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March 1st week Current Affairs MCQ

1. The book 'State of Terror' has been co-authored by whom?

- (a) Marie Kondo
- (b) Paula Hawkins
- (c) Mindy Kaling
- (d) Louise Penny
- (e) Amy Poehler

Answer: D

Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state who ran against Donald Trump for president in 2016, is to publish a suspense thriller with Canadian author Louise Penny in October, publishers Simon & Schuster and St. Martin's Press.

'State of Terror' will be on bookshelves on October 12. It will tell the story of a novice secretary of state serving in the administration of her political rival as a "series of terrorist attacks throws the global order into disarray.

2. Kushinagar airport has received the clearance from DGCA. Kushinagar was handed over for operations to the Airports Authority of India in which year?

- (a) 2018
- (b) 2020
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2017

Answer: D

Kushinagar airport has acquired the necessary clearances from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to become the third licensed international airport of Uttar Pradesh.

The other two international airports in the state are Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi.

Kushinagar holds an important position in the Buddhist tourist Circuit because it is said to be the place where Lord Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana (ultimate state of Nirvana).

MoCA stated that Kushinagar was handed over for operations to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in October 2019 while the regional connectivity scheme terminal was completed in October 2020. AAI then applied for the aerodrome license which got approved and issued on February 23, 2021.

3. Anindya Dutta has penned the book named "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis". Which among the following publishers has been published the above book?

- (a) Jaico
- (b) Westland
- (c) Aleph Book
- (d) HarperCollins
- (e) Hachette India

Answer: B

Anindya Dutta, a banker turned author, penned a new book titled “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis”, a chronicle of Indian Tennis.

Advantage India is a well-researched account of the journey of Indian tennis, with a special section on the Doubles game and on women's tennis in India.

The book is published by Westland publications.

Primary Tag: Book

Secondary Tag: In-depth

4. Vinay Kumar has announced the retirement from Cricket. Which team has been led by him to Ranji Trophy titles?

- (a) Baroda
- (b) Bengal
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu (Madras)
- (e) Services

Answer: C

Vinay Kumar, a pace bowler who has represented India in all formats and has led Karnataka to consecutive Ranji Trophy titles, announced his retirement from cricket.

He played 1 Test, 31 ODIs and 9 T20Is for India between 2010 and 2013.

Vinay Kumar took 38 wickets in the ODI format. His best bowling figures in the 50-over format came against England in a game in Delhi where he returned with figures of four for 30.

The Karnataka-born also picked up 10 wickets in the shortest format of the game. He was a veteran in

the domestic circuit, taking more than 500 wickets in 139 first-class matches.

5. Ashok Leyland has entered into a purchase agreement with Nissan International Holding to acquire its 38% stake in Hinduja Tech for a consideration of _____ crore (approximately).

- (a) ₹ 85 Crore
- (b) ₹ 70 Crore
- (c) ₹ 80 Crore
- (d) ₹ 90 Crore
- (e) ₹ 65 Crore

Answer: B

Hinduja group flagship Ashok Leyland (ALL) has entered into a share purchase agreement with Nissan International Holding to acquire the latter's 38% stake in Hinduja Tech (HTL) for a consideration of Rs 70.20 crore.

Following the acquisition, HTL will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Chennai-based commercial vehicle manufacturer.

The company owns 62% in the paid-up share capital of HTL and the remaining was held by Nissan International Holding.

Nissan International Holdings, a Dutch investment arm of Japanese automaker Nissan, came as the strategic investor on Hinduja Tech in 2014.

ALL and Nissan had decided to part away in 2016 out of their light commercial vehicle (LCV) JV, which was formed in 2007 and other related joint ventures. ALL decided to buy its partners stake in the JVs, which were floated by the two partners.

6. MoUs have been signed between Liberty Steel Groups and two European companies to set up which country's first hydrogen based steel making plant?

- (a) Italy
- (b) Spain
- (c) Poland
- (d) France
- (e) Germany

Answer: D

UK-based Liberty Steel Group, owned by Indian-origin metals tycoon Sanjeev Gupta, has signed MoUs with two European companies to set up France's first hydrogen-based steel making plant. Liberty Steel Group is part of diversified GFG Alliance, which has a presence in India. Last year in February, GFG Alliance made a foray into the domestic steel industry with the acquisition of Adhunik Metaliks Ltd and its arm Zion Steel for about Rs 425 crore.

7. Recently, Fino Payments Bank has included in _____ Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

- (a) 2nd
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 4th
- (d) 5th
- (e) 6th

Answer: A

Fino Payments Bank has included in the second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Benefits of being a scheduled bank under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:

- Becomes eligible for debts/loans at the bank rate from the RBI
- Automatically acquires the membership of clearing house
- Rediscount of first class exchange bills from the RBI

All banks which are included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 are Scheduled Banks. These banks comprise Scheduled Commercial Banks and Scheduled Co-operative Banks

8. The Theme of 16th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021 was Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. What does 'I' define in RISE?

- (a) Intelligence
- (b) Importance
- (c) Initiative
- (d) Innovation
- (e) Invention

Answer: D

Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' delivered the inaugural address at the 16th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021.

The 16th edition of FICCI higher Education Summit is being organised virtually by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in

collaboration with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The theme of the summit is “Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. - Resilience.

Innovation.Sustainability. Enterprise.’

The Inaugural session also witnessed the release of FICCI- EY report ‘Higher Education in India: Vision 2040. The report, while defining Education 4.0 in the current context, has highlighted the significant emerging trends within the higher education sector and drawn learnings and highlighted global best practices.

9. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company has introduced India's first initiative of up to _____% health insurance premium returns.

- (a) 95%
- (b) 85%
- (c) 90%
- (d) 80%
- (e) 100%

Answer: E

Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Ltd. (ABHICL) announced an industry-first initiative of up to 100 per cent health insurance premium returns and other significant product offering upgrades.

The newly designed version of its flagship product 'Activ Health' will inspire customers to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The Activ Health policy is a feature-rich product that provides comprehensive health protection with extensive wellness benefits.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance is the only insurance company offering up to 100 per cent premium returns, i.e. HealthReturns™, rewards and up to 100 per cent reload of Sum Insured through its enhanced version of 'Activ Health' policy.

Key Features of enhanced Activ Health include

- India's first health insurance plan rewarding consumers up to 100% of their health insurance premium as HealthReturns™ - maximise earnings by leading a healthy life.
- Asia's first ever health insurance plan offering mental illness counselling coverage.
- Industry-first plan to cover unlimited homeopathy telemedicine.
- For those who have a chronic condition or develop (automatic upgrade at no extra cost)
- Day 1 cover for Chronic illnesses like Asthma, High Blood Pressure, High cholesterol and Diabetes
- Get OPD benefits, doctor consultations and guidance from experts to improve health condition as part of the Chronic management program
- Double Sum Insured in 2 claim-free years - earn 50 per cent No Claim Bonus for every claim-free year - max up to 100 per cent of Sum insured.

10. The Rupee Co-operative Bank has been granted extension for its banking licence by the RBI. Where is the Rupee Co-operative Bank located?

- (a) Nagpur

- (b) Pune
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Baroda
- (e) Vadodara

Answer: B

The Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd, Pune has been granted extension for its banking licence by the RBI for further three months.

Till January 2021, the bank has made total recovery of Rs 258.11 crore and aggregate operating profit of Rs 53.19 crore during the last four years. The bank is earning profit consecutively for the last four years. Initially, a joint merger proposal mutually agreed by Rupee Bank and MSC Bank was submitted on 17.01.2020.

However, the RBI advised MSC Bank or RCS to re-submit the proposal in adherence with RBI Circular on Transfer of Assets and Liabilities and specifying other compliances and conditions.

11. How many schemes were launched by Haryana government on 644th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas?

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 2
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: B

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced four public welfare schemes on the

occasion of the 644th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas.

Under the Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana, one lakh poorest families of the state would be targeted.

Khattar announced that the financial assistance of Rs 50,000 being given under the Dr BR Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojana for the repair of the house to Scheduled Caste families living below the poverty line was increased to Rs 80,000.

The Chief Minister added that the BPL families belonging to any category would be able to avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme. Till now the scheme was limited to the BPL families belonging to the Scheduled Castes. He said from April 1, 2021, the annual income slab of the BPL families would be increased from Rs 1.20 lakh to Rs 1.80 lakh.

The Chief Minister announced that the legal aid given to the victims of atrocities under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was increased from Rs 11,000 to Rs 21,000.

An amount of Rs 11 crore has been allocated under the Sant Mahapurush Vichar Samman and Prasaar Yojana. Under the scheme, financial assistance of minimum of Rs 50,000 and maximum of Rs 1 lakh will be provided to the social and religious organisations for organising programmes on the birth anniversaries of great men at the block and gram levels.

12. What is the project outlay of 'Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam' scheme?

- (a) ₹ 34 Crore
- (b) ₹ 56 Crore
- (c) ₹ 72 Crore
- (d) ₹ 42 Crore
- (e) ₹ 49 Crore

Answer: D

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched "Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam" (daughter's name is a home's identity) programme and development schemes worth Rs 42 crore in Nainital.

This scheme has been launched in Nainital and will be extended to entire Uttarakhand in the coming weeks.

The government is working towards women empowerment and 32,000 women groups of the state are being linked with self-employment to make them self-reliant.

The chief minister also expressed concern about revitalising the catchment area of Sukhatal Lake. He said the lake will be revitalised and will undergo beautification.

13. Western railway zone has launched the MTRC system. What does 'C' define in MTRC?

- (a) Constant
- (b) Communication
- (c) Control
- (d) Centre
- (e) Commission

Answer: B

Western Railway inaugurated the newly commissioned Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system (also known as Global System for Mobile Communications – Railway (GSM-R)) at Divisional Railway Manager's office in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is the 1st time that MTRC has been commissioned in Indian Railways.

MTRC System is a TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) based Digital technology.

It can help in preventing train accidents by ensuring an instant & constant interaction of train crew with the Control Centre and the Station Master.

It will monitor, track (through GPS) & aid in communication between the trains & the control room and ensure smooth movement of rakes & in mitigation of adverse events.

The MTRC system has been commissioned in the 60 km suburban section between Churchgate-Virar section of Mumbai and installed in 90 out of 100 rakes running in the section.

Technical and maintenance support of the new MTRC system will be provided by M/s. Consort Digital Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi for seven years with an estimated cost of Rs. 5.98 Crore.

14. NSE has signed a pact with various entities to set up a market infrastructure institution which consists of International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City. Which among the following is NOT one of the signatories?

- (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India

- (b) India INX International Exchange Ltd
- (c) National Securities Depository Ltd
- (d) Central Depository Services (India) Ltd
- (e) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd

Answer: E

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has signed a pact with other entities for setting up an international bullion exchange, clearing corporation and depository at the GIFT City in Gujarat.

The other signatories are Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd, India INX International Exchange Ltd, National Securities Depository Ltd and Central Depository Services (India) Ltd.

The Memorandum of Understanding is in line with the government's objective to make India a price setter in bullion through GIFT International Finance Service Centre (IFSC) and in accordance with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020 and other applicable laws.

15. What edition of annual cleanliness survey Swachh Survekshan was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in March 2021?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 7th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 5th

Answer: C

Ministry of Housing and Housing Affairs (MoHUA) launched the field assessment of Swachh

Survekshan (SS) 2021, the sixth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Government of India, at a web event in New Delhi. A New Performance category called 'Prerak Dauur Samman' has been announced as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021, where cities will be rewarded for their performance based on indicators from SS-2021 'Service Level Progress'.

- They have a total of 5 additional subcategories called – Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) & Aarohi (Aspiring).

SS2021 will be categorised on the basis of six select Indicators. They are

- Segregation of Waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard Categories
- Processing capacity against wet waste generated
- Processing and recycling of wet & dry waste
- Construction and Demolition waste processing
- Percentage of waste going to landfills
- Sanitation status of cities

SS was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.

Since its launch in 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) has made significant progress in the area of both sanitation and solid waste management. 4360 Urban ULBs have been declared ODF, 2158 cities certified ODF+ and 551 cities certified ODF++.

In the area of solid waste management, 97% of wards have 100% door-to door collection while 68%

of the total waste generated is being processed. A total of six cities have been certified as 5 Star, 86 as 3 star and 65 as 1 star under the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities.

16. Saras Ajeevika Mela was organized recently in 2021 by which among the following organizations?

- (a) Ministry of Tourism
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (e) Ministry of MSME

Answer: B

Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Rural Development, inaugurated the Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 at Noida Haat to bring rural women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under one platform. More than 300 SHGs and craftsmen from 27 states are participating in the mela organised by the Ministry of Rural Development.

17. According to the WHO's first World Report on Hearing, nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 people will suffer from hearing problems by which year?

- (a) 2040
- (b) 2046
- (c) 2050
- (d) 2055
- (e) 2060

Answer: C

World Health Organization's (WHO) released its first World Report on Hearing stating that nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 people will suffer from hearing problems by 2050. At present one in five people worldwide have hearing problems.

If the issue is not properly addressed, there will be a loss of trillion US dollars every year.

In order to overcome this scenario, the report proposed measures, which would cost \$1.33 per person per

year. It should be noted that World hearing day is observed annually on March 3.

18. According to data released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Global emissions from the electricity sector dropped by _____ in 2020.

- (a) 450 million tonnes
- (b) 350 million tonnes
- (c) 250 million tonnes
- (d) 200 million tonnes
- (e) 300 million tonnes

Answer: A

Global emissions from the electricity sector dropped by 450 million tonnes in 2020. This resulted partly from lower electricity demand but also from increases in electricity generation by solar photovoltaic and wind.

Global carbon dioxide emissions dropped by 5.8% in 2020 as the covid-19 pandemic brought economies to a standstill but rebounded in December 2020.

This was the largest annual drop in global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions since World War-II.

China, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, was the only country that experienced an increase in emissions last year; it rose 0.8%, or 75 million tonnes, from 2019 levels.

If current expectations for a global economic rebound this year are confirmed, and in the absence of major policy changes in the world's largest economies, global emissions are likely to increase in 2021.

19. SBI Mutual Fund has launched an open-ended fund of fund scheme - SBI International Access-US Equity FoF. What is the minimum subscription amount?

- (a) ₹ 1000
- (b) ₹ 500
- (c) ₹ 2000
- (d) ₹ 5000
- (e) ₹ 10000

Answer: D

SBI Mutual Fund has launched an open-ended fund of fund scheme - SBI International Access-US Equity FoF. The scheme will be investing its assets in mutual fund scheme/ETFs that invest in US markets.

SBI International Access-US Equity FoF is a passively managed fund mandated to invest 95% to 100% of its net generally in Amundi Funds – US Pioneer Fund (including ETFs) which invest

predominantly in the US markets; and 0% to 5% of the net assets in Money Market Instruments, Triparty repo, Reverse Repo, units of Liquid and Money market schemes of SBI Mutual Fund. Indicative underlying scheme - SBI International Access – US Equity FoF may invest in units of Amundi Funds – US Pioneer Fund, (domiciled in Luxembourg) that invests predominantly in securities in the US. Under normal circumstances the Scheme may invest atleast 95% of the total portfolio in Overseas Financial assets/Foreign Securities. The fund will be managed by Mr Mohit Jain. The minimum subscription amount is Rs 5,000 and in multiples of Re 1 thereafter. The fund offers Regular Plan and Direct Plan having Growth Option and Dividend Option (Dividend Re-investment and Dividend Pay-out facilities).

20. World Bank has planned to introduce \$ 100 million credit guarantee scheme along with SBI and _____ ministry.

- (a) Ministry of New Renewable Energy
- (b) Ministry of Finance
- (c) Ministry of Urban Development
- (d) Ministry of MSME
- (e) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Answer: D

The World Bank has planned to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme.

The World Bank scheme, along with State Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry to accelerate

adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around \$1 billion. The arrangement will be beneficial for the firms that often do not meet the lending criteria of banks and other financial institutions, with their financial woes been exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic.

This assumes significance given that India added around 4 gigawatts (GW) of rooftop solar capacity out of its 40GW target by 2022. Rooftop solar installations are part of India's renewable energy target of 175GW to help reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% from the 2005 levels, as part of global climate change transition commitments adopted by 195 countries in Paris in 2015.

21. TGB and APGVB have launched digital savings account opening facility through Video-Know Your Customer. TGB and APGVB are sponsored by which among the following bank?

- (a) Bank of Baroda
- (b) Andhra Bank
- (c) Bank of Maharashtra
- (d) Syndicate Bank
- (e) None of the above

Answer: E

Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB) and Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) have launched digital savings account opening facility through Video-Know Your Customer (KYC). Both banks are sponsored by SBI.

With this, TGB and APGVB have become the first among RRBs in the country to adopt state-of-the-art

technologies having full security features for zero contact onboarding of customers, which are at par with commercial banks.

According to V Arvind, Chairman, TGB, with this new facility, RRBs will be able to further increase their CASA portfolio. TGB now operates in 18 districts in Telangana while APGVB has presence in 19 districts in Telangana and five districts in Andhra Pradesh

22. Cashfree has partnered with PayPal to enable international payments for merchants. According to a recent Shopify report, roughly _____% of Indians have also adopted online shopping as the global health crisis kept them inside their homes.

- (a) 75%
- (b) 64%
- (c) 86%
- (d) 79%
- (e) 92%

Answer: C

India-based payments and banking tech startup Cashfree announced that it has partnered with PayPal to enable international payments for merchants.

As part of the tie-up, businesses using Cashfree's payment gateway will be able to add PayPal's Express Checkout option to their order pages and accept payments from the global fintech major's users.

Under the deal, businesses could also show the prices of their products in over 28 currencies, with

payments being automatically credited to their accounts in rupees.

According to a recent Shopify report, roughly 86% of Indians have also adopted online shopping as the global health crisis kept them inside their homes.

23. Gautam Adani and family (March '21) has ranked _____ in the eighth edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021.

- (a) 42
- (b) 48
- (c) 58
- (d) 53
- (e) 71

Answer: B

Asia's richest person and Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has been ranked eighth on the Hurun Global Rich List 2021.

Mukesh Ambani's total wealth swelled to \$83 billion (approximately Rs 6.09 lakh crore) over the past one year.

Besides, Mukesh Ambani, several other Indian billionaires also made it to the Hurun Global Rich List 2021. They are -- Gautam Adani and family (ranked 48 with Rs 2.34 lakh crore wealth), Shiv Nadar and family (ranked 58 with Rs 1.94 lakh crore wealth), Lakshmi N Mittal (ranked 104 with Rs 1.40 lakh crore wealth), Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute (ranked 113 with Rs 1.35 lakh crore).

Tesla chief Elon Musk bagged the top spot on the list for the first time with \$197 billion. Amazon.com

Inc boss Jeff Bezos ranked second with \$189 billion in net worth.

With 60 Billionaires from the Hurun India Global List 2021, Mumbai became the capital for India's rich followed by New Delhi (40) & Bengaluru (22).

India now has 209 billionaires, of which 177 live in India. The country added billionaires at a rate similar to the US -- 50 compared with 69. The Hurun Global Rich List 2021 ranked 3228 billionaires from 2,402 companies and 68 countries.

24. Jaideep Bhatnagar has been appointed as the principle Director of Press Information Bureau. Who among the following has been replaced by him?

- (a) Frank Noronha
- (b) Sitanshu Kar
- (c) K. S. Dhatwalia
- (d) Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia
- (e) Neelam Kapur

Answer: D

Former head of the News Services Division of All India Radio, Jaideep Bhatnagar, took over as Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau.

He will take over from Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, who superannuated on February 28, 2021.

Bhatnagar, a 1986-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, earlier served in Doordarshan News as head of the Commercial, Sales and Marketing Division.

He has also served as Prasar Bharati Special Correspondent West Asia covering 20 countries and

later went on to head the News Services Division of AIR.

Prior to his current charge as head of the organisation, Bhatnagar has worked in PIB for six years in different capacities.

25. Who among the following has authored the book titled 'The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village'?

- (a) Jhumpa Lahiri
- (b) Arundhati Roy
- (c) Amitav Ghosh
- (d) Shrabani Basu
- (e) Rohinton Mistry

Answer: D

"The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village" the new book authored by Shrabani Basu is set to be released on 3rd March 2021. The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing.

The book uncovered the mystery case of George Edalji in the village of Great Wyrley in the early 20th Century which was investigated by Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes. This became the first investigation on real-life crime during Arthur Conan Doyle's lifetime.

Shrabani Basu, a journalist and the bestselling author of Sunday times, hails from Calcutta.

She set up the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust to ensure that Noor's story and sacrifice were

preserved for the next generation which was unveiled by Princess Anne in 2012.

In 2020 the English Heritage invited her to unveil the blue plaque of Noor Inyat Khan in London

26. Russia launched its space satellite Arktika-M on a mission to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic. Russia has planned to send up a second satellite in which year?

- (a) 2022
- (b) 2023
- (c) 2024
- (d) 2025
- (e) 2026

Answer: B

Russia launched its space satellite Arktika-M on a mission to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic amid a push by the Kremlin to expand the country's activities in the region.

The Arctic has warmed more than twice as fast as the global average over the last three decades and Moscow is seeking to develop the energy-rich region, investing in the Northern Sea Route for shipping across its long northern flank as ice melts. The satellite successfully reached its intended orbit after being launched from Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome by a Soyuz rocket, Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Russia's Roscosmos space agency. Russia plans to send up a second satellite in 2023 and, combined, the two will offer round-the-clock, all-weather monitoring of the Arctic Ocean and the surface of the Earth.

27. The Indian Civil Accounts Service observed the “Civil Accounts Day” every year on March 1. When was the ICAS commenced its operation?

- (a) 1965
- (b) 1972
- (c) 1976
- (d) 1988
- (e) 1984

Answer: C

The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) observed the “Civil Accounts Day” every year on March 01, since its inception in 1976. The year 2021 marks the 45th Civil Accounts Day celebrations.

ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance.

Initially, the ICAS was carved out from the Indian Audit & Accounts Service (IA & AS), through the promulgation of an Ordinance amending the C & AG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1976.

Later, the Departmentalisation of Union Accounts (Transfer of Personnel) Act, 1976 was enacted and came into force on 01 March, 1976, following which the ICAS celebrates March 1 every year as the “Civil Accounts Day”.

28. Evan Osnos has authored a new Book “Joe Biden: American Dreamer” recently. In 2014, he won the National Book Award for which book?

- (a) Wildland: The Making of America's Fury Evan Osnos
- (b) Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China
- (c) Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now
- (d) Encountering China: Michael Sandel and Chinese Philosophy
- (e) None of these

Answer: B

National Book Award Winner Evan Osnos has authored a new Book “Joe Biden: American Dreamer” a biography of American President, Joe Biden that features both the personal and public life of Joe Biden. The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing.

The author portrays President Joseph R. Biden Jr. as a man who has sustained a 50-year political career and became the President and a man who is marked with deep personal losses.

His book “Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China,” based on his 8-year life in Beijing won the 2014 National Book Award. The book was also a finalist for the Pulitzer prize.

He has also authored the book “Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now.” published in 2020. He was a part of the team (staff of Chicago Tribune) that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

29. Zero Discrimination Day is annually observed March 1. Which is recognized as the symbol of Zero Discrimination?

- (a) A Swan
- (b) A Penguin
- (c) A Butterfly
- (d) A Rose
- (e) A Parrot

Answer: C

Zero Discrimination Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to highlight the needs to take actions to end the inequalities based on income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity race, class, ethnicity and religion.

The UN celebrated the first Zero Discrimination Day on 1st March 2014.

iii. The Zero Discrimination Campaign was launched by the UNAIDS – United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus(HIV)/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) on 1st December 2013, World AIDS Day. “A butterfly” (sign of transformation) is the symbol of Zero Discrimination.

30. What was the theme of World Defence Day, observed on March 1, 2021?

- (a) Children's safety, our responsibility
- (b) Strong Civil Protection to Preserve the National Economy
- (c) Civil Defence and a first aider in every home
- (d) Protection of children, our responsibility

(e) Women's Safety, our first responsibility

Answer: B

World Civil Defence Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to honour and signify the importance of civil protection. The aim is to bring the attention of the world public to the vital importance of Civil Protection.

The World Civil Defence Day 2021 observed on 1st March 2021 marks the 90th anniversary of the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO).

The theme of the World Civil Defence Day 2021 is “Strong Civil Protection To Preserve The National Economy”. George Saint-Paul, a French Surgeon General created the Association des Lieux de Geneve in 1931 from which was the origin of ICDO.

31. All India Football Federation has confirmed Odisha as the venue of _____ edition of Hero Indian Women's League.

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 8th

Answer: B

All India Football Federation confirms Odisha as the venue for the forthcoming Hero Indian Women's League 2020-21 edition. This is the fifth edition of IWL, the top division women's league in India.

The Odisha government is a strategic partner of the AIFF (All India Football Federation) as it provides

the necessary infrastructure to various men and women age-group teams.

President of AIFF - Praful Patel.

Headquarters of AIFF - Dwarka, Delhi

AIFF was founded on 23 June 1937.

32. A budget concept of 'HEIGHT' has been introduced by which among the following states?

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Gujarat
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel presented a budget of Rs 97,106 crore for 2021-22 in the Assembly.

The budget defines the concept of development through the acronym HEIGHT, where H stands for holistic development, E for education (equal opportunity for all), I for infrastructure, G for governance, H for health and T for transformation.

In the budget, 38 per cent provision is for the social sector, 39 per cent for the economic sector and 23 per cent for the general service sector.

A new special force called 'Bastar Tigers' will be raised in the seven districts of Bastar division to boost anti-Naxal operations, and priority will be given to local youth.

A provision of Rs 206 crore has been made for improvement work of degraded forests in an area of 36,000 hectares.

Rs 7 crore for plantation of 15 lakh plants under river bank plantation programme has been made. A total of 119 schools under the Swami Atmanand English Medium School scheme will be set up, and a national level boarding school will be set up in Nava Raipur on a self-financing model.

Rs 300 crore has been allocated for construction of new medical college buildings in Kanker, Korba and Mahasamund.

A Chhattisgarh Cultural Zone will be constructed on the lines of Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal in Nava Raipur.

33. ISRO launched Brazil's optical earth observation satellite, Amazonia-1, and 18 co-passenger satellites. How many satellites were launched from India's side out of 18?

- (a) 5
- (b) 12
- (c) 6
- (d) 13
- (e) 8

Answer: A

ISRO successfully launched Brazil's optical earth observation satellite, Amazonia-1, and 18 co-passenger satellites from India [5] and the U.S.A. [13] from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) at Sriharikota.

The satellites were carried on board the PSLV-C51, the 53rd flight of India's workhorse launch vehicle and the first dedicated mission for New Space India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO. The

mission was undertaken under a commercial arrangement with Spaceflight Inc., USA.

The PSLV-C51, equipped with two solid strap-on boosters, the third such launch of the PSLV-DL variant, lifted off at 10.24 a.m. from the first launch pad at Sriharikota.

Five satellites belong to India including the Satish Dhawan SAT (SDSAT) built by Space Kidz India, a nano-satellite intended to study the radiation levels, space weather and demonstrate long range communication technologies, and the UNITYsat, a combination of three satellites intended for providing radio relay services. The other satellite belongs to DRDO.

The SDSAT developed by SpaceKids India has an engraving of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the top panel of the satellite to show solidarity and gratitude for the atmanirbhar initiative and space privatisation.

The UNITYsat was designed and built as a joint development by the Jeppiar Institute of Technology, Sriperumbudur, G.H. Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur and Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore.

34. Ligia Noronha has been appointed as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of which among the following organization?

- (a) UNICEF
- (b) UNEP
- (c) UNFPA
- (d) IMF

(e) UNO

Answer: B

UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed leading Indian economist Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Ms Noronha would be succeeded fellow Indian and development economist Satya Tripathi to whom Secretary-General Guterres is grateful for his leadership and dedicated service during his tenure. She has worked since 2014 as Director of UNEP's Economy Division based in Nairobi.

Prior to joining UNEP, Ms Noronha worked at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi, as Executive Director (Research Coordination) and as Director of the Division on Resources, Regulation and Global Security.

35. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited has acquired an equity stake of approximately _____% on a fully diluted basis in skyTran.

- (a) 84%
- (b) 79%
- (c) 67%
- (d) 54%
- (e) 48%

Answer: D

Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL) announced that it has acquired an additional equity stake in its investee company skyTran for a consideration of USD 26.76 million

increasing its shareholding to 54.46 per cent on a fully diluted basis.

skyTran is a technology company incorporated under the laws of Delaware, United States of America (USA) in 2011.

RSBVL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, in a statement said that the technology has been developed by skyTran to create smart mobility solutions.

36. Vinesh Phogat has won the gold medal in the women's 53-kg category by defeating Vanesa Kaladzinskaya. Vanesa belongs to which country?

- (a) South Africa
- (b) Italy
- (c) Belarus
- (d) Spain
- (e) Croatia

Answer: C

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won the gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine. Vinesh Phogat defeated world number seven Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus (2017 World Champion) in the finals to win the gold medal.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medalist had defeated Romania's Ana A by fall in the semi-final to reach the summit clash. Vinesh has already booked a place in the Tokyo Olympics for the 53kg category.

37. How many countries were participated in the 5th edition of Asia Economic Dialogue 2021?

- (a) 5
- (b) 7
- (c) 9
- (d) 8
- (e) 6

Answer: E

The Foreign Affairs' ministers of six countries including India, Japan, Australia, Maldives, Mauritius and Japan addressed the fifth Asia Economic Dialogue 2021.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addressed the inaugural session on 'Resilient Global Growth in a Post-Pandemic World' which was also addressed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Jointly convened by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre (PIC), a number of prominent dignitaries, policymakers, high-level bureaucrats and leading experts from across the world are participating in this virtual conference.

This was followed by a session on 'Global Finance in a Post Covid-19 World' chaired by Dr. K.V. Kamath, former president of New Development Bank (BRICS).

'Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics' is the theme of this conference with a total of eight sessions, including a Fireside Chat between Birla and diplomat Gautam Bambawale, Convener of AED 2021.

Former RBI Governor Dr Urjit Patel chaired the session on 'Asia's Role in Global Currency Realignment and Financial.

38. According to the 2021 State of India's Environment report, India is likely to see a pandemic generation with 375 million children under the age of _____ years suffering from long-lasting impact.

- (a) 12
- (b) 10
- (c) 14
- (d) 18
- (e) 16

Answer: C

India is likely to see a pandemic generation with 375 million children under the age of 14 years suffering from long-lasting impacts ranging from being underweight, stunting and increased child mortality to losses in education and work productivity, according to the 2021 State of India's Environment report.

The compendium by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) says that Covid pandemic also has its hidden victims over 500 million children forced out of school globally and India accounts for more than half of them.

India ranked 117 among 192 nations in terms of sustainable development, India is now behind all South Asian nations except Pakistan.

With respect to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, the five best performing states

are Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana while Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh languish at the bottom.

39. India and Pakistan have issued a joint of statement to strictly observe the _____ Ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control.

- (a) 2001
- (b) 2003
- (c) 2005
- (d) 2006
- (e) 2007

Answer: B

India and Pakistan have issued a joint of statement to strictly observe the 2003 Ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control.

For the first time in recent times, India's ministry of defence and Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations have issued a joint statement after the talks between the director-general of military operations (DGMOs) held a discussion over their hotline.

The two sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Control and all other sectors in a free, frank and cordial atmosphere.

40. India has donated an advanced telecobalt machine for what treatment to the island nation of Madagascar?

- (a) Tuberculosis
- (b) Cancer

- (c) Cirrhosis
- (d) Alzheimer
- (e) Diabetes Mellitus

Answer: B

India has donated an advanced telecobalt machine for cancer treatment, developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, to the island nation of Madagascar.

The advanced digital cobalt therapy machine 'Bhabhatron-II' was inaugurated at the Joseph Ravoahangy Andrianavalona Hospital (HJRA) in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar by President Andry Rajoelina.

The machine has been functional at HJRA since January and has the capacity to treat 50 patients per day.

41. India's central bank has sought to retain its current inflation target of 4%. The flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework was enacted in which year?

- (a) 2011
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2008
- (e) 2005

Answer: C

India's central bank has sought to retain its current inflation target of 4%, with a two percentage-point latitude either side, seeking to build confidence in the broader economy that is still prone to both supply shocks and sudden demand shrinkage.

The current numerical framework for defining price stability, i.e., an inflation target of 4%, with a +/-2% tolerance band, is appropriate for the next five years.

The flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework was enacted in 2016 as the monetary policy architecture for India.

The latest RBI report indicates no drastic shift in the central bank's policy stance, although Mint Road acknowledged the need for flexibility in the event of unforeseen deviations in the future from the assumptions made now.

Since 2016, the pace of economic expansion slowed - to 4% in FY20 from 8.3% in FY17.

The current practice of a seven-day shut period after the release of the monetary policy committee (MPC) resolution is not aligned to the global best practices

42. Alliance Insurance has launched the insurance portal 'SMEInsure'. The target of Alliance Insurance is to reach more than 5 crore SMEs in the first year and expect revenue of _____ Crore.

- (a) ₹ 2 Crore
- (b) ₹ 5 Crore
- (c) ₹ 10 Crore
- (d) ₹ 12 Crore
- (e) ₹ 15 Crore

Answer: C

Alliance Insurance has launched the insurance portal 'SMEInsure' in order to provide financial security to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), small shop and business owners Alliance.

It is a portal to insure 5 crores Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category. The portal will provide insurance services in a phygital formate. physical, through individual personal assistance and digital insurance through the portal. The target of Alliance Insurance is to reach more than 5 crore SMEs in the first year and expect revenue of Rs 10 crore. Approximately 97% of the SMEs in India are not insured.

43. The World Customs Organisation recognised Central Revenues Control Laboratory as a regional customs laboratory for Asia Pacific. It is working under which among the following organizations?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) CBDT
- (c) CBIC
- (d) ASSOCHAM
- (e) NASSCOM

Answer: C

The World Customs Organisation recognised Central Revenues Control Laboratory CRCL, New Delhi as a regional customs laboratory for Asia Pacific.

The CRCL is working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC. Established in 1939, CRCL is the headquarters of 14 Revenue Laboratories, including 2 laboratories working at Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Ghazipur and Neemuch. These laboratories have been upgraded extensively in the past 3 years and

new state-of-art equipment costing about 80 crore rupees have been installed.

With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan and Korea.

44. India exited 'technical recession' with GDP growth estimated at 0.4% in the third (October-December) quarter of 2020-21. Services still remained in the contraction zone with a _____% fall year-on-year.

- (a) 0.4%
- (b) 0.55%
- (c) 0.65%
- (d) 0.7%
- (e) 0.9%

Answer: E

India exited 'technical recession' with GDP growth estimated at 0.4% in the third (October-December) quarter of 2020-21.

For the full fiscal year, the National Statistical Office (NSO) has projected a contraction of 8 per cent, higher than the forecasts of the Economic Survey (7.7 per cent) and the Reserve Bank of India (7.5 per cent).

Services, with largest share in GDP at 57 per cent, still remained in the contraction zone with a 0.9 per cent fall year-on-year.

Sectors	April-June Quarter (in %) 2020- 21	July-Sept Quarter (in %) 2020- 21	Oct-Dec Quarter (in %) 2020 – 21

Agriculture	3.3	3	3.9
Industry	-35.9	-3	2.7
Services	-21.4	-11.3	-1
GDP	-24.2	-7.3	0.4

45. Who among the following has inaugurated the India Toy Fair 2021 recently in 2021?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Ram Nath Kovind
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (e) Smriti Zubin Irani

Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Toy Fair 2021 via video conference during which he urged the country to become 'atmanirbhar' in the toy manufacturing sector.

While speaking to Karnataka's toy cluster Channapatna, which has been manufacturing toys for 200 years, Modi urged them to come up with innovative ideas to build toys for India's toy industry to grow.

The toy fair is divided into five stages — pre-school to Class II, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary.

The Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Commerce and Industry, Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Department of Science &

Technology, including the Ministry of Education, has organised the virtual event.

India's toy market stands at around \$1.5 billion, but it is dominated by imported toys.

Hamleys, owned by Reliance Retail, is the title sponsor of the toy fair

46. 'Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat' was hosted by the central government, UN-based Better Than Cash Alliance and _____.

- (a) FSSAI
- (b) FICCI
- (c) Invest India
- (d) NITI Aayog
- (e) Both (c) & (d)

Answer: B

The Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and UN-based Better Than Cash Alliance hosted Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat with special focus on Himalayan Regions, North East Regions and Aspirational Districts of India.

It was a part of the series of Learning Exchange amongst all States and Union Territories.

It was organized with technical assistance from Intellectap, saw representatives from Telangana, J&K, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, and

Daman and Diu, among others discuss solutions that can be scaled across all aspirational districts and the focus regions.

From an average of 2-3 billion digital transactions monthly

- India has set ambitious target for 1 billion digital transactions per day
- Person to merchant (P2M) digital payment transactions will scale to 10-12 billion transactions every month to contribute to India's digital economy. This is an enormous opportunity for digitized merchants.

47. What edition of 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021' was organized in March 2021 by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, jointly with FICCI & Invest India?

- (a) 5th
- (b) 4th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 6th
- (e) 8th

Answer: D

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr D V Sadananda Gowda and Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the curtain raiser Press Conference on the 6th Edition of 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021'.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, jointly with FICCI & Invest

India organized the 6th edition of annual program on Pharmaceuticals & Medical Device sector – 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021'.

The government through its various policies and schemes is encouraging the manufacturing of affordable medical devices and pharmaceutical under its 'Make in India' initiative. The India Pharma 2021 & India Medical Device 2021 will lay the groundwork for the next wave of development. It supports domestic manufacturing through measures such as the Rs 400 cr impetus given for the creation of 4 world-class medical device parks, or the Rs 3000 Cr allocated for the creation of 3 major bulk drug parks.

The total market size of the Indian Pharma Industry is expected to reach the US \$ 130 Billion by 2030.

The medical devices industry in India has the potential to reach \$ 50 bn by 2025.

The theme for this year India Pharma is 'Indian Pharma Industry: "Future is Now" and for India Medical Device is "India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance"'.

48. Which among the following was awarded in the category of India Pharma Leader Award at 6th India Pharma and medical device award?

- (a) Laurus Labs Limited
- (b) Metrochem API Private Limited
- (c) Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited
- (d) Lupin Limited
- (e) WrigNanosystems Private Limited

Answer: A

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Union Minister DV Sadananda Gowda along with Minister of State (MoS) for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya also presented 6th India Pharma and medical device award in following categories during 6th Edition of 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021'.

Category	Awardee
India Pharma Leader Award	Laurus Labs Limited
India Pharma Bulk Drug Company of the Year Award	Metrochem API Private Limited
India Pharma Innovation of the year Award	Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited
India Pharma Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme of the Year Award	Lupin Limited
India Medical Devices Company of the Year Award	WrigNanosystems Private Limited
Special Award in recognition of exceptional leadership & contribution in handling the supply of essential medicine & medical products during the period of COVID19	Dr. P.D. Vaghela, Former Secretary, DoP

pandemic in 2020

International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector is held annually.

49. India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space. Which among the following places have been identified as pilot sites for the project?

- (a) Lakshadweep & Andaman
- (b) Puducherry & Vishakhapatnam
- (c) Vishakhapatnam & Lakshadweep
- (d) Rameswaram & Lakshadweep
- (e) Puducherry & Lakshadweep

Answer: E

India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years.

In this regard, the first project steering committee meeting with representatives from both the countries was successfully conducted virtually recently.

This is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in 2019.

Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been identified as pilot sites for the project.

The two countries have decided to extend support for sustainable ocean resources utilisation to advance economic and social development in coastal areas. The initiative known as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) for India. In its

primary phase, NCCR will develop a marine spatial planning framework for Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

The Government of India's initial investments for undertaking the studies and planning are estimated to be around Rs. 8-10 crore (US\$ 1.09-1.36 million) per annum.

The MSP initiative will be implemented by MoES and the Norwegian Environment Agency through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

50. Which among the following is NOT organized the International Commission on Large Dams Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins?

- (a) INCOLD
- (b) ERM
- (c) NHP
- (d) DRIP
- (e) CWC

Answer: B

The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

International Commission on Large Dams (INCOLD) in collaboration with Central Water Commission (CWC), Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP) and National Hydrology Project (NHP) is organising Symposium on "Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins" under the aegis of ICOLD at New Delhi.

The achievement of flagship programmes of Ministry of Jal Shakti namely Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP) to improve the safety and operational performance of large dams and its appurtenances structures in addition to institutional strengthening and National Hydrology Project (NHP) with the World Bank assistance will be the presented to the Global Dam Community who are keen and looking forward to India's development and successful implementation of DRIP as well as NHP.

51. Who among the following has won the 78th Golden Globes Award in the category of Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture?

- (a) Josh O'Connor
- (b) Jason Sudeikis
- (c) Daniel Kaluuya
- (d) Mark Ruffalo
- (e) John Boyega

Answer: C

Category	Winner	Film
Best Supporting Actress – Television	Gillian Anderson	The Crown
Best Supporting Actor – Television	John Boyega	Small Axe
Best Television Actress – Drama Series	Emma Corrin	The Crown
Best Television Actor – Drama	Josh O'Connor	The Crown

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Series		
Best Actress – Television Motion Picture	Anya Taylor-Joy	The Queen's Gambit
Best Actor – Television Motion Picture	Mark Ruffalo	I Know This Much Is True
Best Actress – Motion Picture Drama	Andra Day	The United States vs. Billie Holiday
Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama	Chadwick Boseman	Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
Best Supporting Actress – Motion Picture	Jodie Foster	The Mauritanian
Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture	Daniel Kaluuya	Judas and the Black Messiah

52. Which among the following has won the 78th Golden Globes Award in the category of Best Picture – Foreign language?

- (a) Soul
- (b) Minari
- (c) The Crown
- (d) Ted Lasso
- (e) I Know This Much is True

Answer: B

Best Picture – Foreign Language :Minari (American Drama)

Best Picture – Animated :Soul directed by Pete Docter

Best Drama Series :The Crown by Netflix

Best Actor – Television Motion Picture: Mark Ruffalo for I Know This Much Is True

Best Television Actor – Musical/Comedy Series: Jason Sudeikis for Ted Lasso

Primary Tag: Awards

53. Tripura has come up with a digital platform to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state govt. The project was developed by which among the following companies?

- (a) LifeCell
- (b) LYF
- (c) EasyGov
- (d) Network 18
- (e) Relicord

Answer: C

The Tripura government has come up with a digital platform to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government. At least 102 schemes of various departments of both the governments are available on the platform. The 'Jagrut Tripura' will empower citizens of the northeastern state.

The digital platform is one of the many proactive initiatives undertaken by the state government to spur a technology-led innovation ecosystem to make 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) Tripura.

The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company, and it will be available to all the residents of Tripura.

54. A new scheme 'MASIHA' has been announced by which among the following states during the Budget for FY 2021-22?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Gujarat
- (e) Rajasthan

Answer:D

A new scheme 'MASIHA' has been announced by Gujarat govt during the Budget for FY 2021-22. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister (CM) Nitin Patel who holds the Finance Portfolio presented the State Budget 2021-22 with a Budget Outlay of INR 2, 27, 029 Crore which is an increase of INR 9, 742 Crore than the budget presented in 2020-21.

Major Announcements of Gujarat state:

- The start of 2nd Edition of 'Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana' for the Tribal population with an allocation of INR 1 Lakh Crore over 5 years. It was started by the Former Chief Minister Narendra Modi in 2007.
- INR 1, 500 Crore rupees allocated for Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project
- INR 652 Crore has been allocated for the Statue of Unity area development.
- A new scheme 'MASIHA' under which houses will be constructed for labourers

at concessional rate on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

- Promotion of 'Whale Shark Tourism' for providing employment in rural areas.

55. 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' of which state government has replaced the Govt's Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) West Bengal
- (e) Gujarat

Answer:C

Jharkhand has launched the state's own crop relief scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' to replace Government of India's crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Jharkhand Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on 'Sarna Code' during a special one-day assembly session on November 11, 2020. The resolution seeks inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 census.

The Finance Minister of Jharkhand, Dr Rameshwar Oraon, presented the state budget worth Rs 91,277 crore for FY2021-22 in the State Assembly at Ranchi. The budget saw an increase over Rs 7,100 crore (almost 11%) as compared to FY21.

56. ICRIAT has entered into an agreement with which among the following states to strengthen

management of natural resources for the benefit of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups?

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Nagaland

Answer: C

The State government of Odisha has entered into an agreement with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to strengthen management of natural resources for the benefit of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in 12 districts.

ICRISAT will undertake capacity building initiatives, water harvesting, recording of hydrological parameters and crop productivity in addition to monitoring land-use and land-cover through remote sensing and GIS in 12 districts.

The collaboration is a part of Odisha's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development India.

57. The government is planning to sell _____% stake in IRCON International through an OFS to raise about ₹ 662 Crore.

- (a) 18%
- (b) 9%
- (c) 16%
- (d) 25%

(e) 21%

Answer: C

The government of India has planned to sell up to 7.52 crore shares or 16 per cent stake in IRCON International through an offer for sale (OFS) to raise about Rs 662 crore.

The government is looking to raise Rs 2.10 lakh crore through disinvestment in FY21 with Rs 1.20 lakh crore from Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) stake sale and Rs 90,000 crore from sale of government stake in financial institutions.

58. BPCL has sold its entire stake in Numaligarh refinery in Assam to which among the following companies in March 2021?

- (a) HPCL
- (b) Oil India Ltd
- (c) Engineers India Ltd
- (d) Both (a) & (b)
- (e) Both (b) & (c)

Answer: E

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd exits Numaligarh refinery in Assam by selling its entire stake to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd for Rs 9,876 crore.

The sale of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd clears the way for privatisation of India's second-largest fuel retailer.

In keeping with the Assam Peace Accord, the government had decided to keep Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in the public sector.

As part of this, BPCL was to sell its entire 61.65 per cent stake to state-owned firms. A consortium of Oil India Ltd, Engineers India Ltd, and the Government of Assam expressed interest in buying the stake and the BPCL board approved the sale.

59. How many new species of shrub frogs have been discovered from the Western Ghats by researchers from India and the US?

- (a) 4
- (b) 8
- (c) 2
- (d) 5
- (e) 11

Answer: D

Five new species of shrub frogs have been discovered from the Western Ghats by researchers from India and the US. Western Ghats are one of the globally recognised biodiversity hotspots. The frogs belong to the Old World tree frog family Rhacophoridae. They were discovered by researchers from University of Delhi, Kerala Forest Research Institute and University of Minnesota. The discovery is part of a long comprehensive study on the Shrub frogs (genus Raorchestes) of the Western Ghats, carried out over a period of nearly 10 years.

60. Who has been defeated by Varun Kapur to win the Men's singles title at the 2021 Uganda International in Kampala?

- (a) Sai Praneeth

- (b) Kidambi Srikanth
- (c) Sankar Muthusamy
- (d) Lakshya Sen
- (e) Subhankar Dey

Answer: C

Indian shuttlers Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod has clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 2021 Uganda International in Kampala.

Sankar and Anupama had to settle for silver medals in the four-day tournament which saw participation of shuttlers from India, Germany and African countries.

61. Kieron Pollard became the third batsman in the history of international cricket to hit six 6s in an over. He achieved the feat in the first T20I of the three-match series against which team?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Australia
- (c) England
- (d) Sri Lanka
- (e) West Indies

Answer: D

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard became the third batsman in the history of international cricket to hit six 6s in an over. He achieved the feat in the first T20I of the three-match series against Sri Lanka at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

With these six 6s, Pollard has joined the likes of Herschelle Gibbs and Yuvraj Singh in the elusive list.

Pollard hit Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya for six 6s in the sixth over of the innings as the hosts' Windies were chasing a target of 132 runs to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

62. Mary Kom has been picked as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee in March 2021.

Who is the chair of Medical & Anti-Doping Committee in AIBA?

- (a) Ervin Kade
- (b) Mr. Christopher Mark Roberts
- (c) Michael Müller
- (d) Dr. Barbarito Gutierrez Cabrera
- (e) Dr. Ioannis Filippatos

Answer: E

Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom has been picked as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee.

The committee, formed in December 2020, "consists of most respected worldwide boxing veterans and champions who have achieved significant results and who are ready to share their experience.

Committees	Chairperson	Vice Chairperson
Competitions Committee	Mr. Michael Müller (Germany)	Mrs. Zsuzsanna Tóth (Hungary)

R&J Committee	Mr. Christopher Mark Roberts (Scotland)	Ms. Séverine Michele Gosselin (France)
Coaches Committee	Ervin Kade (Estonia)	William Thomas Walsh (USA)
Champions and Veterans Committee	Mrs. Mary Kom (India)	Mr. Michael Philip Carruth (Ireland)
Women's Committee	Mrs. Amanda Jane Coulson (England)	Mrs. Susanne Karrlander (Sweden)
Medical & Anti-Doping Committee	Dr. Ioannis Filippatos (Monaco)	Dr. Barbarito Gutierrez Cabrera (Cuba)
Marketing Committee	Mr. Cezary Jedliński (Poland)	Mr. Dian Gomes (Sri Lanka)

63. Tarun Bajaj has been given the additional charge of revenue secretary. Currently, he is the secretary of which among the following department?

- (a) Department of Expenditure
- (b) Department of Economic Affairs
- (c) Department of Financial Services
- (d) Department of Revenue
- (e) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

Answer: B

Department of economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj has been given the additional charge of

revenue secretary. Tarun replaced Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

Pandey, a 1984 batch IAS officer from the Maharashtra cadre, was appointed finance secretary last year in March, more than a year after he was appointed as revenue secretary in December 2018. Prior to becoming revenue secretary, he had headed the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), where he spent nearly eight years.

64. Tabreed and IFC announced plans to invest USD 400 in India and South-East Asian countries to build cooling service infrastructure. They have formed a joint venture to establish a district energy investment platform in which country?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Italy
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Croatia
- (e) Estonia

Answer: C

UAE's National Central Cooling Company or Tabreed, and International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced plans to invest USD 400 mn in India and South-East Asian countries to build cooling service infrastructure.

Tabreed and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, have formed a joint venture to establish a district energy investment platform in Singapore.

The JV will invest in district cooling, trigeneration and cooling as a service offering with a primary

focus on India followed by other South-East Asian countries.

Platform to target USD 400 million in capital deployment in India and other South-East Asian countries.

The government India Cooling Action Plan' forecasts an eight-fold increase in demand through to 2038 and the commercial real estate sector alone estimated to add 100 million refrigeration tons in capacity during this period.

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

It provides a 20-year perspective and outlines actions needed for providing access to Sustainable Cooling.

It seeks to

- Reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38
- Reduce Refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38
- Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38

65. SEBI cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd as a sub-broker. The regulator had appointed a designated authority in which year to enquire Sahara India Financial Corporation?

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2018

(d) 2019

(e) 2015

Answer: C

Markets regulator Sebi cancelled the certificate of registration of SaharaIndia Financial Corporation Ltd as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfill the "fit and proper" criteria.

The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations. Subrata Roy is a substantial shareholder in the company.

It is the duty of the regulator to constantly monitor the "fit and proper person" criteria of intermediaries to maintain the integrity of the securities market.

66. Name the online platform which was launched by Axis Securities to buy and sell bonds & debentures in the secondary market.

(a) HARVEST

(b) RETURN

(c) REAP

(d) YIELD

(e) GATHER

Answer: D

Axis Securities announced the launch of 'YIELD' - an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market.

YIELD is the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows retail investors direct access to the debt instruments.

This new tool will remove the hassle of filling up physical forms or the need for separate KYC with the bond institutions.

YIELD would empower the investors to make the right investment decision. The trades and settlement of transactions executed will be reported on the BSE NDS (new debt segment) platform.

67. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank has signed a MoU with Our Food Pvt Ltd in March '21 for arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers. KVGB is sponsored by which among the following banks?

(a) Syndicate Bank

(b) Canara Bank

(c) Corporation Bank

(d) Andhra Bank

(e) Bank of Maharashtra

Answer: B

The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Our Food Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam, for arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers through the bank loan. The Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), an Indian government owned Regional Rural Bank sponsored by Canara Bank.

The vendor will ensure supply, delivery and installation of high-quality, standardised and branded equipment / machinery as per the requirement of the farmer / farmer franchisee and also will ensure purchase of processed products.

The company purchases the processed product from them and sells the same through its tech platforms. By doing so, the farmer-partners get between 20 per cent and 25 per cent more than the market rate.

68. Exim Bank has extended a LoC of USD 10.4 million to Eswatini in March '21. With the signing of this agreement, Exim Bank, till date has extended three LoCs to Eswatini, taking the total value to _____ million (approximately).

- (a) USD 54 million
- (b) USD 59 million
- (c) USD 68 million
- (d) USD 73 million
- (e) USD 82 million

Answer: C

Exim Bank, on behalf of the Indian government, has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 10.40 million to the government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland) for the construction of disaster recovery site.

With the signing of this agreement, Exim Bank, till date has extended three LoCs to Eswatini, taking the total value to USD 68.30 million.

Indian government's soft loan to Eswatini covers projects in sectors including information technology, disaster management and agriculture.

Exim Bank has now in place 270 LoCs, covering 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), with credit

commitments of around USD 26.75 billion, available for financing exports from India

69. Under what section of IRDA Act, 1999, the Central Government amended Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017 in March '21?

- (a) 32
- (b) 24
- (c) 18
- (d) 16
- (e) 27

Answer: B

The Central Government amended Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017 by exercising the powers conferred under section 24 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

The amended rules are called as 'Insurance Ombudsman (Amendment) Rules, 2021'.

The Government notified comprehensive amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017, with a view to improve the working of the Insurance Ombudsman mechanism to facilitate resolution of complaints regarding deficiencies in insurance services in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner.

It should be noted that the Ombudsman mechanism was administered by the Executive Council of Insurers, which is now renamed as the Council for Insurance Ombudsmen.

70. Which among the following has planned to build the world's first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Australia
- (c) Ghana
- (d) Kenya
- (e) Belarus

Answer: B

Australian conservationists unveiled plans to build the world's first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change. They would build the specialist facility, mostly ponds and burrows for the semiaquatic creatures, at a zoo 391 km (243 miles) from Sydney, by 2022, which could house up to 65 platypuses.

71. The UNGA has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The resolution was initiated by India and some other countries. Which among the following countries has initiated the resolution with India?

- (a) Senegal
- (b) China
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Maldives
- (e) Myanmar

Answer: A

The U.N. General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the International

Year of Millets, aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions. The resolution titled 'International Year of Millets 2023' was initiated by India with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal and was co-sponsored by over 70 nations. The 193-member General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

72. India signed a pact with the Philippines for the sale of defence material and equipment, which are likely to include BrahMos cruise missiles. The BrahMos missile is produced by the joint venture of India and which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) France
- (c) UK
- (d) Russia
- (e) USA

Answer: D

India signed a pact with the Philippines for the sale of defence material and equipment, which are likely to include BrahMos cruise missiles.

India and Russia have been planning to export the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to the Philippines and several other countries.

The BrahMos missile is produced by the joint venture of India and Russia. It can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms.

On October 18 -2020, a naval version of the BrahMos missile was successfully test-fired from an indigenously-built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian sea.

Days later, the Indian Air Force test-fired an air-launched version of the BrahMos missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal.

73.Exercise Desert Flag-VI was held between India and some other countries. Which among the following is NOT one of the participating countries?

- (a) US
- (b) Bahrain
- (c) North Korea
- (d) Saudi Arabia
- (e) France

Answer: C

The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with the air forces of the UAE, the US, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain for the first time.

The exercise was held at the Al-Dhafra airbase in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Exercise Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force.

The IAF is participating with six Su-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 tanker aircraft.

The C-17 Globemaster provides support for the induction and de-induction of the IAF contingent.

The Su-30 MKI aircraft undertook a long-range ferry, routing directly from India to the exercise area with

aerial refuelling support from the IL-78 tanker aircraft.

74. The government is planning to replace the TEQIP with a new programme MERITE Project. What does 'I' represent in MERITE?

- (a) Involvement
- (b) Initiative
- (c) Improvement
- (d) Internal
- (e) Institution

Answer: C

The Government of India is planning to replace the World Bank Assisted 'Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)' with a new programme called 'Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE)' project for improving the Technical Education system in India.

TEQIP was started in 2002 by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development with the assistance of the World Bank and is being implemented in a phased manner.

It aims to upscale the quality of technical education and enhance capacities of institutions.

The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme III (TEQIP-III) was started in 2017 and will be completed by 2021.

It aims to develop technical education as a key component for improving the quality of Engineering Education.

75. India has funded NR _____ million for reconstruction of 3 cultural heritages in Nepal.

- (a) 234
- (b) 246
- (c) 257
- (d) 269
- (e) 272

Answer: B

India would be funding Nepali Rs 246 million for the 'reconstruction and restoration' of three more Cultural Heritage projects in Nepal after six of at least 28 heritage sites contracts have already been rebuilt.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Kathmandu by the Head of Development Partnership and Reconstruction Wing of the Embassy of India to Nepal and the Project Director of Central Level Project Implementation Unit (Building) of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). The Contract Agreements were signed between the successful bidders and NRA.

The three projects include Jestha Varna Mahavihara in Lalitpur, Sulighyang Gumba and Shermathang Gumba located in Sindhupalchowk district. The technical assistance for the restoration of Jestha Varna Mahavihara will be provided by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) while the other two will be undertaken by CLPIU (Building).

76. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a MoU between India and Fiji for cooperation in the field of which sector?

- (a) Renewable Energy
- (b) Railways
- (c) Agriculture
- (d) Infrastructure
- (e) Defence

Answer: C

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, India & Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Fiji for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.

The MoU will come into effect on the date of its signing and the time period of the agreement is 5 years

The MoU provides for agreement in the below areas:

- Exchange of Research personnel, scientific experts, specialists & Technical trainees
- Enhancement & Transfer of Technology
- Development of infrastructure for agriculture development
- Development of human resources through training of officers & farmers by conducting seminars & workshops

77. The cabinet has approved an MoU between India & French Republic in the field of Renewable Energy cooperation. India targets to attain 450 GWs

of installed renewable energy capacity by which year?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2036

Answer: C

The cabinet has approved an MoU between India & French Republic in the field of Renewable Energy cooperation.

India targets to attain 450 GWs of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030.

It's objective is to establish a platform for promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.

It covers renewable energy technologies relating to Solar, Wind, Hydrogen& Biomass energy

78. What was the theme of second edition of Global Bio-India-2021 in New Delhi (March 2021)?

- (a) Transforming lives
- (b) Biosciences to Bio-economy
- (c) Biotech Strategy - 2021
- (d) Life related to Biosciences
- (e) None of the above

Answer: A

Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the second edition of Global Bio-India-2021 in New Delhi through virtual mode.

The 3-day event showcased the strength and opportunities of the India's biotechnology sector at national level and to the global community.

The theme for this year was "Transforming lives" with the tag line "Biosciences to Bio-economy".

The event was co-organised by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India along with its Public Sector Undertaking, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in partnership with industry association Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) and Invest India.

The Biotechnology sector has emerged as an integral part of the Indian economy over the past few decades, and the Government of India is playing a transformative and catalytic role in building a USD 150 billion bio-economy by 2025. The sector is recognized as one of the key drivers for India to achieve its USD 5 trillion target.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan unveiled the "National Biotech Strategy" and also inaugurated the Virtual Exhibition of Global Bio-India.

Country Partners - Switzerland and The Netherlands
 State Partners - Karnataka and Odisha.

79. How many outreach centers were inaugurated by Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually for Communication Disorders' across the country by AllSH?

- (a) 9
- (b) 7
- (c) 8

(d) 6

(e) 11

Answer: D

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually inaugurated six new 'Outreach Service Centers for Communication Disorders' across the country by All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru.

The new six Outreach Service Centres are:

1. Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science, Patna, Bihar
2. Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bidar, Karnataka
3. Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi, Karnataka
4. Karnataka Institute of Medical Science, Hubballi, Karnataka
5. AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
6. Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Kolar, Karnataka

The number of individuals existing with such disorders and the lack of professionals and specialists to cater the need for this population warrants the need for initiation of Outreach Service Centers in the hospitals across the country.

80. IBM India has partnered with Goa state in March '21 to provide Free Skill Training to Youth in 1 year through IBM SkillBuild Program. The platform was launched by IBM India in which year?

(a) 2017

(b) 2016

(c) 2018

(d) 2019

(e) 2015

Answer: D

International Business Machines (IBM) India partnered with the state government of Goa to provide free online courses to students, Job seekers & Entrepreneurs of the state. This initiative is aimed at upskilling 10,000 youths across 10 institutions in 1 year through IBM SkillBuild Program.

The program is jointly Implemented by IBM India, Department of Technical Education, Goa and REACHA (Research and Extension Association for Conservation Horticulture and Agroforestry).

Personalised coaching and experimental learning module is provided on Information & Communication Technology (ICT).

It is an online platform that provides Free digital courses in ITC sectors like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud Computing, Cyber Security etc.

The program has over 1 lakh beneficiaries in Indian in 2021 alone.

This Skill Development platform was launched by IBM India in November 2019.

81. Karnataka launched the 'Karnataka Engineering Research & Development (Engineering R&D) Policy 2021'. The global Engineering Research and Development industry is expected to reach spending of \$_____ by 2025.

(a) \$ 2.5 trillion

(b) \$ 1 trillion

- (c) \$ 1.5 trillion
- (d) \$ 2 trillion
- (e) \$ 3 trillion

Answer: D

The ER&D sector in the country is the fastest growing industry with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.8%. Meanwhile, the global Engineering Research and Development industry is expected to reach spending of \$2 trillion by 2025.

The Karnataka government launched the 'Karnataka Engineering Research & Development (Engineering R&D) Policy 2021' as a measure to leverage the sector's potential, create jobs and improve the state's contribution in the space through strategic interventions and bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Bengaluru accounts for 34% of all the multinational corporations (MNC) in the country and nearly 50% of the fortune 500 companies have a presence in India's IT capital.

82. In March 2020, Madhya Pradesh government has submitted its budget for the FY 2021-22. How much percentage of budget amount would be spent by the state on the public welfare programmes?

- (a) 45%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 65%
- (d) 60%
- (e) 40%

Answer: E

Around 60 per cent of the amount of the Budget will be spent on paying debt interest, salaries and others, only 40 per cent of the budget will be spent on the public welfare programmes.

The Budget for FY 2021-22 is based on the development of an 'Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh'. A provision of total appropriation of Rs 2,41,375 crore has been made for FY 2021-22. Total net expenditure amounts to Rs 2,17,123 crore. The budget shows a deficit of Rs 1,169 crore and total loss of Rs 8, 294 crore. The estimated gross state domestic product is 4.50 % of fiscal deficit.

83. March 3 is observed every year as which among the following days?

- (a) National Safety Day
- (b) International Labour Day
- (c) World Hearing Day
- (d) World Civil Defence Day
- (e) World Consumer Rights Day

Answer: C

World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

The theme of the World Hearing Day is 'Hearing care for ALL! Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate'. The World Hearing Day 2021 and the World Report on Hearing present a global call for action to address hearing loss and ear diseases across the life course.

84. What was the theme of World Wildlife Day 2021, observed every year on March 3?

- (a) Life below Water: for People and Planet
- (b) Sustaining all life on earth
- (c) Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
- (d) Listen to the young voices
- (e) The future of wildlife is in our hands

Answer: C

World Wildlife Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd March.

World Wildlife Day was celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas.

The first World Wildlife Day was observed on 3rd March 2014.

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar mentioned the government was working on re-introduction of Cheetah.

85. Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally in the second edition of Khelo India Winter National Games. How many gold medals have been won by J & K out of 34 medals?

- (a) 18
- (b) 11
- (c) 16

(d) 5

(e) 9

Answer: B

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally in the second edition of Khelo India Winter National Games. J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals.

The five-day mega sports event was concluded in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in the north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The event was e-inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The second edition of Khelo India winter games is a major step towards making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of the winter games.

The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

86. How many new asteroids were discovered and named by Indian school students in March '21?

- (a) 14
- (b) 8
- (c) 22
- (d) 29
- (e) 18

Answer: E

Indian school students have recently discovered and named 18 new asteroids as part of a global science programme, confirmed by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), an organisation that

assigns official names and designations to celestial bodies.

STEM and Space, an organisation working towards the learning of astronomy and space science in India, conducted the International Asteroid Discovery Project, along with the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) as part of a NASA citizen science project.

High-quality astronomical data was provided by IASC -- an online scientific program for kids to discover Asteroids and Near-Earth Objects (NEO), during this project, and students from India and all across the globe analysed it.

NEOs are rocky objects in an orbit between Mars and Jupiter, which pose a challenge to Earth as they may get perturbed out of their orbit and pose a threat of impact.

87. 'Sugamya Bharat App' has been launched by Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually in March '21. How many features of App are directly related to enhancing accessibility?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: C

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App" and a handbook entitled "Access – The

Photo Digest" through video conference in New Delhi.

Sugamya Bharat APP — a Crowd sourcing Mobile Application is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.

The app provides five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility, while the fifth is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID related issues.

The accessibility related features are: the registration of complaints of inaccessibility across the 3 broad pillars of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan; positive feedback of examples and best practices worth emulating being shared by people as jan-bhagidhari; Departmental updates; and guidelines and circulars related to accessibility.

88. Which among the following has integrated with India's official vaccination registration website 'CoWin'?

- (a) LocatemyIndia
- (b) TrackmyIndia
- (c) MapmyIndia
- (d) Google India
- (e) FindmyIndia

Answer: C

MapmyIndia has integrated with India's official vaccination registration website, cowin.gov.in. The second phase of Covid-19 vaccine and registrations

are now open via the Aarogya Setu app and the official website.

Now, in order to make it easy for registered citizens to find nearby vaccine centres across the country, MapmyIndia app has been integrated with the portal.

MD, Chairman of MapmyIndia – Rakesh Verma
Headquarters – New Delhi

MapmyIndia's App powered by MapmyIndia Maps & APIs (Application Programming Interface) was the winner of Atma Nirbhar App Challenge organized by Government of India in 2020.

89. Siemens Ltd has completed the acquisition of 99.22% shares in C & S Electric Ltd for _____ Crore.

- (a) ₹ 1700 Crore
- (b) ₹ 2100 Crore
- (c) ₹ 2750 Crore
- (d) ₹ 3200 Crore
- (e) ₹ 3800 Crore

Answer: B

Siemens Ltd has completed the acquisition of 99.22 per cent equity shares in C&S Electric Ltd from the company's promoters for Rs 2,100 crore.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had given its approval for the deal on August 20, 2020. It offers expertise across the entire energy value chain along with a comprehensive portfolio for utilities, independent power producers, transmission system operators, oil and gas industry, and other energy-intensive industries.

90. Borat Subsequent Moviefilm has won the 2021 Golden Globes Award in the Best Picture – Musical/Comedy category. The film was directed by whom?

- (a) Chloe Zhao
- (b) Andra Day
- (c) Jason Woliner
- (d) Pete Docter
- (e) Lee Isaac Chung

Answer: C

Best Picture (Musical/Comedy): Borat Subsequent Moviefilm directed by Jason Woliner

Best Actress (Motion Picture Drama): Andra Day for The United States vs. Billie Holiday

Best Picture (Animated) - Soul directed by Pete Docter

Best Song Motion Picture - Io Si (Seen) from The Life Ahead directed by Lee Isaac Chung

91. The Golden Globe recognises excellence in both domestic and foreign Films and television. The awards are presented by _____ members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

- (a) 68
- (b) 75
- (c) 89
- (d) 93
- (e) 107

Answer: D

The 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 was produced by Dick Clark productions in association

with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association(HFPA).

The Golden Globe Awards are presented by the 93 members of the HFPA. The award recognises excellence in both domestic and foreign Films and television.

The first Golden Globe Awards were presented in 1944.

92. A television series 'The Crown' has won the 2021 Golden Globes awards in how many categories?

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 8
- (d) 2
- (e) 5

Answer: B

The Crown, a television series, has the highest nominations for any tele series and it has won in 4 categories at the 78th Golden Globes award (Best Drama Series, Best Television Actress, Best Television Actor, Best Supporting Actress).

Best Television Actress – Drama Series: Emma Corrin for The Crown

Best Television Actor – Drama Series: Josh O'Connor for The Crown

Best Drama Series: The Crown by Netflix

Best Supporting Actress – Television Gillian Anderson for The Crown

93. Name the Picture that has won the 78th Golden Globes award in Best Motion Picture Drama category.

- (a) Borat Subsequent
- (b) I Care A Lot
- (c) Nomadland
- (d) The United States vs. Billie Holiday
- (e) The Mauritanian

Answer: C

Nomadland by chinese Female director Chloé Zhao won the Best Pictures Drama and Chloé Zhao won the Best Director Motion Picture.

Chloe Zhao became the first Asian woman and only the 2nd woman to win the best director award after Barbra Streisand who won the award for 'Yentl' in 1984.

Nomadland became the first film directed by a female to win the award in this category.

Barbra Streisand was the first woman to win the Award(Director) in 1984 for Yentl.

94. Who among the following has been awarded with the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 78th Golden Globes 2021?

- (a) Norman Lear
- (b) Jane Fonda
- (c) Chloe Zhao
- (d) Jason Woliner
- (e) Chadwick Boseman

Answer: B

The 78th Golden Globes 2021 honoured Jane Fonda with the Cecil B. DeMille Award, and Norman Lear with the Carol Burnett Award.

Chadwick Boseman was posthumously honoured with the Best Actor Golden Globe award for his performance in the film Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.

95. Name the first Male Black ambassadors of 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021.

- (a) Satchel Lee
- (b) Jackson Lee
- (c) Spike Lee
- (d) Tonya Lewis Lee
- (e) None of the above

Answer: B

The 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 took place in a Hybrid Format. It was the first bicoastal ceremony, filmed from Los Angeles and New York City, hosted by Amy Poehler from Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Tina Fey from New York's Rainbow Room.

The 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 was produced by Dick Clark productions in association with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association(HFPA).

Satchel Lee and Jackson Lee (1st Black male ambassador), children of filmmakers and three-time Golden Globe Nominee Spike Lee and his wife Tonya Lewis Lee, philanthropist are 2021 Golden Globe Ambassadors.

96. Which among the following has partnered with Canara Bank in March 2021 for collateral

management and warehousing services to help farmers with effective market linkage?

- (a) Gati
- (b) Arya
- (c) iThink
- (d) Sical
- (e) Aegis

Answer: B

Arya, a post-harvest agriculture technology startup, has entered into a strategic partnership with Canara Bank for collateral management and warehousing services to help farmers with effective market linkage.

The partnership aims to support and extend finance to farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations, processors, and various depositors stocking their agri-produce in warehouses managed by Arya pan India.

Canara Bank, through this strategic association with Arya, will be able to leverage the extensive network of the agritech startup to reach more than 350,000 farmers through the 450 FPOs it works with.

As a collateral manager, Arya will facilitate post-harvest credit for the lender through its digital platform across its network of 4,000 warehouses covering more than 3.0 million tonnes of agriculture commodities, especially in primary and secondary near-farm markets.

MD of Arya – Prasanna Rao & Chattanathan D
Headquarters – Noida

97. Sri Lanka has developed the West Container Terminal with the help of which among the following countries?

- (a) India & Russia
- (b) India & Bangladesh
- (c) India & China
- (d) India & Japan
- (e) India & Myanmar

Answer: D

Sri Lanka would develop the West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port with India's and Japan's assistance.

The Sri Lankan cabinet gave the green signal to the development of WCT by "parties nominated" by the two countries. India's Adani Ports was one of the partners to develop the ECT.

The three governments have signed an agreement to develop the WCT.

The WCT would be developed as a "public-private limited company in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority", according to Sri Lanka. Colombo has also decided to appoint a "cabinet-appointed negotiation committee and a project committee to evaluate the proposals in this regard".

98. SIDBI has set to work jointly with NSE to explore feasibility of a debt platform for unmet needs of the MSME sector. It was happened based on the recommendations of expert committee headed by _____.

- (a) NS Vishwanathan
- (b) Neeraj Nigam

- (c) T Manoharan
- (d) UK Sinha
- (e) Sunil Mehta

Answer: D

National Stock Exchange has entered into a pact with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to explore the feasibility of a debt capital platform for the MSMEs.

The entities signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in various ongoing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)-related initiatives of the two institutions. SIDBI will look forward to jointly work with the NSE to explore feasibility of a debt platform for unmet needs of the sector under the recommendations of expert committee on MSMEs, chaired by UK Sinha. NSE Managing Director and CEO - Vikram Limaye.

99. According to a report by the World Bank, Education Budgets were only _____ percent of high and upper-middle income countries.

- (a) 11%
- (b) 33%
- (c) 24%
- (d) 39%
- (e) 42%

Answer: B

Education budgets were cut by 65 per cent of low and lower-middle income countries after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic while only 33 per cent of high and upper-middle income countries did so, according to a report by the World Bank.

The report, compiled in collaboration with UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, said the current levels of government spending in low and lower-middle income countries fall short of those required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to understand the short-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education budgets, information was collected for a sample of 29 countries across all regions. The sample represents about 54 per cent of the world's school and university aged population.

The sample includes three low-income countries (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Uganda); 14 lower-middle income countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan); 10 upper-middle income nations (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Jordan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Turkey); and two high-income countries (Chile, Panama).

The following countries have education shares below 10 per cent and therefore are likely to have other main financing sources besides budget assigned by the central government: Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Russia.

100. What edition of Agartala Book Fair was held recently in Tripura?

- (a) 24th
- (b) 29th

(c) 18th

(d) 39th

(e) 42nd

Answer: D

The 39th edition of Agartala International Book Fair was held by Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, at the Hapania International Fair ground.

The theme of the 14-day long fair was "Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura"

Altogether 162 stalls have been set up, which includes 96 stalls from Tripura publishers and booksellers, 51 stalls from Kolkata and West Bengal, 4 stalls from Delhi, 8 stalls from Assam, one each stalls from Daman and Die, Mumbai, Rajasthan and neighboring Bangladesh.

101. DRDO carried out a flight demonstration from Integrated Test Range – Chandipur. The flight demonstration has done based on which among the following technology?

- (a) CAIR GIS Technology
- (b) NBC Overboots Technology
- (c) Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet
- (d) Propellant Casting of Dual Pulse Propulsion System
- (e) Unexploded Ordnance Handling Robot

Answer: C

The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

The demonstration of SFDR technology has provided DRDO with a technological advantage, which would enable it to develop long range air-to-air missiles.

During the test, air launch scenario was simulated using a booster motor and subsequently, the nozzle-less booster accelerated it to the required Mach number for Ramjet operation.

The performance of the missile was monitored using the data captured by electro optical, radar and telemetry instruments deployed by ITR and confirmed successful demonstration of the mission objectives.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, carried out keel laying for the third stealth frigate for the Navy under Project-17A.

102. Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passed away in March '21. He was a Lok Sabha MP from which among the following states?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer: B

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passed away at a private hospital in Gurugram.

He was the Lok Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa. Chauhan represented the Khandwa seat in the Lok Sabha since 1996, barring a five-year

period of 2009-14 when he lost to Congress' Arun Subash Chandra Yadav.

103. Indian Bank has divested a stake in joint venture entity ASREC (India) Ltd as part of asset monetisation exercise. The bank holds approximately _____% stake in ASREC (India) Ltd.

- (a) 23%
- (b) 29%
- (c) 38%
- (d) 41%
- (e) 46%

Answer: C

Indian Bank has divested a stake in joint venture entity ASREC (India) Ltd as part of asset monetisation exercise.

The bank holds a 38.26% stake in ASREC (India) Ltd.

ASREC is an asset reconstruction company in which Bank of India, Union Bank of India, LIC and Deutsche Bank are the shareholders.

The company was granted a certificate of registration by the Reserve Bank of India in October 2004 to carry out activities under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002.

The company's authorised equity capital was Rs 125 crore and the aggregate paid-up equity and other equity was Rs 146.01 crore as of March 31, 2019, according to its website.

104. Rohit Sharma has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of GlenmarkPharma. He was signed for its product named _____.

- (a) Maclar Suspension
- (b) Lulican Spray
- (c) Demelan Cream
- (d) Elovera Lotion
- (e) Candid Powder

Answer: E

Drug major GlenmarkPharma signed cricketer Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador for its product Candid Powder.

Sharma would be the official face of the brand as part of its 360 degree communication.

Candid Powder brand is a market leader in its category, with a market share of 64 per cent in the medicated powder category.

Glenmark's Candid Dusting Powder is used to treat four key skin problems of redness, irritation, sweat rash and fungal infections.

105. NABARD Chairman G R Chintalatook over the chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association. He was replaced DPK Gunasekera. He is the CEO of which among the following banks?

- (a) Bank of Ceylon
- (b) South African Reserve Bank
- (c) European Central bank
- (d) The Riksbank
- (e) Qatar Central Bank

Answer: A

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chairman G R Chintalatook over the chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA).

Chintalasucceeded Bank of Ceylon CEO DPK Gunasekera in office.

APRACA is a body of 24 nations with close to 88 members. It is an international organisation, which does a lot of information exchange, takes capacity building initiatives, and creates new institutions. The last chairmanship India got was in 1999.

106. In March 2021, the government has set up a _____ member high-level national committee headed by PM Modi to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

- (a) 247
- (b) 289
- (c) 259
- (d) 283
- (e) 297

Answer: C

The government set up a 259-member high-level national committee headed by Prime Minister NarendraModi to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.

The members of the panel include former president PratibhaPatil, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, National Security Advisor AjitDoval, 28 chief

ministers, artistes like LataMangeshkar, A R Rahman, Nobel laureate AmartyaSen, senior BJP leader L K Advani, almost all Union ministers and several governors.

Opposition leaders like Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary SitaramYechury, NCP leader SharadPawar, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and former Uttar Pradesh chief ministers Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati are also part of the committee.

Noted present and former sportspersons like Sunil Gavaskar, Mary Kom, AbhinavBindra, PullelaGopichand, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, PT Usha and PrakashPadukone are part of the committee.

Earlier, a National Implementation Committee under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah had been constituted for the 75 years Independence celebrations. A Committee of Secretaries has also been set up for this purpose.

The celebrations are proposed to be launched 75 weeks prior to August 15, 2022, on March 12, 2021, which is the 91st anniversary of the historic Salt Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi.

107.Prime Minister NarendraModi received the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award at what edition of annual CERAWeek Conference?

- (a) 33rd
- (b) 25th
- (c) 29th
- (d) 37th

(e) 39th

Answer: E

Prime Minister NarendraModi received the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award.The 39th edition of annual CERAWeek Conference 2021 was held virtually for the first time.

He delivered the keynote address at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week (CERAWeek) via video conferencing.India has set a target to boost the share of gas in its fuel mix to 15% from the current 6% by 2030.United States(US) is a major supplier of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) to India. CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Daniel Yergin and is held in Houston annually.

The CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award was instituted in 2016.

It recognises the commitment of leadership on the future of global energy and environment, and for offering solutions and policies for energy access, affordability and environmental stewardship.

108.BSE Investments has entered into a joint venture agreement with Frontier Agriculture Platforms Private Limited.FAPL would pick _____% equity stake in BSE E-Agricultural Markets Limited.

- (a) 35%
- (b) 38%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 42%
- (e) 45%

Answer: C

BSE Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BSE has entered into a joint venture agreement with Frontier Agriculture Platforms Private Limited (FAPL) to drive innovation in agriculture markets.

The objective of JV is to explore the scope and opportunities available in the agricultural commodities trading space, driven by a strong impetus given by the government to bring in transparency and efficiency in this space.

FAPL would pick 40% equity stake in BSE E-Agricultural Markets Limited (BEAM).

FAPL would support BEAM with market linkages, connecting with stakeholders and domain knowledge.

109. India has extended a grant of 44.17 million Nepali Rupees to Nepal to build a new school building in which district of Nepal?

- (a) Bhaktapur
- (b) Makwanpur
- (c) Lalitpur
- (d) Chitwan
- (e) Rupandehi

Answer: E

India has extended a grant of 44.17 million Nepali Rupees to Nepal to build a new school building in the Rupandehi district of the country under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two countries for the construction project.

Since 2003, under the High Impact Community Development Projects programme, India has completed 446 projects in the areas of health, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation and creation of other public utilities across all seven provinces of Nepal.

India is also reconstructing 71 educational institutions damaged during the 2015 earthquake in eight districts of Nepal under a reconstruction grant of 5,800 million Nepali Rupees.

110. Fastrack has partnered with SBI to introduce smart wearable category of fitness bands with _____ component.

- (a) Emergency
- (b) Nearby Covid - 19 Contacts
- (c) Digital Payments
- (d) Microphone
- (e) All the above

Answer: C

Fastrack has partnered Yono-State Bank of India to enter a smart wearable category of fitness bands with digital payment component under its sub-brand Reflex to strengthen its foothold in the wearables and fitness category for the youth.

This is the second time Titan has tied up with SBI this fiscal to launch a collaborative fitness band.

The collaborative band would be launched in May, Titan said. The Tata-owned company had launched

a similar product in partnership with SBI six months ago under the brand Titan.

111. As per the Opportunity Index 2021, how much percentage of women was negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic?

- (a) 70%
- (b) 79%
- (c) 89%
- (d) 55%
- (e) 49%

Answer: C

The world's largest professional network LinkedIn, has launched the Opportunity Index 2021 report which has found that around 85% of women in India have missed out on raises and promotions because of their gender.

LinkedIn's findings show that 9 in 10 (89%) women state they were negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The LinkedIn Opportunity Index 2021 highlights the difference in perception of available opportunities in the market for men and women in India.

While 37% of India's working women say they get fewer opportunities than men, only 25% of men agree with this. This disparity in perception is also seen in conversations about equal pay, as more women (37%) say they get less pay than men, while only 21% men share this sentiment.

112. By using 'RuPaySoftPoS', Merchants can be able to accept contactless payments of up to

_____ through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smart phones.

- (a) ₹ 20000
- (b) ₹ 50000
- (c) ₹ 10000
- (d) ₹ 25000
- (e) ₹ 5000

Answer: E

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with SBI Payments to announce the launch of 'RuPaySoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants.

This innovative solution has the capability to transform NFC enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to INR 5000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on their smart phones.

This facility can be used on NCMC cards and RuPay Tokenized Card on mobile/ wearable to make payments in a secure and time efficient manner.

113. Which among the following company has introduced 'Business KishtSuraksha' in March 2021 to protect MFIs from natural calamities?

- (a) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (b) ICICI LOMBARD General Insurance
- (c) Edelweiss General Insurance
- (d) Future Generali India Insurance
- (e) HDFC ERGO General Insurance

Answer: E

HDFC ERGO General Insurance has introduced Business KishtSuraksha, a unique cover aimed at protecting the balance sheet of MFIs, financial institutions and banks in the event of a catastrophe or natural disaster.

It aims to limit the impacts on the balance sheet of financial institutions, due to non-payment of EMIs by borrowers, resulting out of listed calamities such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones.

Business Kisht as a product can be customised as per the needs of an individual MFI or financial institution.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company is a 51:49 joint venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) and ERGO International AG; the primary insurance entity of the Munich Re Group of Germany.

The Company announced the completion of the merger of HDFC ERGO Health Insurance (formerly known as Apollo Munich Health Insurance) with HDFC ERGO, which came in to effect on 13 November, 2020.

This merger marked the second successful merger in India's general insurance sector, following the merger of L&T General Insurance in 2017.

114. According to a report from BofA Securities, full gender equality globally can increase the world GDP by up to _____ trillion.

- (a) USD 30 trillion
- (b) USD 28 trillion
- (c) USD 42 trillion

(d) USD 65 trillion

(e) USD 21 trillion

Answer: B

A research team has tabulated the cost of lack of gender diversity and inclusion, and has apparently found out that it will take 257 years to close the gap at the current rate, and not doing this has cost the world a whopping USD 70 trillion since 1990.

The report by economists at BofA Securities noted that full gender equality globally can increase the world GDP by up to USD 28 trillion by 2025 and the loss of human capital wealth due to gender inequality alone is estimated at USD 160.2 trillion.

The report also notes that gender and racial biases lead to persistent labour market disparities and limit the economy, adding closing the gender and race gaps in education and employment would have generated USD 2.6 trillion more in economic output in 2019 and the cumulative gains from 1990 would have been USD 70 trillion at the 2019 dollar rate.

115. Who among the following was attended the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force?

- (a) Manavendra Singh
- (b) RKS Bhadauria
- (c) Harjit Singh Arora
- (d) MSG Menon
- (e) Vibhas Pande

Answer: B

Indian Air Force Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria attended the 70th-anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force.

India has listed out 156 defence equipment that has been cleared for exports which include the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, artillery guns, battle tanks and missiles, anti-tank mines, and explosives.

The exhaustive list includes 19 aeronautical systems, 41 armament, and combat systems, 4 missile systems, 27 electronic and communication systems, 10 life protection items, 4 microelectronic devices, 28 naval systems, 16 Nuclear Biological Chemical equipment NBC and 7 other material.

Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in the Aerobatic Display by Sarang (Advance Light Helicopter), Surya Kiran (Hawks), Tejas Fighter Aircraft, Tejas Trainer, and the Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

A total of 23 aircrafts of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy participated in the event.

116. India has sent a consignment of 1000 MT of rice to Madagascar by using which among the following Indian Naval Ships?

- (a) INS Talwar
- (b) INS Shardul
- (c) INS Jalashwa
- (d) INS Airavat
- (e) INS Magar

Answer: C

India has sent a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice and 100,000 hydroxychloroquine tablets to Madagascar in response to the east African country's appeal for assistance to deal with a humanitarian crisis triggered by a severe drought. The humanitarian assistance was delivered on-board Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa, which will leave with the food and medical assistance.

In September 2018, a consignment of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice was delivered on-board an Indian naval vessel to Madagascar.

Indian Navy was the first to respond when Cyclone Diane struck Madagascar and prompt assistance was delivered under Operation Vanilla by INS Airavat in January 2020.

In March 2020, INS Shardul visited the port of Antsiranana and delivered 600 tonnes of rice as HADR assistance to Madagascar from India for dealing with heavy floods in the Northern region of Madagascar.

117. Which among the following has entered into a MoU with the Army's Northern Command providing innovative solutions through exhaustive research and development?

- (a) IIT Roorkee
- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) IIT Kanpur
- (d) IIT Jammu
- (e) IIT Madras

Answer: D

The Indian Institute of Technology Jammu entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Army's Northern Command providing innovative solutions through exhaustive research and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt Gen S Harimohanlyer represented the Headquarters Northern Command, while Director Manoj Singh Gaur signed the MoU on behalf of IIT Jammu.

The scope of the MoU includes research and product development collaborations, which will empower field units of the Northern Command (Indian Army) with the technical excellence and translational research initiatives of IIT Jammu.

IIT Jammu aims to become a strong resource that can help solve the Indian Army's unique problems by providing innovative solutions through exhaustive research and development.

118. A virtual summit between India and Sweden. It would be _____ interaction between the two leaders since 2015.

- (a) 3rd
- (b) 4th
- (c) 5th
- (d) 6th
- (e) 7th

Answer: C

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden H.E. Stefan Löfven.

It was the fifth interaction between the two leaders since 2015. The key areas of discussion were Healthcare, Biotech, Smart Cities, Smart Grid, Circular Economy & Artificial Intelligence (AI).

119. How many MOUs were signed between DG Shipping, Govt. of India and the stakeholders?

- (a) 55
- (b) 42
- (c) 61
- (d) 68
- (e) 49

Answer: C

'THE ROAD SHOW & MoU SIGNING CEREMONY' was organized by the Directorate General (DG) Shipping.

A total of 61 MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) with estimated investment of more than Rs.20,000 crore, were signed between the Stakeholders and the DG Shipping, Govt. of India. Indian seafarers' apex body NUSI has signed six pacts worth Rs 225 crore with shipping regulator DGS. The six MoUs are to the tune of Rs 225 crore in a span of five years.

These pacts with the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) include a financial assistance for COVID-19 vaccination and investments in training in skill development to seamen, the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI).

As many as six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) have been signed with Director General of

Shipping Amitabh Kumar under the initiative of the NUSI and NUSI Trust, which will be an important part of the Maritime India Summit.

120. PM Modi addressed the 2nd edition of Maritime Summit in March 2021. India aims to operationalize 23 waterways by which year?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2032
- (d) 2036
- (e) 2030

Answer: E

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government aims to operationalise 23 waterways by 2030.

The capacity of major ports which was around 870 million tonnes per annum in 2014, has increased to around 1550 million tonnes annually now.

India has as many as 189 lighthouses across its vast coastline. We have drawn up a programme for developing tourism in the land adjacent to 78 lighthouses.

The key objective of this initiative is to enhance development of the existing lighthouses and its surrounding areas into unique maritime tourism landmarks.

PM Narendra launched the Sagar Manthan- Mercantile Maritime Domain Awareness Centre and e-book of maritime vision 2030, which is aiming to make the Indian maritime industry at par with the top global benchmark in the next 10 years.

121. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 2nd Maritime India Summit. Which among the following was the Industrial partner of the summit?

- (a) ASSOCHAM
- (b) FCI
- (c) NASSCOM
- (d) FICCI
- (e) Invest India

Answer: D

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 2nd Maritime India Summit.

The event has been organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and waterways jointly with EY as the knowledge partner and FICCI as the Industrial Partner.

The Maritime India Summit provided a powerful platform for international collaboration and brought in partner countries for the mutual exchange of opportunities and knowledge.

Denmark was the Partner country. Prime Minister also launched e-book of maritime vision 2030, which is aiming to make the Indian maritime industry at par with the top global benchmark in the next 10 years.

122. 'Path pradarshak' has been launched for providing free coaching facility by which among the following state government?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Bihar

(e) Assam

Answer: B

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'path pradarshak' free coaching facility across the state under the 'Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana'. With an aim to provide a suitable atmosphere to the aspirants of various competitive exams in Uttar Pradesh.

"Abhyudaya Yojana is a 'path pradarshak' for holistic development. When about 30,000 competitive exam prospects of Uttar Pradesh were stuck in Kota and Prayagraj due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown, they decided to have similar coaching facilities in the state so that we can provide a suitable atmosphere to the aspirants.

123. ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and the Odisha signed a MoU for setting up a 12 million tonne integrated steel plant with an investment of _____ Crore.

- (a) ₹ 25000 Crore
- (b) ₹ 50000 Crore
- (c) ₹ 30000 Crore
- (d) ₹ 15000 Crore
- (e) ₹ 35000 Crore

Answer: B

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and the Odisha government signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up a 12 million tonne integrated steel plant.

Odisha government had signed an MoU with AM/NS India for a 12 million tonne per annum (mtpa)

integrated steel plant in Kendrapara district, with an investment of Rs 50,000 crore, giving a major boost to "Invest in Odisha".

124. Garasain has been declared as the 3rd commissary of the Uttarakhand state. At present, how many districts are there between Kumaon & Garhwal divisions?

- (a) 11
- (b) 13
- (c) 14
- (d) 18
- (e) 9

Answer: B

Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Trivendra Singh Rawat presented the State Budget 2021-22 with an outlay of INR 57,400 Crores.

The budget estimate for 2021-22 was 7.23% higher than the estimate for the current fiscal (2020-21).

CM declared Garasain as the 3rd commissary of the state including Chamoli, Rudrapur, Almora & Bageshwar districts.

At present, there are 13 districts between Kumaon & Garhwal divisions.

INR 25 Crore has been allocated to Chief Minister Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana under which green fodder would be provided to women at cheap price from ration & fair price shop.

125. Which among the following state has been observed 2021 as 'Year of Education' to improve the quality of education?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Nagaland

Answer: A

Arunachal Pradesh's (Finance Minister Chowna Mein presented Rs 578.50 crore deficit state budget for FY2021-22 in Itanagar.

The fiscal deficit of the state has decreased to 2.19% from 2.28% in FY21.

The state has observed year 2021 as 'Year of Education' to improve the quality of education.

Rs 300 cr allocated towards the initiation of 'Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)'.

1st All girl Sainik School would be set up at Tawang after the approval from Ministry of Defence.

The SangeyLhaden Sports Academy, Chimpur, Itanagar declared as Khelo India State Centre of Excellence under the Khelo India scheme.

126.RashtriyaSurakshaDiwas is celebrated in India every year on which date?

- (a) March 2
- (b) March 3
- (c) March 4
- (d) March 5
- (e) March 6

Answer: C

RashtriyaSurakshaDiwas or National Security Day was celebrated on March 4.

The National Security Day is celebrated to promote and increase security forces. The Day reminds the citizens about their fundamental duties towards the country.

The National Security Council was established on March 4, 1998 by the then Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee.

The Prime Minister of India heads the NSC.

127. National Safety Day is observed on March 4 every year.National Safety Day was first observed on the foundation day of the National Safety Council. It was set up by which among the following ministries?

- (a)Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (b)Ministry of Finance
- (c)Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (d)Ministry of Urban Development
- (e)Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: E

National Safety Day is observed on March 4 every year.National Safety Day was first observed on the foundation day of the National Safety Council in 1972.

It was set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 4 March 1965 to develop and bring into practise a voluntary routine on Safety, Health, and Environment.

National Safety Day 2021 objective is to rejuvenate the commitment of the citizens to work safely and to ensure the integration and running of a safe and healthy lifestyle and work environment.

This year's theme is 'SadakSuraksha (Road Safety).'

The vision and mission of the National Safety Council (NSC) of India is the successful running of the safety, health and environment (SHE) campaign.

128. PNB Housing Finance has tied up with YES Bank to facilitate retail home loans at competitive rates. What is the applicable minimum LCR to all non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of ₹10,000 crore & above from December 1, 2023?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 60%
- (c) 70%
- (d) 40%
- (e) 65%

Answer: C

PNB Housing Finance has tied up with Yes Bank for a strategic co-lending service that will facilitate retail home loans at competitive rates.

PNB Housing and Yes Bank would synergise capabilities to provide an efficient and seamless experience to existing and new retail home loan customers, PNB Housing Finance said in a regulatory filing.

In 2020, the RBI allowed the co-origination of housing finance companies (HFCs) with banks to enable non-banking finance companies and other banking institutions to provide mutually beneficial risk assessment services.

HFCs shall maintain a liquidity buffer in terms of LCR, which will promote resilience

of HFCs to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring that they have sufficient

High Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA) to survive any acute liquidity stress scenario lasting for 30 days.

Guidelines on LCR will be applicable to HFCs as per the

following timeline:

All non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of

₹10,000 crore & above, and

all deposit taking HFCs irrespective of their asset size:

From	December 1, 2021	December 1, 2022	December 1, 2023	December 1, 2024	December 1, 2025
Minimum LCR	50%	60%	70%	85%	100%

All non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of

₹5,000 crore and above, but

less than ₹10,000 crore:

From	December 1, 2021	December 1, 2022	December 1, 2023	December 1, 2024	December 1, 2025
Minimum LCR	30%	50%	60%	85%	100%

129. Fourth Partner Energy has partnered with Indika Energy to expand its international footprint. Indika Energy is based at which place?

- (a) Iran
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Saudi Arabia
- (e) Croatia

Answer: C

Fourth Partner Energy has partnered with Indonesia's energy major, Indika Energy to expand its international footprint.

The joint venture company,

Empat Mitra Indika Tenaga Surya (EMITS), would have offered integrated solar, storage and EV charging solutions to Indonesia's businesses.

Indika Energy holds 51% and Fourth Partner Energy 49% stake in EMITS.

The partnership was facilitated by TPG's impact investment arm, The Rise Fund – which is the majority shareholder in Fourth Partner Energy.

130. The book titled "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power: _____ Battlegrounds" has been authored by Rajiv Malhotra.

- (a) 4
- (b) 3
- (c) 5
- (d) 6
- (e) 2

Answer: C

Rajiv Malhotra, has authored a new book titled "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power: 5 Battlegrounds".

The book features both the positive and negative impacts of AI. The book is published by Rupa Publications.

The book discusses the effects of AI on India and its impacts on our futures and it also looks into how the AI would modify the aspects of lives at international, national to personal level.

131. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change report showed that the revised climate action plans would only deliver a combined emissions reduction of 0.5% from 2010 levels by which year?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2030
- (c) 2035
- (d) 2042
- (e) 2040

Answer: B

UN Chief described 2021 as a "make or break year" following the release of a UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) report analyzing the updated climate action plans submitted by 75 nations ahead of November's COP26 climate summit which found that current policies won't come close to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The UN Chief stated that now is the time the global coalition committed to net-zero emissions by 2050 is

growing, across governments, businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society.

According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the population must reduce its 2030 CO2 emissions by about 45 per cent from 2010 levels and reach net zero by 2050 to ensure this temperature limit goal is reached.

The report showed that the revised climate action plans -- which cover 40% of countries party to the 2015 Paris Agreement that account for 30% of global emissions -- would only deliver a combined emissions reduction of 0.5% from 2010 levels by 2030.

132. 'Global Framework for Reopening Schools' was adapted to the Indian context. It has been developed by which among the following organizations?

- (a) All of these
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) World Bank
- (d) World Food Programme
- (e) UNESCO

Answer: A

1.5 million schools remained closed during 2020 due to the coronavirus lockdown, which saw the study opportunities of 247 million children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools in India damaged, a UNICEF report titled 'Education: From disruption to recovery' has found.

The report stated that online education is not an option for many children, as only one in four has access to digital devices and internet connectivity.

Pre-COVID-19 crisis, only a quarter of households (24%) in India had access to the internet and there is a large rural-urban and gender divide.

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, World Bank and the World Food Programme have developed a 'Global Framework for Reopening Schools', which was adapted to the Indian context.

The Ministry of Education has finalised guidelines, drafted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), for safe school re-opening with emphasis on promoting regular handwashing and safe hygiene practices of students, teachers and other school staff and sanitisation of schools, with adequate supplies and facilities as well as physical distancing strategies.

133. RPower and JERA have achieved the financial closure for phase-1 of 745 MW project in Bangladesh with the assistance of _____.

- (a) Bank of China
- (b) EBRD
- (c) ADB
- (d) JBIC
- (e) Both (c) and (d)

Answer: E

Reliance Power (RPower) and JERA joint venture project company has achieved the financial closure for phase-1 of 745 MW gas based combined cycle power project in Meghnaghat, Bangladesh with group of lenders —Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

RPower's wholly owned subsidiary Samalkot Power has received the approval from the US Export Import Bank to sell one module of equipment (Module 1) to Samsung C&T Corporation of South Korea, who is the EPC contractor for the project, for around Rs 1,540 crore.

RPower had in July 2019 restructured the Rs 2,430 crore Samalkot loan from US Exim Bank by amortising repayment schedule into bullet repayments and extended the final loan maturity to June 2022 at an ultra-low interest rate of only 2.65% per annum.

134. In the Food Waste Index Report 2021, UN suggested that _____% of total global food production may be wasted.

- (a) 14%
- (b) 16%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 17%
- (e) 19%

Answer: D

The Food Waste Index Report 2021, from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and partner organisation WRAP, said that around 931 million tonnes of food waste was generated in 2019, 61% of which came from households, 26% from food service and 13% from retail.

The weight roughly equals that of 23 million fully loaded 40-tonne trucks — bumper-to-bumper, enough to circle the Earth seven times.

UN suggests that 17% of total global food production may be wasted.

In India, the household food waste estimate is 50 kg per capita per year, or 68,760,163 tonnes a year.

The household food waste estimate in the US is 59 kg per capita per year, or 19,359,951 tonnes a year, while for China these estimates are 64 kg per capita per year or 91,646,213 tonnes a year.

135. As per the Food Waste Index Report 2021, Food Services wasted _____% of food at the consumption stage of the supply chain.

- (a) 11%
- (b) 2%
- (c) 6%
- (d) 9%
- (e) 5%

Answer: E

Food Waste Index Report 2021 revealed that between food wasted in homes, restaurants and shops, 17 per cent of all food is just dumped.

It was produced by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and partner organization WRAP.

Some food is also lost on farms and in supply chains, indicating that overall a third of food is never eaten.

The study represents the most comprehensive food waste data collection, analysis and modelling ever done, and offers a methodology for countries to accurately measure loss.

The study reveals that households discard 11 per cent of food at the consumption stage of the supply

chain, while food services and retail outlets waste five and two per cent, respectively.

136. Which among the following ministry has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas with an IIT?

- (a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- (c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) Ministry of Human Resource Development

Answer: C

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with IIT Bombay has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas.

The Centre is at an advanced stage of preparation and will come into effect as the new session begins in 2021.

Prakash Javadekar addressed the virtual exhibition and announced the prize of "KhelKhel Mein", a Pan Maharashtra toy/game project design competition.

The solution is to create our own games and apps in line with #MakeInIndia for the world so that these are adopted the world over for their basic values that are an integral part of our Indian ethos.

137. Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with _____ based MathWorks to strengthen the deep-tech startup ecosystem of India.

- (a) UK
- (b) USA

- (c) Russia
- (d) Japan
- (e) The Netherlands

Answer: B

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has partnered with USA based MathWorks to strengthen the deep-tech startup ecosystem of India.

Under this partnership, startups supported by AIM will get access to steps of the art

MathWorks tools including MATLAB and Simulink, engineering support, online training, access to MATLAB community, and opportunities for developing awareness of the startup products through their domestic and global reach.

These tools have been adopted by many industries across application areas including smart electronic and engineering designs, manufacturing, electrification, simulation, wireless communications, etc. AIM and MathWorks plan to organize a series of knowledge sharing sessions for incubators and startups to train and support them on various relevant topics.

AIM Mission Director - R. Ramanan

138. TEPC has organized India Telecom 2021 in March 2021 under Market Access Initiative Scheme. TEPC has been set up by which among the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (b) Ministry of Communications
- (c) Ministry of Commerce & Industry

(d) Both (a) & (c)

(e) Both (b) & (c)

Answer: E

TEPC has been set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Communications, Government of India to promote and develop of Export of Telecom Equipment and Services.

TEPC (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council) has organized India Telecom 2021' - an Exclusive International Business Expo was held virtually under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce, Government of India and with support of Department of Telecommunications & Ministry of External Affairs.

139.Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched CSIR's Societal Portal. The portal has been developed by CSIR with the help of which among the following?

(a) NITI Aayog

(b) MyGov

(c) Invest India

(d) MeiTy

(e) Both (a) & (d)

Answer: B

Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched CSIR's Societal Portal along with the Android App. This portal has been developed by CSIR Team with the help of MyGov Team.

The Portal is to facilitate the public to submit the societal problems that can be resolved using S&T interventions.

This is the first step in terms of seeking inputs on challenges and problems being faced by different stake holders in society.

140.Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched "CSIR Floriculture Mission". India shares only _____ % of global floriculture market.

(a) 0.2%

(b) 0.45%

(c) 0.15%

(d) 0.6%

(e) 0.9%

Answer: D

CSIR Floriculture Mission has been approved for implementation in 21 States and Union Territories of India wherein available knowledgebase in CSIR Institutes will be utilized and leveraged to help Indian farmers and industry re-position itself to meet the import requirements.

This Mission is being implemented in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Directorate of Floriculture; Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC); Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce; Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED); Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Universities.

India has diverse agro-climatic and edaphic conditions, and rich plant diversity, it shares only 0.6

% of global floriculture market. At least 1200 million USD worth of floriculture products are being imported by India every year from different countries.

141. What edition of NCAER Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) was released in March 2021?

- (a) 1st
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 3rd
- (d) 4th
- (e) 5th

Answer: B

The second edition of NCAER Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021 revealed that almost all States and Union Territories have shown an improvement in their efforts to digitize land records compared to the previous year.

NLRSI 2021 is based on data collected over 2020-21 on two aspects of the supply of land records - the extent of digitisation of land records and the quality of these land records.

Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been ranked as top performers in digitalisation of land records by Delhi-based think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

Out of the 32 states and UTs ranked, only Assam and Lakshadweep Islands saw a decline in points from last year.

As a result, the mean N-LRSI score across the 32 states and UTs has shown an increase of 16.6 per cent in 2020-21, from 38.7 in 2019-20 to 45.1 in 2020-21 (out of the maximum score of 100 points).

142. Which city has emerged as the highest second municipality in the Million+ category as per the Municipal Performance Index 2020?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Surat
- (c) Indore
- (d) Varanasi
- (e) Vadodara

Answer: B

The assessment framework under MPI 2020 has classified municipalities based on their population- Million+ (municipalities having over a million population) and Less than Million Population. In the Million+ category, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality, followed by Surat and Bhopal. In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader, followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

143 According to the recently released Ease of Living Index 2020, which city was ranked the highest in ease of living in the Less than Million category?

- (a) Bhubaneswar
- (b) Kakinada
- (c) Salem
- (d) Gurugram

(e) None of the above

Answer: E

The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people.

111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020. The analysis categorises them into Million+ populated cities (those with a population of more than a million) and Less than Million populated cities (those with a population of less than a million) along with all the cities under the Smart Cities Program.

Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the Million+ category, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, Vadodara, Indore, and Greater Mumbai. In the Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living, followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

144. The methodology and approach for the revised edition of EoLI and MPI were released by MoHUA in February 2019. How many indicators have been considered for identifying the Ease of Living Index?

- (a) 55
- (b) 47
- (c) 43
- (d) 49
- (e) 51

Answer: D

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Housing and Urban Affairs announced the release of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 and the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020.

The methodology and approach for the revised edition of EoLI and MPI were released by MoHUA in February 2019.

The EoLI report aims to measure the well-being of Indian citizens in 111 cities, across the pillars of Quality of Life, Economic-ability, and Sustainability, with 49 indicators under 13 categories.

The EoLI primarily seeks to accelerate India's urban development outcomes, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The findings from the index can help guide evidence-based policymaking. It also promotes healthy competition among cities, encouraging them to learn from their peers and advance their development trajectory.

145. How many cities were participated in the assessment exercise of Ease of Living Index that was conducted in 2020?

- (a) 100
- (b) 106
- (c) 111
- (d) 125
- (e) 132

Answer: C

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Housing and Urban Affairs announced the release of the final rankings of Ease of Living Index

(EoLI) 2020 and the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020.

The rankings under Ease of Living Index 2020 were announced for cities with a population of more than a million, and cities with less than a million people. 111 cities participated in the assessment exercise that was conducted in 2020.

The analysis categorises them into Million+ populated cities (those with a population of more than a million) and Less than Million populated cities (those with a population of less than a million) along with all the cities under the Smart Cities Program.

It examines the outcomes that lead to existing living conditions through pillars of Quality of Life, Economic Ability, Sustainability, spanning across 13 categories of -Education, Health, Housing and Shelter, WASH and SWM, Mobility, Safety and Security, Recreation, Level of Economic Development, Economic Opportunities, Environment, Green Spaces, and Buildings, Energy Consumption, and City Resilience, that account for 70% of the overall outcome.

146. What edition of QS World University Rankings has been released recently in March 2021?

- (a) 14th
- (b) 15th
- (c) 16th
- (d) 17th
- (e) 20th

Answer: D

17th edition of the QS World University Rankings has been released.

QS World University Rankings 2021 showed a decline in the rankings of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Six parameters and their weightage for the evaluation are Academic Reputation (40%), Employer Reputation (10%), Faculty/Student Ratio (20%), Citations per faculty (20%), International Faculty Ratio (5%), International Student Ratio (5%). The 'QS World University Rankings' is an annual publication of university rankings that comprises the global overall and subject rankings.

Before, it was called Times Higher Education – QS World University rankings. The name changed since 2010.

The O P Jindal Global University is the only private university to have entered the top-100 club.

For Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) has secured a place in the 151-c200 band. It also ranked for Mathematics in the 451-500 band, and Business and Management Studies in the 451-500cband. For Life Science and Medical subject, AIIMS (All India Institute Of Medical Sciences) has bagged 248th rank whilecDelhi University and PGIMR Chandigarh have secured their places in 401-450 and 451-500 spots.

The Vellore Institute of Technology also ranked the top 300 for Electrical and Electronic Engineering (251-300 band)

147 According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021, which among the following institute has been ranked 44th rank for Minerals and Mining Engineering?

- (a) IIT Kanpur
- (b) IIT Kharagpur
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) Delhi University
- (e) Anna University

Answer: B

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal stated that the reforms made by the government in higher education have improved representation of Indian institutions in globally acclaimed rankings. 12 Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021. IIT Madras has been ranked 30th in the world for Petroleum Engineering, IIT Bombay has been ranked 41st and IIT Kharagpur 44th for Minerals and Mining Engineering, and the University of Delhi has been ranked 50th in the world for Development Studies.

HRD Minister stated that women constituted 48.6 % of the total enrolment.

The 'National Education Policy' aims at transforming Indian higher education into a knowledge superpower in the 21st century.

12 Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021.

148. In 2021, 12 Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings. Which among the following is NOT one of them?

- (a) IIT Madras
- (b) IIT Kanpur
- (c) IIT Guwahati
- (d) IIM Ahmedabad
- (e) Anna University

Answer: B

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal stated that the reforms made by the government in higher education have improved representation of Indian institutions in globally acclaimed rankings. 12 Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021. These are IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O P Jindal University.

149. What is the recommended rate of interest for the FY 2020-21 by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation?

- (a) 8.4%
- (b) 8%
- (c) 8.6%
- (d) 8.5%
- (e) 7.9%

Answer: D

The Central Board of Trustees of the retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

(EPFO) has recommended that the interest rate for the financial year 2020-21 be retained at 8.5 % (Same as last year).

It is the lowest offered by EPFO in eight years.

The board meeting chaired by Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar in Srinagar discussed the investment portfolio of the retirement fund body, and made its recommendation keeping the returns in view.

The retirement fund body saw high withdrawals and lower contributions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Until December 31, the EPFO had settled 56.79 lakh claims worth Rs 14,310.21 crore provided under the advance facility.

The recommended interest rate for FY21 needs to be approved by the Finance Ministry, following which it would be notified by the Labour Ministry.

150. India has launched a 90-day scientific cruise mission to sample water, sediments, planktons. The mission has started from which place?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Bhubaneswar
- (d) Visakhapatnam
- (e) Kolkata

Answer: D

India has launched a 90-day scientific cruise mission to sample water, sediments, planktons and various organisms in search of genomes and micro-nutrients.

It might be helpful in strengthening country's research into commercial biotechnology applications including anticancer treatments as well as help understand new climate change patterns.

CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has been commissioned to conduct genome and proteome mapping (micro nutrients) present inside single-cell organisms in the Indian ocean.

The 90-day long expedition took off with 30 scientists, starting from Vishakhapatnam, went up to 30 degree, touching the waters between Australia and Maldives, and then circling back to Goa, covering 9000 nautical miles by mid-day

The Scientists will go up to six kms into the Indian Ocean to collect samples.

The main aim of the mission is to identifying & characterizing of genes and proteins to understand the cellular level operations of organisms in the Indian Ocean.

151. Which among the following has collaborated with SahiPay to promote nano-entrepreneurship among youth in the financial service sector?

- (a) CII
- (b) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- (c) NSDC
- (d) WorldSkills
- (e) Both (a) & (c)

Answer: C

The National Skill Development Corporation collaborated with SahiPay, an Android-based integrated platform developed by Manipal Business

Solutions to promote nano-entrepreneurship amongst youth in the financial services sector. The candidates would be provided access to free digital skilling on 'Online Entrepreneurship Program' through NSDC's eSkill India portal.

eskill platform is a digital skilling initiative from NSDC that aggregates digital learning resources through various Indian and global knowledge partnerships, to explore online skill-courses anytime, anywhere for the Indian youth across 10 Indian languages.

152. Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2021 week was celebrated between Jan 1 to Jan 7. BPPI is the implementing agency of the PMBJP. BPPI was established in which year?

- (a) 2007
- (b) 2006
- (c) 2008
- (d) 2005
- (e) 2009

Answer: C

Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2021 week was celebrated between Jan 1 to Jan 7.

A medicine under PMBJP is priced on the principle of a maximum of 50% of the average price of top three branded medicines.

Therefore, the price of Jan Aushadhi Medicines is cheaper at least by 50% and in some cases, by 90% of the market price of branded medicines.

In the current financial year 2020-21, PMBJP achieved sales of Rs. 593.84 crores (at MRP) till 5th

March, 2021. This has led to savings of approximately Rs. 3600 crores of the common citizens of the country.

The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of the PMBJP.

It was established in December 2008 under the Department of Pharmaceuticals and has been registered as an independent society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

153. The Starship SN10 spacecraft has successfully tested in March 3 2021 by which among the following?

- (a) SpaceX
- (b) NASA
- (c) ISRO
- (d) JAXA
- (e) CNSA

Answer: A

SpaceX successfully tested its Starship SN10 prototype rocket after two recent failed attempts.

The rocket prototype was launched to an altitude of 10,000 kilometers and then landed back on the ground. However, the rocket exploded about six minutes after landing.

The test launch is deemed successful because the goal was to gather information on how the flaps work to control the rocket when it is horizontal as it is falling back to earth.

154. HDFC Bank announced the launch of mentoring programme 'SmartUpUnnati'. The SmartUp

programme was an online mentoring platform for banking start-ups launched by HDFC in which year?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2018
- (e) 2016

Answer: D

HDFC Bank announced the launch of mentoring programme 'SmartUpUnnati' to support women entrepreneurs.

Under this, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank with expertise spanning domains would mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals over the next one year.

This programme is available only to exist customers. 'SmartUpUnnati' will initially target more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs associated with the bank's SmartUp programme.

HDFC Bank's SmartUpUnnati is the perfect platform for them to benefit from the experience of our women leaders.

It would provide them access to mentorship, expand their vision, and enable them to scale up their businesses by widening their horizons

The SmartUp programme was an online mentoring platform for banking start-ups launched by HDFC in 2018.

155. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a Memorandum of Understanding with _____ on a convergence model for the

implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector under the Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme.

- (a) National Institute of Fashion Technology
- (b) National Jute Board
- (c) Textiles Committee
- (d) The Central Silk Board
- (e) Commissioner of Payments

Answer: D

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Silk Board under the Ministry of Textiles on a convergence model for the implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector under the Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW) has been implementing the Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) since 2016-17 as part of the recommendation of the National Agroforestry Policy 2014. India was the first country to have such a comprehensive policy which was launched at the World Agroforestry Congress held in Delhi in February 2014. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 20 States and 2 UTs.

SMAF aims to encourage farmers to plant multi-purpose trees together with the agriculture crops for climate resilience and an additional source of income to the farmers, as well as enhanced feedstock to inter alia wood-based and herbal industry.

