a fraction? 14/3
478)	World Consumer Rights Day is observed on which day of March month? 15th
479)	What is the theme of this year's World Consumer Rights Day? Tackle plastic pollution
480)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of _____, on March 16: Finland
481)	RBI has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by _____ this year: September 30
482)	The UGC has recognised three professional qualifications as equivalent to post-graduation. Can you name them? CA, CS, and ICWA
483)	Grammy awards are given to recognise excellence in which field? Music

484)	Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee Laxman Pai passed away on March 14. He was a renowned _____? Artist and painter
485)	Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal has been launched at which international airport? Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
486)	Which country topped the Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific region released by the JLL? India
487)	Which artist created a record of winning highest number of Grammy awards (28), after winning 4 Grammys this year? Beyonce
488)	Which artist won the Grammy this year for the "Record of the Year"? Billie Eilish
489)	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
490)	Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Security Guard? M A Ganpathy
491)	Kuldip Singh, Sr IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of which para-military force? CRPF
492)	_____ became the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization: El Salvador
493)	_____ has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city by World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir: New Delhi
494)	What is the name of the Indian Navy's first advanced surveillance ship? INS Dhruv
495)	What is the name of the world's highest honor in architecture, also known as Nobel of architecture? Pritzker Architecture Prize
496)	Pritzker Architecture Prize for 2021 has been won by Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. They hail from which country? France
497)	India's first ordnance factory was established at which place in 1801? Cossipore, West Bengal
498)	What is the theme for this year's Global Recycling Day observed on March 18? Recycling Heroes
499)	Which International day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth? World Sleep Day
500)	Dr Ajay Mathur has been appointed as the Director General of which global organization? International Solar Alliance, Gurugram, Haryana
501)	Who is Lloyd J Austin III who arrived in India on March 19 for a three-day visit? Defence Secretary of USA
502)	International Day of Happiness is observed on which day of March? 20th
503)	What is the theme of this year's World Sparrow Day observed on March 20? I love sparrows

504)	As per the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released on March 19, _____ is the happiest country to live in the world: Finland
505)	What was India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2021? 139th
506)	_____ has been declared as the best state under the government's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana: Manipur
507)	Which Indian film celebrity has been honoured with the prestigious Film Archive Award-2021? Amitabh Bachchan
508)	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
509)	Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan has been sworn in as the first female President of which African country? Tanzania
510)	Mark Rutte won the 2021 parliamentary elections for the fourth term in a row to become Prime Minister in which country? Netherlands
511)	The Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf with the navy of which country? Bahrain
512)	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
513)	Who became the first Indian Table Tennis player to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games? Achanta Sharath Kamal
514)	What is the theme of this year's World Water Day observed on March 22? Valuing Water
515)	What is the name of the water conservation campaign launched by the Prime Minister Modi on March 22? Catch the Rain Campaign
516)	India's Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 _____ World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE: Para Shooting
517)	Who won the men's singles title at the All-England Badminton Championships? Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia
518)	Nozomi Okuhara won the women's singles title at the All-England Badminton Championships. She represents which country? Japan
519)	Government launched an ambitious scheme named _____ for offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas: Gram Ujala
520)	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
521)	Which film won the National Award for the 'Best Feature Film' for 2019? Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
522)	Who won the National Award for the Best Director for 2019? Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain
523)	National award for the Best Actress for 2019 has been won by: Kangana Ranaut

524)	_____ was declared as the most film friendly state for 2019: Sikkim
525)	The Gandhi Peace Prize – 2019 was conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. He was former head of which country? Oman
526)	Government of India honoured Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with which prestigious global award? The Gandhi Peace Prize-2020
527)	What is the amount of the cash prize given with the Gandhi Peace Prize? Rs. One crore
528)	According to a study released by defence website Military Direct on March 21, Indian army is the _____ strongest army of the world: Fourth
529)	According to Military Direct, which is the strongest military force in the world: China
530)	Which two other countries are ahead of India in military force: USA (2nd) and Russia (3rd)
531)	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
532)	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
533)	Who was called by the name of Frontier Gandhi? Late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (also known as Badshah Khan)
534)	'My Life in Full' is a book written by which corporate honcho? Indra Nooyi, former CEO of Pepsico
535)	The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle is English translation of autobiography of which freedom fighter? Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
536)	What is the name of the book recently written by senior RSS leader Ram Madhav? Because India Comes First
FEBRUARY 2021	
537)	Who became Table Tennis Men's national champion at the 82nd National Table Tennis Championships in Panchkula, Haryana? Sathiyan Gnanasekaran
538)	The Reserve Bank brought the State Bank of _____ under its regulation: Sikkim
539)	_____ became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22: Uttar Pradesh
540)	Which Arabian country has permitted the women of the country to join the armed forces? Saudi Arabia
541)	India's first Carbon Watch, a mobile app for assessing carbon footprints has been developed by which state/UT? Chandigarh
542)	Government has approved _____ toy manufacturing clusters with investment of Rs 2,300 crore: 8
543)	Which state has set up the country's first Digital University? Kerala
544)	What is the name of India's first Digital University? Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology

