

GENERAL AWARENESS

NOVEMBER 2020

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GENERAL AWARENESS

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FIGURES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| REPO RATE | 4.00% |
| REVERSE REPO RATE | 3.35% |
| MARGINAL STANDING FACILITY RATE | 4.25% |
| BANK RATE | 4.25% |
| STATUTORY LIQUIDITY RATIO | 18.00% |
| CASH RESERVE RATIO | 3.00% |
| BASE RATE(s) (of various banks) | 8.15 to 9.40% |

INDIA'S RANK IN

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Global Economic Freedom Index | 105 th |
| Human Capital Index | 116 th |
| Global Innovation Index | 48 th |
| World Risk Index (WRI) | 89 th |
| Budget Transparency Index | 53 rd |
| Global Energy Transition Index | 7 th |
| Global Press Freedom Index | 142 nd |
| Inclusive Internet Index | 46 th |
| World Happiness Report | 144 th |
| Intellectual Property Index | 40 th |
| Sustainability Index | 77 th |
| Flourishing Index | 131 st |
| Climate Change Performance Index | 9 th |
| Global Talent Competitive Index | 72 nd |
| Carbon Disclosure Project Report | 5 th |
| Democracy Index 2019 | 51 st |
| Corruption Perception Index | 80 th |
| Social Mobility Index | 76 th |
| Hanley Passport Index | 84 th |
| Climate Change Performance Index | 9 th |
| Human Development Index | 129 th |

GYANM ANNOUNCES

Financial Scholarship Worth Rs. 25 Lakh

Dear Students,

We hope you and your families are safe.

The pandemic caused by Corona has been difficult for everyone. Many of us have faced financial constraints due to this. Everyday we get queries from students who want to study but can't fully afford the cost of education.

We cannot let this come in the way of our dreams. To help you achieve your goals without posing any additional burden, Gyanm is announcing special scholarships worth Rs. 25 Lakh to prepare for government exams.

Who is eligible: Anyone whose family is facing financial constraints but wants to prepare for Govt. jobs.

HOW TO GET THE SCHOLARSHIP

- Step 1.** Download Gyanm App and decide which course you want to buy
- Step 2.** Send us an email at hello@gyanm.in sharing the financial constraint you are facing and which job you want to prepare for. Also mention what can you afford
- Step 3.** We will see your email and reply within 24 hours in genuine cases.
- Step 4.** Get ready to start your journey with Gyanm and be a Govt. officer

If you don't need the scholarship, then share this with your friends as well and help them succeed.

Wishing everyone the very best.

Team Gyanm

NATIONAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER

BHEL TO BRING IN MAGLEV TECHNOLOGY

The New Delhi based public sector power engineering giant - BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.) has entered into a MoU with the Swiss Rapide AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India. Zurich based Swiss Rapide is the world leader in the planning, designing and commissioning of international Maglev Rail projects.

The Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling on rails, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway. This enables the system to be highly energy-efficient, allows operating speeds easily up to 500 km/hour and significantly reduces the total operational cost.



PM ADDRESSES THE 75th UNGA SESSION



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Sep 26 in virtual mode. As the UNGA this year is being held in the backdrop of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, it is being conducted mostly virtually.

The theme of the 75th UNGA is “The future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting the COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”.

INDIA SRI LANKA PM HOLD VIRTUAL SUMMIT

A Virtual Bilateral Summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa on 26 September. The Summit was the first virtual engagement between the two leaders. It reflected India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ approach and commitment to SAGAR doctrine. Through SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.

FIRST WORLD TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT HELD

The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8, and it was organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a virtual platform. Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the inaugural session as well as the valedictory session.

The Summit aimed to focus on state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies that will help boost efforts towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently.

ISA is an initiative launched by Prime Minister Modi and French President Mitterrand in Nov 2015 to promote and harness usage of solar power. It's headquarters are in Gurugram, Haryana. It is an alliance of 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

5th BRICS CULTURE MINISTERS MEET HELD

The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation. The delegates from Culture Ministries of the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - participated in the meeting. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlaad Singh Patel represented India at the meet.

During the meeting, discussion was held on the impact of the epidemiological situation on the cultural sphere in the BRICS countries and review of the possible implementation of joint cultural online projects within BRICS.

INDIA JOINS COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). India will be a member of the prestigious body for four years from 2021 to 2025. 45 member states of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time.

The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It promotes women's rights, highlights the reality of women's lives throughout the world and helps in shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

INDIA TO HOST SCO CHG MEET IN NOV. 20

India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi. The meeting will be held in virtual mode to discuss trade and economy related matters of mutual interest. This will be the first Prime Minister level meeting to be hosted by India since its elevation as a full-member of SCO.

SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation of eight countries, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India joined the SCO as an observer in 2005 and became a full member along with Pakistan in June, 2017. Its headquarters are in Beijing, China. It is headed by the Secretary General, currently Vladimir Norov, former foreign minister of Uzbekistan.



LITERACY RATE IMPROVES TO 77.7 % IN INDIA



With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, followed by Delhi at 88.7 per cent, and Uttarakhand at 87.6 percent. Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, trailed by Rajasthan at 69.7 percent and Bihar at 70.9 percent. The data came from the report on "Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey - from July 2017 to June 2018".

The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 per cent. In rural areas, the literacy rate is 73.5 per cent compared to 87.7 per cent in urban areas. At all-India level, the male literacy rate is higher at 84.7 percent compared to 70.3 percent among women.

CHILD MORTALITY RATE UP TO 34/1000

According to a new UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) report, the in India has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019. The report further adds that however, India along with Nigeria is still accounted for almost a third of all under-five deaths in 2019. 'The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 states that the number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lower point on record in 2019 down to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990.

The global under-five mortality rate declined by 59 per cent, from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 38 in 2019. In India, it has come down from 126 in 1990 to 34 in 2019. Child mortality is the mortality of children under the age of five. The child mortality rate, also 'under-five mortality rate', refers to the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed as per 1,000 live births.

NATION CELEBRATES 'POSHAN MAH'

The 3rd RashtriyaPoshanMah is being celebrated during the month of September. Every year, the PoshanMah is celebrated under the "PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment"-POSHAN Abhiyaan, which was launched in 2018. The objective of the PoshanMah is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari (public participation) to eradicate malnutrition and ensure health and nutrition for everyone. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan.

WELCOME NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION

India's new medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission (NMC), will come into force from Sep 25 as the Central government issued a notification for the same, abolishing the 87-year-old Medical Council of India, which was marred by corruption in its later years.

The notification names Suresh Chandra Sharma, HoD, ENT, AIIMS, New Delhi, as the chairperson of the NMC which will have four autonomous boards to regulate undergraduate medical education, postgraduate medical education, medical assessment and ratings and ethics and medical registration.

DIRECT CARGO FERRY FOR MALDIVES

A direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives commenced for the first time on Sep 21. The service will run twice a month, and will be operated by Shipping Corporation of India. It will provide a cost-effective, direct and alternative means of transportation of goods between India and Maldives. The service will leave India from Kochi for Male port in Maldives.

NEPAL BUYS DMUC TRAIN SET FROM INDIA

The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to the Nepal Railway for a price of Nepali Rs. 84.65 crore. The train would run between Jaynagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Nepal from mid-December. This will be the first broad-gauge railway service in Nepal. These trains have been manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.

IFC TO BOOST URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

The International Finance Corporation has said that two trillion dollars will be provided to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy to boost and support urban development.

IFC—a sister organization of the World Bank, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries. It is based in Washington DC, USA.



A NEW TERMINAL FOR PRIVATE JETS



India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on September 17. The new terminal will enable smooth movement of business jets and chartered aircraft. The new terminal has spacious passenger lounges, retail shops, food and beverage sections and 24x7 personal concierge services. It can handle up to 150 private jet flights per day.

MPs SALARIES CUT BY 30% FOR CORONA

The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 15. The Bill seeks to reduce the salaries of MPs and the sumptuary allowance of Ministers by 30 per cent for one year, wef April 1, 2020 to provide support to Corona fighting operations.

118 MORE MOBILE APPS BANNED

The Government has blocked 118 more mobile apps including PUBG which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, Defence of India, Security of State and Public Order. The move will safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users. This decision is a targeted move to ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace.

The 118 banned mobile apps include PUBG, WeChat, Cyber Hunter, LifeAfter and Warpath. The decision to ban these Apps was taken by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as it has received many complaints from various sources about misuse of user's data in an unauthorized manner, including its transmission to servers located outside India.

NO EXEMPTION FROM FINAL YEAR EXAMS : SC

In a long awaited judgement, the Supreme Court ruled on August 28 that students can't be promoted without holding final-year examinations by September 30 as fixed by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The state and university cannot promote the students in the final year/terminal semester without holding final-year/terminal examination, the Court ruled.

Further, the court said that a State Disaster Management Authority can postpone final-year examinations under the National Disaster Management Act.

But in such a situation, fresh dates would have to be worked out in consultation with the UGC. For any exemption from the UGC guidelines, states would have to seek permission from the UGC itself.

ASI SET UP 7 NEW CIRCLES

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the setting up of seven new administrative circles with a view to improve the management of monuments. The seven new circles include -- Trichy in Tamil Nadu, Raiganj in West Bengal, Rajkot in Gujarat, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, and Hampi in Karnataka.

INDIA RANKS 48th IN INNOVATION

For the first time, India ranked in the top 50 countries in the Global Innovation Index, released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation - WIPO. India jumped four positions to rank at 48th since 2019. India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering and R&D-intensive global companies.

The index presented the latest global trends and annual innovation ranking for 131 countries. The Index is topped by Switzerland, followed by Sweden and USA at second and third spot, respectively.

WIPO is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations, having its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

INDIA FARES POORLY IN HUMAN CAPITAL

The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries, has placed India at 116th spot, in a list of 174 countries. However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018. The Index is topped by Singapore with a score of 0.88, followed by Hong Kong at 0.81 and Japan at 0.80.

The Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 percent of the world's population — up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries. The report said that the coronavirus had deepened inequality globally, in addition to increasing poverty and distress.



INDIA 'POOR' IN FACING NATURAL CALAMITIES



India was ranked 89th among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 released by the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security at Bonn, Germany. As per the index, India was 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.

The Index is topped by the Vanuatu, a tiny island country in the south Pacific Ocean, vulnerable to highest risk exposures. Qatar was placed at the bottom with the lowest risk level.

The WRI, calculated country wise, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability, indicates preparedness of countries in coping with and adapting to extreme natural calamities.

INDIA SLIPS DOWN IN 'ECONOMIC FREEDOM'

India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to rank 105th. The Index has been released in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report prepared by Canada's Fraser Institute. It has been released in India in conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society.

The report highlighted that the prospect of increasing economic freedom in India depends on the next generation of reforms in factor markets including greater openness to international trade. The report based on 2018 data once again gave top spots to Hong Kong and Singapore, which continued their streak as first and second respectively.

The report aims to measure economic freedom — levels of personal choice, ability to enter markets, security of privately owned property, rule of law, among others — by analysing policies and institutions of 162 countries and territories.

IFFI TO BE HELD IN JANUARY, 2021

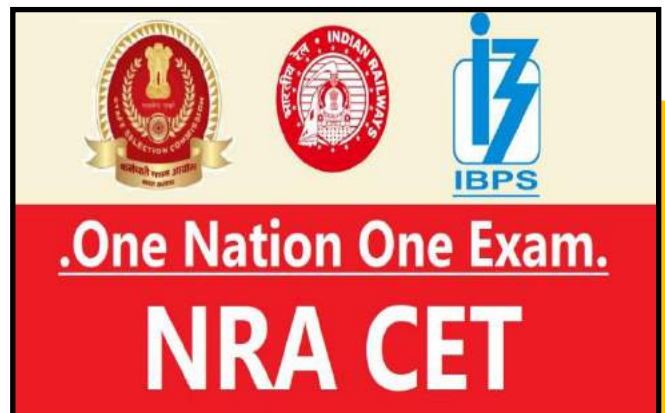
The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in Goa. Earlier it was scheduled to be held from 20th November to 28th November, this year. The festival will be conducted in a Virtual and Physical format.

AUGUST

CABINET APPROVES SETTING UP OF NRA

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to set up a National Recruitment Agency – NRA, which will conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET) for selection to non-gazetted posts in the central government and public sector banks. The decision will benefit millions of job seeking youth of the country.

- The National Recruitment Agency was first proposed by the government in the Union Budget 2020
- The NRA Agency will initially replace 3 recruiting agencies: Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS
- NRA will conduct preliminary examinations for all these three recruitment agencies.
- Now there will be a single entrance examination for all non-gazetted (non-technical) Group B and C posts.
- The multi-agency body will conduct a separate CET each for the three levels of candidates:
- Graduate, Higher secondary (12th pass) and Matriculate (10th pass)
- A CET would allow the candidates to appear any number of times and once cleared, they can apply to recruitment agencies for the higher level of examination, for up to next three years.
- The CET will be based on multiple choice objective type question papers.
- The CET will be held twice a year.
- Based on the screening done at the CET score level, final selection for recruitment shall be made by the respective recruitment agencies through separate specialised tiers (II, III etc.) of examination
- The score of CET will be valid for three years.
- There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit.
- The curriculum for this test would be common and standard.
- Nearly 2.5 to 3 crore candidates take exams for selection to 1.25 lakh government jobs each year.



- The CET would greatly ease the burden of candidates who are at present required to prepare for each of the examinations separately as per different curriculum.
- Candidates would have the facility of registering on a common portal and give a choice of centres. Based on availability, they would be allotted centres.
- The CET would be available in a number of languages. This would greatly facilitate people from different parts of the country to take the exam and have an equal opportunity of being selected.
- CET scores can be shared with the central government, state government, union territories, public sector undertakings and private sector

WITH SINGLE COMMON ENTRANCE TEST

- Candidates no longer need to spend money to fill up different applications for different jobs.
- The cost of travelling for different examinations will also be saved.
- No multiple exams
- Single examination fee would reduce the financial burden that multiple exams imposed.
- Exams will be held in every district to reduce the burden of travel expenses and women can also participate without any pressure.
- Applicants are required to register on a single Registration portal.
- No need to worry about clashing of examination dates.

BENEFITS OF CET

- It will lead to: ease of selection -- ease of job placement -- ease of living -- especially for those sections of society that are considered disadvantaged.
- This would go a long way in mitigating the hardship of candidates who spend a considerable amount of time, money and effort preparing and giving these examinations every year.
- Women candidates especially from rural areas face constraints in appearing in multiple examinations as they have to arrange for transportation and stay in places that are far away. Center in every district will avoid this.

How NRA will benefit institutions?

- Removes the hassle of conducting preliminary / screening tests of candidates.
- Drastically reduces the recruitment cycle.
- Brings standardization in the examination pattern.
- Reduces costs for different recruiting agencies.

What is a non-gazetted post?

Officers falling under the category of class III and IV are not gazetted. They do not have the personal authority to issue an official stamp on behalf of the Government. However, they can attest the financial documents.

A DREAM OF CRORES COME TRUE IN AYODHYA



Ending almost five centuries long wait, PM Modi on August 5 laid a 40-kg silver brick with a silver trowel along with several other auspicious symbolic items during the minute-long auspicious window of the 'bhoomipujan' at Ayodhya, marking the symbolic beginning of the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Describing the upcoming grand temple as the modern symbol of Indian culture, faith and national sentiment, Modi said it was the proof of a collective resolve of crores of devotees, not only in India but also around the world.

Sacred soil from more than two thousand pilgrimage centers and water from more than 100 sacred rivers was brought to Ayodhya for use in construction of Ram temple. Shankaracharya and Saints from all across the world sent many auspicious materials for BhoomiPoojan which will also be used in the construction.

The proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya will have five mandaps and one octagon shaped shikhar. The Grand Temple will be a 161 feet tall and three story structure which will have Ramlala at ground floor while Ram Darbar will be on the first floor. Second floor will be reserved for Shri Ram JanmBhoomiTeerthShetra Trust.

OSOWOG - A PLATFORM FOR SOLAR ENERGY

In his Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister announced the mega plan of "One Sun, One World, One Grid" (OSOWOG) or a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe. The ambitious OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power. The vision behind the OSOWOG is "the Sun never sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.



LARGEST NUMBER OF ORGANIC FARMERS



India has ranked first in terms of number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming. Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets. The Government initiated Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in 2015 to encourage chemical free farming. The two programmes were launched to assist farmers to adopt organic farming and improve remunerations due to premium prices.

CWC & GOOGLE TO DO FLOOD FORECASTING

The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India in association with Google has undertaken flood forecasting initiatives over the past several months, and sent numerous public alerts to people in impacted regions across the country. These alerts provide timely, updated, and critical information that can help users make informed decisions on their safety, and that of their families and friends.

Any user in the affected region having an Android smartphone with location services enabled will receive these alerts in English, Hindi or Bengali. The CWC has become the first governmental organisation to partner with Google to measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India.

UK LAUNCHES "INNOVATION CHALLENGE FUND"

The UK government has launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges such as COVID-19 and the threat to the environment.

The initiative is built on the Indian and British Prime Ministers' commitment to bring together the best minds from both countries under the UK-India Tech Partnership. It aims to deliver high-skilled jobs and economic growth as well as to collaborate on some of the world's biggest challenges.

NCC TO COVER BORDER AND COASTAL AREAS

Government approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps for a major expansion scheme to meet the aspirations of youth in all the border and coastal districts. A total of over one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted to the NCC. One-third of the Cadets would be girl Cadets. More than 1000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.

NCC was raised as the youth wing of Indian defence forces on July 15, 1948 under The National Cadet Corps Act, 1948. It is headed by a Director General and its HQ is in New Delhi. Over 14 lakh boys and girls are now part of NCC who are exposed to military training of the preliminary level, including field combat and use of small firearms.

IIT MADRAS TOPS IN INNOVATION

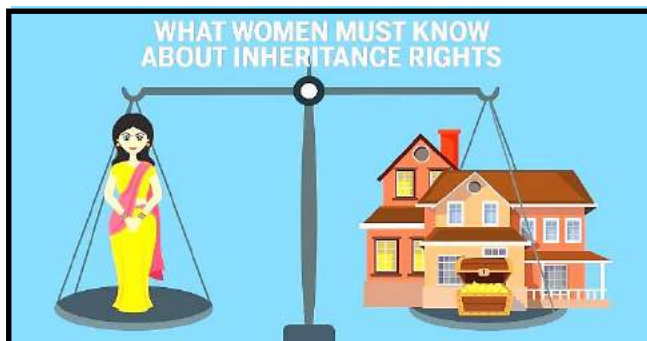
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year. The premier institute has been ranked number-one in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements' (ARIIA).

It ranks all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties. The ranking was launched last year by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. 674 Institutions of National Importance, Central Universities and centrally funded technical institutions participated in the rankings this year.

DAUGHTERS HAVE EQUAL INHERITANCE RIGHTS

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court has ruled that daughters will have inheritance rights equal to those of sons from properties of fathers and grandfathers right from the codification of the law in 1956.

The confusion arose from the apex court's conflicting interpretations of the amended Section 6 of Hindu Succession Act, which came into force from September 9, 2005. The bench said whether the father is alive or not, daughters born before September 9, 2005, too can claim equal right in inheritance.





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OFC NETWORK LAID FOR PORT BLAIR



The 2313 kilometres submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands was inaugurated on August 10. This cable project is running under-sea between Chennai and Port Blair and cost rupees 1,224 crore.

It will boost network speed and enable delivery of more reliable mobile and landline telecom services to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It will prove a boon for better digital services like digital education, tele-health, e-governance services and tourism on the island.

NTPC CROSSES 100 BILLION UNITS MARK

NTPC Group, India's biggest public sector power producer, achieved over 100 Billion Units of cumulative generation in the current financial year, between April 2020 and July 2020. According to the Central Electricity Authority data, 2600 MW NTPC Korba plant in Chattisgarh emerged as the top performing thermal power plant with 97.42 per cent plant load factor during this period.

The NTPC has a total installed capacity of 62.9 Giga Watts. It has 70 power stations comprising 24 Coal, seven combined cycle gas/liquid fuel, one hydro, 13 renewables along with 25 subsidiary and joint venture power stations.

NITI AAYOG'S AIM TO PROMOTE INCUBATORS

Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) joined hands with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST- an incubator capabilities enhancement program for an ecosystem which will be focused on creating high performing startups. The step has been taken to encourage and enable the holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across India making it the first kind of initiative for advancing innovation at scale in the country.

Business incubators are organizations geared toward speeding up the growth and success of startup and early stage companies through an array of business support resources and services that could include physical space, capital, guidance, common services, and networking connections.

\$18 MILLION LoC EXTENDED TO MALDIVES

India has extended a \$ 18 million Line of Credit to the Government of Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company. It is part of the 800 million US dollars line of credit offered by India with repayment tenor of 20 years

The project envisages investment in fish collection and storage facilities and the setting up of a tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant.

INDIA TO PROMOTE TRADE WITH MALDIVES

India has approved a \$500-million package to help the Maldives build a connectivity project linking its capital Male with three islands. A new cargo ferry service will be launched between the two countries. An air travel bubble between the two sides will become operational from August 18. India also renewed quotas for supplying essential commodities to the Maldives. All these measures are aimed at making India the Maldives' top trade partner.

ADB TO SUPPORT INDIA IN FIGHTING CORONA

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a three million US dollar grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund. This grant will further support the government's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will enhance disease surveillance and help in early detection, contact tracing, and treatment of the Corona patients.

INDIA DELIVERS 10 LOCOS TO BANGLADESH

India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh on July 27. The delivery of these locomotives, under grant assistance from India fulfils an important commitment made during the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in October last year. The locomotives have been suitably modified keeping in view the specific requirements of Bangladesh Railway. All locos have a residual life of 28 years or more and they are designed for speed of up to 120 km per hour. These locomotives will help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in Bangladesh.



INDIA DELIVERS ANTI TB DRUGS TO N KOREA



India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to North Korea in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO). The medical assistance is under the aegis of an ongoing WHO anti-tuberculosis programme in North Korea, official name - Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The medicines were delivered at Pyongyang, capital of N Korea.

INDIA GIVES \$15.46 MN FOR UN FUND

India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, underscoring the country's commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals. (UNO has adopted 17 SDGs in various development fields, to be achieved by 2030)

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is managed by the UNOSSC (United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation) and implemented under the leadership of partner developing countries leveraging the strengths of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Since the fund's inception in 2017, as many as 55 projects and proposals have been approved to date with a total contribution of \$41.8 million.

INDIA EXTENDS AGREEMENT WITH EU TILL 2025

India and European Union have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years till 2025.

This will expand the cooperation in scientific and technological research and strengthen the conduct of cooperative activities in areas of common interest and application of the results of such cooperation to their economic and social benefit.

The Agreement was initially signed on 23rd November in 2001 and renewed two times in 2007 and 2015. The agreement focuses on projects for addressing societal challenges such as affordable health care, water, energy, food and nutrition. The cooperation has been focused on water, green transport, e-mobility, clean energy, bio-economy, health, and ICT.

NEWS FROM STATES

SEPTEMBER

INDIA'S BIGGEST FILM CITY TO COME UP IN UP

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built near Hastinapur area on the Delhi - Agra Yamuna Expressway. The film city complex will be developed in 1,000 acres of land by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority. The proposed site is just six kilometres from the upcoming international airport in Jewar and around 70 km from Delhi and 150 km from Agra.

MIZORAM TOPS THE HAPPINESS REPORT

Mizoram, Punjab and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have emerged as the top three ranked states and Union Territories in the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness.

The study conducted by India's leading management strategy expert Rajesh Pillania is based on a nationwide survey covering 16,950 people between March and July 2020 and tracks the impact of COVID-19 on people. The study used six components to measure happiness — work and work-related issues such as earnings and growth; relationships, including family and friends; physical and mental health; philanthropy; spiritual orientation; and the impact of COVID-19 on happiness. Odisha, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh are the bottom three states on the index.

KARNATAKA LAUNCHES AIR AMBULANCE

Country's first integrated air ambulance service was launched in Bengaluru. Air ambulance firm International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT) will run the services in collaboration with aviation technology firm Kyathi from the HAL airport in Bengaluru. This will also be the first air ambulance based out of South India, providing services for medical emergencies. It will integrate services of aircraft, helicopter and ground vehicles to ensure smooth last mile reach.



GUJARAT TOPS IN STARTUP RANKINGS



Government announced the second edition of its state startup rankings. The rankings aim to encourage states to have an entrepreneurially conducive environment. The idea behind the exercise is to build capacities at the state level to support innovation and entrepreneurship. The rankings have been developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Gujarat among states and Andaman Nicobar among UTs were declared the best performers. Karnataka and Kerala were ranked as the top performers. The states were awarded points according to performances across seven categories – Institutional Support, Easing Compliances, Relaxation in Public Procurement norms, Incubation support, Seed Funding Support, Venture Funding Support, and Awareness & Outreach.

India is home to over 50,000 startups with over 30 unicorns. In business, a unicorn is a privately held startup company with a current valuation of US \$1 billion or more.

ANDHRA TOPS IN EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings. Uttar Pradesh and Telangana bagged second and third positions respectively.

The rankings reflect the level of ease of doing business on the basis of performance of the state on parameters such as construction permit, labour regulation, environmental registration, access to information, land availability and single window system.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry conducts the exercise for all States and Union Territories under the Business Reform Action Plan. The BRAP ranking aims at triggering competition among states to improve business climate in order to attract domestic and global investors.

RS. 209 Cr. PIGGERY MISSION IN MEGHALAYA

Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out in Meghalaya on Sep 10. It aims to bolster farmers' income as well as make the State self-sufficient in the production of pork which has a huge domestic market. The integrated project has been launched as a partnership among the Meghalaya, central government and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory corporation under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

RO-RO RAIL LAUNCHED FROM BENGALURU

A new Roll-on-Roll off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in Maharashtra was flagged off on August 31. The Ro-Ro rail, as it is called in short, is capable of transporting 42 trucks loaded with goods weighing 1,260 tonnes.

This has been introduced with an objective to provide environment friendly railway transport service that will also ease congestion on highways. The APMC agriculture market and Peenya industrial cluster in Bengaluru will benefit from this.

KERALA CELEBRATES ONAM: SANS FANFARE

Keralites across the globe celebrated the popular festival Thiruvonam on August 31. Thiruvonam is the most auspicious day of Onam festival. This annual harvest festival of the State celebrates the visit of mythical and righteous King Mahabali. Beautiful flower carpets are laid to welcome King Mahabali into homes and hearts. Onam marks the season of plenty, but this time the Covid pandemic had taken the sheen out of the festivities.

650 MN EUROS FOR KANPUR METRO

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is set to invest 650 million Euros for the construction of Kanpur's first city metro line. The new metro rail in Kanpur will help reduce commuting time and provide fast and affordable public transport to almost 3 million people in the city.

The EIB is the lending arm of the European Union and is the biggest multilateral finance agency of the world, having its base in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.



FLIPKART TO PUSH HANDICRAFTS OF ASSAM



The e-commerce giant Flipkart has signed an agreement with the. The partnership will enable the state's local artisans, weavers and craftsmen to showcase their hallmark products to millions of customers across the country, particularly the exclusive silk and bamboo and cane items.

WB LOAN FOR HIMACHAL ROADS

The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project which will strengthen transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh by improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of the state road network.

AUGUST

GUJARAT TOPS EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX

NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. EPI intends to identify challenges and opportunities; enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework. The structure of the EPI includes four pillars which are Export Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.

The Index ranked all the states and Union Territories on crucial parameters that are critical for any typical economic unit to achieve sustainable export growth. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupied the top three ranks, in descending order.

INDORE DECLARED 'CLEANEST CITY' – 4th TIME

Indore in Madhya Pradesh has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the SwachhSurvekshan 2020 awards. The city bagged the position for the fourth consecutive time. Surat and Navi Mumbai grabbed the second and third positions, respectively.

- New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.
- Chhattisgarh was awarded the first place in the states with over 100 cities

- Jharkhand stood first among states with less than 100 cities.
- Jalandhar Cantonment Board was conferred the cleanest cantonment board in the country.
- Ahmedabad in Gujarat was awarded for being the cleanest city with over 40 lakh population.

Swachh Survekshan was introduced by the government with the objective of generating large-scale citizen participation in the mission, along with inculcating a spirit of healthy competition among cities towards becoming India's cleanest cities.

KARGIL AND LEH EXCEL IN MNREGA

Kargil and Leh districts in Ladakh Union Territory are standing as models for the rest of the country by creating highest man days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). More over this year, the beneficiaries have started receiving remuneration within the ten days directly from the National e-Fund Management System.

Kargil has over 18 thousand job card holders in the district and it achieved 2.20 lakh man days of jobs since April 2020. Similarly in Leh district over 2.65 lakh mandays were created so far for over 10,000 job card holders.

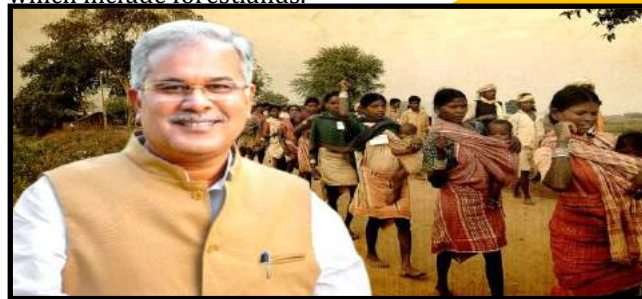
MNREGA provides for at least 100 days work in year for a minimum one person per family in all the villages of India.

UP SIGNS MOU WITH ISRAEL FOR BUNDELKHAND

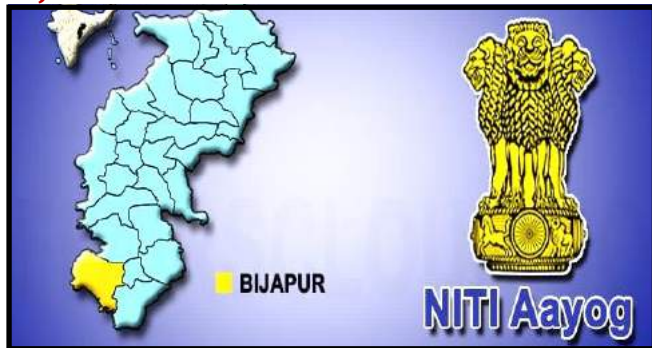
The Uttar Pradesh government signed a MoU with Israel for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state. Under the project, the water harvesting work will be done in the area through improved agricultural measures and integrated drip irrigation. As many as 25 villages will be included under this project in the part of Bundelkhand region located in Southern UP. Its major part lies in adjoining northern Madhya Pradesh.