156. A two-day GurMahotsav or Jaggery Festival has been celebrated in which among the following place?

- (a) Vadodara
- (b) Varanasi
- (c) Jhansi
- (d) Bhopal
- (e) Lucknow

Answer: E

In Uttar Pradesh, a GurMahotsav or jaggery festival was celebrated in Lucknow.

The state government aims to provide maximum benefit of their products to the farmers and for the purpose, the Mahotsav is being organised.

At the jaggery festival, farmers are exhibiting and selling different types of jaggery and jaggery products. The aim of this event is to motivate the jaggery producers to make high-quality jaggery and its products and create awareness about health benefits of jaggery.

157. Matam Venkata Rao has been appointed as the MD & CEO of Central Bank. He was the Executive Director of which among the following banks?

- (a) Bank of Baroda
- (b) Indian Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Bank of India
- (e) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer: C

Public-sector lender Canara Bank's Executive Director Matam Venkata Rao has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of Central Bank of India.

Rao's appointment in the Central Bank of India would be effective from the date of assumption of office on or after March 1, 2021,

In May 2020, the Banks Board Bureau had recommended Rao to be the new MD & CEO of Central Bank of India.

Rao's appointment is in lieu of M D Pallav Mohapatra, who retired as the MD & CEO of Central Bank of India on February 28, 2021.

158. N.S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta has died recently. He belonged to which state?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: B

Well-known Kannada poet, critic and translator N.S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta passed away in Bengaluru. Dr. Bhatta translated 50 sonnets of William Shakespeare, poetry and works of T.S. Eliot and Yeats into Kannada. He also translated several plays.

He compiled and edited the works of the saint-poet Shishunala Sharif, which took his popularity to beyond North Karnataka.

He won several awards including Karnataka SahityaAkademi award, MastiPrashasti and Kannada Rajyotsava Award.

He taught Kannada literature in Bengaluru university until he retired. Some of his best known songs are Thayeninnamadilali, Maregeninthukayuthiruvakaruluyaavudu, BaarenannaDeepika among others.

159. As per the announcement from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the fellowships have been awarded to _____ overseas scholars from six countries for doing research in science and technology at Indian institutes and universities.

- (a) 36
- (b) 42
- (c) 40
- (d) 45
- (e) 48

Answer: C

The Ministry of Science and technology informed that the fellowships have been awarded to 40 overseas scholars from six countries for doing research in science and technology at Indian institutes and universities.

As a part of India's initiatives to engage with neighbouring countries to develop S&T partnerships, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India has launched ISRF Programme for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand researchers to

work in Indian Universities and Research Institutions.

160. Amazon India has partnered with UN Women to launch a special storefront for women-owned small businesses. Smritilrani stated that out of 41,000 startups in India, _____ of them are women.

- (a) 35%
- (b) 44%
- (c) 55%
- (d) 65%
- (e) 45%

Answer: B

Amazon India has partnered with UN Women to launch a special storefront for women-owned small businesses.

The storefront will offer over 80,000 unique products, including selection like organic items, handmade crafts, healthy snacks, among other things.

Over 450 women-led businesses and over 280,000 women entrepreneurs and artisans from Amazon Saheli are likely to be benefited from the launch of this storefront.

Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, SmritiZubinIrani who was also present at the virtual launch of the storefront, said out of 41,000 startups in India, 44 percent of them are women, reinforcing the role that women-led businesses are playing in India.

161. How many national parks in the state of Madhya Pradesh have got the night safaris?

- (a) 3
- (b) 2
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: A

Madhya Pradesh state has introduced night safaris in three of the national parks.

Tourists can book their night safaris on the Wildlife Safari Reservation portal that is operated by the forest department of the state.

The night safari can be experienced by tourists at the Bandhavgarh National Park. The safari would be held in the buffer zone, where tourists could come across some spotted deer. Bandhavgarh National Park is known for the highest density of Royal Bengal Tigers population worldwide.

At the Kanha National Park, the night safari explorers could see these beautiful creatures roaming about at night.

The Pench National Park would host the night safaris, offering tourists a chance to see animals like Jackal, wild boar or some beautiful nocturnal birds.

162. Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Ashok Gulati as additional independent director. He has served as the Chairman of which among the following?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) RBI

- (c) CACP
- (d) ICRIER
- (e) All the above

Answer: C

Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed agricultural economist Ashok Gulati as additional independent director.

The term of Gulati has also been appointed by the Supreme Court to a four-member panel, is for five years.

Gulati is an MA and PhD from Delhi School of Economics and is currently the Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

He has served as the Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India (2011-2014), and member of the RBI's Central Board of Directors and at the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development,

163. According to the Reserve Bank of India's Report on Currency and Finance for 2020-21, maintaining the inflation target at _____% into the medium-term is appropriate.

- (a) 2.5%
- (b) 3%
- (c) 3.5%
- (d) 4%
- (e) 2%

Answer: D

According to the Reserve Bank of India's Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for 2020-21, maintaining the inflation target at 4 per cent into the medium-term is appropriate.

This observation is significant as it comes in the backdrop of the upcoming review of the inflation target of 4 per cent, with upper tolerance level of 6 per cent and lower tolerance level of 2 per cent.

The comment is based on the observed softening in trend inflation since 2014 and a decline in inflation persistence.

164. The first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the USA. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of _____.

- (a) Parvati
- (b) Kashmir
- (c) Assam
- (d) Chenab
- (e) Lug

Answer: C

The first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the USA.

Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.

The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food.

The red rice is being sourced by leading rice exporter – LT Foods.

The flagging off ceremony of the export consignments was carried out by APEDA Chairman Dr M. Angamuthu at Sonapat, Haryana.

APEDA has promoting rice exports through collaborations with various stakeholders in the value chains.

The government had set up the Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF), under the aegis of the APEDA.

REPF has representations from rice industry, exporters, officials from APEDA, ministry of commerce and directors of agriculture from major rice producing states including West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

165. Reserve Bank of India has announced the purchase of government securities worth ₹ 20000 Crore. Presently, Treasury Bills are issued in _____ tenors.

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: B

Reserve bank of India announced that it would purchase government securities worth ₹20,000 crore and sell securities worth ₹15,000 crore.

This makes it a combination of Operation Twist of ₹15,000 crore and open market operations of ₹5000 crore, a sign that RBI is open to using all tools to stabilize yields.

The yield on the 10-year benchmark bond closed at 6.22% after touching a 11-month high of 6.26%.

Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day. Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.

166. How many tourist sites have been selected under the initiative of Swachh Tourist Destinations?

- (a) 11
- (b) 10
- (c) 12
- (d) 14
- (e) 15

Answer: C

The central government has selected a total of 12 tourist sites spanning across nine states and UTs under the initiative of Swachh Tourist Destinations.

The sanitation and renovation efforts will be spearheaded by the newly formed Ministry of Jal Shakti in a bid to increase the footfall of not only domestic tourists but also international tourists at the famous sites.

The twelve sites include Ajanta Caves, SanchiStupa, Jaisalmer fort, Golconda Fort, Sun temple, Dal lake among others, as per the release issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The 12 sites have been selected under phase IV of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) project which is a sub-mission under Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G).

The complete list of twelve tourist sites which have been chosen under the initiative.

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

167. India's first integrated machine tool park has come up in Karnataka. The government of India has set an ambitious target of achieving \$5 trillion economy by 2025, of which the manufacturing sector contribution will be around _____ trillion.

- (a) \$1 trillion
- (b) \$ 2 trillion
- (c) \$ 1.5 trillion
- (d) \$ 0.5 trillion
- (e) \$ 2.5 trillion

Answer: A

Karnataka has India's first integrated machine tool park.

The park, spread over 530 acres at Vasanthnarasapura, about 90 kms from Bengaluru, is developed under the scheme of Enhancement of

Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector (ECICGS), jointly by the state government and the Department of Heavy Industries, Government of India.

The Indian Machine Tools Manufacturers Association (IMTMA) has provided the technical assistance to the country's biggest machine tool park which is ready for occupation.

Both the state and central governments have set up a special purpose vehicle named Tumakuru Machine Tool Park (TMTP) to develop the new industrial cluster. It has 158 ready-to-build industrial plots of various dimensions.

The government of India has set an ambitious target of achieving \$5 trillion economy by 2025, of which the manufacturing sector contribution will be around \$1 trillion.

168. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released the ratings for 18,668 km of completed four and six lane stretches of National Highways covering _____ toll plazas.

- (a) 654
- (b) 785
- (c) 254
- (d) 343
- (e) 196

Answer: D

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has released the ratings for 18,668 km of completed four and six lane stretches of National Highways covering 343 toll plazas.

This has been done by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under MoRTH, which has taken initiative to improve its accountability towards road users, who pay user fee to use National Highways.

169. Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV have been merged into a single entity, SANSAD TV. Who among the following has been appointed as the CEO of SANSAD TV?

- (a) Rajan Kumar Sharma
- (b) Surya Prakash
- (c) Ravi Capoor
- (d) Vinay Kumar Chandra
- (e) Shashank Patil

Answer: C

Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV have been merged into a single entity, SANSAD TV.

Retired IAS officer Ravi Capoor has been appointed the CEO of the new integrated channel for a period of one year.

The channels are being integrated into single entity, it will function on two platforms during the parliament sessions -- one to telecast live proceedings of Lok Sabha and the other of Rajya Sabha.

The channel will be on one single platform having enriched bilingual contents (Hindi and English).

In November 2019, after deliberations between Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, a committee headed by former Prasar Bharati Chairman Surya Prakash was formed to work out integration of the two channels.

170. The Centre has lifted embargo on _____ for conducting of government-related banking transactions.

- (a) Payment Banks
- (b) Small Finance Bank
- (c) Non-Banking Financial Company
- (d) Private Sector Banks
- (e) Mutual Fund Institutions

Answer: D

The Centre lifted embargo on private sector banks for conducting of government-related banking transactions. These include taxes and other revenue payment facilities, pension payments and small savings.

Private banks can now be equal partners in development of the Indian economy, furthering Govt's social sector initiatives, and enhancing customer convenience.

Private banks will be equal partners in government's economic and social agenda.

With the lifting of embargo, there is now no bar on RBI for authorisation of private sector banks (in addition to public sector banks) for government business, including government agency business. The government has conveyed its decision to RBI.

171. Which among the following ministry has collaborated with IIT Bombay to form a Centre of Excellence in Gaming for imparting knowledge related to animation, gaming, and VFX through their courses?

- (a) Ministry of Communications

- (b) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Ministry of Education
- (e) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: B

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has collaborated with IIT Bombay to form a Centre of Excellence in Gaming for imparting knowledge related to animation, gaming, and VFX through their courses.

The announcement regarding the same was made by Information and Broadcasting minister (I & B) Prakash Javedekar while addressing the audience at the virtual exhibition and prize announcement of a toy/game project design competition.

The Centre that will offer courses on animation, gaming, and VFX is at an advanced stage of preparation and will come into effect as the new session begins in 2021.

172. Which state has placed at the third place on the list of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) 2020-21?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: C

UP has become second-largest state in the country locking Rs 19.48 lakh crore of Gross State Domestic

Product (GSDP). It surpassed states such as Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

The finance department data shows that the state's GSDP in 2020-2021 crossed the USD 268 billion mark making the state climbing three ranks to figure at number 2 position in 2020-21 from number 5 in 2019-2020.

Maharashtra continued to lead the tally. UP moved to number two followed by Tamil Nadu with GSDP Rs 19.2 lakh crore, Karnataka Rs 18.03 lakh crore, and Gujarat Rs 17.4 lakh crore at number 3, 4, and 5, respectively. Tamil Nadu was second and Gujarat third last fiscal while Karnataka was at the fourth slot.

The increase in GSDP and UP climbing up to the second position given severely receding economy in first two-quarters of the last fiscal in the wake of COVID-19 triggered lockdown, reflects the revival of economic activities.

173. 11th edition of Global Indian Physicians Congress was organized by the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. Who among the following is the current President of GAPIO?

- (a) Dr Sanku Rao
- (b) Dr Prathap C Reddy
- (c) Dr Anupam Sibal
- (d) Dr Ramesh Mehta
- (e) Dr Harsh Vardhan

Answer: C

The Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO) organised its annual Global Indian Physicians Congress.

This was the 11th edition of the Congress. More than 5000 participants from USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Middle East, Africa, UAE, India and other countries participated in the Congress.

Dr Harsh Vardhan was the Chief Guest.

GAPIO was founded by Padma Vibhushan, Dr Prathap C Reddy, Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Group and Founder President of GAPIO along with Dr Sanku Rao - Past President of AAPI, USA and Dr Ramesh Mehta - President of BAPIO, UK.

GAPIO currently has a presence in 53 countries. Dr Anupam Sibal is the current President of GAPIO.

174. Kuldip Singh has assumed the additional charge of Director General of which among the following in March '21?

- (a) BSF
- (b) NSF
- (c) CRPF
- (d) ITBP
- (e) Indian Army

Answer: C

IPS officer Kuldip Singh has assumed the additional charge of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) director general (DG).

The Ministry of Home Affairs has given Singh an additional charge of DG CRPF to Kuldip who is a 1986 batch officer from the West Bengal cadre.

Special DG CRPF Kuldip Singh will look after the duties of Director General, CRPF after A P Maheshwari who retired.

The Central Reserve Police Force is India's largest Central Armed Police Force. It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India.

The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter insurgency.

175. India received the highest ever Foreign Direct Investments of over 67 billion US dollars for the first nine months of FY 21. FDI equity inflow grew by _____% in the corresponding period of FY 21.

- (a) 26%
- (b) 32%
- (c) 36%
- (d) 40%
- (e) 42%

Answer: D

India received the highest ever Foreign Direct Investments of over 67 billion US dollars for the first nine months of a financial year, last year.

During the period of April to December 2020, FDI equity inflow grew by 40 percent as compared to the corresponding period in the last financial year.

As per Ministry of Commerce & Industry, these trends are an endorsement of India's status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors.

Measures being taken by the Government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in tremendous FDI inflows into the country.

176. Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir Union

Territories would have a separate cell in NCW. The Commission is providing online training to five thousand women entrepreneurs in collaboration with India SME Forum and _____.

- (a) IIT Roorkee
- (b) IIM Bangalore
- (c) IISc Bangalore
- (d) IIM Ahmedabad
- (e) IIT Kanpur

Answer: B

Newly formed Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir Union Territories will have a separate cell in National Commission for Women (NCW).

The Commission's Chairperson Rekha Sharma said that by the end of this month, separate cells for the new UTs will be created.

Four days ahead of International Women's Day, Ladakh became the launching pad for the first-ever online training programme Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship.

In collaboration with IIM, Bangalore and India SME Forum, the Commission is providing online training to five thousand women entrepreneurs from across the country.

Chairperson Rekha Sharma said that NCW chose Ladakh for the occasion, to involve the women in the journey of development.

177.2023 has been declared as the International Year of Millets. In India, National Year of Millets was observed in which year?

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2015

Answer: C

The UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

It aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions

The resolution titled 'International Year of Millets 2023' was initiated by India with Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia and Senegal and was co-sponsored by over 70 nations.

The 193-member General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

In April 2016, the UN General Assembly had proclaimed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025, recognising the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide.

The Decade of Action on Nutrition provides an "umbrella for a wide group of actors to work together to address these and other pressing nutrition issues."

Government has approved 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost production of nutrient rich millets.

178.Wipro has joined 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business' initiative to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people. The initiative was launched by which among the following organizations?

- (a) ADB
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNEP
- (d) UNDP
- (e) WEF

Answer: E

Wipro has joined the World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business' initiative to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace.

The initiative is aimed towards driving action and accountability for companies to confront racism at a systemic level, set new global standards for racial justice in business and accomplish necessary policy changes for inclusion and advancement of professionals with under-represented racial and ethnic identities

179. Nitin Gadkari has announced the Nag River Pollution Abatement Project with an outlay of over ₹ 2117 Crore. The river flows in which city of Maharashtra?

- (a) Nagpur
- (b) Kolhapur
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Pune
- (e) Nashik

Answer: A

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the Nag River Pollution Abatement Project has been approved at a cost of over Rs 2,117 crore.

The river which flows through Nagpur city thus giving its name to the city is now a highly polluted water channel of sewage and industrial waste.

It will reduce the pollution level in terms of untreated sewage, flowing solid waste and other impurities flowing into the Nag river and its tributaries.

The project approved under the National River Conservation Plan will be implemented by the National River Conservation Directorate.

180. The 'Made in India' optical spectrograph, developed by ARIES, has been named as ADFOSC. What does 'F' mean in ADFOSC?

- (a) First
- (b) Focus
- (c) Faint
- (d) Fully
- (e) Fine

Answer: C

The 'Made in India' optical spectrograph named as Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (ADFOSC) is indigenously designed and developed by Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital.

About the Spectrograph :

The spectrograph is presently being used by astronomers from India and abroad to study distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies, cosmic explosions like supernovae and highly energetic Gamma-ray bursts, young and massive stars, and faint dwarf galaxies.

It is about 2.5 times less costly compared to the imported ones and can locate sources of light with a photon-rate as low as about 1 photon per second.

This low-cost optical spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies, and cosmic explosions. The total cost of this instrument is nearly Rs. 4 Crore.

The spectroscope, the largest of its kind among the existing astronomical spectrographs in the country, has been successfully commissioned on the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), the largest in the country and in Asia, near Nainital, Uttarakhand.

About ADFOSC :

It is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.

The ADFOSC spectrograph can locate sources of faint light from distant quasars and galaxies in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the galaxies, and cosmic explosions

181. Which among the following has claimed the second top honour in the Green Car Award category with 99 points?

- (a) Tata Nexon EV
- (b) Hyundai i20
- (c) Hyundai Kona
- (d) MG ZS EV
- (e) None of the above

Answer: C

The Tata Nexon EV won the inaugural Green Car award.

Hyundai i20 has won the 2021 Indian car of the year award (ICOTY).

The third-gen hatchback was amongst the nine contenders competing for the most esteemed car award in the country.

Tata Nexon EV claimed the top honour in its category with 106 points, followed by Hyundai Kona with 99 points, and the MG ZS EV in third with 93 points.

182. Zack Snyder has been selected for the first-ever Valiant Award from The Hollywood Critics Association. The awarded was presented at what edition of Annual HCA Film Awards ceremony?

- (a) 3rd

(b) 4th

(c) 5th

(d) 6th

(e) 2nd

Answer: B

American filmmaker Zack Snyder will be presented with the first-ever Valiant Award from The Hollywood Critics Association at the virtual fourth Annual HCA Film Awards ceremony.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the Hollywood Critics Association is presenting Snyder with this first-ever Valiant Award as an honour for how the filmmaker and his wife, and producing partner, Deborah Snyder, responded to their 20-year-old daughter autumn's suicide in 2017.

183. Manpreet Vohra has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia. He is the Ambassador of India to which country?

- (a) Canada
- (b) Finland
- (c) Switzerland
- (d) Mexico
- (e) Oman

Answer: D

Senior diplomat Manpreet Vohra has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia, the Ministry of External Affairs

Mr Vohra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently Ambassador of India to Mexico. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

Mr Vohra's appointment comes at a time India-Australia ties are at an upswing and the two countries are stepping up cooperation particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

184. India and the Philippines have signed a key agreement to facilitate government-to-government deals on military hardware including the potential supply of World's fastest supersonic cruise missile.

Name the missile.

- (a) Nirbhay
- (b) Prahaar
- (c) Agni
- (d) Prithvi
- (e) BrahMos

Answer: E

India and the Philippines have signed a key agreement to facilitate government-to-government deals on military hardware, including the potential supply of BrahMos cruise missiles.

The BrahMos missile is produced by an India-Russian joint venture "BrahMos Aerospace" and it can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms.

The pact was signed by under-secretary Raymundo Elefante of the Philippines' department of national defense and Indian ambassador Shambu Kumaran at Camp Aguinaldo, headquarters of the Filipino armed forces. It is the fastest supersonic cruise missile in the world.

Currently the missile is used only by India, however several countries including Philippines, Vietnam, South Africa, Egypt, Oman, Chile and Brunei have expressed interest in the procurement of the missile.

185. Which among the following organization has planned to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme in March '21?

- (a) ADB
- (b) AIIB
- (c) WEF
- (d) World Bank
- (e) NDB

Answer: D

The World Bank has planned to introduce a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme.

The scheme will allow micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to avail concessional debt financing for setting up rooftop solar units.

The World Bank scheme, along with State Bank of India (SBI) and the MSME ministry to accelerate adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around \$1 billion.

The arrangement will be beneficial for the firms that often do not meet the lending criteria of banks and other financial institutions, with their financial woes being exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic.

186. A Community Radio Station with the tagline “Radio Chinar 90.4, HarDil Ki Dhadkan” was inaugurated by which among the following?

- (a) Indian Navy
- (b) Indian Air Force
- (c) Indian Army
- (d) CRPF
- (e) Border Security Force

Answer: C

The first of its kind in North Kashmir, Community Radio Station with the tagline “Radio Chinar 90.4, HarDil Ki Dhadkan” was inaugurated 04 Mar 2021 by the Indian Army for the Awam in Mazbugh, Sopore.

The Radio Station was inaugurated by Lt Gen BS Raju, General Officer Commanding Chinar Corps in presence of Maj Gen HS Sahi, General Officer Commanding Kilo Force and various Army and civil dignitaries.

The reach of the Community Radio Station would be Sopore, Bandipora and Baramulla Districts.

This Community Radio Station has been started with an aim to revitalize the connection within different segments of the community.

This will provide a good platform for a community dialogue, sharing of information, art & culture.

It will build a community environment, which is better connected with issues which are local and important to the community.

187. A railway station from which railway zone has been awarded with Gold certification as per CII's

Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) ratings in March '21?

- (a) Central Railway Zone
- (b) South Central Railway Zone
- (c) Northern Railway Zone
- (d) Western Railway Zone
- (e) Southern Railway Zone

Answer: A

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus 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.

The rating system gives impetus to the national priorities like energy efficiency, water conservation, handling of waste measures and motivates the adoption of green standards for buildings and its environment.

Central Railway has implemented various green initiatives across its zone, with plantations creating green areas, installation of solar panels, customer-friendly initiatives at many stations, LED bulbs and lights etc.

About Indian Green Building Council :

Founded: 2001

Headquarters : Hyderabad

188. The Udaipur Science Centre, at Udaipur, Tripura was dedicated to the people in 2021. What is the outlay of the project?

- (a) ₹ 5 Crore
- (b) ₹ 4.5 Crore

- (c) ₹ 6 Crore
(d) ₹ 7 Crore
(e) ₹ 6.5 Crore

Answer: C

The Udaipur Science Centre, at Udaipur, Tripura was dedicated to the people by the Governor of Tripura, Shri Ramesh Bais on 28th February 2021. The Udaipur Science Centre has been developed at a cost of Rs 6 crore funded jointly by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Tripura Government and with this; National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has now set-up science centres in all the north eastern states. It is the 22nd Science Centre which has been developed by NCSM and handed over to the State Governments under the Ministry of Culture's Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science. It is funded jointly by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Dept. of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Tripura and with this; NCSM has now set-up science centres in all the north eastern states.

189. Karnataka government has launched India's maiden Engineering Research & Development Policy. The Policy aims to raise its contribution to the sector in the country to _____% in the next five years.

- (a) 30%
(b) 35%
(c) 40%

- (d) 45%
(e) 55%

Answer: D

The Karnataka government has launched the country's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy to raise its contribution to the sector in the country to 45% in the next five years.

The new policy envisages creation of an additional 50,000 jobs.

According to industry apex body Nasscom, ER&D has the potential to become a \$100-billion industry in the country in the next five years.

The new policy, drafted jointly by the Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, and Nasscom in consultation with industry stakeholders

It has identified five key focus sectors such as aerospace and defence; auto, auto components and EV; biotechnology, pharma and medical devices; semiconductors, telecom, ESDM; software products. The policy will also support industrial application of academic research, spend ₹10,000 per student on training and certification as provide grants to universities to set up laboratories.

190. Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited has sold the products on the GeM portal. It has created _____categories covering 311 medicines which live in the marketplace.

- (a) 26

- (b) 31
- (c) 38
- (d) 43
- (e) 45

Answer: B

Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) has sold products on the Government e-Market (GeM) portal.

The IMPCL and GeM has finalised a deal in this regard and now the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines of IMPCL will figure on the GeM portal to hundreds of government sector buyers.

This would facilitate quick procurement of these medicines by Central and State Government institutions for their healthcare programmes.

It would also help to streamline the procurement and distribution of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines by State Units.

The thousands of patients and other clients who visit Government Ayush hospitals every day stand to gain because of this increased availability of such medicines even in far-flung Ayush Hospitals and Clinics.

The GeM has created 31 categories covering 311 medicines which live in the marketplace and IMPCL can now upload these medicines on GeM Portal.

IMPCL, the 100 crore rupees turnover PSU of the Ministry of AYUSH, is one of the most trusted manufacturers of Ayush medicines in the country and is known for the authenticity of its formulations.

191. How many KendriyaVidyalayas have been opened by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in March '21?

- (a) 2
- (b) 4
- (c) 3
- (d) 6
- (e) 5

Answer: A

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced the opening of two new KendriyaVidyalayas in Karnataka and Punjab.

KV Sadalaga, Belagavi, in Karnataka and KV IIT Ropar in Punjab will be two new additions to KendriyaVidyalayaSangathan.

With this, the total number of KVs across the country will rise to 1247.

Initially, these two Vidyalayas will function with classes I to V and grow consequentially upto class XII.

When these Vidyalayas start functioning in full capacity, around 1000 students of the area will be benefited in each school.

The Admission process in both the Vidyalayas will start in the academic session 2021-22.

192. India's Women's Trap team trio of Kirti Gupta, ManishaKeer and RajeshwariKumarihas won a silver medal against which team at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun stage in Cairo?

- (a) China
- (b) Japan

- (c) Egypt
- (d) Russia
- (e) Australia

Answer: D

India's Women's Trap team trio of Kirti Gupta, ManishaKeer and RajeshwariKumari won a silver medal on the concluding day of the year's first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun stage, in Cairo, Egypt, going down 4-6 to Russia in the final.

There were a total of seven 25-shot rounds, five of which had been shot in the previous days.

All three Indian women shot scores of 20 or more in the final two qualifying rounds, with Manisha top-scoring for them with 158 out of 175 shots.

With this, the Indian team managed to collect two medals at the tournament. Earlier, the Men's Skeet team bagged a bronze medal.

193. GaziMazharul Anwar has received the Independence Award from the Bangladesh government in the field of which among the following?

- (a) Literature
- (b) Freedom Fighters
- (c) Public Service
- (d) Culture
- (e) Agriculture

Answer: D

Bangladesh has announced the names of 9 individuals and one organization for conferring the

Independence Award, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh for the year 2021.

Four individuals have been selected posthumously for the award under the category of freedom fighters for their contribution to the liberation war of Bangladesh.

These include A K M BazlurRahman, AhsanUllah Master, Brig Gen. KhurshidUddin Ahmed and AkhataruzzamanChowdhuryBabu.Dr.

MrinmoyGuhaNiyogi has been selected for his contribution to science and technology.

MahadevSahas has honoured with the award for literature while AtaurRahman and GaziMazharul Anwar has received the award for their contribution in the field of Culture.

Dr. M AmzadHossain has been nominated for the award for social and public service.

In the category of organisations, the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council has been nominated for research and training.

The award has been given since 1977 ahead of the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

The recipients of the award get a gold medal and a cash reward of Taka 5 lakh.

194. Name the chairperson of Hussain Charitable Trust who has received the Lifetime Excellence Award from the JCI Trivandrum Green City.

- (a) K Omanakutty Amma
- (b) Kalamandalam Vimala Menon
- (c) Shailaja Beegum
- (d) Dr Amitha Praveen

(e) Jameela Begum A

Answer: C

As part of Women's Day observance celebrations, JCI Trivandrum Green City is honouring some of the eminent personalities in the social cause and education field from the city.

Baby P S, senior manager in-charge (PR and CSR), Terumo Penpol Private Limited has been selected for the Lifetime Excellence Award for her outstanding contribution in the category of Social cause.

Other eminent personalities such as K Omanakutty Amma, Carnatic vocalist and academican; Kalamandalam Vimala Menon, mohiniyattam exponent; Vinduja Menon, film artist; Shailaja Beegum, chairperson of Hussain Charitable Trust; Dr Amitha Praveen, assistant professor, blood bank, Sree Chitra hospital; Jameela Begum A, former senate member, Kerala University; Jolly Jacob, principal, Christ Nagar College, Radika Nair, singer and Arifa Nasifat Beevi, president of Muslim Welfare association will also receive the awards. Apart from this, Baby P S has also been nominated to receive the award Project C.U.R.E.

195. Naureen Hassan has been appointed as the first Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of which among the following organizations?

- (a) Bank of America
- (b) Capital One Financial
- (c) PNC Financial Services Group
- (d) Federal Reserve Bank of New York

(e) Truist Financial Corporation

Answer: D

An Indian-origin veteran of the financial services industry has been appointed as the first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Naureen Hassan has been appointed by the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as the first vice president and chief operating officer, effective from March 15.

The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Hassan will be the New York Fed's second ranking officer as well as an alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee.

She was, most recently, the Chief Digital Officer for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

196. Women visitors, both foreign and Indian, were allowed free entry to all centrally protected monuments on March 8. How many centrally protected monuments were there under the Archaeological Survey of India?

- (a) 4561
- (b) 3687
- (c) 3691
- (d) 2982
- (e) 2654

Answer: C

Women visitors, both foreign and Indian, were allowed free entry to all centrally protected

monuments on March 8 to mark International Women's Day.

There are 3,691 centrally protected monuments under the ASI.

No fee was charged from all women visitors (both domestic and foreign) at all ticketed centrally protected monuments/archaeological sites and remains specified in the Second Schedule of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 on March 8, 2021.

The order has been issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 6 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959.

197. The World's first refuge for the platypus has built in which among the following country to promote breeding and rehabilitation?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Canada
- (d) Finland
- (e) Australia

Answer: E

Australian conservationists unveiled plans to build the world's first refuge for the platypus, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the duck-billed mammal faces extinction due to climate change. The Taronga Conservation Society Australia and the New South Wales State government said they would build the specialist facility, mostly ponds and burrows for the semi aquatic creatures, at a zoo 391

km (243 miles) from Sydney, by 2022, which could house up to 65 platypuses.

The new facility will promote breeding and rehabilitation of these iconic creatures, which are native to Australia.

198. Fast Check Website and Twitter Account of which among the following stated has been launched recently in March '21?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Jharkhand

Answer: B

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S .Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the AP Fact Check website and Twitter account at his camp office.

The Chief Minister said that with malicious propaganda spread in the media and on social media, the State Government has launched the website in a bid to curb such false news.

He directed the authorities to take action against such half-truths.

He stressed on the need to identify where these campaigns originate and take legal action.

He said no one should spread misinformation to mislead people about the welfare schemes that the Government is taking seriously, and also about the institutions involved.

199. What edition of the annual New Delhi World Book Fair was organized by the National Book Trust in March '21?

- (a) 28th
- (b) 24th
- (c) 19th
- (d) 33rd
- (e) 29th

Answer: E

The 29th edition of the annual New Delhi World Book Fair was organized by the National Book Trust.

The event was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, the Union Education Minister.

In 2021, the theme of the book fair is 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020'. The policy is a vision document that aims to universalise the Indian Education system from pre-primary levels to higher education.

The policy endeavours to enhance the quality of education equally for all and move in the direction of strengthening India as a global superpower

200. Name the app which was launched by the Jammu & Kashmir administration under the National Health Mission.

- (a) Samagra Shiksha

- (b) ANMOL
- (c) Mera Vetan
- (d) TALAASH
- (e) Newstracker

Answer: B

The Jammu and Kashmir administration distributed tablets among auxiliary nursing midwives (ANMs) and launched an application under the national health mission for identification and tracking of beneficiaries.

The ANMOL application would empower ANMs and frontline health workers in carrying out their day-to-day work efficiently and effectively.

Dulloo appealed to them to use all the facilities available in the application to ensure the benefits of the National Health Mission (NHM) reach the people.

The ANMOL application allows ANMs to enter and update records of beneficiaries on real-time basis.

This will thus ensure prompt entry and update of data as well as improve the data quality and accountability.

The key feature of the portal is that it works on offline mode, thus well suited for remote areas with low internet connectivity

March 2nd week Current Affairs MCQ

1. India's 1st centralized Air-Conditioned Railway Terminal will come up in Baiyappanahalli. It was sanctioned in which year?

- (a) 2014-15
- (b) 2013-14
- (c) 2015-16
- (d) 2017-18
- (e) 2016-17

Answer: C

India's first centralised air-conditioned railway terminal in Bengaluru would be operational soon. It is named after one of the foremost civil engineers, Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the nation's first centralised AC railway terminal in Bengaluru is set to become operational soon. Byappanahalli is the third coach terminal sanctioned in 2015-16, which has been named after Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya who was an engineer par excellence and contributed tremendously to nation-building.

2. India's first dedicated Express Cargo Terminal was inaugurated in Kempegowda International Airport. It will be operated by _____.

- (a) DHL Express
- (b) EICI
- (c) FedEx Express
- (d) Ecom Express
- (e) None of the above

Answer: B

The Bengaluru airport launched India's first dedicated Express Cargo Terminal, exclusively for export and import of international couriers.

The Express cargo terminal developed by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) at the 200,000 sq.ft.built-to-suit facility will house leading global express courier organisations such as DHL Express and FedEx Express.

Express Industry Council of India (EICI) will operate the Common-User Express Terminal for other courier companies. The Common-user Terminal will add impetus to Bengaluru's already strong e-commerce base.

3. Name the rice festival organized in Uttar Pradesh recently.

- (a) Jaya
- (b) Mahasuri
- (c) Kasturi
- (d) Kalanamak
- (e) Ashwani

Answer: D

Uttar Pradesh launched a 'kalanamak' rice festival in Siddharth Nagar.

In 2018, the state government included 'kalanamak' rice in the 'one district-one product' scheme and provided marketing, branding and technical support to farmers to give them a bigger platform to sell their produce.

4. According to the 'Autocratization Turns Viral: Democracy Report 2021', India has registered a _____% point drop on the Liberal Democracy Index scale.

- (a) 21%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 22%
- (d) 23%
- (e) 24%

Answer: D

India's level of liberal democracy registered at 0.34 by the end of 2020 after a steep decline since its high at 0.57 in 2013. That represents a 23-percentage point drop on the 0 to 1 LDI [Liberal Democracy Index] scale, making it one of the most dramatic shifts among all countries in the world over the past 10 years.

According to the 'Autocratization Turns Viral: Democracy Report 2021' released by Swedish based V-Dem Institute states that India's regime type has turned into 'Electoral Autocracy' in 2020 from 'Electoral Democracy' in 2010.

Hungary & Turkey have also been demoted as 'Electoral Autocracy'.

5. In 2021, "AtmanirbharNiveshakMitra Portal" would be launched for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors by which date?

- (a) April 1, 2021
- (b) March 1, 2021
- (c) May 1, 2021

(d) June 1, 2021

(e) July 1, 2021

Answer: C

The commerce and industry ministry has stated that the central government is working to develop a portal called "AtmanirbharNiveshakMitra Portal" for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors.

The portal AtmanirbharNiveshakMitra is currently in the testing phase. It will be launched by May 1, 2021. The ministry is also working on a webpage which will be available in regional languages and mobile apps.

This portal is being developed in order to strengthen efforts to promote domestic investments. It is being developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

6. Pallav Mohapatra was appointed as the MD & CEO of Arcil. Arcil was set up in which year?

- (a) 2001
- (b) 2000
- (c) 1998
- (d) 2002
- (e) 2005

Answer: D

Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil) has announced the appointment of Pallav Mohapatra as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Prior to the appointment, Mohapatra was the MD and CEO of the Central Bank of India.

VinayakBahuguna headed Arcil as MD and CEO for five years till June 2020. Arcil, which was set up in 2002, currently has assets under management (in non-performing loans) of Rs12,000 crore.

7.What was the theme of the 1st meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (March 2021)?

- (a) BRICS@19: Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth
- (b)BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus
- (c) BRICS@20: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future
- (d) BRICS@18:Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution
- (e) BRICS@21: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future

Answer: B

Under the chairmanship of India, the First Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was held.

The 2021 theme of the BRICS is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus".

India presented the calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021, this includes the priority areas for deliverables, schedule and scope of the MSME roundtable conference workshop on Services Statistics, and the BRICS Trade Fair.

8. How many countries participated in the First Quad Summit 2021?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: C

Prime Minister NarendraModi, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan Prime Minister YoshihideSuga come together for the first QUAD Summit.

The meeting was held virtually during which the four participants will exchange views on different areas of cooperation like maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, COVID-19, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security, and climate change.

The forum is maintained by semi-regular summits, military drills and information between member countries. The idea of QUAD was first brought up by the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe back in 2007.

9.Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman cricketer who has completed 10,000 international runs in all the cricket formats. It was achieved while playing against which country?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) South Africa
- (d) USA

(e) England

Answer: C

The veteran Indian women's cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first Indian woman cricketer that has completed 10,000 international runs in all the cricket formats.

She also became the second woman cricketer at the international level to complete 10000 runs. She achieved the milestone of 10,000 after she hit a boundary off Anne Bosch in the 28th over of Indian innings in the third ODI match against South Africa.

10. PMSSN has been approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess under what section of Finance Act, 2007?

- (a) Section 144 - a
- (b) Section 149 - c
- (c) Section 132 - d
- (d) Section 136 - b
- (e) Section 127 - a

Answer: D

The Union Cabinet has approved the PradhanMantriSwasthyaSurakshaNidhi (PMSSN), as a single non-lapsable reserve fund. This has been approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess which is levied under the Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007. This is a non-lapsable reserve fund for the Health in the Public Account. This fund will comprise of the proceeds from the share of health in the Health and Education Cess.

11. Japan has developed a super computer named 'Fugaku', a 100 times better than K Supercomputer. Its development was started in which year?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2017
- (e) 2018

Answer: A

The Japanese scientific research institute called RIKEN and Fujitsu started developing the "Fugaku" six years ago. It is the world's most powerful supercomputers. Fugaku has been named after an alternative name for Mount Fuji.

The computer comprises 100 times the application performance of the K supercomputer. It has been developed to implement high-resolution, large-scale and long-duration simulation. It started development in the year 2014 as the successor to the K computer. It is built with the Fujitsu A64FX microprocessor.

12. G P Samantha has been appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India (March '21). He is India's _____ CSI.

- (a) 3rd
- (b) 4th
- (c) 5th
- (d) 6th
- (e) 7th

Answer: B

The Central Government has appointed Dr G P Samanta as the new Chief Statistician of India (CSI) for a period of two years.

He is India's fourth CSI. He will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji who was holding an additional charge of the post since September 2020.

Currently, Dr Samanta was serving as an adviser in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Department Of Statistics and Information Management.

13. IBM has collaborated with SamagraSiksha of which state to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Uttarakhand
- (e) Punjab

Answer: D

IBM has announced a collaboration with SamagraSiksha Uttarakhand, the Government of Uttarakhand's education mission, to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state.

The collaboration is part of a three-year program between IBM and Uttarakhand State Government with the American India Foundation as the implementation partner to increase the participation of girls and women in STEM careers.

14. International Pi Day was founded in which year?

- (a) 1984
- (b) 1985
- (c) 1986
- (d) 1987
- (e) 1988

Answer: E

The International Day of Mathematics is 14 March. It is also known as the Pi Day, because the mathematical constant π can be rounded up to 3.14. It was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw. UNESCO's 40th General Conference decided Pi Day as the International Day of Mathematics in November 2019.

This year, the theme of the International Day of Mathematics is "Mathematics for a Better World".

15. The government has announced the linking of OTPRMS certificates with DigiLocker. What does 'P' mean in OTPRMS?

- (a) Password
- (b) Point
- (c) Passing
- (d) Project
- (e) None of the above

Answer: E

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has announced linking of Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System, OTPRMS certificates with DigiLocker.

The issued certificates will automatically be transferred to DigiLocker and the same may be

traced at the website of National Council for Teacher Education and DigiLocker.

The Minister also informed that the registration fee of 200 rupees payable for obtaining OPRMS Certificates, issued by NCTE has been waived off.

16. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav exhibition has been inaugurated in six places. Which among the following is NOT one of them?

- (a) Pune
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Bhubaneswar
- (d) Pune
- (e) Jammu

Answer: B

Information and Broadcasting Minister, Prakash Javadekar inaugurates the exhibition to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at six places in the country virtually.

The six places where 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' exhibitions were inaugurated are Jammu, Imphal, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Pune and Bengaluru.

17. J & K has approved a proposal to provide interest-free loan up to _____ rupees to the urban homeless economically weaker section under the PMAY –U.

- (a) Rs 1 Lakh
- (b) Rs 2 Lakh
- (c) Rs 1.5 Lakh
- (d) Rs 2.5 Lakh

(e) Rs 0.5 Lakh

Answer: B

Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a proposal to provide interest-free loan up to 2 lakh rupees to the urban homeless economically weaker section beneficiaries under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U). J&K Administrative Council, which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal of the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The beneficiaries under the BLC component of PMAY-U have experienced the difficulty in mobilising their contribution as they come from economically weaker sections.

18. 'Covid Tracker' helpline (March '21) has been launched for the citizens of which city?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Mumbai
- (e) Pune

Answer: D

The coronavirus cases in Maharashtra including Mumbai have been witnessing a sharp spike since last few days.

In order to make the testing convenient for citizens, the Covid Tracker helpline is enabling Mumbaiers to do Covid testing at home without going to the hospital.

'Covid Tracker' helpline has been launched for the citizens of Mumbai.

19. Which two states are paired on Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign in March 2021?

- (a) Mizoram & Nagaland
- (b) Meghalaya & Nagaland
- (c) Nagaland & Tripura
- (d) Bihar & Tripura
- (e) Bihar & Mizoram

Answer: E

Mizoram is paired with Bihar for a country wide Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign, which highlights the age-old tradition of our country - unity in diversity.

The campaign portrays the very common principle of cultural harmony of the people though we are living in different geographical areas with diversity of language, food, custom and costumes.

Under this Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign, each state is paired with another state and highlights the milieu of mutual exchange of cultures.

20. An application 'BolSubol' was launched by which among the following start-up?

- (a) Delhivery
- (b) StashFin
- (c) Demokratika
- (d) HashedIn
- (e) InMobi

Answer: C

Ahead of the assembly elections in four states and a union territory, a startup firm has unveiled a mobile application with poll statistics and data on the country's economy to help voters take fact-based decisions before exercising their franchise

The startup - Demokratika- launched the application, BolSubol, which has economic and political information about all the constituencies in India for over 60 years on average, they claimed.

"Except the election commission's efforts, not much seems to be done by political parties to empower voters. Hence, the app is rolled out.

21. Nikhileswar has been chosen for the Kendra SahityaAkademi Award-2020. The Poetry Collection 'Agniswaasa' was penned in which year?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2017

Answer: E

Renowned writer Nikhileswar, and one among the six 'DigambaraKavulu' has been chosen for the Kendra SahityaAkademi Award-2020 for his anthology of poems Agniswaasa penned in 2017. A poet with a focus on social issues for almost six decades now, Nikhileswar contributed to English and Hindi languages.

22. Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy has chosen Aruna Sur Ubhayakar of Kumta for honorary award in which field?

- (a) Science
- (b) Arts
- (c) Literature
- (d) Folklore
- (e) None of these

Answer: C

Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy announced its honorary award and book award for 2020 for three persons and three books.

It has chosen Aruna Subbarao Ubhayakar of Kumta (literature), Puttur Pandurang Nayak (arts), and Lakshmi Krishna Siddi of Yellapura (folklore) for its honorary award, which carries a purse of Rs 50,000, a memento, a citation, and a shawl.

23. Singapore has topped the global ranking in the latest Economic Freedom Index. Which among the following has been excluded from the recent rankings of the Index?

- (a) Dubai
- (b) Hong Kong
- (c) Abu Dhabi
- (d) Paris
- (e) New York

Answer: B

Singapore topped the global ranking for the second year in a row in the latest Economic Freedom Index published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation.

Rounding up the global top five are New Zealand in second place with 83.9 points, Australia, third (82.4 points), Switzerland in fourth with 81.9 points and Ireland (81.4 points).

As for the major economies, the United Kingdom is 7th (78.4 points), United States is ranked 20th with a score of 74.8 points, Japan 23rd (74.1 points), Germany is 29th (72.5 points) and China is numbered 107 scoring 58.4 points.

The Heritage Foundation decided to exclude Hong Kong from its rankings for the first time ever.

24. As per the 'India FinTech: A USD 100 Billion Opportunity' report, the Fin-Tech industry has seen the emergence of _____ new unicorns since January 2020.

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: B

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) unveiled 'India FinTech: A USD 100 Billion Opportunity' report.

India's dynamic FinTech industry has 2100+ FinTechs of which 67% have been set up over the last 5 years alone.

The total valuation of the industry is estimated at \$50-\$60 billion. The industry's growth has been undeterred by the pandemic, as it has seen the

emergence of 3 new Unicorns and 5 new Soonicorns (USD 500Mn+ valuation) since January 2020.

To actualize this potential, the industry would require investments to the tune of USD 20-25 billion till 2025.

25. Marvin Hagler died recently (March '21) at the age of 66. He was associated with which game?

- (a) Wrestling
- (b) Tennis
- (c) Hockey
- (d) Boxing
- (e) Golf

Answer D:

Boxing legend Marvin Hagler, the undisputed middleweight champion from 1980 to 1987, died.

"Marvelous" Marvin Hagler fought from 1973 to 1987 and delivered some of the epic bouts in a golden era of the sport, finishing with a record of 62-3 with two drawn and 52 knockouts.

26. HDFC Bank has launched '_____Unnati' mentoring programme for women entrepreneurship. (March 2021)

- (a) StandUp
- (b) StartUp
- (c) BuildUp
- (d) SmartUP
- (e) SharpUp

Answer: D

To support women entrepreneurs, HDFC Bank announced the launch of mentoring programme 'SmartUpUnnati'.

Under this programme, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank with expertise spanning domains will mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals over the next one year.

27. Google has announced a grant of \$ 500000 to _____ for offering the digital and financial literacy training to 1 Lakh agri women workers.

- (a) Invest India
- (b) Nasscom Foundation
- (c) NitiAayog
- (d) Nabard
- (e) North Eastern Association

Answer: B

Google included committing a \$500,000 grant to Nasscom Foundation, which will reach out to 1 lakh women agri-workers based in Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, to offer digital and financial literacy training.

Google announced a new web platform Women Will to support 1 million rural women in India to become entrepreneurs through accelerator programmes, mentorship, business tutorials, etc.

28. Indian athlete Ishar Singh Deol died at the age of 91 (March '21). He was a recipient of which award?

- (a) Padma Shri

- (b) Bharat Ratna
- (c) Arjuna Award
- (d) Dronacharya Award
- (e) Dhyan Chand Award

Answer: E

Veteran Indian athlete Ishar Singh Deol, a recipient of the Dhyan Chand National Sports Award, has died at the age of 91.

Deol had won many medals for the country and the state since 1951 and was awarded the Dhyan Chand National Award in 2009 for his lifelong contribution towards sports.

29. Hamed Bakayoko has died recently in March '21. He was the Prime Minister of which country?

- (a) Burundi
- (b) Comoros
- (c) Kenya
- (d) Somalia
- (e) Ivory Coast

Answer: E

The Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, Hamed Bakayoko, has died in a hospital in Germany.

He was appointed prime minister in July, following the sudden death of his predecessor Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

30. As per the United Nations Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report 2021, nearly _____% of food goes into waste bins at the household level.

- (a) 24%

- (b) 39%
- (c) 61%
- (d) 42%
- (e) 87%

Answer: C

At household level, nearly 61 per cent of food goes into waste bins.

Indian households waste 50 kilograms of food per person per year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report 2021.

The latest Food Waste Index Report Estimates that 931 million metric tons (or 17 per cent) of the food available for consumption worldwide in 2019 was wasted by homes, institutions, retail outlets and restaurants. Homes are responsible for most of the food waste. Nearly 61 per cent of consumer-level food goes into waste bins each year at the household level.

31. Laxman Pai has died recently at the age of 95. He was a well-known painter of which state?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Goa
- (e) Maharashtra

Answer: D

Renowned artist and painter from Goa and Padma Bhushan awardee Laxman Pai passed away at 95. The former principal of the Goa College of Art had several laurels under his name including Padma

Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award, and Lalit Kala Akademi Award.

32. The Centre has reconstituted an advisory committee to chalk out a plan for studying the Sarasvati river for the next two years. The committee would be chaired by which minister?

- (a) Minister of Jal Shakti
- (b) Minister of Water Resources
- (c) Minister of Culture
- (d) Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (e) Minister of Environment and Forest

Answer: C

The Centre has reconstituted an advisory committee to chalk out a plan for studying the mythical Saraswati river for the next two years, after the earlier panel's term ended in 2019.

The committee would continue to be chaired by the Culture Minister and include officials from the Culture, Tourism, Water Resources, Environment and Forest, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministries; representatives of the Indian Space Research Organisation; officials from the governments of Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan; and an ASI official. Among the "non-official members" of the 27-member panel are archaeologists B.R. Mani, Vasant Shinde, K.N. Dixit and K.K. Muhammed, and historian Balmukund Pandey. The committee includes Madan Gopal Vyas, Ratnesh Tripathi, Prabhu Sundarji Bhai Thakkar, S. Kalyan Raman, Prashant Bhardwaj, Amit Rai Jain, V.M.K. Puri and Mukesh Garg.

33. Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan have won the gold medal in the Women's Doubles category at YONEX Swiss Open 2021. They belong to which country?

- (a) Denmark
- (b) Spain
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) Bulgaria
- (e) France

Answer: C

The 2021 Swiss Open was the first tournament of the 2021 BWF World Tour and also part of the Swiss Open championships which had been held since 1955. This tournament was organized by the Swiss Badminton and sanctioned by the BWF.

Women's Doubles - Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Malaysia)'

Men's Singles - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)

Women's Singles - Carolina Marin (Spain)

34. Which among the following has made the World's first PC using plastic waste from the ocean?

- (a) Sony
- (b) Samsung
- (c) HP
- (d) Dell
- (e) Apple

Answer: C

HP has made the World's first PC using plastic waste from the ocean.

To build on HP's sustainability commitment, The HP Pavilion line-up (HP Pavilion 13, HP Pavilion 14, and

HP Pavilion 15 laptops) uses the post-consumer recycled and plastic waste in Ocean in the construction of speaker housing.

The Pavilion series is set to keep around 92000 plastic bottles out of the ocean and landfills.

35. Deepak Mishra has been appointed as the next Director and Chief Executive of ICRIER. He is an economist of which organization?

- (a) IMF
- (b) UN
- (c) FATF
- (d) WEF
- (e) World Bank

Answer: E

World Bank economist Deepak Mishra has been appointed as the next Director and Chief Executive of leading think-tank Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

He is currently a Practice Manager in the World Bank's macroeconomics, trade and investment global practice responsible for the East Asia and Pacific region.

Mishra has also served as the World Bank's country economist for India from 2001-04, working closely with the central government and several state governments including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab.

36. Thomas Bach was re-elected as the president of the International Olympic Committee for a final four-year term. Who is the Director General of IOC?

- (a) Paul Léautéy
- (b) Jacques Rogge
- (c) Christophe De Kepper
- (d) Thierry Weil
- (e) Narinder Dhruv Batra

Answer: C

Thomas Bach was re-elected as the president of the International Olympic Committee for a final four-year term.

The German lawyer was unopposed and won the vote 93-1, with four members abstaining, following an opening eight-year mandate dominated by the Russian doping scandal and the first Olympics to be postponed in peacetime.

Christophe De Kepper is the Director General of IOC.

37. Anamika has received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 for her work in which language?

- (a) Gujarati
- (b) Konkani
- (c) Manipuri
- (d) Telugu
- (e) Hindi

Answer: E

Poet Arundhati Subramaniam has won the award for her collection "When God is a Traveller" in English along with 20 other writers including politician-writer M Veerappa Moily.

Other Winners - Poetry Category:

Harish Meenakshi (Gujarati)
 RS Bhaskar (Konkani)

Anamika (Hindi)

Irungbam Deven (Manipuri)

Nikhileshwar (Telugu)

Rupchand Hansda (Santali)

38.The 2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership has been awarded to Mahamadou Issoufou. He is the _____ recipient of the Ibrahim Prize.

(a) 5th

(b) 4th

(c) 6th

(d) 7th

(e) 3rd

Answer: C

The 2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership has been awarded to Mahamadou Issoufou, president of Niger. He is the sixth recipient of the Ibrahim Prize, which recognises and celebrates excellence in African leadership.

The Prize Committee praised President Issoufou's exceptional leadership after inheriting one of the world's poorest economies, facing seemingly insurmountable challenges.

39.ICAR has won the 2020 King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award for its commitment in raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils in the World Soil Day celebration in 2019. What was the motto of World Soil Day 2019?

(a)Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity

(b)Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground

(c)Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life

(d)Be the Solution to Soil Pollution

(e)Stop soil erosion, save our future

Answer: E

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has won the prestigious International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award for 2020.

ICAR has been conferred the award for its commitment to raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils at the World Soil Day celebration in 2019, which addressed soil erosion under the motto "Stop soil erosion, save our future".

The award was presented annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

ICAR India will officially receive the award by Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, during an event in Bangkok in January 2021.

40.According to Bloomberg report, which country has been surpassed by India to become the fourth largest foreign currency reserves in the world?

(a) China

(b) Japan

(c) Switzerland

(d) Russia

(e) Finland

Answer: D

India's foreign-exchange reserves have become the fourth largest in the world, surpassing Russia. China has the largest foreign currency reserves followed by Japan and Switzerland.

According to a Bloomberg report, India's foreign currency holdings, which dropped \$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion on March 5 as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), surpassed Russia's \$580.1 billion.

41. Which organization has pegged India's GDP growth at 12.6% for the FY 2021-22 in March 2021?

- (a) CRISIL
- (b) RBI
- (c) OECD
- (d) IMF
- (e) ADB

Answer: C

As per the data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth is expected to bounce sharply to 12.6% in FY22 cushioned by solid fiscal and quasi-fiscal measures.

This growth projection is the highest among G20 nations, supported by additional fiscal support after the coronavirus pandemic shoved the economy into recession.

42. Wipro has joined the 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business initiative'. The initiative was launched by which organization?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) UNDP
- (c) WEF
- (d) IMF
- (e) Both (a) & (d)

Answer: C

Wipro Limited has joined the 'Partnering for Racial Justice in Business initiative' launched by the World Economic Forum to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace.

The initiative is aimed towards driving action and accountability for companies to confront racism at a systemic level, set new global standards for racial justice in business and accomplish necessary policy changes for inclusion and advancement of professionals with under-represented racial and ethnic identities.

43. According to SEBI's new norms, a debt mutual fund scheme can invest at most 10% of its net assets in such debt by all issuers. What is the maturity period of the perpetual bonds?

- (a) 10 years
- (b) 25 years
- (c) 50 years
- (d) 75 years
- (e) 100 years

Answer: E

According to SEBI's new norms, a debt mutual fund scheme can invest at most 10 percent of its net assets in such debt by all issuers and at most five percent of net assets under management in such debt sold by a single issuer.

SEBI further stated that the maturity of the perpetual bonds shall be treated as 100 years from the date of issuance. Perpetual bonds are quasi debt instruments without any fixed maturity. The risk lies

in the event if the issuer sinks. Like in the case of YES Bank, it becomes nearly impossible to find buyers for such bonds. Redemption becomes unlikely.

44. Axis Bank has launched Wear 'N' Pay with the partnership of Hales and Tappy Technologies. It is exclusively available on which platform?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Reliance
- (c) Mastercard
- (d) Visa
- (e) FlipKart

Answer: C

Axis Bank has stepped up their game in the contactless payments segment by launching its own range of wearable contactless payment devices, thus, making payments truly on-the-go and convenient for its customers.

Axis Bank partnered with Thales and Tappy Technologies to design and create these products, which are exclusively available on the Mastercard platform.

45. As per the data from Reuters, the United States accounts for 14% of India's overall imports. The imports from Saudi Arabia fall down by _____ in February 2021.

- (a) 42%
- (b) 26%
- (c) 36%
- (d) 39%

(e) 31%

Answer: A

The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier in February 2021.

India's imports from the United States - the world's top producer - rose 48 per cent to a record 545,300 barrels per day (bpd) in February from the prior month, accounting for 14 per cent of India's overall imports last month, the data obtained by Reuters showed.

February imports from Saudi Arabia fell by 42 per cent from the previous month to a decade-low of 445,200 bpd, the data showed.

46. As per the report "Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia, "Seamless transport connectivity with Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by 8% for India. The report was released by which organization?

- (a) Asian Development Bank
- (b) World Bank
- (c) Bank of China
- (d) New Development Bank
- (e) International Monetary Fund

Answer: B

Seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17 percent for Bangladesh and eight percent for India.

The report titled "Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia," was launched by the World Bank.

It analyses the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA), compares it with international best practices, and identifies its strengths as well as gaps for seamless regional connectivity.

47. Which gas has been produced from brown coal under the Japanese – Australian venture worth \$ 390 million?

- (a) Sulphur
- (b) Carbon
- (c) Oxygen
- (d) Hydrogen
- (e) Nitrogen

Answer: D

A Japanese-Australian venture has begun producing hydrogen from brown coal in a A\$500 million (\$390 million) pilot project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced commercially and exported safely overseas.