545)	The Indian Army successfully tested the Helina and Dhruv Astra Missile Systems. They are what type of missiles? Anti Tank Guided Missiles
546)	The Soil Health Card Day is observed on which day of February? 19th
547)	The World Social Justice Day is observed on Feb 20 with the support of which UN agency? International Labour Organization
548)	Government launched the Go Electric Campaign to boost the adoption of which items? Electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances
549)	Government launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 (IMI 3.0) for what purpose? To expand immunization coverage across the nation
550)	The Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted bilateral military exercise PASSEX on Feb 18 in which area? Arabian Sea
551)	Which Indian company indigenously made K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/ 52 calibre self-propelled guns for Indian Army? Larsen and Toubro (L&T)
552)	International Mother Language Day is observed on which day? February 21
553)	The second Khelo India University Games will be hosted by which state? Karnataka
554)	The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held in which state from Feb 20 to 26? Madhya Pradesh
555)	Australian Open Grand Slam was held in which Australian city? Melbourne
556)	Who won men's singles title at the Australian Open? Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
557)	_____ won the Australian Open Women's singles title: Naomi Osaka
558)	The book <i>Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha</i> is the life story of which para military force? CRPF
559)	'Unfinished: A Memoir' is the autobiography of which Indian cinema celebrity? Priyanka Chopra Jonas
560)	What is the title of the recent book by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama? The Little Book of Encouragement
561)	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
562)	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
563)	Sir C V Raman was awarded Nobel Prize in 1930 in which field? Physics
564)	Government launched the National Urban Digital Mission aimed at providing an online platform for what purpose? For creating a platform for citizen-centric governance
565)	Which bank approved a \$ 304 million dollar loan for Assam Intra-State Transmission System

	Enhancement Project? The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
566)	The World Bank granted a \$68 million support to improve the quality of education in which state? Nagaland
567)	The 30th Adriatic Pearl Boxing Tournament was held in Budva. It is in which country? Montenegro
568)	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
569)	Director Anders Refn hails from which country? Denmark
570)	What is the cash amount given in the Golden Peacock Award? Rs. 40 lakh
571)	Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is given for outstanding performance in which field? Disaster management
572)	Who is the winner of this year's Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar in individual category? Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari
573)	What is the amount of cash award won by Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari? Rs. Five lakh
574)	10 th National Ice Hockey Championship was held at which place? Gulmarg, J&K
575)	Which team won the 10 th National Ice Hockey Championship? Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
576)	The longest road arch bridge in India - the Wahrew Bridge has been built in which state? Meghalaya
577)	The Wahrew Bridge in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya has been built across which river? Wahrew
578)	A rocket from which US aerospace company created a new record by launching 143 satellites at a time into space? SpaceX
579)	The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the 'Shram Shakti' portal to collect data related to the _____ workers? Tribal migrant
580)	The Gujarat Government plans to set up India's largest multi-modal logistics park in which city? Ahmadabad
581)	The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into effect from which date? January 22, 2021
582)	Is India a signatory to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? No
583)	Which state launched door delivery of rice to ration card holders across the state? Andhra Pradesh
584)	India's top civilian awards, Padma awards are approved by which authority? President of India
585)	Which union ministry makes recommendations for the Padma Awards? Ministry of Home Affairs
586)	How many Padma Awards have been declared this year? 119
587)	Who is the only foreign dignitary to be honoured this year with Padma Vibhushan? Shinzo Abe, former PM of Japan

588)	Maximum how many Padma awards can be declared in total in one year (excluding awards given posthumously and to foreigners)? 120
589)	Who is the winner of the only MahaVir Chakra declared this year? Colonel B Santosh Babu
590)	Colonel B Santosh Babu has been decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra for display of outstanding gallantry in which area? Galwan Valley
591)	The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 has placed India at which rank? Seventh
592)	Which were the two most affected countries in 2019 as per the Global Climate Risk Index 2021? Mozambique and Zimbabwe
593)	The South-East Central Railways created a new record by successfully operating the world's longest ever freight train in which state? Chhattisgarh
594)	BSF launched "Operation Sard Hawa" from Jan 21 to 27 to increase security on the borders in which area? Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
595)	As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, which country recoded highest trade surplus in 2020? China
596)	As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, which country recoded highest trade deficit in 2020? USA
597)	A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX - 21 was conducted in which area from January 21-25? Andaman & Nicobar Islands
598)	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa won a second five-year term after winning the 2021 Presidential election with a landslide victory in which country? Portugal
599)	The International Customs Day is celebrated on which date? January 26
600)	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
601)	Kaja Kallas has been elected as the first female President of which country? Estonia, Central Europe
602)	The Election Commission rolled out the electronic version of the voters' photo identity card e-EPIC. What is EPIC? Electoral photo identity card
603)	Which Indian company has been ranked 5th on Brand Finance's Global 500 ranking of the strongest brands globally? Reliance Jio
604)	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
605)	The Corruption Perception Index, 2020, released by Berlin based NGO Transparency International has placed India at which rank? 86th
606)	Which country topped the Corruption Perception Index, 2020? New Zealand and Denmark, jointly
607)	According to the National Science Foundation, USA, India is at which rank in terms of number of scientific articles published in 2018? Third