JAGDALPUR FIRST MC TO GIVE FORESTS RIGHTS

Chhattisgarh government has decided to provide urban forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes. The Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation became the first urban body in the country to provide land entitlement in city's forests to the urban tribals. Jagdalpur is one of the few municipal corporations of India, jurisdiction areas of which include forestlands.



BIJAPUR TOPS THE ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS



Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think-tank NitiAayog for the February-June 2020 period. Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions respectively.

The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by 115 aspirational districts across six developmental areas during February-June this year. The six areas are -- health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.

The Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme, launched in January, 2018, aims to transform the 115 selected districts (at least one from every state) that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and have emerged as pockets of under-development. The programme is being implemented by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with several union ministries and state governments.

The development is monitored on 49 key performance indicators in six segments. Districts first aspire to catch-up with the best district within the State, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

UNESCO APPRECIATES TWO ODISHA VILLAGES

For the first in India as well as the Indian ocean region, two coastal villages of Odisha have been declared 'Tsunami-Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, commending their overall preparedness to face the calamity. The two villages are Venkatraipur village in Ganjam district and Noliasahi village in Jagatsingpur district. The villages have been developed by the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, which was set up in the state following the 1999 super cyclone that claimed over 10,000 lives. With this award, the state is motivated to make the 326 villages and urban local bodies tsunami ready in one year's time.

The Indian ocean Tsunami, triggered by an earthquake of 9.1-9.3 magnitude on the Richter scale on December 26, 2004, swept through 14 different countries in Indian ocean region killing over 2.3 lakh people, most of them in Indonesia.

UP TIES UP WITH FLIPKART TO PUSH ARTISANS

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme. The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative. This will provide them an opportunity to expand their business online as they face several challenges in developing and marketing their products.

The Flipkart Samarth initiative, launched in July, 2019, offers to the artisans various support services like guidance, cataloging presentation, packaging, warehousing, and training, dedicated space in Flipkart's fulfilment centres, constant seller support along with necessary financial support.

The ODOP Programme aims to encourage each one of the 75 districts to promote the best indigenous and specialized product and craft of the district. Some such products include rare and intriguing wheat-stalk craft, world-famous chikankari and zari-zardozi work on garments, and the intricate and stunning horn-bone work that uses the remains of dead animals rather than live ones.

GOOGLE TO SUPPORT SCHOOL EDUCATION

The Maharashtra state has become the first state in the country to tie up with global IT giant Google to provide online education to all the school students in the state. The project will cover over 1.09 lakh government, private, aided, and unaided schools, and benefit over 22.03 million students. Students and teachers will get access to Google Classroom and G Suite for Education that will provide solutions to support remote learning.

INDIA'S LONGEST ROPEWAY IN GUWAHATI

The Assam government launched India's longest cable ropeway over Brahmaputra River. The 2 km long ropeway will connect KachariGhat in Guwahati to DolGovinda temple in North Guwahati. The ropeway will take 6-7 minutes to cover the journey, reducing the normal travel time by land route by almost one hour. The cable cars can carry 32 passengers at a time.



NEW CAMPUS FOR IIM SIRMAUR, H P



The foundation stone of the new campus of Indian Institute of Management, Sirmaur, was laid in Dhaula Kuan, near Paonta Sahib, district Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. IIM Sirmaur was operationalised by IIM Lucknow in August 2015 as the mentor Institution with the commencement of the first batch of post graduate programme for 20 students from its temporary campus at Paonta Sahib.

The new permanent campus at Dhaula Kuan has been envisaged for a student strength of 1170. The Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs 531.75 cr. out of which Rs 392.51 crore is for construction works.

IIMs were established by the central government as the institute of excellence in management studies to produce high calibre managers for meeting the requirement of upcoming Indian industry. The beginning was made in 1961 with two IIMs, one in Kolkata and the second in Ahmedabad. At present there are 20 IIMs.

GREEN RAMAYANA PARK IN UTTARAKHAND

The Forest Department of Uttarakhand has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani. The park has species mentioned in Valmiki's Ramayan and is linked with Lord Rama. Valmiki's Ramayana mentions around 139 plant species out of which 90% still exist in the areas as mentioned in the book.

The park has species in connection with the journey of Lord Rama across four major types of forest in the country. The plants have names in Sanskrit, the same as mentioned in the Ramayana of Sage Valmiki. In addition to this, their scientific names and a precise number of 'Shloka' have also been mentioned.

AFSPA EXTENDED IN ASSAM TILL FEB. 2021

The Assam government extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28. The state has been declared a "disturbed area" on account of recent insurgent attacks on security forces in the Northeast and recovery of illegal arms and ammunition from different areas of Assam.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct search operations, arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice. It has been continuing in Assam since November 1990. It is renewed every six months.

\$ 1 BN ADB LOAN FOR DELHI-MEERUT RRTS

Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of \$1 billion to support the construction of the high-speed, modern Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System. The Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) is 82 kms stretch and is the first of the three priority rail corridors in India's integrated transport network under NCR Regional Plan of 2021.

\$500 MN LOAN FROM AIIB FOR MUMBAI METRO

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III. This will improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.

AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social infrastructures in Asia. It has 103 members with HQs in Beijing, China. Jin Liqun of China is its current President.

- ❖ *Goa's traditional festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy HarmalChilli and Mandoli Banana (Moiri Banana) have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.*

GOVT. INITIATIVES

SEPTEMBER

THE THREE FARM BILLS

ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW

Recently, the Parliament passed three important bills related to the farm sector aimed at liberalising the farm sector and strengthening the hands of farmers. However, in a number of states, particularly Punjab and Haryana, farmers are protesting against these bills terming them anti farmers. Let's have a look at these bills.



Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

The Bill aims to create an ecosystem which allows farmers to trade their produce outside the markets or 'mandis' notified under the various state agricultural produce market laws (state APMC Acts). It also allows 'barrier-free' intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside state APMCs.

The states are opposing the legislation as they stand to lose 'mandi fees' if farmers are allowed to trade outside designated state.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

This bill lays down a framework for contract farming in India. It allows farmers to sell their produce to agro firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters, or corporates at a future date at a pre-agreed price.

The protestors argue that the mechanism will weaken the hand of mostly uneducated farmers during negotiations with suave cash-rich corporates.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The bill aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. It aims to curb the stockholding of these essential items unless special circumstances such as war warrant it. The bill aims to create a competitive environment and modernise farm supply chains by the introduction of cold storages.

Protestors argue that the Bill will allow private companies to stockpile these commodities giving them the leverage to dictate price terms to farmers.

PARLIAMENT PASSES THREE LABOUR CODES

In a historic move, the Parliament passed three labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws. These labour codes are Industrial Relations Code; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, and Social Security Code. These labour codes aim to introduce transparency in the changing business environment.

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY BILL PASSED

Parliament passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020 on Sep 22. The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University at Gandhinagar, Gujarat as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University as an institution of national importance.

The Rashtriya Raksha University is proposed to be a multi-disciplinary university to create new knowledge through research and collaboration with different stakeholders. It will fulfill the need for a pool of trained professionals with specialized knowledge and new skill sets in various wings of policing, the criminal justice system and correctional administration.

NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

The Rajya Sabha passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 on Sep 22. Lok Sabha has already passed it. The Bill seeks to establish a National Forensic Sciences University as an institution of national importance by upgrading the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The proposed NFS University would help in facilitating and promoting studies and research in the field of forensic science. The university would also offer courses in applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.

Forensic science is the application of scientific knowledge and methodology to criminal investigations and legal problems. It is a multidisciplinary subject involving various fields of science such as chemistry, biology, physics, geology, psychology, social science, engineering, etc.

'BEST BEFORE' TAG MUST FOR LOOSE SWEETS

The Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI) issued a notification stating that "...in case of non-packaged and loose sweets, the container and tray holding the sweets at the outlet for sale, must display the best-before date mandatorily from October 1, 2020". The food business operator dealing in loose sweets may also display the date of manufacturing which shall be voluntary and non-binding.

'KRITAGYA' FOR FARM MECHANISATION

With an aim to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has announced KRITAGYA (Krishi-Taknik-Gyan) hackathon under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project. Students, faculties, and innovators or entrepreneurs from universities and technical institutions can apply and participate in the event in the form of a group.



ROADMAP FOR LAND LEASING IN FARMING



The Centre has set up a high-level committee to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in the agriculture sector. The roadmap aims to develop a framework for the rights of landless farm workers who miss out on welfare benefits. The committee will be headed by Ajay Tirkey, the secretary of the department of land resources under the ministry of rural development.

WHATSAPP & CSCs TO PUSH DIGITAL LITERACY

WhatsApp has teamed up with Common Services Centers (CSC) to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services and resources in the country. Programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) and the Digital Beti initiative will be available in English, Hindi, and seven other regional languages.

The programme aims to address challenges thrown by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic that has disrupted education and skill development initiatives across the country.

People can send 'Namaste' to CSC Academy's official WhatsApp account at 9999189321, in order to access details about course modules of flagship programmes like Digital Beti and PMGDISHA.

INDIA POST LAUNCHES 'FIVE STAR VILLAGES'

In order to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services in interior villages, the Department of Posts has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages' to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. All postal products and services, including Postal Life Insurance and government schemes like Sukanya Samridhi, Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana will be made available and marketed and publicized at the village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme. Branch offices will function as a one-stop-shop to cater to all post-office-related needs of villagers.

DISPUTE REDRESSAL SYSTEM FOR SHIPPING

Union Minister of State for Shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya launched a dispute redressal mechanism for the Maritime sector. Named "SAROD-Ports" (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes-Ports), it aims to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.

SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours. It will promote ease of doing business in the maritime sector because of the fast, timely, cost-effective and robust dispute resolution mechanism.

CITIES TO BE MADE CLIMATE FRIENDLY

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0 in a virtual event. The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

He also launched the "Streets for People Challenge" as a response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly. The Challenge will support cities across the country to develop a unified vision of streets for people in consultation with stakeholders and citizens.

'PARAKH' TO IMPROVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The Prime Minister announced the setting up of the National Evaluation Centre, 'Parakh' for overall improvement in the evaluation system. PARAKH - "Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development" will be established to improve the overall evaluation system in education. *It will help states in offering quality standardised assessments, and in providing regular data for improving quality. In the long term, this could help India align with global benchmarks such as the Programme for International Student Assessment, PISA.*



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GTAM LAUNCHED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY



Indian power market crossed another milestone with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity. Introduction of the GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States and will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the renewable energy sector. *It will benefit buyers of renewable energy through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement. It will also benefit renewable energy sellers by providing access to the pan-India market.*

GTAM contracts will allow additional avenues to the renewable energy generators for sale of energy.

'MISSION KARMYOGI' FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. The scheme will lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world.

Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.

The institutional framework will consist of Prime Minister's Public Human Resources Council, Capacity Building Commission, Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and the technological platform for online training, and Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

The Public Human Resources Council will comprise of select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders and Public Service functionaries. It will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction to the task of Civil Services Reform and capacity building.

To cover around 46 lakh Central employees, a sum of 510.86 crore rupees will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 on this mission.

NATIONAL LAND BANK PORTAL LAUNCHED

Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal virtually launched a first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal which will As much as 4.2 lakh hectares of land has been mapped across 3,275 industrial clusters in India, of which about 1.13 lakh hectares of land is available for investors.

The portal will provide details of logistics, land, rail & air connectivity, tax incentives, drainage system, power supply and raw material availability from the various industrial belts. To start with, extensive information about industrial belts in six states is available on the portal and soon all states will be covered by December. The government aims to attract investors at a time when anti-China sentiments are growing globally.

CHALLENGE "CHUNAUTI" TO BOOST STARTUPS

Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns (population above one lakh/up to ten lakh) of the country. It aims at identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and providing them seed funds of upto 25 lakh rupees and other facilities.

Under this challenge the Ministry will invite startups in the areas of work including Edu Tech, Agri Tech and FinTech solutions for masses, Supply Chain and Logistic management, Infrastructure, Medical Healthcare as well as jobs and skilling. The government has earmarked a budget of over 95 crore rupees over a period of three years for this programme.

HELPLINE FOR MENTAL REHABILITATION

The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot launched 'Kiran', a toll-free helpline number 1800-599-0019 for mental health rehabilitation. The helpline aims to provide first aid, support for the early screening, distress management, psychological support, preventing deviant behaviours, mental well-being, psychological crisis management, among others.

The helpline will attempt to resolve the issues faced by the people experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, panic attack, post-traumatic stress disorder, adjustment disorder, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, mental health emergency, and pandemic induced psychological issues.



NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ANNOUNCED

After a gap of 34 years, the union cabinet approved on July 29, the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The Cabinet also approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to the Education Ministry. The extant National Policy on Education was formed in 1986 under the leadership of then prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi and was last revised in 1992.

Process for the new policy started in October 2015 when a 'Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy' was set up under the chairmanship of TSR Subramanian, former cabinet secretary. The Committee submitted its report in May 2016. Based on this report, a panel led by former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan prepared a well researched draft of the new NEP that was submitted in May, 2019.

Highlights of the new policy

Some of the main highlights of the new Policy include a single regulator for higher education institutions, multiple entry and exit options in degree courses, discontinuation of MPhil programmes, board exams only for 12th, common entrance exams for universities, etc.

The Policy aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3 per cent in 2018 to 50 per cent by 2035. To achieve this, at least 3.5 crore new seats will be added to higher education institutions.

The new academic curriculum has been structured into four parts as 5+3+3+4 as under:

Foundation stage (3 to 8 years): First 5 years- 3 years pre nursery + class 1&2; multi level play activity based learning

Preparatory Stage (8-11 years): Class 3 to 5; play, discovery and activity based interactive classroom learning in regional language

Middle Stage (11-14 years): Class 6 to 8; experiential learning in science, maths, social science, arts and humanities

Secondary stage (14-18 years): Class 9 to 12; multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and choice of subjects to students

NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launching of National Digital Health Mission, a "completely technology-based" initiative. Under NDHM, every Indian will get a digital Health ID card that will contain all relevant information about his/her past medical conditions, treatment and diagnostic reports and the medicines prescribed by the doctor.

Every time a card holder visits the doctor or a pharmacy, all details including prescriptions will be updated in the health ID card. It will allow patients to access health services remotely through tele-consultation and e-pharmacies, as well as offer other health-related benefits. *The Mission aims to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of health services in the country. It has been launched under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).*

TRANSPARENT TAXATION PLATFORM LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched "Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest" platform to honour the honest taxpayers of the country. The platform will bring in faceless assessment, faceless appeal, and taxpayers' charter. Faceless assessment and taxpayers charter became operative with immediate effect, whereas faceless appeal service will be available from September 25.

In the faceless assessment, the taxpayer is assured of fair, courteous and rational behavior. The new platform will instill a sense of fearlessness among the honest taxpayers who play an important role in national development. The income tax department will take care of the taxpayer's dignity sensitively and anyone will not be doubted without any basis.

'HARIT PATH' APP FOR HIGHWAY PLANTATIONS

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari launched a GPS based mobile app 'Harit Path' to monitor the plantation along the national highways. Under the 'Harit Bharat Initiative', the NHAI planted over 25 lakh plants along the stretches of the national highways between July 21 and August 15, 2020.

The app helps to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of its field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.



SWADESHI MICROPROCESSOR CHALLENGE

Government launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat " to invite innovators, startups and students to use two microprocessors namely "SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)" to develop various technology products. This initiative is aimed at not only meeting India's future requirements of strategic and industrial sectors but also has the potential to mitigate the issues of security, licensing, technology obsolescence and most crucially cutting dependency on imports.

A financial support of Rs. 4.30 crore will be provided at various stages of the challenge for developing the hardware prototype. SHAKTI & VEGA microprocessors have been developed by IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC), respectively.

"AYUSH FOR IMMUNITY" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The Ministry of AYUSH launched a three-month campaign called "Ayush for Immunity", aimed at increasing awareness about affordable and easy practices that can be adopted for enhancing immunity and preventing any disease.

E-PORTAL LAUNCHED FOR TRIBAL HEALTH

Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya'. The portal provides all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India on a single platform. Swasthya will also curate innovative practices, case studies, and best practices collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences.

SEP 2.0 LAUNCHED BY AIM

NitiAayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with Dell Technologies, the US based multinational tech company. The programme has been launched for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) and it will enable them to work closely with Dell volunteers. It will help students receive support and guidance to manufacture fully-functional, market-ready new digital products along with patenting their ideas/processes.



GOVT TO LAUNCH PROJECT LION & DOLPHIN



The Central Government is planning to launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin to replicate the success of Project Tiger. Both the projects are aimed at conservation and progression of the two species. Project Dolphin will focus on both the sea and river dolphins which will also give a boost to biodiversity and will create employment opportunities by promoting tourism.

Under Project Lion, the work on the infrastructure for the security and protection of Indian Lions will be undertaken. Asiatic Lions have been confined to Gir National Park and its surrounding environments in Gujarat's Saurashtra region. The Gangetic Dolphins are found in River Ganges. Both the species have been categorized as 'endangered' on the Red List of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Paris.

"SURAKHSYA" PORTAL LAUNCHED TO CURB HEC

The National Portal on human elephant conflict (HEC), named "Surakhsya" was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forest for collection of real time information and also for managing the conflicts on a real time basis. It will help to set the data collection protocols, data transmission pipelines and data visualization tools to enable policy-makers to leverage HEC data for policy formulation and for preparation of Action Plans for curbing the conflicts.

'KISAN RAIL' FOR AGRI PRODUCTS

Country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or "Kisan Rail" was flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra for Bihar's Danapur Railway station. The train will transport agricultural produce from Maharashtra region to Bihar region and vice versa.

It will carry fruits and vegetables and will make stoppages at several stations and pick-up and deliver them. The Kisan Rail with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.

The train will cover a distance of one thousand 519 kilometres in around 32 hours. The announcement for starting such special trains for smoother movement of farm produce was made in the Budget 2020-21.

'MAUSAM' APP BY METEOROLOGICAL DEPTT.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department. The app offers five services – current temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction for 200 cities and the information is updated eight times a day.

There is information on sunrise, sunset, moonrise and moonset, three hourly warnings of local weather phenomena and their intensity issued for about 800 stations, and forecast of weather conditions for 450 cities for the past 24 hours and seven day.

Users can access observed weather, forecasts, radar images and be proactively warned of impending weather events. It is dedicated to the general public and designed to communicate the weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner without technical jargons. The app is available both on Play Store and Appstore.

KVIC SCHEME FOR INCENSE STICKS

The MSME ministry has approved a new scheme by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti (incense sticks) production. The scheme named as KhadiAgarbattiAatmanirbhar Mission aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially. KVIC will offer 25% subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75% of the cost from the artisans in the form of easy monthly installments.

VIDYARTHI VIGYAN MANTHAN LAUNCHED

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the 2020-21 edition of 'VidyarthiVigyanManthan'. Started in 2011, it is a national programme for popularizing science among school students of class 6 to 11. It was designed to identify the bright minds with a scientific aptitude among the student community.

It is an initiative of VijnanaBharati (VIBHA), in collaboration with VigyanPrasar, an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an institution under the Ministry of Education.



'BIS-CARE' APP LAUNCHED



A mobile app named 'BIS-Care' was launched by the Consumer Affairs Ministry. Consumers can use this app for checking the authenticity of ISI and hallmark quality certified products. Consumers can check the authenticity of ISI and Hallmark quality certified products and lodge complaints in Hindi and English. Further, three portals of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) were also launched on standardisation, conformity assessment and training, which consumers and stakeholders can login through www.manakonline.in.

The BIS is the national standards setting body in the country. So far, it has set 20,866 standards and mandatory standards for 358 products. The ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for industrial products in India since 1955 while Hallmark is a quality certification for gold jewellery.

DEFENCE PROD & EXPORT PROMOTION POLICY

The Union Defence Ministry has formed a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020. It will be a guiding document to provide a significant thrust to India's defence production capabilities to strengthen the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package'.

The policy framework aims to position India among the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors. It aims to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 crore including export of Rs 35,000 crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.

INDIA REPORT ON DIGITAL EDUCATION, 2020

HRD Minister Ramesh PokhriyalNishank released the India Report on Digital Education, 2020 on July 29. The report elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by the Ministry of HRD, Education Departments of States and Union Territories for ensuring accessible and inclusive education to children at home and reducing learning gaps. Some of the major projects initiated by the ministry to assist teachers, scholars and students in their pursuit of learning include DIKSHA platform, SwayamPrabha TV Channel, On Air - Shiksha Vani, e-PathShala and telecast through TV channels.

RAILWAY TO END RECRUITMENT OF 'KHALASIS'

The railways is set to end a colonial-era practice of appointing "khalasis" or "bungalow peons" who worked at the residences of senior officials, following an order from the Railway Board barring any new appointment to the post.

In an order issued on August 6, the Railway Board said that the issue regarding telephone attendant-cum-dakkhalasis (TADKs) is under review and no new recruitment should be considered for them. After joining the railways as temporary staff, TADKs become Group D staff following a screening process after a period of around three years.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES CAN BE SOLD SANS BATTERY

In an attempt to encourage usage of electric vehicles, the Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without pre-fitted batteries. This will reduce the upfront cost of these vehicles as the battery alone accounts for almost 30-40 percent of the total cost of the electric vehicles. The battery can be provided separately by the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) or the energy service provider. The move is aimed at reducing vehicular pollution and also the oil import bill.

FASTAG MANDATORY FOR AVAILING DISCOUNT

Government has made FASTag mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country. The decision has been taken to promote digital mode of payment and ensure seamless travel on the National Highways.

The Ministry of Road transport and Highways had amended the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008 to allow discount for users making a return journey within 24 hours and other local exemptions only in cases where the vehicle carries a valid functional FASTag.

Minister Road transport and Highways: Nitin Gadkari

47 MORE CHINESE APPS BANNED

India has banned 47 more Chinese apps on July 24 which were clones of 59 Chinese apps which were banned on June 29. The banned clone apps include TikTok Light and Cam Scanner Advance. The order issued by the Ministry of Electronics and IT said that the new ban is aimed at those apps that were facilitating access to previously banned services such as TikTok and Cam Scanner.



ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

SEPTEMBER

GDP DOWN BY MASSIVE 23.9%



The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on August 31 showed that the Indian economy contracted by massive 23.9 per cent in the April to June quarter (Q1 FY21) as COVID-19 pandemic compressed consumer demand and private investments.

"The GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 26.9 lakh crore as against Rs 35.35 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 23.9 percent as compared to 5.2 per cent growth in Q1 2019-20," said the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in a statement. India was in a recession last in 1979 when the real GDP fell 5.2 percent.

The manufacturing sector contracted 39.3 percent from a growth of 3 percent last year, while the mining sector shrank by 23.3 percent from a growth of 4.7 percent last year, reflecting the collective shuttering of operations forced by lockdowns.

The only saving grace was a 3.5 per cent growth in the agriculture sector.

INDIAN ECONOMY TO SLIP BY 5.9% - UNCTAD

The Trade and Development Report 2020 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states that impacted by disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, India's economy is forecast to contract by 5.9 per cent in 2020, though the growth will rebound next year. It further said that the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output short by over \$ 6 trillion by year's end.

ADB PROJECTS 9% SLIP FOR INDIA'S GDP

Manila based Asian Development Bank in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020 update, projected that India's economic growth will contract by 9 per cent in the current fiscal (2020-21) as the coronavirus pandemic weighs heavily on economic activity and consumer sentiment in the country. At the same time, it projected a strong recovery for the Indian economy in 2021-22, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 8 per cent as mobility and business activities resume more widely.

MSP HIKED FOR RABI CROPS



The Union Government announced an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops. The decision was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, in his statement made in the Lok Sabha informed that the hike in nMSPs is in consonance with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission's report.

| Crops | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | Hike (%) |
|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Lentil | 4800 | 5100 | 6.3 |
| Mustard | 4425 | 4650 | 5.1 |
| Barley | 1525 | 1600 | 4.9 |
| Gram | 4875 | 5100 | 4.6 |
| Wheat | 1925 | 1975 | 2.6 |
| Safflower | 5215 | 5327 | 2.1 |

INDIAN ECONOMY TO SHRINK BY 9% : S&P

S & P Global Ratings, USA slashed its FY 2020-21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9%, from (-) 5% estimated earlier, saying that rising Covid cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer. It said risks to the growth outlook include a weaker recovery in informal sectors of the economy and deeper economic losses for micro and small enterprises. However, for 2021-22 fiscal, it expects economic growth to be at 10 percent.

FDI IN DEFENCE RAISED TO 74%

The Union Cabinet on Sep 8 approved a new policy for raising the cap of foreign direct investment (FDI) through automatic approval in the defence sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent, with a 'National Security' clause as a condition. The new condition proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says "Foreign investment in the Defence Sector shall be subject to scrutiny on ground of National Security and the Government reserves the right to review any foreign investment in the Defence Sector that may affect national security".

The government has been focusing on the defence sector to act as an engine for boosting manufacturing in the country, and is aiming to achieve a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, including exports worth Rs 35,000 crore, by 2025. As of last year, the defence industry, along with the aerospace and shipbuilding industry, was estimated to be worth Rs 80,000 crore, of which the share of PSUs was nearly 80%, or Rs 63,000 crore.

BROAD GAUGE TO BE ELECTRIFIED BY 2023

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal stated that Railways has planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. Around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. Remaining 23,765 route kilometre lines will be electrified by 2023.

NEW RIVER ROUTE FOR BANGLADESH

The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura started on Sep 3 through river Gumti. The MV Premier sailed from Daudkandi with 50 metric tonne of cement cargo for Sonamura in Tripura, covering a distance of 93 kilometers.

The route will connect Tripura with Bangladesh using the inland waterways for the first time. The new route will greatly enhance connectivity between Bangladesh and the North Eastern states of India boosting bilateral trade with Bangladesh.

PGCIL GOES FOR ASSET MONETISATION

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) through infrastructure investment trust which would help the firm garner Rs 7,000 crore in the first lot. This is for the first time that any PSU in the power sector will undertake asset recycling by monetising its assets through the InvIT (investment trust) model.

The proceeds from the asset monetisation would be deployed by POWERGRID in their new and under-construction projects. The PGCIL, a public limited company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, is engaged in the business of power transmission.



RELIANCE FIRST TO CROSS \$200 BILLION MARK



Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd closed over 7 per cent higher on Sep 10, helping its market valuation cross the USD 200 billion mark and become the first domestic company to achieve that milestone. The company's market capitalisation rose by Rs 97,246.46 crore to Rs 14,67,350.26 crore from Rs 13,70,103.80 crore in the previous trade. The share price of the country's most valuable firm rose by 7.10 per cent to close at Rs 2,314.65 on the BSE.

RELIANCE ACQUIRES BIG BAZAAR CHAIN

Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar) businesses for Rs 24,713 crore to add to its fast expanding retail business and bolster e-commerce to take on the competition from Amazon.com. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd., subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd will acquire the retail and wholesale business and the logistics and warehousing business from the Future Group.

VODAFONE +IDEA = 'VI'

Popular telecom brands Vodafone and Idea rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'. The integration of Vodafone and Idea marks the culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world. The new brand is aimed at effectively facing the competition offered by rivals Jio and Airtel. Vodafone and Idea had merged together as one entity two years ago on August 31, 2018.



BANKING & FINANCE

SEPTEMBER

BANKING AMENDMENT BILL PASSED BY LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 16 to replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated on 26th June this year. The bill seeks to bring parity in terms of rules and regulations in co-operative banks as applicable in other commercial banks. The bill enables the RBI to make a scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation of co-operative banks to secure their proper management, and in the interest of depositors.

BANKS TO AUTOMATE NPA OPERATIONS

The Reserve Bank of India has mandated banks to fully automate NPA classification and provisioning calculation process. Under this, all borrower accounts will be covered. The process has to be completed by June 30, 2021. RBI expects Banks to ensure that the asset classification status is updated as part of the day-end process. Further, banks should not resort to manual intervention-based asset classification processes.



Currently, Banks are still found to be resorting to manual identification of NPAs and also overriding the system-generated asset classification by manual intervention in a routine manner, in an attempt to show lesser NPAs.

PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING NORMS REVISED

Reserve Bank of India has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines aimed at addressing regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit. Under the new guidelines bank finance to start-ups up to 50 crore rupees, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed BioGas plants have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.

Priority sector loans refer to loans that banks need to lend mandatorily to agriculture, small business, housing and economically weaker sections of the society. As per the RBI guidelines, all commercial banks are required to lend not less than 40 percent of their loans to the priority sector. Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend 70 percent of their total lendings to the priority sector.

C'TEE TO REVIEW RELIEF TO BORROWERS



Government has constituted a three member expert committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The committee will assess the impact of waiving of interest and COVID-19 related moratorium on the national economy and financial stability. The committee has been formed to respond to various issues that have been raised during the ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court in the matter regarding relief sought in terms of waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest and other related issues.

BANKS TO HAVE UNIFORM COMPLIANCE PRACTICES

The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines to enforce uniform compliance practices across banks. Among the requirements laid down by the central bank are a board-approved compliance policy, appointment of a chief compliance officer (CCO) and internal audit of the compliance function. As part of a robust compliance system, banks are required to have an effective compliance culture, an independent corporate compliance function and a strong compliance risk management programme at the bank and group levels.

BANKS TO START 'DOORSTEP BANKING'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sep 9 inaugurated the Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks. Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App. The services shall be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 cities across the country.

At present only non-financial services like pick up of negotiable instruments, new cheque book requisition slip, 15G / 15H forms, IT / GST challan, issue request for standing instructions, request for account statement are available to customers. Financial services shall be made available from next month at a nominal charge.



ADITYA BIRLA IDEA PAYMENTS BANK

Reserve Bank of India has ceased the banking operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank under Banking Regulations Act 1949 with effect from July 28, 2020. The bank had already applied for its winding up (closing) operations in July last year due to its economically non viable operations. The bank was started in February, 2018 in which Aditya Birla Nuvo held 51 per cent stake and Idea Cellular held 49 per cent stake. RBI had issued licenses to 11 firms in August 2015 for starting the Payment Banks.

SPECIAL BANK ACCOUNT FOR STARTUPS

ICICI Bank launched a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs such as regulatory assistance, analytics, staffing, accounting, customer acquisition and digital outreach to customers, among others. Named 'iStartup2.0', it will be in the form of a Current Account. New businesses (up to 10 years old) can opt for this Current Account. It offers significant convenience to founders/entrepreneurs as it saves time and efforts since they don't have to fill details again to apply for an account.

SBI TIES UP WITH TITAN PAY

Country's top lender State Bank of India (SBI) and Titan Watch Company have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'. With this launch, SBI account holders will have to download YONO app of SBI and then can tap their Titan Pay watch on contactless payment point-of-sale (POS) machines without the need of swiping or inserting their debit card to enjoy a faster, hassle-free, contactless payment mechanism.