The plan is to create the first international supply chain for liquefied hydrogen and the next big step will be to ship a cargo on the world's first liquefied hydrogen carrier

48. France has conducted the first military exercise in space. How many countries participated in the AsterX space war game?

- (a) 4
- (b) 2
- (c) 3
- (d) 6
- (e) 5

Answer: C

France has conducted the first military exercise in space.

France prepared to simulate an attack by a hostile power on one of its satellites in a war game scenario the government said is less outlandishly futuristic than it may seem.

Germany, Italy and the US are participating in the AsterX space war game at France's national space agency CNES in Toulouse, the first such exercise in France or in Europe.

49. The recent UNICEF report titled "Covid-19: A threat to progress against child marriage" revealed that the proportion of young women globally who were married as children had declined in the last 10 years by _____%.

- (a) 10%
- (b) 12%
- (c) 5%
- (d) 20%
- (e) 15%

Answer: E

The UNICEF study revealed that in the last 10 years, the proportion of young women globally who were married as children had declined by 15 per cent, from nearly one in four to one in five.

UNICEF released a report titled "Covid-19: A threat to progress against child marriage."

It wrote: "School closures, economic stress, service disruptions, pregnancy and parental deaths due to the pandemic are putting the most vulnerable girls at increased risk of child marriage."

The report estimates that 650 million girls and women alive today were married in childhood, about half of them in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, or Nigeria.

50. According to the country-readiness index, India's actual index ranking was 43. What was the estimated per capita income?

- (a) 102
- (b) 105
- (c) 104
- (d) 108
- (e) 107

Answer: D

According to the country-readiness index released by the UNCTAD, India was the biggest 'overperformer' in frontier technologies than the country's per capita GDP.

India's actual index ranking was 43, while the estimated one based on per capita income was 108. This meant that India overperformed other countries by 65 ranking positions.

India was followed by the Philippines, which overperformed by 57 ranking positions.

51. India Opened 'India Energy Office' in Russia.

The IEO would cover 5 Indian entities. Which among the following is one of them?

- (a) Essar Oil
- (b) Reliance Oil
- (c) BPCL
- (d) IOCL
- (e) All the above

Answer: D

India opened India Energy Office (IEO) in Russia with a goal to push an already burgeoning energy partnership between the two strategic partners.

The IEO will cover five top Indian entities -- Oil India Limited, ONGC Limited Videsh Limited, GAIL (India) Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, and Engineers India Limited.

The announcement to set up IEC was made by the Foreign Secretary during his recent trip to Moscow.

52. 'Watak Nath Pooja' has been offered by the Pandit Community of which place during the Mahashivratri?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) J & K
- (c) Chandigarh
- (d) Varanasi
- (e) Vadodara

Answer: B

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the festival of Shivratri 'Herath' was celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir. It is a three day festival.

Festival Mahashivratri locally known as Herath in Kashmir is celebrated across J&K by Kashmiri Pandit Community with religious fervour by offering "Watak Nath Pooja".

The festival assumes colossal importance among the Kashmiri Pandit Community who celebrate it to mark the wedding of "Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati".

53. NTPC is all set to commission India's largest floating solar power plant at Ramagundam. What is the power capacity of the floating solar power plant?

- (a) 217 MW
- (b) 450 MW
- (c) 100 MW
- (d) 230 MW
- (e) 156 MW

Answer: C

NTPC Southern Region, which is in the process of implementing about 450 MW of solar capacity, is all set to commission about 217 MW floating solar capacity, including one of the largest floating solar power plants of 100 MW at Ramagundam by May '21.

These floating solar projects are coming up at Ramagundam power project (100 MW), which will be the single location largest floating solar plant in the country as of now; 92 MW floating unit at Kayamkulam gas plant in Kerala and a 25 MW unit at Simhadri power plant.

54. NHA signed a MoU with UTIITSL to issue free PVC Ayushman cards. UTIITSL is registered under which union ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) Ministry of AYUSH

Answer: D

NHA signs MoU with UTIITSL to issue free new PVC Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY cards to beneficiaries in Bihar, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Tripura, Nagaland, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

UTIITSL is the second agency after Common Service Centre which has been empanelled by the NHA to provide free PVC Ayushman cards to the beneficiaries.

UTIITSL is registered under the Ministry of Finance.

55. The Cabinet approved for the creation of PMSSN as a single non lapsable reserve fund for health from Health & Education Cess. During the 2018 Budget Speech, Arun Jaitley announced the replacement of 3% Education Cess by _____% Health & Education Cess.

- (a) 3.5%
- (b) 2.5%
- (c) 2%
- (d) 4%
- (e) 4.5%

Answer: D

The Cabinet approved the creation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for health from Health & Education Cess. PMSSN will be administered & maintained by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).

During the 2018 Budget Speech, Arun Jaitley announced the replacement of 3% Education Cess by 4% Health & Education Cess.

56. What edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK' was held in Mar'21 at Ranikhet?

- (a) 3rd
- (b) 4th
- (c) 5th
- (d) 6th
- (e) None

Answer: E

The India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise "DUSTLIK II" was held in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand). This is the Second Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies.

This joint exercise definitely provides impetus to the ever-growing military and diplomatic ties between the two nations and also reflects the strong resolve of both nations to counter-terrorism.

57. A new report 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India' released by NITI Aayog & RMI has identified a market size of USD 50 bn for the

financing of EVs in 2030. It is about _____% of current size of India's retail vehicle finance industry.

- (a) 75%
- (b) 80%
- (c) 85%
- (d) 70%
- (e) 65%

Answer: B

NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India released a new report 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India', which highlights the role of finance in the India's transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of USD 266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh crore) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade.

The report also identifies a market size of USD 50 billion (Rs 3.7 lakh crore) for the financing of EVs in 2030—about 80% of the current size of India's retail vehicle finance industry, worth USD 60 billion (Rs 4.5 lakh crore) on March 8 2021.

58. On March 4-5, 2021, the first Strategic and Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held between India and which country?

- (a) Niger
- (b) Gambia
- (c) Ghana
- (d) Nigeria
- (e) Liberia

Answer: D

India and Nigeria has held the First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue on March 4-5, 2021 in New Delhi.

The dialogue held in-depth discussions on the threats and challenges faced by democratic societies from terrorism, extremism, and radicalization.

The two sides identified specific areas of cooperation to enhance their fight against all forms of terrorism.

59. All major schemes of the Ministry Women and Child Development have been classified under 3 umbrella schemes. Which among the following schemes are NOT classified under Mission Shakti?

- (a) SAMBAL
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- (c) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- (d) Scheme for Adolescent Girls
- (e) None of these

Answer: D

Main Schemes	Schemes Included
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0	Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, National Creche Scheme
Mission VATSALYA	Child Protection Services and Child Welfare Services
Mission Shakti (Mission for Protection and Empowerment for	SAMBAL (One Stop Centre, Mahila Police Volunteer, Women's Helpline/Swadhar/Ujjawala/W

Women)	idow Homes etc.) SAMARTHYA (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Creche, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana/ Gender Budgeting/Research/
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60. India's first World Skill Centre was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar. Which among the following was assisted in the establishment of the WSC?

- (a) AIIB
- (b) ADB
- (c) NDB
- (d) Both (a) & (e)
- (e) World Bank

Answer: B

India's first World Skill Centre was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar by the Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik.

The World Skill Center (WSC) is being modelled around leading TVET Institute, ITE (Institute of Technical Education) Singapore and seeks inspiration from World Skills, Russia and GIFTS (Global Institute for Transferring Skills), South Korea. WSC is being established under the Odisha Skill Development Project assisted by the Asian Development Bank with ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore as a knowledge partner. It is being set up at a budget of nearly Rs.1342.2 Crores.

61. The Central Silk Board and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a MoU (March '21) on a convergence model for implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector.

The MoU will help to increase the agricultural income to _____%.

- (a) 30%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 35%
- (e) 40%

Answer: A

The Central Silk Board (CSB) under the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a convergence model for implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector under the ongoing Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme.

The minister stated that this MOU signing will increase the agricultural income from 20 to 30%.

Referring to the PPE kits, in which India has become the second largest producer in the world.

India has the capability of creating history in Agro-Technical Textiles also. She said farmers income has almost increased to 60% by adopting Agro Technical Textile.

62. India's first forest healing centre was inaugurated in Kalika, Uttarakhand. Which among the following is NOT one of the themes of the centre?

- (a) Be Silent

(b) Go Slow

(c) Think Less

(d) Feel Cool

(e) None of the above

Answer: D

India's first forest healing centre was inaugurated by environmentalist Joginder Bisht on Sunday at Ranikhet in Kalika, Uttarakhand. The forest healing centre is spread over an area of 13 acres and has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department.

The basic theme is, be silent, go slow, think less and feel more.

63. An Organization has constructed a 200-feet bailey bridge on Joshimath-Malari road across a river in Uttarakhand. Name the Organisation and the river.

- (a) BSF, Alakananda
- (b) BRO, Bhagirathi
- (c) ITBP, Mandakini
- (d) BSF, Mandakini
- (e) BRO, Rishiganga

Answer: E

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 200-feet bailey bridge on Joshimath-Malari road across the Rishiganga river, restoring connectivity to the 13 border villages in Uttarakhand Chamoli district affected by 2021 February's flash floods.

The bridge is near Reini village of the district and it was opened for public use.

On February 7, the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in the Rishi Ganga River washed away a 90-metre Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) bridge near Reini village on Joshimath-Malari road.

64. Indian Navy has signed a contract (March '21) with a Thane- based MSME to construct _____ ammunition-cum-torpedo-cum-missile barges.

- (a) 9
- (b) 16
- (c) 18
- (d) 11
- (e) 25

Answer: D

Indian Navy has signed a contract with Suryadipta Projects to construct 11 ammunition-cum-torpedo-cum-missile (ACTCM) barges.

The contract with Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, a Thane-based MSME, was concluded on March 5.

Delivery of barges is scheduled to commence from May 22. The ACTCM barges will be inducted in Indian Navy to undertake the mission needs for embarking or disembarking ammunition, torpedo, missile, etc.

65. As a part of emergency procurement programme, Indian Army has leased four Heron TP medium-

altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicles from Israel. What is the procurement value?

- (a) \$ 20 million
- (b) \$ 50 million
- (c) \$ 100 million
- (d) \$ 150 million
- (e) \$ 200 million

Answer: E

The Indian Army has leased four Heron TP medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from Israel as a part of its emergency procurement programme.

The development comes at a time when India and China have just begun disengagement from one of the most prolonged stand-offs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The contract is pegged at \$200 million. The report cited that the lease is valid for three years and extendable up to two years.

66. Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for B2B transactions has been made mandatory for companies with turnover of over Rs 100 crore from which date?

- (a) April 1, 2020
- (b) April 1, 2021
- (c) January 1, 2021
- (d) October 1, 2021
- (e) October 1, 2020

Answer: C

Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for business-to-business (B2B)

transactions has been made mandatory for companies with turnover of over Rs 500 crore and Rs 100 crore from October 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021, respectively.

E-invoicing will be extended to companies with turnover over Rs 50 crore from April 1.

Under e-invoicing, taxpayers have to generate invoices on their internal systems (ERP/accounting/billing software) and then report them online to the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP).

67. According to a report by the AWS survey, the number of employees requiring digital skills in the country will need to increase nine-fold by which year?

- (a) 2022
- (b) 2024
- (c) 2026
- (d) 2025
- (e) 2028

Answer: D

India's present workforce comprises only 12% digitally skilled employees, and the number of employees requiring digital skills in the country will need to increase nine-fold by 2025, according to a report commissioned by Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Digital skills are becoming an essential component for employees to perform their jobs proficiently. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated this digitisation journey to a certain extent for organisations as well as individuals.

68. The National Book Trust has organized the annual World Book Fair in March '21. What edition of Book Fair was held recently?

- (a) 24th
- (b) 26th
- (c) 29th
- (d) 32nd
- (e) 34th

Answer: C

The 29th edition of the annual New Delhi World Book Fair, organized by the National Book Trust (NBT), India held virtually from March 6 to 12.

This year, the theme of the book fair is 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020'. The policy is a vision document that aims to universalise the Indian Education system from pre-primary levels to higher education.

69. Forty scholars from six countries have been awarded with Indian Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021. ISRF Programme was launched in which year?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2011
- (d) 2020
- (e) 2019

Answer: B

Forty scholars from six countries have been awarded with Indian Science Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021. The forty scholars will now have the

opportunity to carry out their research in Indian institutes and universities.

As a part of India's initiatives to engage with neighbouring countries to develop Science and Technology partnerships, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has launched ISRF Programme for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand researchers to work in Indian universities and research institutions. Launched in 2015, about 128 fellows from these countries have been awarded fellowship under this programme.

70. The NHSRCL signed an MoU with JRTC for track work of the _____ km stretch between Vadodara and Vapi in Gujarat for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

- (a) 225 km
- (b) 287 km
- (c) 317 km
- (d) 237 km
- (e) 167 km

Answer: D

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) signed an MoU with a Japanese firm for track work of the 237-km stretch between Vadodara and Vapi in Gujarat for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

The Japan Railway Track Consultant Co. Limited (JRTC) will provide the detailed design and drawing of major HSR track components like RC track bed, track slab arrangement and continuous welded rail

(CWR) forces and other essentials to the railways, essentials to the railways.

71. Piyush Goyal flagged off the 3000 HP Cape gauge locomotive for export to Mozambique. India has planned to become a net-zero Railway and power our entire electricity requirements by renewable energy by which year?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2034

Answer: C

Union Minister for Railways, commerce & industry and consumer affairs, food and public distribution, Piyush Goyal flagged off the 3000 HP Cape gauge locomotive indigenously developed by Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi via video conferencing.

The export of locomotives to Mozambique shall boost the Indo-African relationship and pilot the economic empowerment through export.

Indian Railways is exporting the first batch of two locomotives as part of the total order of six locomotives of 3000 HP cape gauge and 90 stainless steel passenger coaches to Mozambique. These locomotives are developed indigenously by Banaras Locomotive Works under Make-in-India. By 2030, India plans to become a net-zero Railway and power our entire electricity requirements by renewable energy.

72. India's first Transgender Community Desk has opened in which police station of Telangana?

- (a) Gachibowli Police Station
- (b) Afzalgunj Police Station
- (c) Bahadurpura Police Station
- (d) Amberpet Police Station
- (e) Bollaram Police Station

Answer: A

India's first Transgender Community Desk has opened in Gachibowli police station of Telangana. The desk will be managed by a police liaison officer and a transgender person who is designated as community coordinator. "It will be the focal point for all grievance redressal among transgender community in Cyberabad Commissionerate.

73. India's first AC railway terminal is set to be inaugurated in Bengaluru. What is the project outlay?

- (a) Rs 218 Crore
- (b) Rs 567 Crore
- (c) Rs 489 Crore
- (d) Rs 356 Crore
- (e) Rs 314 Crore

Answer: E

India's first AC railway terminal in Bengaluru, built at an anticipated cost of Rs 314 crore, is all set to be inaugurated in March 2021.

Named after Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, this is Bengaluru's third railway terminal in Baiyappanahalli area and has been a long-standing demand for

introducing more express trains connecting the IT city.

74. Indian Railways has integrated all railway helplines into a single number '139'. The integrated Rail Madad Helpline '139' will be available in how many languages?

- (a) 18
- (b) 10
- (c) 9
- (d) 12
- (e) 16

Answer: D

Indian Railways has integrated all railway helplines into a single number '139', which is now the main 'Rail Madad' Helpline, for quick grievance redressal and enquiry mechanism during train journeys for passengers.

The integrated Rail Madad Helpline '139' will be available in a total of twelve languages.

75. Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the 2nd edition of TechBharat 2021. The allocation of budget for the healthcare sector in the FY 2021-22 has been increased to _____%

- (a) 123%
- (b) 156%
- (c) 110%
- (d) 145%
- (e) 137%

Answer: E

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the inaugural session of TechBharat 2021.

Techbharat is facilitating interactions & deliberations between thousands of domestic & global participants, including policy makers, government representatives, industry members, investors & start-ups to nurture resourceful partnerships and boost growth in the sectors.

The massive increase of 137 percent in budgetary allocation for the sector will not only help strengthen our healthcare infrastructure but will also focus on areas of preventive health and holistic well-being. The total sum allocated to the sector of more than Rs 2.2 lakh Crore, will be of immense help to the country at this critical juncture in ensuring healthier lives of our citizens while at the same time opening up enormous growth and employment opportunities.

76. As per the PwC's 24th Annual Global CEO Survey, India has emerged as the fifth most attractive growth destination. The USA holds the first position on the list of growth destinations at _____.

- (a) 28%
- (b) 17%
- (c) 12%
- (d) 32%
- (e) 35%

Answer: E

The US has extended its lead as the number one market that CEOs are looking to for growth over the

next 12 months at 35 per cent, seven percentage points ahead of China at 28 per cent. In 2020, the US was only one percentage point ahead of China. India has emerged as the fifth most attractive growth destination, slipping one position after being surpassed by the United Kingdom, according to a global survey of CEOs.

At 17 per cent, Germany holds on to its number three spot on the list of growth destinations, while the UK, post-Brexit, moves up to number four (11 per cent), surpassing India (8 per cent).

77. As per the JLL HPI Index, India is leading with 81 percent of high performers practicing flexible working. The Asia Pacific HPI results were based on a study of 1,500 employees in how many countries across the region?

- (a) 4
- (b) 8
- (c) 7
- (d) 11
- (e) 5

Answer: E

JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle), a commercial real estate and investment management company, today released the Human Performance Indicator (HPI), a new formula that gives a comprehensive view of how different aspects of the workplace function. The Asia Pacific HPI results were based on a study of 1,500 employees in five countries across the region.

The report found that India is leading with 81 percent of high performers practicing flexible working, including flexible hours and work-from-home, in comparison to other APAC countries. Compared to the other APAC countries surveyed, India ranked highest in workplace satisfaction, with a percentage of 98 per cent. This is followed by China at 97 per cent.

78. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has introduced 'Garima Savings Account' that provides up to _____% interest.

- (a) 5%
- (b) 7%
- (c) 8%
- (d) 6%
- (e) 6.5%

Answer: B

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank announced the introduction of a "Women Savings Account" to meet women's financial needs. The 'Garima Savings Account,' as the product is known, will provide women with a variety of tailored perks, including a savings account that provides up to 7% interest.

79. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank has (March 2021) launched the 'VikasAsha' loan scheme. What is the maximum loan amount that can be provided under the scheme?

- (a) Rs 5 Lakh
- (b) Rs 6 Lakh
- (c) Rs 7.5 Lakh

(d) Rs 10 Lakh

(e) Rs 15 Lakh

Answer: D

Karnataka VikasGrameena Bank has recently(March 2021) launched the 'VikasAsha' loan scheme for women entrepreneurs.

'VikasAsha' is exclusively for women to meet business-related needs, including purchasing machinery/equipment/vehicle, and working capital requirements under micro and small enterprises, including retail trade.

The bank will extend the loan up to a maximum of ₹10 lakh with a repayment period of 84 month.

80. PNB Housing Finance has launched an initiative called 'Women With Wheels'. PNB Housing Finance will be donating electric cars in Jaipur and _____.

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Vadodara
- (c) Indore
- (d) Bhopal
- (e) Dehradun

Answer: C

PNB Housing Finance announced an initiative under which it will facilitate underprivileged women gain driving skills and also donate electric cars to them in Jaipur and Indore.

The housing finance company, which has partnered with Delhi-based NGO Azad Foundation for this purpose, said the new initiative -- "Women With

Wheels" -- is part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project called 'SHE'.

81. CRISIL has projected India's economy to grow by 11% in the FY 22 against the expected contraction of _____% in 2020-21.

- (a) - 8.8%
- (b) - 7.7%
- (c) - 8%
- (d) - 5.9%
- (e) - 6.3%

Answer: C

CRISIL has projected India's economy to grow by 11 per cent in the next fiscal year against expected contraction of 8 per cent in 2020-21.

GDP is likely to touch the pre-pandemic level only by the second quarter of fiscal year 2022, it said. By the end of fiscal 2021-22, GDP will only be about 2 per cent higher than fiscal year 2019-2020 level and 10 per cent below its pre-pandemic trend level.

82. Koneru Humpy from Andhra Pradesh has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2020. Which Cup/Trophy was won by her in 2020?

- (a) Tunku Abdul Rahman Cup
- (b) Khaitan Trophy
- (c) Naidu Trophy
- (d) Cairns Cup
- (e) Charminar Trophy

Answer: D

Chess player Koneru Humpy from Andhra Pradesh has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award (ISWOTY) for 2020.

Humpy is the World Rapid Chess champion having won the title in December 2019 after a two-year maternity break. In 2020, she won the Cairns Cup, an elite-level tournament for the top female players. Former long jump Anju Bobby George was given the Lifetime Achievement award for her contribution to Indian sport. She remains the only athlete to win a World Championship athletics medal for her country. England's cricketer Ben Stokes announced the winner of the Emerging Player of the Year award, with Manu Bhaker receiving the honour, which was added to the awards for the first time.

The 19-year-old became the youngest Indian to clinch the women's 10m air pistol gold at the Shooting World Cup in 2018.

83. Mohankrishna Bohara has been awarded the 30th Bihari Puraskar Award for his critical work named _____.

- (a) Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya
- (b) Chuni Hui Kavitayen
- (c) Meri Ekyavan Kavitayen
- (d) Kucha Lekha, Kucha Bhashana
- (e) Na Dainyam Na Palayanam

Answer: A

Mohankrishna Bohara will be awarded the 30th Bihari Puraskar Award for his critical work 'Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya'.

The Bihari Puraskar is one of the three literary awards instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991. Named after the famous poet Bihari, the award carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation.

After considering the works published during 2010-2019, 'Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya' by Bohra was selected for the Bihari Puraskar, 2020.

84. Venita Coelho has been named as the recipient for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2020 for her booknamed _____.

- (a) When God is a Traveller
- (b) The Great Gatsby
- (c) Dead as a Dodo
- (d) Coming Out As Dalit
- (e) The God of Small Things

Answer: C

Writer-director Venita Coelho has been named as the recipient for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2020 for her book Dead as a Dodo, English author Yashica Dutt received the Yuva Puraskar for her memoir Coming Out As Dalit among other recipients of the respective awards.

85. Girish Chandra Murmu has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the year 2021. Presently, how many member countries are in the Panel (Including India)?

- (a) 12
- (b) 6

- (c) 9
- (d) 13
- (e) 15

Answer: D

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

The CAG of India was initially elected as Chairman of the Panel for 2020.

Presently, the panel consists of 13 countries -- India, Germany, Chile, China, United Kingdom, France, Philippines, Switzerland, Italy, Ghana, Indonesia, Canada and Russia.

As the Chairman, the CAG of India plays a key role in achieving the Panel's objective of greater degree of collaboration and coordination, and exchange of information on audit methods and findings, among the Panel members.

86. Tirath Singh Rawat was sworn in (March '21) as 9th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He was the first _____ Minister of Uttarakhand.

- (a) Home
- (b) Finance
- (c) Urban Development
- (d) Education
- (e) Water Resources

Answer: D

Tirath Singh Rawat was sworn-in as the 9th chief minister of Uttarakhand.

The Oath Taking Ceremony is administered by Governor, Baby Rani Maurya. He was the first Education Minister of Uttarakhand when the state was formed in 2000.

87. Denmark has set up a Centre of excellence for what sector in Rajasthan?

- (a) Textile
- (b) Defence
- (c) Dairy
- (d) Farming
- (e) Agriculture

Answer: C

A centre of excellence for the dairy sector will be set up in Rajasthan in collaboration with Denmark To provide technical support in water conservation and purification works in the urban areas of Udaipur. The Rajasthan dairy market has exhibited a strong growth during 2015-2020.

88. Anshuman Singh has died in March 2021 at the age of 86. He was the former governor of which state?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Tripura
- (e) Rajasthan

Answer: E

Former Rajasthan Governor Anshuman Singh passed away in Lucknow at the age of 86.

Justice (retired) Anshuman Singh took charge as the Governor of Rajasthan on January 16, 1999 and remained in office till May 2003.

89. Which among the following books has been authored by RanjitHoskote in March '21?

- (a) Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women
- (b) Hunchprose
- (c) The Green Queens of India – A Nation's Pride
- (d) Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smritilrani's Triumph
- (e) Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma

Answer: B

RanjitHoskote's Hunchprose is fit to be put alongside the best of Dom Moraes. The poetry and its subterranean voice, ambivalent in the sense they speak in different tones, snare the reader. The very first poem, 'Man with Parrots', situates the man in this age:

"He is the residue of his finger prints. He is who his iris says he is.

He has been recorded as his wavering image."

90. International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on March 14. It was first adopted in which year?

- (a) 1995
- (b) 1996
- (c) 1997
- (d) 1988
- (e) 1989

Answer: C

The International Day of Action Against Dams and For Rivers, Water and Life was adopted by the participants of the first International Meeting of People Affected by Dams in March 1997 in Curitiba, Brazil," according to the international rivers.org.

International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on March 14. This year, it is the 24th edition of the International Day of Action for Rivers. It is a day dedicated to save, celebrate and make people around us aware about our life-giving source of water.

International Day of Action for Rivers 2021 celebrates the 'Rights of Rivers'.

91. The book titled 'The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle' has been translated by Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada. In which year, Bacha Khan's autobiography was first published in Pashto?

- (a) 1958
- (b) 1964
- (c) 1972
- (d) 1983
- (e) 1998

Answer: D

The autobiography of freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, fondly known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan, is out in English, announced by publishing house Roli Books.

The book, titled The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle, is translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada.

Bacha Khan's autobiography was thus first published in Pukhto in 1983, in Kabul.

This book is a translation of Bacha Khan's only written, Pukhto autobiography," writes Sahibzada in the book.

92. According to an analysis released by UNICEF, the proportion of young women globally who were married as children had decreased by _____% in the last 10 years.

- (a) 12%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 20%
- (d) 24%
- (e) 32%

Answer: B

Ten million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the decade, threatening years of progress in reducing the practice, according to a new analysis released by UNICEF.

COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage warns that school closures, economic stress, service disruptions, pregnancy, and parental deaths due to the pandemic are putting the most vulnerable girls at increased risk of child marriage. Even before the COVID-19 outbreak, 100 million girls were at risk of child marriage in the next decade, despite significant reductions in several countries in recent years. In the last ten years, the proportion of young women globally who were married as children had decreased by 15 per cent, from nearly 1 in 4 to 1 in 5, the equivalent of some

25 million marriages averted, a gain that is now under threat.

93. Which state government has approved the decision to create a separate department of 'Mission Shakti'?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Himachal Pradesh
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer: A

Odisha cabinet's approval of the state government's decision to create a separate department of 'Mission Shakti' has triggered a debate among major opposition parties viewing the move as politically motivated.

Launched in 2001 during Patnaik's first term as the chief minister, the 'Mission Shakti' was accorded the status of a directorate in 2018 under the department of women and child department that was renamed as the department of women and child development and Mission Shakti.

94. According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Singapore has secured _____ place in the index.

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 10th

Answer: A

According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Switzerland leads the UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index, just ahead of the Netherlands. In 2019, 97% of the Swiss population used the internet. The only non-European economies among the top 10 are Singapore, ranked fourth, and Hong Kong (China) in the 10th position.

The index scores 152 nations on their readiness for online shopping, worth an estimated \$4.4 trillion globally in 2018, up 7% from the previous year.

95. According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Oman has replaced which country among the top 10 developing economies?

- (a) Bahrain
- (b) Croatia
- (c) Turkey
- (d) Iran
- (e) Finland

Answer: C

The 2020 edition of the index includes a few notable changes from the previous year. In the composition of the top 10 positions, Hong Kong (China) replaced Australia. Among the top 10 developing economies, Oman replaced Turkey.

The four largest increases in index scores were recorded in developing countries – Algeria, Brazil, Ghana and Lao People's Democratic Republic,

whose scores surged by at least five points, largely due to significant improvements in postal reliability. Costa Rica became the best performer in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, replacing Chile. Mauritius retained the highest score in sub-Saharan Africa, while Belarus again got the highest score among transition economies.

96. According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, which among the following countries has topped on the list in the West Asian region?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) UAE
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Malaysia
- (e) Singapore

Answer: B

Top 10 developing and transition economies in the UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index 2020, by region: West Asia - United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Turkey, Kuwait, Lebanon, Bahrain, Jordan, Iran

97. According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Which among the following countries has secured 4th on the list in the region of Transition Economies?

- (a) Belarus
- (b) Serbia
- (c) Georgia
- (d) Ukraine

(e) Azerbaijan

Answer: C

Top 10 developing and transition economies in the UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index 2020, by region: Transition Economies: Belarus, Russian Federation, Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

98. India attracted a total foreign direct investment inflow of \$72.12 billion during April-January (2020-21). It was mentioned in the data released by which among the following organizations?

- (a) DARPG
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) RBI
- (d) EXIM Bank
- (e) DPIIT

Answer: E

India attracted a total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of \$72.12 billion during April-January (2020-21), the highest ever for the first ten months of a financial year, according to data released by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade.

The value is 15 per cent higher as compared to the first ten months of 2019-20 at \$62.72 billion. Total FDI inflow also includes reinvested earnings.

India's FDI equity inflow grew 28 per cent YoY to \$54.18 billion during the first ten months of the current fiscal.

99. Indian boxers have won 10 medals including 1 gold medal at what edition of Boxam International Tournament 2021?

- (a) 26th
- (b) 28th
- (c) 31st
- (d) 33rd
- (e) 35th

Answer: E

The 35th edition of the Boxam International Tournament was held at Castellon, in Spain.

A 14-member (8 men and 6 women) Indian contingent had participated in the event and concluded the game with 10 medals including 1 Gold, 8 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Manish Kaushik, has defeated Denmark's Nikolai Terteryan in the men's 63kg summit bout.

Silver Medal Winners are: Vikas Krishan – men's 69kg, Pooja Rani – women's 75kg, Jasmine – women's 57kg, Simranjit Kaur – women's 60kg, Mohammed Hussamuddin – men's 57kg, Ashish Kumar – men's 75kg, Sumi Sangwan – men's 81kg, Satish Kumar – men's 91kg

M C Mary Kom(51kg) is the only bronze medal winner in the tournament from Indian side.

100. Vikas Krishan has won the silver medal in the Men's _____ Kg category at the 35th Boxam International Tournament.

- (a) 75 Kg
- (b) 57 Kg
- (c) 91 Kg

(d) 69 Kg

(e) 60 Kg

Answer: D

The 35th edition of the Boxam International Tournament was held at Castellon, in Spain.

A 14-member (8 men and 6 women) Indian contingent had participated in the event and concluded the game with 10 medals including 1 Gold, 8 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Manish Kaushik, has defeated Denmark's Nikolai Terteryan in the men's 63kg summit bout.

Silver Medal Winners are: Vikas Krishan – men's 69kg, Pooja Rani – women's 75kg, Jasmine – women's 57kg, Simranjit Kaur – women's 60kg, Mohammed Hussamuddin – men's 57kg, Ashish Kumar – men's 75kg, Sumi Sangwan – men's 81kg, Satish Kumar – men's 91kg

M C Mary Kom(51kg) is the only bronze medal winner in the tournament from Indian side.

101. Indian team has defeated England in the 4th test match held at Ahmedabad. India has retained the _____ trophy.

- (a) Border-Gavaskar Trophy
- (b) Irani Cup
- (c) Deodhar Trophy
- (d) Vijay Hazare Trophy
- (e) Anthony de Mello Trophy

Answer: E

Indian team has defeated England in the 4th test match held at Ahmedabad. India has retained the Anthony de Mello Trophy.

Ravichandran Ashwin is the player of the series. The Anthony de Mello Trophy is awarded to the winner of the England – India Test Cricket series held in India. The trophy was already with the Indian Team. They had won the test series held in 2016-2017.

102. Advanced Light Torpedo 'Shyena' has been developed by DRDO and currently used by the Indian Navy and _____ Navy.

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Bangladesh
- (e) Indonesia

Answer: B

The indigenously-instrumented Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL), developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), successfully cleared its maiden flight trial with a parachute system from the Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 maritime patrol aircraft.

The lightweight torpedo was designed, developed, produced and inducted into services a decade ago and is used against underwater platforms as part of anti-submarine warfare (ASW).

To enhance the range of quick acquisition of the target, the Navy scheduled the launch of TAL from fixed-wing aircraft of the Navy, for precise attacks at desired locations.

The torpedo, along with Torpedo Release Mechanism and Fire Control System, are designed and developed by the NSTL.

The parachute is designed by ADRDE, Agra. The TAL can track multiple targets simultaneously using state-of-the-art processor-based signal processing algorithms.

Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) 'Shyena' developed by India's DRDO and currently used by the Myanmar Navy and the Indian Navy.

103. Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan was conferred with the Top-20 Global Women of Excellence-2021 award. The award was presented to the Governor as part of the _____ Annual Congressional International Women's Day Gala at Naperville, Illinois.

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

Answer: C

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan was conferred with the Top-20 Global Women of Excellence-2021 award through virtual mode from Illinois, the United States of America.

The Governor accepted the prestigious award from Puducherry Raj Nivas and stated that she was humbled and was immensely honoured by the recognition.

The award was presented to the Governor as part of the 9th Annual Congressional International Women's Day Gala at Naperville, Illinois, Chicago.

The award jury, comprising members of the US-based Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force and the Multi Ethnic Coalition, has mentioned that Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan was selected for the award in recognition of her 'outstanding contribution to the society, and for being an ardent advocate of women's rights, gender parity, and women's equality.

104. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented a baton of honour and a letter of appreciation to whom among the following?

- (a) Anandiben Patel
- (b) Baby Rani Maurya
- (c) Anusuiya Uikey
- (d) Kiran Bedi
- (e) Tamilisai Soundararajan

Answer: D

President Ram Nath Kovind presented a baton of honour and a letter of appreciation to former Puducherry lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The former Puducherry lieutenant governor received a Baton of Honor decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic and the appreciation letter recognizing her service in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Kiran Bedi was removed as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry on February 16 by the President of

India and Tamilisai Soundararajan took additional charge as the Lieutenant Governor on February 18.

105. Karnataka Vikas Gramin Bank has launched the 'Vikas Asha' loan scheme for women. Under the scheme, the bank would extend loan up to a maximum of _____ Lakh.

- (a) ₹ 5 Lakh
- (b) ₹ 10 Lakh
- (c) ₹ 15 Lakh
- (d) ₹ 20 Lakh
- (e) ₹ 25 Lakh

Answer: B

The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Gramin Bank (KVGB) has launched the 'Vikas Asha' loan scheme for women.

Under the scheme, the bank would extend loan up to a maximum of ₹10 lakh with a repayment period of 84 months.

The new loan scheme is exclusively for women to meet business-related needs, including purchasing machinery/equipment/vehicle, and working capital requirements under micro and small enterprises, including retail trade.

106. Who among the following has been appointed as the first vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York?

- (a) Asmath Hassaina
- (b) Shriti Kumar Sharma
- (c) Naureen Hassan
- (d) Rashmi Shah

(e) Manisha Jha

Answer: C

An Indian-origin veteran of the financial services industry has been appointed as the first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Naureen Hassan has been appointed by the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as the first vice president and chief operating officer.

As the first vice president, Hassan will be the New York Fed's second ranking officer as well as an alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee.

107. YES Bank has launched the women centric services named _____ to offer preferentially-priced loans and healthcare benefits.

- (a) Yes Centric
- (b) Yes Essence
- (c) Yes Preference
- (d) Yes Professional
- (e) Yes Proportion

Answer: B

Yes Bank announced the launch of women-centric 'Yes Essence' services that will offer preferentially-priced loans and healthcare benefits, among other services. It has been launched on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

'Yes Essence' is a holistic banking proposition for women across customer segments -- homemakers, salaried professionals, entrepreneurs and senior

citizens -- which covers lifestyle, wellness, education, protection and investment

108. Acko Drive has announced a partnership with which among the following banks to issue free FASTags?

- (a) IDFC FIRST Bank
- (b) IDBI Bank
- (c) South Indian Bank
- (d) Federal Bank
- (e) Axis Bank

Answer: A

Acko Drive has announced a partnership with IDFC FIRST Bank to issue free FASTags. With Acko Drive getting a FASTag is hassle free and convenient.

AckoDrive's digital platform requires no issuance fee, no paperwork or security deposit.

Any private car owner can purchase a FASTag from AckoDrive's platform by submitting a few personal and vehicle details and by adding the initial wallet money of Rs. 100 to recharge the FASTag.

These FASTags can also be used for contactless payments for fuel purchase at HPCL pumps.

109. According to the latest Economic Freedom Index, which country has secured the place with 83.9 points in the list?

- (a) Switzerland
- (b) Singapore
- (c) New Zealand
- (d) Australia
- (e) Ireland

Answer: C

Singapore topped the global ranking for the second year in a row in the latest Economic Freedom Index published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation.

Singapore increased its overall score by 0.3 points to 89.7 primarily due to an improvement in the score for government spending. Singapore's score is well-above the regional and world averages.

Rounding up the global top five are New Zealand in second place with 83.9 points, Australia, third (82.4 points), Switzerland in fourth with 81.9 points and Ireland (81.4 points).

110. According to the latest Economic Freedom Index by the Heritage Foundation, what is the rank of the major economy country of Germany?

- (a) 23rd
- (b) 27th
- (c) 29th
- (d) 35th
- (e) 32nd

Answer: C

Singapore topped the global ranking for the second year in a row in the latest Economic Freedom Index published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation.

As for the major economies, the United Kingdom is 7th (78.4 points) United States is ranked 20th with a score of 74.8 points, Japan 23rd (74.1 points), Germany is 29th (72.5 points) and China is number 107 scoring 58.4 points.

This is the first time the index has been published since the COVID-19 pandemic overturned lives as well as global economies and the scoring reflects to a small extent how governments have responded to the health crisis. 184 countries were covered in the study this time and the period of study is July 2019 to June 2020.

111. According to the latest Economic Freedom Index by the Heritage Foundation, what is the rank of India (out of 40 countries) among the Asia-Pacific countries?

- (a) 21st
- (b) 22nd
- (c) 24th
- (d) 25th
- (e) 26th

Answer: E

Asia-Pacific nations generally scored lower than the world average in seven of 12 indicators: property rights, judicial effectiveness, government integrity, monetary freedom, trade freedom, investment freedom and financial freedom.

In the 2021 Index, India came in around the middle of the pack among Asia-Pacific countries ranking 26th out of 40 countries, scoring 56.5 points.

Globally, the Foundation rates India's economy as the 121st freest. Although its overall score is unchanged, improvements were made in business freedom. This was offset by declines in judicial effectiveness and other scores.

112. Which country has become the first country to receive the vaccines through the COVAX initiative with a delivery of 600000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab?

- (a) Portugal
- (b) Sudan
- (c) Ghana
- (d) Uruguay
- (e) Sweden

Answer: C

Ghana became the first country to receive vaccines through the COVAX initiative with a delivery of 600,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab.

The shipment is part of a first wave of free deliveries headed to dozens of low- and middle-income countries under COVAX, a UN-backed scheme that aims to ensure fair access to COVID-19 vaccines.

The shots, which were produced by the Serum Institute of India, will be used by Ghana to launch a vaccination drive.

COVAX is planning to deliver almost 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines around the world by the end of the year, including 1.8 billion to poorer countries at no cost to their governments.

113. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has signed a memorandum of understanding with _____ to enhance cooperation in the areas of nutrition, child protection and development.

- (a) CII
- (b) Invest India
- (c) NITI Aayog

(d) Both (e) & (c)

(e) UNDP

Answer: B

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has signed a memorandum of understanding with Invest India to enhance cooperation in the areas of nutrition, child protection and development, women empowerment and convergent capacity building. Invest India Missions/EAP Desk would support the efforts of the Ministry in strategic and policy support, international cooperation, convergence, impact assessment, sustained behaviour change communication and in the creation of a participatory ecosystem geared towards creating large-scale impact.

To formulate, design and conduct strategic research for the Ministry, DRISHTI (Development Research and Strategic Intelligence) under Invest India would conduct input and output analysis research, and other research as per requirement including coordinating with research agencies for primary, secondary and tertiary research.

114. NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing a satellite called _____ to detect movements of the planet's surface.

- (a) NASRI
- (b) NISAR
- (c) INSRI
- (d) SARNI
- (e) SRINA

Answer: B

NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing a satellite called NISAR, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.

The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit and will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an "unprecedented" view of the planet.

It's an SUV-sized satellite that is being jointly developed by the space agencies of the US and India. The partnership agreement was signed between NASA and ISRO in September 2014. NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem. ISRO, on the other hand, will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.

The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR here refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.

115. A developing satellite is an SUV-sized satellite that is being jointly developed by the space agencies of the US and India. The partnership agreement was signed between NASA and ISRO in which year?

(a) 2012

(b) 2014

(c) 2016

(d) 2015

(e) 2018

Answer: B

NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing a satellite called NISAR, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.

The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit and will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an "unprecedented" view of the planet.

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The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.

116. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced the launch of Super _____ scholarship scheme to support the education of meritorious girls from poor families.

- (a) 55
- (b) 60
- (c) 75
- (d) 50
- (e) 80

Answer: C

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced the launch of Super-75 scholarship scheme to support the education of meritorious girls from poor families.

They can excel in streams like medicine, engineering, ITI (Industrial training institutes) and humanity and contribute to nation-building.

This is keeping in view of 2021's theme of International Women's Day i.e "Choose to Challenge" and to celebrate Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav- India@75.

117. A new scheme 'Tejaswini' was launched by Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. It would give the financial assistance of _____ Lakhs to the girls between 18 to 35 years.

- (a) ₹ 2 Lakh
- (b) ₹ 4 Lakh
- (c) ₹ 5 Lakh
- (d) ₹ 10 Lakh
- (e) ₹ 15 Lakh

Answer: C

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has announced a new scheme - Tejaswini under Mission Youth, to provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakhs to the girls between the age group of 18 to 35 years to start their business.

Mission Youth will provide 10 percent of the project cost and will also pay the interest every year.

A new era of change and development is ushering in J&K, a change that will provide women with their rightful place, a voice, an identity, and individuality.

To lay a strong foundation for the girls, no fee will be charged up to 12th standard from 5,89,000 girl students who took admission in different government-run schools.

118. Which among the following state has presented the Gender Budget in the ensuing Budget session of the Assembly in March 2021?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Chhattisgarh

Answer: B

Andhra Pradesh State government has presented Gender Budget in the ensuing Budget session of the Assembly.

It would provide data pertaining to allocations made and funds spent on women's welfare under various schemes through the concept of Gender Budget.

It was mandatory to constitute committees in private and government offices to prevent harassment of women at workplaces.

The Chief Minister virtually inaugurated Women Help Desks in all police stations in the State along with cyber kiosks and launched the Swechha programme to create awareness on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls.

He also flagged off a fleet of 900 Disha patrol vehicles and 18 Disha crime scene management vehicles.

119. M Geethanjali and Kalpana K have featured in the book 'The Green Queens of India- Nation's Pride'. M Geethanjali and Kalpana K are the natives of which among the following states?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Assam
- (e) Karnataka

Answer: B

Two Punjab cadre Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers have featured in the book 'The Green Queens of India- Nation's Pride', a one-of-its-kind compilation of the extraordinary works done by women forest officers in conserving the forest and wildlife, for their extensive campaign and works in preserving the protected animal blackbuck, also the State Animal of Punjab.

The e-book dedicated to the women forest officers of the country has been published by the Indian

Forest Service Association- Central Unit, New Delhi, and was released by Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar.

Two Punjab cadre IFS officers ' M Geethanjali (43) and Kalpana K (32), both natives of Tamil Nadu' have been featured in the book for their exceptional work in conservation of blackbucks at Punjab's Abohar open wildlife sanctuary.

120. As per the Budget of Maharashtra government, the new scheme helps farmers to get a zero-interest loan up to _____ Lakh on timely payment of loans.

- (a) ₹ 2 Lakh
- (b) ₹ 1.5 Lakh
- (c) ₹ 2.5 Lakh
- (d) ₹ 3 Lakh
- (e) ₹ 1 Lakh

Answer: D

Maharashtra Finance Minister Ajit Pawar presented a budget with Rs. 10,226 crore revenue deficit and an annual plan of Rs 1,30,000 crore for 2021-22.

The shortfall of revenue to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore due to the stamp duty waiver will be met by increasing excise duty and VAT on liquor which will add Rs 1,800 crore to the government coffers.

Farmers will get a zero-interest loan up to Rs 3 lakh on timely payment of loans. There will be a special scheme providing relief to farmers on pending electricity dues and another scheme for strengthening the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee infrastructure.

Airports at Shirdi, Amravati, Solapur, Sindhurg and Akola will be developed. There will be a unified development control and promotion regulation for major cities in the state. The government will take a Rs 15,000 crore loan to complete long-pending irrigation projects.

New medical colleges will be set up in Sindhurg, Osmanabad, Nashik, Raigad and Satara district in the public-private-partnership mode.

The state would complete the Mumbai coastal road before 2024 while connecting the Navha Sheva-Shivadi under-construction road with the Worli-Bandra Sea Link.

121. What is the projected growth rate of India for the FY 2022 according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development?

- (a) 12.4%
- (b) 12.6%
- (c) 13.5%
- (d) 13.8%
- (e) 11.2%

Answer: B

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projected that the Indian economy would bounce back to grow at 12.6% in FY22, the highest among G20 countries, aided by additional fiscal support after the covid-19 pandemic pushed the economy into recession after a gap of more than 40 years.

Global output remained around 1% lower than it was prior to the pandemic, with marked variation in the

pace of recovery across economies," the grouping of developed economies said in its interim economic outlook.

122. Which among the following banks has tied up with Razorpay and magicbricks to allow users of its platform to pay the rent online through credit cards?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) Bandhan Bank
- (e) South Indian Bank

Answer: B

Magicbricks has tied up with Razorpay and HDFC Bank to allow users of its platform pay rent online through credit cards.

A person can earn reward points by paying rent, which is generally one of the biggest monthly expenses of a person, through credit card.

The user would get interest-free credit for 45 days when the rent is paid through credit card.

The deferment of a large spend which has a credit period of around 45 days also translates into a month's interest of approximately 1%.

While the current estimated market size of paying rent through credit card is around ₹3,000 crore, the real size of the market is considerably larger.

There are 10 million rental residential units in India. Of these, almost 75% are in the ₹35,000 per month and less rent bracket.

Within this segment, almost 50% of the properties are in the range of ₹10,000- ₹20,000 per month.

123. Which among the following banks has partnered with the Trust for Retailers & Retail Associates of India foundation to facilitate youth employment in e-commerce & retail sectors?

- (a) RBL Bank
- (b) SBM Bank
- (c) DBS Bank
- (d) Bank of America
- (e) ICICI Bank

Answer: C

DBS Bank India announced its partnership with TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers & Retail Associates of India) foundation, a non-profit engaged in training and placement of youth in e-commerce & retail sectors.

The partnership will support youth from low-income households by providing them with long-term employment opportunities.

DBS will facilitate the skills training and employment of individuals affected by the pandemic and persons with disabilities through a one-year-long pan-India program, a combination of classroom and online training sessions.

The training will be conducted at TRRAIN centres across major cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi-NCR region, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, among others.

124. Aquaconnect has partnered with Bank of Baroda to pave the way for access to formal credit

for 1.6 million aquaculture farmers. Aquaconnect is _____ based company.

- (a) Tuticorin
- (b) Visakhapatnam
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Kochi
- (e) Mangalore

Answer: C

The aquaculture tech company Aquaconnect has partnered with Bank of Baroda to pave the way for access to formal credit for 1.6 million aquaculture farmers.

Bank of Baroda in partnership with Aquaconnect will provide credit access under the Kisan Credit Card scheme at an annualised rate of as low as 10%.

The fish and shrimp farmers can also avail the advisory services and quality farm inputs from Aquaconnect platform.

Aquaconnect is headquartered in Chennai.

125. NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute India have released a new report 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India. The report identifies a market size of USD 50 billion for the financing of EVs in which year?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2028
- (c) 2030
- (d) 2032
- (e) 2035

Answer: C

NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India released a new report 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India', which highlights the role of finance in the India's transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of USD 266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh crore) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade.

The report also identifies a market size of USD 50 billion (Rs 3.7 lakh crore) for the financing of EVs in 2030—about 80% of the current size of India's retail vehicle finance industry, worth USD 60 billion (Rs 4.5 lakh crore).

126. In March 2021, PM Modi inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' between India and _____ along with other infrastructural projects in Tripura.

- (a) Myanmar
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Maldives
- (d) Sri Lanka
- (e) Indonesia

Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh along with other infrastructural projects in Tripura. The connectivity between Bangladesh and India will prove to be very important for the northeast region and for India and Bangladesh trade. This is a new trade corridor between India and Bangladesh. 'Maitri Setu', which spans 1.9 kilometres joining Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in

Bangladesh, has been built over the Feni river which flows between the Indian boundary in Tripura and Bangladesh.

127. The Indian Navy has signed a contract with Suryadipta Projects to construct _____ ammunition-cum-torpedo-cum-missile (ACTCM) barges.

- (a) 19
- (b) 11
- (c) 14
- (d) 21
- (e) 26

Answer: B

The Indian Navy has signed a contract with Suryadipta Projects to construct 11 ammunition-cum-torpedo-cum-missile (ACTCM) barges. The contract with Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, a Thane-based MSME, was concluded. Delivery of barges is scheduled to commence from May 22. The ACTCM barges will be inducted in Indian Navy to undertake the mission needs for embarking or disembarking ammunition, torpedo, missile, etc.

128. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has inaugurated the Tribes India GI Mahotsav at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in which place?

- (a) Nainital
- (b) Tehri
- (c) Mussoorie

(d) Ramnagar

(e) Jaspur

Answer: C

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated the Tribes India GI Mahotsav at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie.

The Tribes India GI Mahotsav – Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India is an exhibition of GI tagged products and more than 40 GI registered proprietors and GI authorised users and tribal artisans are participating and showcasing their region-specific products.

The purpose of the GI Mahotsav is to increase the awareness of these products amongst the Officer-Trainees and sensitize them about the rich cultural heritage of India so that they can in-turn formulate policies that safeguard the interest of GI products in their region.

129. Which among the following countries has done its first military exercises named 'AsterX' in space to test its ability to defend its satellites?

(a) Germany

(b) France

(c) Italy

(d) Croatia

(e) Israel

Answer: B

France has done its first military exercises in space to test its ability to defend its satellites, in a sign of

the growing competition between world powers in Earth's orbit.

Michel Friedling, the head of France's newly created Space Command, called the exercises a "stress test of our systems".

Codenamed "AsterX" in a nod to the first French satellite Asterix from 1965, the drills will simulate the monitoring of a potentially dangerous space object, as well as a threat to a satellite.

130. According to the World Bank's report, seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase the national income by _____% in Bangladesh.

(a) 12%

(b) 15%

(c) 17%

(d) 19%

(e) 21%

Answer: C

Improvement in connectivity between Bangladesh and India, alongside Bhutan and Nepal, has the potential to make the sub-region an economic growth pole for South Asia and can add substantially to their gross domestic product (GDP).

A seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17 per cent in Bangladesh and 8 per cent in India.

It was mentioned in the World Bank's latest report on 'Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and

Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia'.

It is time that connectivity should be used for development in BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) countries and the World Bank is an active partner to be investing in this area in this sub-region.

131. What is the projected growth rate of India in the financial year 2020-21 according to the rating agency CRISIL?

- (a) -11%
- (b) + 11%
- (c) -8%
- (d) +8%
- (e) - 9.9%

Answer: C

Rating agency CRISIL sees India's gross domestic product (GDP) growing 11 per cent in financial year 2021-22 after an estimated 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21.

Indian economy contracted by 24.4 per cent in April-June 2020 and 7.3 per cent in the July-September quarter of the year. The GDP growth returned to positive territory in October-December quarter, rising by 0.4 per cent.

The rating agency expects GDP growth to average 6.3 per cent between fiscals 2023 and 2025. That would be lower than the 6.7 percent average growth seen in the decade preceding the pandemic, but higher than the 5.8 percent average in the three fiscals prior.

132. Defence Research and Development

Organization has conducted the final development test of Air Independent Propulsion in which city?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Kochi
- (c) Trivandrum
- (d) Visakhapatnam
- (e) Bhubaneswar

Answer: A

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) conducted the final development test of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) in Mumbai.

AIP allows a submarine to be submerged for longer periods under water and makes the sub-surface platform more deadly by making it quieter than a nuclear submarine.

The Indian Navy now plans to retrofit all its Kalvari class non-nuclear attack with AIP during their first upgrade, expected around 2023.

The 1615 tonne Kalvari class submarine is being built by Mazagon Dockyards Limited in collaboration with French Naval Group and is based on Scorpene design.

133. The book titled 'In Karunanidhi: A Life' has been authored by whom among the following?

- (a) Neelakandan
- (b) AS Paneerselvam
- (c) Perumal Murugan
- (d) Janakiraman
- (e) Ashokamitran

Answer: B

The book 'In Karunanidhi: A Life' has been authored by AS Panneerselvan.

The book tells the story of the man who became a metaphor for modern Tamil Nadu, where language, empowerment, self-respect, art, literary forms and films coalesced to lend a unique vibrancy to politics.

A.S. Panneerselvan is currently the readers' editor of The Hindu. He has served as the newspaper's independent, full-time internal ombudsman since 2012.

Apart from being a regular columnist, he is also an adjunct professor at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai.

134. The Central Industrial Security Force has observed the Raising Day. The CISF was set up under the Union ministry of home affairs in which year?

- (a) 1954
- (b) 1969
- (c) 1987
- (d) 1975
- (e) 1972

Answer: B

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is observing its 52nd Raising Day.

It is the day when the CISF, one of six paramilitary forces in India, was set up under the Union ministry of home affairs in 1969.

Currently, the CISF has an active strength of more than 148,000 personnel. It has 12 reserve battalions and eight training institutes. It was formed to protect industrial undertakings of both government and private.

135. IBM has announced the collaboration with Samagra Shiksha to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across _____ districts in the state.

- (a) 3
- (b) 4
- (c) 5
- (d) 6
- (e) 8

Answer: C

IBM has announced a collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Uttarakhand, the Government of Uttarakhand's education mission to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state.

The program would advance the skills and careers of close to 25,600 students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.

The collaboration is part of a three-year program between IBM and Uttarakhand State Government with the American India Foundation as the implementation partner to increase the participation of girls and women in STEM careers.

136. Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding with which among the following companies to develop a plastic park in Paradeep?

- (a) IOCL
- (b) Essar Oil
- (c) HPCL
- (d) BPCL
- (e) Reliance Oil

Answer: A

Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a plastic park in Paradeep.

As per the MoU, Indian Oil announced a special strategic incentive scheme to attract investments in downstream polymer industries at Paradeep Plastic Park.

An incentive of Rs 2000 for each metric tonne of polypropylene granules from Paradip Refinery shall be offered to the manufacturing units located in the Paradeep Plastic Park till March 31, 2030.

Around 26 units are expected to come up at the plastic park with an estimated investment of Rs 500 crore and it is likely to generate 6,000 direct and indirect employment.

With a project cost of Rs 107 crore, the park is spread over 120 acre of land and it is close to a national highway, a railway station and a port.

137. Flight operations at Bareilly airport have started recently in March '21. With this, Bareilly becomes the _____ airport to operate in Uttar Pradesh.

- (a) 7th
- (b) 8th
- (c) 9th
- (d) 5th
- (e) 6th

Answer: B

Bareilly has become the eighth airport to operate in Uttar Pradesh after Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Prayagraj and Hindon.

Hardeep Singh Puri virtually flagged off the first flight from the newly upgraded Bareilly Airport to Delhi on 8 March 2021. The airport has been upgraded for commercial flight operations under UDAN - RCS. Bareilly becomes the 56th airport to be successfully operationalized under UDAN. Apart from enhancing the aerial connectivity of the region, the flight operations will have a watershed impact on trade, tourism and the local economy.

138. What edition of DUSTLIK was held in March 2021 between India and Uzbekistan in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet?

- (a) 2nd
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 4th
- (d) 5th
- (e) 6th

Answer: A

The India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise “DUSTLIK II” was held in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand).

This is the Second Edition of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in Nov 2019.

As many as 45 soldiers each from Uzbekistan and the Indian Army are participating in the exercise. Both contingents will be sharing their expertise and skills in the field of counter-terrorism operations in mountainous/rural/urban scenarios under UN mandate.

139. The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Section _____ of Finance Act, 2007.

- (a) 136-b
- (b) 176-a
- (c) 127-c
- (d) 112-d
- (e) 109-a

Answer: A

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.

Salient Features:

Salient features of the PMSSN

- A non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account;
- Proceeds of share of health in the Health and Education Cess will be credited into PMSSN;
- Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilised for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare namely,
 - ✓ Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
 - ✓ Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)
 - ✓ National Health Mission Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
 - ✓ Emergency and disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies
 - ✓ Any future programme/scheme that targets to achieve progress towards SDGs and the targets set out in the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017.
- Administration and maintenance of the PMSSN is entrusted to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

140. The cabinet has approved the hiking of FDI limit to 74% from 49%. The hiking of FDI cap in the insurance sector from 26% to 49% was approved by the government in which year?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2011
- (d) 2012

(e) 2015

Answer: E

The Union Cabinet gave its nod for amendments in the Insurance Act, paving way for 74 per cent foreign direct investment in the sector.