608)	World Wetlands Day is observed on which day of February? 2nd
609)	Out of Mulberry, Eri, Chanderi, Tassar, and Muga - which one is NOT a variety of Silk? Chanderi
610)	In which South Asian country military executed a coup on Feb 1 after arresting the top political leaders? Myanmar
611)	Which team won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy on Jan 31? Tamil Nadu
612)	Which word has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020? Aatmanirbharta
613)	Badminton World Tour Finals were played on Jan 31 in which city? Bangkok
614)	Who won women's singles title at the Badminton World Tour Finals? Tai Tzu Ying (China)
615)	Men's singles title at the Badminton World Tour Finals was won by: Anders Antonsen, Denmark
616)	The BCCI has decided to not to conduct which national tournament for the first time in its history of 87 years? Ranji Trophy
617)	The Finance Minister announced launch of Pradhan Mantri Bharat _____ Yojana to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems? Atmanirbhar Swasth
618)	Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India-2021" was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in which city? Bengaluru
619)	The defence ministers of 27 countries from Indian Ocean region participated in a conclave held at _____ in first week of February: Bengaluru
620)	A team of researchers from five institutes across India have discovered a new gecko species in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
621)	Which state government launched the year long Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations here on Feb 4? Bihar
622)	Ajay Singh has been re-elected as President of the _____ Federation of India: Boxing
623)	According to the Democracy Index 2020 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit, London, India secured _____ rank in the Index: 53rd
624)	What is the theme of this year's World Cancer Day observed on Feb 4? I am and I will
625)	India established its first centre for wetland conservation in which place? Chennai
626)	The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with which country? Russia
627)	The New START has been extended for how many years? Five
628)	District Shravasti topped in the ranking of aspirational districts done by the Niti Aayog in December 2020. It is in which state? Uttar Pradesh
629)	The ministry of corporate affairs has allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate OPCs. What is OPC? One Person Company

630)	Which country topped the medal tally at the first Asian Online Shooting Championship hosted online by Kuwait? India
631)	_____ 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
632)	Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project in which district of Uttarakhand? Dehradun
633)	The Lakhwar electricity project is being constructed on which river? Yamuna
634)	YudhAbhyas 20, the India-US joint military exercise was held in Mahajan Field Firing Range in which state? Rajasthan
635)	India's first ever geothermal power project will be established at Puga village in which area? Eastern Ladakh
636)	In which state a glacier burst caused widespread devastation on Feb 7? Uttarakhand
637)	For the first time in the history of CRPF, a contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into which of its units? CoBRA
638)	What is the full form of CoBRA? Commando Battalion for Resolute Action
639)	Who has been appointed as the head of the National Safety Council by the Labour Ministry? S N Subrahmanyam
640)	Which country plans to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea? Denmark
641)	Government has enhanced the agricultural credit target to _____ lakh crore rupees for the year 2021-22: 16.5
642)	With which country India signed a MoU for the construction of Shahtoot dam project? Afghanistan
643)	The Shahtoot dam project is to be built across which river? Kabul
644)	Who has been honoured as the Global Citizenship Ambassador by the Northeastern University Center for Spirituality, Dialogue and Service, Boston, USA? Sri Sri Ravishankar
645)	Who won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award 2021? Rishabh Pant
646)	With which neighbouring country India recently inaugurated a newly constructed 108-kilometre road? Nepal
647)	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
648)	Which country signed a \$43 billion agreement to build the world's largest offshore wind farm? South Korea
649)	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
650)	Novavax vaccines are the product of which country? USA

651)	India's first centralised AC railway terminal is about to be operational by February end in which city? Bengaluru
652)	According to the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index, which country is the most innovative nation? South Korea
653)	India has been placed at which rank in the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index? 50th
654)	Who is the top winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020? Manasa Varanasi
655)	Which iconic historical monument in the Indian capital completed 100 years of its foundation laying on Feb 10? India Gate
656)	The India Meteorological Department (IMD) plans to set up India's first thunderstorm research testbed at _____, Odisha: Balasore
657)	The National Deworming Day is observed two times in a year on which dates? Feb 10 and August 10
658)	Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Pulses Day on Feb 10? Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
659)	The Unani Day is celebrated every year on Feb 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim _____: Ajmal Khan
660)	The Unani medicine is based on the philosophy of which Greek thinker? Hippocrates
661)	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
662)	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
663)	What is the three pronged theme for this year's World Radio Day? Evolution, Innovation, Connection
664)	India celebrates National Women's Day on Feb 13 to commemorate the birthday of which great Indian woman? Sarojini Naidu
665)	What was the popular sobriquet attributed to Sarojini Naidu? Bharat Kokila
666)	Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first CNG tractor on Feb 12. What is CNG? Compressed Natural Gas
667)	The Tamil film "Koozhangal" won "Tiger" award for the best film at the 50th edition of the _____ International Film Festival: Rotterdam
668)	The Export-Import Bank of India has approved a \$400 million credit a mega connectivity project in which country? Maldives
669)	Which country conducted a successful training launch of the surface to surface ballistic cruise missile 'Babur'? Pakistan
670)	Mario Draghi has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of which European country? Italy
671)	The World Bank approved a \$100 million support for CHIRAAAG project in which state? Chhattisgarh