BOI LAUNCHES CONTACTLESS CARD

Bank of India, on the occasion of its 115th Foundation Day, launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above. This card will have a spending limit of up to Rs.5 lakhs on PoS and e-commerce and Rs. 1 lakh on ATM.

EASE BANKING REFORMS INDEX AWARDS

Indian Banks Association (IBA) announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks. Bank of Baroda secured the first spot while State Bank of India and formerly Oriental Bank of Commerce, got the 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

The EASE stands for 'Enhanced Access and Service Excellence'. The EASE Banking Reforms Index is prepared by the IBA and Boston Consulting Group. It is commissioned by the Finance Ministry. The aim of this index is to bring fruitful change in the PSBs by bringing in healthy competition among these PSBs and by encouraging them to learn from each other.

RBI LOWERS GROWTH RATE TO (-)4.5%



In its annual report released on August 25, the Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at (-) 4.5 percent for 2020-21. It cited its August 2020 MPC meeting that noted the heightened uncertainty surrounding the macroeconomic outlook on account of supply chain disruptions and cost push pressures caused by the ongoing Corona pandemic. The Central Bank has asked for wide-ranging reforms to regain losses due to COVID-19 crisis, adding that it will take quite some time to mend and regain the pre-COVID-19 momentum.

BIG GST RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Providing a big relief to small businesses, the Union Ministry of Finance announced that now businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be exempted from GST. Earlier this limit was Rs. 20 lakh. Further, businesses with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax. Earlier, this limit was Rs. 75 lakh and tax rate was 2%. The Scheme now has been extended to the service sector also.

SUGARCANE FRP SET AT RS. 285/QUINTAL

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for the sugar season 2020-21 at 285 rupees per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10 per cent. The FRP, which is determined under Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, is the minimum price that sugar mills have to pay to sugarcane farmers.

The recovery rate is the amount of sugar that sugarcane fetches and higher the quantum of sugar derived from the cane, greater the price it fetches in the market. If the recovery rate is more than 10 per cent, the FRP will be increased by Rs 2.85 for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above 10 per cent; and similarly FRP will be decreased by Rs 2.85 for every 0.1 per cent decrease in recovery rate below 10 per cent.

NO FDI IN COAL MINING FROM NEIGHBOURS

The Government clarified that any Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in commercial coal mining from an entity of a country that shares land border with India will have to go through the government route. The Government of India had amended the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, 2017 recently by issuing Press Note 4 of 2019 to allow 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure.

RELIANCE INTO TOP 100 FORTUNE GROUP

India's top corporate Reliance Industries Ltd. crossed another milestone on August 11, becoming the first Indian company to figure in the top 100 in the Fortune Global 500 list. The oil-to-telecom conglomerate is ranked 96th in the 2020 list with revenues of \$86.27 billion. This is the highest any Indian company has ever been ranked on the Fortune Global 500 list.

The companies are ranked by revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or before March 31, 2020. Some other Indian companies in the list include IOC - 151, ONGC-190. The List is topped by Walmart Group with revenues of \$523.96 bn. The next three companies down the list are from China. Fortune is a prestigious business magazine of the New York based Fortune Media Group.

RELIANCE WORLD'S 2nd BIGGEST BRAND

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries (RIL) has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the Future Brand Index 2020. One of the most-profitable companies in India, Reliance is, "very well respected" and "seen as behaving ethically" as well as being associated with "growth", "innovative products" and "great customer service", said the report.

The Future Brand Index is a USA based brand management and promotion company that conducts global perception study that rearranges PwC's Global Top 100 Companies by Market Cap on perception strength rather than financial strength, in yearly intervals.

MCX LAUNCHES BULLION INDEX - BULLDEX

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index, Bulldex, on August 24. Bulldex will have a market lot size of 50 and, unlike gold and silver contracts; it will be a cash-settled futures contract, thus making it attractive for hedgers and institutional participants, who are hesitant in taking delivery of gold and silver. Bullions, viz. gold and silver bricks and bars etc. are already being traded as individual commodities on the country's premier commodity exchange.



DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SEPTEMBER

INDIA TESTED HYPERSONIC FLIGHT



In a historic mission, India successfully flight tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) missile technology on Sep 7 from the Abdul Kalam Island near Balasore, Odisha. This is a giant leap by DRDO in indigenous defence technologies demonstrating capabilities for highly complex technology that will serve as the building block for Next Gen Hypersonic vehicles in partnership with industry.

The HSTDV powers cruise missiles and operates on scramjet engines that can attain the speed of around Mach 6, which is far more advanced than ramjet engines that are used currently. Mach 1 is the speed of sound, about 1225 kmph; thus Mach 6 speed is about 7350 kmph. Only three other countries, the USA, Russia and China have this super advanced technology.

DRDO TESTS HEAT VEHICLE ABHYAS

India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicles from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore (Odisha). This can be used as a target for evaluation of various Missile systems.

The trial was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. ABHYAS has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the DRDO.

Women Officers In Navy's Helicopter Team

In a first, two women officers, Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh, have been selected to join as 'Observers' (Airborne Tacticians) in the Indian Navy's helicopter stream that would ultimately pave the way for women being posted in frontline warships.

DEAL WITH RUSSIA FOR AK-47/203 RIFLES

India finalised a deal with Russia to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India. Currently, Indian Army needs around 770,000 AK-47 203 rifles. Of this, one lakh rifles will be imported from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India. The AK-47 203 Rifle of 7.62×39 mm will be manufactured at Korwa Ordnance Factory in Uttar Pradesh.

JIMEX 2020: The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in the North Arabian Sea from Sep26 to 29. The exercise is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

PASSEX: Navies of India and Australia conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24. The exercise involved a range of anti-aircraft drills, complex naval maneuvers, and helicopter operations.

Indra Navy: The Indian and Russian navies conducted a two-day mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal on Sep 4-5. The exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between the two navies.

Kavkaz-2020: In view of Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics, India has decided not to send a contingent this year to Kavkaz-2020 to be hosted by Russia from 15th to 26th September.

WORLD'S LARGEST SOLAR TREE IN DURGAPUR

The CSIR-CMERI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute) has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in Durgapur, West Bengal.

The solar tree has an installed capacity above 11.5 kWp with 35 Solar PV Panels in each tree with a capacity of 330 wp each. The annual capacity of the solar tree will include generating about 12,000-14,000 units of clean and green power. Each solar tree is capable of saving 10-12 tons of CO2 emissions being released into the atmosphere as Greenhouse Gases when compared with fossil fuel-fired energy generation.



INDIA DISCOVERS FARTHEST STAR GALAXY



In a landmark achievement, Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe. The discovery was made by India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' which detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

Astrosat is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope satellite. It was launched on a PSLV-XL rocket on 28 September 2015. With the success of this satellite, ISRO has proposed launching AstroSat-2 as a successor for Astrosat.

SPACEX LAUNCHES 60 STARLINK SATELLITES

Elon Musk-run SpaceX successfully sent 60 Starlink satellites into orbit aboard a Falcon 9 rocket launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. SpaceX has so far delivered more than 700 of its internet-beaming satellites into space.

Starlink is an ambitious project of SpaceX to launch and operate its own network of broadband satellites, which will provide low-cost Internet to remote locations on a global level, particularly in places where installation of towers is not possible.

CHINA LAUNCHED 9 SATELLITES FROM SHIP

China successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of a rocket from a platform at sea. The satellites were deployed by a Long March 11 rocket from a ship in the Yellow Sea.

AUGUST

INDIA RECEIVED FIRST 5 RAFALE FIGHTER JETS

In a rare historic moment, the first batch of five Rafale jets landed in Air Force base in Ambala on July 29. Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command Air Marshal B Suresh welcomed the new jets as part of the 17 squadron - The Golden Arrows. Rafale multi-role combat jets are considered one of the most potent combat jets globally.

The five aircrafts are part of 36 planes bought by India from France in a Rs. 59,000-crore inter-governmental deal in 2016. The fighter jets, built by French aviation firm Dassault, took off from the Merignac air base in southern France's Bordeaux. These five jets are part of the first installment of ten aircrafts. The other five have stayed back in France for a training mission. The delivery of the remaining 26 aircrafts will be completed on schedule by the end of next year.

"MY IAF" APP FOR AIR FORCE ASPIRANTS

The Indian Air Force launched a mobile app "MY IAF" as part of the Digital India initiative. Developed in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, the app is meant to provide career-related information and guidance to the people who wish to join the Indian Air Force.

The app includes details such as the selection procedure, training curriculum, pay, perks, and more, for recruitment of both, officers and airmen in the IAF.. There is also access to the Indian Air Force's social media platform for more information on the same.

DEFENCE MINISTRY BANS IMPORT OF 101 ITEMS

In a major reform initiative to boost the domestic defence industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced restrictions on import of 101 weapons and military platforms, including some high-technology weapon systems such as artillery guns, assault rifles and transport aircrafts.

With the embargo, the domestic industry will receive contracts worth Rs. 4 lakh crores within the next five years as it will be implemented progressively between 2020 and 2024. The embargo aims to apprise the Indian defence industry about the anticipated requirements of the armed forces so that they are better prepared to realise the goal of indigenisation.

PORTAL 'SRIJAN' TO PROMOTE DEFENCE ITEMS

Ministry of Defence launched portal SRIJAN which is a 'one stop shop online portal' that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization. On this portal, various defence outfits will display their items which they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with OEMs. There are over 3000 unique items with a value of over Rs 10,000 Crore that are available through the portal.





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ISRAEL TESTS MISSILE INTERCEPTOR "ARROW-2"



Israel successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2" ballistic missile interceptor. The Arrow-2 interceptor engaged a Sparrow target missile which stimulated a long-range surface to surface missile. It has been designed to defend the incoming short and mid-range rockets and long-range missiles and was first introduced in March 2000.

NIIO LAUNCHED TO FOCUS ON INNOVATION

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) to promote indigenisation initiatives with focus on innovation. NIIO puts in place the dedicated structures for the end-users to interact with the industry and academia towards fostering the innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in Defence with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

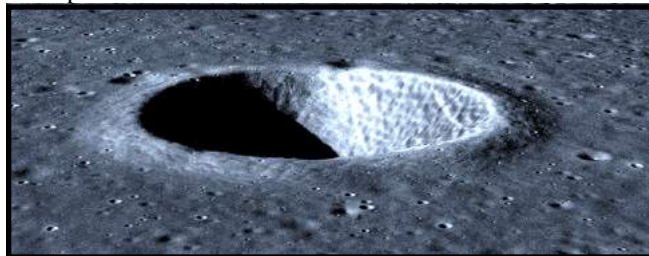
INDIA TO TAKE PART IN KAVKAZ 2020

India has been invited to participate in the major war readiness exercise of the Russian armed forces. The exercise named Kavkaz 2020, or Caucasus-2020 is scheduled to be held from September 15 to 26, 2020.

ICGS Sarthak: An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) indigenously built by the Goa Shipyard Limited was formally inducted in the Indian Coast Guard at the Goa Shipyard.

CRATER ON MOON NAMED AFTER SARABHAI

The Terrain Mapping Camera - 2 onboard ISRO's Chandrayaan 2 had recently captured an image of a crater on the Moon. ISRO released the image on August 12, naming the crater after Indian astrophysicist Vikram Sarabhai on the occasion of his birth centenary. Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai is regarded as the Father of Indian Space program, and the Founder of Physical Research Laboratory and a distinguished cosmic-ray and space scientist.



ISRO AND IISc DEVELOP SPACE BRICKS

In a significant step towards space exploration, a team of researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO and the Indian Institute of Science, IISc in Bengaluru has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface. The process enables making load bearing bricks by using lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans. Named as space bricks, it could be used to assemble structures for habitation on the moon surface in future.

ISRO INVITES PRIVATE SECTOR TO SHAR

ISRO is all set to allow the private sector to set up their own launchpad at the Sriharikota Launch Centre (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh, so that they can launch their own rocket or spacecraft. The agency will not charge anything for such launches. This step will kickstart the process of unlocking the space sector for the private players. The private entities will also help in the development of space-based applications with the use of satellite data and rolling out of the commercial services.

FIRST PRIVATE ROCKET LAUNCH IN INDIA



A Hyderabad based space-tech startup - Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine. Used in the launch vehicle Vikram-I, it is named 'Raman' after Nobel laureate Dr. C V Raman, it is a 3-D printed rocket engine that can hurl small satellites into lower earth orbits. It is capable of multiple restarts, enabling the launch vehicle to insert various satellites into multiple orbits in a single mission. The government had approved the opening up of the space sector for private participation in June this year.

KERALA FIRM WINS Rs.1Cr FOR 'VCONSOLE'

Techgentsia Software, a startup by Joy Sebastian of Kerala won the national competition for developing a world-class indigenous video conference solution. The product named 'Vconsole' will now be used by the Centre for video conferencing purposes. He will receive a prize of Rs. one crore from the Ministry of Information and Technology. Three other startups also won the supporting prize of Rs. 25 lakh, each.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had announced an Innovation Challenge for Development of a Video Conferencing Solution under the Digital India Initiative on 12th April 2020.

GOOGLE LAUNCHES JOB SEARCH APP 'KORMO'



Google launched its job search app named 'Kormo Jobs' in India. The app aims to provide entry-level jobs to thousands of young professionals who are looking for jobs and people who have lost their jobs during the coronavirus.

The app allows you to set up your basic profile and get a beautiful digital CV that you can share, print, or apply directly to jobs listed on the app.

Further, if one enters his background, experiences, and interests then it will show a match for relevant jobs. The app is available free of cost for Android users. Google had first launched the employment application in Bangladesh in 2018 and further expanded it to Indonesia in 2019.

DIAT WINS SMART INDIA HACKATHON, 2020

The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a deemed university in Pune, under DRDO, won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020. The SIH grand finale was held between August 1-3, 2020 at the Noida Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uttar Pradesh.

This 36- hour non-stop digital product building competition was a national level competition for software edition, which was organized jointly by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and All India Council for Technical Education.

GOOGLE LAUNCHES "PEOPLE CARDS" IN INDIA

The tech giant Google launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card and build their public profile for search engine. Users just need to have a Google Account and provide their mobile number to create their people card on Google Search. For now, the people cards feature is available only in India and through mobile phone only. The feature is available in English language only.

SERUM INSTT. TO MARKET COVID-19 VACCINE

Serum Institute of India, Pune, and US based Novavax have signed an agreement for the development and commercialization of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India and other low and middle- income countries.

The agreement is expected to support a minimum of 1 billion doses of NVX-CoV2373 for India and other low and middle- income countries. Serum Institute, a private limited company, is the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines.

Recently, the Serum Institute also got approval from Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) to conduct phase II +III clinical trials of Oxford University's AstraZeneca COVID vaccine (COVISHIELD) in India.

NASA LAUNCHES MARS ROVER SUCCESSFULLY

NASA successfully sent its Mars Rover Perseverance on a seven-month journey to the red planet. One of the biggest, most sophisticated Mars rovers ever built — a car-sized six wheel vehicle weighing over a ton, equipped with cameras, microphones, drills and lasers, the Perseverance is set to land in a river delta within Jezero Crater on Mars. It will also gather rock and soil samples to be sent home later this decade.

The USA is the only country to have succeeded in safely putting a spacecraft on Mars. It is seeking its ninth successful landing on the planet, which has proved to be the Bermuda Triangle of space exploration, with more than half of the world's missions there burning up, crashing or otherwise ending in failure.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER

G-20 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET HELD

The meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al-Saud on September 03 in virtual mode. The deliberations focussed on strengthening international cooperation across borders in the wake of COVID-19 crisis. Saudi Arabia is the current chairperson of the G-20 Group for the year 2020. External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India in the meet.



SINGAPORE TOPS THE SMART CITY INDEX



The Institute for Management Development (IMD), in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), released the 2020 Smart City Index. Singapore topped the Index, followed by Helsinki and Zurich in the second and the third place respectively. The index describes 'smart city' as an urban setting that applies technology to enhance the benefits and diminish the shortcomings of urbanization. It ranked 109 cities worldwide by capturing perceptions of randomly chosen 120 residents in each city.

MEXICO TO ISSUE SDG SOVEREIGN BONDS

Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond, an important step forward in the country's commitment to the achievement of the SDGs.

Mexico issued seven-year SDG Bonds under its new "SDG Sovereign Bond Framework" for a total value of \$ 890 million in collaboration with investment bank Natixis, of France. These funds will be transferred from private funds to finance SDG-oriented programs.

UNO had framed 17 SDGs in 2015 for various fields of human development such as health, education, gender equality, climate change, etc., that are to be achieved by 2030 by the member countries.

BAHRAIN GETS FRIENDLY WITH ISRAEL

Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation after UAE to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East. The agreement was reached between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



UNICEF TO PROCURE COVID-19 VACCINE

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine in order to ensure that all the countries have safe, equitable, and fast access to the initial doses when they are available. This will possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind. UNICEF is the world's largest single buyer of vaccines for diseases like polio and measles and procures over 2 billion doses on behalf of nearly 100 countries each year.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD IS THE BEST

The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed University of Oxford, UK at the top in the overall category. All top 10 institutions in THE (Times Higher Education) World University rankings 2021 are from USA and UK. Indian Institute of Science, or IISc, Bengaluru, has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.

A total of 1527 institutions from 93 countries were assessed by THE on five parameters: Teaching (30%), Research (30%), Citations (30%), Industry Income (2.5%) and International Outlook (7.5%).

AUSTRALIA SLIPS INTO RECESSION

Australia's economy suffered its sharpest economic contraction since the Great Depression due to the pandemic, with data released recently confirming the country is in its first recession in 28 years. The economy shrank 7% in the April-June quarter, the biggest contraction since records began in 1959. Previous quarter also ended with a 0.3 percent fall.

This year, the country was hit hard twice. First, when the bushfires ravaged through more than 12 million hectares, from September 2019 until March 2020, tourism was bashed and thousands of small businesses lost months of essential seasonal revenue. Second, when the coronavirus became a global pandemic, stopping tourists inflow.

An economy is considered to be in recession if it sees two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

JAPAN PM ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, announced his resignation citing poor health as reason, ending a stint at the helm of the world's third-biggest economy in which he sought to revive growth and bolster its defence.

65 years old Abe has been battling the ulcerative colitis (an inflammatory bowel disease) for years and two recent hospital visits within a week had fanned questions on his stay in the job until the end of his term as Prime Minister in September 2021.

The conservative Abe returned as prime minister for a rare second term in December 2012, pledging to revive growth with his "Abenomics" mix of hyper-easy monetary policy, fiscal spending and reforms.

WHO DECLARES AFRICA FREE FROM POLIO

The World Health Organization has declared Africa free of wild polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world. This means that no active case of polio has been reported in the last four years from the entire Africa. It was in 2016 that the last case of wild, circulating polio was reported in Nigeria—the final country on the 54-nation African continent where the disease was endemic.

This new declaration doesn't mean Africa is polio-free. Cases remain of the so-called vaccine-derived polio virus, which is a rare mutated form of the weakened but live virus contained in the oral polio vaccine. Now there are only two remaining countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, where there have been a collective 102 cases so far in 2020.

WHO Director: Dr. Tedros Adhanom

Founded: April 7, 1948 **HQs:** Geneva, Switzerland

TURKEY DISCOVERS VAST NATURAL GAS

Turkey has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea. Turkey's drilling ship Fatih made the discovery in the Tuna-1 field and the exploration is continuing in other fields. The discovery will help Turkey cut its current dependence on gas imports from Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan and meet its energy needs on its own.

UAE AND ISRAEL SIGN PEACE ACCORD

Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a landmark accord sealed by President Trump on August 13. The two countries agreed to "full normalization of relations" and to establish full diplomatic relations as part of a new peace deal. Israel also agreed to suspend annexation of occupied West Bank territory.

The deal would lead to greater cooperation on investment, tourism, security, technology, energy and other areas while the two countries move to allow regular direct passenger flights, open embassies and trade ambassadors for the first time.

It may be noted that the two countries are located some 2630 km apart, Israel in the north western edge of Arabian Peninsula and UAE in its eastern part.

SAUDI ARABIA SPURNS PAKISTAN

Coming as a big jolt to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia has ended its loan and oil supply to Pakistan, ending the decades-long friendship between the two countries. Pakistan has also been asked to pay back \$ 1 billion which was given as a part of a \$6.2 billion package announced by Saudi Arabia in November 2018.

Saudi Arabia's move was in response to the blunt warning issued by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi to the Saudi Arabia-led Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for not taking an anti-India stance on the Kashmir issue.

RUSSIA FIRST TO ANNOUNCE CORONA VACCINE

Russia announced the successful launch of the first vaccine – Sputnik-V in the world against the corona virus. The announcement was made by President Vladimir Putin who said that one of his daughters has already been inoculated.

As the number of corona virus cases continues to rise at an alarming rate across the globe, scientists and medical experts are making accelerated efforts to develop a vaccine fit for human use.

Currently, there are more than 160 vaccine candidates in different stages of production and 27 of these have reached the human trials.

UAE FIRST ARAB TO GENERATE NUCLEAR POWER

UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant's 1st Unit got operational on July 31. The new plant is part of the UAE's mission to become less reliant on oil and gas, the current source of the vast majority of its energy.

Situated in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi, the Barakah plant aims to produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity to meet up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs.

RUSSIA COMPLETES TRIALS OF COVID VACCINE

Russia has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. The vaccine has proven to be effective, as per the results of the trials. Despite the successful human trials of the COVID vaccine, there is no official confirmation on when Russia's vaccine will enter the commercial production stage and be available for local people.



CORONAVIRUS MAY SPREAD THROUGH AIR TOO?



Around 239 scientists of 32 countries claim that there is evidence of the spread of the novel Coronavirus through the droplets suspended in air by infected person. Scientists, in their Open Letter to WHO, claim that whether carried in the air by large droplets when a person sneezes or by smaller droplets when a person speaks or coughs, Coronavirus is borne in air and can infect nearby people when inhaled. In their Open Letter, scientists asked the World Health Organization (WHO) to revise its recommendations for the containment of highly contagious COVID-19 pandemic.

MINISTERIAL SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION

The fourth edition of the Ministerial on Climate Action was held in virtual mode hosted by the European Union. It was co-chaired by European Union, China and Canada to hold advanced discussions on the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to demonstrate continued political commitment to global climate action. India was represented by the Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

TURKMENISTAN JOINS WTO AS OBSERVER

Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council. Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the international trade body based in Geneva. An Observer nation has to complete the process of accession to WTO within five years.

There are 164 members of the WTO and 25 observer states. WTO came into existence on January 1, 1995, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It is headed by its Director General, Robert Azevedo.

MALDIVES, S L FREE FROM MEASLES, RUBELLA

According to the WHO, South-East Asian Region (SEAR) office, Maldives and Sri Lanka were verified for having eliminated Measles and Rubella. Now, Maldives and Sri Lanka are the first two countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region to achieve measles and rubella elimination ahead of the 2023 target.

GERMANY FIRST NATION TO QUIT COAL POWER

Germany has passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038 at the latest and agreed on a shutdown schedule for individual lignite and hard coal power plants as well as compensation payments for operators. The coal exit law stipulates that a total of 4.35 billion euros in compensation will be paid to the companies for the planned shutdowns by 2030.

RUSSIANS VOTE FOR PUTIN TILL 2036

Nearly 78% of Russian voters on July 1 backed constitutional reforms that could keep President Vladimir Putin in power until 2036. He is already the longest-serving leader in modern Russian history since Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. Currently, he is serving his fourth term as President, from 2018 to 2024. The 67-year-old former KGB agent has led Russia as President and Prime Minister since 2000.

JUNE

ASEAN SUMMIT HELD IN HANOI, VIETNAM

The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam on June 26 with the theme "Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN". The main focus of the summit was on the COVID-19 epidemic response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

WORLD CELEBRATES I'NAL DAY OF YOGA

Yoga enthusiasts from across the globe on June 21 bent and stretched to perform various asanas at several events, with most of them joining digital projection and live online yoga sessions due to the coronavirus pandemic, to mark the 6th International Day of Yoga. The theme for this year's Day of Yoga was "Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home".

June 21, the Northern Hemisphere's longest day, is celebrated as the International Yoga Day worldwide after the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2014 a proposal mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

GERMANY TO BAN SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Germany has decided to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cotton buds and food containers, as well as polystyrene cups and boxes by July 3, 2021, bringing it in line with a European Union directive intended to reduce the amount of plastic garbage that pollutes the environment. The move was part of an effort to move away from "throw-away culture."

Up to 20% of garbage collected in parks and other public places consist of single-use plastic, mainly polystyrene containers.



FIRST YOGA UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE INDIA



The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, USA. The University has been named as the Vivekananda Yoga University. The University offers programmes that combine scientific principles and modern research approach to ancient Indian practice.

IMF PREDICTS 4.9% SHRINKAGE IN ECONOMY

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sharply lowered its forecast for global growth this year, saying that the coronavirus pandemic is causing a much steeper recession and a slower recovery than initially expected. The IMF predicts that the global economy will shrink by 4.9 per cent this year, significantly worse than the 3 per cent drop it had estimated in its previous report in April.

CHINA SETS RECORD FOR DEEP DIVING

China's unmanned submersible has dived to a depth of 10,907 metres at the world's deepest ocean point, setting a new record. The diving machine named Haidou-1" set the record by submerging under the Pacific Ocean surface at the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest area in the world. China in recent years has stepped up efforts to develop deep sea technology to explore mining of rich natural resources from the sea bed.

US BURNS OVER THE DEATH OF A BLACK MAN

Civil unrest flared in over 40 US cities and curfews were imposed on May 31 as demonstrators took to the streets to vent outrage at the death of a black man shown on video gasping for breath as a white Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck.

From Los Angeles to Miami to Chicago, protests marked by chants of "I can't breathe" — a rallying cry echoing the dying words of George Floyd — began peacefully before turning unruly as demonstrators blocked traffic, set fires and clashed with riot police firing tear gas and plastic bullets in an effort to restore order.

Hundreds of people protested in London, Paris, Berlin and several other cities in solidarity with demonstrations in the United States.

APPLE CROSSES \$1.5 TRILLION MARKET CAP

Global tech giant Apple Inc. has become the first US Company to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap. At a current price of \$352 per share and 4.3 billion shares outstanding, Apple's market cap hit around \$1.53 trillion on June 10. Riding on its growing services and wearables business, Apple may become the first company ever to touch the \$2-trillion valuation mark in the next four years.

WHO LAUNCHES C-TAP TO FIGHT COVID-19

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a global initiative aimed at making various health technologies and products, such as vaccines, tests and treatments to fight COVID-19, accessible to all. The new initiative will ensure that the latest and best science and technology and medical advancement benefits the entire humanity. C-TAP aims to accelerate the development of vaccines and medicines through the sharing of research and information and to increase manufacturing capacity for any products that are developed.

PERSONS IN NEWS

SEPTEMBER

Ayushmann Khurrana: Popular bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine. He has become the only Indian actor to appear in the list this year. He shares his honour with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who is also included in the list.



Fortune 40 Under 40

Reliance Jio Board Directors Isha Ambani and Akash Ambani, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Byju Raveendran, co-founder of India's leading education technology company Byju's, are among the "emerging leaders" from across the world named by Fortune in its annual list of influential people under the age of 40.

The 2020 Fortune 40 under 40 list highlights 40 influential people each in five categories (total 200) of finance, technology, healthcare, government and politics, and media and entertainment from around the world.

Khushi Chindaliya: A 17-year-old girl from Gujarat's Surat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme – Tunza Eco-Generation. This achievement was made possible because of her passion for environmental conservation and determination to spread awareness about safeguarding it.

AUGUST

Akshay Kumar: Bollywood superstar is the only Indian to feature in the Forbes 2020 list of 10 Highest Paid Male Actors in the world. With an estimated earnings of \$48.5 million (Rs.363 crore), Akshay ranks at number six on the list. Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has topped the list for the second year in a row with \$87.5 million earnings.

Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash: The 20-year-old boy from Hyderabad won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title. He won the first-ever gold for India in the Mental Calculation World Championship held at Mind Sports Olympiad in London. Currently pursuing Mathematics (Hons.) at Delhi University's St Stephen College, he is the proud owner of four world records and 50 Limca records for being the fastest human calculator in the world.

Archana Soreng: A climate activist from India has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders who will provide perspectives and solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis, as the global body mobilises action as part of the Covid-19 recovery efforts.

Archana is a Research Officer at Vasundhara Odisha- an NGO working on Sustainable Livelihood & Economic Democratization, Natural Resource Governance & Tribal Rights based in Odisha, India

Kala Narayanasamy: Indian-origin nurse in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kala is the Deputy Director of Nursing at Woodlands Health Campus, Singapore.

The President's Award for Nurses in Singapore recognises the efforts of nurses who have shown sustained outstanding performance and contributions to patient care delivery, education, research and administration.

Jeff Bezos: Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 billion on August 26, as the stocks of the e-commerce platform continue to soar even amid the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the businesses and economies.

As per the Forbes report, Bezos, world's richest man, was worth \$204.6 billion as of August 27, 2020. Bezos is \$90 billion richer than Bill Gates, who is also the world's second-richest person and is currently worth \$116.1 bn.

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita: President of Mali, (a landlocked country in Western Africa), announced his resignation and dissolved the Parliament on August 19 after he was reportedly detained at gunpoint by mutinying soldiers. The mutiny of the soldiers is thought to be related to the financial grievances of the military servicemen.

Kamala Harris: Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden chose her as his vice-presidential running mate for the 2020 US Elections. She is the first Asian American woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket in the United States. She is the Senator from California.

Hassan Diab: Lebanon's Prime Minister announced the resignation of his government on August 10, amid public outrage over the devastating explosion in Beirut, which caused massive destruction and led to the loss of over 160 lives and left over 6,000 injured.

APPOINTMENTS

SEPTEMBER

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

Paresh Rawal: Former Lok Sabha MP and famous Bollywood actor, appointed as the new Chairman of National School of Drama, New Delhi by the President of India, for a period of four years.

The 65 year old actor is a veteran of Gujarati Theater also. The NSD, a premier national institute of theatre, is an autonomous body set up under the Ministry of Culture.

S Krishnan: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment as the Managing Director and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.

Vinod Kumar Yadav: Appointed as the Chairman cum CEO of the Railway Board by the Cabinet Appointment Panel

Dinesh Kumar Khara: The Banks Board Bureau recommended SBI's senior-most managing director as the next chairman of the State Bank of India. Khara will replace SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term comes to an end on October 7.

Ayushmann Khurrana: UNICEF India has selected Bollywood actor as its famous advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child". Khurrana will support UNICEF to end violence against children and work on this initiative in India.