Currently, the permissible FDI limit in the life and general insurance stands at 49 per cent with ownership and management control with Indian.

The Cabinet in its meeting has approval for amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938.

It was in 2015 when the government hiked the FDI cap in the insurance sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent.

Increase in FDI will help improve life insurance penetration in the country. Life insurance premium as a percentage of GDP is 3.6 percent in the country, way below the global average of 7.13 per cent, and in case of general insurance, it is even worse at 0.94 per cent of GDP, as against the world average of 2.88 per cent. The government has earlier allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment in insurance intermediaries.

141. Which among the following has announced the product named 'Soundbox 2.0' to improve the experience and usability for merchants in March '21?

- (a) Google
- (b) IBM
- (c) Paytm
- (d) Samsung
- (e) Realme

Answer: C

Paytm has announced two new products for their Indian merchant partners, namely the Soundbox 2.0 and Paytm Smart POS for Android Phones.

The former product is an updated version of the original Sound Box that was released back in 2019, and the latter is an app that can turn an Android smartphone into a device that accepts debit & credit card payments.

The Soundbox 2.0 features a number of upgrades that will improve the experience and usability for merchants.

It has a digital screen that gives instant visual confirmation of the paid amount along with the voice-based response, and a "Function" button that when pressed twice will trigger a payment summary for the entire day.

The device will initially support English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu & Kannada languages.

142. Which among the following bank has topped in the list of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's Digital Payment Scorecard?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) ICICI Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda
- (e) Canara Bank

Answer: A

State Bank of India (SBI) has topped the list of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's

(MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard for 3 consecutive months.

The scorecard tracks Commercial Banks' performance on various digital parameters. SBI remained the top remitter bank by recording the highest UPI transaction volume of nearly 64 crores having a user base of 13.5 crores.

SBI processed 636 crore transactions through its digital platforms which are 67% of the bank's total transaction volume.

The bank commands almost 25% market share by transaction volume of mobile banking. According to SimilarWeb, SBI's internet banking service is ranked first in terms of online traffic in the banking credit and lending category and is used by over 8.5 crore customers.

143. Which among the following companies has announced the co-lending partnership with Karur Vysya Bank in March '21?

- (a) Bajaj Finance Limited
- (b) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
- (c) Shriram Transport Finance Company
- (d) HDB Finance Services
- (e) Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company

Answer: E

Karur Vysya Bank and Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd (Chola), the financial services arm of the Murugappa Group, have announced a co-lending partnership.

The co-lending model is seen as a great opportunity for banks and NBFCs to draw upon each other's strengths. The pact is expected to help Chola and Karur Vysya Bank expand their reach to new customer segments across the country where Chola has a stronger presence to target high-value loan segments such as construction equipment and commercial vehicles.

144. The government has made it mandatory for businesses with over Rs 50 crore turnover to generate e-invoices for B2B transactions from April 1. It was notified by which among the following organizations?

- (a) Invest India
- (b) RBI
- (c) CBDT
- (d) CBIC
- (e) Niti Aayog

Answer: D

The government has made it mandatory for businesses with over Rs 50 crore turnover to generate e-invoices for B2B transactions from April 1.

Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for business-to-business (B2B) transactions has been made mandatory for companies with turnover of over Rs 500 crore and Rs 100 crore from October 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021, respectively.

E-invoicing will be extended to companies with turnover over Rs 50 crore from April . It was notified by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. Under e-invoicing, taxpayers have to generate invoices on their internal systems (ERP/accounting/billing software) and then report them online to the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP). The IRP would validate the information provided in the invoices and return the digitally signed e-invoices with a unique 'Invoice Reference Number (IRN)' along with a QR Code to the taxpayer.

145. NHA has entered into an agreement with UTIITSL to issue free PVC Ayushman cards to beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in _____ states and Union Territories.

- (a) 11
- (b) 14
- (c) 16
- (d) 15
- (e) 19

Answer: A

The National Health Authority (NHA) has entered into an agreement with UTI Infrastructure Technology and Services Limited (UTIITSL) to issue free PVC Ayushman cards to beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in 11 states and Union Territories. UTIITSL is the second agency after Common Service Centre (CSC SPV) which has been

empanelled by the NHA to provide free PVC Ayushman cards to the beneficiaries.

The facility to issue free Ayushman cards has been rolled out in 11 states and UTs -- Bihar, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Tripura, Nagaland, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand with immediate effect. Until now, beneficiaries were required to pay Rs 30 as fees at UTIITSL.

146. Which among the following has formed a global partnership with Samsung in order to enable digital access to consumers and small businesses in emerging markets?

- (a) Visa
- (b) Mastercard
- (c) Europay
- (d) Rupay
- (e) Both (a) & (b)

Answer: B

Mastercard has formed a global partnership with Samsung in order to enable digital access to consumers and small businesses in emerging markets through its extensible Pay on Demand platform.

Pay on Demand platform is designed to accelerate digital inclusion by bringing together financial institutions, original equipment manufacturers and telcos to solve issues that have limited device financing in emerging markets.

Mastercard added that the platform will be launched with the Samsung Knox team in the Middle East and

Africa region in early 2020 and extend to additional regions.

147. Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated the International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing. C-MET was established in which year to fill the gap between R&D and production of critical electronic materials?

- (a) 1978
- (b) 1984
- (c) 1990
- (d) 1992
- (e) 1996

Answer: C

Sanjay Dhotre, the Union Minister of State for Education, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, inaugurated the International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP).

Electronic materials and components are core of all electronic devices. Materials are the back-bone of capacity and functionality of any electronic gadget. C-MET was, hence, established in 1990 to fill the gap between R&D and production of critical electronic materials.

India's share in global electronics manufacturing has grown from 1.3% in 2012 to 3.6% in 2019, as per industry estimates.

148. Name the two naval ships which have arrived in the port town of Mongla for a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

- (a) INS Akula, INS Arihant
- (b) INS Kulish, INS Arihant
- (c) INS Akula, INS Sumedha
- (d) INS Kulish, INS Sumedha
- (e) INS Sumedha, INS Kulish

Answer: E

According to the Indian Navy, the year 2021 is being celebrated as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' being the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

The ships INS Kulish and INS Sumedha with Cmde MV Raju, NM, Naval Officer-in-Charge Andhra Pradesh onboard were given a ceremonial welcome by the Bangladesh navy on their arrival in Mongla. INS Sumedha is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel and Kulish is an indigenously built guided missile corvette.

This is the first time that any Indian Naval Ship is visiting the port of Mongla to pay homage to the Bangladeshi and Indian combatants and citizens who laid down their lives during the Liberation War of 1971. It is also aimed to reiterate India's firm resolve and commitment to maintain peace, stability and good order in the region, in line with SAGAR - Security and Growth for all in the region.

149. REC Ltd and Power Finance Corporation have entered into a pact with Bhutan-based Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd to finance a _____ MW hydroelectric project at Trashiyangtse.

- (a) 345 MW
- (b) 600 MW
- (c) 650 MW
- (d) 700 MW
- (e) 750 MW

Answer: B

REC Ltd and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) have entered into a pact with Bhutan-based Kholongchu Hydro Energy Ltd (KHEL) to finance a 600-megawatt hydroelectric project at Trashiyangtse.

KHEL is a 50:50 joint venture between SJVN India and Druk Green Power Corporation (Bhutan) set up for developing the 600-MW Kholongchhu hydroelectric project in the eastern Bhutan.

The project is proposed to be funded in a debt-equity ratio of 70:30 and as per the MoU, REC would extend rupee term loan of Rs 2,029 crore. KHEL is the first JV being undertaken between the two governments for implementation of the 4x150 MW Kholongchu hydroelectric project.

150. Which two country's space agencies have signed an agreement to develop a "complex of experimental research facilities created on the surface and/or in the orbit of the Moon"?

- (a) Russia & China
- (b) Russia & Pakistan
- (c) China & Pakistan
- (d) Japan & Russia
- (e) Japan & China

Answer: A

The Russian space agency Roscomos has signed an agreement with China's National Space Administration (CNSA) to develop a "complex of experimental research facilities created on the surface and/or in the orbit of the Moon".

The project was "open to all interested countries and international partners" in what experts said would be China's biggest international space cooperation project to date.

This year 2021, it celebrates the 60th anniversary of Russia's first-ever crewed space flight.

US space agency NASA only sent its first crewed flight into space in 1968.

151. The National Anti-Doping Agency's disciplinary panel has imposed sanctions on Madhavan R and Ruchika for violation of its code. Madhavan R is associated with which among the following games?

- (a) Boxing
- (b) Wrestling
- (c) Weightlifting
- (d) Athlete
- (e) Table Tennis

Answer: C

The National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel imposed sanctions on weightlifter Madhavan R and boxer Ruchika for violation of its code.

Weightlifter Madhavan R, who tested positive for prohibited substance Phentermine and Mephentermine, was handed a four-year ban by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel.

The ADDP also imposed a two-year ban on boxer Ruchika after she was found positive for Furosemide. NADA took to Twitter to announce the two sanctions.

152. In March 2021, Alassane Ouattara was named as the President of which among the following countries?

- (a) Cape Verde
- (b) Gambia
- (c) Ivory Coast
- (d) Burkina Faso
- (e) Sierra Leone

Answer: C

Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara named his close confidant and chief of staff, Patrick Achi, as interim prime minister.

Tene Birahima Ouattara, presidential affairs minister and the younger brother of President Ouattara, was appointed interim defence minister, also replacing Bakayoko in that position.

Bakayoko, also known as "Hambak", took over as prime minister in July 2020 from Amadou Gon Coulibaly who died after returning to Ivory Coast after two months in France, where he had been treated for heart problems.

153. Vinesh Phogat has won the gold medal in the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event and reclaimed the top rank in her category in which place?

- (a) Oslo

- (b) Ottawa
- (c) Rome
- (d) Cairo
- (e) Copenhagen

Answer: C

Vinesh Phogat won her second gold medal with a dominant win in the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series event and reclaimed the top rank in her category in Rome.

The 26-year-old World bronze medallist and the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games, Vinesh blanked Canada's Diana Mary Helen Weicker 4-0 in the 53kg title clash.

154. Kuldeep Malik has won the bronze medal at Matteo Pellicone Ranking series held in Rome. He won the medal in which category?

- (a) 65 Kg
- (b) 53 Kg
- (c) 72 Kg
- (d) 130 Kg
- (e) 57 Kg

Answer: C

Kuldeep Malik has won the bronze medal in the Men's 72 Kg category at Matteo Pellicone Ranking series.

Winner	Medal	Category
Bajrang Punia	Gold	Men's 65 Kg
Naveen	Bronze	Men's 130 Kg
Vinesh	Gold	Women's 53 Kg

Phogat		
Sarita Mor	Silver	Women's 57 Kg

155. How many medals have been won by the total Indian team at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series 2021 in Rome, Italy?

- (a) 10
- (b) 8
- (c) 9
- (d) 12
- (e) 13

Answer: B

The 14 member Indian wrestling team has bagged 8 medals (Gold – 2, Silver – 1, Bronze – 5) at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series 2021 in Rome, Italy.

Around 26 countries participated in the tournament which was organized by the United World Wrestling.

156. INS Karanj has been commissioned at the Naval Dockyard Mumbai. It is Indian Navy's _____ stealth Scorpene class Submarine.

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 3rd
- (e) 8th

Answer: D

Indian Navy's third stealth Scorpene class Submarine INS Karanj has been commissioned at the Naval Dockyard Mumbai.

Six Scorpene Class submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

(MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

INS Karanj would form part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet and would be another potent part of the Command's arsenal.

157. Santosh Gangwar has launched the convergence of the ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The convergence would initially be effective in _____ designated districts.

- (a) 198
- (b) 113
- (c) 126
- (d) 145
- (e) 154

Answer: B

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Gangwar launched the convergence of the ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat PMJAY).

The convergence will initially be effective in 113 designated districts, where medical care infrastructure under the ESI Scheme are not available, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh

The ESI scheme is mainly financed by contributions raised from employees covered under the scheme and their employers as a fixed percentage of wages. Employees of covered units and establishments drawing wages up to Rs 10,000 per month come

under the purview of the scheme for social security benefits.

However, employees earning up to Rs 50 a day as wages are exempted from payment of their part of the contribution.

The state governments bear one-eighth of the share of expenditure on the medical benefit within the per-capita ceiling of Rs 900 per annum, and all additional expenditure beyond the ceiling.

158. 'Desh Bhakti' is the central theme of which among the following states/UTs budget for the year 2021-22?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Gujarat

Answer: A

Desh Bhakti' is the central theme of Budget of Delhi for the year 2021-22.

The theme of Delhi government budget is 'deshbhakti' or patriotism.

It would entail placing 500 national flags across the city, like the one in Connaught Place. Rs 45 crore have been set aside for this head.

Additionally, Rs 10 crore each have been set aside for programmes and events on the lives and contribution of Bhagat Singh and BR Ambedkar.

The budget made the proposal to start 100 Mahila Mohalla Clinics in the city. These clinics will cater specifically to women and "services of gynaecologist

and related diagnostic tests" will be made available free of cost. There will eventually be 280 such clinics in the city.

Delhi government has remained on its tried and tested track of giving the highest allocation to education and health. While 24% (the highest) of the Rs 69,000 crore budget has been allocated to education, the allocation is 14% in health.

When it comes to allocation for schemes and programmes, however, transport has trumped every other department this year and has got 23% of the Rs 37,800 crore outlay. Education comes in at 20%, followed by health at 14%.

159. WE HUB has announced 'UPSurge' in collaboration with the Australian government. WE HUB has been promoted by which among the following state?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Odisha

Answer: B

WE HUB has been promoted by Telangana to foster and promote women entrepreneurship.

WE HUB has announced 'UPSurge' in collaboration with the Australian government. This collaborative pre-incubation programme aims to aid women entrepreneurs across India to achieve financial independence. It follows the first WE-Hub/Australia collaboration 'Community Slate' which concluded in

2020. Australia was WE Hub's first international partner.

The 12-week pre-incubation program gives participants skills to help them systematically gauge the feasibility of their ideas and develop them into a sustainable business. The programme has already received 549 applications from across 14 cities around the country.

160. March 10 was designated as the " National Gestational Diabetes Awareness Day ". The first National GDM awareness day was observed in which year?

- (a) 2017
- (b) 2018
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2020
- (e) 2016

Answer: C

March 10 was designated as the " National Gestational Diabetes Awareness Day ". The first National GDM awareness day was observed in 2019.

The aim of the day is to raise national awareness of the link between maternal health and diabetes, and invite pregnant women to hospitals and clinics for free screening.

The day selected as the birthday of Dr V Seshiah, a diabetes expert, on March 10th.

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) is defined as Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT) that begins or is first recognized during pregnancy.

GDM is also called Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy (HIP). Gestational diabetes is a disease in which blood sugar levels rise during pregnancy.

161. Susmita Mukherjee has released the book named 'Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women'. The book is a collection of _____ short stories.

- (a) 10
- (b) 11
- (c) 9
- (d) 12
- (e) 13

Answer: B

Susmita Mukherjee's new book of short stories 'Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women' was released. The book is a collection of 11 short stories-- written "over three decades".

Each story takes you into the world of women from different walks of life.

Be it women living on the society's fringes or those from the high echelons-- each story gives a unique glimpse into the lives of these characters.

The book is named after one of the stories in it 'Baanjh' which follows the life of Rukmini Devi who is in an abusive marriage with Kunwar Chandrabhan Pratap Singh.

162. Indian women's trap team trio Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari have won the silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo. The trio team was defeated by which country's team?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Russia
- (c) Croatia
- (d) New Zealand
- (e) Czech Republic

Answer: B

Indian women's trap team trio Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari lost to Russia to win a silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.

The men's trap team has finished sixth out of 11 teams in the fray. Russia and Croatia made it to the gold medal match while Egypt and Slovakia were to fight it out for the bronze.

163. What is the rank of India in the list of overall medal standings with 2 medals at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo?

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 8th

Answer: D

India has finished 7th rank with 2 medals.

Russia topped the overall medal standings with 9 medals followed by Croatia & Spain.

The Men's Indian team Mairaj Ahmen Khan, ANgad Vir Singh & Gurjoat Khangura won the bronze medal in the Men's skeet team event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Cairo.

164. PM Narendra Modi has released a Manuscript with commentaries by _____ scholars on shlokas of Srimad Bhagavadgita.

- (a) 14
- (b) 18
- (c) 19
- (d) 21
- (e) 25

Answer: D

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a Manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on shlokas of Srimad Bhagavadgita.

The Prime Minister lauded the work done by Dr. Karan Singh on Indian philosophy.

His effort has revived the identity of Jammu and Kashmir, which has led the thought tradition of the entire India for centuries.

Thousands of scholars have dedicated their whole lives for in depth study of the Gita, which can be clearly seen in the analysis of different interpretations on every verse of a single scripture and the expression of so many mystics.

165. Ram Nath Kovind has laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh. The program was organized by which among the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Urban Affairs

(e) Ministry of Culture

Answer: E

Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh.

The President also inaugurated the newly carved Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India.

The program was organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Tribal Affairs Department of Madhya Pradesh.

The welfare and development of the tribal community is inter-linked to the welfare and development of the entire country.

166. Which among the following insurance companies has launched the Domestic Travel Insurance in partnership with InterMiles?

- (a) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- (b) Chola Mandalam MS General Insurance
- (c) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- (d) Edelweiss General Insurance
- (e) IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance

Answer: D

Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has launched Edelweiss Group Domestic Travel Insurance in partnership with InterMiles, a leading travel and lifestyle rewards programme.

The product is a free cancellation air travel policy that takes care of all cancellation concerns customers may have, thus allowing them to be

stress free in a volatile environment, where travel plans may keep shifting.

Customers booking tickets on InterMiles, for travel anywhere in India, can opt for Zero Cancellation, by paying a nominal amount, at the time of booking.

The Edelweiss Free Cancellation policy is a full proof cover for travellers, since it covers most of the reasons that lead to ticket cancellation.

This policy will allow customers to cancel their flights up to 24 hours before departure in case they are unable to fly due to unavoidable circumstances.

Shanai Ghosh - ED & CEO, Edelweiss General Insurance

Manish Dureja - CEO, InterMiles

167. The Reserve Bank of India has removed IDBI Bank from the Prompt Corrective Action framework after a gap of 4 years. In 2017, IDBI Bank's net NPAs was over _____%.

- (a) 13%
- (b) 4%
- (c) 8%
- (d) 11%
- (e) 10%

Answer: A

The RBI removed IDBI Bank from its enhanced regulatory supervision or Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework after a gap of nearly four years on improved financial performance.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had placed IDBI Bank under PCA framework in May 2017, after it had breached the thresholds for capital adequacy,

asset quality (net NPAs was over 13 per cent in March 2017), return on assets and the leverage ratio.

The bank has provided a written commitment that it would comply with the norms of minimum regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio and has apprised the RBI of the structural and systemic improvements that it has put in place which would help the bank in continuing to meet these commitments.

168. Which among the following has formed a group of experts to examine the feasibility of introducing Special Purpose Acquisition Companies?

- (a) RBI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) SIDBI
- (d) IRDAI
- (e) NHB

Answer: B

Sebi has formed a group of experts to examine the feasibility of introducing Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs) like structures in India.

The group, formed under Sebi's Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC), has been asked to submit its report at the earliest.

Sebi wants to explore the potential of SPACs while at the same time building adequate checks and balances in the regulatory framework to take care of the associated risks.

SPACs are formed to raise capital in an initial public offering (IPO) with the purpose of using the

proceeds to identify and merge with a target company.

169. What was the theme of World Kidney Day 2021?

- (a) Kidney Disease and Obesity
- (b) Kidneys And Women's Health: Include, Value, Empower
- (c) Kidney health for everyone everywhere
- (d) Living Well with Kidney Disease
- (e) Kidney Disease & Children – Act Early to Prevent It

Answer: D

World Kidney Day is observed every year on March 10.

World Kidney Day continues to raise awareness of the increasing burden of kidney diseases worldwide and to strive for kidney health for everyone, everywhere.

The World Kidney Day Steering Committee has declared 2021 the year of "Living Well with Kidney Disease".

World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.

170. Which among the following state governments has allotted ₹ 1600 Crore for Smart Cities Mission in its budget for the FY 2021-22?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Assam

(e) Bihar

Answer: B

Punjab State government has announced its Budget for the FY 2021-22.

For Smart Cities mission, Manpreet has allotted Rs 1600 crore. Ludhiana, Amritsar and Jalandhar have already been selected under Government of India's smart cities mission and Sultanpur Lodhi has been included as a special case.

An outlay of Rs 1,400 crore has been proposed under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Rs 114 crore for Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). A total of Rs 500 crore have been allotted for Punjab Environment Improvement Programme (PUEIP).

171. The scheme 'Anugraha' has been proposed to restart by which among the following state government during its budget for the FY 2021-22?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Jharkhand
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

Karnataka budget has proposed to restart 'Anugraha', a flagship scheme of Siddaramaiah. Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa presented the State's first budget post the pandemic impact, with a total outlay of Rs 2,46,207 crore. The budget size is Rs 8,314 crore more than the previous year.

Karnataka's GSDP contracted by 2.6 per cent in 2020-21. While agriculture saw 6.4 per cent growth, the industrial and services sectors saw contraction by 5.1 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively. Yediyurappa dedicated 18 points in his budget in the form of assurances and schemes for women including Rs 5 crore for Elevate WomEN, a programme to support women entrepreneurs apart from loans up to Rs 2 crore with subsidised interest rate for those in the services sector and concessional bus passes for women garment factory workers among others.

172. The Joint Venture of which among the following countries has begun producing hydrogen from the brown coal?

- (a) Japan & Russia
- (b) Japan & China
- (c) Japan & Canada
- (d) Japan & Mexico
- (e) Japan & Australia

Answer: E

A Japanese-Australian venture has begun producing hydrogen from brown coal in a A\$500 million (\$390 million) pilot project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced commercially and exported safely overseas.

The plan is to create the first international supply chain for liquefied hydrogen and the next big step will be to ship cargo on the world's first liquefied hydrogen carrier.

173. JPMorgan tested the block chain's decentralised network recently in March '21. JPMorgan is headquartered in which among the following places?

- (a) Washington DC
- (b) New York
- (c) London
- (d) Berlin
- (e) Geneva

Answer: B

JPMorgan is a New York based company. JPMorgan recently tested blockchain's decentralised network to see if two machines could transact autonomously.

The experiment involved carrying out blockchain-based payments between satellites in space.

The transaction was made utilising the company's GOMX-4 satellites instead of JPMorgan sending its own satellites in space.

The in-orbit demonstration between satellites was the "world's first bank-led tokenized value transfer in space, executed via smart contracts on a blockchain network established between satellites orbiting the earth."

JPM is the first bank with space-based payments using multiple satellites, enabling machine-to-machine payments, programmable value transfer, perhaps an intergalactic currency backed by H2O/O.

174. NHSRCL & JRTC have signed a MoU for the high-speed rail track work's designs for the T2 package of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed

Rail Corridor Project. T2 package covers _____km length from Vadodara to Vapi.

- (a) 256 km
- (b) 289 km
- (c) 237 km
- (d) 217 km
- (e) 189 km

Answer: C

India's National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) and Japan Railway Track Consultant (JRTC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the high-speed rail (HSR) track work's designs for the T2 package of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor Project.

The T2 package covers a 237km length from Vadodara to Vapi in Gujarat, India.

JRTC will be responsible for supplying the comprehensive design and drawing of key HSR track elements such as track slab arrangement, RC track bed, continuous welded rail (CWR) forces and more.

175. India is working to promote the sub-region comprising some countries as an energy hub. Which among the following countries is not one of them?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Maldives
- (e) Myanmar

Answer: D

India is taking the lead to promote a regional approach to energy needs and working assiduously to promote the sub-region comprising itself, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar as an energy hub. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has inaugurated the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries.

India is taking the lead to promote a regional approach to our energy needs.

Being the largest producer and consumer of energy in the region, it is natural for India to be the epicentre for any energy initiative in the region.

176. India has secured 5th place in the PwC's annual global CEO survey. Which country has secured the fourth place in the list?

- (a) Germany
- (b) France
- (c) UK
- (d) USA
- (e) China

Answer: C

According to a global survey of CEOs, India has emerged as the fifth most attractive growth destination, slipping one position after being surpassed by the United Kingdom.

The United States is the number one market and China is at the second spot.

PwC's 24th Annual Global CEO Survey covered 5,050 CEOs in 100 countries and territories, including India.

Japan rises up the ranking to become the sixth most attractive growth destination, overtaking Australia which held that position last year.

177. According to a global survey of CEOs, _____ % of CEOs worldwide expect the global economic recovery to improve in 2021.

- (a) 71%
- (b) 85%
- (c) 76%
- (d) 68%
- (e) 64%

Answer: C

The survey found that 76% of CEOs worldwide expect the global economic recovery to improve in 2021, showing record levels of optimism about growth a year after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The US has extended its lead as the number one market that CEOs are looking to for growth over the next 12 months at 35%, seven percentage points ahead of China at 28%.

In 2020, the US was only one percentage point ahead of China.

178. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has set a limit of _____ of AUM on mutual fund investment in debt with special features.

- (a) 10%
- (b) 5%
- (c) 12%
- (d) 25%

(e) 30%

Answer: A

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has put a limit on mutual fund investment in debt with special features, including Additional Tier 1 (AT1) bonds.

No mutual funds under all its schemes should own more than 10 percent of AT1 bonds issued by a single issuer.

Investment in a single issuer of such debt cannot exceed 5 percent of assets.

Banks are common issuers of additional tier-1 (AT-1) and additional tier-2 (AT-2) bonds, also called perpetual bonds since they do not have a fixed maturity date. However, these bonds can be called in, or repaid, at certain intervals.

179. In March 2021, Sahitya Akademi has announced the annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in how many languages?

- (a) 18
- (b) 19
- (c) 20
- (d) 23
- (e) 22

Answer: C

Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 20 languages.

Seven books of poetry, four of the novel, Five short stories, two plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry in 20 Indian languages have won the award.

The awards for Malayalam, Nepali, Odia and Rajasthani has been announced. The Akademi is known for holding the largest library of multilingual books in India. The Sahitya Akademi is autonomous. It comes under the Ministry of Culture.

180. M Veerappa Moily has awarded with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poet named _____.

- (a) Gachh Roosal Achhi
- (b) Bengsata
- (c) Baba Jitmal
- (d) Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam
- (e) Yugaparivarathanancho Yatri

Answer: D

The political-writer M Veerappa Moily, poet Arundhati Subramaniam have been bestowed with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2020.

M Veerappa Moily – Kannada - Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam (Epic Poetry)

Arundhati Subramaniam – English - When God Is a Traveller (Poetry)

181. Kamalkant Jha has won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work 'Gachh Roosal Achhi' in which language?

- (a) Manipuri
- (b) Marathi
- (c) Maithili
- (d) Punjabi
- (e) Sanskrit

Answer: C

Kamalkant Jha has won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work 'Gachh Roosal Achhi' in Maithili language.

RS Bhaskar – Konkani - Yugaparivarathanancho Yatri

Mahesh Chandra Sharma Gautam – Sanskrit – Vaishali

Irungbam Deven – Manipuri - Malangbana Kari Hai

182. Who among the following has won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work 'Baba Jitmal' in Dogri language?

- (a) Gian Singh
- (b) Apurba Kumar Saikia
- (c) Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay
- (d) Dharanidhar Owari
- (e) Arundhathi Subramaniam

Answer: A

Apurba Kumar Saikia – Assamese – Bengsata

Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay – Bengali - Eka Eka Ekashi

Dharanidhar Owari – Bodo - Gwthenay Lamayao

Gwdan Agan

Gian Singh – Dogri – Baba Jitmal

183. The poetry named 'Tokeri Mein Digant 'Their Gatha' has won the Sahitya Akademi award for which among the following languages?

- (a) Dogri
- (b) Sanskrit
- (c) Hindi
- (d) Bihari

(e) Assamese

Answer: C

Tokeri Mein Digant ' Their Gatha" (Poetry) – Hindi – Anamika

Banaras Diary (Poetry) – Gujarati - Harish

Meenakshru

Tilasm-e-Khanabadosh (Short stories) – Kashmiri -

Hiday Koul Bharti

184. Jetho Lalwani has won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his play named _____ in Sindhi language.

- (a) Agniswaasa
- (b) Sellatha Panam
- (c) Jehad
- (d) Amawas Mein Khwab
- (e) Gur Dak Kasa Dak

Answer: C

Jetho Lalwani has won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his play named 'Jehad' in Sindhi language.

Sellatha Panama (Novel) - Tamil – Imaiyan

Agniswaasa (Poetry) – Telugu – Nikhileswar

Amawas Mein Khwab (Novel) – Urdu - Hussain-ul-Haque

185. How many persons are recognized as the Young Global Leaders of 2021 under the age of 40 by the World Economic Forum?

- (a) 104
- (b) 108
- (c) 112
- (d) 119

(e) 122

Answer: E

122 are recognized as the Young Global Leaders of 2021 under the age of 40 by the World Economic Forum.

The YGL Class of 2021 is comprised of thoughtful and courageous leaders who will shape a more sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic era

The class of 2021 is gender-equal and has representatives from 56 countries. These members will take part in a five-year programme, which offers executive education courses, expeditions and opportunities to collaborate and test ideas among a trusted network of peers.

186. How many Indians have listed in the Class 2021 of World Economic Forum's the Forum of Young Global Leaders'?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7
- (e) 8

Answer: D

Seven Indians joined the Class 2021 of World Economic Forum's the Forum of Young Global Leaders'

Actor Deepika Padukone and several Indian citizens and India-origin persons joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum.

The Forum of Young Global Leaders was founded in 2005 by Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, to create a world where leaders take responsibility for a sustainable future while meeting increasingly complex and interrelated challenges.

187. How much percentage of stake in SBI Life has been sold by BNP Paribas for Rs 4,556.7 crore in an open market sale?

- (a) 4.99%
- (b) 5.55%
- (c) 3.99%
- (d) 3.55%
- (e) 5.99%

Answer: A

The French insurer, BNP Paribas Cardif has sold a 4.99% stake, in private sector life insurer SBI Life for Rs 4,556.7 crore at Rs 911 a share in an open market sale.

Before the sale of shares, BNP Paribas Cardif held 5.2 per cent stake in SBI Life. Among the buyers, the government of Singapore bought 1.68 per cent stake for Rs 1,533.5 crore at Rs 915 a share. And, BNP Paribas Arbitrage bought 0.9 per cent for Rs 820 crore at Rs 910 per share.

188. The government of India has launched the Mera Ration app to help migrant workers. The app has been launched by which among the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Public Affairs

- (b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Finance
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (e) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer: B

The government of India has launched the Mera Ration app to help migrant workers. Mera Ration has been launched by the ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution and the app is a part of the government's One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) system.

The Mera Ration app is for migrant labourers who have to keep moving for work and ideally need a ration card that should work across states.

The system was initially started in four states in August 2019 and was then rolled out to 32 states and union territories by December.

The only states not on the roster right now include Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal and these four are expected to be included over the next few months.

Right now, the system covers nearly 69 crore NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries which is about 86% of the NFSA population in India and there is a monthly average of about 1.5 to 1.6 crore portability transactions being recorded under ONORC system.

189. The e-platform 'SERB – Project Information System & Management' would be provided a whole range of information regarding all projects sanctioned by SERB from which year?

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2009
- (c) 2011
- (d) 2015
- (e) 2018

Answer: C

The Science and Engineering Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the mandate to plan, promote and fund internationally competitive research in emerging areas, has set up a portal that offers real time information on the various research projects supported by it.

Called 'SERB – PROject Information System & Management (SERB – PRISM)', the e-platform will provide a whole range of information regarding all projects sanctioned by SERB from 2011 onwards, including funding details, status, research summary and project output details such as publications and patents.

The portal is expected to work as a comprehensive tool to help forge stronger scientist-scientist, and science-society connections.

190. Indian Space Research Organisation has launched the sounding rocket _____ to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics.

- (a) RH-650
- (b) RH-470
- (c) RH-560
- (d) RH-890

(e) RH-180

Answer: C

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the sounding rocket (RH-560) to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics carried out at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR).

As per ISRO, sounding rockets are one or two-stage solid propellant rockets used for probing the upper atmospheric regions and for space research.

They also serve as easily affordable platforms to test or prove prototypes of new components or subsystems intended for use in launch vehicles and satellites.

191. A new species of weta has been named Hemiandrus jacinda. It is named after the Prime Minister of which among the following countries?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Australia
- (c) Canada
- (d) Finland
- (e) Ireland

Answer: A

New Zealand's prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, has received a large insect named in her honour.

A new species of weta has been named Hemiandrus jacinda for being Labour-party red in colour and "long-limbed".

Steven Trewick, a professor in evolutionary ecology at Massey University in New Zealand and the

scientist who named and formally described the insect.

192. Olivier Dassault has died recently. He belonged to which country?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Italy
- (d) Spain
- (e) Sweden

Answer: A

French billionaire Olivier Dassault, a politician and scion of the Dassault aircraft-making family, has died in a helicopter crash. He was 69.

His helicopter crashed near the upmarket coastal resort of Deauville in northwest France.

The Dassault Aviation group has been a leading French plane manufacturer for the last 70 years and is behind the Falcon private jet, the Mirage warplane, and most recently the state-of-the art Rafale fighter.

Forbes magazine estimated that Olivier Dassault was the 361st most wealthy person on the planet in 2020, with a fortune estimated at around five billion euros (\$6 billion).

193. Marvin Hagler has died at the age of 66. He was associated with which among the following games?

- (a) Wrestling
- (b) Javelin Throwing
- (c) Boxing

(d) Powerlifting

(e) Badminton

Answer: C

Marvelous Marvin Hagler has died at the age of 66.

He was associated with Boxing.

Hagler was 62-3-2 with 52 knockouts from 1973 to

1987. He was the undisputed middleweight

champion from 1980 until his loss to Leonard at

Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on April 6, 1987.

Hagler was born in Newark, New Jersey, and moved with his family to Brockton, Massachusetts, in the

late 1960s. He was inducted into the International

Boxing Hall of Fame and World Boxing Hall of Fame in 1983.

194. India would be a part of France-led exercises 'La P rouse'. France has initiated the joint naval exercise in which year?

(a) 2014

(b) 2016

(c) 2018

(d) 2017

(e) 2019

Answer: E

India would be part of France-led exercises "La P rouse" that would take place in early April in the Bay of Bengal. With the Indian Navy's addition, all Quad member countries - US, Japan, and Australia would be part of France and initiate joint naval exercise.

France initiated the joint naval exercise "La P rouse" in 2019 and that time had included US,

Japanese, and Australian forces. The exercises have been named after La P rouse, a French naval officer and explorer from the 18th century.

The development comes even as 2020 saw Australia being invited for the Malabar exercises for the first time.

France has the largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the world and includes territories in the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Indian Ocean. EEZ is an area where a country has special rights on maritime resources.

195. Under the new scheme of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, All India Tourist Authorization/Permit would be issued within _____ days of submission of such applications.

(a) 20

(b) 15

(c) 30

(d) 45

(e) 60

Answer: C

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new scheme, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an "All India Tourist Authorization/Permit" through online mode.

It will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within 30 days of submission of such applications.

The new set of rules, to be known as, "All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules,

2021" has been published vide GSR 166(E) dated 10 March 2021.

The new rules will be applicable from 01 April 2021.

All existing permits shall continue to be in force during their validity.

The new rules for permits are expected to go a long way in promoting tourism across the States in our country, while simultaneously, growing the revenue of state Governments.

The step was discussed in the 39th & 40th Transport Development Council Meetings and was appreciated & concurred to by participants from the states.

196. What edition of 'Hunar Haat' has been organized with the theme of "Vocal for Local"?

- (a) 15th
- (b) 19th
- (c) 22nd
- (d) 27th
- (e) 31st

Answer: D

The Union Minority Affairs Ministry has organised the 27th "Hunar Haat" at Lal Parade Ground, Bhopal with the theme of "Vocal for Local".

The 27th "Hunar Haat will be inaugurated formally by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 13th March. More than 600 artisans, craftsmen from more than 31 States/UTs are participating in the "Hunar Haat" at Bhopal.

197. Gowsalya Shankar has been honoured with the International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award by the U.S. Consulate. Gowsalya hails from which state?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: D

The U.S. Consulate honoured Tamil Nadu-based anti-caste activist and human rights defender Gowsalya Shankar with the International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award in the city.

The IWOC Award Certificate of Nomination was handed over to her by U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin at an event 'Courageous Women Inspire a Better World' held in the city. Ms. Gowsalya was U.S. Mission India's nominee for the 2021 U.S. Secretary of State's IWOC Award, which honours women who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in acting to improve the lives of others.

Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson, The Hindu, and V. Suresh, National General Secretary of the People's Union of Civil Liberties, also spoke on the theme of courageous women.

198. Name the naval ship which has been reached the port of Antsiranana, Madagascar with an Indian naval training team in March '21.

- (a) INS Kirwal

- (b) INS Jalashwa
- (c) INS Jaishnvi
- (d) INS Karanj
- (e) INS Ghazi

Answer: B

Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa reached the port of Antsiranana, Madagascar with an Indian naval training team on-board.

The Indian naval training team will be deployed in Madagascar for capacity building and training of the Malagasy Special Forces for two weeks.

India and Madagascar share wide cooperation in the defence sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Defence Cooperation was signed between India and Madagascar in March 2018 during the visit of the President to Madagascar and several bilateral cooperation projects in the area of defence are under discussions between the two countries.

199. Who among the following has become the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army?

- (a) Santhosh Kumar Gangwar
- (b) Jitendra Singh
- (c) Rao Inderjit Singh
- (d) Anurag Thakur
- (e) Arjun Ram Meghwal

Answer: D

Union Minister Anurag Thakur became the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army.

The four-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant by then Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dalbir S Suhag TA in July 2016

200. The Zoom studios has joined hands with which among the following state to launch its show 'Reunion'?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Gujarat

Answer: D

The Zoom Studios has announced its maiden show Reunion, in partnership with Odisha Tourism. The Zoom Studios Reunion new season is a 10 part series shot in various parts of Odisha including Shimilipal, Bhitarkanika, Konark-Puri, Chilka, Dhenkanal, Badmul, Daringbadi, Koraput, Debrigarh, capturing the picturesque landscape comprising majestic mountains, serene beaches, ancient temples, spectacular wildlife, breath-taking waterfalls, and will imbibe the very rich and vibrant heritage of Odisha.

March 3rd week Current Affairs MCQ

1. ReNew Power has been named to the World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network.

Which branch of ReNew Power was specifically nominated as a Global Lighthouse for its groundbreaking work in development?

- (a) Gurugram
- (b) Cuttack
- (c) Hubli
- (d) Greater Noida
- (e) Mumbai

Answer: C

ReNew Power has been named to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth.

ReNew Power is one of the two Indian companies to be recognised by the Global Lighthouse Network in 2021.

ReNew's Hubli facility was specifically nominated as a Global Lighthouse for its groundbreaking work in development and deployment of advanced analytics and machine learning solutions to increase the yield of ReNew's wind and solar assets.

2. 'Secrets Are the Best Stories' has won the 63rd Grammy Award in which among the following categories?

- (a) Best jazz vocal album

(b) Best new age album

(c) Best country song

(d) Best Country Album

(e) Best Latin jazz album

Answer: A

Category	Winner
Best jazz vocal album	"Secrets Are the Best Stories" by Kurt Elling Featuring Danilo Pérez
Best new age album	"More Guitar Stories" by Jim "Kimo" West
Best country song	"Crowded Table" by Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby & Lori McKenna
Best Country Album	"Wildcard" by Miranda Lambert
Best Latin jazz album	"Four Questions" by Arturo O'farrill & The

	Afro Latin
	Jazz
	Orchestra

3. The International Boxing Association announced that Asian Boxing Championships 2021 will be hosted by New Delhi. The 2019 edition of the Asian Amateur Boxing Championships was held in which place?

- (a) Beijing
- (b) Bangkok
- (c) Dhaka
- (d) Moscow
- (e) Tokyo

Answer: B

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) announced that Asian Boxing Championships 2021 will be hosted by New Delhi.

It would be the first boxing tournament in Asia to be held in 2021.

In the AIBA Asian Forum which took place virtually, 32 countries participated and Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) President Anas Al Otaiba delivered a report about the upcoming Asian Elite Men & Women Boxing Championships 2021.

The Championships, earlier scheduled to take place in 2020, were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.

The 2019 edition of the Asian Amateur Boxing Championships set a new record with 304 boxers participating from 34 countries, the 2021 edition is expected to raise the number. The 30th edition of the

Asian Amateur Boxing Championships was held from April 19 to 26, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. -----

4. Who among the following has won the 63rd Grammy Award for 'Fetch the Bolt Cutters' in the category of Best alternative music album?

- (a) Brittany Howard
- (b) Fiona Apple
- (c) Vince Gill
- (d) Snarky Puppy
- (e) Kaytranada

Answer: B

Category	Winner
Best rock album	"The New Abnormal" by The Strokes
Best rock song	"Stay High" by Brittany Howard
Best alternative music album	"Fetch the Bolt Cutters" by Fiona Apple
Best country solo performance	"When My Amy Prays" by Vince Gill

5. The book named 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future' has been authored by Former PepsiCo CEO IndraNooyi. She has stepped down from the position of CEO of PepsiCo in which year?

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2015

Answer: C

Former PepsiCo CEO IndraNooyi has come out with the book named 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future'.

The book will be published on September 28, Portfolio Books, the U.S. publisher of the book. In India, it will be published by Hachette India.

Nooyi, 65, will trace her life from her childhood in India to her experiences as an immigrant at Yale University's business school to her many achievements as the rare woman and person of color in the upper echelons of the corporate world. She worked at PepsiCo for 24 years, 12 of them as CEO, before stepping down in 2018.

6. Name the e-book which has been released by the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari in March 2021.

- (a) Hunchprose
- (b) My Experiments with Silence
- (c) Names of the Women
- (d) Yearbook
- (e) Dawn Under The Dome

Answer: E

The Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released a digital e-book titled Dawn Under The Dome.

The digital book depicts the history of the Mumbai General Post Office building. It has been authored by Post Master General of Mumbai Swati Pandey in collaboration with Orchida Mukherjee.

This book states that three types of Indian stones were used in the construction of the building: the grey basalt with buff trachyte and the Yellowstone from Mumbai's Kurla and Malad respectively and the white stone from Dharandhra.

7. Kaytranada has won the 63rd Grammy award in the category of Best dance/electronic album for his work in _____.

- (a) Shameika
- (b) Bum-Rush
- (c) Live at the Royal Albert Hall
- (d) Bubba
- (e) Stay High

Answer: D

Category	Winner
Best dance/electronic album	"Bubba" by Kaytranada
Best contemporary instrumental album	"Live at the Royal Albert Hall" by Snarky Puppy
Best rock performance	"Shameika" by Fiona Apple
Best metal performance	"Bum-Rush" by Body Count

8. The book titled 'Undertow' has been authored by JhnaviBarua. Barua won the _____ award in Best Author Fiction category for 'Undertow'.

- (a) Ovid Prize
- (b) Goldsmiths Prize
- (c) Auther Award

(d) The Warwick Prize

(e) Caine Prize

Answer: C

Author Jahnabi Barua's third novel 'Undertow' released in 2020.

The story touches upon various themes like home, family, belonging, finding one self and self-love-- all of which will touch the readers in some way.

Jahnabi Barua won the Auther Award 2021 in Best Author Fiction category for 'Undertow'.

'Undertow' follows Loya's story, who is on a journey to discover herself.

'Undertow' will transport the readers to Assam and make them ponder about the complexity of human relationships.

9. Burna Boy has won the 63rd Grammy Awards for the album 'Twice as Tall' in which among the following category?

- (a) Best global music album
- (b) Best song written for visual media
- (c) Best music video
- (d) Best traditional pop vocal album
- (e) Best Melodic rap performance

Answer: A

Category	Winner
Best compilation soundtrack for visual media	Jojo Rabbit
Best score soundtrack for visual media	Joker by Hildur Guonadottir

Best global music album	"Twice as Tall" by Burna Boy
Best dance recording	"10%" by Kaytranada featuring Kali Uchis

10. Who among the following has won the 63rd Grammy award in the Best traditional pop vocal album category for his work namely 'American Standard'?

- (a) Billie Eilish
- (b) Beyonce
- (c) James Taylor
- (d) Anderson Paak
- (e) Burna Boy

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best song written for visual media	"No Time to Die" by Billie Eilish
Best music video	"Brown Skin Girl" by Beyonce
Best traditional pop vocal album	"American Standard" by James Taylor
Best Melodic rap performance	"Lockdown" by Anderson Paak

11. Tisca Chopra has unveiled the cover of her second book "What's Up With Me?". What is the name of her first book?

- (a) Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor
- (b) The Little Book of Encouragement
- (c) 'Beautiful Things' A Memoir
- (d) Acting Smart: Your Ticket To Showbiz

(e) Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World

Answer: D

Tisca Chopra has unveiled the cover of her second book "What's Up With Me?".

Tisca's first book Acting Smart: Your Ticket

To Showbiz that was released in 2014 received great response from readers across the country for it was packed with hilarious anecdotes and advice from some big names from the industry. The book showcased the working of the film industry and gave tips on how to take on challenges if you're part of the industry.

12. Who among the following has won the 63rd Grammy Award in the category of Best rap album for his/her work in 'King's Disease'?

- (a) Robert Glasper
- (b) Meshell Ndegeocello
- (c) Gabriella Wilson
- (d) Nas
- (e) Beyonce

Answer: D

Winner	Category
Better Than I Imagined by Robert Glasper, Meshell Ndegeocello & Gabriella Wilson	Best R & B Song
Savage by Megan Thee Stallion featuring Beyonce	Best rap performance
Savage by Megan	Best rap song

Thee Stallion featuring Beyonce	
"King's Disease" by Nas	Best rap album

13. A tripartite Concession Agreement between the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and GA Infra Private Limited for development of Sewage Treatment Plants. The project aims to eliminate flow of untreated sewage from Moradabad city into the River _____.

- (a) Jhelum
- (b) Gomti
- (c) Yamuna
- (d) Ganges
- (e) Betwa

Answer: D

A tripartite Concession Agreement was signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and M/s. GA Infra Private Limited-Lahoti Buildcon Limited for development of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for Moradabad on Hybrid Annuity PPP mode. The contract was awarded at a total cost of INR 99.68 Crores.

This project aims to take care of the existing sewerage problems in the town and the resultant sewage pollution in the Ram Ganga. The lending for these projects is already offered by SBI Capital. In order to address the pollution from Moradabad, a comprehensive sewerage network and 58 MLD STP

Project for Moradabad sewerage zone 1 has already been completed.

NMCG has also approved the project for 'Pollution Abatement Works for River RamGanga at Bareilly' for construction of STP of 65 MLD.

The project aims to eliminate flow of untreated sewage from Moradabad city into the River Ganga thereby reducing pollution load in the river.

14. Ledisi has won the 63rd Grammy Award in the Best traditional R&B performance category for the work in _____.

- (a) Bigger Love
- (b) Black Parade
- (c) Anything For You
- (d) It is what it is
- (e) Lockdown

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best R&B album	"Bigger Love" by John Legend
Best R&B performance	"Black Parade" by Beyonce
Best traditional R&B performance	"Anything For You" by Ledisi
Best progressive R&B album	"It is what it is" by Thundercat

15. India has set to commission the INS Dhruv, capable of tracking nuclear missiles and satellites from a distance, into the Navy. The sophisticated

surveillance systems need _____ MW of power to fire up and that will be generated by INS Dhruv.

- (a) 12 MW
- (b) 15 MW
- (c) 18 MW
- (d) 20 MW
- (e) 14 MW

Answer: E

India has set to commission the INS Dhruv (codenamed VC 1118) ship, capable of tracking nuclear missiles and satellites from a distance, into the Navy.

This ocean surveillance ship is also equipped with game changer active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars that can help India collect accurate data not just about an enemy nation's missile range and capabilities.

The sophisticated surveillance system needs 14 MW of power to fire up and that will be generated by INS Dhruv itself.

The highly classified project is being given the final touches in Vizag before the commissioning. It has gone through a series of tests and sea trials starting 2018. According to sources aware of the development, INS Dhruv is now ready to be commissioned after being delayed by months due to Covid-19 pandemic

16. Which among the following has won the Grammy Award in the category of 'Album of the year' at the 63rd Grammy Awards?

- (a) Everything I Wanted

- (b) Anything For You
- (c) Folklore
- (d) I Can't Breathe
- (e) Watermelon

Answer: C

Category	Winner
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 Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas
Best pop solo performance	"Watermelon" by Harry Styles

17. The Union Cabinet has approved the closure of loss-making Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd. HHEC was founded in which year?

- (a) 1962
- (b) 1968
- (c) 1985
- (d) 1974
- (e) 1958

Answer: E

Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd was founded in 1958.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the closure of loss-making Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd (HHEC).

HHEC is a central public sector undertaking (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles.

The approval will benefit the government exchequer in reducing recurring expenditure on salary and wages of the sick CPSE which is not in operation and earning no income, it said.

HHEC has been incurring losses since the financial year 2015-16 and is not earning sufficient income to meet its running expenses. There is little scope for its revival, necessitating closure of the company.

18. During the 63rd Grammy Awards, 'Single Ladies' star was honoured for "Savage" and _____.

- (a) Watermelon
- (b) Black Parade
- (c) Folklore
- (d) I Can't Breathe
- (e) Lockdown

Answer: B

Beyonce created history at the 63rd Grammy Awards as she became the only female artist to ever win 28 Grammy awards.

During the ceremony, the "Single Ladies" star was honoured for "Savage" (with Meghan Thee Stallion) and "Black Parade."

19. The cabinet has approved the Revised Cost Estimate of Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission & Distribution in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim. The scheme is being implemented through which among the following?

- (a) NTPC
- (b) POWERGRID
- (c) NHPC
- (d) REC
- (e) POSOCO

Answer: B

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission & Distribution in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim at an estimated cost of Rs. 9129.32 crore.

The scheme is being implemented through POWERGRID, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Power in association with Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and is targeted to be commissioned in phased manner by December 2021 for awarded scope of works and 36 months from RCE approval for un-awarded packages. The scheme was initially approved in December, 2014 as a Central Sector Plan Scheme of the Ministry of Power and the entire cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government of India through the Plan Scheme of Ministry of Power.

20. In March, Meghan Thee Stallion and Harry Styles won their first-ever Grammys. The 63rd Grammy Awards were held in which place?

- (a) Chicago
- (b) San Francisco
- (c) Seattle
- (d) Boston

- (e) Los Angeles

Answer: E

The 63rd Grammy Awards were held in Los Angeles. The ceremony saw Meghan Thee Stallion and Harry Styles winning their first-ever Grammys. The "Dynamite" band gave a performance from Seoul on the Grammy-nominated number.

21. The Union Cabinet has cleared the setting up of a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with a capital infusion of _____ Crore.

- (a) ₹ 10000 Crore
- (b) ₹ 15000 Crore
- (c) ₹ 20000 Crore
- (d) ₹ 25000 Crore
- (e) ₹ 5000 Crore

Answer: C

The Union Cabinet has cleared the setting up of a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with a capital infusion of Rs 20,000 crore.

The Union Budget of 2021 would provide an initial amount. The capital infusion will be of about Rs 20,000 crore; the initial grant would be Rs 5,000 crore, additional increments of the grant would be made within limit of Rs 5,000 crore.

The Union government is also planning to issue some securities to the Development Finance Institution, by which the cost of funds will come down.

All this will help DFI leverage initial capital and draw funds from various sources; will also have a positive impact on the bond market in India.

22. Which among the following has partnered with CRIF India to introduce the Good Business Score to help Indian MSMEs measure and manage their business health effectively?

- (a) Emerson Industrial
- (b) Mitsubishi Electric
- (c) Honeywell Automation
- (d) ABB India
- (e) Vayana Network

Answer: E

Vayana Network has partnered with CRIF India to introduce the Good Business Score (GBS). It is a tech-based tool to help Indian MSMEs measure and manage their business health effectively.

GBS will help MSMEs signal their worth to prospective business partners, stand apart from competition, and improve by understanding their own strengths and weaknesses.

The score is based on ongoing GST data, from which parameters such as frequency, recency, value of actual transactions and business dependency across customers, are derived. A good score can also serve as a certificate to attract new business leads.

CRIF is a global group headquartered in Europe, and in India it offers products and services for credit information, business information, analytics, scoring, credit management, and decision solutions.

23. According to a wealth report by Hurun India, which state has secured the second place in wealth creation?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu
- (e) Gujarat

Answer: A

According to a wealth report by Hurun India, Maharashtra leads the country in wealth creation followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat.

These states together account for 46% of the 4.12-lakh millionaire households in the country.

Maharashtra has 56,000 dollar-millionaire households. Between FY13 and FY19, the economy has been growing annually at 6.9% and the state is also home to 247 richest individuals.

Uttar Pradesh has the second largest number of millionaire households at 36,000. Its economy has been annually growing at 10.6% in the past one decade.

At the third spot is Tamil Nadu with 35,000 dollar-millionaire households. In the past five financial years, its economy has clipped at 12.2 % annually. The state is also home to 65.

Karnataka is ranked fourth with 33,000 households having an annual income of over USD 1 million. The state is home to 72 of the richest individuals in the country.

24. Life Insurance Corporation has introduced a new policy, 'Bachat Plus'. What is the Premium Payment Term of the policy in the Limited Premium category?

- (a) 3 years
- (b) 5 years
- (c) 8 years
- (d) 10 years
- (e) 12 years

Answer: B

Life Insurance Corporation has introduced a new policy, Bachat Plus that offers a combination of protection and savings.

Under the plan, the premium can be paid either as Lump Sum (Single Premium) or as Limited Premium with a Premium Payment Term of 5 years.

The minimum basic sum assured is Rs 1 lakh and there is no upper limit. High basic sum assured rebate is offered for both modes of premium payments.

25. The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually. The inaugural address was delivered by whom among the following?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Smriti Irani
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) Narendra Modi
- (e) Venkaiah Naidu

Answer: B

The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16th March, 2021.

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Cooperation Forum is a unique platform which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents.

Inaugural Address was delivered by the Chair of 6th IBSA Women's Forum Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development, India.

The Forum has resolved to carry forth its vision to ensure improving the status and condition of women by addressing structural and institutional barriers as well as strengthening gender mainstreaming.

26. Securities and Exchange Board of India has approved Paytm UPI handle to enable fast and seamless payment mandates for IPO applications. Paytm Money has the aim to bring 10 million Indians to equity markets by which year?

- (a) 2021
- (b) 2022
- (c) 2023
- (d) 2024
- (e) 2025

Answer: B

Securities and Exchange Board of India has approved Paytm UPI handle to enable fast and seamless payment mandates for IPO applications.

Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) has entered into a partnership with Paytm Money to enable payment mandates for IPO applications.

Paytm Money has the aim to bring 10 million Indians to equity markets by the financial year 2022.

As per the latest NPCI report, it registers the lowest technical decline rate of 0.02 per cent compared to all UPI remitter banks, and 0.04 per cent against all UPI beneficiary banks.

27. Which among the following has signed an initial pact with the National Productivity Council to explore business opportunities in consultancy services?

- (a) ReNew Power
- (b) Suzlon
- (c) Tata Power
- (d) JSW Energy
- (e) PTC India

Answer: E

PTC India has signed an initial pact with the National Productivity Council (NPC) to explore business opportunities in consultancy services. NPC has agreed to jointly explore and develop business opportunities for consultancy/project management services in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, productivity enhancements, quality assurances, optimization of technology, etc within India and overseas. NPC is an organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

28. According to a report released by Stockholm-based SIPRI, India's import of arms decreased by 33 per cent between 2011-15 and 2016-20. What was the rank of India among arms exporters?

- (a) 25th
- (b) 28th
- (c) 36th
- (d) 24th
- (e) 35th

Answer: D

According to a report released by Stockholm-based SIPRI, India's import of arms decreased by 33 per cent between 2011-15 and 2016-20 and Russia was the most affected supplier and India's imports of US arms also fell by 46 per cent.

During 2016-20 were Russia, accounted for 49% of total imports, followed by France 18%, and Israel 13%.

India's import accounted for 9.5 percent of all arms sales during 2016-2020, compared to 14 percent in the previous five year block (2011-2015).

Largest Importers :

The five largest arms importers in 2016-20

1. Saudi Arabia
2. India
3. Egypt
4. Australia
5. China.

Largest Exporters :

The five largest arms exporters in 2016-20

1. United States
2. Russia

3. France
4. Germany
5. China.

In that India ranked at 24th position among arms exporters.

29. TRIFED and Craft Village have entered into a memorandum of understanding to work jointly towards the overall upliftment of the tribal community. TRIFED came into existence in which year?

- (a) 1958
- (b) 1964
- (c) 1972
- (d) 1987
- (e) 1992

Answer: D

TRIFED came into existence in 1987.