672)	Indian Army placed an order for 118 indigenously manufactured Arjun Mark 1-A tanks. What is its popular name? Hunter Killer
673)	Arjun Mark 1-A tanks are built at the Indian Ordnance Factory's production facility at which place? Avadi, Chennai
674)	The Indian National Congress named which party veteran as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha? Mallikarjun Kharge
675)	Who has been selected as the new Director General of the International Solar Alliance? Dr. Ajay Mathur
676)	Who became the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen? Ravichandran Ashwin
677)	RBI formed a committee headed by _____ for drawing a vision document to strengthen urban co-operative banks: N S Vishwanathan
678)	Who has been named as the new Director General of the World Trade Organisation? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
679)	Which state launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students' initiative? Sikkim
680)	Dr. Kiran Bedi, former IPS Officer has been removed from the post of Lieutenant Governor of which UT? Puducherry
681)	Which State's Chief Minister has been honoured with the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award? Andhra Pradesh
682)	Who is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh? Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
683)	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
684)	The government launched an online portal _____ to offer civil services in 62 Cantonments Boards across the country: e-Chhawani
685)	The Indian Navy got its third indigenously built Scorpene Submarine on Feb 15. What is its name? INS Karanj
686)	Name the former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand and eminent jurist, who passed away on February 16 in Bengaluru: Justice (Retd) M Rama Jois
687)	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
688)	In which US state millions of people suffered in extreme cold as a severe winter storm snapped electricity supply? Texas
689)	Which country hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with other SAARC countries on February 18 to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis? India
690)	The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with which country? Mauritius

691)	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
692)	The Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation have recognized _____ as a 2020 Tree City of World: Hyderabad
693)	The American space agency NASA successfully landed its fifth rover named _____ on Mars on Feb 18: Perseverance
694)	Who won her second women's national title at the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championships? Manika Batra
695)	The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called _____ : Sandes
696)	The Exim Bank extended a line of credit (LOC) of \$15 million to which country for improving potable water facilities? Sierra Leone
JANUARY 2021	
697)	India's first ever driverless train operations were flagged off on _____ Metro's Magenta Line: Delhi
698)	Indian and Vietnamese Navy concluded the two-day naval passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in which area? South China Sea
699)	Which Football player won the FIFA Player of the Century Award? Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal
700)	NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called _____ : 'DigiBoxx'
701)	Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade? Virat Kohli
702)	Who won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade? Ellyse Perry (Australia)
703)	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
704)	Which Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India? Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh
705)	The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on ___ day of December: 27th
706)	The India Meteorological Department opened its highest Meteorological Centre located at 3,500 metres above sea level at which place? Leh, Ladakh
707)	_____ has become the first wrestler of the country to win silver at the Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia: Anshu Malik
708)	Name the French fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, who died aged 98: Pierre Cardin
709)	As per an international report which country suffered maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020? India
710)	Which is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses? Serum Institute of India, Pune

711)	What is the name of India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine? Pneumosil
712)	Government launched which portal and mobile app to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world? The Global Pravasi Rishta
713)	The government has approved the export of which indigenously built missile system? Akash
714)	The entire state of _____ was declared a disturbed area for another six more months from Dec 30: Nagaland
715)	What is the name of India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container? SAHAYAK-NG
716)	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of which para-military force? Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
717)	Winner of the Scientist of the Year Award, senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey hails from which apex organization? DRDO
718)	Who has been elected as the youngest mayor of India in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala? Arya Rajendran
719)	Which F1 driver has been honoured with the Knighthood in Britain? Lewis Hamilton
720)	Country's first Pollinator Park was thrown open to the public in _____ in Uttarakhand: Haldwani
721)	Who has been appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO? Suneet Sharma
722)	The Asian Development Bank cleared a \$ 231 million loan to augment electricity generation capacity in which state? Assam
723)	Name the veteran Congress leader and former Union home minister who passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi: Buta Singh
724)	Winner of Eminent Engineer Award-2020, V.K. Yadav, is Chairman & CEO of which apex organization? Railway Board
725)	Which is the first private company to successfully test-fire the technology demonstration version of their solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? Skyroot Aerospace, Hyderabad
726)	What is the name of India's first private sector solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? Kalam-5
727)	Which apex organisation has unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com? Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
728)	World Braille Day is celebrated on Jan 4 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? Louis Braille
729)	How many convex dots are used in the Braille language that forms all the letters and symbols? Six
730)	The Reserve Bank of India launched _____ Index to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India: Digital Payments
731)	Which billionaire has zoomed to the second spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021? Elon Musk

732)	Billionaire Elon Musk is associated with which business? Tesla Motors, USA
733)	A 450-km natural gas pipeline between _____ in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka, was inaugurated on Jan 5: Kochi
734)	The National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the CSIR & National Physical Laboratory. Metrology is associated with which field? Weight and measures
735)	Alexander Ellis has been appointed as the new British High Commissioner to which country? India
736)	India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from _____ on Jan 4: Goa
737)	Which Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment? EXIM Bank
738)	The Reserve Bank operationalised its Payments Infrastructure Development Fund on Dec 5 for what purpose? For promoting digital payments
739)	The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$100 million loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in which city? Bengaluru city
740)	The World Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in which state? West Bengal
741)	The World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Meteorological Centre in India? Patna
742)	Which special force inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers? National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
743)	Headquarters of the Exim Bank are located in which city? Mumbai
744)	World's largest solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam on _____ River: Narmada
745)	Omkareshwar dam project is located in which state? Madhya Pradesh
746)	Which global Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in West Bengal? The World Bank
747)	The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Indian Meteorological Centre? Patna
748)	What is the name of the inter-ministerial venture launched to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system? Toycathon
749)	RBI has made use of the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. ____: 50crore and above
750)	LEI is a unique identification code comprising of ____ digits: 20
751)	Which organization brings out the Global Economic Prospects Report? World Bank
752)	Faustin-Archange Touadera has been re-elected as the President of Central _____ Republic: African