Yoshihide Suga: The 71 year old senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was elected as Japan's new Prime Minister by the powerful House of Representatives on September 16. He was Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japanese government. He replaced long-serving Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who resigned unexpectedly in August 2020 due to health problems.

Mustapha Adib: Lebanon's ambassador to Germany since 2013 was appointed Prime Minister of Lebanon. His appointment was confirmed by the President Michel Aoun, after he won 90 votes in the 128-member Parliament.

Mohamed Hussein Roble: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of the East African country Somalia.

Alexander Lukashenko: Sworn in as the President of Belarus, for a record sixth term.

AUGUST

Satya Pal Malik: The Governor of Goa, has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Meghalaya.

Girish Chandra Murmu: Former Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of the country. He will succeed Rajiv Mehrishi.

Manoj Sinha: Appointed as the next Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by the President Ram Nath Kovind. He will replace Girish Chandra Murmu who resigned on August 5.

Sinha has represented the parliamentary constituency of Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh thrice in the Lok Sabha. He has also served as minister of communications and minister of state for Railways.

Hardik Satish Chandra Shah: Appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is a 2010 batch IAS officer, already serving as a Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

Rakesh Asthana: Appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force, BSF. He is an Indian Police Service Officer belonging to the 1984 batch of Gujarat cadre. He will replace S S Deswal.

The BSF was raised on Dec 1, 1965 with the specific purpose of defending the Indian borders with Pakistan, including then East Pakistan, the present Bangladesh. It is the 'First Line of Defence' against infiltration, smuggling and military assault. It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs with headquarters in New Delhi.

G Satheesh Reddy: Renowned Indian scientist was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He was appointed to the post in August 2018 for two years.

DRDO works under the Ministry of Defence. It was established in 1958 with Headquarters in New Delhi.

Rajiv Kumar: Former finance secretary has been appointed new Election Commissioner. He will take the place of Ashok Lavasa, who resigned earlier to join Asian Development Bank.

The Election Commission of India is headed by the Chief Election Commissioner and has two Election Commissioners. At present, Sunil Arora is the CEC and Sushil Chandra is the other Election Commissioner.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi: Appointed as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He replaced Arvind Saxena who completed his term on August 7. Dr Joshi had joined UPSC as a member in May, 2015.

Ajay Tyagi: Chairman of markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI, has been given an 18 month extension. His term will now continue till February 2022. His term was expiring on August 31, 2020. The extension was confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Soma Mondal: Selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

Based in New Delhi, SAIL has plants all over India and is a 'Maharatna' company. It was incorporated on 24 January 1974 as a government owned holding company for the five integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Raurkela, Durgapur, Burnpur and Bokaro; and 3 special steel plants at Salem, Durgapur and Bhadravathi.

Sanjiv Singh: Former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman has joined Reliance Industries as group President for the firm's oil-to-chemicals business.

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

Sashidhar Jagdishan: RBI approved his selection as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the country's largest private sector bank - HDFC Bank. Its headquarters are in Mumbai. He will replace Aditya Puri who had been heading the Bank since its inception in 1994.

Keith Rowley: Re-elected as the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. It is a tiny island country in the North Atlantic Ocean, near northeastern Venezuela.

Francisco Pascual Eyegue Obama Asue: Reappointed as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for 3rd consecutive term.

Walter Roger Martos Ruiz: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of Peru, a country in western part of South America, opening in the west to the South Pacific Ocean.

Mohamed Ould Bilal: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania, a country in Western Africa, opening in the west into the North Atlantic Ocean.

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

Mahinda Rajapaksa: Former President of Sri Lanka was elected as the Prime Minister of the country for the fourth time after a landslide victory of his party Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna in general elections held on August 5. His younger brother, Gotabaya Rajapaksa Rajapaksa is the President of Sri Lanka.

Mohamed Irfaan Ali: Elected as the President of Guyana, a small country on the northern edge of the South American continent.

Hamed Bakayoko: Defence Minister of Ivory Coast has been named as the Prime Minister of the country. It is a small country in Southwest Africa with its southern part opening into the Atlantic Ocean.

Hichem Mechichi: Tunisia's interior minister, has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of the country. Tunisia is a small country in North Africa, with its northern part opening into the Mediterranean Sea.

AWARDS & HONOURS

SEPTEMBER

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019: Conferred upon David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian, by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. BBC Broadcaster has been given the prize for revealing the wonders of the natural world and for his contribution through books and films to awaken humankind to protect and preserve the biodiversity on our planet. The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 2.5 million and a citation.

Kerala won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals. The UN Interagency Task Force 2020 award on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was announced by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO.

Aditya Puri: Managing Director of HDFC Bank, has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020 for his skills in building a world-class bank in India at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence. Euromoney is a leading global financial magazine based in London, UK. These awards were instituted in 1992.

International Booker Prize 2020: Dutch Author, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won the prestigious award for her debut novel 'The Discomfort of Evening'. Rijneveld became the youngest author to win the prize at the age of 29. The book tells the fictional story of Jas, a girl in a devout Christian farming family, whose brother dies in an accident after she wishes he would die instead of her rabbit.

The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.



AUGUST

SHORT FILM 'AM I?' WINS Rs. 1 LAKH PRIZE

Short film 'Am I?' directed by Abhijit Paul has won the first prize of Rs one lakh in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting along with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

The online short film contest was organized as a part of Independence Day Celebrations-2020 to create a patriotic mood surrounding this day.

SKOCH Gold Award: Ministry of Tribal Affairs won the award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project. The project was launched to show the Government of India's commitment to realize the dreams of Digital India and bring transparency as well as ease in the delivery of services.

SKOCH awards are given by the Delhi based management consultancy SKOCH corporate group.

Indian solar ferry wins award

India's first solar-powered ferry, Aditya has won the prestigious Gustave Trousseau Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating in the category of ferries designed for paid passenger service.

The ferry belongs to the Kerala State Water Transport Department and has been plying on the Vaikkom-Thavanakkadavu route in Alappuzha district since January 2017.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

SEPTEMBER

One by One by Ruth Ware

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi

Anxious People by Fredrick Backman

Kitchens of Gratitude by Chef Vikas Khanna

Voices of Dissent by Romila Thapar, noted historian

Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction by Arundhati Roy

My Life In Design a coffee table book by Gauri Khan (w/o Shah Rukh Khan)

Sansadmein Himalaya by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Education Minister

The Big Thoughts of Little Luv by Karan Johar

Gunning for the Godman by Ajay Pal Lamba and Sanjeev Mathur

The Commonwealth of Cricket by Ramachandra Guha

Let us Dream by Pope Francis

The Little Book of Green Nudges by U N Environment Programme; the book aims to inspire the young generation to adopt environmental friendly habits and greener lifestyles

AUGUST

- **Who painted my lust red?** by Sreelyer
- **Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020** by Air Vice Marshal (retd.) Arjun Subramaniam
- **One Arranged Murder** by ChetanBhagat
- **Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World** by spiritual Guru Dalai Lama and German environmental journalist, Franz Alt
- **Connecting, Communicating, Changing:** (a book describing three years in office of Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu) by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- **Amazing Ayodhya** by Neena Rai
- **Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India** by Viral V. Acharya, former Dy. Governor, RBI
- **The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World** by Dr. S Jaishankar, Union Minister for External Affairs
- **Vishesh: Code To Win** by Nirupama Yadav. It is the success story of Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, India's youngest captain of the national basketball team (men).

OBITUARY

SEPTEMBER

Pranab Mukherjee: Former President of India passed away on August 31, after testing positive for COVID-19. The 84 year old veteran Congressman had undergone emergency surgery to remove a brain clot on August 10 after testing positive.



He had served as the 13th President of India from 2012 till 2017. His political career spanned nearly five decades. He held several key cabinet portfolios including as Defence Minister from 2004-2006, External Affairs from 2006-2009, and Finance Minister from 2009-2012. He was honoured with India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

SP Balasubrahmanyam: After nearly two months of struggle with Covid-19, the iconic versatile singer, also lovingly called Balu or SPB, lost the battle on Sep 25. With more than 40,000 songs under his belt, his discography runs like a book of records. Believing that every singer is an actor, Balu also played character roles in 45 films. Besides six National Awards, he received honours such as Padma Bhushan.

Dr. Sekhar Basu: Noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson died of Covid-19 in Kolkata. He was 68. A Padma Shri awardee, he pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant. He was the brain behind the design, construction and operation of nuclear recycle plants in Tarapur and Kalpakkam.

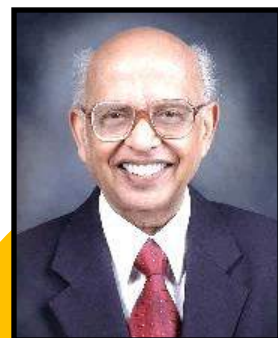
Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan: A leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history, passed away on September 16 at her Delhi home, at the age of 91. She was honoured with Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship in 1955 and SangeetNatakAkademi Fellowship in 1970.

She was a founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and a former President of India International Centre. She was conferred Rajiv Gandhi National Sashikavana Award in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011 for her outstanding contributions in the field of art and culture. She authored over 20 books devoted to the history of art and culture in India.

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh: Veteran Rashtriya Janata Dal -RJD leader and former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) passed away in New Delhi. He was 74. Often called the architect of the MNREGA scheme, which was floated when he was the Union minister for rural development, he represented Vaishali parliamentary constituency in Bihar, a record five times. He also represented BelsandVidhan Sabha constituency in Bihar five times and held several important positions in Bihar Assembly.

Swami Agnivesh: Veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure. He was 80. He founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked for release of bonded labour. Agnivesh came to Haryana in 1968 to join the Arya Samaj. On March 25, 1970, he took sanyas vows and since then, he had been donning saffron robes of a sanyasi. He also served as president of the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (World Council of Arya Samaj).

Dr. Govind Swarup: Father of India's Radio Astronomy, passed away in Pune. He was 91. He will be remembered for his immense contributions in astronomy and astrophysics and for developing most advanced powerful observational facilities for research in radio astronomy. The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope near Pune was established under his able guidance. He was awarded Padmashree, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, H. K. Firodia award and many other international awards.



Swami Kesavananda Bharati: The 79-year old Swami of the Edneer Mutt, district Kasargod, Kerala died due to age-related ailments. He will always be remembered for the court case he filed in the Supreme Court challenging a Kerala Land Reform Act nearly four decades ago. In one of the most often referred cases on Constitution's supermacy, the Court ruled that the Supreme Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the same can be amended but not its basic structure.

The case of Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala was heard for 68 days, October 31, 1972 to March 23, 1973, and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the top court. The verdict involved 13 judges, the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court. It was pleaded by the legendary jurist Nani Palkhiwala.

Dr S. Padmavati: India's first female and oldest cardiologist died at the age of 103 in National Heart Institute(NHI), Delhi due to COVID-19 infection. She is popularly known as the "GodMother of Cardiology". She is the recipient of Padma Bhushan(1967) and Padma Vibhushan(1992).P

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A firebrand senior Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, a diminutive yet towering women's rights champion who became the court's second female justice, died at her home in Washington. She was 87. Ginsburg served for 27 years on the nation's highest court, becoming its most prominent member.

AUGUST

Pandit Jasraj: Legendary Indian classical vocalist passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. He was 90. Pandit Jasraj, who belonged to the Mewati Gharana, was in the US when the coronavirus-led lockdown happened and decided to stay back there. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 1990 and Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

Rahat Indori: Noted Urdu poet and lyricist died of cardiac arrest in Indore, his home town in Madhya Pradesh on August 11. The 70-year-old 'shayar' who left his audience mesmerised in kavisammelans and mushairas for five long decades, earned distinction in the Hindi film industry as a lyricist too. His famous tracks — Koi jaye to le aaye, Neend churayee meri, Dekho dekho jaanam ham, Chori chori jab nazrein mili— still reverberate with his fans. He will be remembered for his immortal lines like -- Sabhi ka khoon hai shamil yahan ki mitti mein/Kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai and Main jab mar jaaon toh meri alag pehchaan likh dena/Lahu se meri peshani pe Hindustan likh dena; and Shakhon se toot jaaye wo patte nahi hain hum/ Aandhi se kaho apni aukaat me rahe, to name a few.

Chetan Chauhan: Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister passed away following multiple organ failure. He was 73. He was twice elected to the Lok Sabha from Amroha in Uttar Pradesh, in 1991 and 1998. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981.

Ebrahim Alkazi: Theatre doyen and legendary teacher died on August 4 in New Delhi, after suffering a heart attack at the age of 94. He was the longest serving director of the National School of Drama (1962-77). His masterpieces include plays such as "Girish Karnad's "Tughlaq" and DharamvirBharati's "AndhaYug", staged by him in the magnificent background of Delhi's PuranaQuila. He mentored generations of actors, including Naseeruddin Shah, Pankaj Kapur and Om Puri.

Often referred to as the "Architect of the modern Indian Theatre, he was honoured with Padma Shri (1966), the Padma Bhushan (1991), and India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan in 2010.

Amar Singh: Four times Rajya Sabha MP, who once wielded immense influence in power circles as a close aide of Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, and a very close friend of Amitabh Bachhan, died in a Singapore hospital where he was undergoing treatment for kidney failure. He was 64.

Kumkum: Veteran Bollywood actress died in Mumbai at the age of 86. Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 110 Hindi films like Mother India, Kohinoor, Ek Sapera Ek Lootera, Naya Daur, Ujala, Raja Aur Runk, Lalkar, Aankhen, Geet, among others. She will be remembered for her memorable dance in songs like *Kabhi Aar, Kabhi Paar* (1954), *Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re* (1960) and *Mere Mehboob Qayamat Hogi* (1964).

Olivia de Havilland: The British-American actress famous for her memorable role in the film *Gone with the Wind* (1939), passed away at the age of 104 years in Paris. Winner of two Oscars, her cinematic career spanned from 1935 to 1988. She appeared in 49 feature films and was one of the leading actresses of her time.

PLACES IN NEWS

SEPTEMBER

Storm Sally: The tropical hurricane brought heavy rain and flooding in the Carolinas and Georgia in the US Gulf Coast. It also battered Florida and Alabama with rain and storm surges, downing power lines, turning roads into rivers and leaving homes submerged.

Typhoon Haishen: A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea, after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.

Hurricane Laura: One of the most powerful storms in the country's history struck Louisiana, a south eastern state of the USA. The tropical storm developed from the Gulf of Mexico and left widespread destruction across the state. At least six people were killed in Louisiana.

Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones are the same weather phenomenon: tropical storms with wind velocities of over 120 kmph, rising over Oceans. The name depends upon the location.

In the North Atlantic (eastern coast of USA and Mexico), central and eastern North Pacific (western coast of USA and Canada), the term Hurricane is used. The same type of storm in the Northwest Pacific (Koreas, Japan and China) is called a Typhoon. If they occur in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, they are termed Tropical Cyclones.

AUGUST

Rajamala: More than 55 people lost their lives in a massive landslide that occurred in the Pettimudi Tea Estate near Rajamala in Idukki district of Kerala on the night of August 6. Most of them were labourers from Tamil Nadu who were staying there in temporary hutments made on a hill slope.

Vijaynagar: One of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country has been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity. The area is the easternmost corner of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Myanmar. It was connected with mobile connectivity after Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited installed a network tower that has become functional now. Vijaynagar is not connected with any motorable road.

Beirut: At least 135 people were killed and 5,000 wounded in a massive explosion that shook the capital of Lebanon on Beirut on August 4. More than 300,000 people were displaced from their homes. The disaster was so massive that the authorities declared Beirut a "disaster city" and imposed a two-week state of emergency. Though it is not clear what exactly caused the explosion, it is suspected that the blast was caused from an estimated 2,750 metric tons of the explosive ammonium nitrate stored unsafely at a warehouse in the port area.



California: State of USA was in the news as widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres statewide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes. Two clusters of wildfires in the San Francisco Bay Area grew to become the second- and third-largest wildfires by size in recent state history. Since thousands of lightning strikes began on Aug. 15, the state reported 585 wildfires that have burned nearly a million acres, or 4,046 square kilometers.

Mount Sinabung: Indonesia's major volcano erupted once again on August 10, spewing a massive tower of smoke and ash into the sky, plunging local communities and villages into darkness. The volcano shot up massive columns of ash and smoke 5,000 metres up in the air, as a result, a thick layer of ash covered areas up to 18 kms from the crater. Fortunately, no loss of life was reported.

SPORTS WORLD

SEPTEMBER

P Iniyan, Indian Grandmaster won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament.

He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top. 17 year old Iniyan hails from Erode, Tamil Nadu. A total of 122 participants, including 31 Grandmasters, from 16 countries took part in the tournament.



Sumit Nagal, the 23-year-old player became the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years. He defeated Bradley Klahn of the USA in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament.

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

Prize money hiked for National Sports Awards

On the occasion of the National Sports Day, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports cheered up the thousands of sports persons of the country by announcing a big increase in the prize money in four of the seven categories of the National Sports and Adventure Awards. Winners of this year will get the revised enhanced amount. The prize money was last reviewed in 2008. The revised prize money is as under:

(Amount in Lakhs)

| Sr No | Name of the Award | Old Amount | New amount |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award | 7.5 | 25 |
| 2 | Arjuna Award | 5 | 15 |
| 3 | Dronacharya Award (Lifetime) | 5 | 15 |
| | Dronacharya award (Regular) | 5 | 10 |
| 4 | Dhyan Chand Award | 5 | 10 |

INTERNATIONAL

Tour de France: Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia won on Sep 20 the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world, securing a prize money of 5,00,000 Euros. 22 year old Tadej became the Tour's youngest champion since 1904. The race has duration of 23 days covering around 3500 kms through plains and mountains in and around France.

Pierre Gasly, a French driver from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy. This was his first Formula One victory.

Lewis Hamilton (Britain) celebrated the 90th win of his Formula One by winning the Tuscan Grand Prix in Mugello, Italy. He also won the Belgian Grand Prix at Stavelot, Belgium for the team Mercedes.

US Open Tennis Grand Slam, New York

Dominic Thiem of Austria won the men's singles title, beating Alexander Zverev of Germany.

Women's singles was won by Japan's Naomi Osaka, defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Italian Open Tennis Tournament, Rome, Italy

World number one, Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won the men's singles title by beating Diego Schwartzman of Argentina.

Women's singles title was won by Simon Halep of Romania as her opponent defending champion Karolína Pliskova of Czech Republic retired midway through the final with an injury.

Armand Duplantis, 20 year old Swedish pole vaulter broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. Duplantis cleared 6 meters, 15 centimeters (20 feet, 2 inches) at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea meet in Rome with his second attempt, besting Bubka's mark of 6.14 meters (20 feet, 1 1/2 inches) set in Sestriere in July 1994.

Cristiano Ronaldo, the 35 year old striker from Portugal became just the second footballer to reach a century of goals for a national team. He achieved the record playing against Sweden in the Nations League. The only other footballer to have crossed 100 international goals is former Iran striker Ali Daei, with 109 goals.

Dwayne Bravo: West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket. He achieved the feat on August 26 by claiming the wicket of Rahkeem Cornwall during one of the Caribbean Premier League matches in Port of Spain.

Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan: The most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history, 42 year old identical twin brothers of America announced their retirement from the sport.

AUGUST

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS ANNOUNCED



Based on recommendations of the selection committee headed by a former Judge of Supreme Court, Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma, the government announced the National Sports Awards 2020. The awardees will receive their awards from the President Ram Nath Kovind at a specially organized function through virtual mode from Rashtrapati Bhawan on 29th of this month which is National Sports Day. It coincides with the birthday of legendary hockey Olympian, Dhyan Chand.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

This is the highest Award conferred on sportspersons for spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports for over a period of four years. This year five sportspersons have been selected for this award:

Cricketer Rohit Sharma, Para-Athlete Mariyappan Thangavelu, Table Tennis player Manika Batra, Wrestler MsVinesh Phogat and Indian Women's Hockey team captain Rani Rampal.

Arjuna Award

Given for consistent outstanding performance for four years. This year 27 sportspersons have been selected for this award.

Dronacharya Award

Given to the coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events. Guru Dronacharya was the legendary coach for Pandavas and Kauravas. In the Life-Time Category, eight coaches have been selected and in the regular category, five will get this award.

Life- Time Category:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Dharmendra Tiwary | Archery |
| Purushotham Rai | Athletics |
| Shiv Singh | Boxing |
| Romesh Pathania | Hockey |
| Krishan Kumar Hooda | Kabaddi |
| Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar | Para Powerlifting |
| Naresh Kumar | Tennis |
| Om Parkash Dahiya | Wrestling |

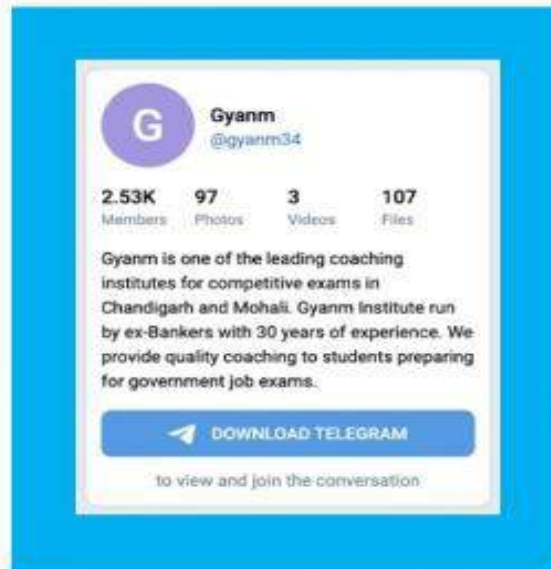
Regular category

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Jude Felix Sebastian | Hockey |
| Yogesh Malviya | Mallakhamb |
| Jaspal Rana | Shooting |
| Kuldeep Kumar Handoo | Wushu |
| Gaurav Khanna | Para Badminton |



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Dhyan Chand Award

Given for lifetime contribution in development and enrichment of sports. Named after wizard of Hockey - Major Dhyan Chand. Given to 15 persons this year.

Kuldip Singh Bhullar and Jincy Philips for Athletics, Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe and Trupti Murgunde for Badminton, N. Usha and Lakha Singh for Boxing, Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu for Football, Ajit Singh for Hockey, Manpreet Singh for Kabaddi, J. Ranjith Kumar for Para Athletics, Satyaprakash Tiwari for Para Badminton, Manjeet Singh for Rowing, Nandan P Bal for Tennis, and Netarpal Hooda for Wrestling. Late Sachin Nag for swimming.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

Anita Devi, Col.Sarfraz Singh, Taka Tamut, Narender Singh and Keval Hiren Kakka in Land Adventure category. Satendra Singh in Water Adventure category and Gajanand Yadava in Air Adventure category. Late Magan Bissa (mountaineering) selected for the Life Time Achievement Award.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar

Given at institutional level for contribution to promotion and development of sports.

Lakshya Institute and Army Sports Institute: For identification and nurturing of budding and young Talent

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, ONGC: For encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility

Air Force Sports Control Board, Delhi: For employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures

International Institute of Sports Management, Mumbai: For overall development of sports

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, MAKATROPHY: Panjab University, Chandigarh for overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments.

Haryana to host 2021 Khelo India Youth Games

Haryana will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. The announcement was made by the chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The Games will be held in Panchkula.

Usually the Khelo India Youth Games take place in January of every year but due to the pandemic, they have been postponed. Over 10,000 athletes are expected to take part in Games.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni: Former Indian Cricket Team Skipper announced his retirement from International Cricket. Under his captaincy, India won the 2007 ICC World T-20, the 2010 and 2016 Asia Cups, the 2011 ICC World Cup and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy. A right-handed middle-order batsman and wicket-keeper, Dhoni is one of the highest run scorers in One Day Internationals (ODIs) with a formidable score of more than 10 thousand runs.

Suresh Raina: Following the footsteps of M S Dhoni, left handed batsman also announced his retirement from international cricket. He is the only Indian to score centuries in both T20 and ODI World Cups. He had been playing for India since July, 2005.

'Fit India Freedom Run' - Aug 15 to Oct 2

The Sports Ministry organised 'Fit India Freedom Run', a largest country-wide run, from August 15 to October 2, 2020. Amid the ongoing pandemic situation and the norms of social distancing, the sports ministry has decided to encourage the participants of the event to run at their own pace, anywhere and anytime as per their convenience. The event aims at encouraging fitness among the masses while also following the COVID-19 protocols.

INTERNATIONAL

James Anderson, England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets. The 38-year-old bowler dismissed Pakistani batsman Azhar Ali to claim his 600th wicket, playing at Ageas Bowl Stadium in Southampton, England.

Muttiah Muralitharan with 800, Shane Warne with 708 and Anil Kumble with 619 wickets are the only other bowlers - all spinners - who remain ahead of Anderson on the all-time list of wicket-takers.

Three entries in ICC Hall of Fame

Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis, Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar, were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony.

Jaques Kallis is the first and only all rounder to achieve the doubles of 10,000 runs and 250 wickets in test and ODI cricket.

Zaheer Abbas is the only player to have scored a century and double century in a first-class match four times, finishing each of the eight innings not out.

Lisa Sthalekar is the first player to achieve the double of 2000 runs and 100 wickets in Women's One Day Internationals.

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

Collin Morikawa of the USA won the PGA Championship-2020, in San Francisco, USA. It was the first major tournament of 2020 following the sport's shutdown due to the global pandemic.

Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain) of team Mercedes won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. He also won British Grand Prix 2020 held at the Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom.

Max Verstappen (Netherland) of team Red Bull won Formula One's 70th Anniversary Grand Prix at the Silverstone Circuit in England.

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

UEFA Champions League 2019-20: German professional sports club, Bayern Munich won the title by defeating Paris Saint-Germain in Lisbon, Portugal. It's an annual event organised by the Union of European Football Associations and contested by top football clubs of Europe.

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

DAYS & DATES

SEPTEMBER

September 2: World Coconut Day

The day aims to create awareness about the importance of the coconut and its benefits. The day is especially marked in countries under Asian and Pacific regions by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) as they house most of the world's coconut growing production centres. One of nature's most versatile products, the coconut and its various parts can be used for food and drink, bakery, sweets, oil, cosmetic preparations, decorating and variety of coir products. The theme of World Coconut Day 2020 this year is – "Invest in Coconut to save the world". In India, Kerala tops the production in coconut, but Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are also picking up in this sector.

September 5: Teachers' Day

The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and second President of India (1962–1967). He was a staunch believer of the value of education. The day honours the contribution of teachers and educators for their significant role in students' lives.

September 5: International Day of Charity

The United Nations observes this day with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs all around the world to help others through voluntary philanthropic activities. The date commemorates the death anniversary of Saint Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize awardee of 1979.

Sep 7: International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

The UN General Assembly on 19th December last year had adopted a resolution to observe the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on 7th September every year starting from this year. In India various activities are conducted under the National Clean Air Programme to improve the quality of air, particularly in urban areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address from the Red Fort on this year's Independence Day, had highlighted the need of holistic improvement in air quality in 100 identified cities.

Sep. 08: International Literacy Day: Countries across the world celebrate this day to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. According to UNESCO, "this year the focus is on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies." The theme will highlight literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective and therefore mainly focus on youth and adults.

September 9: Himalayan Day

Observed every year to sensitize the people on the importance of this fragile ecosystem as also to highlight the various issues concerning it. The Day was first observed in Uttarakhand in 2010 as an initiative of a group of noted environmentalists. Himalaya plays an important role to save and sustain nature and protect the country from adverse weather conditions. The Himalayan range is also responsible for rain besides being a rich repository of floral and faunal biodiversity. As many as 130 crore people directly or indirectly depend on the mountain range for survival. The theme for this year's Himalayan Day is "Himalayas and Nature".

September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day

Supported by the WHO and International Association for Suicide Prevention, it is a day dedicated to raising awareness of the risks of suicide and the challenges faced in trying to prevent suicide. It is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally. It is responsible for over 800,000 deaths every year. The theme for this year is same as was in 2018 and 2019, "Working together to prevent suicide".

September 11: The National Forest Martyrs Day

Observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect nature in the remote corners of the country. On September 11, 1730, over 360 people of the Bishnoi community were massacred in Khejarli (Rajasthan) because they objected to felling of Khejri trees by the king of Jodhpur. The day is devoted to pay respects to hundreds of forest officials who sacrificed their lives while protecting the country's forest wealth and wildlife, fighting against poachers, smugglers, diseases and loneliness. The Ministry of Environment and Forest made the declaration in 2013 to celebrate this day annually.

September (12): World First Aid Day

Observed on the second Saturday of September every year to create awareness about the importance of first aid in attending injuries and saving lives. The day was started by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2000 to educate people in the world about the benefits of first aid, need of first aid and the right way to do first aid. The theme for this year is First Aid Saves Lives.

September 14: Hindi Divas / Raj Bhasha Divas

Hindi Divas commemorates the adoption of Hindi as the official language of India. On this day in 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language of India by the Constituent Assembly of India. Hindi is one of the two official languages of the Union government — the other being English.

September 15: Engineer's Day

The day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of acclaimed civil engineer M Visvesvaraya. Decorated with Bharat Ratna in 1955, he had extraordinary skills for designing dams and several water related projects. He patented and installed an irrigation system with water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune to raise the food supply level and storage to the highest levels. He was also conferred the British Knighthood by the then King George V, which put 'Sir' before his name. He was called Sir MV.

September 15: International Day of Democracy

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution in 2007 that September 15 of each year would be observed as the International Day of Democracy. The day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries. The day provides an opportunity to recall that democracy is about people as it gives voice to the common man and ensures that all are equal before the rule of law. The theme for the year 2020 is 'Covid-19: A Spotlight on Democracy.'

September 16: World Ozone Day

Also known as the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer, it is observed annually to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987. The protocol itself was the outcome of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, adopted in 1985. Under the Montreal Protocol, nations worked together to cut out 99 percent of ozone-depleting substances.

The Protocol was followed by the Kigali Amendment wef Jan, 2019 to reduce the projected production and consumption of hydro fluoro carbons (HFCs) by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years. Kigali is the capital of Rwanda, a tiny landlocked country in Central Africa. This year the slogan for the Day is 'Ozone For Life'.

The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas that protects the Earth and its ecosystem from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. The ozone layer is formed mainly in the lower portion of the Stratosphere, from approximately 15 to 35 kilometers above Earth. Ozone is a pale blue gas with a distinctively pungent smell, formed in the atmosphere when the sun's rays split oxygen molecules into single atoms. These atoms combine with nearby oxygen to form a three-oxygen molecule, called Ozone.

September 17: The World Patient Safety Day

Supported by the WHO, the Day is observed to create a global awareness for patient safety. It calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries to improve patient safety during healthcare. Furthermore, the Day brings together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care leaders and policy-makers to show their commitment to patient safety. The theme for this year is "Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety".