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) and Craft Village have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The MoU has been exchanged between Craft Village's Founder ItiTyagi and TRIFED's Executive Director Anupam Trivedi in the presence of TRIFED's Managing Director (MD) Pravir Krishna (IAS) and senior officials of both organisations on March 16. TRIFED and Craft Village will develop diverse ideas that will not only be functional but also be globally appealing. The design development will happen at the Craft Village campus and also at tribal clusters or artisans or artisan groups who will enrol in the same. The products so developed will be marketed

by TRIFED using its Tribes India network of physical outlets and online platforms.

30. Which Indian Naval Ship has reached Port Anjouan in Comoros to deliver 1,000 tonnes of rice as part of the Mission Sagar-IV?

- (a) INS Viraat
- (b) INS Talwar
- (c) INS Jalashwa
- (d) INS Shivalik
- (e) INS Beas

Answer: C

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jalashwa reached Port Anjouan in Comoros to deliver 1,000 tonnes of rice as part of the Mission Sagar-IV.

This is the second visit of an Indian Navy ship to the island country within a span of one year.

Earlier, as part of Mission Sagar-I, in May-June 2020, the Indian Navy had delivered essential medicines to the nation and had also deployed a specialist medical team to work alongside their counterparts and to render assistance for dengue fever related emergencies.

31. The Northern railways has connected the two ends of the main arch of the world's highest bridge on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district. It would provide direct connectivity to _____ Valley.

- (a) Chenab Valley
- (b) Chinta Valley
- (c) Kashmir Valley

(d) Markha Valley

(e) Nubra Valley

Answer: C

The Northern railways has connected the two ends of the main arch of the world's highest bridge on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district. It would provide direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley.

The world's tallest railway bridge over Chenab is coming up in the Kouri area.

This bridge is being constructed on a challenging 111km long stretch called Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) by the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL).

The Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line project is being built at a cost of ₹27,949 crore.

32. Which among the following companies has joined hands with IIT Delhi's CART for research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles?

(a) Tata Motor

(b) TVS Motor

(c) MG Motor

(d) M & M

(e) Honda Motors

Answer: C

MG Motor India has joined hands with IIT Delhi's Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) for research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles.

The partnership through Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi aims at

furthering the automaker's focus on CASE mobility (Connected Autonomous Shared Electric); through enabling supporting research for the deployment of electric and autonomous vehicles in the urban landscape in the country.

33. According to the report titled Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report, 2021, the Asia – Pacific region may achieve less than _____% of the SDG targets.

(a) 12%

(b) 18%

(c) 10%

(d) 15%

(e) 20%

Answer: C

The Asia-Pacific region is not on track to achieve any of the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, said a new UN report. At the current pace, the region may achieve less than 10 percent of the SDG targets.

Out of 104 measurable targets of the SDGs, the region is on track to reach only nine by 2030, according to the report titled Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report, 2021 by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Other goals where the region fell abysmally short of expectations were gender equality (Goal 5), clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), and life on land (Goal 15).

The dismal performance on goals for climate action (Goal 13) and life below water (Goal 14) is of special concern. In fact, the situation is now worse than it was in 2000.

34. Only 4 states have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation as per the data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The major wheat grower, Punjab has _____% land under micro-irrigation.

- (a) 1.8%
- (b) 1.2%
- (c) 2.2%
- (d) 1.5%
- (e) 2.6%

Answer: B

Only four States 'Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra' have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation. 27 States (including UTs) in India have less than 30 per cent micro-irrigation system out of which 23 have less than 15 per cent micro-irrigation.

The data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to the Lok Sabha show that the net irrigated area in the country is 68,649 thousand ha. Uttar Pradesh, the largest sugarcane grower, has only 1.5 per cent while Punjab, the major wheat grower, has 1.2 per cent land under micro-irrigation. Bihar and West Bengal are among the States that have less than 5 per cent micro irrigated land.

35. SBI and Indian Oil Corporation have inked a _____ deal for five year using the new Secured Overnight Financing Rate.

- (a) \$10 million
- (b) \$ 20 million
- (c) \$ 25 million
- (d) \$ 50 million
- (e) \$100 million

Answer: E

State Bank of India had inked the first deal in the external commercial borrowing (ECB) market using the new Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR). SBI and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) have inked a \$100 million deal for five year.

SOFR is the new alternative benchmark rate which will replace LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate), which is the existing benchmark rate. SOFR will replace LIBOR by the end of 2021.

It is the first SOFR deal in the ECB space and the transaction demonstrates SBI's position as a leader in aligning its systems and processes to embrace Alternate Reference Rates.

36. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has partnered with Aster DM Healthcare to proactively support the mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives. Where is the headquarters of Aster DM Healthcare located?

- (a) Dhaka
- (b) Beijing
- (c) Dubai
- (d) London

(e) Manila

Answer: C

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has partnered with Aster DM Healthcare to proactively support the mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across the country with an aim to change and improve health care innovations and outcomes.

The purpose of Sol aims to support the various initiatives of AIM programs and AIM beneficiaries in India to promote innovation and entrepreneurship amongst the aspiring entrepreneurs in the area of digital health care.

A unit of Aster DM Healthcare Group, Aster Digital Health Incubator (ADHI) will play a major role in supporting various Atal Incubation Centers (AICs), Established Incubation Centres (EICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) and Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) amongst other initiatives of AIM within the country. Aster DM Healthcare Limited is a publicly traded Indian conglomerate health care provider ... Headquarters. Dubai.

37. As per the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Larry Page is ranked second in terms of highest gain in wealth with a growth of \$14.3 billion. Larry is the Co-founder of which company?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) IBM
- (c) Google
- (d) Microsoft
- (e) YouTube

Answer: C

As per the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has achieved a remarkable milestone amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index showed that Adani has added \$16.2 billion, taking his total net worth to \$50 billion. With this surge in his wealth, Adani is now the 26th richest person in the world.

He even beat two of the world's richest individuals, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, in terms of wealth generation. While Musk has added \$10.3 billion to his net worth so far, Bezos has seen a downturn of 7.59 billion.

Google Co-founder Larry Page is ranked second in terms of highest gain in wealth with a growth of \$14.3 billion.

Amazon Inc Founder Jeff Bezos is the richest person on the planet with a net worth of \$183 billion, followed by Elon Musk with a net worth of \$180 billion.

38. The ADB's report explains ADB's institutional approach to integrating 17 SDGs and their associated targets into its strategies, programs and financing under its long-term strategy in 2030 through its _____ operational priorities.

- (a) Six
- (b) Five
- (c) Eight
- (d) Nine
- (e) Seven

Answer: E

The report titled 'ADB's Support for the Sustainable Development Goals: Enabling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through Strategy 2030' explains ADB's institutional approach to integrating 17 SDGs and their associated targets into its strategies, programs and financing under its long-term strategy in 2030 through its seven operational priorities. ADB's corporate results framework is fully aligned with SDGs.

A renewed focus on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be essential as countries seek to rebuild from the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a new report by Asian Development Bank.

2020 was to be the start of a decade of action to accelerate progress on SDGs but the Covid-19 pandemic has threatened the region's prospects for achieving the goals.

In Kazakhstan, ADB helped the government establish platforms for donor coordination in support of national implementation of SDGs.

The ADB ventures platform established in 2020 deploys venture capital investments and technical assistance to support early-stage technology businesses that address SDGs.

39. Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal have won the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize. Anne Lacaton belongs to which country?

- (a) Denmark
- (b) Germany
- (c) Sweden

- (d) Spain
- (e) France

Answer: E

The 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize, architecture's highest honor, has been granted to Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, founders of Lacaton& Vassal.

Anne Lacaton (1955, Saint-Pardoux, France) and Jean-Philippe Vassal (1954, Casablanca, Morocco) from Lacaton& Vassal have been selected as the 49th and 50th Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, for their architectural work that has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment.

Lacaton became the first French female architect to ever win the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

40. Which state government has joined hands with various United Nations and other global agencies to scale its efforts to empower and protect women?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Punjab
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: D

The Punjab government has joined hands with various United Nations and other global agencies to scale its efforts to empower and protect women, with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh slated to launch eight special initiatives to mark the International Women's Day.

The state government's collaboration with international agencies was aimed at safeguarding women from crimes, protecting their rights and introducing gender sensitisation curriculum in school syllabus.

The agencies with the state are set to join hands include UN Women, UNDP (United Nations Development Fund), UN Population Fund, J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab) and FUEL (Friends Union for Energizing Lives).

The collaboration would focus on enhancement of skill training for women, identification and enhancement of employability for them, capacity building, and elimination of the anaemia disease.

41. In March 2021, Tech Mahindra acquired a 70 per cent stake in Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd for around _____ Crore.

- (a) ₹ 145 crore
- (b) ₹ 123 crore
- (c) ₹ 182 crore
- (d) ₹ 109 crore
- (e) ₹ 102 crore

Answer: C

Tech Mahindra has acquired a 70 per cent stake in Ireland-based Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd for around Rs 182 crore and plans to buy the remaining 30 per cent shareholding over a period of four years. Tech Mahindra would help in augmenting its expertise in the global pharmaceutical, healthcare and life science sectors.

For the financial year ended December 31, 2020, Perigord had reported revenues of around Rs 170 crore.

42. A new scheme named 'MukhyamantriAntyodyaParivarUtthanAbhiyan' has been announced by which among the following states?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Bihar
- (e) West Bengal

Answer: C

The Haryana government presented a Rs 1.55 lakh crore budget for 2021-22 fiscal, with health, agriculture and infrastructure identified as key priority areas.

The budget outlay comprises 25 per cent as capital expenditure of Rs 38,718 crore and 75 per cent as revenue expenditure of Rs 1,16,927 crore.

Khattar announced the launch of a new scheme – the MukhyamantriAntyodyaParivarUtthanAbhiyan. This Abhiyan will draw verified data from the ParivarPehchanPatra (family ID card) and identify the poorest one lakh families in the state.

In the financial year 2021-22, Khattar proposed a target for the economic upliftment of 2 lakh families under the MukhyamantriAntyodyaParivarUtthanAbhiyan.

43. What is the tenure of the Beneficiary Led Construction interest-free loan of Jammu and Kashmir government?

- (a) 5 years
- (b) 10 years
- (c) 12 years
- (d) 15 years
- (e) 20 years

Answer: B

Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a proposal to provide interest-free loan up to 2 lakh rupees to the urban homeless economically weaker section beneficiaries under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of the PradhanMantriAwasYojana-Urban (PMAY-U). J&K Administrative Council, which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal of the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The beneficiaries under the BLC component of PMAY-U have experienced the difficulty in mobilising their contribution as they come from economically weaker sections.

The tenure of the BLC interest-free loan has been fixed at 10 years and includes a moratorium of six months, repayable through monthly installment of 2,500 rupees.

44. Name the book which was written by ShobhaTharoorSrinivasan in March 2021.

- (a) Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy

(b)By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life

(c)Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive

(d)Indian Economy's Greatest Crisis: impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead

(e) Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma

Answer: E

The children's book, titled Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma, is written by author-poet ShobhaTharoorSrinivasan. Published under Westland's 'Red Panda' imprint, it aims to inspire young readers to learn about the famed artist and how he made his entry and mark in the art world. Varma, known as the 'father of modern Indian art', also established the first lithographic press in India, which created prints of his mythology-inspired paintings — in particular scenes from the Mahabharata and Ramayana.

45. Who among the following has authored the book named 'India's Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution'?

- (a)AshisGhatak
- (b)Kavita Kane
- (c)ShwetaTaneja
- (d)SanjayaBaru
- (e)Arun Kumar

Answer: D

"India's Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution" has been authored by SanjayaBaru, former advisor to Manmohan Singh.

The book would be released in April by Penguin Random House India.

Baru, who currently teaches at the Indian School of Public Policy, has followed up his account of power politics in “The Accidental Prime Minister” with a new book that dissects the fault lines and power struggles dominating our political, economic and social institutions.

46. The book titled ‘Gandhi in Bombay’ has been authored by _____.

- (a) Dr Roopa Chari
- (b) Kailash Satyarthi
- (c) Madhav Bhandari
- (d) Sandhya Mehta
- (e) Anupam Kher

Answer: D

The book titled ‘Gandhi in Bombay’ has been authored by Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta. The book brings together the history of Bombay with Gandhi's struggle for Independence. It highlights the important role of Bombay in helping Gandhi and the nation win freedom. It contains rare photographs of Gandhi as well as Bombay from the days of the freedom struggle.

47. A new rattlesnake species has been found in the Sadasivakona grove area of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. The discovery of Crotalaria lamelliform is an addition to the existing _____ species from India.

(a) 104

- (b) 85
- (c) 116
- (d) 58
- (e) 169

Answer: C

A team of botanists has recently stumbled upon a new rattlesnake species in the Sadasivakona grove area of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh, which is part of the southern Eastern ghats. The discovery has been published in the latest edition of the noted international journal ‘Phytotaxa’.

Named as Crotalaria lamelliformis, the ascending herb is unique for its distinct features such as adpressed white hairs beneath the lower surface of leaves, inflorescence short-terminal racemes, 6-8 bright yellow flowers, unequal calyx lobes, anterior two sepals fused and standard petal sub-orbicular with short claw surrounded by white cottony hairs. The discovery of Crotalaria lamelliform is an addition to the existing 116 species from India.

48. According to the data obtained by Reuters, the United States has replaced which country as India's second biggest oil supplier?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Iraq
- (c) Israel
- (d) Iran
- (e) UAE

Answer: A

The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier after Iraq as refiners

boosted cheaper U.S. crude purchases to record levels to offset OPEC+ supply cuts.

The data obtained by Reuters showed India's imports from the United States - the world's top producer - rose 48% to a record 545,300 bpd in February from the prior month, accounting for 14% of India's overall imports last month.

February imports from Saudi Arabia fell by 42% from January to a decade low of 445,200 bpd.

Saudi Arabia, which has consistently been one of India's top two suppliers, slipped to No. 4 for the first time since at least January 2006.

49. Indian Army de-commissioned two of its longest serving Artillery systems. The Mahajan Field Firing Ranges witnessed the decommissioning ceremony marked by the customary firing of last salvos of the _____ Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns.

- (a) 125 mm
- (b) 120 mm
- (c) 140 mm
- (d) 130 mm
- (e) 105 mm

Answer: D

Indian Army de-commissioned two of its longest serving Artillery systems.

The Mahajan Field Firing Ranges witnessed the decommissioning ceremony marked by the customary firing of last salvos of the 130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns and the 160mm Tampella Mortars in the presence of the Director

General Artillery Lieutenant General K Ravi Prasad, the head of the Arm of Artillery.

The proud end of the systems followed a long operational experience. The 130mm Catapult, with a range of more than 27 km, was a successful merger of two existing weapon systems: Vijayanta tanks and 130mm M-46 guns.

50. According to the JLL's Human Performance Index, India is with _____ of excessive performers training versatile working, together with versatile hours and work-from-home

- (a) 72%
- (b) 65%
- (c) 81%
- (d) 92%
- (e) 98%

Answer: C

JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle) has launched the Human Performance Indicator (HPI) that provides a complete view of how completely different points of the workplace operate.

The report discovered that India is main with 81 percent of excessive performers training versatile working, together with versatile hours and work-from-home, in comparability to different APAC international locations.

India ranked highest in workplace satisfaction, with a proportion of 98 per cent. This is adopted by China at 97 per cent.

The report found that total, expert employees (53 per cent) and younger professionals aged 25 to 34

(37 per cent) make up the vast majority of High Performers.

Furthermore, 96 per cent of High Performers highlighted that they've entry to areas that promote casual interactions amongst colleagues comparable to outside terraces, recreation rooms, and on-site espresso outlets and baristas.

The HPI Asia Pacific outcomes are primarily based on an internet examination overlaying Australia, China, India, Japan, and Singapore.

51. As per the data from RBI, India's foreign currency holdings fell by _____ billion to \$580.3 billion as of March 5.

- (a) \$4.3 billion
- (b) \$2.3 billion
- (c) \$7.3 billion
- (d) \$3.3 billion
- (e) \$5.3 billion

Answer: A

India's foreign-exchange reserves surpassed Russia's to become the world's fourth largest, as the South Asian nation's central bank continues to hoard dollars to cushion the economy against any sudden outflows.

As per the data from RBI, India's foreign currency holdings fell by \$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion as of March 5. China has the largest reserves, followed by Japan and Switzerland on the International Monetary Fund table.

52. The 29 Km Dwarka expressway, which connects Dwarka in Delhi to _____, has been constructed under the Bharatmala Project.

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Gulmarg
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Indore
- (e) Gurugram

Answer: E

The construction work on ₹8,662-crore Dwarka Expressway would be completed before 15 August, 2022. The 29-km expressway, which connects Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram, has been constructed under the Bharatmala Project.

The total length of the expressway is 29 kilometres out of which 18.9-kilometre length falls in Haryana while the remaining 10.1-kilometre length is in Delhi. It starts from Shiv-Murti on National Highway-8 and ends near KherkiDaula Toll Plaza.

It would be the first-ever elevated Urban Expressway in India. Its construction will also immensely help to reduce air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.

With the construction of the present project, 50 to 60 percent of traffic on National Highway-8 will be reduced.

53. According to the 'Autocratization Turns Viral: Democracy Report 2021', India has registered a 23% drop on the Liberal Democracy Index. It is a _____ annual report from the V-Dem Institute.

- (a) 4th

- (b) 8th
- (c) 5th
- (d) 6th
- (e) 3rd

Answer: C

According to the 'Autocratization Turns Viral: Democracy Report 2021', India has registered a 23% drop on the Liberal Democracy Index.

India's regime type has turned into 'Electoral Autocracy' in 2020 from Electoral Democracy in 2010.

India's level of liberal democracy registered at 0.34 by the end of 2020 after a steep decline since its high at 0.57 in 2013. That represents a 23-percentage point drop on the 0 to 1 LDI scale, making it one of the most dramatic shifts among all countries in the world over the past 10 years, alongside autocratizing countries like Brazil, Hungary, and Turkey.

Based on the LDI Index, the top three countries in the world are Denmark, Sweden & Norway.

It is a 5th annual report from the V-Dem Institute. It is based on a data set of 202 countries.

54. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has entered into a collaboration with Phinergy to form IOC Phinergy Private Limited. Which among the following is the first client of the Joint Venture?

- (a) Ashok Leyland
- (b) Hero Motors
- (c) TVS Motors
- (d) Hyundai

- (e) None of these

Answer: A

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has entered into a collaboration with Phinergy, an Israeli start-up company specialising in hybrid lithium-ion and aluminium-air/zinc-air battery systems, to form IOC Phinergy Private Limited.

The joint venture would manufacture Aluminum-Air systems in India to boost India's flagship programme - "Make in India" and recycle used Aluminum to strengthen India's energy security.

In a significant boost to India's pursuit of e-mobility, two of the leading Automotive manufacturers in India- Maruti Suzuki and Ashok Leyland signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the newly incorporated JV IOC Phinergy Limited.

55. The Asia Pacific region is increasingly driving growth of the global wind industry, with the region accounting for _____% of all new wind power capacity in 2020.

- (a) 40%
- (b) 48%
- (c) 55%
- (d) 60%
- (e) 64%

Answer: D

In 2020, China broke the world record for most wind power capacity installed in a single year with 52 GW of new capacity.

Overall, nearly 56 GW of new wind power capacity was installed in the Asia Pacific region in 2020, a 78% year-on-year increase.

The Asia Pacific region is increasingly driving growth of the global wind industry, with the region accounting for 60 per cent of all new wind power capacity in 2020.

Total wind power capacity in Asia Pacific is now nearly 347 GW, making it the region with the most wind power capacity worldwide and helping to avoid 510 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually – equivalent to taking 110 million passenger cars off the road.

56. As per the report released from the World Health Organization, how much percentage of women aged between 15 – 49 are affected by intimate partner violence in the Central Asian region?

- (a) 12%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 18%
- (d) 20%
- (e) 23%

Answer: C

The U.N. health agency and its partners have found in a new study that nearly one in three women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes.

The report released from the World Health Organization, based on what the agency called the largest-ever study of the prevalence of violence

against women, also found such violence starts early.

It says a quarter of young women who have been in a relationship were found to have experienced violence by an intimate partner by the time they reach their mid-20s.

Women aged 15-49 are most affected by intimate partner violence in:

- Oceania (51%)
- Southern Asia (35%)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (33%)

The lowest rates are found in:

- Europe (16–23%)
- Central Asia (18%)
- Eastern Asia (20%)
- South-Eastern Asia (21%)

57. A report named 'The Direct and Indirect Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and Response in South Asia' was commissioned by the South Asian region of which among the following international organizations?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) UNDP
- (d) World Bank
- (e) WEF

Answer: B

India is likely to register the greatest increase in the number of deaths among children below five years among six South Asian countries in 2020 and also the highest number of maternal deaths amid the

coronavirus pandemic, which disrupted the country's health services, according to a Unicef report.

The 'Direct and Indirect Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and Response in South Asia', a report commissioned by Unicef Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) is based on the six most populous countries of the South Asian region - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The largest increase in the number of stillbirths as a result of reduced SRMNCH services are also expected in India (10 per cent) followed by Pakistan.

SRMNCH services include family planning, antenatal care, facility births, vaccines, full immunisation, zinc supplements, antibiotics for pneumonia, acute malnutrition treatment etc. Additionally, the number of deaths due to maternal causes among young females is estimated to increase in the region with the highest rise in India followed by Pakistan. "India is expected to be hit hardest with an additional 3,412 adolescent deaths followed by Pakistan (1,629) and Bangladesh (836)," the report said. The rise in deaths has been cited to malaria and typhoid.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant economic impact on the region from staggering GDP to increased unemployment. The report suggests that even in the least severe stage the increase in food security among the population ranges from 17.4 per cent in Afghanistan to 18.9 per cent in Sri Lanka.

58. Deutsche Bank and Continuum Energy Levanter Pte Ltd have executed the world's first green hedging transaction. The forex hedge solution is for a six-year tenor in US dollars/Indian rupees on notional of _____ million, linked to Continuum's green bond US dollar primary issuance.

- (a) \$ 135 million
- (b) \$ 150 million
- (c) \$ 185 million
- (d) \$ 215 million
- (e) \$ 265 million

Answer: C

Deutsche Bank and Continuum Energy Levanter Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Continuum Green Energy (Continuum) have executed the world's first green hedging transaction, with a second party opinion based on a specially designed green hedge framework.

The green hedge, he explained, manages the currency exposure, ensuring the underlying green projects are financially sustainable, while ensuring investors receive their returns on the green bond. The forex hedge solution is for a six-year tenor in US dollars/Indian rupees on notional of \$185 million, linked to Continuum's green bond US dollar primary issuance and based on their green bond framework.

59. Standard Chartered Bank has been mandated by IATA to manage the payment flow within the aviation ecosystem under _____.

- (a) mpay

- (b) EasyPay
- (c) MyPay
- (d) PayPay
- (e) Google Pay

Answer: B

Standard Chartered Bank has been mandated by IATA to manage the payment flow within the aviation ecosystem under EasyPay.

International Air Transport Association (IATA) has appointed Standard Chartered Bank as one of its IATA EasyPay service providers in India enabling greater payment flexibility to travel agents.

IATA EasyPay is a new payment method which aids streamline payment flows within the aviation ecosystem.

EasyPay provides a secure alternative to traditional billing and settlement plan payment methods (cash or credit card) which is available to all the IATA accredited agents in India.

It has been investing heavily in innovating and enhancing its digital capacities.

The Application Programme Interface (API) based EasyPay will identify the travel agents who make the payments in a dedicated IATA EasyPay account with Standard Chartered Bank, India and release the tickets to the agents in real time.

60. Sharath Kamal and ManikaBatra became the first Indian pairing to qualify for the mega event in Tokyo. They are associated with which game?

- (a) Badminton
- (b) Hockey

- (c) Chess
- (d) Table Tennis
- (e) Wrestling

Answer: D

Indian Table Tennis players Sharath Kamal and ManikaBatra became the first Indian pairing to qualify for the mega event in Tokyo, beating world no. 8 duo of Sang-Su Lee and JiheeJeon 4-2 in the final of the Asian Qualification Tournament.

Sharath, who has also qualified for the singles event alongside G Sathiyar, has now set sights at reaching at least the mixed doubles quarterfinals at the Games.

The delayed Tokyo Games will be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

61. Amitabh Bachchan has been awarded with the International Federation of Film Archives Award.

The founder of Film Heritage Foundation had nominated Amitabh for the award. Name the founder.

- (a) AnuragKashyap
- (b) Shivendra Singh Dungarpur
- (c) RajkumarHirani
- (d) Karan Johar
- (e) Vishal Bhardwaj

Answer: B

Amitabh Bachchan has been awarded with the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAPF) award.

The veteran actor is the first Indian to be honoured with the award for his contribution in preserving

India's film heritage. Scorsese and Nolan are previous recipients of the award.

In 2021, filmmaker, film archivist and restorer Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, who is also the founder of Film Heritage Foundation, had nominated Amitabh for the award.

62. The Jharkhand government announced the launch of the SAAMAR campaign. What does 'S' mean in SAAMAR?

- (a) Sample
- (b) State
- (c) Survey
- (d) Strategic
- (e) Strengthening

Answer:D

The Jharkhand government announced the launch of SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction) campaign to tackle malnutrition in the state.

The campaign aims to identify anemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem in a state where malnutrition has been a major problem.

The recent Economic Survey quoted The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey conducted in the state during March 2017 to July 2017 stating that based on the sample data, 36% of under five years of age are stunted—height for age, 29% are affected from Wasting—weight for height, and 45% are underweight—weight for age, indicating the status of undernutrition.

63. The USAID and the US International DFC have announced a USD 41 million-loan guarantee program to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs. SMEs account for _____% of the total energy consumed in India's industrial sector.

- (a) 24%
- (b) 32%
- (c) 36%
- (d) 48%
- (e) 19%

Answer: D

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have announced a USD 41 million-loan guarantee program to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs.

USAID and DFC are jointly sponsoring a USD 41 million loan portfolio guarantee to help finance investments by Indian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in renewable energy solutions, including rooftop solar installations. These loans will enable SMEs to access reliable power and cut costs. SMEs account for 48 per cent of the total energy consumed in India's industrial sector.

64. New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh stated that India has achieved _____ GW of renewable energy capacity till February, 2021.

- (a) 97.54 GW

- (b) 95.36 GW
- (c) 92.97 GW
- (d) 82.38 GW
- (e) 88.98 GW

Answer: C

India has achieved 92.97 GW of renewable energy (RE) capacity till February, 2021.

India has set an ambitious target of achieving 175 GW of installed RE capacity (excluding large hydropower) by 2022.

Further, projects of 50.15 GW capacity are under various stages of implementation and 27.02 GW are under various stages of bidding.

65. The Asian Development Bank has raised 307 million dollars from its first panda bond issue. The bond pays an _____% annual coupon.

- (a) 2.5%
- (b) 2.8%
- (c) 3.2%
- (d) 3.5%
- (e) 3.6%

Answer: C

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised 307 million dollars from its first panda bond issue in more than a decade, representing its largest-ever borrowing in an Asian local currency.

The bond pays a 3.2 percent annual coupon and features a five-year bullet maturity redeeming in March 2026. It represents the first borrowing from a programme approved by regulator National

Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors in June 2020.

ADB is a regular borrower in the mainstream international bond markets but has also led issues in developing Asian countries as part of its efforts to promote local currency bond markets as an alternative to bank lending.

66. West Bengal has held the second rank with _____% in the country in terms of providing employment under MGNREGA.

- (a) 102%
- (b) 103%
- (c) 104%
- (d) 105%
- (e) 106%

Answer: D

Chhattisgarh has ranked first in the country in terms of providing employment under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act).

West Bengal holds the second rank with 105%, Assam and Bihar jointly hold the third rank with the achievement of 104-104% of the given target and Odisha holds the fourth rank with 103% completion. A new record of providing employment for the highest number of man-days under MGNREGA has been set in the state, adding that more than 107% of the given target for providing employment under MGNREGA has been achieved in the FY 2020-21.

67. Union Bank of India has partnered with SMC Global Securities to offer online trading services to the bank's customers. Who among the following is the Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India?

- (a) Rajkiran Rai G
- (b) Gopal Singh Gusain
- (c) Dinesh Kumar Garg
- (d) Manas Ranjan Biswal
- (e) Nitesh Ranjan

Answer: A

Rajkiran Rai G is the MD and CEO of Union Bank of India.

Union Bank of India has partnered with SMC Global Securities, a retail brokerage house, to offer online trading services to the bank's customers.

Customers can trade using the portal

www.smctradeonline.com apart from desktop and mobile applications, a release said.

SMC has a presence in more than 550 cities which can service the lender's 9,500 branches.

68. PM Narendra Modi launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign. A Mou signed in March 2021 between the central govt and the CMs of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to implement the _____ Link project.

- (a) Krishna–Pennar Link
- (b) Parbati Kalisindh Chambal Link
- (c) Ken Betwa Link
- (d) Damanganga Pinjal Link
- (e) Par Tapi Narmada Link

Answer: C

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign on World Water Day.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Union Minister of Jal Shakti and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to implement the Ken Betwa Link Project, the first project of the National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers.

The Prime Minister also interacted with sarpanches and ward panches in Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The major step has also been taken for the Ken-Betwa Link Canal along with the introduction of the Catch The Rain campaign.

69. NeoGrowth has appointed ace cricketer Ajinkya Rahane as its brand ambassador. Where is the headquarters of Neogrowth located?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Greater Noida
- (c) Pune
- (d) Surat
- (e) Mumbai

Answer: E

NeoGrowth was founded in 2012. Its headquarters are located in Mumbai.

NeoGrowth Credit has planned to raise Rs 400-500 crore in equity to fund its medium-term growth.

The company is looking at 50% growth in assets in 2021-22. The company, which lends to small

businesses, mostly retail service units including shops, has assets under management of around Rs 1,350 crore.

NeoGrowth has appointed ace cricketer Ajinkya Rahane as its brand ambassador. The agreement is for a year which can be extended. Rahane will endorse the company's business offerings.

70. Lee ZiiJia has won the All England Badminton Championships men's title. He defeated Viktor Axelsen of which among the following countries?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Japan
- (d) Singapore
- (e) Belgium

Answer: B

Malaysia's Lee ZiiJia has won the All England Badminton Championships men's title as he defeated Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the summit clash.

Lee Chong Wei had last won the All England Open for Malaysia in 2017. Japan's Nozomi Okuhara won the women's title as she defeated Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-12, 21-16 in the finals.

71. Nokia has joined hands with some other cloud companies for developing 5G solutions. Which among the following is NOT one of the partnering companies?

- (a) Apple

- (b) Amazon
- (c) Google
- (d) Microsoft
- (e) None of these

Answer: A

Nokia has joined hands with cloud majors Google Cloud, Microsoft, and Amazon for developing 5G solutions.

In partnership with Google, the two companies would collaborate in joint solutions by combining Nokia's Radio Access Network (RAN), Open RAN, and Cloud RAN (vRAN), and edge cloud technologies with Google's edge computing platform and applications ecosystem.

The initial collaboration, which is already underway at Nokia's Espoo headquarters, is already focusing on Cloud RAN, which will integrate Nokia's 5G vDU and 5G vCU with Google's edge computing platform, running on Anthos.

72. Nawal Saadawi has died recently in March 2021. She was a well-known _____.

- (a) Psychiatrist
- (b) Mathematician
- (c) Sand Artist
- (d) Inventor of Keyboard
- (e) Economist

Answer: A

Nawal Saadawi, a renowned Egyptian feminist, psychiatrist and novelist, whose writings have stirred controversy for decades in an overwhelming

conservative society, has died of age-related health problems in Cairo.

She worked as a psychiatrist and university lecturer and authored dozens of books. She was also a regular writer in Egyptian newspapers.

When she published her famous book, "Women and Sex" in 1972, she faced a storm of criticism and condemnation from Egypt's political and religious establishment.

73. Which among the following has launched the vendor onboarding mobile app named e-dukaan' in March 2021?

- (a) CII
- (b) CAIT
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) CCI
- (e) None of these

Answer: B

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) launched its vendor onboarding mobile app. The app has been launched for its upcoming e-commerce portal 'Bharat e Market'.

Bharat e Market portal is 'purely Indian' which will comply with all the rules and regulations of the country.

It further mentioned that the app will enable traders and service providers to create their own e-dukaan on the portal.

Bharat e Market proves that foreign multinational e-commerce giants operating in India were not giving a fair opportunity for Indian sellers to thrive.

This portal is expected to provide Indian traders a fair platform for their business activities.

74. According to the survey of FICCI – IBA, in terms of outlook, nearly 68% of respondent bankers expect the NPA levels to be above _____ in the first half of 2021.

- (a) 12%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 10%
- (d) 18%
- (e) 20%

Answer: C

According to the survey of FICCI – IBA, in terms of outlook, nearly 68 per cent of respondent bankers expect the NPA levels to be above 10% in the first half of 2021.

The survey was conducted on 20 banks, including public sector, private sector and foreign banks, representing about 59 % of the banking industry, as classified by asset size.

In the current round of the survey, half of the respondent banks reported a decline in NPAs during the second half of 2020. About 78% of participating state-run banks have cited a reduction in NPA levels.

In terms of outlook, nearly 68 per cent of respondent bankers expect the NPA levels to be above 10 per cent in the first half of 2021.

75. KRAS and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems have rolled out its first batch of MRSAM for the

Indian Army and the Air Force. These missile sections would be forwarded to which among the following companies?

- (a) BHEL
- (b) HAL
- (c) BEL
- (d) BDL
- (e) SAIL

Answer: D

Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems have rolled out its first batch of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) for the Indian Army and the Air Force.

The roll-out event marked KRAS' commitment to deliver more than 1,000 MRSAM missile kits for the Indian Army and Air Force over the coming years.

These missile sections would be forwarded to India's state-run defence miniratna Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for further integration.

76. Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the IMTECH Bio Innovation Centre, a Unit of the Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)-CCMB in CSIR-IMTECH in which among the following places?

- (a) Vadodara
- (b) Varanasi
- (c) Chandigarh
- (d) Guwahati
- (e) Jaipur

Answer: C

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated state-of-the-art facilities at various research centres in Chandigarh and Mohali. The Minister inaugurated IMTECH Bio Innovation Centre, a Unit of the Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)-CCMB in CSIR-IMTECH (CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology), Chandigarh.

The centre shall give a boost to the Government's Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission as it shall become a hub for life sciences and biotechnology startups and MSMEs from all over the country.

Dr Vardhan also inaugurated the 'Advanced High-Resolution Microscopy Facility' at the National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) campus, Mohali, Punjab.

He also unveiled a 'Four Star' rating under GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) at Centre for Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB) campus, Mohali, Punjab.

77. The government would sell up to 16.12% stake in Tata Communications Ltd through an Offer for Sale. Who among the following is the CEO of Tata Communications?

- (a) Uday B Desai
- (b) Rajesh Sharma
- (c) Amur SwaminathanLakshminarayanan
- (d) SrinathNarasimhan
- (e) M.P. Tangirala

Answer: C

The government would sell up to 16.12% stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) through an Offer for Sale at the floor price of ₹1,161 per equity share. As part of its exit plan from Tata Communications (erstwhile VSNL), the government is initially offering to sell up to 2.85 crore equity shares representing up to 10% of the total paid up equity share capital of the company.

The government may sell additional 1.74 crore equity shares representing 6.12 per cent of stake in Tata Communications as an oversubscription option. Tata Communications appoints Amur S Lakshminarayanan as MD and Group CEO.

78. Arindam Bagchi has assumed charge as the new spokesperson of which among the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of External Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) Ministry of Public Affairs

Answer: B

Arindam Bagchi has assumed charge as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs. He has replaced Anurag Srivastava, an officer of the 1999 batch of IFS, who had taken over as the spokesperson in April 2020. Arindam Bagchi is an officer of the 1995 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

79. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone has acquired the _____ stake of Windy Lakeside Investment in the Gangavaram Port for Rs 1,954 crore.

- (a) 32.7%
- (b) 36.4%
- (c) 34.5%
- (d) 31.5%
- (e) 33.8%

Answer: D

Gautam Adani-led Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has acquired the 31.5% stake of Windy Lakeside Investment in the Gangavaram Port (GPL) for Rs 1,954 crore.

The acquisition is expected to expand APSEZ's market share to 30% across 12 locations in India. Windy Lakeside Investment is an affiliate of global private equity firm Warburg Pincus. APSEZ is acquiring the firm's stake of 163 million shares (31.5 per cent) at Rs 120 per share, which works out to a consideration of Rs 1,954 crore.

GPL is located near the Visakhapatnam Port and has a capacity of 64 million tonnes (MT).

80. World Water Day is observed on March 22 every year to educate the importance of water to the whole world. What was the theme of World Water Day 2021?

- (a) Leaving no one behind
- (b) Water and Climate Change
- (c) Valuing Water
- (d) Nature for Water

(e) Wastewater

Answer: C

World Water Day is observed on March 22 every year to educate the importance of water to the whole world.

The theme for World Water Day 2021 is "valuing water" and highlights the importance of conserving water and its value. The celebration aims to create awareness of water and its resources which are crucial for the survival of living beings on earth.

The idea of International Water Day started in 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993.

81. The book titled 'The Pain-Free Mindset: 7 Steps to Taking Control and Overcoming Chronic Pain' has been authored by Dr Deepak Ravindran. What does 'D' mean in MINDSET?

- (a) Development
- (b) Diet
- (c) Death
- (d) Deal
- (e) Daily

Answer: B

The book titled 'The Pain-Free Mindset: 7 Steps to Taking Control and Overcoming Chronic Pain' has been authored by Dr Deepak Ravindran.

The book was published by Vermillion, an imprint of Penguin.

The book was commissioned in 2020. The book describes MINDSET as an acronym for Medication, Intervention, Nervous system, Diet, Sleep, Exercise and Therapies.

82. March 21 has observed as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. What was the theme of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2021?

- (a) Racial profiling and incitement to hatred
- (b) Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity
- (c) Mitigating and countering of rising nationalist populism
- (d) Youth standing up against racism
- (e) None of these

Answer: D

The United Nations observe March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The day aims to raise awareness about equality and marks as an initiative to end all forms of racism and racial discrimination and calls all sections of society to stand up against intolerant attitudes.

The theme for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021 is "Youth standing up against racism".

This day is observed annually to commemorate the lives of 69 people who were killed in 1960. The day

was then established six years after the event in 1966.

83. The J&K Administrative Council has approved the incorporation of the Joint Venture Company under the name Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation to implement the 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project on river _____.

- (a) Jhelum
- (b) Tawi
- (c) Sind
- (d) Chenab
- (e) Lidder

Answer:D

The J&K Administrative Council under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the incorporation of the Joint Venture Company (JVC) under the name Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation to implement the 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) on river Chenab.

The proposed JVC would have authorised capital of Rs 1,600 Crore with initial paid up capital of Rs 100 Crore, out of which the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDCL) will contribute Rs 49 crore as an initial equity.

The Administrative Council further authorised the Principal Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department and the Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited to sign the

Promoters' Agreement and other related documents for operationalisation of the Joint Venture Company.

84. Bihar has become the first state in the country to have its own ethanol policy, called Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021. The policy promotes new standalone ethanol manufacturing units by providing them additional capital subsidy at _____ of cost of plant and machinery.

- (a) 12%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 20%
- (d) 25%
- (e) 30%

Answer: B

Bihar has become the first state in the country to have its own ethanol policy, called Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021, which has been approved by the Cabinet.

The new policy would permit ethanol production in Bihar from all feed stocks permitted by National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, and subsequently by National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

In December 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had approved a modified scheme for extending interest subvention for those setting up grain-based along with molasses-based ethanol distilleries.

The Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021, of Bihar promotes new standalone ethanol manufacturing units by providing them additional

capital subsidy at 15% of cost of plant and machinery up to a maximum of ₹5 crore.

This capital subsidy will be in addition to existing incentives under Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy, 2016.

85. The Ordnance Factories' Day is observed on the 18th of March every year. OFB is the _____ largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world

- (a) 18th
- (b) 29th
- (c) 24th
- (d) 37th
- (e) 42nd

Answer: D

The Ordnance Factories' Day is observed on the 18th of March every year.

The production of India's oldest Ordnance Factory was started on the 18th of March, 1802.

OFB is the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world, 2nd largest in Asia, and the largest in India.

The day is celebrated by displaying the rifles, guns, artillery, ammunition etc in exhibitions all over India.

OFB is referred to as the "Fourth Arm of Defence" and the "Force Behind the Armed Forces" of India.

OFB is functioning under the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.

86. According to the Global Home Price Index, India saw a decline of _____% in home prices year-on-year leading to the drop in global position.

- (a) 2.4%
- (b) 3.6%
- (c) 5.2%
- (d) 2.8%
- (e) 4.9%

Answer: B

India has slipped down 13 spots in the latest global home price index, finishing last at 56th rank in the quarter ended December 2020, according to a Knight Frank report. Overall India saw a decline of 3.6 per cent in home prices year-on-year leading to the drop in global position. It was ranked 43 on the Global House Price Index in the fourth quarter of 2019.

According to the report, about 89 percent of countries and territories saw an increase in prices last year.

87. Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18. What was the theme of Global Recycling Day 2021?

- (a) Recycling Heroes
- (b) Recycle and Reuse
- (c) Start to Recycle
- (d) Recycling Old Things
- (e) None of these

Answer:A

Global Recycling Day is observed every year on March 18 to create awareness among the masses

about the rapid pace at which our natural resources are being used.

In 2021, the theme of Global Recycling Day is “Recycling Heroes”. Its main aim is to recognise the people, places and activities that showcase the importance of recycling in preserving natural resources

88. Convergence Energy Services Limited has officially unveiled the GRAM UJALA programme. Under this programme, CESL will distribute high-quality LED bulbs, at an affordable cost of _____ rupees per bulb in rural areas.

- (a) ₹ 5
- (b) ₹ 8
- (c) ₹ 10
- (d) ₹ 12
- (e) ₹ 16

Answer: C

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), has officially unveiled the GRAM UJALA programme.

Under this programme, CESL will distribute high-quality LED bulbs, at an affordable cost of 10 rupees per bulb in rural areas.

In the first phase of this programme, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat. Gram Ujala programme

will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.

The GRAM UJALA programme was launched by the Minister of State for Power & New and Renewable Energy R K Singh in Arrah, Bhojpur district in Bihar. The programme is expected to have a significant impact on India's climate change action with energy savings of 2025 million kWh/year and CO₂ reductions of 1.65 million T CO₂/year. The programme will enable better illumination, at an affordable price of Rs 10/bulb.

Under the programme, 7 watt and 12-Watt LED bulbs with 3 years warranty will be given to rural consumers against submission of working Incandescent bulbs. The Gram Ujala programme will be implemented in villages of the 5 districts only and consumers can exchange a maximum of 5 LED bulbs.

89. A book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” has been co-edited by AK Singh. The foreword is written by whom among the following?

- (a) AK Singh
- (b) RuturajPatil
- (c) ArunPrakash
- (d) Ravi Krishma Kumar
- (e) ShravanRawat

Answer: C

A book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh, Distinguished Fellow CLAWS and Brig Narender Kumar, Visiting Fellow CLAWS was released by Gen BipinRawat, CDS and

Gen Deepak Kapoor, Former Chief of the Army Staff at Centre for Land Warfare Studies.

The book "Battle Ready for the 21st Century" has endeavoured to postulate and define emerging areas of conflict, desired capabilities and doctrinal issues that need careful examination.

The foreword is written by former Naval Chief Admiral ArunPrakash. Former Chief of the Army Staff Gen NC Vij and Prof GautamSenhave commented on the book for empirically identifying future security challenges and the need for building capabilities.

90. World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year. In which year, UNESCO has adopted 21 March as World Poetry Day?

- (a) 1990
- (b) 1998
- (c) 1999
- (d) 1995
- (e) 1992

Answer:C

World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.

UNESCO first adopted 21 March as World Poetry Day during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

91. The new chief scientist at the Nature Conservancy, Katharine Hayhoe, has written a book named 'Saying Us'. The Nature Conservancy is an international environmental organisation founded in which year?

- (a) 1936
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1928
- (d) 1951
- (e) 1968

Answer: D

The new chief scientist at the Nature Conservancy, Katharine Hayhoe, has written a book about climate change namely 'Saying Us'.

Hayhoe will combine research and personal stories as she attempts to unite readers, including those who deny the overwhelming evidence of climate change, and motivate them toward action.

The Nature Conservancy is an international environmental organisation founded in 1951.

Hayhoe, a climate scientist who teaches public policy and public law at Texas Tech University, hosts the PBS digital series Global Weirding and was named a "Champion of the Earth" by the United Nations in 2019.

92. In March 2021, GV Ramakrishna died recently in Chennai. He was the first chairman of which among the following organizations?

- (a) NHB
- (b) SIDBI
- (c) SEBI

- (d) IRDA
(e) NABARD

Answer: C

Former Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairman G V Ramakrishna has died in Chennai.

He was credited with the cleaning up of the Indian capital market. He was the first Chairman of Sebi And the second Chairman since its inception after it got statutory powers in 1992.

During his four-year stint till 1994, he cleaned up the Augean stables of the stock exchanges which were earlier controlled by stock brokers.

He headed the regulator at a time when the financial system was rocked by Harshad Mehta's securities scam in 1992. The National Stock Exchange (NSE), currently India's largest exchange, came up in 1992-93 during his tenure as the Sebi Chairman.

93. What was the theme of 2021 World Sleep Day, observed on Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox?

- (a) Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging
(b) Sleep Soundly, Nurture Life
(c) Better Sleep, Better Life
(d) Regular Sleep, Healthy Future
(e) Good Sleep is a Reachable Dream

Answer: D

Every year, World Sleep Day is observed on Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox. This year it falls on 19 March.

The World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society organised the World Sleep Day with an aim

to reduce the burden of the problems related to sleep on society via better prevention and management of sleep disorders.

The 14th annual World Sleep Day is observed on 19 March, 2021 and the slogan is 'Regular Sleep, Healthy Future.'

It is hosted by the World Sleep Society (WSS) which is a non-profit based organization in the United States.

94. MalaliVasanthkumar died recently in March '21.

He was a famous writer of which language?

- (a) Kannada
(b) Malayalam
(c) Telugu
(d) Bengali
(e) Urdu

Answer: A

Well-known Kannada writer MalaliVasanthkumar passed away due to illness in Bengaluru.

Vasanthkumar has served as Kannada professor at Maharaja's and Yuvraja's College. He also served as Kannada SahityaParishat president.

He had established himself as a prolific writer focusing on short stories, poetry, essays, literary criticisms, and plays and had also played a prominent part in the pro-Kannada Gokak movement in the 1980s.

95. Which state government has launched the new scheme named 'CM Dalit Empowerment

Programme' during the budget announcement of FY 2021-22?

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer: C

The Telangana government presented a tax-free Budget for 2021-22, proposing a total expenditure of Rs 2,30,825.96 crore with major allocations made for panchayat raj and rural development, agriculture, irrigation, social security pensions and others.

It proposed a new scheme "CM Dalit Empowerment Programme", with an allocation of Rs 1,000 crore, besides Rs 5,225 crore towards crop loan waiver as per the ruling TRS's assurance during the last assembly polls to waive crop loans up to Rs one lakh and Rs 11,728 crore for 'Aasara' (social security) pensions scheme.

96. March 21 has been observed as the International Day of Forests. What was the 2021 theme of the International Day of Forests?

- (a) Learn to Love Forests
- (b) Forests for sustainable cities
- (c) Forests and Biodiversity: Too precious to lose
- (d) Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being
- (e) Forests and Energy

Answer: D

The United Nations observes March 21 as the International Day of Forests, commemorating the green cover around the world and reiterating its importance.

The theme of the International Day of Forests for 2021 is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being".

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012.

The Day is celebrated by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organisations in the field.

97. Energy transition investment would have to increase by _____ over planned investment to a total of USD 131 trillion between now and 2050.

- (a) 20%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 10%
- (d) 25%
- (e) 30%

Answer: E

The World Energy Transitions Outlook preview outlines a pathway for the world to achieve the Paris Agreement goals and halt the pace of climate change by transforming the global energy landscape.

This preview presents options to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C and bring CO2 emissions closer to net zero by mid-century, offering high-level insights on technology choices, investment needs and the socio-economic contexts of achieving a sustainable, resilient and inclusive energy future. Meeting CO2 reduction targets by 2050 will require a combination of:

technology and innovation to advance the energy transition and improve carbon management; supportive and proactive policies; associated job creation and socio-economic improvements; and international co-operation to guarantee energy availability and access.

Energy transition investment will have to increase by 30% over planned investment to a total of USD 131 trillion between now and 2050, corresponding to USD 4.4 trillion on average every year.

98. World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21 every year. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to officially mark March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day in _____.

- (a) 2011
- (b) 2012
- (c) 2014
- (d) 2013
- (e) 2016

Answer: B

World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21 every year, with an aim to spread awareness

about the Down syndrome which has always been a part of the human condition.

The day was first observed in 2006 by the Down Syndrome International (DSI) organisation, with the Down Syndrome Association Singapore launching and hosting the World Down Syndrome Day website till 2010.

After, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to officially mark March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day starting 2012.

Usually, humans have two copies of this chromosome, but those with Down syndrome have three, and so the syndrome is also called 'Trisomy 21'.

99. According to a research study undertaken by Zutobi, which country has the safest roads in the world to drive?

- (a) Sweden
- (b) Japan
- (c) Spain
- (d) Sweden
- (e) Norway

Answer: E

South Africa has been ranked as the world's most dangerous country to drive in while India came in at fourth place, according to a research study undertaken by international driver education company Zutobi.

Among the list of 56 countries in the study, Thailand came in second position and the US took up third spot.

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The safest roads in the world can be found in Norway, with its Scandinavian neighbour Sweden having the third safest roads while Japan took second place

These estimates were based on the World Health Organization's Global Health Observatory data repository.

100. The International Day of Nowruz has been observed on March 21. Nowruz was originally inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in which year?

- (a) 2009
- (b) 2007
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2015
- (e) 2012

Answer: A

The International Day of Nowruz occurs on 21st March, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere.

Nowruz celebrations include a variety of rituals, ceremonies, traditional games, special dishes, performances and other cultural events which take place during a period of around two weeks.

Nowruz was originally inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009 by 6 countries and later in 2016 was extended to another 6.

The countries who have jointly inscribed Nowruz are : Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey.

March 4th week Current Affairs MCQ

1. Shreyas Iyer has become the _____ Indian Cricketer to play for Lancashire in one-day tournament from July 22 to August 19.

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 7th
- (e) 3rd

Answer: C

Shreyas Iyer has become the 6th Indian cricketer to play for Lancashire.

Iyer has been signed for the Royal London Cup which will be played from July 22 to August 19. The 18-team one-day tournament is scheduled to be played between July 22 to August 19 in England.

The 26-year-old is faced England in the 3-match ODI series in Pune from March 23.

Iyer will be the sixth Indian player to represent Lancashire after Farokh Engineer, Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman, Murali Karthik and Dinesh Mongia. Engineer was the first to play for Lancashire after

joining the side in 1968 and serves as their current vice-president.

2. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Limited. Fedbank Financial Services Limited is headquartered in _____.

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Kochi

Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Mumbai.

The central bank observed that the statutory inspection of the company, with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019, revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India contained in 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016'.

Fedfina is a subsidiary of Federal Bank. The bank has 74 per cent stake in the non-banking finance company (NBFC).

3. IFSCA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which among the following to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for the development of GIFT – City?

- (a) NITI Aayog

- (b) FSSAI
- (c) FICCI
- (d) NSCI
- (e) NCDC

Answer: C

FICCI and IFSCA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for the development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) IFSC as a world-class FinTech hub.

This MoU will pave the way for future collaborations and cooperation between IFSCA and FICCI for the development of a world-class FinTech Hub in GIFT IFSC.

FICCI will also assist IFSCA in the development of FinTech Accelerator programmes in GIFT IFSC amongst other cooperation areas.

The MoU was signed by Injeti Srinivas, Chairman, IFSCA, and Dilip Chenoy, Secretary-General, FICCI.

4. According to the ultimate military strength index, India stands at _____ strongest military force in the world.

- (a) 3rd
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 5th
- (d) 4th
- (e) 6th

Answer: D

China has the strongest military force in the world with the score of 82 out of 100 while India stands at

number four, according to the ultimate military strength index.

The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. The UK just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.

The world's biggest military spender with a budget of USD 732 billion per year is the USA and China comes second with USD 261 billion, followed by India at USD 71 billion.

The report stated that China would win by sea, USA by air and Russia by land" in this hypothetical conflict.

5. Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion

Organization signed Memorandum of Understanding with Trade Promotion Corporation of India for the Agro & Food Processing sector and Film Tourism sector. TPCI is supported from which department?

- (a) Department of Rural Development
- (b) Department of Telecommunications
- (c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (d) Department of Commerce
- (e) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

Answer: D

Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization signed Memorandum of Understanding with Trade Promotion Corporation of India (TPCI) for the Agro & Food Processing sector and Film Tourism sector.

Both JKTPO and TPCI will work together to enhance the outreach to the International Community in India. Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is an apex trade body under the Ministry of Commerce which focuses on promoting and facilitating trade, with focus on agri and food, education, IT and entertainment as also chemicals, plastic and telecom sectors.

TPCI will impart and deliver sectoral knowledge & research-based information, Policy Advocacy, Marketing and Developmental Activities in the focus sectors.

JKTPO also engaged with foreign delegates from six countries viz Russia, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Turkey and Belarus to explore various avenues and to drive global investments into J&K. The J&K Pavilion at the trade show showcased various exhibitors from its Food Processing Sector.

6. The joint exercise named "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021" would be held by which international group countries?

- (a) BIMSTEC
- (b) BRICS
- (c) SCO
- (d) FATF
- (e) G20

Answer: C

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) members including India, Pakistan and China will participate in a joint anti-terrorism exercise in 2021.

The decision to hold the joint exercise named "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021" was announced by the eight-member bloc during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The other members of SCO include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The representatives of the member states also approved the draft program of cooperation for 2022-2024 to counter-terrorism, separatism and extremism.

7.Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in the _____ Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup.

- (a) 15 m
- (b) 20 m
- (c) 10 m
- (d) 50 m
- (e) 100 m

Answer: C

India's Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

The defeated the Hungarian team of Istvan Peni and Eszter Denes 16-10 to take home the top prize.

USA's Lucas Kozeniesky and Mary Carolynn Tucker finished third after defeating the Polish team of Aneta Stankiewicz and Tomasz Bartnik.

8.Singhraj won gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup in UAE. He defeated Server Ibragimov of which country to win the gold medal?

- (a) Ukraine
- (b) Uzbekistan
- (c) Kazakhstan
- (d) Belarus
- (e) Kyrgyzstan

Answer:B

Indian para-athlete Singhraj won gold medal in the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE. He defeated Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov to get the top honour in the P1 - Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 final.

Turkey's former Paralympic champion Muharrem Korhan Yamaç took the bronze. India bagged 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze) and finished at 3rd Position in the 2021 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup.

9.Sagar Sarhadi has died recently at the age of 88. He was a well-known _____.

- (a) Singer
- (b) Filmmaker
- (c)Writer
- (d) Film Director
- (e) Musician

Answer: B

Noted writer-filmmaker Sagar Sarhadi, known for films like 'Kabhi Kabhie', 'Silsila', and 'Bazaar', passed away. He was 88.

Sarhadi began his career writing Urdu short stories and became an Urdu playwright. Filmmaker Yash Chopra's 1976 film 'Kabhi Kabhie', starring Amitabh Bachchan and Raakhee, started his Bollywood career.

Sarhadi is also credited with writing dialogues for superstar Shah Rukh Khan's debut 'Deewana' in 1992 and Hrithik Roshan's debut 'Kaho Na Pyaar Hai' (2000).

10. Shahid Diwas or Martyrs' Day is observed every year on which date?

- (a) March 23
- (b) March 21
- (c) March 22
- (d) March 20
- (e) March 24

Answer: A

Shahid Diwas or Martyrs' Day is observed on March 23rd every year to remember the sacrifice of brave freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru for the nation.

Shaheed Diwas 2021 is the 90th death anniversary of three courageous youngsters.

March 23rd is being celebrated to honour and remember their sacrifice for the independence struggle of India.

11. World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on March 23. The World Meteorological Organization came into existence in which year?

- (a) 1945
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1950
- (d) 1955
- (e) 1960

Answer: C

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) came into existence on March 23, 1950.

The day is celebrated as World Meteorological Day.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental framework with a union of 193 Member States and Territories.

The Ocean, our climate and weather is the 2021 slogan of World Meteorological Day.

The launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable development is a step by WMO to support the efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean well-wishers worldwide to work behind a common goal to ensure improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

12. The Reserve Bank of India has set up a _____ member committee, headed by Shyamala Gopinath, for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks.

- (a) 5
- (b) 8
- (c) 6
- (d) 3
- (e) 7

Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a five-member committee, headed by former Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath, for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks.

The other members of the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC), whose tenure will be for three years, are: Revathy Iyer, Director, Central Board, Reserve Bank of India; B Mahapatra, former Executive Director, RBI and presently Chairman, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI); TN Manoharan, former Chairman, Canara Bank; and Hemant G Contractor, former MD, State Bank of India and former Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The RBI's guidelines for 'on-tap' Licensing of Universal Banks in the Private Sector (August 1, 2016) and Guidelines for 'on-tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector (December 5, 2019) indicated that the applications for Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks will be initially screened by the Reserve Bank to ensure prima facie eligibility of the applicants.