753)	World Day of War Orphans is observed on which day of January? 6th
754)	What is the cash prize given in the National Florence Nightingale Award? Rs. 50,000
755)	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
756)	The NewDevelopment Bank, Shanghai signed loan agreements worth \$646 million with the Government of India for two road projects in which Indian State? Andhra Pradesh
757)	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
758)	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
759)	Claire Polosak hails from which country? Australia
760)	Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed which building on Jan 6 in a stunning bid to overturn his election defeat? US Capitol
761)	Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9 marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 from which country? South Africa
762)	World Hindi Day is observed on January 10 to mark the holding of which event for the first time in 1975? World Hindi Conference
763)	The National Hindi Diwas is observed on which date? Sep 14
764)	Who was the Chief Guest for the celebrations of this year's PravasiBharatiya Divas? Chandrikapersad Santokhi
765)	Who is Sh.Chandrikapersad Santokhi? President of Suriname
766)	What was the theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas? Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
767)	Indian Navy coordinated the second edition of the largest coastal defence exercise named _____ : Sea Vigil-21
768)	Naval defence exercise Sea Vigil-21 was conducted at which place? All along the Indian coast and EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)
769)	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)
770)	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
771)	Which organization looks after the functioning of Atal Tinkering Labs? NITI Aayog
772)	National Youth Day is observed on January 12to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? Swami Vivekananda

773)	What was the original of Swami Vivekananda? Narendra Nath Datta
774)	Who was the Guru of of Swami Vivekananda? Ramakrishna Paramhansa
775)	The Henley's passport index has retained _____ on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world: Japan
776)	The Indian passport was placed at which rank in the Henley's Passport Index? 85
777)	Four times Chief Minister of Gujarat and two times union minister from Gujarat passed away on Jan 9. Who was he? Madhavsinh Solanki
778)	The Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held on Jan 9 in Mao town of Senapati district of which state? Manipur
779)	Government has approved procurement of 83 Tejas LCA worth about Rs 48,000 crore. What is LCA? Light Combat Aircraft
780)	Which company will supply 83 Tejas LCA to Indian Air Force? Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru
781)	Makar Sankranti is celebrated by which name in Gujarat? Uttarayan
782)	State of Assam celebrates Makar Sankranti in the form of which festival? Magh Bihu
783)	India's first ever ice climbing festival was held in Nubra valley in which place? Leh, Ladakh
784)	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
785)	Which country organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video conferencing on January 11? France
786)	SadyrJaparov, former Prime Minister of _____ has been elected as the new President of the country: Kyrgyzstan
787)	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
788)	Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, some 45,500 years old, in which country? Indonesia
789)	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
790)	As per the International Migration Report 2020 released by the UN's Population Division, _____ has the world's largest Diaspora: India
791)	Which country is host to the largest number of migrants in the world? USA
792)	What is the name of the India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol developed by DRDO? Asmi
793)	Which Indian ministry won the SKOCH Challenger Award for outstanding performance in e-Governance? Ministry of Tribal Affairs

794)	International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th January in Goa. It was which edition of the festival? 51st
795)	Who was the head of the jury at the 51 st IFFI? Pablo Cesar of Argentina
796)	Which was the country of focus at the 51 st IFFI? Bangladesh
797)	To spur entrepreneurship across the Nation, the government announced Startup India Seed Fund Scheme with a corpus of Rs. _____ crore: 1,000
798)	A unicorn startup is one with a valuation of _____ dollar and above: One billion
799)	In Indonesia a powerful earthquake rocked _____ island, killing at least 92 people: Sulawesi
800)	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
801)	Ustad Mustafa Khan was honoured with which of the national Awards - Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan? All three
802)	What does letter 'R' stands for in the abbreviation PCRA? Research
803)	What is the name of the one month long awareness campaign launched by the PCRA on Jan16? SAKSHAM
804)	The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, opened which portal to the general public? National Innovation Portal
805)	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
806)	What is the name of the bike ambulances launched by the DRDO for the CRPF? Rakshita
807)	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
808)	The new Foreign Trade Policy aims to make India a \$ ___ trillion economy by boosting exports: Five
809)	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
810)	Who has won the sixth term as President in Uganda? Yoweri Museveni
811)	Which city hosted the Yonex Thailand Open - 2021 Badminton Tournament? Bangkok
812)	India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in _____ in Kerala: Alappuzha
813)	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
814)	What was the name of the 5 day joint Indo-French air exercise held in Jodhpur? Ex Desert Knight-21