September 18: International Equal Pay Day

Under an initiative of the United Nations, this day was observed for the first time this year, to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap which refers to the difference in earnings between men and women in paid employment. Equal pay for equal work is a human right to which all women are entitled.

September 18: World Bamboo Day

It is observed every year by the World Bamboo Organization to generate awareness about conserving and promoting the bamboo industry. Also known as poor man's timber, bamboo is omnipresent in tribal cultures and community living. This year's theme for the Day is "Bamboo Now".

After China, India is the world's second-largest cultivator of bamboo. To boost bamboo production and exploitation in the country, the Government amended the century old Indian Forest Act to delist bamboo as a tree and classify it as grass.

September 19: The Inter. Coastal Cleanup Day

This day is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September. It encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage plaguing beaches. It is an occasion to spread awareness about preserving and protecting the world's oceans and waterways. This year's theme is "Achieving a trash-free Coastline".



September 21: International Day of Peace

Observed around the world as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme for this year is "Shaping Peace Together". The theme draws attention to celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic.

September 21: The World Alzheimer's Day

Observed globally to raise awareness about the stigma that runs around Alzheimer disease and related dementia.

The theme for this year is 'Let's talk about dementia'. Alzheimer's is a progressive disease, where dementia (loss of memory) symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years.

September 22: World Rose Day

This day is celebrated to spread awareness about cancer which starts when cells grow out of control and crowd out normal cells. On this day, hand-made roses, cards, and gifts are offered to cancer patients. The day is observed in the memory of a 12-year old girl Melinda Rose, a cancer patient from Canada. After the diagnosis, the doctors had given her just weeks but due to her willpower and never giving hope of defeating cancer, she went on to live for six months.

September 22: World Rhino Day

This day provides an opportunity to work towards saving the Rhinos, as they have been the target of poachers for decades. Rhino horns are in great demand in many southeast Asian countries for their aphrodisiac and medicinal value. The theme for this year's day is "Five Rhino Species Forever". India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with its population in the range of 3000 animals in the States of Assam, West Bengal and UP.

September 23: International Day of Sign Languages

The day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf or dumb. This day presents the opportunity to 'support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users'. The theme for this day for the year 2020 is "Sign Languages Are for Everyone!".

September (24): World Maritime Day

It is observed on the last Thursday of September to celebrate the maritime industry's contribution in supporting and promoting the global economy. It emphasizes the importance of maritime security, marine environment and shipping safety. The theme for this year is "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet."

September 25: Antyodaya Diwas

Observed across the country to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a noted philosopher, historian and political activist. He was a veteran leader of Jan Sangh, which is considered a precursor to BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). Antyodaya means uplifting the weakest section of the society.

September 25: World Pharmacist Day

This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health. It is an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, The Hague (Netherlands). This year's theme is "Transforming global health".

September 27 - World Tourism Day

Observed to highlight the importance of tourism which helps in generating employment and build the future for millions of people around the world. This year the theme is "Tourism and jobs: a better future for all."

September (27) World Rivers Day

It is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of September to highlight the importance of waterways in our life. This day encourages people to conserve and save water and rivers around the world

September 28: World Rabies Day

The day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease. The day is the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first Rabies vaccine. *Rabies is a deadly virus spread to people from the saliva of infected animals. Rabies is usually transmitted through an animal bite, for example, from stray dogs or monkeys.*

September 29 - World Heart Day

Observed to spread awareness about heart disease and stroke which is the world's leading cause of death. The day promotes preventative measures to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). The theme chosen for this year is "Use heart to beat CVD".

September 30: International Translation Day

The day is supported by the UNO to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue for development and strengthening world peace.



AUGUST

August (3): World Sanskrit Day: It is celebrated on the occasion of the first Poornima (full moon day) of the Shravan month in the Hindu calendar. The Indian government declared in 1969 to celebrate Sanskrit Diwas to promote and revive the ancient Indian language.

August 6: Hiroshima Day

The day focuses on creating awareness for anti-war and anti-nuclear discussions and demonstrations. In 1945, the United States detonated two nuclear bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively, killing lakhs of people instantly and paralysing several lakhs for times to come. Japan surrendered two weeks later, ending World War II, though at a terrible cost. These are the only two nuclear bombs ever to have been used till date.

August 7: National Handloom Day

Celebrated to honour the handloom weavers in the country and to highlight their outstanding skills and craftsmanship. The day aims to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.

On this day in 1905, the Swadeshi Movement was launched from Town Hall in Kolkata to promote indigenous craftsmen and to protest partition of Bengal announced by then Viceroy Lord Curzon. On this occasion, artisans and weavers are honoured with 'SantKabir' awards for excellence in handicrafts and handloom products.

August 8: August Kranti Diwas

On this date in 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call of "Do or Die" at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement against Britishers. It was a civil disobedience movement. The day is regarded as one of the most important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country.

August 9: World Tribal Day

Also called as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, it is observed every year with UN support to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population and acknowledging their achievements and contributions. The day is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population. This year's theme is "COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience". The date recognizes the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982. There are more than 370 million indigenous people spread across 90 countries.

August 10: World Biofuel Day

Observed every year to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. Three major types of Biofuel are -- Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas. On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine, for the first time successfully ran a mechanical engine with Peanut Oil, marking the beginning of biofuels. In India, the Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015. The theme for the Day this year in India is 'Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

August 10: National Deworming Day

Observed twice every year, on August 10 and on February 10. The event is organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through the National Health Mission across the country to tackle worm infections, targeting more than 11 crore children in the age group of 1 to 19 years. The children are orally administered anti worm tablets Albendazole, free of cost.

August 12: World Elephant Day

The day focuses on bringing the world together to help elephants and also inform people and organisations about the threat that an elephant faces. The day is dedicated to the preservation and protection of elephants. Although elephants are loved all around the world, they are also on the verge of extinction due to their illegal poaching for their tusks (ivory). In the IUCN Red List of threatened species, African elephants are listed Vulnerable and Asian elephants as Endangered.

August 12: International Youth Day

Observed across the world to recognize the role of young people in bringing about change and to raise awareness regarding the problems and challenges faced by them. It is an occasion to highlight the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of the society. In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12th August be declared International Youth Day. The theme of this year is "Youth Engagement for Global Action".



August 13: World Organ Donation Day



This day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives. Organ donation refers to retrieving a donor's organs like heart, liver, kidneys, intestines, lungs, and pancreas after his death and then transplanting into another person who is in need of an organ. There is a large number of people who die due to organ failure. As per the National Health Portal, 500,000 people die due to non-availability of organs. It attempts to eliminate the myths and fears people have in their mind about organ donation.

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

Observed across the world with UN support to pay tribute to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services and to gather support for people affected by crises around the world. This is a day to say 'thank you' to those humanitarian workers who gave their lives or were injured while providing life-saving support and protection to people in need. The celebrations are supported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - OCHA, a part of the UN Secretariat. This year's theme for the Day is #RealLifeHeroes, who have "committed their lives to helping others."

August 19: World Photography Day

The day is dedicated to the art, craft, science and history of photography. It aims to inspire photographers across the planet to share their photos with a simple purpose of sharing their world with the world. The day encourages enthusiasts to express their feelings, emotions, and social thinking through their photography skills. A photograph has the power to capture a place or an area, an experience, an emotion, a flash in time. That is why it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words.



August 20: Sadbhavna Diwas (Harmony day)

Observed across India to promote national integration and communal harmony among people of all religions and languages. It commemorates the birthday of Rajiv Gandhi who served as Prime Minister from 1984 -89. Rajiv Gandhi as the youngest Prime Minister of the nation tried to propagate communal harmony, peace, and national integrity in India and was known as a goodwill ambassador to the world.

August 20: Akshay Urja Diwas

The day is devoted to raise awareness about the developments of renewable energy in India. It has been observed since 2004, supported by the Ministry for New & Renewable Energy. Renewable energy is the energy that is generated from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a regular basis, such as water, sunlight, wind, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

August 21: World Senior Citizens Day

Supported by the UNO, it is observed to raise awareness about the condition of older people and to support them throughout the aging process. It is an occasion to remind the society of its commitment to work for the welfare of older persons, to help them end hunger and poverty for the elderly and people of all ages. It's a day to remember and celebrate the older persons and thank them for their contributions to enhance their inclusiveness in the society.

August 26: Women's Equality Day

Observed every year to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment in the United States of America in 1878 that provided voting rights to women. The Day celebrates the achievements of women's rights activists and reminds us of the unique daily struggles that women face across the globe.

It may be noted that International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8.

August 29: National Sports Day

The day is celebrated every year to mark the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand, wizard of Hockey. He won gold medals in Olympics for India successively in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936. He is the only Hockey player to be honoured with Padma Bhushan. On this occasion, the President gives away the National Sports Awards.

August 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests

Supported by the UNO, the Day raises public awareness and education about the ill effects of global nuclear weapon tests. The day aims to end nuclear testing and tends to promote peace and security.

The history of nuclear testing began on July 16, 1945, when an atomic bomb was used at a desert test site in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in the United States.

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

HIMACHAL GK

GEOGRAPHY OF HIMACHAL



HIMALAYAS AND HIMACHAL

"He, who goes to the hills, goes to his mother, the loving, nourishing bounteous mother".
- 'The Puranas'

The Himalayas are one of the youngest among the mountain system in India. These are believed to be 40 million years old. It took about 50 to 70 million years for this landmass to rise and to form the highest mountain system in the world.

ORIGIN OF THE HIMALAYAS

The Himalayas have originated as a result of sedimentation of vast Tethys geosynclines (Gaint downword fold in Earth crust) that lay between the Gondwana landmass in the South and Laurasia (Angara) landmass in the North. The origin of the Himalayas is related to continent-continent collision i.e. when two continental plates collide.

There are three transverse zones in the Himalayas. They are:

- (i) **Western Himalayas:** (Jammu-Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh)
- (ii) **Central Himalayas:** (Uttarakhand Pradesh hill districts)
- (iii) **Eastern Himalayas:** (from Sangrila range upto and including the Brahmaputra watershed):

There are marked differences between these zones in respect of climate, topography and vegetation.

Himachal takes its name from the Himalayas. Himachal literally means "Land of snowy mountains". Himachal Pradesh is a small world in itself, which is entered into through the plains of Punjab, Shivalik hills, hills of Shimla and through beautiful "meandering valleys", covered with pine and typical temperate mountain flora.

The region of the Himalayas, known to the ancient geographers as Jalandhara, was indeed Himachal Pradesh. The ancient names JALANDHARA (Jalam-dhara) had a geo-physical connotation - '**Jalam dharati iti Jalandharati**' (the land which holds or carries water is called Jalandhara).

The name 'Jalandhara' is attributed to a demon of that name, who is said to be the son of 'Sagara' (ocean) and 'Ganga', the river. The story in the **Padma Purana** alludes to the geo-physical formation of the Himalayas in the remote past.

HIMACHAL'S TOPOGRAPHY

Topographically, Himachal's territory from South to North can be divided into three zones -

1. 'Shivaliks' or Outer Himalayas

The annual rainfall in this zone varies from 1500 mm to 1800 mm. The famous places covered in this zone are - Paonta valley, Nahan tehsil, Pachhad and Renuka tehsils of Sirmaur district; Balh valley and Joginder Nagar area of the Mandi district Kangra, Nurpur, Dhra, Jwali and Palampur tehsils of Kangra district; Dalhousie, Bhattiyat, and Churah of Chamba district.

In ancient times, Shivalik hills were known as '**Manak Parbat**'. Shivalik literally means "tresses of the Shiva".

2. Inner Himalayas or 'Mid-mountains

The altitude of this zone ranges from (350 metres or 1050 feet) to (1500 metres or 4500) feet above mean sea level.

In this zone fall all areas like the upper areas of the tehsils of Pachhad and Renuka in Sirmaur district; Chachyot and Karsog tehsils of Mandi district; upper parts of Kangra and Palampur tehsils and Dalhousie, Bhattiyat and Churah areas of Chamba district. To the South of Shimla is high peak of Choordhar (3.647m.) also known as Choorah Chandani.

The variety of soil found in these areas ranges from silty loam to clay loam and of dark brown colour, seed potatoes and temperate fruits.

The soil of upper parts of Shimla district, Sirmaur and Chamba is shallower in depth, with silty loam to loam of dark brown colour. From the horticultural point of view, this area is the most useful for stone and soft fruits.

The two famous ranges of lesser Himalayas are; '**Pir Panjal**' (in Chamba district) and '**Dhauladhar**' (Kangra, Chamba and Mandi district). The Kangra valley is a longitudinal and an open long tract at the foot of the Dhauladhar which means the 'White peak'.

Himalayan range near '**Badrinath**' (in Uttarakhand) forms the most striking feature. It is intercepted by the Satluj at 'Rampur-Bushahr', by the Beas at 'Larji' and by the Ravi near South-West of Chamba.

The largest of the lesser Himalayan range, the 'Pir Panjal, separates from the greater Himalayan range near the bank of the Satluj, forming the water-divide between the Chenab on the one side and the Beas and the Ravi on the other. It bends towards the Dhauladhar range near Bara Banghal, the sources of the Ravi.

3. The Greater Himalayas or Aliphine zone: (Altitude 4,500 metres and above from mean sea level). To the North of the Pir Panjal and Dhauladhar ranges are the more lofty mountain ranges, known as the 'Greater Himalayas' and 'Zaskar ranges'.

The rainfall is very scanty in this zone. Soil is of high texture with variable fertility. Climate is temperate in summer and semi-arctic in winter.

This climate and soil is best suited for the cultivation of dry fruits. Snowfall in the Greater Himalayas starts in the mid of October and continues till March-April. Some of the famous passes of this zone are – Sach pass, Chini pass, Chabia pass and Kugti pass (district Chamba), Rohtang pass, Kunzam pass, Baralacha pass and Hamta pass and Chandrakherni pass (district Lahaul & Spiti). The famous '**Zaskar range**' falls in this part of the Pradesh. Shilla (7,025 mts.) and Riwo Phargyul (6,791 mts.) are the highest among its peaks.

CLIMATIC ZONES

Climatically, the state can be divided into five zones, viz.

(i) Wet Sub-temperate zone comprising Palampur and Dharmshala area of Kangra district, Joginder Nagar area of Mandi district and Dalhousie area of Chamba district;

(ii) Humid sub-temperate zone, comprising of Kullu and Shimla districts and parts of Mandi, Solan, Chamba, Kangra and Sirmaur districts

(iii) Dry temperate, alpine high lands which include major parts of Lahaul – Spiti, Pangi and Kinnaur;

(iv) Humid sub-tropical zone, comprising of Bilaspur, major parts of Mandi district, Nahan area of Sirmaur district, Bhattiyat valley of Chamba district. Nalagarh area of Solan district, Hamirpur district and Dehra and Nurpur areas of Kangra district.

(v) Sub-humid tropical zone comprising of Una district, Paonta Sahib Area of Sirmaur district and Indora area of Kangra district.

Spiti is the driest area of Himachal Pradesh.

Dharamshala is the rainiest place with 3,400mm rainfall per annum.

Shimla and Nurpur fall in a rainfall zone of 1,500 mm – 2,000mm.

PREVAILING WIND TYPES

(a) Gravity Winds: These are vertical movements of air produced as a result of changes in temperature during various parts of the day. There is a downward movement of air from the ridge top to the valley bottom after sunset each day. At very high altitudes, usually over 6500 mts., gravity winds attain uncommon velocities. They tend to produce white plumes on the tops of snow-clad peaks. These plumes consist of cold, dry, powdery snow, blown by the wind.

(b) Western Disturbances: The world known Westerly winds of the mid-latitudes make their presence felt in

the Western Himalayas. The western disturbances bring rain at lower elevations and snowfall in the higher reaches. The approach of the Western disturbances is marked by warm winds blowing in from the South-East. Later on, cirrus and cirrocumulus clouds begin to appear, thereby filling the grey skies with stratus clouds. The Westerly disturbances may even generate blizzard and snowstorms, thereby obstructing air traffic leading to the closure of mountain passes.

(c) Visibility: In the month of May and June, there is haze and dust in the Western Himalayan and in the Trans Himalayan zone. The skies are usually free from clouds but visibility is poor, because of this haze that may extend upto 5 kms or more.

(d) Jet Streams: These are mainly prevalent at very high elevations. These are high speed winds which develop in the narrow belt of the upper atmosphere during winter months. At times, the jet streams may attain speeds of over 200 kms per hour.

(e) Lee Waves: Winds which cause considerable erosion and damage.

The following factors govern the speed force and direction of winds in the Himalayan region:

- (i) Stability of the atmosphere.
- (ii) Prevailing climate conditions.
- (iii) Speed profile of the wind.
- (iv) Altitude at which the wind is blowing.
- (v) Shape and size of the obstacle.
- (vi) Stratification of the air mass.

(f) South -West Monsoon Rains: The maximum rainfall in the Himalayan region occurs due to SW monsoon. It strikes the Himalayas first and causes very heavy rainfall there.

(g) Winter Monsoons: These winds are similar to the North East trade winds that blow all over the globe at mid-latitudes during this time of the year. NE monsoon winds bring winter rain to many parts of the Himalaya. They bring widespread rain to the Western and central Himalayas.

ALTITUDENAL FACTORS

The total rainfall received increases with altitude upto an elevation of about 250 mts. Further upwards it starts decreasing as snow being to account for a major part of the precipitation.

The temperature decreases slowly with increase in altitude upto an elevation of about 2,500 mts, after which the fall becomes sharper.

Some of the dominant factors which operate at high altitude are oxygen and carbon dioxide deficiencies, thin atmosphere, intense isolation and arid atmosphere. Rainfall starts decreasing at about 6,000 feet and finally at 12,000 feet there is virtually no rainfall.

.....To be continued

Bullet News

(April 2020 – July 2020)

For details visit – www.gyanm.in

NATIONAL NEWS

JULY

- India's tiger census of 2018-19 entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest ever camera-trap wildlife survey conducted anywhere in the world.
- IIT Madras launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address at the high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) on July 17.
- For the first time in the history of Indian Railways, all trains run on a particular day, achieved 100 percent punctuality.
- The Ministry of Railways said all the 201 trains that ran on 1st July were on time.
- More than 270 million people in India were lifted out of poverty from 2005 to 2016 — the largest by any country in that period.
- This was revealed in a study by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative in collaboration with the UNDP.
- The Central American country, Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement.
- The CBDT has signed an MoU with the CBIC to facilitate smoother bilateral exchange of data on an automatic and regular basis.
- The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge – the AnjiKhad Bridge across Chenab River will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.
- India and Maldives signed a contract for setting up Neighbourhood Fish Processing Plants at two of the islands in the Maldives.

- India and Bhutan opened up a new trade route on July 15 between Pasakha in Bhutan and Jaigaon in West Bengal.
- The first trial container ship from Kolkata port to Agartala through Chattogram port (Bangladesh) was flagged off on July 16.
- The World Bank announced \$400 million (about Rs. 300 Crore) support for India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga river and stem pollution in the river.
- For ensuring security, sovereignty and integrity of India and to protect data & privacy of people of India, the Government on June 29 banned 59 mobile apps that were based in China.
- India and Bhutan signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan.
- India-European Union Summit was held in a virtual mode on July 15 to focus on further strengthening the economic and cultural relations between India and Europe.

JUNE

- A violent face-off between Indian and Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15, one Indian Army Colonel and nineteen soldiers were martyred.
- For the first time, a bilateral summit between India and Australia was held in virtual mode on June 4 between the two prime ministers.
- India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term after winning an overwhelming 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly.
- India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU and others to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).
- The India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

| Overall Best Institute | IIT, Madras |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Best University | Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru |
| Best Management Institute | IIM, Ahmedabad |
| Best Engineering Institute | IIT, Madras |
| Best Medical Institute | AIIMS, New Delhi |
| Best Dental Science Institute | Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi |
| Best College: | Miranda House (for girls), Delhi |

- The AIIB, Beijing approved a loan of \$750 million to India to strengthen its fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

MAY

- Stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore, equaling roughly to 10% of the national GDP, announced under the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on May 13.
 - ✓ Highlights of the first three tranches of package announced on 13, 14 and 15 May are:
 - Rs. 3 lakh crore collateral free - guarantor free loans, with a moratorium of 12 months for 45 lakh units in MSME sector.
 - Rs. 20 thousand crore for stressed MSMEs benefiting 2 lakh units
 - Rs. 50,000 crore rupees to be infused in the MSMEs through the equity channel.
 - Rs 1,500 cr interest subvention for MUDRA-Shishu loans of up to Rs 50,000.
 - Rs 5,000 crore for supporting 50 lakh street vendors
 - Tenders for government procurement up to 200 crore rupees will no longer be through the Global Tender route to encourage local producers.
 - Rs 3,500 crore for providing 10 kg foodgrain and 2 kg pulses free for the next two months for 8 crore migrants, even with no ration cards.
 - Affordable rental housing accommodation and complexes to be constructed through PPP mode for urban poor and migrants
 - Date to file Income Tax returns extended from July 31 to November 30
 - Rs 90,000-crore for power distribution companies to help them pay the power-generating companies.
 - Fourth tranche of Atma Nirbhar Bharat economic package focused on structural reforms in the eight key infrastructure areas.
 - ✓ In Defence, the FDI limit has been raised from 49 percent to 74 percent.
 - ✓ Coal mining opened to Private sector; Rs. 50,000 crore will be invested in this sector.

- 5th tranche of Atma Nirbhar Bharat economic package focused on structural reforms in -- MNREGA, Health and Education, Business during Covid.
 - ✓ Under MNREGA, 40 thousand crore rupees allocated for employment generation in the rural areas to help the returning migrants.
- India has become the second largest manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), producing more than 3 lakh PPEs and N95 masks per day.
- The Border Roads Organisation successfully completed road connectivity from Dharchula to Lipulekh famously known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route.
- Nearly five million people were displaced in India in 2019 — the highest in the world so far — according to a recent report titled 'The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)'
 - ✓ More than half of displacements were caused by heavy rains and severe tropical storms.
- India launched Mission Sagar on May 10 to provide assistance to the five island nations of Eastern Indian Ocean Region amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
- Popular TV serial Ramayan has created the world record of highest viewed entertainment programme globally. 77 million people watched the show in one day on the 16th May.

APRIL

- Union Cabinet approved reduction in MPs salary by 30 per cent for one year, wef April 1, 2020 for funding the fight against Corona.
- The President, Vice President, Governors of States have also voluntarily decided to take a pay cut of 30% for one year to support fight against Corona.
- The cabinet decided to suspend MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) funds for two years from 2020-21 for fighting Corona.
- As per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India stood third spending \$71.1 billion on defence in 2019.
- India has ranked 142nd out of 180 countries surveyed in the Global Press Freedom Index.
- The Indian Air Force conducted 'Operation Sanjeevani' to air-lift 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to the Maldives to fight against the COVID 19.

NEWS FROM STATES

JULY

- In Uttar Pradesh, a new record was created on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day.
- One of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia is being established in the Rewa district of Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh, with a total installed capacity of 750 MW.
- India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in Delhi on June 2 to be set up at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi.
- India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza was inaugurated on July 20 at Chelmsford Club in central New Delhi.
- Uttarakhand has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari park in Pithoragarh district.
- *Lichens are a kind of plant that arises from algae living among filaments of multiple fungi species in a mutualistic relationship.*
- The first parcel cargo train with red chillies for export to Bangladesh was flagged off from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh on July 10.
- Unit 3 of the Kakrapar nuclear power plant in the Surat district of Gujarat attained criticality (a sustained chain reaction) for the first time on July 22.
- *It is the country's first 700 MWe (megawatt electric) unit and indigenously-designed pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR).*
- Madhya Pradesh topped the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmanirbharNidhi-PM SVaNidhi scheme for providing easy finance to the street vendors to continue their business.
- The first mega food park in Mizoram, Zoram Mega Food Park, started on July 21. It is expected to provide direct and indirect employment up to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers.
- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections.
- Uttarakhand plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity. The initiative aims to generate up to 5 MW of electricity and curb pollution.
- Govt has declared the whole of Nagaland as "disturbed area" till the end of December 2020 under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA).
- The Supreme Court on July 13, upheld the rights of Travancore royal family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- Madhya Pradesh Tourism launched "IntzaarAapKa" campaign on social media to attract tourists to the famous tourist spots in the state.
- The World Bank approved two loans, \$50 million and \$200 million for the Tamil Nadu to provide access to affordable housing to low-income groups in the state.

JUNE

- Himachal Pradesh state Panchayati raj department won 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- The FSSAI released the second 'State Food Safety Index' on June 7 on the occasion of World Food Safety Day.
- Gujarat topped the index among larger states, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
- Chhattisgarh launched 'GodhanNyay Yojana' to purchase cow dung to make animal husbandry commercially profitable, prevent open grazing by cattle and solve the problem of stray animals on roads.
- Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.
- The central government approved to rename the Kolkata Port Trust as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust on its 150th anniversary.
- Kerala has become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizens.
- The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has become the 1st airport in India, to have an Aviation Weather Monitoring System at its new runway on both ends.

MAY

- Mizoram granted "industry" status to sports to generate employment and increase its return value.
- Union Government has launched a scheme for 100 per cent solarization of Konark Sun Temple and Konark town in Odisha to develop the historical Konark as Surya Nagri.
- The UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth has mentioned Manipur's 'Khudol' initiative in the top 10 global initiatives.
- Ya_All, an Imphal based NGO started Khudol project to help LGBTQI+ community, daily wagers, HIV people, adolescents, and children.
- The Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal.
- The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry declared six cities - Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysore, Indore and Navi Mumbai as five-star garbage free cities.

- West Bengal launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to start income generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture in vacant barren lands.
- Telangana has become the first Indian state to regulate the cultivation of crops in the state. To begin with, growing paddy crops will be limited to just 50 lakh acres and of Red Gram to 10 lakh acres.
- The Kashmir Saffron has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The saffron cultivated in Kashmir valley has a natural deep red colour and high aroma.

APRIL

- Uttar Pradesh became the first state on April 19 to geo-tag 7,368 community kitchens being run in the state, providing 12 lakh food packets per day.
- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to have the requisite infrastructure in all its courts for hearing cases through video conferencing.
- The World Bank has approved \$82 million for the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Trans-formation Project for upgradation of major roads.

GOVT INITIATIVES

JULY

- The revised and enlarged Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into force on July 20.
- The new Act introduces the concept of product liability and brings within its scope, the product manufacturer, service provider and seller, for any claim for compensation.
- New rules and regulations for e-commerce companies notified under the Consumer Protection Act 2019 making it mandatory to display the 'country of origin' on their products.
- Now the e-commerce players will have to display the total price of goods and services offered for sale along with the break-up of other charges.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to a new pan India Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for one lakh crore rupees from Fiscal year 2020 to 2029.
- HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for Digital Education stating that online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes.
- National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme launched in virtual mode in Andhra Pradesh.
- The NISHTHA programme focuses on the holistic development of children and includes the curriculum of education also.
- Aims at "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has partnered with UNICEF, Paris to mobilise 1 crore youth volunteers to achieve goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The ministry signed a MoU with YuWaah (a multi-stakeholder platform formed by UNICEF) to promote volunteerism among India's youth.
- Government to set up world's first Fish Cryobanks in different parts of the country to facilitate all time availability of fish sperms to fish farmers.
- A Cryobank is a facility for freezing and preserving semen at low temperatures (usually -196.5°C) for future use.
- Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal launched to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board launched 'Accelerate Vigyan' to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country.
- An e-Portal named ASPIRE - Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector.
- The CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21.
- Mano-darpan initiative launched to provide psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents during the current Corona crisis.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Microsoft to offer digital skills to India's youth in the next 12 months amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- India finalised the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany to resume international travel amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A bilateral air bubble is a travel corridor between two countries that wish to reopen their borders and re-establish connections with each other.
- The NHAI has approached all IITs, NITs and reputed Engg. Colleges to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of National Highways on voluntary basis.
- The objective is to harness the intellectual prudence of students and faculty towards improvement of the road infrastructure ecosystem of the country.
- Railways aims to transform itself as a 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030 by becoming self reliant for its energy needs by utilising its vacant land for renewable energy projects.
- All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in Sanskrit 'Sanskrit Saptahiki' from June 4.
- Railways have invited the request for private participation by proposing 151 trains to be run by private operators over 109 Origin Destinations.

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JUNE

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE).
- It will encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities through a regulatory environment.
- "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan" launched to generate employment opportunities in rural India for migrant workers returning home amid the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown.
- The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched TULIP - "The Urban Learning Internship Programme" for fresh engineering graduates.
- They will get an opportunity to work for 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the country.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in partnership with IBM has unveiled Free Digital Learning Platform 'Skills Build Reignite'.
- It aims to reach more job seekers and provide new resources to business owners in India.
- SWADES- "Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support" launched to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning Indians under the Vande Bharat Mission.
- Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi:SVAnidhi, a special micro-credit facility scheme launched for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- The scheme implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs provides for a working capital loan of upto Rs 10,000 to street vendors.
- Rs.15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund launched for infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock
- related enterprises.
- 'YUKTI 2.0' launched to help merge technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated start-ups in higher education institutions.
- Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA) portal launched to improve implementation of Science and Technology Programme Scheme.
- Country's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) launched to enable market participants to trade in standardised gas contracts.
- The Department of Biotechnology under the ministry of Science and Technology launched India's first mobile infectious disease diagnostic lab.

- The lab is a BSL-2 facility with on site Elisa, real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test and Biochemistry analysers.
- CSIR launched portal Aarogya Path for the healthcare supply chain to serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers to deal with the Covid-19.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs has reconstituted a new committee to review the welfare of the freedom fighters.
- This committee is headed by the minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy and 9 other "eminent freedom fighters"
- CBIC launched its flagship programme Turant (instant) Customs, at Bengaluru and Chennai for technology based faster customs clearance of imported goods.
- Sahakar Mitra Internship programme launched to provide paid internship to youth and ensure availability of assured project loans to young co-operators.
- The union cabinet approved an ordinance for the creation of 'One India, One Agriculture Market' to allow farmers and traders freedom of sale and purchase of the agricultural produce across the country.
- India joined the group of select nations to have a Real-Time Market in electricity to allow consumers to buy power just one hour before the delivery.
- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited launched the '#iCommit' campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day - June 5 aimed at building an energy resilient future.
- Nagar Van (Urban Forests) scheme launched to develop 200 urban forests across the country in the next five years.