13. As per the latest data from the Reserve Bank, Foreign portfolio investors have pushed _____ billion into equities up to March 10, 2021,

- (a) USD 23 billion
- (b) USD 45 billion
- (c) USD 36 billion
- (d) USD 65 billion

(e) USD 12 billion

Answer: C

As per the latest data from the Reserve Bank, Foreign portfolio investors have pushed in a record USD 36 billion into equities up to March 10, 2021, which is the highest since FY13,

On the other hand, net foreign direct investment inflows jumped to USD 44 billion, till end January, up from USD 36.3 billion a year ago.

The report further notes that the quality of FPI inflows improved during the period as category-I foreign investors, comprising central banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, regulated entities and multilateral organisations, increased their stake to a high 95 per cent of total equity assets at end-February compared with 87 per cent at end-December 2019.

14. 'Shakti Portal' has been launched for Farmer Producer Organizations by which among the following state government as a part of the Kisan Kalyan Mission?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Haryana
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: E

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath launched the UP FPO Shakti Portal as part of the Kisan Kalyan Mission at an event in Gorakhpur, UP.

The portal has been developed by the department of agriculture with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and is aimed at benefitting the farmers at the grassroots level. It will bring farmers, producer groups, traders and the department of agriculture and other allied departments of the state government on one platform.

The state currently has 576 FPOs comprising around 2.15 lakh farmers. Of these, 471 FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) registered themselves on the portal.

15.As per the Bank of America (BofA) Securities report, the pandemic delays India's ambitious target of becoming the third-largest economy by _____ years.

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: B

As per the Bank of America (BofA) Securities report, the pandemic delays India's ambitious target of becoming the third-largest economy by three years to 2031-32.

Indian economy have already shaved off 15.7 per cent of the GDP from the previous year due to the pandemic.

Currently, India is the fifth-largest economy in the world behind Germany. The government has set a

target of becoming a USD5-trillion economy by 2030.

It should touch Japan's nominal GDP in 2031 (in USD terms) if it grows at 9 per cent and in 2030 if it grows at 10 per cent.

16.Ministry of Defence signed a contract with _____ for supply of 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles to the Indian Army at a cost of Rs 1,056 crore.

- (a) Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd
- (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- (c) Bharat Electronics Ltd
- (d) Astra Microwave Products Ltd
- (e) Reliance Naval & Engineering Ltd

Answer: A

Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd (MDSL) for supply of 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles to the Indian Army, at a cost of Rs 1,056 crore, in New Delhi.

The Light Specialist Vehicle is a modern fighting vehicle and will be authorised to various fighting units for carriage of Medium Machine Guns, Automatic Grenade Launchers as well as Anti-tank Guided Missiles.

This is a flagship project showcasing the indigenous manufacturing capabilities of the defence industry and will add another milestone to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' and 'Make in India' initiative of the Government.

17. Who among the following has won the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020?

- (a) Julius Nyerere
- (b) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- (c) Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said
- (d) Gerhard Fischer
- (e) Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Answer: B

India announced that the Gandhi Peace Prize for the past two years will be conferred on late Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said and Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for their contributions to social and political transformation through non-violent methods.

The jury for the prize, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi unanimously selected Rahman as the recipient of the prize for 2020 and Sultan Qaboos, who died last year, as the recipient for 2019.

The award includes an amount of ₹1 crore, a citation, a plaque and a traditional handicraft or handloom item.

Past awardees include former Tanzania president Julius Nyerere, Gerhard Fischer of Germany, the Ramakrishna Mission, Baba Amte, former South African president Nelson Mandela, the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Chandi Prasad Bhatt and the Indian Space Research Organisation.

18. What edition of National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi with the honours for films from the year of 2019?

- (a) 63rd
- (b) 65th
- (c) 66th
- (d) 67th
- (e) 68th

Answer: D

The 67th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi, with the honours for films from the year of 2019.

The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Director Priyadarshan's Malayalam war epic Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea, that is headlined by Mohanlal, won Best Feature Film.

Most Film Friendly State: Sikkim

Best Book on Cinema: A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema, by Sanjay Suri
Best Film Critic: Sohini Chattopadhyay

19. Vijay Sethupathi has won the National Award in the category of Best Male Supporting Actor for his work in which among the following film?

- (a) Master
- (b) Vikram Vedha
- (c) Super Deluxe
- (d) Ka Pa Ranasingam
- (e) Petta

Answer: C

The 67th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi, with the honours for films from the year of 2019.

Vijay Sethupathi (Super Deluxe) and Pallavi Joshi (The Tashkent Files) won the supporting actor awards, while director Sanjay Puri Singh Chauhan was awarded for Bahattar Hoorain.

The best acting honours went to Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle, Dhanush for Tamil film Asuran, and Kangana Ranaut for two of her films: Panga and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

20. Kangana Ranaut has won the National Award in the Best Actress category for her film named _____.

- (a) Judgemental Hai Kya
- (b) Thalaivi
- (c) Panga
- (d) Queen
- (e) Simran

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
Best Actor (shared)	Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)
Best Actress	Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)

Best Supporting Actress	Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)
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21. Naga Vishal has won the National Award in March 2021 in the Best Child Artist category for which among the following Tamil Film?

- (a) Asuran
- (b) Ottha Serupu Size 7
- (c) KD
- (d) Viswasam
- (e) Jersey

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best Director	Sanjay Puri Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)
Best Debut Film of a Director	Mathukutty Xavier for Helen (Malayalam)
Best Child Artist	Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
Best Action Direction	Avane Srimannarayana (Kannada), Vikram Mor

22. Who among the following has won the 67th National Film Award in the category of Best Lyrics?

- (a) Raju Sundaram
- (b) Siddharth Priyadarshan
- (c) Radhakrishnan Parthiban
- (d) Prabha Varma
- (e) Vikram Mor

Answer: D

Category	Winner
Best Choreography	Maharishi (Telugu), Raju

	Sundaram
Best Special Effects	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam), Siddharth Priyadarshan
Special Jury Award	Oththa Seruppu Size 7 (Tamil), Radhakrishnan Parthiban
Best Lyrics	Prabha Varma for Kolaambi (Malayalam)

23. Prabuddha Banerjee has won the 67th National Award for Jyeshthoputro in the Best Background Music category. Jyeshthoputro belongs to which language?

- (a) Manipuri
- (b) Konkani
- (c) Hindi
- (d) Kannada
- (e) Bengali

Answer: E

Category	Winner
Best Music Direction	D. Imman for Viswasam (Tamil)
Best Background Music	Prabuddha Banerjee for Jyeshthoputro (Bengali)
Best Make-up Artist	Ranjith for Helen (Malayalam)
Best Costumes	Sujith Sudhakaran and V. Sai for Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)

24. Resul Pookutty has won the National Award in the Best Audiography (Re-recordist of final mixed track) category for which among the following film?

- (a) Viswasam
- (b) Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
- (c) Asuran
- (d) Helen
- (e) Oththa Seruppu Size 7

Answer: E

Category	Winner
Best Production Design	Anandi Gopal (Marathi), Sunil Nigwekar and Nilesh Wagh
Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist)	Iewduh (Khasi), Debajit Gayan
Best Audiography (Re-recordist of final mixed track)	Oththa Seruppu Size 7 (Tamil), Resul Pookutty
Best Screenplay (Original)	Jyeshthoputro (Bengali), Kaushik Ganguly
Best Female Playback Singer	Savani Ravindra for Bardo (Marathi)

25. Who among the following has won the 67th National Award in the category of Best Male Playback Singer?

- (a) Vivek Ranjan
- (b) B Praak
- (c) Navin Nooli
- (d) Srijit Mukherji

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(e)Gireesh Gangadharan

Answer: B

Category	Winner
Best Screenplay (Adapted)	Gumnaami (Bengali), Srijit Mukherji
Best Screenplay (Dialogue Writer)	The Tashkent Files (Hindi), Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri
Best Cinematography	Jallikattu (Malayalam), Gireesh Gangadharan
Best Editing	Jersey (Telugu), Navin Nooli
Best Male Playback Singer	B Praak for Kesari (Hindi)

26. Kastoori has won the 67th National Award in the category of Best Children's Film. Kastoori is a _____ language film.

- (a) Marathi
- (b) Telugu
- (c) Hindi
- (d) Bengali
- (e) Manipuri

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best Children's Film	Kastoori (Hindi)
Best Film on Environment Conservation	Water Burial (Monpa)
Best Film on Social Issues	Anandi Gopal (Marathi)
Best Film on National Integration	Tajmahal (Marathi)

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Maharishi (Telugu)
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27. Which among the following film has won the 67th National Award in the category of Best Malayalam Film in March 2021?

- (a) Viswasam
- (b) Asuran
- (c) Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
- (d) Jallikattu
- (e) Kalla Nottam

Answer: E

Best Hindi Film: Chhichhore

Best Telugu Film: Jersey

Best Malayalam Film: Kalla Nottam

Best Tamil Film: Asuran

Best Paniya Film: Kenjira

Best Mishing Film: Anu Ruwad

Best Khasi Film: Iewduh

Best Chattisgarhi Film: Bhulan the Maze

28. The film 'Kaajro' has won the 67th National award in the category of which among the following?

- (a) Best Manipuri Film
- (b) Best Konkani Film
- (c) Best Bengali Film
- (d) Best Haryanvi Film
- (e) Best Odia Film

Answer: B

Best Haryanvi Film: Chhoriyan Chhoron Se Kam Nahi Hoti

Best Tulu Film: Pingara

Best Punjabi Film: Rab Da Radio 2

Best Odia Film: Kalira Atita and Sala Budhar Badla
(shared)

Best Manipuri Film: Eigi Kona

Best Marathi Film: Bardo

Best Konkani Film: Kaajro

Best Kannada Film: Akshi

Best Bengali Film: Gumnaami

Best Assamese Film: Ronuwa - Who Never
Surrender

Special Mentions: Biriyan (Malayalam), Jonaki
Porua (Assamese), Lata Bhagwan Kare (Marathi)
and Picasso (Marathi)

29. Which among the following film has won the National award (Non-Feature Film Award) in the Best Short Fiction Film category?

- (a) Radha
- (b) Wild Karnataka
- (c) Custody
- (d) Jakkal
- (e) Rahas

Answer: C

Non-Feature Film Awards:

Category	Winner
Best Voice-over/ Narration	Sir David Attenborough for Wild Karnataka (English)
Best Music Direction	Bishakhjyoti for Kranti Darshi Guruji - Ahead of Times (Hindi)

Best Editing	Arjun Gourisaria for Shut Up Sona (Hindi/ English)
Best Audiography	Radha (Musical), Allwin Rego and Sanjay Maurya
Best On-Location Sound Recordist	Rahas (Hindi), Saptarshi Sarkar
Best Cinematography	Savita Singh for Sonsi (Hindi)
Best Direction	Sudhanshu Saria for Knock Knock Knock (English/ Bengali)
Best Short Fiction Film	Custody (Hindi/ English)
Best Film on Family Values	Oru Paathira Swapnam Pole (Malayalam)
Best Animation Film	Radha (Musical)
Best Investigative Film	Jakkal (Marathi)
Best Exploration Film	Wild Karnataka (English)

30. Which among the following has won the National Award 2021 in the Best Educational Film category?

- (a) The Stork Saviours
- (b) An Engineered Dream
- (c) Apples and Oranges
- (d) The Shower
- (e) Elephants Do Remember

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best Educational Film	Apples and Oranges

	(English)
Best Film on Social Issues	Holy Rights (Hindi) and Ladli (Hindi)
Best Environment Film	The Stork Saviours (Hindi)
Best Promotional Film	The Shower (Hindi)
Best Arts and Culture Film	Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata (Odia)
Best Biographical Film	Elephants Do Remember (English)
Best Ethnographic Film	Charan-Atva The Essence of Being a Nomad (Gujarati)
Best Debut Non-Feature Film of a Director	Raj Pritam More for Khisa (Marathi)
Best Non-Feature Film	An Engineered Dream (Hindi)

31. According to the International Intellectual Property Index, which country has topped the Index with a score of 95.31%?

- (a) USA
- (b) UK
- (c) Germany
- (d) France
- (e) Sweden

Answer: A

India ranked 40 among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index. USA, UK & Germany topped the Index with the score of 95.31%, 93.90% and 92.27% respectively.

The International Intellectual Property (IP) Index was released annually by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC).

Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.

32. According to the International Intellectual Property Index, India has registered _____ highest growth among BRICS nations.

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth
- (e) Fifth

Answer: B

The International Intellectual Property (IP) Index was released annually by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC).

India ranked 40th in 2020, scoring 38.4 out of 100 on a set of 50 intellectual property-related indicators. The overall global IP environment improved in 2020, with positive score increasing in 32 of the 53 economies measured by the IP Index. This is the ninth IP index released by the GIPC..

India's overall score has increased from 36.04 per cent (16.22 out of 45) in the seventh edition to 38.46 per cent (19.23 out of 50) in the eighth edition.

Among BRICS nations, India registered the second-highest growth over nine editions of the US

Chamber Index hit years with an overall improvement of over 13 per cent

33.In March 2021, 'e-heli service' has been launched by which among the following state?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Himachal Pradesh
- (e) Bihar

Answer: D

Chief minister Jai Ram Thakur virtually launched four electronic services for Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district.

The services 'e-office, e-heli service, e-aagman and e-Lahaul' help in providing people-friendly services to the public of Lahaul-Spiti district.

The e-heli service will provide details of flights available from different blocks and subdivisions of Lahaul and Spiti, detailed policy about flight service, eligibility and fee structure, integration of payment gateway and online approval or rejection of applications.

E-office will help improve the operational efficiency of government departments by transitioning to a paperless office, which will make the overall working of the district administration effective and efficient.

The e-Lahaul web application has been developed to register local vendors.

34.United Nations Office for Project Services has entered into a partnership with which country to support the Jal Jeevan Mission in Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Austria
- (c) Greece
- (d) Portugal
- (e) Denmark

Answer: E

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) entered into a partnership with the Government of Denmark to support the Union Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission in Uttar Pradesh.

The purpose of partnership between the Government of Denmark and UNOPS is to provide strategic technical support to Jal Jeevan Mission (Water program).

UNOPS shall be focussing on instituting scalable delivery models in focused 11 water-scarce districts of Uttar Pradesh in Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions.

The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide functional household tap connection to every rural household by 2024. This coincides with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal-6.

35.Nikhat Zareen and Gaurav Solanki have won a bronze medal at the Bosphorus Boxing Tournament in which place?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Jordan

(c) Kuwait

(d) Turkey

(e) Qatar

Answer: D

Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Gaurav Solanki (57kg) have won a bronze medal at the Bosphorus Boxing Tournament in Turkey.

Asian Championship Bronze medallist Nikhat Zareen, who defeated World Champion Paltceva Ekaterina of Russia in pre-quarterfinals and two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan in quarterfinals.

Zareen faced 2019 World Championship silver medallist Busenaz Cakiroglu of Turkey in the semi-final.

36. Adam Zagajewski has died at the age of 75. He belonged to which among the following country?

(a) Italy

(b) Canada

(c) Brazil

(d) Spain

(e) Poland

Answer: E

Adam Zagajewski, one of Poland's greatest poets who wrote a poem that came to symbolise the world's sense of shock and loss after the September 11 attacks in the US, has died in Krakow. He was 75.

Zagajewski's poem Try to Praise the Mutilated World was published in the New Yorker magazine just days after the September 11 attacks and

became representative for the outpouring of grief around the world.

He won many literary awards, including the 2004 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, considered a forerunner to the Nobel Prize in Literature, and the 2017 Princess of Asturias Award, the Spanish-speaking world's top humanities award. He was awarded a number of Polish state distinctions and France's Legion of Honour in 2016.

37. Which among the following has won the Cities India Awards-2021 in the Smart SPV/Municipal Corporation category in March 2021?

(a) DTC

(b) HRTC

(c) CRUT

(d) TSRTC

(e) KSRTC

Answer: C

The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) that manages Mo Bus service has won the Cities India Awards-2021 in the Smart SPV/Municipal Corporation category.

The award was presented to CRUT at an event organized by the India Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Exhibitions India Group in Delhi. CRUT general manager Dipti Mahapatro received the award.

The award recognises projects from the designated special purpose vehicles (under Smart City Mission)

that are promoting sustainable development in urban areas.

38. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Union Public Service Commission and Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission of which country?

- (a) Niger
- (b) Bulgaria
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Ethiopia
- (e) Ivory Coast

Answer: C

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Union Public Service Commission and Afghanistan's Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC).

The MoU will strengthen the relationship between UPSC and IARCSC and will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise of both the parties in the area of recruitment.

Salient features of the MoU include: Exchange of experience on modern approach to public service recruitment and selection, particularly the functions of the UPSC and the IARCSC; Exchange of information and expertise including books, manuals and other documents which are not of a confidential nature; Sharing of expertise in the use of Information Technology (IT) in the preparation of written

examinations and holding of Computer Based Recruitment Tests and Online Examinations;

39. The Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between India and Japan in which among the following sector?

- (a) Defence
- (b) Water
- (c) Solar Energy
- (d) Patent Verification
- (e) Infrastructure

Answer: B

The Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between India and Japan, aimed at achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development.

This MoC was signed for development of a long-term cooperation in the field of water and delta management, and water technology in order to increase the exchange of information, knowledge, technology and scientific allied experience, as well as implementation of joint projects between the two countries.

40. India and Japan have agreed to strengthen the cooperation in patent verification. The agreement was arrived between the Japan Patent Office and _____.

- (a) DARPG
- (b) NITI Aayog

- (c) DPIIT
- (d) Invest India
- (e) ASSOCHAM

Answer: C

India and Japan have agreed to recognize each other's offices to act mutually as competent International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) for any international patent application filed with them.

The agreement was arrived at during the 4th review meeting between the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

Both sides reviewed the progress under the MoC on industrial property between India and Japan, as well as the Action Plan between the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) of India and the JPO based on the MoC.

41. India has announced the creation of a joint commission to institutionalise their relations in areas ranging from energy to defence with which among the following country?

- (a) Kuwait
- (b) Iran
- (c) Iraq
- (d) UAE
- (e) Oman

Answer: A

India and Kuwait announced the creation of a joint commission to further institutionalise their relations

in areas ranging from energy to defence and to forge a framework for cooperation in the future.

India is among the largest trading partners of Kuwait, and bilateral trade was worth \$10.86 billion during 2019-20.

Kuwait was the 10th largest oil supplier to India during 2019-20

42. Which among the following has established an e-Tendering Portal-PRANIT for leading to the less paperwork and ease of operation?

- (a) NTPC Ltd
- (b) JSW Energy
- (c) Adani Power
- (d) Tata Power
- (e) PowerGrid

Answer: E

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has established an e-Tendering Portal-PRANIT which would lead to less paperwork and ease of operation, making the tendering process more transparent.

It has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

POWERGRID is now the only organization in India to have an eProcurement solution on SAP Supplier Relationship Management (SRM), complying with all applicable requirements relating to security and transparency as stipulated by STQC.

43. International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed annually on which date?

- (a) March 22
- (b) March 23
- (c) March 24
- (d) March 25
- (e) March 26

Answer: C

International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed annually on 24th March every year.

The day is observed to pay tribute to “Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero” as he was murdered on 24 March 1980.

He was actively engaged in criticizing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

44. What was the 2021 theme of World Tuberculosis Day, observed on March 24?

- (a) It's time
- (b) Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world
- (c) Unite to end TB
- (d) Reach, Treat, Cure Everyone
- (e) The Clock is Ticking

Answer: E

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed on March 24 every year to raise awareness about tuberculosis in the world.

The theme of World TB Day 2021 is 'The Clock is Ticking'. World Tuberculosis Day was first celebrated on March 24th, 1982, on the 100th anniversary of Dr Robert Koch's presentation, who discovered the Tuberculosis Bacillus virus. Every year World TB Day is celebrated by organizing various campaigns and health awareness programs with an aim to prevent and treat the deadly infection of tuberculosis.

45. The ISRO has successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300m. The free-space QKD was demonstrated in which place?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Ahmedabad
- (c) Vadodara
- (d) Jaipur
- (e) Bhubaneswar

Answer: B

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 metres, for the first time in the country.

A number of key technologies were developed indigenously to accomplish this major feat, which included the use of indigenously developed 'NAVIC' receiver for time synchronisation between the transmitter and receiver modules, and gimbal mechanism systems instead of bulky large-aperture telescopes for optical alignment.

The Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology underpins Quantum Communication technology that ensures unconditional data security by virtue of the principles of quantum mechanics, which is not possible with the conventional encryption systems.

The free-space QKD was demonstrated at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, between two line-of-sight buildings within the campus.

46. Which state government has decided to set up "India's first government-run ambulance network" for animals to boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Karnataka

Answer: C

Andhra Pradesh government has decided to set up "India's first government-run ambulance network" for animals to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state.

Its aim is to help reach out to the distressed animals and provide them with proper animal healthcare.

A total of 175 mobile ambulances (veterinary) clinics will be placed at Assembly Constituency Level on the lines of 108 Services for providing Veterinary services at the doorstep.

These mobile ambulances shall provide veterinary first aid services along with spot diagnosis and attending to emergency cases. One of the major

facilities these ambulances will provide is the 'Hydraulic Lift' facility to lift animals and shift them to the nearest Government Veterinary Facility in case of emergency.

47. Name the 6th Offshore Patrol Vessel which was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard at Chennai.

- (a) ICGS Samrat
- (b) ICGS Varaha
- (c) ICGS Vajra
- (d) ICGS Sagar
- (e) ICGS Barua

Answer: C

L&T-built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vajra was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff, at Chennai.

ICGS Vajra is the sixth vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year 2015.

ICGS Vajra was also delivered ahead of the contractual schedule. The seventh OPV ICGS Vighraha, was launched in Oct 2020 and is being readied for sea trials.

It can attain a sustained speed of up to 26 knots.

The entire design and construction process has been certified by American Bureau of Shipping as well as Indian Registrar of Shipping and overseen by the ICG's resident team at Kattupalli.

48. In March 2021, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to extend Khelo India scheme to which financial year?

- (a) 2025-26
- (b) 2024-25
- (c) 2023-24
- (d) 2026-27
- (e) 2027-28

Answer: A

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to extend Khelo India scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Ministry has furnished an Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memorandum to the Ministry of Finance for extension/continuation of the Khelo India Scheme from 2021-22 to 2025- 26.

An amount of ₹ 8750 crore has been estimated as financial implication of the new Khelo India Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26) in the EFC memorandum furnished to the Ministry of Finance. An amount of ₹ 657.71 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimate (B.E.) for the year 2021-22 under the Khelo India Scheme.

49. George Segal has died recently at the age of 87.

He was a well-known _____.

- (a) Singer
- (b) Musician
- (c) Novelist
- (d) Actor
- (e) Surgeon

Answer: D

George Segal, Oscar-nominated actor, died in California due to complications from bypass surgery. He was 87.

He was the Oscar-nominated actor whose acting credits range from Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? to The Goldbergs.

George Segal had been a regular on ABC's comedy series set in the 1980s titled The Goldbergs. The last episode he filmed before his death was Episode 16 of the show's current eighth season.

50. A team of four undergraduate students from the IIT- Kharagpur emerged as winners at the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0. CoreNet Global Academic Challenge was started in which year?

- (a) 2012
- (b) 2014
- (c) 2013
- (d) 2015
- (e) 2016

Answer: D

A team of four undergraduate students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur emerged as winners at the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0, sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA: Interior Architects.

The team from IIT Kharagpur was one of the four teams to progress into the final round out of 1300 teams all over the world and were pitted against the University of Washington, New York University and the University of Denver in the final round hosted online.

This is the first time that a squad from India has emerged as winners in the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge since the inception of the competition in 2015. CoreNet Global is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia (US).

51. World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre has set up in which among the following place?

- (a) Coimbatore
- (b) Mysuru
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Kochi
- (e) Pune

Answer: C

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

This initiative is supported by GVMC (Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation) and project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health) - an alliance between USAID and SWN (Safe Water Network).

USAID has partnered with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Jal Jeevan program.

The kiosk will provide clean, mineral-enriched potable water harvested from the air by making use of Maithri Aquatech's own MEGHDOOT solution as a source to generate water with no dependency on scarce groundwater as well as surface water resources.

52. 'Arogya Siddhi' has been launched by which among the following state/UT in March 2021?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) J & K
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Himachal Pradesh
- (e) Haryana

Answer: B

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with the aim of promoting good health and expanding the outreach of comprehensive primary healthcare services to the people of J&K, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha e-inaugurated as many as 73 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat across the UT.

LG also launched "Arogya Siddhi", a compendium of clinical outcomes of AYUSH Interventions across the UT.

The Government is making committed efforts to fully integrate AYUSH with the healthcare delivery system, besides promoting good health through preventive, rehabilitative, mitigative and curative interventions of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

53. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was designated in which year?

- (a) 2004
- (b) 2005
- (c) 2006
- (d) 2007

(e) 2003

Answer: D

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.

2021 Theme: "Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice"

Every year on 25 March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system.

54. Chinki Yadav won the gold medal in the women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi. Chinki Yadav won India's _____ gold medal.

- (a) 4th
- (b) 5th
- (c) 6th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

Answer: E

Chinki Yadav won the gold medal as Indian shooters swept the medals in the women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

Yadav got four of her five shots in the shoot-off while Sarnobat missed two and had to settle for the silver medal after a great come-from-behind performance. Manu Bhaker secured the bronze medal, finishing with 28 points. Chinki's was India's 9th gold medal.

55. Which UT/State among the following has achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (b) Lakshadweep
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer: A

Solution:

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Lt. Governor Admiral D K Joshi declared that the UT achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage in Islands.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands becomes the third state/UT in the country to achieve the target after Goa and Telangana under Jal Jeevan Mission. The connections were provided at 266 villages located in 9 blocks in all the three districts. Under the mission, the A & N administration is planning to have a pond with a fish at every household in the islands besides water harvesting.

Primary Tag: State

Secondary Tag: Outline

56. Who among the following has been selected for the Vyas Samman-2020 for his novel 'Patliputra ki Samragi'?

- (a) Nasira Sharma
- (b) Leeladhar Jagudi
- (c) Mamta Kalia

(d) Surinder Verma

(e) Sharad Pagare

Answer: E

Renowned Hindi writer Professor Sharad Pagare has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman-2020 for his novel 'Patliputra ki Samragi'. For his contribution to Hindi literature, he has also been honoured with various awards including Bharat Bhushan Samman and Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Akademi. So far, the writer has printed six story collections, 5 novels, dissertations, and two performs.

The Vyas Samman is given by KK Birla Foundation and the awards started in the year 1991. The Samman is conferred on outstanding work in Hindi literature authored by an Indian citizen.

57. According to the Fitch Ratings, The projected India's GDP growth is 12.8% for the FY 2022. What was its previous projection regarding India's GDP?

(a) 10.7%

(b) 9.2%

(c) 9.8%

(d) 11.4%

(e) 12.8%

Answer: E

Fitch Ratings has revised India's GDP growth estimate to 12.8% for the fiscal year 2022 from its previous estimate of 11%.

According to the Global Economic Outlook, India's second half of 2020 rebound also took GDP back

above its pre-pandemic level and we have revised up our 2021-2022 forecast to 12.8% from 11%.

GDP surpassed its pre-pandemic level in December quarter, growing 0.4% year-on-year, after contracting 7.3% in the previous quarter.

58. KC Chakrabarty has died recently in March 2021. He worked as the Chairman & Managing Director which among the following bank?

(a) State Bank of India

(b) Canara Bank

(c) Indian Bank

(d) Indian Overseas Bank

(e) Corporation Bank

Answer: C

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor (DG) KC Chakrabarty passed away in Mumbai. He was 69.

Chakrabarty was elevated as RBI DG in 2009 after being at the helm of Punjab National Bank from 2007 to 2009.

He was Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Bank for two years. He was also the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association

59. Vivek Murthy has been sworn in as the _____ Surgeon General of US, the youngest ever surgeon general.

(a) 16th

(b) 19th

(c) 21st

(d) 24th

(e) 25th

Answer: C

Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy has been sworn in as the 21st Surgeon General of the US.

As US Surgeon General, Murthy will advise President Biden on the coronavirus pandemic and will be the federal government's leading voice on public health.

In 2013, Obama nominated Dr Murthy to be the Surgeon General. He was the youngest ever to hold the office at the age of 37.

60. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the 'Tribal TB Initiative', as a step towards achieving 'TB Mukh Bharat' by which year?

(a) 2021

(b) 2022

(c) 2024

(d) 2025

(e) 2026

Answer: D

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the "Tribal TB Initiative", as a step towards achieving 'TB Mukh Bharat' by 2025.

The Ministry also released a guidance note on Joint Action Plan for elimination of Tuberculosis (TB), a Special Edition of Tribal Ministry's Publication 'ALEKH' on TB and a document on Tribal Tuberculosis (TB) Initiative at the event.

The Health Minister stated that India has over 104 million tribal population lives in India, across 705

tribes, accounting for 8.6 % of the country's population.

61. R K Mathur has inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency at Latoo Village. It has installed and Commissioned a 41 Hp Submersible Pump backed with _____ Solar Photovoltaic Plant.

(a) 25 KW

(b) 50 KW

(c) 70 KW

(d) 30 KW

(e) 40 KW

Answer: B

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) at Latoo Village.

The project is inspired by the Vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for solarising Ladakh as a model region by making it fully solarised and Carbon Neutral.

The agency has successfully installed and Commissioned a 41 Hp Submersible Pump backed with 50 Kw Solar Photovoltaic Plant making the first prototype of the Solar Lift Irrigation System in Ladakh in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil.

62. Which among the following state government has inaugurated the Nature Safari along with the 'Glass Sky Walk'?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Mizoram
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer: B

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated 'nature safari' at Rajgir and dedicated it to the public who can enjoy plenty of activities including 'Glass Sky Walk' in a natural environment.

This is the first glass sky walk in the country. Nature safari includes the much talked and publicised country's first 'Glass Sky Walk' (GSW), suspension bridge, zip line cycle, adventure park, butterfly zone and nature camp area etc.

63. TRIFED has recently signed a MoU with which among the following UT for the implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana?

- (a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli
- (b) Daman and Diu
- (c) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (d) Both (a) & (b)
- (e) All the above

Answer: D

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and

Daman & Diu for the implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana. The Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation Limited has been appointed as the State Implementing Agency. As a part of its mission to improve the livelihoods of the tribals (both forest dwellers and artisans) and work towards tribal empowerment, TRIFED has been carrying out several programmes and initiatives.

MFP – Minor Forest Produce

64. The International Day of Drug Checking is observed every year on March 31. The day was first celebrated in which year?

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2018
- (e) 2014

Answer: B

The International Day of Drug Checking takes place on March 31 every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects.

The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks.

Objectives:

To Raise awareness of drug checking as a harm-reduction approach so that more people can have

the opportunity to check their drugs to make more informed decisions.

To Promote the use of personal drug-checking using home reagent testing kits, which are easily attainable online.

65. Vinoba SevaPratisthan has collaborated with the Ministry of AYUSH, to organize a 3-days "Ayurveda Parav" in which place?

- (a) Cuttack
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Indore
- (d) Gurugram
- (e) Bhubaneswar

Answer: E

Vinoba SevaPratisthan (VSP) in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, has successfully organized a 3-days "Ayurveda Parav" in Bhubaneswar.

The 3-days event was inaugurated by Padma Vibhushan Dr Raghunath Mohapatra along with Naba Kishore Das, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha and Shri Trilochan Majhi, Director of AYUSH, Govt. of Odisha and was attended by with other dignitaries.

This unique initiative aims to not only ensure greater acceptance of Ayurveda among the masses but also to popularize Ayurveda as the mainline of treatment for the current lifestyle diseases. The Ministry of AYUSH provided full-fledged support to this programme.

66. Kempegowda International Airport has become the first in south India to have operational parallel runways. An IndiGo flight from which city has touched down the runway?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Kolkata
- (e) Mumbai

Answer: C

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru became the first in south India to have operational parallel runways.

The upgraded runway of the city's Kempegowda international airport at Devanahalli became operational for flights.

As the third largest in the country after Mumbai and New Delhi, the city airport is the first in South India to have parallel runways with two additional taxiways.

An IndiGo flight from Lucknow has touched down the runway.

67. Which among the following bank has joined hands with nStore to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in the country?

- (a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (b) Jana Small Finance Bank
- (c) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- (d) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- (e) AU Small Finance Bank

Answer: A

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has joined hands with nStore to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in the country.

Under this partnership, the lender will offer a mobile application 'nLincs' to its current account holders who own local businesses. With this new application, the merchants can sell their merchandise online.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank aims to support local businesses like kirana & general stores, medical shops, stationary stores, cakes and bakeries, quick service restaurants, apparel stores, mobile stores, fruits and vegetable stores and hardware stores etc.

68. Which among the following bank was adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021 according to the Annual Best Banks survey?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) State Bank of India
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Union Bank of India
- (e) HDFC Bank

Answer: E

HDFC Bank was adjudged the 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021.

The Annual Best Banks survey of the financial magazine based in Hong Kong, aims to identify which banks in each market have excelled across a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months.

Advances to MSMEs stood at Rs 2.02 trillion (USD 28 billion) as of December 31, 2020, up 38 per cent from a year earlier and representing a compound annual growth rate of 23% in the past six years

69. India and Japan signed four agreements to support health care projects funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects. The scheme has been supporting small-scale projects since which year?

- (a) 1978
- (b) 1956
- (c) 1964
- (d) 1989
- (e) 1993

Answer: D

India and Japan signed four agreements under which Tokyo is to support health care projects funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) scheme in India.

Since 1989, the scheme has been supporting relatively small-scale projects implemented by non-profit organizations through Japanese diplomatic missions in developing countries.

The beneficiaries of Japanese grants for which agreements were signed include three medical facilities in Uttar Pradesh and one in Manipur.

The "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)" supports development projects "designed to meet the diverse basic human needs of the people in developing countries.

70. The Supreme Court has set up a seven-member committee headed by _____ to develop policy guidelines for decision-making regarding cutting of trees for developmental projects.

- (a) Jigmet Takpa
- (b) Arun Singh Rawat
- (c) Pradip Krishen
- (d) MK Ranjitsinh Jhala
- (e) Sandeep Shukla

Answer: D

The Supreme Court has set up a seven-member committee to develop policy guidelines for decision-making regarding cutting of trees for developmental projects.

The guidelines will aid in the decision-making when it comes to cutting of trees for developmental projects.

Dr MK Ranjitsinh Jhala, wildlife expert and former chairman of the Wildlife Trust of India, has been made the chairman of the committee. Some of the other members include Jigmet Takpa, joint secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Arun Singh Rawat who serves as the director general at the Indian Council for Forestry Research and environmentalist Pradip Krishen.

71. According to a report titled 'Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector', Healthcare sector is expected to reach USD _____ billion in 2022.

- (a) USD 234 billion
- (b) USD 156 billion

- (c) USD 372 billion
- (d) USD 428 billion
- (e) USD 67 billion

Answer: C

According to a report titled 'Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector' by Niti Aayog, Healthcare has become one of the largest sectors of the Indian economy and is expected to reach USD 372 billion in 2022.

India's healthcare sector has the potential to generate 27 lakh jobs in India between 2017 and 2022 -- over 5 lakh new jobs per year.

India's healthcare industry has been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 22 per cent since 2016.

72. RBL Bank has joined hands with Tide India to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the SME segment. UK based company TIDE was founded in which year?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2012
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2016
- (e) 2011

Answer: C

TIDE is headquartered in London.

RBL Bank has joined hands with Tide India to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the SME segment.

This collaboration will enable Tide to bring its platform to the Indian markets with a full-fledged launch.

With this tie-up, small and medium sized enterprises have an option to open current and savings accounts at RBL Bank through Tide's business platform.

TIDE Founded in 2015, Tide has a long-term ambition to be a leading player in markets accounting for 25% of global SMEs.

73. International Transgender Day of Visibility is observed every year on which date?

- (a) March 31
- (b) March 30
- (c) March 28
- (d) March 27
- (e) March 29

Answer: A

International Transgender Day of Visibility observed globally on 31st March every year. The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009.

74. India has delivered 20000 litres of the pesticide _____ to Iran to help mount a coordinated regional response to the threat posed by swarms of desert locusts.

- (a) Carvacrol
- (b) Abamectin
- (c) Malathion
- (d) Isamidofos
- (e) Fenamiphos

Answer: C

India has delivered 20,000 litres of the pesticide Malathion to Iran via the strategic Chabahar port to help mount a coordinated regional response to the threat posed by swarms of desert locusts.

This was the second consignment of Malathion, a 95% ultra-low volume pesticide, supplied to Iran under a government-to-government locust control programme.

India supplied the first consignment of 20,000 litres of Malathion to Iran in June 2020.

75. Uttar Pradesh government has organized a 'Banana Festival' in Kushinagar under the ODOP scheme. One District One Product was launched by the state in which year?

- (a) 2016
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2019
- (e) 2015

Answer: C

Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government is organising a 'Banana Festival' in Kushinagar.

The state government had in 2018 organised the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme to promote traditional enterprise.

The good cultivation of bananas in Kushinagar, products in the district made from banana fibre were selected in the ODOF scheme.

There are three banana fibre processing units in the district and the construction of a Common Facility Centre (CFC) is also planned.

76. Anil Dharker has died recently at the age of 74.

He was a well-known _____.

- (a) Environmentalist
- (b) Painter
- (c) Sand Artist
- (d) Singer
- (e) Journalist

Answer: E

Indian journalist and writer Anil Dharker died at a Mumbai hospital. He was 74 years old.

He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival and of Tata Literature Live.

Dharker was also a member of the National Centre for the Performing Arts theatre committee and a columnist for the NCPA's monthly magazine, On Stage.

His writing on cinema led to a role heading the Film Finance Corporation, before it became the National Film Development Corporation.

77. Which bank has partnered with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited to launch the co-branded contactless RuPay credit card?

- (a) Canara Bank

(b) Indian Overseas Bank

(c) Union Bank of India

(d) Indian Bank

(e) State Bank of India

Answer: C

Union Bank of India and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have launched co-branded contactless RuPay credit card.

The users of this card will get 16X reward points, which would be equivalent to 4% cashback, on fuel spends worth ₹ 500 and above at over 18000 HPCL outlets across the country. Customers will also receive additional 1.5% reward points from HPCL if they pay for fuel via HP Pay wallet.

Customers will also get the benefit of 1% fuel surcharge waiver for fuel transactions at HPCL retail outlets.

78. Karnataka Bank and IIFL Securities have introduced 'KBLSmart Trade' in March 2021. Who among the following is the managing Director of the Karnataka Bank?

- (a) Jayarama Bhat
- (b) Rammohan Rao
- (c) Mahabaleshwara M.S.
- (d) Keshav Krishna Rao
- (e) Surendra Kumar

Answer: C

Mahabaleshwara M.S. is the Managing Director of Karnataka Bank.

Karnataka Bank and IIFL Securities have introduced 'KBLSmart Trade', a facility in which all customers of

Karnataka Bank can access IIFL Securities demat and trading account solution for their capital market needs.

'KBL Smart Trade' is a two-in-one account facility, where the demat and trading account features are clubbed. It said the bank will also benefit by way of enriched customer engagement and retention resulting in augmented CASA funds to the bank.

79. Which state government has launched a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers named 'i-Learn'?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Meghalaya

Answer: C

Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom launched i-Learn, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state. The state government launched i-Learn application in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiego which will cater across the 189 Health & Wellness centers in the state.

i-Learn is a learning management system for CHOs with self-facilitated learning for improving and learning new skills in clinical and non-clinical areas.

80. Who among the following is the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards conservation?

- (a) Dharitri Murmu
- (b) Sumit Mohanty
- (c) Chaitanya Behera
- (d) Rahas Sahu
- (e) Mahinder Giri

Answer: E

Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve for being the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards 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.

Developed through a collaboration between the IUCN WCPA, the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies, these awards, created in 2020, aim to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.

81. Cochin Shipyard Ltd has delivered the first 500 passenger cum 150 tonne cargo vessel _____ to Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

- (a) Nandu
- (b) Lathi
- (c) Sugan

- (d) Sindhu
(e) Bhairavi

Answer: D

Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has delivered the first 500 passenger cum 150 tonne cargo vessel 'Sindhu' to Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

The vessel can cruise at 16 knots per hour and is built to the highest standards of Indian Register of Shipping.

The project is part of a series of four passenger vessels comprising of two 500 passenger and two 1,200 passenger at a total order value of Rs 1,400 crore under the government's 'Make In India' initiative.

82. In which place, the New building of the High Court of Bombay was inaugurated by Chief Justice of India, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde in March 2021?

- (a) None of these
(b) Aurangabad
(c) Nagpur
(d) Pune
(e) Kolhapur

Answer:A

The New building of the High Court of Bombay at Goa was inaugurated by Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.

The new building will give the State an opportunity for better Administrative justice and some of the best arguments.

The Administrative court of Law in Goa is a unique experience. The transition it has gone through is also instrumental.

83. Who among the following has been selected as the Chairperson of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)?

- (a) Manpreet Vohra
(b) Jaideep Bhatnagar
(c) Sharad Goklani
(d) Soma Mondal
(e) Matam Venkata Rao

Answer: D

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

Mondal will have a two-year term starting April; she took charge of SAIL on January 1, 2021.

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

84. A book titled "Names of the Women" has been authored by Jeet Thayil. What was his recent book that was released in 2020?

- (a) Low
(b) Narcopolis
(c) Encourage
(d) Meditation is a Mediator
(e) Freedom of Women

Answer: A

A book titled "Names of the Women" authored by Jeet Thayil.

The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels.

Jeet Thayil is a renowned author, best known for his book 'Narcopolis' which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012 and won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. His most recent book 'Low' was released in 2020.

85. A team of international researchers has discovered a new species of diatoms living in the freshwater flowing downstream of which dam?

- (a) Vihar Dam
- (b) Koyna Dam
- (c) Tansa Dam
- (d) Mulshi Dam
- (e) Mula Dam

Answer: D

A team of international researchers has discovered a new species of diatoms living in the freshwater flowing downstream Mulshi dam in Pune district.

The study led by researchers from city-based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) has named this new diatom species, which was found in Mula river, as Epithemia agharkarii after S P Agharkar, who was the founder-director of the institute.

86. What edition of annual summit of NATHEALTH has been addressed by De Harsh Vardhan in March 2021?

- (a) 5th

(b) 6th

(c) 7th

(d) 8th

(e) 9th

Answer: C

Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the 7th annual summit of NATHEALTH focusing on 'Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era' through a video conference.

The summit focused on 'Indian Health system expansion in post-COVID era'.

The primary vision of the policy-framework is to attain highest possible level of health and well-being for all irrespective of all age groups.

Union Budget 2021-22 identifies Health as one of the six main pillars to drive growth.

To achieve the objectives of the National Health Policy, the government is working towards increasing health expenditure by 2.5 % of GDP 2025.

The government is also encouraging State Governments to increase State sector health spending to 8% of the State's GDP.

87. President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to a bill to set up the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development. The tax break of how many years have been announced to the NaBFID by FM Nirmla Sitharaman?

- (a) 3 years
- (b) 4 years
- (c) 5 years

(d) 6 years

(e) 8 years

Answer: C

President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to a bill to set up the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) to fund infrastructure projects in India.

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021 was passed in Rajya Sabha.

The DFI (Development Finance Institution), called the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), will be answerable to Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman explained that the five years' tax break to the DFI or NaBFID is given so that more funds flow to it.

88. Maggie O'Farrell has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction. Maggie won the Prize for his work in which among the following?

(a) Hamnet

(b) Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World

(c) Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire

(d) Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning

(e) None of the above

Answer: A

Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction.

Tom Zoellner's "Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire" won for nonfiction, and Amy Stanley's "Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World" was the winner in biography.

The autobiography award went to Cathy Park Hong for "Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning".

89. What edition of Hunar Haat of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen was organised at Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji?

(a) 25th

(b) 26th

(c) 27th

(d) 28th

(e) 29th

Answer: D

The 28th "Hunar Haat" of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen was organised at Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji.

The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has organised the "Hunar Haat" in Goa with the theme of "Vocal for Local" where more than 500 artisans and craftsmen from more than 30 states/UTs are participating.

Next "Hunar Haat" will be organised in Dehradun (16 April to 25 April); Surat (26 April to 05 May). The "Hunar Haat" will also be organised at Kota; Hyderabad; Mumbai; Jaipur; Patna; Prayagraj; Ranchi; Gauhati; Bhubaneswar; Jammu-Kashmir etc this year.

90. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new edition of 'Exam Warriors' was updated by him. The Exam Warriors module is available on which among the following App?

- (a) NaMo
- (b) MyGov
- (c) Umang
- (d) E-Warrior
- (e) All the above

Answer: A

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new edition of 'Exam Warriors' was updated by him.

The new edition is available at all retail stores as well as on online platforms. The Exam Warriors module is also available on the NaMo App.

The new edition has been enriched with valuable new mantras for student, parents and teachers.

91. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has inaugurated "Anandam: The Center for Happiness" in which institute?

- (a) IIT Madras
- (b) IIT Jammu
- (c) IIT Roorkee
- (d) IIT Guwahati
- (e) IIT Madras

Answer: B

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated "Anandam: The Center for Happiness" in Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, virtually.

The centre will help people overcome mental stress and help spread positivity and it will encourage and propagate holistic development for all the stakeholders at IIM Jammu.

The purpose of establishing 'Anandam' at IIM Jammu is to bring holistic well-being.

92. How many MoUs have been signed between India and Bangladesh in the fields of trade, IT and setting up of sports facilities in March 2021?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7
- (e) 3

Answer: B

India and Bangladesh signed 5 MoUs in the fields of trade, IT and setting up of sports facilities.

Both leaders agreed that a direct passenger train named 'Mitali Express' will run between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri.

India gifted 109 ambulances to Bangladesh and also 1.2 million doses of the Covishield vaccine.

Both the leaders also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a memorial at Ashuganj for the martyrs of Indian armed forces in the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.

93. The War Game 'La Perouse' would be held between France and some other countries. India would be participating for the first time. How many

countries have been participated in the exercise including India & France?

- (a) 5
- (b) 4
- (c) 6
- (d) 8
- (e) 7

Answer: A

Indian Navy would be part of a French naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal next month. The participating nations also include the other Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) member countries -- Australia, Japan and the United States of America (USA).

This is the first time that the Indian Navy will be part of the France-led war game 'La Perouse'.

94. The Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has announced that the centre of excellence in _____ would be set up in Lucknow.

- (a) Cricket
- (b) Hockey
- (c) Squash
- (d) Tennis
- (e) Badminton

Answer: B

A centre of excellence in hockey will be set up in the Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

A 100-bed hostel for boys and girls, modern sports medicine and physiotherapy centres as well as top coaches would be part of the centre to come up at

the state government-run Padma Shri Mohd Shahid Synthetic Stadium.

The union sports ministry will fund the centre at a venue that already has facilities for hockey, tennis, badminton and squash. The Uttar Pradesh Sports Directorate will run it in consultation with Uttar Pradesh Hockey.

95. What edition of Filmfare Awards were held in Mumbai recently in March 2021?

- (a) 65th
- (b) 64th
- (c) 63rd
- (d) 67th
- (e) 66th

Answer: E

The 66th Filmfare Awards were held in Mumbai.

Anubhav Sinha's Thappad recorded most wins with seven trophies, followed by Gulabo Sitabo, with six, were the big winners.

Late actor Irrfan Khan bagged the Best Actor (Male) award, for his performance in Angrezi Medium.

He was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the event.

96. Irrfan Khan has won the Filmfare Award in the category of Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for his work in which among the following film?

- (a) Thappad
- (b) Eeb Allay Ooh!
- (c) Gulabo Sitabo
- (d) Angrezi Medium

(e)Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior

Answer: D

Category	Winner
Best Film	Thappad
Best Director	Om Raut, Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
Best Film (Critics)	Prateek Vats, Eeb Allay Ooh!
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan, Angrezi Medium
Best Actor (Critics)	Amitabh Bachchan, Gulabo Sitabo

97.Saif Ali Khan has won the Filmfare Award for his work in'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior' in the category of which among the following?

- (a)Best Actor in a Leading Role
- (b) Best Actor (Critics)
- (c)Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)
- (d)Best Direction
- (e)Best Story

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Taapsee Pannu, Thappad
Best Actor (Critics)	Tillotama Shome Sir
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Saif Ali Khan, Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
Best Actor in a Supporting Actor Role (Female)	Farrukh Jaffar, Gulabo Sitabo
Best Story	Anubhav Sushila Singh

and Mrunmayee Lagoo
Waikul, Thappad

98.Rajesh Krishnan has won the Filmfare award for his movie Lootcase in the category of which among the following?

- (a)Best Debut Male
- (b)Best Music Album
- (c)Best Debut Director
- (d)Best Screenplay
- (e)Best Dialogue

Answer: C

Category	Winner
Best Screenplay	Rohena Gera, Sir
Best Dialogue	Juhi Chaturvedi, Gulabo Sitabo
Best Debut Director	Rajesh Krishnan, Lootcase
Best Debut Female	Alaya F, Jawaani Jaaneman
Best Music Album	Pritam, Ludo

99.Raghav Chaitanya has won the Filmfare Award in the category of Best Playback Singer (Male) for a song from which among the following movies?

- (a)Chhapaak
- (b) Thappad
- (c) Malang
- (d)Gulabo Sitabo
- (e) Dil Becharass

Answer: B

Category	Winner
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Best Lyrics	Gulzar, Chhapaak
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Raghav Chaitanya, 'Ek Tukda Dhoop' from Thappad
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Asees Kaur, Malang title song
Best Action	Ramazan Bulut, RP Yadav, Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
Best Background Score	Mangesh Urmila Dhakde, Thappad

100. Who among the following has won the Filmfare award in the category of Best Choreography in March 2021?

- (a) Farah Khan
- (b) Veera Kapur Ee
- (c) Yasha Pushpa Ramchandani
- (d) Manasi Dhruv Mehta
- (e) Kaamod Kharade

Answer: A

Category	Winner
Best Cinematography	Abhik Mukhopadhyay, Gulabo Sitabo
Best Choreography	Farah Khan, Dil Bechara title song
Best Costume Design	Veera Kapur Ee, Gulabo Sitabo
Best Editing:	Yasha Pushpa Ramchandani, Thappad
Best Production Design	Manasi Dhruv Mehta, Gulabo Sitabo

Best Sound Design	Kaamod Kharade, Thappad
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101. According to the data released by RBI, India's export of software services stood at _____ billion during 2019-20.

- (a) US\$ 134.8 billion
- (b) US\$ 149.3 billion
- (c) US\$ 112.7 billion
- (d) US\$ 128.6 billion
- (e) US\$ 153.5 billion

Answer: D

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the data related to the 2019-20 round of its annual survey on exports of computer software and information technology enabled services.

For the 2019-20 round of the survey, 6078 software export companies were contacted, of which 1475 companies responded, which included most of the large companies.

The responding companies accounted for around 82.7% of the total software services exports during the year.

India's export of software services stood at US\$ 128.6 billion during 2019-20, registering 9.1% growth over the previous year. Exports of computer services and ITES/BPO services contributed 66.6 per cent and 33.4%, respectively, of the total software services exports.

102. The IRDAI has hiked the maximum cover to _____ Lakh under the standard health insurance plan 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy'.

- (a) ₹ 5 Lakh
- (b) ₹ 10 Lakh
- (c) ₹ 15 Lakh
- (d) ₹ 7.5 Lakh
- (e) ₹ 20 Lakh

Answer: B

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy' from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

The insurance regulator has made it mandatory for insurers to offer a sum insured between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh under the Arogya Sanjeevani policy as against the previous range of Rs 1 lakh - Rs 5 lakh. Arogya Sanjeevani is the standardised health insurance product that was launched in March 2020.

103. NTPL has been appointed as a trustee for ₹ 750 crore Credit Guarantee Fund under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, NTPL is a subsidiary of which among the following?

- (a) RBI
- (b) NABARD
- (c) SEBI
- (d) NHB
- (e) SIDBI

Answer: B

NABARD's wholly-owned subsidiary

NABSanrakshan Trustee Pvt Ltd (NTPL) has been

appointed by the government as a trustee for ₹ 750 crore Credit Guarantee Fund under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF).

The government has set up AHIDF with a corpus of Rs 15,000 crore as part of the Aatmanirbhar package.

The Credit Guarantee Fund will provide credit guarantees to eligible entities assisted under AHIDF.

The fund shall be operationalised under a trust - Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Animal Husbandry and Dairying (CGFTAHD).

104. According to a report released by EY-IVCA Trend Book 2021, The penetration of retail is expected to be _____% by 2024.

- (a) 11.2%
- (b) 9.5%
- (c) 10.7%
- (d) 12.6%
- (e) 8.5%

Answer: C

According to a report released by EY-IVCA Trend Book 2021, the e-commerce sector in India is predicted to grow at a 27% CAGR over 2019-24 and is expected to reach \$99 billion by 2024.

India will have 220 million online shoppers in India by 2025.

The penetration of retail is expected to be 10.7% by 2024, compared to 4.7% in 2019.

It stated that the government is aiming to build a trillion-dollar online economy by 2025, through its Digital India programme.

The online retail market in India is estimated to be 25% of the total organized retail market and is expected to reach 37% by 2030-27.

105. Lee Zii Jia has won the Men's title in the 2021 Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships by defeating Viktor Axelsen of which country?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) Denmark
- (e) Sweden

Answer: D

The 2021 Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships took place at Arena Birmingham in England.

It is the 2nd tournament of 2021 BWF World Tour.

Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia has won the Men's title in the 2021 Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships by defeating Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

Category	Winner	Runner
Women's Single	Nozomo Okuhara (Japan)	Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)
Men's Doubles	Yuta Watanabe & Hiroyuki Endo (Japan)	Takeshi Kamura & Keigo Sonoda (Japan)
Women's	Mayu	Yuki Fukushima

Doubles	Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara (Japan)	& Sayaka Hirota (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	Yuta Watanabe & Higashino (Japan)	Yuki Kaneko & Misaki Matsutomo (Japan)

106. In March 2021, Indian Style Wrestling Association of India has officially been recognised as a National Sports Federation. The recognition of ISWAI was not renewed after the introduction of new scheme of annual recognition from which year?

- (a) 2004
- (b) 2007
- (c) 2009
- (d) 2010
- (e) 2012

Answer: D

Indian Style Wrestling Association of India (ISWAI) has officially been recognised as a National Sports Federation (NSF) by the Sports Ministry. Now, It is eligible to receive fund and support from the government.

The Government recognition of Indian Style Wrestling Association of India was not renewed after the introduction of new scheme of annual recognition from the year 2010, on account of failure to incorporate the provisions of National Sports Development Code, 2011.

107. Which among the following has collaborated with the UNODC to launch the Global Integrity Programme to fight and prevent match manipulation?

- (a) ICC
- (b) BCCI
- (c) IHA
- (d) FIFA
- (e) AIFF

Answer: D

FIFA, in collaboration with the United Nations on Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), launched the Global Integrity Programme – a comprehensive international programme aimed at providing all 211 FIFA member associations with enhanced knowledge and tools to fight and prevent match manipulation.

The programme also reflects the UNODC's aim of supporting governments and sports organisations in their efforts to safeguard sport from corruption and crime.

The first edition of the programme, dedicated to the member associations from the Asian Football Confederation, started with the first module on 4 March and will continue with the second module on 16 March.

108. The book titled "Bringing Governments and People Closer", a development practitioner's prescription was launched by M Venkaiah Naidu. Who among the following has been authored the book?

- (a) M Ramachandran.
- (b) Vineet Bajpai
- (c) Priyanka Chopra Jonas
- (d) Peter Mukerjee
- (e) Arun Karmarkar

Answer: A

The book "Bringing Governments and People Closer" A development practitioner's prescription was launched through virtual mode by the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu. The book was authored by Dr M Ramachandran.

It is his 10th book and in this, he specifically focused on the larger governance issues. In this book, he emphasized on the problems a common man is facing in dealing with Government offices in getting documents, certificates, benefits of govt. schemes, clearances etc and various ways to deal with these issues.

109. How many committees have been set up by the government to move from linear economy to the circular economy in March 2021?

- (a) 11
- (b) 12
- (c) 13
- (d) 14
- (e) 15

Answer: A

The government has set up 11 committees which would be headed by the concerned line ministries apart from officials from Ministry of Environment,

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Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and NITI Aayog.

The government has selected 11 focus area to move from linear economy to the circular economy.

The areas include: Municipal Solid Waste & Liquid Waste, Electronic Waste, Scrap Metal (Ferrous & Non-Ferrous), Solar Panels, Gypsum, Lithium-Ion Batteries, Agriculture Waste, Toxic Hazardous Industrial Waste, Used Oil Waste, Tyre and Rubber Recycling and End-of-life Vehicles (ELVs).