815)	Dr. V. Shanta, the world renowned _____ passed away due to brief illness in Chennai: Oncologist
816)	An oncologist specializes in which field of medicine? Cancer treatment
817)	India created history by winning series against Australia. Where was the fourth and final match played? Brisbane
818)	Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was recently felicitated with which international honour in literature? Canada Sahitya Gaurav
819)	The 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built on which river? Chenab
820)	The Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built in which state/UT? J&K
821)	NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020. Which major state topped the index? Karnataka
822)	Which small state or UT stood first in the India Innovation Index-2020? Delhi
823)	Which state topped the India Innovation Index-2020 in the North East and Hill States category? Himachal Pradesh
824)	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
825)	The first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive was launched on which date? January 16
826)	What is the name of the covid vaccine developed and produced indigenously in India? Covaxin
827)	What is the name of the covid vaccine being produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune? Covishield
828)	Covishield vaccine has been developed by whom? University of Oxford and AstraZeneca
829)	Which mobile app has been developed by the Central government to ensure smooth implementation of Covid vaccination across the country? CoWIN
830)	Joe Biden was sworn in as the ___ President of USA on Jan 20: 46th
831)	New US President has declared that the USA will re-join international organization ____: WHO - World Health Organisation
832)	USA has announced that it will not boycott the _____ Accord: Paris Climate
833)	India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at which place? Zaskar in district Kargil of Ladakh
834)	Name the Indian who won the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize given for outstanding and innovative research in mathematics: Nikhil Srivastava
835)	Government has decided to celebrate Jan 23, birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as which national day? Parakram Diwas

836)	Indian Railways has decided to rename one of its oldest trains -- Howrah-Kalka Mail. What's the new name? Netaji Express
837)	Airtel Payments Bank launched which new innovative feature to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds? Airtel SafePay
838)	Which ministry announced the establishment of a first of its kind Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India? Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
839)	Quantum Computing Applications Lab will be established with technical collaboration with which global tech venture? Amazon Web Services
840)	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
841)	Global Firepower ranked India at which rank in terms of Military Strength? Fourth
842)	What is Pakistan's rank in the Military Strength Ranking released by the Global Firepower? Tenth
843)	India celebrates National Girl Child Day on which date? January 24
844)	The International Day of Girl Child is observed on which date? October 11
845)	Which day of January is celebrated as the International Day of Education? 24th
846)	In India which day has been selected to be observed as the National Education Day? November 11
847)	The Election Commission of India came into existence on Jan 25, 1950. Which national day is observed to commemorate this day? National Voters Day
848)	Internationally, World Leprosy Day is observed on which day? Last Sunday of January
849)	Leprosy is also known as _____ disease: Hansen's
850)	Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on Jan 31 in 1948. This day is nationally observed as which day? Martyrs Day/Anti Leprosy Day
851)	The Commonwealth of Cricket is a recent book written by whom? Ramchandra Guha
852)	What is the title of the recent novel authored by Rachel Hawkins? The Wife Upstairs
853)	Gazing Eastwards is a book written by which noted historian? Romila Thapar
854)	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
855)	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.
856)	Which cooperative has been declared as the biggest cooperative in the world in terms of annual turnover? Groupe Cr�dit Agricole of France

857)	Name the popular iconic bhajan singer from Amritsar who passed away in New Delhi: Narendra Chanchal
858)	DRDO successfully conducted a captive and release trial of indigenously developed SAAW from Hawk-i aircraft. Expand the term SAAW: Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon
859)	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	
860)	Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavy Weight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? Varunastra
861)	What is the strike range of Varunastra? 40 kms
862)	Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? Meghalaya
863)	International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women is celebrated on which day? November 25
864)	National Milk Day is observed on Nov 26 to mark the birth anniversary of which great pioneer of milk industry? Dr. Verghese Kurien
865)	World Milk Day is observed around the world on which date? June 01.
866)	The Constitution Day celebrated on Nov 26 is also known as _____ Day: National Law Day
867)	Which national day is observed on Nov 27 to promote organ donation? Indian Organ Donation Day
868)	Name the Congress veteran and AICC treasurer who passed away on Nov 25: Ahmed Patel
869)	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
870)	Which country will host APEC summit in 2021? New Zealand
871)	Name the strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal which crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on Nov 25: Nivar
872)	World Heritage Week is celebrated every year from Nov 19-25 with the support of which UN agency? UNESCO
873)	Name the Argentinean football legend who passed away on Nov 25: Diego Maradona
874)	Who has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Dubai? Greg Barclay
875)	Which web series has become first from India to win the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards, 2020? Delhi Crime
876)	Which film has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category? Jallikattu
877)	Jallikattu film has been made in which language? Malyalam

878)	Which Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2? Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
879)	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.
880)	The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November with association of which state? Tripura
881)	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
882)	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
883)	Faqir Chand Kohli was the first CEO of which major IT company? TCS – Tata Consultancy Services
884)	According to data by the NSO on Nov 27, the Indian economy contracted by ___ per cent in the quarter ending Sep 30: 7.5
885)	Which country has been ranked at the top in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA on November 27? Belgium
886)	Russia has selected which Indian drug company to manufacture Sputnik V Corona vaccine in India? Hetero Drugs, Hyderabad
887)	Govt has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in which state? Uttarakhand
888)	Roch Marc Christian Kabore has been re-elected as the President of Burkina Faso, a small landlocked country in _____.? Western Africa
889)	Cambridge Dictionary has named _____ as Word of the Year 2020: 'Quarantine'
890)	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
891)	Who from India chaired the 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format? Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu
892)	How many countries are the members of SCO? Eight
893)	Who is the Secretary General of SCO? Valadimir Norov
894)	A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 was released to mark the centennial foundation day of which university? University of Lucknow
895)	MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series was recently inducted into Indian Navy. What it is? Drone
896)	Which country has supplied MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone to India? USA
897)	Where in India the largest Solar Project is being set up at a high altitude place? Air Force Station, Leh.
898)	Which bank became the first bank in India to cross Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalization? HDFC Bank