MAY

- "GOAL: Going Online As Leaders" programme in partnership with Facebook to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
- LIC launched revised Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, open till 31 March, 2023 with an assured interest rate of 7.40% p.a. for FY 2020-21.
 - ✓ *Investors can get a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs. 9,250 at maximum by investing minimum Rs. 1,62,162 to maximum Rs. 15,00,000.*
- Govt launched "Vande Bharat Mission" to operate special flights to bring home lakhs of Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.
- Indian Navy launched Operation "Samudra Setu" (Sea Bridge) to repatriate Indian citizens from Male.
- The Ministry of MSMEs launched the CHAMPIONS portal (www.Champions.gov.in) to assist Indian MSMEs in becoming national and global champions.

- ✓ CHAMPION stands for “Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength”.
- Rs. 20,000 crore “*Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada (Fisheries Wealth) Yojana*” for the development of marine and inland fisheries.
- ‘National Test Abhyaas’ app launched to provide free mock tests to the JEE and NEET aspirants.
- The Home Ministry has decided that from June 01, 2020, all the dry canteens of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will sell only indigenous products.
- CSIR has launched the Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system.
- ✓ It will connect farmers, transporters, pesticides and fertilizer dealers, cold store and warehouse owners, aarhtiyas, etc. for a timely and effective solution.

APRIL

- India’s first comprehensive COVID-19 tracking app, ‘Aarogya Setu’ was launched by the central government on April 2, 2020.
- An Integrated Geospatial Platform “SAHYOG” launched by the Deptt of Science and Technology to help in decision making for managing COVID-19.
- The e-Gram Swaraj Portal and Mobile app launched to prepare and plan Gram Panchayat Development Plans.
- ‘Swamitva’ scheme launched in pilot mode in 6 states to map rural inhabited lands using drones and latest survey methods.
- Govt approved a double-digit hike, Rs. 13 to Rs. 34, in the wages of labourers under MGNREGA, wef April 1, 2020, in all the States and UTs.
- The Agriculture Ministry launched Kisan Rath mobile app to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables like fruits and vegetables.
- The CBSE has decided to introduce three new subjects -- Design Thinking, Physical Activity Trainer and Artificial Intelligence, for class 11 from 2020-21.

ECONOMY

JULY

- India signed a preliminary agreement with the US for cooperating on emergency crude oil reserves, including the possibility of India storing oil in the US emergency stockpile.
- Data released by the Ministry of Commerce shows that the USA has emerged as India’s top trading

partner for the second consecutive fiscal year in 2019-20

- The Union Government has amended the General Financial Rules 2017 to impose restrictions on public procurement from countries that share a land border with India on national security grounds.
- Google CEO SundarPichai announced an investment of Rs. 75,000 crore in India over the next 5 to 7 years through “Google for India Digitisation Fund”.
- The World Bank approved \$750 million support for MSME Emergency Response Program to fund the MSMEs impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.
- NLC India Ltd and Coal India Ltd. signed an agreement for formation of a Joint Venture to develop solar and thermal power assets on pan-India basis.
- On July 24, Reliance Industries (RIL) crossed the Rs 14 lakh crore market-valuation mark, becoming the first Indian company to reach that benchmark.

JUNE

- Moody’s Investors Service has downgraded India’s credit rating to the lowest investment grade Baa3 from Baa2 while maintaining a negative outlook.
- The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has prepared a list of 3,000 items which are currently imported from China and easily replaceable by Indian manufactured goods.
- *The campaign titled ‘Indian Goods - Our Pride’ aims to achieve reduction in imports of Chinese goods by Rs 1 lakh crore by December 2021.*
- The CCEA approved the increase in the MSPs for Kharif crops for the marketing season 2020-21.
- ✓ *MSP / per Quintal of some major crops is as under:*
Paddy-1888; Cotton (long)- 5825; Groundnut- 5275;
Maize - 1850; Tuar/Urd Dal - 6000;
Moong Dal - 7196; Sunflower – 5885
- Govt raised the Customs duty on bamboo imports from 10% to 25% with immediate effect with a view to encourage the use of domestic bamboo.
- MSME Ministry has issued Gazette notification for the upward revision in the definition and criteria of MSMEs with effect from 1st July, 2020.
- Micro enterprises: Mfg./services enterprises with investments up to Rs 1 cr and turnover up to Rs 5 cr
- Small enterprises: Enterprises with investment up to Rs. 10 crore, and turnover of Rs 50 crore
- Medium enterprises: Enterprises with investment up to Rs 20 crore and turnover up to Rs 100 crore
- Railways set a new world record by running the first Double-Stack Container Train that carried two layers of containers, placed one over the other.

- The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat, covering a distance of 338 km.

MAY

- NSO data shows that India's economic growth slipped to 3.1% in the Jan-Mar, 2019-20 showing the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
In 2019-20, economy grew by an 11-year low rate of 4.2% against 6.1% expansion in 2018-19.
- The Indian Railways' most powerful 12000 HP Made in India locomotive made its maiden commercial run in Uttar Pradesh on May 18.
These locos have been built at the Railways' Madhepura factory in Bihar, by French company Alstom under the 'Make in India' programme.
- ONGC and NTPC entered into a MoU to set up a joint venture company to set up renewable energy projects including offshore wind power projects.

APRIL

- Facebook invested Rs 43,574 crore for securing a 9.99 per cent stake in India's oil-retail-telecom conglomerate Reliance led Jio Platforms.
- The TVS Motor's overseas subsidiary TVS Motor Singapore Pte. Ltd. acquired UK's iconic sporting motorcycle brand 'Norton'.

BANKING & FINANCE

JULY

- India's foreign exchange reserves surged to record \$ 517.64 billion on July 17, ranking fifth largest in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia.
- NPCI launched UPI AutoPay feature for recurring payments such as mobile bills, electricity bills, EMI payments, and loan payments, etc., of up to Rs. 2000.
- IRDAI has allowed 30 general and health insurers to launch short-term 'Corona Kavach' health insurance policies.
- According to data from the RBI, Tamil Nadu has topped market borrowings among States in the country, accounting for 17% of the total borrowings.
- HDFC Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities.
- HDFC Bank has launched the 'e-KisaanDhan' app through which farmers will be able to access the services, both banking and agriculture.
- Bank of Baroda has launched 'Insta Click Savings Account', a digital self-assisted online savings account, for all its customers.

- Union Bank of India has executed a corporate agency agreement with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to distribute LIC policies to its customers.

JUNE

- The union cabinet passed ordinance to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI.
- RBI has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 500 crore to improve and support the development of the digital payments ecosystem in the northeast and rural districts in India.
- RBI constituted a five-member Internal Working Group headed by P K Mohanty, Director, RBI Central Board to review the ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks.
- Exim Bank extended a \$20.10 million Line of Credit to Nicaragua for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital.
- Bank of Baroda has decided to completely digitise its loans operations such as agriculture, home, MSME, auto and personal loans.
- ICICI Home Finance launched SARAL – an Affordable Housing Loan scheme for women, lower-middle-income customers, and EWS customers.
- ICICI Bank has introduced an online overdraft facility 'Insta FlexiCash' for its salary account customers.

MAY

- On May 22 RBI slashed the repo rate by 40 bps to 4.5%. The reverse repo rate was also lowered to 3.35%. The Bank Rate & MSF now stand at 4.25%.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that all co-operative banks could also make use of SARFAESI Act to make recovery from defaulting borrowers.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the introduction of Video KYC to open a full-fledged Kotak savings account – a first in Indian banking.
 - ✓ It is a zero-contact, completely digital and paperless account opening with full KYC compliance.

APRIL

- Govt has declared banking industry as a public utility service for six months till October 21 under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- The RBI asked scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks to not to make any dividends for the FY ending March 2020 to conserve cash to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19.

- ICICI bank has rolled out a new feature of voice banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for its customers.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JULY

- The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs 300 crore to meet their immediate operational requirements.
- Defence Ministry finally issued the Sanction Letter for grant of permanent commission (PC) for Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in the Indian army.
- The Indian navy commissioned its largest Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala in Kerala.
- Indian Naval Ships conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the world's largest aircraft carrier USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in the Indian Ocean near Andaman - Nicobar Islands.
- The DRDO conducted trials of Helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile 'Dhruvastra' at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha.
- The DRDO provided the Indian Army its most advanced drone named 'Bharat' to carry out accurate surveillance in mountainous terrain, especially along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.
- Boeing India delivered the last of the five AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and last five of the 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters at the Hindan Air Force Station, near Ghaziabad in UP.
- DRDO has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System capable of para dropping military stores of up to 7-ton weight from the IL 76 'Gajraj' military cargo aircraft.
- Claimed to be the world's most affordable diagnostic kit for coronavirus, a low-cost test kit "Corosure" has been developed by the IIT, Delhi.
- India and Israel have jointly developed an ultra rapid testing kit for COVID-19 that can give results in just 30 seconds.
- Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved India's first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine).
- Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly has been named as India's largest butterfly, a record an unknown specimen had held earlier for 88 years.
- India's first social media super app 'Elyments' was launched on July 6. Through the app, the users can

stay in touch through free video/audio calls, vibrant feed, and private/group chats.

- Reliance Industries has launched video-conferencing app 'JioMeet' with unlimited free calling that is being seen as rate war on rival Zoom.
- JioMeet supports HD audio and video call quality with up to 100 participants and does not impose a 40-minute time limit.
- China successfully launched its first Mars probe, named Tianwen 1 (meaning Questions to Heavens), on July 23, aiming to complete orbiting, landing and roving in a single mission.
- South Korea launched ANASIS-II, its first-ever military communications satellite from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a Falcon 9 rocket.
- China has launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center.
- The UAE became the first Arab nation to send a probe to Mars. The probe named 'Hope' was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan on July 19.

JUNE

- Indian Navy inducted the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System 'Maareech', capable of being fired from all frontline warships.
- Indian Navy inaugurated its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at the Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and manufactured an "Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation" (ARPIT).
- ICGS Kanaklata Barua: The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd, Kolkata delivered the fifth and last boat in the series of Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- IIT-Bombay has created Indian receiver GPS chip "Dhruva" for use in cell phones and navigation devices to discover locations and routes inside the nation.
- SpaceX became the first private company to successfully dock its spacecraft Dragon with the International Space Station to deliver two US astronauts in the station.

MAY

- The Air Force operationalised its squadron 18- "Flying Bullets" with a fleet of the Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas at its Suler base near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- **A ship - ICGS Sachet** and two Interceptor Boats, C-450 and C-451, were commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard in Panaji, Goa.

APRIL

- The Trump administration approved the sale of Harpoon Block II air launched missiles and lightweight torpedoes worth \$155 million to India.

INTERNATIONAL

JULY

- The fourth edition of the Ministerial meet on Climate Action was held in virtual mode hosted by the European Union.
- Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the WTO. An observer nation has to complete the process of accession to WTO within five years.
- According to the WHO, South-East Asian Region office, Maldives and Sri Lanka were verified for having eliminated Measles and Rubella.
- Germany passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038 and agreed on a shutdown schedule for individual lignite and hard coal power plants
- Nearly 78% of Russian backed constitutional reforms that could keep President Vladimir Putin in power until 2036. Currently, he is serving his fourth term as President, from 2018 to 2024.

JUNE

- The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam on June.
- Germany has decided to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cotton buds and food containers, as well as polystyrene cups and boxes by July 3, 2021.
- The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, USA. The University has been named as the Vivekananda Yoga University.
- China's unmanned submersible dived to a depth of 10,907 metres at the world's deepest ocean point, Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, in Pacific Ocean, setting a new world record.
- Civil unrest flared in over 40 US cities and curfews were imposed on May 31 as demonstrators took to the streets to vent outrage at the death of a black man by police.
- He was shown on video gasping for breath and uttering his last words- "I can't breath....." as a white Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck.

- Apple Inc. has become the first company in world to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap. At a current price of \$352 per share and 4.3 billion.(crossed \$2 trillion in Aug)
- WHO launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a global initiative aimed at making various health technologies and products to fight COVID-19, accessible to all.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2021 has ranked Massachusetts Institute for Technology at the top, followed by Stanford University and Harvard University at second and third rank, respectively.

MAY

- Skies Treaty signed with Russia around 18 years ago.
 - ✓ *The 2002 treaty allows unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of the participating countries.*
- As many as 88 Nobel laureates including Kailash Satyarthi have called upon the governments to spend \$ 1 trillion on marginalised children during the lockdowns and the post COVID-19 world.
- India handed over the war game centre "INDIA", built by the Indian Military to Uganda Peoples Defence Forces in Jinja, Uganda.
- The UN Postal Administration and WHO jointly launched a postal stamp to mark the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication on May 8.
- Iran amended the Monetary and Banking Act of Iran to change Iran's national currency from 'Rial' to 'Toman' to tackle the rising inflation. One Toman is equal to 10,000 Rials.

APRIL

- The BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs summit was held through a video conference on April 28, 2020, led by the group's current chair, Russia.
- The 11th session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue with 30 countries including India was hosted by Germany on April 28, through a video conference.
- The USA has decided to stop US funding for the World Health Organization (WHO), which it has accused of grossly mismanaging and covering-up the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- For the first time in history, the US oil prices turned negative on April 20. The prices of West Texas Intermediate, the best quality crude oil in the world, crashed below \$ 0 mark to -\$40.32 a barrel.
- Saudi Arabia has declared an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors; instead they will undergo a prison sentence of no longer than 10 years in a juvenile detention facility.

PERSONS IN NEWS

JULY

Priyanka Chopra Jonas: Bollywood actor has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020.

RoshniNadar Malhotra: India's richest woman became the first woman to head a listed Indian IT company as she took over as the Chairperson of \$8.9-billion HCL Technologies from her father and billionaire Shiv Nadar.

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson: American wrestler-turned-actor, has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity.

JUNE

Anmol Narang: The 23 year old US Sikh lady made history by becoming the 1st observant Sikh to graduate from the distinguished US Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Virat Kohli: Indian skipper is the only cricketer to feature in Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020.

M Nethra: A 13-year old girl from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as the 'Goodwill Ambassador for the Poor' by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace.

MAY

Dr. Shobhana Narasimhan: A professor from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru, has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science, Cambridge, USA in recognition of her outstanding work on designs and properties of nano-materials.

Roberto Azevedo: In an unprecedented move, the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva, has decided to resign on August 31, a year before his term expires, due to personal reasons.

APRIL

Maharaja Ranjit Singh: Veteran Indian king, the Indian ruler of the Sikh Empire in the 19th century, was named as the 'greatest leader ever' in the world in a survey conducted by BBC World History Magazine.

Founders of Byju's and Zomato: Byju Classes' founder Byju Raveendran and Zomato's co-founder Gaurav Gupta are among the five Indians named by the World

Economic Forum (WEF) in its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders under the age of 40.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi: President Ram Nath Kovind nominated former Chief Justice of India to the Rajya Sabha on March 16.

Bill Gates: Co-founder of Microsoft announced his stepping down from Microsoft's board of directors as he wanted to dedicate more time to his philanthropic priorities served since 2004.

Satyarup Siddhanta: Indian mountaineer entered 'Limca Book of Records' for his extraordinary achievement of becoming the first Indian to climb the highest volcanoes of each of the 7 continents.

APPOINTMENTS

JULY

KK Venugopal: Re-appointed as the Attorney General for India for one more year from July 1.

Tushar Mehta: Re-appointed Solicitor General of India with effect from July 1 for a period of three years.

P Praveen Siddharth: Appointed as the new personal secretary to the President of India, Ram NathKovind.

RudrendraTandon: Appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Afghanistan

VikramDoraiswami: Appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Bangladesh

Dr. Vidhu P. Nair: Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.

Ashok Lavasa: India's Election Commissioner has been appointed as vice-president of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Rajkiran Rai: Term of Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India has been extended for a period of two-year, till May 31, 2022.

ShrikantMadhav Vaidya: Appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

RavinderBhakar: Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).

Indra Mani Pandey: Appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to various U N Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva.

Jean Castex: Appointed as the new Prime Minister of France by the President Emmanuel Macron.

Lee Hsien Loong: Re-elected as the Prime Minister of Singapore. This is his fourth term as Prime Minister.

Andrzej Duda: Re-elected as the President of Poland for another term of five years.

Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda: Appointed as the first woman prime minister of Gabon, a country in central West Africa.

Gudni Th. Johannesson: Re-elected as the President of Iceland for a second four-year term.

Lazarus Chakwera: Elected as the new President of Malawi, a small country in Southeast Africa.

Micheal Martin: Elected as new Prime Minister of Ireland.

JUNE

Uday Kotak: Veteran banker, MD & CEO of the Kotak Mahindra Bank took over as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.

Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar: Appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.

Krishnendu Majumdar: Noted television producer became the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).

Volkan Bozkir: Turkish diplomat and politician was elected as President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

Raveesh Kumar: Appointed as India's next Ambassador to Finland.

Vijay Khanduja: Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe

Monika Kapil Mohta: Appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland.

MAY

Tarun Bajaj: The 1988 batch IAS officer has been given charge of the Economic Affairs Secretary

Govinda Rajulu Chintala: Appointed as the Chairman of NABARD.

Dr Harsh Vardhan: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare took charge of the Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) 34-member Executive Board.

V. Vidyavathi: Senior IAS officer has been appointed as the new Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi.

Manoj Ahuja: Odisha cadre IAS officer has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Thierry Delaporte: Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the IT major Wipro.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury: Congress leader in Lok Sabha has been reappointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla as chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC).

Marcos Troyjo: A former Minister from Brazil appointed as the next President of New Development Bank, Shanghai.

Benjamin Netanyahu: Won the Israeli national election for securing a record fifth term in office as Prime Minister of Israel.

Mustafa al-Kadhimi: Elected as the new Prime Minister of Iraq by its Parliament.

APRIL

Sanjay Kothari: Took oath as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India.

Pravin Rao: The COO of Infosys has been appointed new Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).

M S Mahabaleshwar: Re-appointed as the MD and CEO of the private sector Karnataka Bank

Viswanathan Anand: Appointed ambassador for the environmental education programme by the WWF (World Wide Fund) India.

Kapil Dev Tripathi: Appointed as the new Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind .

T. S. Tirumurti: Appointed as the next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations' headquarters in New York.

AWARDS & HONOURS

JULY

Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics: The first of this award has been given to C Rangarajan, former Governor of RBI for lifetime achievements for his contribution in providing solutions in the issues related to the estimation of national income.

Global Humanitarian Award 2020: Sachin Awasthi, a motivated social activist from UP is one of the 100 awardees selected from across the world.

Von Karman Award 2020: Kailasavadivoo Sivan, ISRO Chief has been named for this award by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), Paris. The Award is known as the highest distinction of the IAA.

2020 Nelson Mandela Prize: Awarded to Morissana Kouyate, a doctor from Guinea and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece.



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2020 Diana Award: A 13-year-old student of the British School, New Delhi, Freya Thakral won this award for her "Recycler App".

Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity: Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old environment campaigner from Sweden, has been announced the winner of the first Gulbenkian Prize worth one million Euros.

JUNE

Peace Prize 2020: The German Book Trade has chosen Amartya Sen for its prestigious prize for his pioneering work addressing issues of global justice, social inequality in education and healthcare.

Medal of the Order of Australia: Awarded to Indian musician and founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia, Shobha Sekhar for her service to the community and the country.

World Food Prize 2020: Given to Dr. Rattan Lal for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.

EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Ltd, won the award beating 46 regional winners from 41 countries.

Richard Dawkins Award: Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar has won the 2020 award for critical thinking, holding religious dogma up to scrutiny, advancing human progress and humanist values. He has become the first Indian to be given the honour. The award is named after world-renowned British evolutionary biologist and acclaimed writer Richard Dawkins.

MAY

Nikkei Asia Prize 2020: A faculty member at IIT Madras Prof. T. Pradeep has been chosen for this award in the 'Science and Technology' category in recognition of his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification.

Order of Rising Sun (Japan): Thangjam Dhabali Singh, an allopathic doctor from Manipur has been honoured by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.

Major Suman Gawani: An Indian Army officer who served as a women peacekeeper with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in 2019 has been awarded the prestigious - United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the year Award.

Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award: Indian journalist Siddharth Varadarajan, founder of the digital news platform - The Wire, is among the 17 recipients

from 14 countries selected for this award for showing "outstanding commitment to human rights and freedom of expression in the media".

2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography: Three photojournalists from Jammu and Kashmir, Mukhtar Khan, Yasin Dar and Channi Anand, won the prestigious US prize for their photographs taken during the shutdown in the region following the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. They are working with the Associated Press (AP).

Marcus Wallenberg Prize: Awarded to Joseph J Landsberg and Nicholas C Coops from Australia and Richard H Waring from USA for developing a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate.

APRIL

7th Dr M S Swaminathan Award: Won by V Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Telangana State Agricultural University for his contributions in the fields of agricultural research.

OBITUARY

JULY

Lalji Tandon: Madhya Pradesh Governor, a veteran BJP figure in Uttar Pradesh, died at a hospital in Lucknow due to health related issues. He was 85. He also served as Governor of Bihar in 2018.

Saroj Khan: Ace choreographer whose iconic dance moves repeatedly made India go 'dhak-dhak', died of cardiac arrest on July 3 at the age of 71. The 'Masterji' of the Hindi film industry; she was the first woman choreographer and three-time National Award winner.

Prof. C S Sheshadri: One of the leaders of Indian mathematics in the post-independence era, known for his contributions in algebraic geometry and mathematical education, Prof. Seshadri passed away in Chennai. He was 88. The Seshadri constant is named after him.

Acharya Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj: The 78-year-old head priest of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan, Ahmedabad, popularly known as P P Swami, died of Covid-19 attack. He was the head of Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Jagdeep: Veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "Soorma Bhopali" in blockbuster "Sholay", passed away in Mumbai. He was 81.

Ennio Morricone: Oscar-winning Italian film composer, passed away in Rome. He was 91. He had composed the score for 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,' which is considered to be one of the most influential soundtracks in history.

JUNE

Sushant Singh Rajput: Budding actor allegedly committed suicide in his house in Mumbai's Bandra on June 14. He was just 34. Sushant made his debut with Kai Po Che in 2014 and later starred in films such as PK, Kedarnath, Shuddh Desi Romance and MS Dhoni: The Untold Journey. He made his acting debut in 2009 with a lead role in Zee TV's immensely popular serial Pavitra Rishta.

Basu Chatterjee: Filmmaker-screenwriter best known for directing films like Choti Si Baat, Rajnigandha, BaatonBaaton Mein, EkRuka Hua Faisla and Chameli Ki Shaadi among more, passed away on June 4 in Mumbai, following age-related ailments. He was 93.

Wajid Khan: Bollywood music composer of Sajid-Wajid music duo passed away in Mumbai on June 1, losing his battle against kidney ailments. He was 42.

Vishwa Bandhu Gupta: Veteran journalist and former Member of Parliament passed away at the age of 94. A founder member of the Press Club of India, Gupta was also a senior Congressman and headed the Tej group of publications.

Rajinder Goel: Former Left-arm spinner from Haryana passed away. Goel played 157 first-class matches, most of them for Haryana, and ended with 750 wickets.

VedMarwah: Former police commissioner of Delhi from 1985-88 and director general of the elite National Security Guard from 1988-90 passed away in Goa. Marwah had also served as the Governor of Manipur (1999- 2003), Mizoram (2000-2001) and Jharkhand (2003-2004).

Vera Lynn: British singer, whose sentimental ballads during World War II provided the soundtrack for the Allied war effort, died at the age of 103.

MAY

Balbir Singh (Dosanjh) Senior: Legendary Hockey player, part of India's gold medal winning team at 1948 London, 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne Olympics, passed away in Mohali, Punjab, losing his battle against a blood clot in his brain. He was 96.

Ajit (Pramod Kumar) Jogi: A former IAS officer and the first chief minister of the newly formed state of Chhattisgarh from November 2000 to November 2003, passed away suffering two massive heart attacks on May 29. He was a former senior Congress leader from 1986 to 2016.

Chuni Goswami: Legendary Footballer died in Kolkata after prolonged illness. He was 82. He was the captain of the gold medal winning Indian football team of Jakarta Asiad held in 1962.

Rob Gibbs: Veteran director, story artist and writer, who worked on films like Toy Story 2, Finding Nemo, Inside Out, Onward, Monsters, Inc. and Incredibles 2 died at the age of 55. He worked at the Pixar Animation Studios, California, USA for 20 years.

APRIL

Rishi Kapoor: Veteran actor passed away in a Mumbai hospital on April 30. He was 67. For the past almost two years, he was suffering from Leukemia, a type of blood cancer.

Irrfan Khan: Renowned Bollywood actor passed away in Mumbai on April 29. The actor was reportedly battling a rare colon cancer.

Usha Ganguly: Eminent theatre personality died at her residence in south Kolkata at the age of 75. She founded the Rangakarmee group in 1976, known for non-conformist productions like Mahabhoj, Rudali, Court Martial and Antaryatra.

Tony Lewis: The British cricketer, who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis Method, died on April 1 at the age of 78 years.

Sir Stirling Moss: One of the true greats of Formula 1 car racing, died at the age of 90. His versatility won him 212 of his 529 races in every conceivable kind of car.

Gene Deitch: Creator of most popular animation characters Tom and Jerry, Popeye the Sailor, passed away at the age of 95 at his residence in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

PLACES IN NEWS

JULY

Hpakant: In Myanmar, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in northern Kachin province.

JUNE

Baghjan Oil Field: A massive fire erupted at a leaking natural-gas oil well in Assam's Tinsukia district on June 8. The oil well, part of Baghjan oil fields, is owned by Oil India Limited (OIL).

Nisarga: The severe cyclonic storm landed in Raigad district in Maharashtra on June 3 and caused widespread devastation with very heavy rains and high speed winds in Alibaug, a beautiful historic coastal tourist centre, about 95 km south of Mumbai.

MAY

Super Cyclone Amphan: Lakhs of people were rendered homeless as a super cyclone cut a path of destruction through half-a-dozen districts of West Bengal on May 20, flattening houses, uprooting thousands of trees and swamping low-lying areas.

Bengaluru: The Kempegowda International Airport in the city has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.

Tagore Street, Tel Aviv: Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv, after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday on 08 May.

APRIL

Gairsain: The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat declared that the summer capital of Uttarakhand will be shifted to Gairsain in district Chamoli. Presently, Dehradun is the capital of the state.

Nieu: A tiny island country in the South Pacific Ocean has become the world's first whole country to be recognised as a 'Dark Sky Place'.

SPORTS WORLD

JULY

G Akash from Chennai became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) confirmed Akash's GM title.

Lt Col Bharat Pannu, Indian Army officer secured the 3rd position on the leaderboard at the first edition of the Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM) 2020.

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

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App" which aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes.

INTERNATIONAL

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

Lewis Hamilton (Britain) of Team Mercedes won the Styrian Grand Prix in Spielberg, Austria and Hungarian Grand Prix 2020 at Hungaroring, Mogyoród, Hungary.

Lin Dan, former world number one badminton player and two-times Olympic (2008 and 2012) badminton champion from China, announced his retirement from the sport, ending his 20 years old glorious career.

JUNE

Government has decided to establish 1000 Khelo India Centers (KIC) at the district level across the country. These centers will be run either by a past champion or have them as coaches.

India bagged the right to host the Women's Asian Cup 2022. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) awarded the hosting rights of the tournament to India.

INTERNATIONAL

The 4th Asian Youth Para Games will be held in Bahrain (a tiny island country in Persian Gulf) in December 2021.

Clare Connor, former captain of England's women's cricket team, will become the 1st female president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in its 233-year history.

FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to Australia and New Zealand.

FIFA released its latest rankings of world football teams placing Belgium at the top, followed by France in 2nd place and Brazil at 3rd spot. Indian team retained its 108th spot.

MAY

Sania Mirza, star Indian tennis player became 1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone.

Deepa Malik: Senior Para-athlete has announced her retirement from Paralympics games in order to serve as the office-bearer in the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

Narinder Batra's term as the President of International Hockey Federation, Lausanne, Switzerland, has been extended until May 2021, by the Federation.

INTERNATIONAL

Hafthor Bjornsson, popular actor (Game of Thrones) and strongman from Iceland set a new world record for the deadlift on May 2 when he lifted 1,104 pounds (501 kg) at Thor's Power Gym in Iceland.

APRIL

P V Sindhu: World Badminton Champion has been named as one of the ambassadors for Badminton World Federation (BWF)'s "I am badminton" awareness campaign.

Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



SEPTEMBER GK TEST - 01

1. Reserve Bank of India has recently unveiled the framework for setting up pan-India Umbrella Entity for _____:
a. Remittances b. Small loans
c. Retail Payments d. Farm loans
e. Cheque payments
2. The Central Water Commission of India tied up with which global IT company to undertake flood forecasting initiatives over the past several months?
a. Google b. Microsoft
c. Infosys d. IBM
e. TCS
3. Which country has launched a \$ 3.95 million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges?
a. USA b. Germany
c. Japan d. Britain
e. France
4. The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to set up which national body that will conduct Common Eligibility Test for selection to non-gazetted posts in the central government and public sector banks?
a. National Jobs Authority
b. National Recruitment Agency
c. Indian Recruitment Agency
d. Indian Recruitment Authority
e. National Jobs Agency
5. Which city has been awarded as the cleanest city for the 4th time in succession, in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards?
a. Navi Mumbai b. Bidar
c. Indore d. Surat
e. Ajmer
6. Credit/Debit card payment made without actually swiping the card but by using details on the card, is known as _____
a. Over the counter transaction
b. Physical/cash transaction
c. Cardless ATM transaction
d. Card Not Present transaction
e. PoS transaction
7. Techgentsia Software, a startup from Kerala won the national competition for developing a world-class indigenous video conference solution. What is its name?
a. WeMet b. Meets
c. Vconsole d. Vidicon
e. Evicon
8. Which short film won the first prize of Rs. one lakh in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting?
a. We care b. That Day
c. Not me d. Am I?
e. Victree
9. Rajiv Kumar, former finance secretary, has been appointed new _____ of India:
a. Auditor General
b. Election Commissioner
c. Information Commissioner
d. Vigilance Commissioner
e. Solicitor General
10. How many sportspersons have been awarded the highest sports award - Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the year 2020?
a. Two b. Three
c. Four d. Five
e. Six

11. Which state of USA was in the news as widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres statewide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes?
a. Nevada b. California
c. Florida d. Texas
e. Arizona
12. Atal Pension Yojana or APY is open to all saving bank/post office saving bank account holders in the age group of _____ years.
a. 18 to 70 years b. 18 to 50 years
c. 18 to 40 years d. 18 to 60 years
e. 18 years onward
13. Which country has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea.
a. Georgia b. Romania
c. Ukraine d. Turkey
e. Russia
14. India's longest cable ropeway has been started over Brahmaputra River in which state?
a. Arunachal b. Meghalaya
c. Assam d. West Bengal
e. Nagaland
15. What is the name of the GPS based mobile app launched to monitor the plantation along the national highways?
a. Greenery b. Hariyali
c. Harit Path d. Greenway
e. Harit Marg
16. Recently, veteran all rounder Lisa Sthalekar was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame. She played for which country?
a. England b. New Zealand
c. India d. Australia
e. South Africa
17. Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index on August 24. What is its name?
a. Goldex b. Soverex
c. Bulldex d. Bulinex
e. GoSidex
18. India celebrates National Sports Day to commemorate the birthday of which great sportsperson?
a. Milkha Singh b. Major Dhyan Chand
c. Poly Umrigar d. Sunil Gavaskar
e. Dara Singh
19. WHO has declared which country free from polio, making the entire Africa free from polio?
a. Uganda b. Ethiopia
c. Nigeria d. Kenya
e. Sudan
20. James Anderson has become the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets. He plays for which country?
a. West Indies
b. England
c. Australia
d. South Africa
e. New Zealand
21. The instances of violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in banking are to be reported to which of the following?
a. FIU – IND (Financial Intelligence Unit – India)
b. SFIO (Serious Frauds Investigation Office)
c. ED (Enforcement Directorate)
d. Vigilance Department of the RBI
e. Banking Ombudsman
22. G Satheesh Reddy, renowned Indian scientist, has been given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of which apex organisation?
a. ISRO b. CSIR
c. DRDO d. CDRI
e. ICAR
23. The Indian Air Force launched a mobile app "MY IAF" as part of the Digital India initiative for sharing information about ____?
a. Its history b. Recruitment
c. Selection procedure d. Pay and perks
e. All of these
24. Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, the 20-year-old boy from Hyderabad won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title. This competition was held at which place?
a. Singapore b. Incheon
c. Osaka d. London
e. Manila
25. Which state topped the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 released by NITI Aayog.
a. Tamil Nadu b. Maharashtra
c. Gujarat d. Punjab
e. Kerala
26. The ICICI Bank became the first bank in India to use satellite data (imagery from Earth observation satellites) to assess credit worthiness of _____.