110. The government has set up 11 committees in March 2021. The focus area of Gypsum has been concerned by which among the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Steel
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (e) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Answer: C

Focus Area	Concerned Line Ministry
Municipal Solid Waste and Liquid Waste	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Scrap Metal (Ferrous and Non-Ferrous)	Ministry of Steel
Electronic Waste	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Batteries	NITI Aayog
Solar Panels	MNRE
Gypsum	Department for Promotion

	of Industry and Internal Trade
Toxic and Hazardous Industrial Waste	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
Used Oil Waste	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Agriculture Waste	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Tyre and Rubber Recycling	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
End-of-life Vehicles (ELVs)	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

111. In March 2021, Santosh Kumar Gangwar has released the Compendium on _____ for Industrial Workers.

- (a) WPI
- (b) CPI
- (c) Retail Inflation
- (d) Wholesale Inflation
- (e) PPI

Answer: B

Santosh Kumar Gangwar released the Compendium on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Volume I-IV, 1945 to 2020).

The compendium on consumer price index for industrial workers is a milestone achieved by the Labour Bureau & it will open a new prism to analysis on price index and related subject.

The Consumer Price Index is the most used out of the numerous statistical products that are currently

available to the common man. For millions of individuals whose wages are linked to a consumer price index series, the index is almost a household word. The extent to which their real wages are protected from erosion on account of price rises depends on the quality and reliability of the consumer price index series.

112. World Puppetry Day is observed on March 21.

The day was launched in which year?

- (a) 2002
- (b) 2003
- (c) 2004
- (d) 2005
- (e) 2007

Answer: B

Every year on March 21st, World Puppetry Day seeks to recognize puppetry as a global art form. It's also a day to honor puppeteers around the world.

The day was launched in 2003 by UNIMA. World Puppetry Day is both a real tool for the promotion of puppetry arts and a project allowing to unite the puppet actors of the same territory.

This world day seeks to promote the puppet arts by defending, among other objectives :

- Maintenance and the safeguard of the traditions and, in parallel, the renewal of the art of puppetry
- Use of puppetry as a means of ethical and aesthetic education

113. According to a new analysis released by UNICEF, what percentage of children living in the Eastern and Southern Africa facing difficulty accessing sufficient water every day?

- (a) 31%
- (b) 58%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 23%
- (e) 47%

Answer: B

According to a new analysis released by UNICEF, Globally, more than 1.42 billion people, including 450 million children, live in areas of high, or extremely high, water vulnerability.

The analysis, part of the Water Security for All initiative, identifies areas where physical water scarcity risks overlap with poor water service levels. The data shows that children in more than 80 countries live in areas with high or extremely high water vulnerability. Eastern and Southern Africa has the highest proportion of children living in such areas, with more than half of children – 58 per cent – facing difficulty accessing sufficient water every day. It is followed by West and Central Africa (31 per cent), South Asia (25 per cent), and the Middle East (23 per cent). South Asia is home to the largest number of children living in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability – more than 155 million children.

UNICEF is launching the Water Security for All initiative to ensure every child has access to sustainable and climate-resilient water services.

UNICEF has set a goal to reach 450 million Children & their families with resilient solutions for improving the water vulnerability by 2025.

114. Niti Aayog has constituted two task forces to recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts. A task force headed by _____ to suggest facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes between private entities and the government.

- (a) Amitabh Kant
- (b) Rajiv Kumar
- (c) VK Saraswat
- (d) Ramesh Chand
- (e) VK Paul

Answer: A

Niti Aayog has constituted two task forces that would recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts as well as effective conciliation mechanism.

One task force, which would suggest facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes between private entities and the government, will be headed by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

The second task force, which would recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts, will be led by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and will have members from key ministries and departments.

115. Girl Gang has been announced as the official song of the 2022 ICC Women's World Cup. A track, Girl Gang, was sung by the singer of which country?

- (a) New Zealand
- (b) Australia
- (c) USA
- (d) England
- (e) Bangladesh

Answer: A

Girl Gang, a track by New Zealand singer Gin Wigmore, has been announced as the official song of the 2022 ICC Women's World Cup. The tournament is set to be hosted in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3, 2022.

Originally, It was scheduled to be held from February 6 to March 7, 2021. The World Cup was postponed by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

116. ITC Ltd has partnered with which among the following state to execute a Watershed Development Programme?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Jharkhand

Answer: B

ITC Ltd has entered into a partnership with the Government of Karnataka to execute a Watershed Development Programme, covering over 1 million acres and 100 watersheds in across the state.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between ITC and the Karnataka Watershed Development Department, which will be in effect for three years.

The MOU is a part of ITC's Sustainability 2.0 agenda which encompasses forging meaningful public-private-people partnerships to amplify impact and reach.

It also aims at building the climate resilience of farmers by ensuring water security.

ITC as part of its CSR Programmes is implementing watershed development programmes in several parts of the country.

Karnataka has launched the programme "Watershed development for Drought Proofing" in 100 drought-hit and low groundwater taluks by covering an area of 1.16 million acres in the state.

117. In March 2021, Applied Materials India has signed a research and development (R&D) pact with which among the following?

- (a) IIM Calcutta
- (b) IISc Bangalore
- (c) IIM Lucknow
- (d) IIT Kanpur
- (e) IIT Kharagpur

Answer: B

Applied Materials India has signed a research and development (R&D) pact with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

As part of the Industry Affiliate Program of the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering (CeNSE),

IISc Bengaluru and Applied Materials India will work closely with CeNSE to explore new applications and solutions in the field of advanced materials.

The main goal of CeNSE is to carry out cutting-edge research and technological innovations and translate them with appropriate partners into successful commercial products and services.

118. India has planned to conduct airborne radar surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers. A proposal has been initiated by NCPOR under which among the following ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (e) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: E

India has planned to conduct airborne radar surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers, with a pilot study to be conducted in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh.

Once the pilot project is done, similar studies will be conducted in Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra sub-basins.

A proposal has been initiated by National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) Ministry of Earth Sciences to estimate thickness of Himalayan glaciers using innovative airborne radar surveys in

collaboration with established Indian researchers in India and abroad.

According to a discussion paper from The Energy and Research Institute (Teri), Almost 33% of country's thermal electricity and 52% of hydropower in the country is dependent on the water from rivers originating in Himalaya.

119. Which among the following state has emerged as the Champion in the implementing of Van Dhan programme?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh
- (e) Assam

Answer: B

Manipur has emerged as the Champion state where the Van Dhan programme has emerged as a major source of employment for the local tribals.

The programme was launched in the State in October 2019, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been established.

The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes.

One major scheme that has contributed to increasing employment and income generation among the tribal population is the Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme, a component of the The

'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme.

120. In 2014, the WWDR transformed into an annual, thematic report, focused on a different strategic water issues each year. Which organization has been published the report on behalf of UN-WATER?

- (a) UNDP
- (b) UNEP
- (c) World Bank
- (d) UNICEF
- (e) UNESCO

Answer: E

The World Water Development Report (WWDR) presents a balanced, fact-based and neutral account of the current state of knowledge, describing the challenges and opportunities of improved water management in the context of sustainable development.

In 2014, the WWDR transformed into an annual, thematic report, focused on a different strategic water issues each year.

The Population is set to increase to 9 billion by 2040, but the projected reservoir volume is stabilising around 7000 billion cubic metre.

The report is published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Scientific and Cultural organization on behalf of UN-WATER.

The production of the report is coordinated by UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme.

121. India needs a suitable policy and innovation driven context to reach a net-zero emissions energy system by which year?

- (a) 2030
- (b) 2040
- (c) 2045
- (d) 2050
- (e) 2035

Answer: D

To reach a net-zero emissions energy system by 2050, India needs a suitable policy and innovation driven context to deploy clean energy technologies on a massive scale.

The report 'India: Transforming to a net-zero emissions energy system' indicates that the transformations needed over the next thirty years for India, in pursuit of this goal by mid-century would consist of the following areas of action:

Accelerate clean technologies

- Grow the power sector by a factor of more than four in 30 years, dominated by renewables (around 90 percent)
- Target 13 percent hydrogen in final energy, including as a fuel for industry and transport
- Transform bioenergy, with liquid biofuels surpassing petroleum products by 2040 to fuel industry and transport, including hard-to-abate sectors such as aviation

122. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021 was co-organized by which among the following organizations in March 2021?

- (a) ITU
- (b) UNESCO
- (c) UNDP
- (d) UNCTAD
- (e) All the above

Answer: E

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021 represented one of the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community, was co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.

The Minister mentioned innovative solutions such as Arogya Setu platform to monitor and alert health status of citizens, CovidSavdhan system for targeted messaging in a specified area, facilitation framework for Work from Home and Work from Anywhere, effective use of public Wi-Fi under PM-WANI scheme enabling effective service delivery for the citizens across the country.

Under the flagship program BharatNet, nearly 6,00,000 villages are being connected through laying of more than 4,00,000 Km length of optical fiber cable and use of satellite communication services.

123. Dr Harsh Vardhan has given awards to best performing states/UTs based on their State TBI Index. India has set a target to end Tuberculosis by which year?

- (a) 2024
- (b) 2025

(c) 2027

(d) 2030

(e) 2032

Answer: B

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union minister for health and family welfare has inaugurated 'World Tuberculosis Day' celebrations along with Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

Awards were also given to best performing states/UTs based on their State TBI Index.

Lakshadweep and the district of Budgam were declared TB free. India has 30 per cent of the world's TB cases.

India has set a target to end Tuberculosis by 2025.

124. India and the U.S. have agreed to re-establish the US - India Homeland Security Dialogue. The first Homeland Security Dialogue was held in which year?

(a) 2011

(b) 2012

(c) 2010

(d) 2013

(e) 2009

Answer: A

India and the U.S. have agreed to re-establish the U.S.- India Homeland Security Dialogue.

Secretary Mayorkas and Ambassador Sandhu agreed to re-establish the U.S.-India Homeland Security Dialogue and to discuss important issues such as cybersecurity, emerging technology and addressing violent extremism.

The first Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries was held in 2011

125. Name the Indian Navy Ship which was participated in the joint patrolling of Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone in March 2021.

(a) INS Guldar

(b) INS Jalashwa

(c) INS Kesari

(d) INS Shardul

(e) INS Kumbhir

Answer: D

The navies of India and Madagascar undertook joint patrolling of Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX).

The first-ever joint patrol between the navies reflects the growing defence ties between the two Indian Ocean neighbours aimed at the common objective of ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

The INS Shardul and Malagasy Naval Ship Trozona undertook the patrol.

126. Which among the following countries are working on the satellite mission 'TRISHNA' with India?

(a) Germany

(b) France

(c) Italy

(d) Israel

(e) Saudi Arabia

Answer:B

India and France are working on their third joint satellite mission, even as the bilateral space collaboration is entering into multiple domains, including human spaceflight programme.

ISRO and French space agency Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES) have undertaken two joint missions 'Megha-Tropiques', which was launched in 2011, and 'SARAL-Altika' in 2013. ISRO and CNES have completed the feasibility study to realise the earth observation satellite mission with thermal infrared imager, TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment) and are working towards finalising an implementing arrangement for the joint development.

127. The government has spent ₹118.2 million on the scheme National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

The scheme has been rolled out in how many UTs?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 5
- (d) 4
- (e) 8

Answer: A

The Centre has planned to evaluate the outcome of Phase 1 of the project for expansion. The government has spent ₹118.2 million on the ambitious scheme National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

The health ministry has borne the expenditure of implementing the Mission in six UTs, and the government has issued 9,97,095 health IDs under the programme as of 15 March.

The ID allows people to keep track of their health and share data with verified doctors or healthcare providers when needed, after an informed consent, the government claims.

NDHM has been rolled out in 6 UTs initially. The expansion of the same will be taken up after evaluation of the outcome during Phase 1 of the project.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Mission on 15 August last year, following which pilots were launched in union territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

128. Which among the following bank has launched an instant EMI facility on its internet banking platform named 'EMI@Internet Banking'?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) Axis Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) South Indian Bank
- (e) RBL Bank

Answer: A

ICICI Bank announced the launch of an instant EMI (Equated Monthly Instalments) facility on its internet banking platform. Called 'EMI @ Internet Banking'.

The facility aims to offer increased affordability to millions of pre-approved customers, as it enables them to convert their high-value transactions up to ₹5 lakh into easy monthly instalments.

It also brings in enhanced customer experience as customers get the benefit of EMIs instantly and in a fully digital manner.

ICICI Bank is the first in the industry to introduce an instant EMI facility on its internet banking platform.

The Bank has tied up with BillDesk and Razorpay, leading online payment gateway companies to offer this facility.

Presently, the 'EMI @ Internet Banking' has been enabled for over 1000 merchants in categories like online shopping portals, insurance, travel, education- school fees and electronic chains.

129. Indian Overseas Bank has launched 'IOB Trendy' in March 2021. The customers of IOB Trendy need to maintain a digital turnover of a minimum of _____ per month.

- (a) ₹ 10000
- (b) ₹ 5000
- (c) ₹ 15000
- (d) ₹ 20000
- (e) ₹ 25000

Answer: D

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched 'IOB Trendy', a savings account customised for the growing millennial population in the country.

IOB Trendy is a Savings Bank Account Scheme introduced by the bank towards this endeavour.

IOB Trendy customers need to maintain a daily minimum balance of ₹10,000 or a daily minimum balance of ₹5,000 and a digital turnover (transactions using IOB ATM / CDM / IOB Mobile Banking or Internet Banking fund transfer / IOB UPI transactions or IOB Debit card POS transactions) of a minimum of ₹20,000 per month.

The millennial-focused account also offers features like an online application submission facility, free personalised accident (death) insurance cover of ₹5 lakh if the quarterly average balance is ₹1 lakh and above, auto-sweep facility when the balance exceeds ₹50,000 among others.

130. Denis Sassou Nguesso has been re-elected as the head of which among the following company?

- (a) Republic of the Congo
- (b) Cameroon
- (c) Gabon
- (d) Burundi
- (e) Angola

Answer: A

Denis Sassou Nguesso was re-elected for a fourth term as the head of Congo with 88.57% of the vote. Guy-Brice Parfait Kolélas, who died of Covid-19, had obtained 7.84% of the vote. He was considered the main opponent of the head of state.

Mathias Dzon, the former finance minister turned opponent, was credited with 1.90% of the vote.

131. Which among the following has divested 26% of equity holding in the Indian Gas Exchange to National Stock Exchange of India in March 2021?

- (a) NSE
- (b) MCX
- (c) IEX
- (d) India INX
- (e) OTCEI

Answer: C

The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has divested 26 per cent of its equity holding in the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).

NSE became a co-promoter and the second largest shareholder on the IGX gas-trading platform with the stake buy.

IEX, an electricity trading platform, said that it separately shed a 5 per cent equity holding to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

IGX is India's first gas exchange that has secured authorization from Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) on December 2, 2020.

132. The Central government has sold _____% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd to raise around ₹ 775 Crore.

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

Answer: B

The central government would sell a 15% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd via an offer for sale to raise nearly Rs755 crore.

The government held 87.84% stake in the firm as of December, and following the sale, its holding will fall to 74.67%.

133. In March 2021, Adani Green Energy Ltd has bought _____ MW solar project in Telangana from SkyPower Global.

- (a) 50 MW
- (b) 60 MW
- (c) 70 MW
- (d) 75 MW
- (e) 80 MW

Answer: A

Gautam Adani-led Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) will buy 50 megawatt (MW) solar project in Telangana from Toronto-headquartered SkyPower Global.

The project is located in Telangana and was commissioned in Oct 2017 and has a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana.

With this acquisition, AGEL will have operating renewable capacity of 3,395 MW with a total renewable portfolio of 14,865 MW.

US-based real estate and infrastructure investment firm CIM Group owns SkyPower, that was awarded 350MW of solar projects in Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. SkyPower has signed over 30 utility-scale

solar power purchase agreements (PPA) and has a 25 gigawatts (GW) pipeline.

134. The India Meteorological Department launched a Climate Data Service Portal. The portal has been developed by IMD in _____.

- (a) Mangalore
- (b) Kochi
- (c) Pune
- (d) Chennai
- (e) Visakhapatnam

Answer: C

The India Meteorological Department launched a Climate Data Service Portal with data of over 100 years which can be accessed by the public.

The Climate Data Services Portal has been developed by IMD, Pune with user-friendly platforms for climate data management and supply to the users.

The major components of the portal are real-time monitoring of weather observations recorded by IMD observatories, encapsulated IMD Metadata Portal, other reports and dashboards, online access to meteorological data through data supply portal.

135. The book named 'Escaped: True stories of Indian fugitives in London' has released. How many cases have been tracked in the book involving alleged offenders wanted in India to stand trial for offences ranging from loan defaults to murder?

- (a) 11
- (b) 10

(c) 13

(d) 14

(e) 12

Answer: E

A new book on 'Escaped: True stories of Indian fugitives in London' has released.

The book tracks 12 cases involving alleged offenders wanted in India to stand trial for offences ranging from loan defaults to murder.

The book, by London-based journalists and researchers Danish and Ruhi Khan, includes a recap of the more recent cases involving former Kingfisher Airlines boss Vijay Mallya and diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India on fraud and money laundering charges, as well as some historic ones including those of former Indian Naval officer Ravi Shankaran and musician Nadeem Saifi.

136. Recently in March 2021, what edition of the Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission was held between India and Pakistan?

- (a) 112th
- (b) 108th
- (c) 105th
- (d) 116th
- (e) 121st

Answer: D

Indian and Pakistani delegations held the 116th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission.

The two-day meeting of the Commission led on the Indian side by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena.

The Pakistani delegation is led by Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Mohammad Mehr Ali Shah. The last meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission was held on August 29, 2018. Under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, the two Commissioners are required to meet at least once every year, alternately in India and Pakistan.

137. Niyo has partnered with Equitas Small Finance Bank and _____ to roll out a mobile banking solution for millennials named 'NiyoX'.

- (a) Mastercard
- (b) Visa
- (c) Europay
- (d) RuPay
- (e) None

Answer: B

Niyo, a digital banking fintech, has partnered with Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) and Visa for the roll out of NiyoX, a mobile banking solution for millennials.

Called '007 banking', it comes with 0% maintenance charges, 0% commission on mutual fund investments and 7% interest on account balance. With this, the company aims to on-board two million customers by end 2021.

The study revealed that 70% of Indian millennials are now inclined towards digital banks.

138. Japan International Cooperation Agency has signed a loan agreement with Tata Cleantech

Capital Limited for JPY _____ billion (TCCL) to support the company to offer loans to businesses across India.

- (a) 5 billion
- (b) 7 billion
- (c) 7.5 billion
- (d) 10 billion
- (e) 8 billion

Answer: D

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement for a maximum amount of JPY 10 billion with Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL) to support the company to offer loans to businesses across India that focus on renewable energy generation, e-mobility solutions as well as energy efficiency, to help mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the emission of greenhouse gas (GHG) in India following the green loan principles.

The loan would be provided through the private sector investment finance scheme of JICA and is co-financing with the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC).

JICA's loan would support TCCL to mitigate the impact of climate change by offering green finance, which would contribute to decrease the emission of GHG in India. It will also contribute to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Goals 7 and 13.

139. According to the S & P Global Ratings, the projected growth rate for India for the FY 2022 is

11%. What was its previous projection for the FY 2022?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 9%
- (c) 10.5%
- (d) 8.5%
- (e) 7.5%

Answer: A

S&P Global Ratings raised India's growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 to 11% from 10% earlier, led by an expansionary fiscal policy aimed at boosting domestic private spending.

It has also raised the 2021 growth forecast for China to 8% from 7%.

After two consecutive quarters of contraction, India's economy grew 0.4% in the October-December quarter. During April-June, at the peak of pandemic.

140. Which state government has selected Asha Bhosle for the state's highest honour 'Bhushan Award' in March 2021?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Karnataka

Answer: A

Asha Bhosle has been selected for the Maharashtra Bhushan award, the State government's highest honour.

A committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to select Ms. Bhosle for the award for the year 2020.

The award, instituted in 1996 by the State government to recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the State, representing different walks of life, carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.

Ms. Bhosle's sister Lata Mangeshkar won the award for 1997.

141. Which Small Finance bank has been awarded 'Great Place to Work' certification by the Great Place to Work Institute?

- (a) AU Small Finance Bank
- (b) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- (c) Jana Finance Bank
- (d) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (e) Capital Small Finance Bank

Answer: B

Esaf Small Finance Bank has been awarded 'Great Place to Work' certification by the Great Place to Work Institute.

The certification is the result of an employee survey conducted by the third-party global authority on recognising high-trust and performance culture at workplaces.

K Paul Thomas – MD & CEO, ESAF Small Finance Bank.

142. The Ministry of AYUSH has set up a team headed by _____ to explore the potential of

Yoga as a productivity enhancing tool for the population.

- (a) R. Subrahmanyam
- (b) N. Gopalakrishnan
- (c) Randeep Guleria
- (d) H. R Nagendra
- (e) Yogesh Kumar

Answer: D

The Ministry of AYUSH has set up an interdisciplinary team of experts to explore the potential of Yoga as a productivity enhancing tool for the population.

The committee is chaired by H. R Nagendra, Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana and its members include representatives from AIIMS New Delhi, IIM Bangalore, IIT Bombay, various leading Yoga institutions, the corporate sector and the AYUSH Ministry.

The committee will submit its preliminary recommendations by May, 2021.

143. The mobile app named 'IEPFA' was launched by Nirmala Sitharaman. What is 'I' mean in IEPFA?

- (a) Indian
- (b) International
- (c) Investor
- (d) Identify
- (e) Investigation

Answer: C

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman virtually launched Central Scrutiny

Centre (CSC), an initiative of Corporate Affairs Ministry, to scrutinise the filings by users under straight through processes.

The finance minister also launched the mobile app of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).

CSC will primarily scrutinise the filings made by users under straight through processes, identify data quality issues and irregularities, and communicate the same to the concerned Registrar of Companies. The mobile app aims at achieving the goal of financial literacy, spreading investor awareness, education, and protection among investors. Our prime goal here is to push Ease of Living.

144. Which animal has been declared as 'Critically Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in March 2021?

- (a) Forest Elephant
- (b) Savanna Elephant
- (c) Bush Elephant
- (d) Sumatran Elephant
- (e) None of these

Answer: A

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has declared African Forest Elephant as 'critically endangered' and Savanna (or bush) elephants as 'endangered'.

It is the first time the two species have been assessed separately for the IUCN Red List.

Earlier, African elephants were treated as a single species, listed as Vulnerable.

145. Which place has been secured by Indian team at the 2021 World Shooting Para Sport competitions with two gold medals?

- (a) 2nd
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 4th
- (d) 5th
- (e) 6th

Answer: B

India ended the 2021 World Shooting Para Sport competitions with seven medals, held at Al Ain in UAE.

India finished in third place with two gold medals, one silver and four bronze medals.

Ukraine topped the medal tally with 11 medals (five gold, five silver and one bronze) followed by host nation UAE which won five medals (three gold and two silver).

Gold medal winners for India :

- Manish Narwal (P4 mixed 50m air pistol SH2)
- Singhraj (P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1)

Silver Medal Winner for India :

- Avani Lekhara – R2 women's 10m air rifle SH1

Bronze Medal Winners for India :

- Rahul Jakhar – P3 Mixed 25m Pistol SH1
- Singhraj – P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1
- Sriharsha DEVARADDI RAMAKRISHNA – R4 Mixed 10m Air Rifle Standing SH2

- Sidhartha BABU – R6 Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1

146. Moudud Ahmed has died recently at the age of 81. He served as the Prime Minister of which among the following country?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Maldives
- (d) Bangladesh
- (e) Indonesia

Answer: D

Senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed, a lawyer and former minister, has died in a Singapore hospital at the age of 81.

Barrister Moudud served as the prime minister, deputy prime minister, vice-president, and minister of Bangladesh.

The veteran parliamentarian assisted Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, BNP founder and late president Ziaur Rahman, and Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad..

The seasoned politician was elected lawmakers from Noakhali five times. He first became an MP in 1979.

147. The book titled "My Experiments with Silence" has been authored by whom among the following?

- (a) Katharine Hayhoe
- (b) Samir Soni
- (c) Namit Arora
- (d) Neha Sinha

(e) Daribha Lyndem

Answer: B

The book "My Experiments with Silence" is authored by Samir Soni on anxiety and self-discovery. The book would be published by OM Books International.

Soni's book aims to be a personal account of his dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street and his time in Bollywood.

148. Name the book which has been authored by Namit Arora.

- (a) My Experiments with Silence
- (b) Indians: A Brief History of A Civilization
- (c) India's Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution
- (d) The Little Book of Encouragement
- (e) Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan

Answer: B

The book titled "Indians: A Brief History of A Civilization" has been authored by Namit Arora. Arora manages to outline the development of several strands of Indian religion as well as put down major political and cultural markers in an overall chronology.

149. Which state government has partnered with the Consulate General of India in Johannesburg to boost tourism to India post COVID-19?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Uttar Pradesh

(c) Punjab

(d) Haryana

(e) Bihar

Answer: B

The Consulate General of India in Johannesburg has partnered with Uttar Pradesh to boost tourism to India post COVID-19, highlighting the state's various religious sites and other attractions.

Mukesh Kumar Meshram, Principal Secretary for Tourism and Culture in UP, shared the detailed plans on attracting tourists to the state at a meet titled 'Post-Covid Tourism to India' which was organised by the Indian Consul General.

150. Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the Kurnool Airport, Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh. Kurnool Airport is the _____ airport in Andhra Pradesh.

- (a) 5th
- (b) 6th
- (c) 7th
- (d) 8th
- (e) 9th

Answer: B

Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the Kurnool Airport, Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh attended the inauguration at Kurnool airport.

Kurnool is the 6th airport in Andhra Pradesh to become functional after Kadapa, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Rajahmundry & Vijayawada.

The airport has been classified as '3C' and is capable of handling turboprop aircraft like ATR-72 and Bombardier Q-400.

Direct flight operations to Bangalore, Vishakhapatnam and Chennai will be operated by India's largest domestic carrier IndiGo.

151. The world's first ship tunnel is slated to be constructed in Norway. The construction project is expected to be completed by which year?

- (a) 2023 - 24
- (b) 2024 - 25
- (c) 2025 - 26
- (d) 2026 - 27
- (e) 2027 - 28

Answer: C

The world's first ship tunnel is slated to be constructed in Norway. The construction on the engineering project is expected to begin in 2022 and get completed by 2025-26.

The ship tunnel is planned to run underneath the mountains in Norway's Stadhavet peninsula. It is expected to measure 1,700 metres long, 37 meters high and 26.5 metres wide after completion.

The tunnel would be 49 metres (161 ft) high and 36 metres (118 ft) wide.

It is estimated to cost at least 2.8 billion Norwegian kroner (NZ\$460 million) the construction of this ship tunnel.

152. According to the World Development Report 2021: Data for better lives' report, Only

_____ % low-income countries consistently made available with a license classifiable as 'open'.

- (a) 9%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 11%
- (d) 12%
- (e) 14%

Answer: C

According to the World Bank's 'World Development Report 2021: Data for better lives' report, Only 11% low-income countries consistently made available with a license classifiable as 'open'.

The comparable rate for lower-middle-income countries was 19 per cent, for upper-middle-income countries 22 per cent and high-income countries 44 per cent.

Gaps in data on women and girls were particularly severe: Only 10 of the 54 gender-specific indicators (19 per cent) in the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals were widely available. Only 24 per cent of the available gender-specific indicators were from 2010 or later.

153. Which among the following company has signed a MoU with State Bank of India to offer the financial assistance for the purchase of small and light commercial vehicles?

- (a) Mahindra & Mahindra
- (b) Tata Motors
- (c) GE Motors
- (d) Reliance Group
- (e) TVS Company

Answer: B

Tata Motors has signed a three-year MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the State Bank of India to offer financial assistance for the purchase of the company's range of small and light commercial vehicles.

The collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI) would allow Tata Motors' commercial vehicle (CV) customers to avail of loans in a hassle-free manner as well as access SBI's unique technology-laden offerings.

154. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has signed a MoU with CNB Logitech to monitor, track and optimise the movement of 50 lakh containers in EXIM trade.

What is the worth of an agreement?

- (a) ₹ 100 Crore
- (b) ₹ 50 Crore
- (c) ₹ 25 Crore
- (d) ₹ 125 Crore
- (e) ₹ 200 Crore

Answer: A

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has signed a memorandum of understanding with CNB Logitech Worth Rs 100 crore per annum to monitor, track and optimise the movement of 50 lakh containers in EXIM trade.

The MoU would help to achieve India's maritime vision of 2030 by enhancing efficiencies. CNB Logitech uses the Internet of Things, machine learning and artificial intelligence technologies to automate container terminals and ports operations.

Its SmartInfra applications enabled top container yard terminals to run operations even during Covid-19 related lockdowns.

According to Invest India, around 95 per cent of the country's merchandise trade is handled by the maritime transport.

155. An MoU has signed to implement action plan in 132 identified cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The NCAP has a target to achieve 20-30% reduction in particulate matter concentrations by which year?

- (a) 2022
- (b) 2024
- (c) 2025
- (d) 2028
- (e) 2030

Answer: B

Representatives of state pollution control boards, urban local bodies and Institutes of Repute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 132 identified cities to implement city-specific action plans under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The NCAP is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20-30 per cent reduction in particulate matter concentrations by 2024, with 2017 as base year.

156. The book titled 'From Incremental to Exponential' has been authored _____.

- (a) Vivek Wadhwa
- (b) Ismail Amla
- (c) Sanjaya Baru
- (d) Both (a) & (b)
- (e) Both (b) & (c)

Answer: D

The book named 'From Incremental to Exponential' has been authored by Vivek Wadhwa, Ismail Amla and Alex Salkever.

This is another guide as to how companies should proceed to remain relevant and in any such narrative the examples of Kodak and Sears are mandatory. These companies never saw change coming and did not alter their business plans, becoming irrelevant.

157. The book titled '1232 km: A Long Journey Home' has been authored by whom among the following?

- (a) Shrabani Basu
- (b) Vinod Kapri
- (c) Anindya Dutta
- (d) Anant Vijay
- (e) Deepak Ravindran

Answer: B

HarperCollins India has announced the upcoming publication of journalist turned filmmaker, Vinod Kapri's compelling book '1232 km: A Long Journey Home'

This book is the account of their journey on road from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh to Saharsa in Bihar, spanning 1232 kilometres.

1232 km is about one such journey that seven migrants from Bihar-Ritesh, Ashish, Ram Babu, Sonu, Krishna, Sandeep, and Mukesh-undertook on their bicycles that lasted for seven days and seven nights. Accompanying them was National Award-winning filmmaker Vinod Kapri.

158. How many stadiums have been confirmed as the host cities and stadiums of Women's Asian Cup India 2022?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: B

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the AFC Local Organising Committee (LOC) have confirmed the three host cities and stadiums.

The D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad's TransStadia and the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar have been selected as the three stadiums and host cities that would provide the ultimate backdrop for some of the finest players in Asian and world women's football from January 20 to February 6, 2022.

159. Saurabh Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of which among the following?

- (a) FCI
- (b) AAI
- (c) CWC
- (d) UIDAI
- (e) CBI

Answer: D

Saurbah Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Garg is at present serving in his cadre state Odisha.

Sanjeev Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman, Airports Authority of India. Atish Chandra would be Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India.

Chandra is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

160. Which among the following country has test – fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile namely 'Shaheen – 1A' in March 2021?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Pakistan
- (e) Israel

Answer: D

Pakistan test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 900 kilometres.

The test of Shaheen-1A surface to surface ballistic missile, was aimed at re-validating various design

and technical parameters of the weapon system including advanced navigation system.

In February, Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 290 kilometres.

The launch of Ghaznavi missile was culmination of Annual Field Training Exercise of Army Strategic Forces Command.

161. BharatPe has announced the new lending product called 'Distributor to Retailer'. The product would offer the collateral free loans up to _____ Lakh.

- (a) ₹ 5 Lakh
- (b) ₹ 10 Lakh
- (c) ₹ 15 Lakh
- (d) ₹ 25 Lakh
- (e) ₹ 50 Lakh

Answer: E

BharatPe announced the launch of a new lending product that would provide instant liquidity to distributors, wholesalers, traders and dealers.

Called Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance, it would offer collateral-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh for a period of seven days to 30 days.

BharatPe has already facilitated D2R loans of ₹50 crore in the first month of launch and aims to facilitate disbursement of ₹2,500 crore via this new product in the next fiscal year 2021-22.

162. 'Dekho Apna Pradesh' has been launched by which state government to promote tourism within

the stateto heal the damage caused to the tourism sector?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh
- (e) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: E

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched 'Dekho Apna Pradesh', a brainchild of Khandu conceptualized in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Dekho Apna Desh' campaign, is an attempt to promote tourism within the state to heal the damage caused to the sector. 'Dekho Apna Desh' campaign has insisted every citizen to visit at least 15 tourist destinations by the year 2022 to promote domestic tourism.

163. Which state government has launched the Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes scheme to offer the affordable rental housing for poor people living in cities?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Bihar
- (e) Telangana

Answer: C

The Uttar Pradesh government would start a scheme offering affordable rental housing for poor people living in cities.

Under the Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes (ARHC) scheme, urban migrants/poor labourers, those belonging to economically weaker sections, low income groups including factory workers, educational institutions, people associated with hospitality and students will be the beneficiaries.

The ARHC scheme has been launched by the government of India through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under 'self-reliant India' campaign. It will be implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to promote participation of private/public institutions for construction, operation and maintenance of rental housing complexes for urban migrants/poor.

164. World Theatre Day is observed every year on which date?

- (a) March 24
- (b) March 25
- (c) March 26
- (d) March 27
- (e) March 28

Answer: D

World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27th by ITI centers and the international theatre community.

It is celebrated to raise the importance of theatre arts, how they played an important role in the field of entertainment, and the changes that theatre brings in life.

World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute ITI.

165. The Supreme Court refused to stay the sale of a fresh set of electoral bonds from 1 April. Which among the following is the authorised bank for the sale of electoral bonds?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Indian Bank
- (e) All the above

Answer: A

The Supreme Court refused to stay the sale of a fresh set of electoral bonds from 1 April, ahead of assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory -- West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and UT of Puducherry.

Since the bonds were allowed to be released in 2018 and 2019 without interruption, and sufficient safeguards are there, there is no justification to stay the electoral bonds at present.

State Bank of India is authorised to issue the electoral bonds.

166. The Central Board of Secondary Education has been launched a competency-based assessment framework for classes 6-10 for how many subjects?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5

(e) 6

Answer: B

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a competency-based assessment framework for classes 6-10 for three subjects -- English (reading), Science, and Maths.

The framework is a part of the CBSE Competency Based Education Project that aims to replace the existing rote learning model as directed in the new National Education Policy (NEP) over the next 2-3 years.

In the first phase selected Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, UT Chandigarh and private schools across the country will participate in the programme which will be rolled out to all 25,000 CBSE schools in India by 2024.

167. Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus has completed the acquisition of _____ stake in the solar portfolio of the Engie Group in India with 813 MW of operating capacity.

- (a) 46%
- (b) 24%
- (c) 38%
- (d) 68%
- (e) 74%

Answer: E

Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus (EIYP) has concluded the acquisition of a controlling stake in French utility major Engie Group's solar energy assets in India.

This partnership between EIYP and Engie is aimed at creating a high-quality solar platform of substantial scale with a plan to add 2 GW solar assets in India over the next couple of years.

EIYP along with its investee company Sekura Energy Limited (Sekura Energy), have completed the first stage towards acquisition of 74% stake in the solar portfolio of the Engie Group in India with 813 MW of operating capacity.

The partnership provides EIYP access to a 2 GW pipeline of quality assets that will be developed and constructed by Engie in accordance with agreed terms.

168. A Letter of Agreement was signed between the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Yamuna International Airport Private Limited. The LoA defines the functions at which upcoming international airport?

- (a) Rajkot International Airport
- (b) Mopa International Airport
- (c) Jewar International Airport
- (d) Ludhiana International Airport
- (e) Sabarigiri International Airport

Answer: C

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed between the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) in New Delhi.

The LoA defines provisions for civil aviation security responsibilities and functions at the upcoming international airport at Jewar, Noida.

The contract of construction of the airport has been awarded to YIAPL, which is a joint venture of the Airport Authority of India (AAI), the Government of Uttar Pradesh, and Zurich international airport.

169. Indian Army has undertaken 'Operation Tiruvallur' for the safe disposal of nearly 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance. What percent of the explosives have been successfully demolished by the Army Bomb Disposal Team?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 26%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 32%
- (e) 42%

Answer: C

Indian Army has undertaken 'Operation Tiruvallur' for the safe disposal of nearly 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance, possibly collected inadvertently by some factories located in Tiruvallur. The operation is a classic demonstration of planning and joint-coordination undertaken between the Indian Army and State government, on whose request the operation was approved by the Ministry of Defence. The aim of the operation is to provide a safe environment for citizens in and around Gummidipoondi area in Tiruvallur. Forty per cent of the explosives have been successfully demolished by the Army Bomb Disposal Team. Dakshin Bharat Area under the Southern Command is undertaking this sensitive operation.

170. Anish Shah has been appointed as the Managing Director and the Chief Executive Director of which among the following company?

- (a) Tata Group
- (b) Samsung India
- (c) Mahindra & Mahindra
- (d) TVS Motors
- (e) Ashok Leyland

Answer: C

The board of directors of Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) has appointed Anish Shah as the managing director and chief executive officer of the company effective April 2.

Shah is currently the deputy MD and group chief financial officer.

Shah joined Mahindra in 2015 as the group president—strategy. Prior to joining Mahindra, he was the president and CEO of GE Capital India.

171. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd has sold a total of _____% stake in Numaligarh Refinery to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India and Government of Assam.

- (a) 45.5%
- (b) 56.5%
- (c) 61.5%
- (d) 87.5%
- (e) 72.5%

Answer: C

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd has sold its entire 61.5 per cent stake in Numaligarh Refinery in

Assam to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India and Government of Assam for Rs 9,876 crore.

OIL bought a 54.16 per cent stake to raise its shareholding in the refinery to 80.16 per cent. Its partner, Engineers India Ltd (EIL) bought a 4.4 per cent stake and the balance 3.2 per cent was acquired by Government of Assam.

The sale of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) clears the way for privatisation of India's second-largest fuel retailer.

172. ITI Limited and Thalamus Irwine have joined hands to develop a blockchain technology in which among the following sector?

- (a) Healthcare
- (b) Wastewater
- (c) 5G Technology
- (d) Defence
- (e) Payment

Answer: A

ITI Limited and Thalamus Irwine have come together to develop a technology for storing medical data on blockchain.

The blockchain technology-based solution by the two companies would also enable the Centre's ambitious One Nation One Health Card initiative, in line with the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) to develop the backbone to support the integrated digital health infrastructure nationwide.

The blockchain system, called Garuda Blockchain Platform would compile nationwide data within

seconds, and boost the rollout of the national health program with a foolproof or tamperless technology.

173. Lewis Hamilton has won the Bahrain Grand Prix 2021. Who among the following has secured the third place in the event?

- (a) Charles Leclerc
- (b) Max Verstappen
- (c) Valtteri Bottas
- (d) Daniel Ricciardo
- (e) Kimi Räikkönen

Answer: C

Mercedes Lewis Hamilton defeated Max Verstappen's Red Bull to finish the Bahrain Grand Prix 2021.

Max Verstappen (Red bull) and V Bottas (Mercedes) stand 2nd and 3rd Position Respectively.

It is his eighth world title in 2021.

174. In March 2021, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has inaugurated Shaheed Ashfaq Ulla Khan Zoological Park in which place?

- (a) Ghaziabad
- (b) Kanpur
- (c) Gorakhpur
- (d) Lucknow
- (e) Kanpur

Answer: C

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Shaheed Ashfaq Ulla Khan Zoological Park in Gorakhpur.

It is the first zoo in Purvanchal and the third in the state. The construction of the zoo has been completed in a record time of four years.

The zoo has been named after great freedom fighter Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan. The foundation of the Gorakhpur zoo was laid a decade ago in May 2011 but its construction gained momentum after the year 2017.

175. How many harbour cranes have been supplied by India to Iran each weighing 100 tons in March 2021?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5
- (e) 6

Answer: A

India supplied two Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHCs) each weighing 100 tons to Iran.

Indian Embassy in Iran said it is part of India's continued commitment towards development of phase-I of

Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar.

This is the second such consignment of equipment shipped to the strategic port at Chah Bahar.

India had earlier supplied two 140-ton MHCs in January this year.

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, the step is continuing with India's commitment to develop Chabahar Port.

176. BSNL has planned to launch 4G services with an investment of _____ Crore against the estimated cost of ₹ 9000 Crore.

- (a) ₹ 1000 Crore
- (b) ₹ 500 Crore
- (c) ₹ 750 Crore
- (d) ₹ 250 Crore
- (e) ₹ 300 Crore

Answer: A

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) can launch 4G services, a key requirement for its revival, with an investment of about Rs.1,000 crore against the estimated Rs.9,000 crore it would require as per the new tender.

BSNL had its network 4G-ready with an investment of Rs.6,000 crore in 2018, while the government allotted spectrum in October 2019.

However, the firm is yet to launch the services.

According to SNEA, BSNL should immediately avail the 5 MHz of 4G spectrum allotted to it and provide both 4G and 3G services.

177. Jeh Wadia has been stepped down from the post of Managing Director of which among the following airlines?

- (a) IndiGo
- (b) Air India
- (c) SpiceJet
- (d) GoAir
- (e) Vistara

Answer: D

WADIA-family owned GoAir is heading into a key management change after Jeh Wadia resigned from the post of managing director after serving in the role for three years.

However, he will continue to be the promoter of the company.

Aviation veteran Ben Baldanza, who has been a director in the company since 2019, has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the GoAir board.

“With the goal of taking GoAir to its next phase of growth, the promoters of the company and its Board came together to formulate a long-term plan.

178. Which company has announced its support for RISE in collaboration with SAP in March 2021?

- (a) Cognizant
- (b) Infosys
- (c) TCS
- (d) HCL Technologies
- (e) IBM

Answer: D

HCL Technologies announced its support for RISE with SAP, an offering by SAP that helps clients take their business-critical elements into the cloud, thereby accelerating their digital transformation and the value realization of their investments on their journey to becoming an “intelligent enterprise.”

HCL's partnership with SAP will enable organizations to move to the cloud SaaS model of RISE with SAP using HCL's digital and application capabilities, while leveraging their existing investments in SAP configuration and extensions.

179. In March 2021, India Legends defeated Sri Lanka Legends in the final of Road Safety World Series to clinch the title. It was held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in which state?

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) West Bengal
- (e) Odisha

Answer: A

India Legends defeated Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs in the final of Road Safety World Series to clinch the title.

It was held at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

India Legends, put on a huge total of 181 for four from their allotted 20 overs.

Sachin Tendulkar, captain of the India Legends, finished the tournament as the third-highest run-getter with 233 runs from seven matches.

Player of the Match – Yusuf Pathan (India Legends)

Most Runs – Tillakaratne Dilshan

Most Wickets – Tillakaratne Dilshan

Player of the Series – Tillakaratne Dilshan (Sri Lanka Legends)

180. India has appreciated the country 'Saudi Arabia' for its announcement of Fostering peace in which among the following country?

- (a) Syria

(b) Tunisia

(c) Sudan

(d) Ethiopia

(e) Yemen

Answer: E

India has welcomed the initiative announced by Saudi Arabia for fostering peace in Yemen.

In response to a question on the announcement of peace initiative by Saudi Arabia for Yemen, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that India has noted that the initiative inter alia proposes a comprehensive ceasefire across Yemen under the supervision of the United Nations as well as consultations between the Yemeni parties to reach a political resolution under the auspices of the UN.

He said, India supports all efforts to find a political solution to the Yemeni crisis.

India has hoped that all parties in Yemen would be able to come together to the negotiating table soon to end the conflict.

181. Who among the following has won the Rathbones Folio prize in March 2021?

(a) Rachel Kushner

(b) Michael Chabon

(c) Anne Tyler

(d) Carmen Maria Machado

(e) Jonathan Franzen

Answer: D

The American author Carmen Maria Machado has won the £30,000 Rathbones Folio prize.

It is for her memoir *In the DreamHouse*, which examines the domestic abuse she was subjected to by her ex-girlfriend.

The *DreamHouse* looks at the relationship through different literary genres and tropes, from classic romance to ghost story, unreliable narrator to pathetic fallacy.

In the book, the author outlines her experiences in a same-sex relationship with her former partner, and the abuse she was subjected to.

About Rathbones Folio Literary prize 2021:

The Rathbones Folio Prize is a literary award that was launched by London-based publisher The Folio Society in the initial two years, that is 2014-2015. Starting in 2017 the sponsor is Rathbone Investment Management.

The Rathbones Folio Prize 2021 Ceremony, hosted from the British Library by Razia Iqbal

182. Nawal El Saadawi has died at the age of 89. She belonged to which among the following country?

- (a) Sudan
- (b) Ethiopia
- (c) Uganda
- (d) Kenya
- (e) Egypt

Answer: E

World-renowned Egyptian author Nawal El Saadawi, an outspoken champion of women's rights in the Arab world, has passed away. She was 89. In 2005,

El Saadawi was awarded the Inana International Prize in Belgium, a year after she received the North-South prize from the Council of Europe. In 2020, Time Magazine named her on their 100 Women of the Year list.

She was the founder and head of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association. She was also a Co-founder of the Arab Association for Human Rights.

183. The Parliament has passed the Finance Bill, 2021. The Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to _____ Lakh per annum.

- (a) ₹ 5 Lakh
- (b) ₹ 2.5 Lakh
- (c) ₹ 10 Lakh
- (d) ₹ 12 Lakh
- (e) ₹ 15 Lakh

Answer: A

The Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to 5 lakh per annum in specified cases as against 2.5 lakh rupees proposed in the Budget.

Parliament has passed the Finance Bill, 2021 with the Rajya Sabha returning it to Lok Sabha. With this, Parliament has completed all the budgetary exercise.

For tax exemption raised on interest earned on PF contribution from 2.5 lakh to 5 lakh rupees per annum

Mrs Sitharaman also said NPA has brought down to around 8 lakh 99 thousand crore rupees by March 2020.

184. National Highways Authority of India has developed the world class 'Wayside Amenities'. How many amenities are targeted for development in 2021 – 22?

- (a) 125
- (b) 130
- (c) 140
- (d) 145
- (e) 155

Answer: B

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed the world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years.

Out of these, 130 are targeted for development in 2021-22. NHAI has already invited bids to develop 120 such wayside amenities.

As per plan, wayside amenities will be developed every 30 to 50 kilometer along the current and upcoming Highways and Expressways.

The amenities will include numerous facilities for passengers such as Fuel Station, Electric Charging Facilities, Food Court, Retail Shops, ATM, and Toilets with shower facility, Children Playing Area, Clinic, Village Haat for local handicrafts etc.

185. Asia's largest Tulip Garden has opened in Srinagar. The flowers have blossomed along the banks of which lake?

- (a) Wular Lake
- (b) Dal Lake
- (c) Mansar Lake
- (d) Nigeen Lake
- (e) Manasbal Lake

Answer: B

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar is scheduled to be opened for the general public and tourists.

The Tulip Garden in Srinagar is a spectrum of colours featuring lakhs of tulips which have blossomed in the lap of Zabarwan Hills along the banks of world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar city.

186. The 'Pashudhan Mela' has been inaugurated in which district of Jammu & Kashmir in March 2021?

- (a) Budgam
- (b) Kulgam
- (c) Kathua
- (d) Udhampur
- (e) Reasi

Answer: C

In Jammu and Kashmir, Principal Secretary Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, Naveen Kumar Chaudhary has inaugurated 'Pashudhan Mela' in Kathua.

A variety of breeds of cattle and buffalo from the neighboring state of Punjab including breeds from Kashmir were put on display.

'Pashudhan Mela' is the first of its kind Mela held in the Union Territory organized with the objective to educate farmers about the latest cattle breeds.

Cattle Mela will be a regular affair in J&K covering each district in a phased manner.

The Department of Animal Husbandry has taken a series of steps to empower farmers and livestock owners to adopt dairy which have huge market demand.

187. The Regional SARAS Fair 2021 was held in which among the following place?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Aizwal
- (c) Shillong
- (d) Kohima
- (e) Itanagar

Answer: D

The Regional SARAS Fair 2021, an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development, was held in Kohima to promote rural products and build capacities of Self Help Groups.

The main objective is to bring the local artisans and Self Help Groups to promote and sale their products as well as get exposure in a bigger entrepreneurial platform.

NSRLM started organizing the SARAS Fair in 2015 as an annual event and this is the second time the fair is being hosted in Kohima.

188. Which among the following has organized a credit camp in Samba district for the members of

Joint Liability Groups to provide collateral free institutional credit support?

- (a) RBI
- (b) SIDBI
- (c) NABARD
- (d) NHB
- (e) NITI Aayog

Answer: C

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, NABARD organized a credit camp in Samba district for the members of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) to provide collateral free institutional credit support to landless farmers, sharecroppers, oral lessees, small & marginal farmers and other rural poor to take up farm, off-farm and non-farm activities.

More than 60 members from various JLGs promoted by NABARD participated in the credit camp. Deputy General Manager (DGM), NABARD, Jammu, Anamika while speaking on the occasion, informed that the formation of JLGs was started by NABARD with the objective to augment the credit flow to farmer's especially landless farmers, sharecroppers, oral lessees, small & marginal farmers and other rural poor to take up livelihood activities for their income generation.

189. Who among the following has been nominated by S A Bobde as the next Chief Justice of India in March 2021?

- (a) Uday U. Lalit
- (b) Hrishikesh Roy
- (c) Krishna Murari

(d) V Ramasubramanian

(e) N V Ramanna

Answer: E

Chief Justice of India Justice S A Bobde has recommended Union Government to appoint the senior most

Supreme Court Judge Justice N V Ramanna as the next Chief Justice of India.

Chief Justice Bobde is set to retire on 23rd April.

Justice Bobde was sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India in November 2019. Traditionally, the sitting Chief Justice writes a recommendation for his likely successor.

190. Which among the following bank has appointed DS Ravindran as Additional Director of the bank?

(a) South India Bank

(b) City Union Bank

(c) ICICI Bank

(d) Federal Bank

(e) Karnataka Bank

Answer: E

Karnataka Bank Ltd. has appointed Dr. D S Ravindran as Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) and the appointment will be effective from 1st April, 2021.

Dr D S Ravindran (PhD), aged 61 years, is a retired IFS officer (Indian Forest Service 1986 Batch) and the former Principal Secretary to the Government of Karnataka (Khajane – 2 Finance Department) with over 34 years of experience.

191. Which among the following has been selected for the Chancellor's Award in the category of specialized universities?

(a) Kerala Agricultural University

(b) Central Agricultural University

(c) Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University

(d) Punjab Agricultural University

(e) Indira Gandhi Agricultural University

Answer: A

Kerala Agricultural University has been selected for the Chancellor's Award 2020 in the category of specialised universities.

The award is based on competitive grading of all the universities in the State on parameters of higher education, research and technology transfer.

Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) has bagged the fourth Chancellor's Award for 2017-18.

Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) has been selected for the Chancellor's Award for the Best Emerging Young University during the same period.

The Raj Bhavan made the formal announcement after Governor P. Sathasivam accepted the recommendations of the selection committee that was constituted by the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) to identify the award recipients.

The Chancellor's Award carries a cash prize of Rs.5 crore, while the Best Emerging Young University will receive a prize of Rs.1 crore.

192. Which country has launched the 38 foreign satellites into the orbit onboarding Soyuz – 2.1a carrier rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) Israel
- (d) Japan
- (e) UK

Answer: B

Russian space agency "Roscosmos" successfully launched 38 foreign satellites into orbit, onboard Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The rocket will place in orbit 38 satellites and it belongs to 18 countries, including South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy and Brazil. Among them is the Challenge-1, the first satellite made completely in Tunisia, which was created by the

Telnet telecommunications group.

In 2018, a Soyuz rocket carrying a Russian cosmonaut and a NASA astronaut failed mid-flight, forcing the crew to carry out an emergency landing. Both survived without injuries.

193. Which country's central bank has introduced the design of the new GBP 50 banknote, featuring Alan Turing?

- (a) Federal Reserve
- (b) Bank of England

- (c) European Central bank
- (d) Swiss National Bank
- (e) The Riksbank

Answer: B

The Bank of England unveiled the design of the new GBP 50 banknote, which features British scientist and World War II codebreaker Alan Turing.

The polymer note, which includes an image of Turing and other related imagery, will be issued for the first time on June 23, coinciding with what would have been the mathematician's 109th birthday.

There is something of the character of a nation in its money, and we are right to consider and celebrate the people on our banknotes.

Bank of England Governor - Andrew Bailey.

194. Nitin Gadkari stated that the government is working to roll out a GPS based toll collection system and introducing E-Highway from Delhi to _____ in the upcoming months.

- (a) Kanyakumari
- (b) Guwahati
- (c) Pune
- (d) Mumbai
- (e) Hyderabad

Answer: D

The government is working to roll out a GPS based toll collection system and introducing E-Highway from Delhi to Mumbai in the upcoming months.

This was stated by the Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Gadkari said that toll collection through

the fast tag has reached to 93 per cent across the country which has resulted in 10 thousand crore more toll collection in comparison to previous year.

Addressing a National Conference on Road Infrastructure in New Delhi, Mr Gadkari said that around 64.5 per cent of the goods and nearly 90% of passenger traffic use the road network to commute.

The road infrastructure has a direct and indirect effect on sustainability of growth and overall development of the country.

195. In March 2021, who among the following has been appointed as an independent director of Infosys?

- (a) Salil Parekh
- (b) D Sundaram
- (c) Pravin Rao
- (d) Chitra Nayak
- (e) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

Answer: D

IT services major Infosys announced the appointment of former Salesforce executive Chitra Nayak as an independent director.

Her appointment, effective March 25, 2021, is based on recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Infosys Board, a regulatory filing said.

The appointment is for a period of three years, subject to the approval of shareholders, it added.

Nayak has over 25 years of professional experience in go-to-market, general management, and operations leadership roles at various organisations. She currently serves as a member of the board at Invitae, a medical genetics company; at Morneau Shepell, a tech-enabled HR services company; at Forward Air, a freight and logistics company; and at Intercom, a messaging platform company.

196. Ralf Speth has become the Chairman of TVS Motor. He is the former CEO of which among the following?

- (a) Mercedes-Benz
- (b) BMW
- (c) Lexus
- (d) Volvo
- (e) Jaguar Land Rover

Answer: E

TVS Motor Company has brought on board Ralf Speth, former CEO of Jaguar Land Rover.

Speth, who built Jaguar Land Rover into a global brand, will become Chairman of TVS Motor Company effective January 2023, when the present chairman, Venu Srinivasan, will become Chairman-Emeritus.

197. Who among the following was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2020?

- (a) Selim Bassoul
- (b) Andrew Forrest
- (c) Harsh C. Mariwala
- (d) Liu Jiren

(e) Rubens Menin

Answer: C

Harsh C. Mariwala, chairman of Marico, was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020.

He will now represent India at

the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award on June 10.

The EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards previously Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards is an award sponsored by Ernst & Young in recognition of entrepreneurship.

198. Which among the following state police has won the FICCI Best State Award for Smart

Innovative Policing in 2021?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Kerala

Answer: A

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan has commended DGP Gautam Sawang for receiving the SKOCH

Award as the best DGP in the country for outstanding performance in policing, public safety and taking up technical reforms in AP Police.

Harichandan also praised the DGP and his team for winning the FICCI Best State Award for Smart

Innovative Policing and for being adjudged as the

best in the country for connecting with Interoperable

Criminal Justice System of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

199. Which among the following movie has bagged the top prize at the 2021 Producers Guild Awards?

- (a) Judas and the Black Messiah
- (b) Nomadland
- (c) Promising Young Woman
- (d) Minari
- (e) Mank

Answer: B

Chloe Zhao's 'Nomadland' received a major boost ahead of the Oscars as the movie bagged the top prize at the 2021 Producers Guild Awards.

The winners for the awards were announced during a virtual ceremony.

'Nomadland', a frontrunner for the best picture

Oscar, took home the trophy for Darryl F Zanuck award

for outstanding producer of theatrical motion pictures.

The movie edged out fellow nominees 'Promising Young Woman', 'Minari', 'Mank', 'Judas and the Black Messiah', 'Sound of Metal' and 'The Trial of the Chicago 7'.

'Nomadland' features Academy Award winner Frances McDormand as a woman who leaves home to travel around the American West after losing her job.

200. Which city has bagged three awards in different categories at the 2021 International Exhibition and 6th Smart Cities India Expo in New Delhi?

- (a) Chennai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Mumbai
- (e) New Delhi

Answer: C

Hyderabad bagged three awards in different categories at the 2021 International Exhibition and 6th Smart Cities India Expo held during March 24-26 in New Delhi.

The awards were given by the India Trade Promotion Organisation, a Government of India Enterprise.

Under the Green and Clean City category, the Rain Garden developed by the HMDA underneath the

Begumpet flyover at the intersection of Kukatpally and Yousufguda nalas has bagged the award.

In the Smart Waste Disposal Project category, the New Municipal Solid Waste Management project bagged the award.

The project comprises a city-wide network of fully mechanised Secondary Collection and Transport Points (SCTPs).

In the Startup category, We Hub, a one of its kind initiative that has been instrumental in empowering women won the award.

We Hub is a one of its kind initiative that has been instrumental in empowering the women.

It has created a supportive community for aspiring women entrepreneurs.