899)	The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf countries is being developed in Saih Shuaib, in which country? UAE
900)	Which batsman recently created a new record for becoming the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs? Virat Kohli
901)	December 1 is observed as the World AIDS Day. Which virus causes AIDS? HIV - human immunodeficiency virus
902)	RBI has increased the timings for RTGS transactions wef Dec 14, 2020. What are the new timings? 24X7 - round the clock - all the days
903)	During April-September 2020, India attracted highest amount of FDI from which country? Singapore
904)	India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched recently under which brand name? XP-100
905)	Which public sector oil marketing company has launched XP_100 petrol? Indian Oil Corporation Limited
906)	_____ become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine: Britain
907)	Nongpok Sekmai police station has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. It is in which state? Manipur
908)	The Reserve Bank has asked which Bank to temporarily stop all launches of the 'Digital Business generating activities'? HDFC Bank
909)	India's spice king and a noted philanthropist, owner of MDH spices, passed away on Dec 3. What was his name? Mahashay Dharampal Gulati
910)	What is the full form of MDH? Mahashian di Hatti
911)	Researchers at which university have created the world's smallest memory device: University of Texas, USA
912)	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also called World Disability Day is observed on which date? December 3
913)	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
914)	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
915)	Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as _____ of Lok Sabha with effect from 1 December: Secretary-General
916)	Who appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha? Lok Sabha Speaker
917)	The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode in which state? Nagaland
918)	According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, _____ is the most polluted city in the world: Lahore

919)	As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, _____ is the most impacted country by terrorism, for the second year in a row: Afghanistan
920)	What was India's rank as per the Global Terrorism Index 2020? 8th
921)	Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced _____ as its 2020 word of the year: Pandemic
922)	World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated around the world on which date? December 2
923)	Government has announced launch of a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana, on which river? Saryu
924)	Severe cyclonic storm Nivar made landfall early on Dec 3 at Marakkanam in which state? Tamil Nadu
925)	Which national day is observed on Dec 4 to mark the fierce attack by Indian Navy on Karachi harbour? National/Indian Navy Day
926)	The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise named _____ from 4 to 5 December: PASSEX
927)	The PASSEX exercise with Russian Navy was conducted in which area? Eastern Indian Ocean Region
928)	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
929)	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
930)	Who has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year'? Gitanjali Rao
931)	Who is the winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020? Ranjitsinh Disale from Gujarat
932)	What is the cash award given with the Global Teacher Prize? \$ 1 million
933)	Who has topped the list of the richest women in India with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore? Roshni Nadar Malhotra
934)	Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the CEO of which company? HCL Technologies
935)	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
936)	Who has been elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21? Uday Shankar
937)	International Day of Banks is observed on which day of December? Fourth
938)	What is the theme of the World Soil Day observed on Dec 5? Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
939)	Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer - Asia" has found that _____ has the highest bribery rate at 39%: India

940)	The Indian Air Force carried out successful firing of the short-range Iгла missiles. They have been supplied by which country? Russia
941)	Which state proposes to set up Raimona National Park that will cover an area of 422 sq km.? Assam
942)	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
943)	Who is the first appointee to the newly created post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff - Strategy? Lt Gen Paramjit Singh
944)	Japanese spaceship _____ successfully sent on earth a small capsule to deliver samples collected by it from a distant asteroid: Hayabusa-2
945)	What is the name of the space agency of Japan? Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency - JAXA
946)	International Volunteer Day is observed on which date? December 5
947)	Which two cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO? Gwalior and Orchha
948)	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 Daruwala
949)	International Civil Aviation Day is observed on Dec 7 to highlight the role and importance of which international organization? International Civil Aviation Organisation
950)	Where are the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organisation located? Montreal, Canada
951)	Which national day is observed throughout the country on Dec 7 to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform: Armed Forces Flag Day
952)	Asian Development Bank approved a \$ 190 million loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in which Indian city? Bengaluru
953)	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
954)	Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of which international foundation? WHO Foundation
955)	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
956)	The International Olympic Committee has registered which dance form as an official Olympic sport with the name breaking? Break-dance
957)	_____ has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface: China
958)	Which global bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India? Asian Development Bank

959)	Who has been declared World Athlete of the Year – Male by the World Athletics? Mondo Duplantis of Sweden
960)	Mondo Duplantis is associated with which sports? Pole Vault
961)	Who is the winner of the World Athlete of the Year – Female award? Yulimar Rojas
962)	Yulimar Rojas is an outstanding champion of which athletic event? Triple jump
963)	Sergio Perez became the first Mexican victor (since 1970) in F1 race winning the Sakhir Grand Prix in which country? Bahrain
964)	Sergio Perez, winner of the Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain, hails from which country? Mexico
965)	Who became the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes? Kibiwott Kandie
966)	Kibiwott Kandie is a marathon runner from which country? Kenya
967)	International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on which day of December? 9th
968)	What is the theme of this year's International Anti-Corruption Day? Recover With Integrity
969)	The Indian Navy celebrates National Submarine Day on Dec 9 to commemorate the induction of the first submarine named _____ : INS Kalvari
970)	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
971)	In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, who has been placed at top? Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
972)	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
973)	Parthiv Patel announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game. He led which Ranji team to its first victory? Gujarat
974)	Which Indian organization won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award? Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
975)	The ICAR is based in which city? New Delhi
976)	Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for which of his novel? The City and the Sea
977)	India has been ranked at which place in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) -2020? 10th
978)	Which day of December has been selected for celebrating the Human Rights Day? 10th
979)	_____ has beaten Coronavirus to second place to become India's most searched word on Google in 2020: IPL - Indian Premier League
980)	The union cabinet approved on Dec 8 which scheme to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities? Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