- a. Farmers b. Transporters
c. Shopkeepers d. Entrepreneurs
e. Industrialists
27. **Who amongst the following is an opposite activity of 'Speculation'?**
a. Arbitrage b. Long
c. Short d. Hedging
e. Spread
28. **Which insurance company launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called "Shagun – Gift an Insurance"?**
a. Reliance General Insurance Co
b. Oriental Insurance Co
c. New India Assurance Co
d. SBI General Insurance Co
e. New India Assurance Co
29. **The e-commerce giant Flipkart has signed an agreement with which northeastern state to promote the state's local artifacts and handloom products on its digital marketplace?**
a. Tripura b. Mizoram
c. Nagaland d. Assam
e. Meghalaya
30. **Name the West Indies cricketer who became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket:**
a. Keemo Paul b. Dwayne Bravo
c. Andre Russel d. Hayden Walsh
e. Fabian Allen
31. **Government launched a toll- free helpline number 1800-599-0019 for mental health rehabilitation. What is the name of this helpline?**
a. Aasha b. Sakhi
c. Mitra d. Kiran
e. Madad
32. **One of the most powerful storms in the USA's history struck Louisiana, a south eastern state of the country. What was its name?**
a. Kyle b. Marco
c. Laura d. Hanna
e. Bertha
33. **Government launched a Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products. What is its name?**
a. Prerna b. Challenger
c. Chunauti d. Boosto
e. Genstart
34. **The issue of fresh shares by an unlisted company, for the first time, is called**
a. Exchange Traded Fund
b. Initial Public Offering
c. Rights issue
d. Follow-on Public Offering
e. None of these
35. **Government has increased the award amount for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award from Rs. 7.5 lakh to how much?**
a. 10 lakh b. 12 lakh
c. 15 lakh d. 20 lakh
e. 25 lakh
36. **Dinesh Kumar Khara has been appointed the Chairman of which big Bank?**
a. HDFC Bank b. State Bank of India
c. ICICI Bank d. Bank of Baroda
e. Punjab National Bank
37. **Government has launched a first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal for what purpose?**
a. Agriculture b. Small farmers
c. Coal Mining d. Industrial investors
e. Solar Power projects
38. **Which of the following authors won the International Booker Prize 2020?**
a. Marieke Lucas Rijneveld
b. Shokoofeh Azar
c. Gabriela CabezónCámara
d. Daniel Kehlmann
e. Fernanda Melchor
39. **Onam, celebrated with fervour on August 31, is a popular festival of which state?**
a. Tamil Nadu b. Kerala
c. Karnataka d. Andhra Pradesh
e. Telangana
40. **India and which other country were declared joint winners of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad?**
a. Poland b. Holland
c. Sweden d. Russia
e. Finland
41. **Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India passed away on August 31. He was ____ President of India.**
a. 10th b. 11th
c. 12th d. 13th
e. 14th

SEPTEMBER GK TEST - 02

42. The Indian economy contracted by massive 23.9 per cent in the April to June quarter (Q1 FY21). However, one sector showed positive growth. Identify this sector:
 - a. Power
 - b. Manufacturing
 - c. Agriculture
 - d. Mining
 - e. Trading
43. The European Investment Bank is set to invest EUR650 million for the construction of the first city metro line in which Indian city?
 - a. Guwahati
 - b. Bhopal
 - c. Ranchi
 - d. Kanpur
 - e. Mysuru
44. The Union Cabinet approved the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. What is its name?
 - a. Mission Daksh
 - b. Mission Karmayogi
 - c. UttamSewa
 - d. Karmathta
 - e. Sewa Pratham
45. For the first time, India ranked in the top 50 countries in the Global Innovation Index. What was its rank?
 - a. 49th
 - b. 48th
 - c. 47th
 - d. 46th
 - e. 45th
46. Who is the current Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India?
 - a. Ajay Kumar Bhalla
 - b. Dr. Vivek Joshi
 - c. Nityanad Rai
 - d. Saalesh
 - e. Rajiv Kumar
47. The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed which University at the top?
 - a. University of Harvard
 - b. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - c. Cambridge University
 - d. University of Oxford
 - e. London School of Economics
48. With which country India finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India?
 - a. Israel
 - b. Sweden
 - c. Russia
 - d. France
 - e. Germany
49. Reserve Bank of India has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines. Under the new guidelines bank finance to start-ups up to ____ crore rupees will be eligible under Priority Sector.
 - a. 30
 - b. 40
 - c. 50
 - d. 60
 - e. 70
50. Indian Navy conducted bilateral naval exercise 'Indra Navy' with the navy of which other country?
 - a. France
 - b. Japan
 - c. Australia
 - d. Russia
 - e. England

1. Which state topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings?
 - a. Uttar Pradesh
 - b. Maharashtra
 - c. Andhra Pradesh
 - d. Karnataka
 - e. Gujarat
2. Which of the following is the main feature of the verdict in Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala?
 - a. Indian Constitution cannot be amended
 - b. Only Supreme Court can amend the Indian Constitution
 - c. Any amendment to constitution has to be ratified by the Supreme Court
 - d. The constitution can be amended but not its basic structure
 - e. Any amendment of the Constitution has to be voted by at least 80% MPs
3. Dr. Govind Swarup, noted scientist, passed away recently. He was known as Father of _____ in India.
 - a. Astronomy
 - b. Biology
 - c. Space science
 - d. Radio Astronomy
 - e. Nuclear Science
4. Which UN agency has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine?
 - a. UNESCO
 - b. UNICEF
 - c. WHO
 - d. WTO
 - e. ILO
5. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 has been conferred upon David Attenborough. Who is he?
 - a. A noted philanthropist from Sweden
 - b. A renowned author, and natural historian
 - c. Renowned film actor and director
 - d. A noted educationist and scholar
 - e. Noted historian and social worker from England
6. As per a report by the National Sample Survey, which state has the lowest literacy rate in India?
 - a. Bihar
 - b. Jharkhand
 - c. Chhattisgarh
 - d. Mizoram
 - e. Andhra Pradesh
7. Which of the following type of accounts is known as Demat Account?
 - a. Accounts which are Zero Balance Accounts

- b. Accounts opened for repayment of a loan
c. Accounts to hold financial securities in digital form
d. Accounts opened for salary transactions
e. None of these
8. **Which state started the celebration of Himalayan Day on September 9 in 2010?**
a. Himachal Pradesh b. Uttarakhand
c. Sikkim d. Arunachal Pradesh
e. Assam
9. **Which bank secured the first position in the EASE Banking Reforms Index?**
a. State Bank of India b. Canara Bank
c. Indian Bank d. Bank of Baroda
e. Punjab National Bank
10. **Reserve Bank of India has ceased the banking operations of which Payment Bank under Banking Regulations Act, 1949?**
a. Fino Payments Bank
b. Jio Payments Bank
c. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank
d. Paytm Payments Bank
e. NSDL Payments Bank.
11. **India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi. Where are the headquarters of SCO?**
a. Beijing b. Shanghai
c. Astana d. Tashkent
e. St. Petersburg
12. **Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of National School of Drama, New Delhi?**
a. Anupam Kher b. Nasiruddin Shah
c. Madhur Bhandarkar d. Paresch Rawal
e. Shabana Aazmi
13. **PARAKH -“Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development” programme has been launched for which sector?**
a. Space b. Defence
c. Education
d. Urban planning e. Rural development
14. **Swami Agnivesh, veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist passed away in New Delhi. He is best remembered for his outstanding contributions to which field?**
a. Fighting social dogmas
b. Fighting against Dowry
c. Improving women's literacy
d. Releasing Bonded labour
e. Opposing the child labour
15. **Government announced the second edition of its state startup rankings. Which state received the status of ‘Best Performer’?**
a. Telangana b. Andhra Pradesh
c. Karnataka d. Gujarat
e. Kerala
16. **Which of the following is a popular channel of providing credit to the farmer community?**
a. Kisan Credit Card
b. Kisan Mitra Scheme
c. Farmer Easy Loan Scheme
d. Kisan Loan Scheme
e. None of these
17. **Government launched a dispute redressal mechanism for the Maritime sector. What is its name?**
a. SAROD - Ports b. DISPEE-Ports
c. SHIKAA -Ports d. MAREE-Ports
e. SAGAR-Ports
18. **Which government department has launched a scheme called ‘Five Star Villages’?**
a. Department of Communications
b. Telecom Department
c. India Post Department
d. Department of Farm Innovation
e. Department of Primary Education
19. **In which sector has the government recently raised the FDI limit from 49% to 74%?**
a. Construction b. Petrochemicals
c. Civil Aviation d. Defence
e. Automobiles
20. **Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs. 209 crore was rolled out in which state on Sep 10?**
a. Assam b. Arunachal Pradesh
c. Meghalaya d. West Bengal
e. Nagaland
21. **Which country topped the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020?**
a. Singapore b. Hong Kong
c. Sweden d. Denmark
e. Switzerland
22. **UNICEF India has selected which Bollywood actor as its advocate for the children's rights campaign, “For Every Child”?**
a. Alia Bhatt b. Varun Dhawan
c. Ayushman Khurana d. Deepika
e. Anushka

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23. **In the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York, who won the men's singles title?**
 a. Alexander Zverev b. Dominic Thiem
 c. Roger Federer
 d. Rafael Nadal
 e. Novak Djokovic
24. **Who has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha?**
 a. Mouni Roy b. Om Birla
 c. Harivansh d. Praful Dey
 e. Sudhanshu Trivedi
25. **India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women. It's a body under which UN agency?**
 a. UN Women b. ECOSOC
 c. UNICEF d. UNESCO
 e. UNSC
26. **The Lok Sabha passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to reduce MPs salaries by _____ percent.**
 a. 10 b. 15
 c. 20 d. 25
 e. 30
27. **In the cheque truncation system, what is truncated?**
 a. Amount of the cheque
 b. Size of the cheque
 c. Duration of the cheque
 d. Physical movement of the cheque
 e. None of these
28. **Yoshihide Suga, the 71 year old senior politician has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country?**
 a. Vietnam b. Cambodia
 c. Laos d. Japan
 e. South Korea
29. **Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 16 to bring in what change in the banking system?**
 a. To deregulate cash operations of the banks
 b. To allow ATMs to non-banking companies
 c. To allow banks to do insurance business
 d. To bring coop banks under the ambit of RBI
 e. None of these
30. **Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan was a prominent Indian scholar who passed away recently. Which of the following fields was not her forte?**
 a. Classical dance b. Art

- c. Architecture d. Music
 e. Art history
31. **Which Indian engineering company has tied up with the SwissRapid AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India?**
 a. L & T b. TELCO
 c. BHEL d. DMRC e. DMRI
32. **Which bank has partnered with Titan Watch Company to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'?**
 a. SBI b. PNB
 c. HDFC Bank d. ICICI Bank
 e. Yes Bank
33. **India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at which international airport of the country?**
 a. Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
 b. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
 c. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
 d. Chhatrapati International Airport, Mumbai
 e. Chennai International Airport, Chennai
34. **_____ has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds:**
 a. Japan b. Britain
 c. Germany d. Mexico
 e. Canada
35. **Which financial body has assured two trillion dollars help to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy?**
 a. World Bank
 b. European Bank for Reconstruction
 c. New Development Bank
 d. International Finance Corporation
 e. International Monetary Fund
36. **Which state/UT topped the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness?**
 a. Meghalaya b. Goa
 c. New Delhi d. Mizoram
 e. Puducherry
37. **Which of the following account can be opened with partial fulfillment of 'KYC' norms?**
 a. Fixed Deposit Account
 b. Current Account
 c. Savings Bank Account
 d. Small Savings Bank Account
 e. Cash Credit Account

38. In the recently released the 2020 Smart City Index, which city topped the index?
 a. Singapore b. Helsinki
 c. Zurich d. Sydney
 e. Dubai
39. Who among the following was the first Labour Minister of independent India?
 a. N V Gadgil b. K C Neogy
 c. Syama Prasad Mukherjee
 d. Jagjivan Ram e. C D Deshmukh
40. The proportion of urban population is lowest in which of the following states in India?
 a. Odisha b. Himachal Pradesh
 c. Bihar d. Assam
 e. Arunachal Pradesh
41. Which of the following schemes is NOT associated with development of urban areas in India?
 a. AMRUT b. HRIDAY
 c. PRASAD d. DISHA
 e. PMAY (urban)
42. When was Smart Cities Mission launched in India?
 a. December, 2014 b. June, 2015
 c. October, 2015 d. March, 2016
 e. June, 2016
43. Who among the following is NOT a noted name among Indian Architects?
 a. Fali Nariman b. Charles Correa
 c. B V Doshi d. Hafeez Contractor
 e. Laurie Baker
44. Which of the following rivers does not make a delta in Bay of Bengal?
 a. Godavari b. Krishna
 c. Narmada d. Cauvery
 e. Mahanadi
45. Which of the following storms usually does not originate from an Ocean?
 a. Cyclone b. Hurricane
 c. Tornado d. Typhoon
 e. Chakravaat
46. Vidarbha region is a part of which of the following states?
 a. Maharashtra b. Madhya Pradesh
 c. Gujarat d. Chhattisgarh
 e. Rajasthan
47. Western Disturbances are low-pressure depressions which occur during winters, particularly in the northern states of India. They originate from which of the following?

- a. Arabian Sea b. Red Sea
 c. Mediterranean Sea d. Persian Gulf
 e. Caspian Sea

48. Which of the following is NOT a credit rating agency?
 a. CARE b. CIBIL
 c. Moody's d. S&P
 e. CRISIL
49. Which of the following Hindu Calendar months is supposed to be the peak summer- hottest month?
 a. Vaisakh b. Shravan
 c. Jaishtha d. Aashadh
 e. Bhado
50. Which among the following top Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) is supposed to be the largest in terms of number of its learners and the courses offered?
 a. Udacity b. Coursera
 c. EdX d. Udemy
 e. Tedex

ANSWER KEY | SEPTEMBER GK TEST | 1

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

ANSWER KEY | SEPTEMBER GK TEST | 2

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

IBPS CLERK – PRELIMS

(MODEL TEST PAPER)



REASONING ABILITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 3) How is X related N?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6) Statements:

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

Conclusions:

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

7) Statements:

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

Conclusions:

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

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

8) Statements:

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

Conclusions:

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

9) Statements:

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

Conclusions:

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

10) Statements:

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

Conclusions:

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

Directions - Study the following information and answer the question.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13) Which of the following combinations is definitely correct?

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

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

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

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

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

16) Which of the following movies does Q like?

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

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

- 17) **Statements:**
 $S > M \geq D > H \leq R \leq T < W$
Conclusions:
 I. $S > H$ II. $W > H$
 III. $R < W$ IV. $M > T$
 a) Only I, II and III are true
 b) Only II is true
 c) Only I and II are true
 d) Only I and either II or IV are true
 e) All I, II, III and IV are true
- 18) **Statements:**
 $M > U > L \leq N$; $L \geq Y > A$
Conclusions:
 I. $Y < N$ II. $M > N$
 III. $N = Y$ IV. $M > A$
 a) Only either II or III is true
 b) Only IV and either I or III are true
 c) Only IV is true
 d) Only II is true
 e) Only III is true
- 19) **Statements:**
 $J \geq A > D = E$; $L < A < M$
Conclusions:
 I. $M < J$ II. $J > L$
 III. $D > L$ IV. $E < M$
 a) Only II is true
 b) Only I and II are true
 c) None is true
 d) Only II and IV are true
 e) Only I and II are true
- 20) **Statements:**
 $Y > F \leq O \leq P$; $F \geq U < T$
Conclusions:
 I. $Y > P$ II. $T < F$
 III. $O > T$ IV. $P < U$
 a) Only I is true b) Only II is true
 c) Only III is true d) None is true
 e) Only I and IV are true
- 21) **Statements:**
 $M \geq N \leq Y \leq R < U = Z \geq E$
Conclusions:
 I. $M > R$ II. $Z \leq R$
 III. $R > E$ IV. $Z > Y$
 a) Only I and II are true
 b) Only IV is true
 c) None is true
 d) Only II and IV are true
 e) Only II and III are true

- 22) **Statements:**
 $P \geq Q \leq C \leq B = M > D$
Conclusions:
 I. $M > Q$ II. $D \leq P$
 III. $M = Q$ IV. $C > D$
 a) None is true
 b) Only IV is true
 c) Only either I or II are true
 d) Only II and III are true
 e) Only either I or III is true

Directions - Study the following information carefully and answer the given question.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are sitting around a square table in such a way that four of them sit at four corners of the square while four sit in the middle of each of the four sides. The ones who sit at the four corners face the centre of the table while those who sit in the middle of the sides face outside. Each one of them likes a different subject viz. Mathematics, Hindi, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History and Geography. (None of the information given is necessarily in the same order).

C sits third to the left of the one who likes Geography. The one who likes Geography faces outside. Only two people sit between C and H. The one who likes Mathematics sits to immediate right of H.

The one who likes Chemistry sits second to right of G. G is neither an immediate neighbour of H nor C. G does not like the Geography.

Only one person sit between A and the one who likes Chemistry.

D sits to immediate left of the one who likes Physics. G does not like Physics.

E likes History. E is not an immediate neighbour of A.

The one who likes Hindi is an immediate neighbour of E.

The one who likes Biology is an immediate neighbour of F.

- 23) **Who among the following sits diagonally opposite the one who likes Mathematics?**
 a) The one who likes Hindi
 b) D
 c) A
 d) The one who likes English
 e) The one who likes Biology



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24) Who among the following represent the immediate neighbours of the one who likes Chemistry?

- a) B, F b) C, E
c) B, E d) D, F
e) F, H

25) Who amongst the following sits exactly between H and B?

- a) C
b) The one who likes Hindi
c) The one who likes English
d) G e) A

26) Which of the following is true regarding B?

- a) B is one of the immediate neighbours of D
b) The one who likes Geography is an immediate neighbour of B
c) B sits second to left of H
d) B likes History
e) B is an immediate neighbour of the one who likes Mathematics

27) What is the position of the one who likes Physics with respect to G?

- a) Second to the left b) Third to the right
c) Fourth to the left d) Second to the right
e) Third to the left

28) Which of the following subjects does D like?

- a) Biology b) Mathematics
c) Hindi d) Chemistry
e) English

29) Who amongst the following likes Geography?

- a) B b) F
c) H d) A
e) D

Directions - Read the given information carefully and answer the given question.

Point N is 8 m to the west of Point O. Point P is 4 m to the south of Point O. Point Q is 4 m to the east of point P. Point R is 6 m to the north of Point Q. Point S is 8 m to the west of Point R. Point T is 2 m to the south of Point S.

30) How far and in which direction is Point T from Point N?

- a) 4 m to the east b) 8 m to the west
c) 4 m to the west d) 6 m to the east
e) 6 m to the south

31) If Point T is 4 m to the north of Point E, then what is the distance between E and Q?

- a) 11 m b) 8 m

c) 15 m

d) 5 m

e) 9 m

Directions - Study the following information to answer the given question.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are sitting in a straight line equidistant from each other (but not necessarily in the same order). Some of them are facing south while some are facing north.

(Note: Facing the same direction means. If one is facing north then the other also faces north and vice versa. Facing the opposite directions means. If one is facing North then the other faces south and vice versa).

H faces north. C sits at one of the extreme ends of the line. A sits third to the left of C. D is not an immediate neighbour of C. G sits third to the right of A. B sits to the immediate right of G. B does not sit at any of the extreme ends of the line. Only one person sits between F and D. G sits second to the left of F. E sits second to the right of B. Both the immediate neighbours of G face the same direction. Both the immediate neighbours of A face the opposite directions. E faces the same direction as B.

32) Who among the following sits second to the right of F?

- a) H b) D
c) C d) G
e) A

33) Which of the following is true with respect to the given information?

- a) G sits at one of the extreme ends of line
b) B sits exactly between A and F
c) B sits third to the right of E
d) A faces north
e) A sits second to the left of B

34) How many persons in the given arrangement facing North?

- a) Four b) One
c) Three d) Two
e) More than four

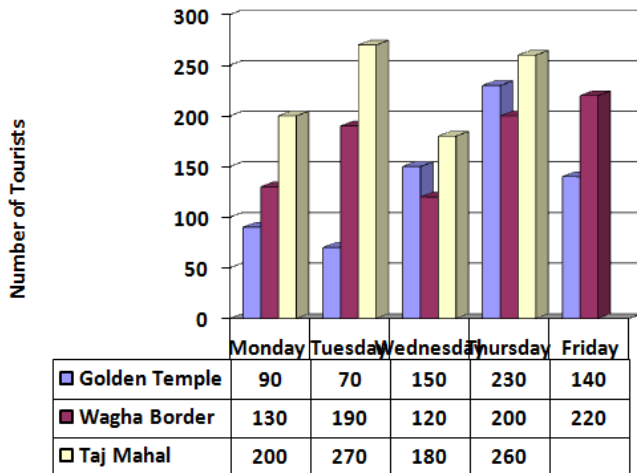
35) Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which of the following does not belong to the group?

- a) B, A b) D, C
c) E, B d) A, E
e) G, F

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56)

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

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

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

57)

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

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

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

58)

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

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

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

59)

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

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

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

60)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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

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

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

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

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

- b) illustrate how China can play a more concrete role in Africa.
- c) criticize the World Bank for playing a crucial role in China's development but neglecting Africa.
- d) recommend that China adopt the guidelines of the World Bank to sustain growth.
- e) use China's success as an example of the changes required in World Bank ideology.

72) What advice have African leaders received from their Chinese counterparts?

- a) Focus primarily on innovation, start-ups and urban development.
- b) To ensure all citizens benefit from economic development, investment, not the private sector.
- c) Improve agricultural output through government investment to stimulate economic growth.
- a) None b) Only (C)
- c) Only (B) d) Both (A) & (B)
- e) None of these

73) What effect has the World Bank policy had on African nations?

- a) The African government has restricted private sector investment in agriculture.
- b) Africa has focused more on health and education rather than on agriculture.
- c) The agriculture sector in these countries is not as productive as it could be.
- d) US and Britain have volunteered substantial aid to Africa as Africa has complied with World Bank ideology.
- e) None of these

74) What is the difference in the Chinese and World Bank approach to development?

- a) Unlike the World Bank, China favours the public sector and restricts private sector participation in crucial sectors.
- b) Contrary to China's strategy of dependence on the private sector, the World Bank pressurises governments to take the lead in investing in agriculture.
- c) While the World Bank has focused on agriculture, China's priority has been rooting out corruption so that investment in infrastructure is utilised appropriately.
- d) The Chinese government has retained control over essential services like transport

while the World Bank favours private sector involvement.

e) None of these

75) What is China's view on the development of the transportation and power networks?

- a) Development in these sectors is not as important as investing in agriculture.
- b) Resources need to be diverted from the rural to the urban areas to meet the needs of the growing population in cities.
- c) The government should be solely responsible for developing these services so all citizens have access to them.
- d) It is more important to develop and maintain transportation networks and power grids in rural areas.
- e) None of these

76) Which of the following cannot be said about structural adjustment?

- a) It is the World Bank's free market ideology adapted by Asian countries.
- b) Under this strategy public sector investment in priority sectors is discouraged.
- c) As a development strategy it has failed in Africa.
- d) With this strategy there has been a lack of adequate investment in critical sectors.
- e) It is an ideology advocated by the World Bank which needs to be modified to facilitate economic growth.

77) Which of the following is NOT true in the context of the passage?

- a) China's involvement in Africa so far has been restricted to advising its leaders.
- b) The World Bank was created by the US and Britain for the sole purpose of furthering their interest.
- c) China's economy was once in the same state as many African countries are today.
- a) None b) Only (B)
- c) Only (A) d) Both (A) & (B)
- e) None of these

78) What has/have been the outcome/s of Shanghai's economy prospering?

- a) The World Bank has changed its development strategy.
- b) China's importance globally has been enhanced.
- c) Rural areas are being neglected to promote development of cities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANSWER KEY

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

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Latest G.K. Bytes

SEPTEMBER 2020

- 1) International Translation Day is celebrated on which day of September? **30th**
- 2) What is the theme for this year's World Heart Day? **Use Heart to beat CVD (cardiovascular diseases)**
- 3) World Rabies Day is observed on Sep 28 to mark the death anniversary of which noted microbiologist? **Louis Pasteur**
- 4) India was ranked ____ among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 released by the United Nations University: **89th**
- 5) Which country was placed on top of World Risk Index, being the riskiest country? **Vanuatu**
- 6) Which country was ranked as the safest country on the World Risk Index? **Qatar**
- 7) Which state won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals? **Kerala**
- 8) The Anyodaya Diwas is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of which great philosopher, historian and political activist? **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**
- 9) What is the theme for this year's World Pharmacist Day? **Transforming Global Health**
- 10) FSSAI has made it mandatory to display "best before date" wef Oct 1 on which products? **Non-packaged and loose sweets**
- 11) An iconic personality from film music world lost his battle to Corona on Sep 25. Identify him: **SP Balasubrahmanyam**
- 12) The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held next year in Goa in which month? **January**
- 13) Which institution has replaced Medical Council of India wef Sep 25? **National Medical Commission**
- 14) Who has been named as the Chairman of the National Medical Commission? **Suresh Chandra Sharma**
- 15) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed which number session of the United Nations General Assembly? **75th**
- 16) The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in which area? **North Arabian Sea**
- 17) Which celebrity chef has authored the book Kitchens of Gratitude? **Vikas Khanna**
- 18) Which famous film celebrity has authored the book The Big Thoughts of Little Luv? **Karan Johar**
- 19) What is the title of the latest book by noted authoress Arundhati Roy? **Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction**
- 20) One by One is a famous novel of which noted novelist? **Ruth Ware**

- 21) Mohamed Hussein Roble has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which East African country? **Somalia**
- 22) In a historic move, the Parliament passed how many labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws? **Three**
- 23) ICAR announced a hackathon to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization. What is its name? **KRITAGYA**
- 24) World Tourism Day is celebrated on which date? **September 27**
- 25) World Maritime Day is celebrated on which Thursday of September? **Last**
- 26) Name the noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson who died of Covid-19: **Dr. Sekhar Basu**
- 27) Which recently passed bill aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities? **The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020**
- 28) Which bill passed recently by the Parliament allows farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country? **Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020**
- 29) A virtual bilateral summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of which other country on 26 September? **Sri Lanka**
- 30) Name the 17-year-old girl from Gujarat's Surat who has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme - Tunza Eco-Generation: **Kushi Chindaliya**
- 31) Alexander Lukashenko was sworn in as the President of which country for a record sixth term? **Belarus**
- 32) Railways have planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by which year? **2023**
- 33) Which day is observed on Sep 23 to raise awareness about the importance of sign language? **International Day of Sign Languages**
- 34) Navies of India and _____ conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24: **Australia**
- 35) Which popular Bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine? **Ayushman Khurana**
- 36) Who won the Tour de France - the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world? **Tadej Pogacar**
- 37) Tadej Pogacar hails from which country? **Slovenia**
- 38) Chief Minister of which state announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built in his state? **Uttar Pradesh**
- 39) Which country accounts for the largest number of one horned Rhinos? **India**

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| 40) | Which Indian state is home to largest number of one horned Rhinos? Assam |
| 41) | The National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 proposes to establish National Forensic Sciences University in which city? Gandhinagar |
| 42) | Which university in Gujarat is to be upgraded as the new Rashtriya Raksha University? Raksha Shakti University |
| 43) | India successfully conducted the flight test of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle. What is its name? ABHYAS |
| 44) | The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to which country? Nepal |
| 45) | A direct cargo ferry service between India and _____ commenced for the first time on Sep 21: Maldives |
| 46) | Which UN Day has been observed for the first time to highlight the importance of ending sexual discrimination in relation to gender pay gap? International Equal Pay Day, Sep 18 |
| 47) | The World Rose Day observed on Sep 18 is associated with which disease? Cancer |
| 48) | What is the theme of this year's World Alzheimer's Day? Let's talk about dementia |
| 49) | Which International Day encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage? The International Coastal Cleanup Day |
| 50) | The International Coastal Cleanup Day is observed on which Saturday of September? Third |
| 51) | Who won the men's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament? Novak Djokovic |
| 52) | _____ won the women's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament: Simona Halep |
| 53) | The Union Government announced an increase in the MSP of Wheat. What is the new MSP? Rs. 1975/qtl |
| 54) | In a first, two women officers have been selected to join as 'Observers' in which stream of the Indian Navy? Fighter helicopters |
| 55) | The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate classification and provisioning calculation process of which product? NPAs – Bad loans |
| 56) | Name the former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) who passed away in New Delhi: Raghuvansh Prasad Singh |
| 57) | Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is known as Father of which national flagship scheme? MNREGA |
| 58) | World Ozone Day commemorates the signing of _____ Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987: Montreal |
| 59) | The Ozone molecules are formed by how many atoms of Oxygen? Three |
| 60) | The Ozone layer helps in protecting our ecosystem from which rays from Sun? Ultraviolet rays |
| 61) | The Ozone layer is found in which layer of the atmosphere? Stratosphere |
| 62) | The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 proposes how much cut in salaries and allowances for MPs? 30 percent |
| 63) | Managing Director of which bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020? HDFC Bank |