981)	Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana government will provide PF contribution of both employee and of employer for how many years? Two
982)	_____ has become the first Union Territory to practise 100% organic farming? Lakshadweep
983)	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)
984)	The Indian Navy has placed an order for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems with which country? Israel
985)	According to a report by Truecaller, India has been placed at which place in terms of the number of spam calls? 9th
986)	Who has been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year'? Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
987)	Name the contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, who died in Mumbai on Dec 10: Astad Deboo
988)	Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of which Arabian country? Kuwait
989)	Which international day is observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world? International Mountain Day
990)	Who won FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Men for 2020? Wrestler Bajrang Punia
991)	Which female shooter won the FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Women for 2020? Elavenil Valarivan
992)	A joint virtual summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of _____ Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Dec 11: Uzbekistan
993)	The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 was awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from _____: Brazil
994)	Which international day is celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946? UNICEF Day, Dec 11
995)	Headquarters of UNICEF are located in which city? New York
996)	Who is the current head of the UNICEF? Ms. Henrietta H. Fore
997)	Which UN agency celebrates the International Universal Health Coverage Day on Dec 12? WHO - World Health Organisation
998)	The summit named Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was held recently to mark fifth anniversary of which climate agreement? Paris Climate Agreement
999)	_____ became the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help: Morocco
1000)	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

1001) Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and propagator of the Madhva ideology, passed away recently. He hailed from which state? Karnataka
1002) Which UN organization has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu? UNESCO
1003) Which great Bangladeshi leader is popularly known as Bangabandhu? Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
1004) Headquarters of UNESCO are located in which city? Paris
1005) Who is the current Director General of UNESCO? Ms. Audrey Azoulay
1006) WHO signed a MoU also known as 'Red Channel Agreement' with which popular NGO? Red Cross
1007) What is the name of the Nilgiri-class frigate that was recently launched at Kolkata? INS Himgiri
1008) Max Verstappen, winner of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, hails from which country? Netherlands
1009) The National Energy Conservation Day is observed on which day of December? 14th
1010) The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated by which organization under the Ministry of Power? Bureau of Energy Efficiency
1011) 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
1012) Vijay Diwas is observed every year on Dec 16 to mark the victory over Pakistan in which war? 1971
1013) 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
1014) 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
1015) The International Hockey Federation had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in _____, India: Odisha
1016) ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) were commissioned at Goa in which wing of Indian forces? Indian Coast Guard
1017) Name the eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka who died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14: Roddam Narasimha
1018) Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate Tea Day on which date? Dec. 15
1019) Which is the largest tea producing state of India? Assam
1020) Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14? Russia
1021) What is the name of the space agency of Russia? Roscosmos

1022) The New Development Bank approved a \$1 billion loan to provide support to _____ Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme: Atma Nirbhar Bharat
1023) Name the 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur engineer who won the Young Champions of the Earth 2020: Vidyut Mohan
1024) India slipped by one spot to rank ____ among 189 countries covered in the 2020 Human Development Index: 131
1025) Which country topped the 2020 Human Development Index? Norway
1026) A capsule from which Chinese spacecraft successfully brought back samples from the Moon's surface? Chang'e-5
1027) India signed a \$400 million pact with the _____ to protect the poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19: World Bank
1028) 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
1029) Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected as the President of _____, a country in west Africa: Ghana
1030) ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite. What is its name? CMS-01
1031) Government has decided to include _____ henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games: Yoga
1032) ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre named _____, at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru: NETRTA
1033) The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in _____, Gujarat: Kutch
1034) India contributed \$ 1 million to which global sports body? World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
1035) 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
1036) 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
1037) What is the theme for this year's International Migrants Day? Reimagining Human Mobility
1038) India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on Dec 18. How many minority communities are recognized in India? Six
1039) _____ 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
1040) Who won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2020 Award? Robert Lewandowski

1041) Robert Lewandowski hails from which country? Poland
1042) Which player won the Best FIFA women's Player 2020 Award? Lucy Bronze, England
1043) The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in which area? Indian Ocean
1044) The Olympic Council of Asia awarded hosting of 2030 Asian Games to _____ and of 2034 Asian Games to _____ : Doha, Qatar; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, respectively
1045) Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance? Singapore
1046) Which Bank in partnership with Mastercard, launched India's first metal credit card - 'PIONEER Heritage'? IndusInd Bank
1047) The Human Freedom Index 2020 placed India at the _____ spot out of 162 countries: 111th
1048) Which country topped the Human Freedom Index 2020? New Zealand
1049) India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was inaugurated at which place? Hyderabad
1050) 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
1051) Martial art Thang Ta is associated with which state? Manipur
1052) 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
1053) International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on which date? Dec 20
1054) 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
1055) President of which country conferred the country's highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi? USA
1056) Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur, all three won gold medal in the World Cup of which sports? Boxing
1057) Who has been honoured with the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award? Ratan Tata
1058) National Mathematics Day is observed in India on which date? Dec 22
1059) National Mathematics Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which legendary mathematician? Srinivasa Ramanujan

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