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| 64) | Who is the Managing Director of the HDFC Bank? Aditya Puri |
| 65) | Name the 71 year old senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who has been elected as Japan's new Prime Minister: Yoshihide Suga |
| 66) | Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 16 for what purpose? To bring Cooperative Banks' regulation at par with other banks |
| 67) | Name the noted scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history who passed away recently? Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan |
| 68) | Which public sector power engineering has entered into a MoU with the SwissRapid AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India? BHEL - Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd |
| 69) | Which bank has tied up with Titan Watch Company to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'? State Bank of India |
| 70) | The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index, India has been placed at which rank? 116th |
| 71) | Which country secured the first rank in the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index? Singapore |
| 72) | The World Patient Safety Day is observed on which date to create a global awareness for patient safety? September 17 |
| 73) | India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at which international airport? Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi |
| 74) | _____ has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds: Mexico |
| 75) | Which social media platform has teamed up with Common Services Centers (CSC) to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services? Whatsapp |
| 76) | Which global finance agency has assured two trillion dollars to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy? International Finance Corporation |
| 77) | World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 with the support of which organisation? World Bamboo Organization |
| 78) | Which country is the largest producer of Bamboos in the world? China |
| 79) | Which state topped the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness? Mizoram |
| 80) | Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a diminutive yet towering women's rights champion, passed away recently. She was a senior justice in the Supreme Court of which country? USA |
| 81) | Armand Duplantis broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. He is from which country? Sweden |
| 82) | In the recently released Smart City Index 2020, which city secured the first rank? Singapore |
| 83) | The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Ajay Tirkey to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in which sector? Agriculture |
| 84) | What is the theme of this year's International Day of Peace? Shaping Peace Together |

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| 85) | International Day of Peace is celebrated on which date? September 21 |
| 86) | Name the 35 year old striker from Portugal who became just the second footballer to reach a century of goals for a national team: Christiano Ronaldo |
| 87) | Which bank launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals? Bank of India |
| 88) | RBI has ceased the banking operations by which Payments Bank? Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank |
| 89) | Which state launched India's first integrated air ambulance service? Karnataka |
| 90) | The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of which power company? Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd |
| 91) | Government has constituted a committee chaired by _____ to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers: Rajiv Mehrishi |
| 92) | Which country will host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020: India |
| 93) | Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO is a permanent inter governmental international organisation of how many countries? Eight |
| 94) | Reliance Industries Ltd.'s market cap crossed which milestone on Sep 10? \$ 200 billion |
| 95) | Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National School of Drama, New Delhi? Paresh Rawal |
| 96) | National School of Drama is a premier national institute set up by which union ministry? Ministry of Culture |
| 97) | Which programme has been launched for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly? Streets for People Challenge |
| 98) | A National Evaluation Centre, 'Parakh' has been set up for overall improvement in the evaluation system. What is full form of PARAKH? Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development |
| 99) | What is the expansion of the acronym PISA, a programme associated with educational evaluation? Programme for International Student Assessment |
| 100) | Name the veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist who passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure: Swami Agnivesh |
| 101) | Which is the second country, first being UAE, to normalise diplomatic ties with Israel? Bahrain |
| 102) | Which country played the crucial role in bringing together Israel and Bahrain? USA |
| 103) | Which state topped the second edition of State Startup Rankings announced recently by the government? Gujarat |
| 104) | In the context of startups, what is a 'unicorn'? A privately held startup company with a current valuation of \$1 billion or more |
| 105) | What is the name of the new dispute redressal mechanism launched for the maritime sector? "SAROD-Ports" |
| 106) | In the name "SAROD-Ports", what is the full form of SAROD? Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes |
| 107) | Which Bank launched a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking |

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| | needs? ICICI Bank |
| 108) | To enforce uniform compliance practices across banks, RBI has asked banks to create which new post? Chief Compliance Officer |
| 109) | Which government department has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? Department of Posts |
| 110) | What is the objective of the scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? To ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas |
| 111) | The Union Cabinet approved a new policy for raising the cap of FDI in which sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent? Defence |
| 112) | Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out on Sep 10 in which state? Meghalaya |
| 113) | India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to be ranked at _____ spot. 105th |
| 114) | Which country topped the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020? Hong Kong |
| 115) | UNICEF India has selected which Bollywood actor as its advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child"? Ayushmann Khurrana |
| 116) | The World First Aid Day is celebrated on which Saturday of September? Second |
| 117) | In the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York, who won the men's singles title? Dominic Thiem of Austria |
| 118) | Who won the women's singles title in the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York? Japan's Naomi Osaka |
| 119) | Which national day is observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect forest resources? The National Forest Martyrs Day |
| 120) | The National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on which date? September 11 |
| 121) | In which year Hindi was adopted as another official language of India? 1949 |
| 122) | Which international day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries? International Day of Democracy |
| 123) | Engineer's Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of which acclaimed civil engineer? M Visvesvaraya |
| 124) | Name the JDU MP who has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha: Harivansh Narayan Singh |
| 125) | India has been elected as the member of which body of the UN Economic and Social Council? Commission on Status of Women |
| 126) | The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed which university at the top rank? University of Oxford, UK |
| 127) | With which country India finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India? Russia |
| 128) | India will manufacture the AK-47/203 rifles in which of its ordnance factory? Korwa Ordnance Factory, U P |
| 129) | Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first _____ of independent India: Vice President |
| 130) | International Day of Charity is celebrated to |

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| | commemorate the birthday of which great personality? Mother Teresa |
| 131) | Loans up to Rs. ____ crore to the startups have now been covered under the Priority Sector Lending: 50 |
| 132) | All scheduled commercial banks in India are required to allocate ____ percent of their total lendings to priority sector: 40 |
| 133) | Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend ____ percent of their total lendings to the priority sector: 70 |
| 134) | Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament: P Inian |
| 135) | What was the name of a two-day mega naval exercise conducted by the Indian and Russian navies in the Bay of Bengal on Sep 4-5: Indra Navy |
| 136) | Which state topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings? Andhra Pradesh |
| 137) | Which organisation conducts the Business Reform Action Plan rankings? Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade |
| 138) | The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of which country? Russia |
| 139) | The first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was celebrated in which year? 2020 |
| 140) | India observes which month as the 'Poshan Mah'? September |
| 141) | The often quoted court case on constitutional law, was filed by the Swami Kesavananda Bharti against which state? Kerala |
| 142) | SpaceX successfully sent 60 Starlink satellites into orbit aboard a Falcon 9 rocket for what purpose? To provide low cost internet services in remote areas |
| 143) | Which two telecom companies rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'? Vodafone and Idea |
| 144) | India successfully flight tested HSTDV missile technology on Sep 7. What is full form of HSTDV? Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle |
| 145) | Which powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea? Haishen |
| 146) | International Literacy Day is celebrated on which day? Sep 8 |
| 147) | Dr. Govind Swarup, a noted scientist passed away in Pune. He worked in which field? Radio Astronomy |
| 148) | Pierre Gasly from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020. He hails from which country? France |
| 149) | Which UN agency has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine? UNICEF |
| 150) | The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8 by which global organisation? International Solar Alliance |
| 151) | Which day is dedicated to raising awareness of the risks of suicide and the challenges faced in trying to prevent suicide? World Suicide Prevention Day |
| 152) | Which organisation confers the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust |

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| 153) | Who won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019? David Attenborough |
| 154) | David Attenborough is a noted personality from which field? Natural History |
| 155) | What is the cash award of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Rs. 25 lakh |
| 156) | The global under-five mortality rate declined by 59 per cent, from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to ____ in 2019. 38 |
| 157) | The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 has been compiled by which UN agency? UNICEF |
| 158) | As per a recent report from the National Sample Survey, India's overall literacy rate has improved to ____ percent: 77.7 |
| 159) | Which state has the lowest literacy rate as per a recent report from the National Sample Survey? Andhra Pradesh |
| 160) | The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the ____ State Roads Transformation Project: Himachal Pradesh |
| 161) | Which state started the celebration of Himalayan Day on Sep 9 in 2010? Uttarakhand |
| 162) | What is the theme for this year's Himalayan Day? Himalayas and Nature |
| 163) | Which organisation announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks? IBA - Indian Banks Association |
| 164) | Which bank secured the first spot in the EASE Banking Reforms Index? Bank of Baroda |
| 165) | The public sector banks recently launched Doorstep Banking Services in how many cities? 100 |
| 166) | Where are the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organisation? Geneva, Switzerland |
| 167) | World Coconut Day is observed on which day of September? 2nd |
| 168) | Which state is the largest producer of coconut in India? Kerala |
| 169) | Which major economy slipped in to recession after registering negative growth successively in two quarters? Australia |
| 170) | Which country appointed Mustapha Adib as its Prime Minister? Lebanon |
| 171) | Who has been appointed as the first ever CEO of the Railway Board? Vinod Kumar Yadav |
| 172) | Which country hosted the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group in virtual mode? Saudi Arabia |
| 173) | The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in ____ started recently: Tripura |
| 174) | The new water way Dadukandi and Sonamura has been started through which river? Gumti |
| 175) | S Krishnan has been appointed MD & CEO Of which bank? Punjab & Sind Bank |
| 176) | What was the name of the one of the most powerful storms that struck a south eastern state of the USA? Hurricane Laura |
| 177) | Hurricane Laura devastated which state of USA? Louisiana |
| 178) | Assam government signed an agreement with which e-commerce platform to promote the state's local artefacts and handloom products on its digital |

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| | marketplace? Flipkart |
| 179) | The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the setting up of _____ new administrative circles: Seven |
| 180) | Which West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket? Dwayne Bravo |
| 181) | What is the name of the toll- free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation on August 27. Kiran |
| 182) | What is the name of the Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to further boost startups and software products? Chunauti |
| 183) | What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award? Rs.25 lakh |
| 184) | What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Arjuna Award? Rs. 15 lakh |
| 185) | Government has revised the cash award for the Dhyan Chand Award to what amount? Rs. 10 lakh |
| 186) | Prime Minister of which major economy resigned on health grounds? Japan |
| 187) | Name the SBI's senior-most managing director who has been appointed as the next chairman of the State Bank of India: Dinesh Kumar Khara |
| 188) | Government has launched a first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal for what purpose? To help investors zero in on land located in various states for potential projects |
| 189) | International Booker Prize 2020 has been won by which Dutch author? Marieke Lucas Rijneveld |
| 190) | Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan, the most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history, 42 year old identical twin brothers hail from which country? USA |
| 191) | Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of which retail chain for Rs 24,713 crore? Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar) |
| 192) | 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in _____ from November 20th to 28th: Goa |
| 193) | International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on which date? August 29 |
| 194) | A new Roll-on-Roll off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in which state? Maharashtra |
| 195) | Onam is apopular cultural festival of which state? Kerala |
| 196) | India was declared joint winner of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad, with which other country? Russia |
| 197) | The Indian economy contracted by massive _____ per cent in the April to June quarter (Q1 FY21) as COVID-19 pandemic compressed consumer demand and private investments: 23.9 |
| 198) | Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India passed away on August 31. He was ____ th President of India: 13th |
| 199) | The CSIR-CMERI has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in which city? Durgapur, West Bengal |
| 200) | Dr S. Padmavati, India's first female and oldest _____ died at the age of 103. Cardiologist |
| 201) | What is the name of India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory which detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from |

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| | Earth? 'AstroSat' |
| 202) | Government launched pan-India Green Term Ahead Market for the benefit of which sector? Renewable energy |
| 203) | The European Investment Bank is set to invest EUR650 million for the construction of first city metro line of which city? Kanpur |
| 204) | The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi to lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants. What is its formal name? National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building |
| 205) | Which organisation released the Global Innovation Index? World Intellectual Property Organisation |
| AUGUST 2020 | |
| 206) | SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product. What is its name? Shagun - Gift an Insurance |
| 207) | Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 million on August 26. Who is he? Jeff Bezos |
| 208) | _____ became the first bank in India to use satellite data—imagery from Earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of farmers. ICICI Bank |
| 209) | Sanjiv Singh, former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman has joined Reliance Industries in what capacity? President for the firm's oil-to-chemicals business |
| 210) | NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. Which state topped the Index? Gujarat |
| 211) | The RBI announced special OMO for an amount worth Rs 20,000 crore. What is OMO? Open Market Operations |
| 212) | Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, the 20-year-old boy from _____ won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title: Hyderabad |
| 213) | The Indian Air Force launched a mobile app to provide career-related information and guidance to the people who wish to join the Indian Air Force. What is its name? My IAF |
| 214) | What is the title of the latest novel by Chetan Bhagat? One Arranged Murder |
| 215) | Name the former Deputy Governor of RBI who has authored the book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India": Viral V. Acharya |
| 216) | Which union minister has authored the book titled "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World"? Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar |
| 217) | Name the German professional sports club that won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20: Bayern Munich |
| 218) | Name the renowned Indian scientist, was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy |
| 219) | Which state extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28? Assam |
| 220) | Which England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets? James Anderson |
| 221) | Overall which bowler holds the world record for taking highest number of wickets? Muttiah Muralitharan |
| 222) | WHO has declared entire Africa free from wild polio. Which was the last African country to get rid of |

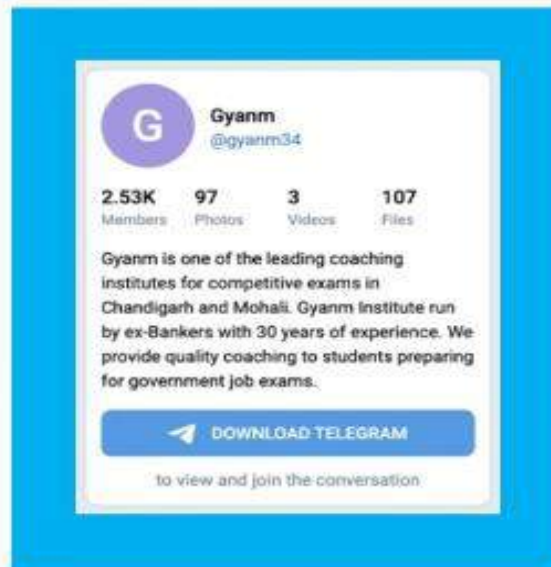
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| | Polio? Nigeria |
| 223) | Which are the only two countries in the world where polio cases still occur? Pakistan and Afghanistan |
| 224) | In its annual report released on August 25, the Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at ____ for 2020-21: -4.5% |
| 225) | Government has made ____ mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country: FASTag |
| 226) | National Sports Day is celebrated every year on ____ to mark the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand: August 29 |
| 227) | Which day is observed every year to celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment in USA in 1878 that provided voting rights to women? Women's Equality Day, August 26 |
| 228) | Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index. What is its name? Bulldex |
| 229) | Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India? Ashwani Bhatia |
| 230) | Name the legendary South African all-rounder who has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame: Jaque Kallis |
| 231) | Lisa Sthalekar is the first player to achieve the double of 2000 runs and 100 wickets in Women's ODIs. She plays for which country? Australia |
| 232) | What is the name of the GPS based mobile app launched to monitor the plantation along the national highways? 'Harit Path' |
| 233) | Which international Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III? Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank |
| 234) | Where are the headquarters of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? Beijing |
| 235) | Who is the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? Jin Lique |
| 236) | The Reserve Bank of India has extended a ____ million dollar currency swap facility to the Central Bank of ____ till November 2022: 400; Sri Lanka |
| 237) | Which state will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, 2021? Haryana |
| 238) | India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to which country in July last week? Bangladesh |
| 239) | Which Ministry launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department? Ministry of Earth Sciences |
| 240) | Archana Soreng from India has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders. She works in which field? Climate conservation |
| 241) | Which country has honoured Kala Narayanasamy with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic? Singapore |
| 242) | India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to which country in response to a request received from the WHO? North Korea |
| 243) | Which city is the capital of North Korea? Pyongyang |
| 244) | This year is the ____ anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. 21st |
| 245) | Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on which date? 26th |

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| | July |
| 246) | World ____ Day is observed on July 28 to raise awareness about which disease? Hepatitis |
| 247) | Who invented the diagnostic test and vaccine for the Hepatitis? Dr Baruch Blumberg, USA |
| 248) | Which International Day is observed to increase awareness about the best practices to protect our natural resources? World Nature Conservation Day |
| 249) | World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated across the world on which day of July? 28th |
| 250) | The world celebrated Global / International Tiger Day on which date? July 29 |
| 251) | The India Report on Digital Education, 2020 was released on July 29. Name any two prominent digital initiatives in education: DIKSHA platform, Swayam Prabha TV Channel |
| 252) | IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) has launched its new co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform with which card company? SBI Cards |
| 253) | Hichem Mechichi has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia. Where is this country? In North Africa |
| 254) | Which union ministry launched a mobile app named 'BIS-Care'? Ministry of Consumer Affairs |
| 255) | Which quality certification mark is used in India for gold jewellery? Hallmark |
| 256) | Who is the present Minister of Consumer Affairs in India? Ram Vilas Paswan |
| 257) | Name the British-American actress famous for her memorable role in the film Gone With The Wind (1939), who passed away at the age of 104 years in Paris: Olivia de Havilland |
| 258) | The ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for ____ products in India since 1955: Industrial |
| 259) | With which international body India has renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years till 2025? European Union |
| 260) | The Cabinet has approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to ____: Education Ministry |
| 261) | The new National Education Policy has been developed on the recommendations of the panel headed by ____: K Kasturirangan, former ISRO chief |
| 262) | Which PG programme has been discontinued as per the new NEP? M Phil |
| 263) | The new NEP has decided to do away with board exam for which class? 10th |
| 264) | The new NEP has divided total schooling structure, from pre-nursery to class 12 in to how many stages? Four |
| 265) | The 'Foundation Stage' will cover students of which age group? 3 to 8 years |
| 266) | Students of class 3 to 5 have been classified in which stage? Preparatory Stage |
| 267) | The 'Middle Stage' will comprise of students of which age group? 11 to 14 years |
| 268) | What is the name given to the stage comprising of students of 9 to 12 class? Secondary Stage |
| 269) | The first batch of five Rafale jets landed on July 29 in which Air Force base? Ambala, Haryana |



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| 270) | What is the name of the 17 squadron of Indian Air Force that will host Rafale jets? Golden Arrows |
| 271) | What is the name of the French firm that supplied Rafale jets to India? Dassault |
| 272) | What is the name of India's first solar-powered ferry that won the prestigious Gustave Trouve Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating? Aditya |
| 273) | What is the name of the Mars rover launched recently by NASA? Perseverance |
| 274) | Name the actress famous for her iconic dance <i>Kabhi Aar, Kabhi Paar</i> (1954), who died recently: Kumkum |
| 275) | Niti Aayog's AIM joined hands with Gates Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST for what purpose? For enhancement of incubator capabilities |
| 276) | What is the full form of AIM? Atal Innovation Mission |
| 277) | ISRO is allowing the private players to set up their own launch pad at SHAR. What is the full form of SHAR? Sriharikota Launch Centre |
| 278) | The Sriharikota Launch Centre is located in which state? Andhra Pradesh |
| 279) | Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to which apex authority? Prime Minister |
| 280) | Which district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by Niti Aayog? Bijapur |
| 281) | How many districts are there in the Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme? 115 |
| 282) | 2020-21 edition of 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan' was launched recently. When was this programme started? January, 2011 |
| 283) | Name the four times Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh who passed away in first week of August: Amar Singh |
| 284) | Which union ministry won the SKOCH award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project? Ministry of Tribal affairs |
| 285) | Which apex FI has launched a one-stop knowledge portal named as "MSMESaksham" in association with TransUnion CIBIL? SIDBI |
| 286) | _____ became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as its Barakah Nuclear Power Plant became operational? UAE - United Arab Emirates |
| 287) | The Government clarified that any FDI in commercial coal mining from an entity of a country _____ will have to go through the government route: That shares land border with India |
| 288) | The Union Defence Ministry has formed which policy to provide a significant thrust to India's defence production capabilities? Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy, 2020 |
| 289) | Who has been appointed new CEO & MD of the HDFC Bank? Sasidhar Jagdishan |
| 290) | Name the theatre doyen and legendary teacher who died on August 4 in New Delhi: Ebrahim Alkazi |
| 291) | Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been elected as the President of Guyana. Where is this country? On the northern edge of the South American continent |
| 292) | Name the new scheme launched by KVIC to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti (incense sticks) production: Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission |

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| 293) | Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of markets regulator SEBI was in news recently for what reasons? He was given 18 month extension |
| 294) | Where in Lebanon at least 135 people were killed and 5,000 wounded in a massive explosion? Beirut |
| 295) | India has extended a \$ 18 million Line of Credit to which country for the expansion of fishing facilities? Maldives |
| 296) | Who has been appointed as the new Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir? Manoj Sinha |
| 297) | Which Indian brand has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020? Reliance Industries Ltd. |
| 298) | The foundation stone of the new campus of IIM, Sirmour was laid in - _____ near Paonta Sahib, HP: Dhaura Kuan |
| 299) | There are total how many IIMs in India? 20 |
| 300) | Which bank launched Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT? Axis Bank |
| 301) | What is the name of the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train, flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra? Kisan Rail |
| 302) | Who has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of the country? Girish Chandra Murmu |
| 303) | Hiroshima Day is celebrated to mark the dropping of nuclear bomb on the city. This incident occurred in which year? 1945 |
| 304) | Celebration of National Handloom Day on August 7 coincides with the launch of which national movement? Swadeshi Movement in 1905 |
| 305) | Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905 to protest against which decision of British Viceroy? Partition of Bengal |
| 306) | RBI has prohibited banks from opening _____ accounts for customers who have availed cash credit or overdraft facilities, with a view to improve credit discipline: Current |
| 307) | The railways has decided to end a colonial-era practice of appointing _____ who worked at the residences of senior officials: Khalasis or bungalow peons |
| 308) | India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN _____ Fund for supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities: Development Partnership |
| 309) | Which institute won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020? Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune |
| 310) | Which apex body plans to set up an Innovation Hub in order to promote innovation across the finance sector in India by leveraging on technology? RBI |
| 311) | Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex organisation of India? Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) |
| 312) | Which Indian company has tied up with US based Novavax for the development and commercialization of Novavax COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India: Serum Institute of India, Pune |
| 313) | The Forest Department of _____ has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani: Uttarakhand |
| 314) | For the first in India as well as the Indian ocean region, two coastal villages of _____ have been declared |

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| | 'Tsunami-Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO: Odisha |
| 315) | International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on August 9. What is its popular short name? World Tribal Day |
| 316) | Name the former President of Sri Lanka who has been elected as the Prime Minister of the country: Mahinda Rajapaksa |
| 317) | Name the India's biggest public sector power producer which achieved over 100 billion units of cumulative generation in the current financial year: NTPC |
| 318) | Which state has become the first state in the country to tie up with Google to provide online education to all the school students in the state? Maharashtra |
| 319) | The International Cricket Council has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will now be held in _____ in 2022: Australia |
| 320) | The 2021 edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted by which country? India |
| 321) | RBI has set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of _____ to oversee the resolution of NPAs created by COVID-19: K V Kamath |
| 322) | A 2313 kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network has been laid between _____ and Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Chennai |
| 323) | World Bio-fuel Day is celebrated on which date? August 10 |
| 324) | Name the three most popular bio-fuels: Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas |
| 325) | What is the theme for the World Bio-fuel Day this year in India? Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat |
| 326) | Nation Deworming Day is observed twice every year, on August ____ and on February _____. 10 and 10 |
| 327) | Which leading digital payment service provider recently launched an Android-based, pocket-sized portable point of sale (PoS) device? Paytm |
| 328) | Which state has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product scheme? Uttar Pradesh |
| 329) | Which state has decided to provide urban forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes? Chhattisgarh |
| 330) | Which Municipal Corporation became the first urban body in the country to provide land entitlement in city's forests to the urban tribals? Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh |
| 331) | Name the Indonesia's major volcano that erupted once again on August 10, spewing a massive tower of smoke and ash into the sky: Mount Sinabung |
| 332) | Prime Minister of which country announced the resignation of his government amid public outrage over a devastating explosion in his country? Lebanon |
| 333) | World Elephant Day is celebrated on which date? August 12 |
| 334) | What is the name of the COVID-19 vaccine launched by Russia? Sputnik V |
| 335) | Rahat Indori, noted Urdu poet and lyricist, died of cardiac arrest on August 11. He hailed from which state? Madhya Pradesh |
| 336) | Reliance Industries Ltd. became the first Indian company to figure in the top 100 in the Fortune Global 500 list. What is its rank? 96th |

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| 337) | The Fortune Global 500 list of top corporate is topped by which company? Walmart Group |
| 338) | What is the name of the National Portal on human elephant conflict (HEC) launched recently? Surakhya |
| 339) | Walter Roger Martos Ruiz has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of a South American Country. Can you name it? Peru |
| 340) | Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new _____ of Mauritania, a country in Western Africa: Prime Minister |
| 341) | Who has been chosen as Vice Presidential candidate by the Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden? Kamala Harris |
| 342) | _____ launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card: Google |
| 343) | What is the name of the new income tax reform package launched recently by the Prime Minister? Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest |
| 344) | More than 55 people lost their lives in a massive landslide that occurred in the Pettimudi Tea Estate. It is in which state? Kerala |
| 345) | Who is the only Indian to figure in the top 10 highest paid male actors in recent Forbes list? Akshay Kumar |
| 346) | Name the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine: Skyroot Aerspace, Hyderabad |
| 347) | What is the name of the India's first rocket engine launched by a private firm? Raman |
| 348) | Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without _____: Pre-fitted batteries |
| 349) | What is the name of the indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) hat was formally inducted in the Indian Coast Guard at the Goa Shipyard? ICGS Sarthak |
| 350) | Israel recently revived its diplomatic relations with which country? UAE |
| 351) | _____ has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited: Soma Mondal |
| 352) | RBI has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs _____ and above. 50,000 |
| 353) | Which Indian bank has already been following 'Positive Pay' system? ICICI Bank |
| 354) | Atal Innovation Mission rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with which IT giant? Dell Technologies |
| 355) | Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched which project to promote indigenisation initiatives with focus on innovation in Indian Navy? Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation |
| 356) | The Sports Ministry organised 'Fit India Freedom Run', a largest country-wide run, from August 15 to which date? October 2 |
| 357) | India approved a \$500-million package to help the _____ build a connectivity project: Maldives |
| 358) | Ministry of Defence launched which portal as a 'one stop online shop' that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization? SRIJAN |
| 359) | Which organisation approved the transfer of 57,128 |

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| | crore rupees as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20? RBI |
| 360) | Which country successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2"? Israel |
| 361) | Three products - sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Hermal Chilli and Mandoli Banana, of which state have been granted GI tag? Goa |
| 362) | Which day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives? World Organ Donation Day |
| 363) | Prime Minister announced the launching of which completely technology-based health initiative on Independence Day? National Digital Health Mission |
| 364) | ISRO in collaboration with which institute has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface? IISc, Bengaluru |
| 365) | M S Dhoni will be remembered always for his _____ ICC World Cup victory. 2011 |
| 366) | Following the footsteps of Dhoni, which other leading cricketer announced his retirement? Suresh Raina |
| 367) | Government approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps to expand in to _____ coastal and border districts. 173 |
| 368) | The NCC was raised in which year? 1948 |
| 369) | Where are the headquarters of NCC? New Delhi |
| 370) | Name the former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister who passed away recently. Chetan Chauhan |
| 371) | ISRO has decided to name a crater on Moon after which great scientist? Vikram Sarabhai |
| 372) | The Central Government is planning to launch Project _____ and Project _____ to replicate the success of Project Tiger. Lion; Dolphin |
| 373) | Who has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force? Rakesh Asthana |
| 374) | Name the legendary Indian classical vocalist who passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. Pandit Jasraj |
| 375) | Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Meghalaya? Satya Pal Malik |
| 376) | What is the name of the e-portal launched for promoting health of tribals? Swasthya |
| 377) | Prime Minister Modi announced launch of mega programme OSOWOG for what purpose? Promoting solar energy |
| 378) | What is the full form of OSOWOG? One Sun, One World, One Grid |
| 379) | Which Bank launched a first-of-its-kind product for the armed forces called 'Shaurya KGC Card'? HDFC Bank |
| 380) | Which institute has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India? IIT Madras |
| 381) | Which bank has waived SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance? State Bank of India |
| 382) | RBI has unveiled the framework for setting up pan-India Umbrella Entity for which financial segment? Retail Payments |
| 383) | Keith Rowley has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which island nation? Trinidad & Tobago |
| 384) | The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has tied up with which global IT company to undertake flood |

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| | forecasting initiatives? Google |
| 385) | Which country has launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India? Britain |
| 386) | Why Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of Mali, (a landlocked country in Western Africa), announced his resignation? Due to military revolt |
| 387) | Which bank has approved a loan of \$1 billion for construction of Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System? Asian Development Bank |
| 388) | What is the name of the new body to be set up for conducting CET for recruitment to Grade B & C posts? National Recruitment Agency - NRA |
| 389) | The NRA will initially replace 3 recruiting agencies. Which are these agencies? Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS |
| 390) | The score of the CET will be valid for how much period? Three years |
| 391) | Which city has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards? Indore |
| 392) | _____ has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country: New Delhi |
| 393) | Which city was awarded for being the cleanest city among the cities with over 40 lakh population? Ahmedabad |
| 394) | Which country has ranked first in the world in terms of number of organic farmers? India |
| 395) | The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane at Rs. ____ per quintal? 285 |
| 396) | Which one of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country, has recently been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity? Vijaynagar |
| 397) | World Humanitarian Day is observed on which date? August 19 |
| 398) | Which global day is observed on August 19 to pay tribute to art and science of photography? World Photography Day |
| 399) | Which day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi who served as Prime Minister from 1984 -89? Sadbhavana Diwas |
| 400) | Which ministry supports the celebration of the Akshay Urja Diwas on August 20? Ministry for New & Renewable Energy |
| 401) | World Senior Citizens Day is observed across the world on which day of August? 21st |
| 402) | Techgentsia Software, a startup won the national competition to develop Indian video conferencing solution. What is its name? Vconsole |
| 403) | Which film won the first prize in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting? Am I? |
| 404) | Name the former finance secretary who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. Rajiv Kumar |
| 405) | Who headed the Selection Committee for the National Sports Awards 2020? Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma |
| 406) | How many sportspersons have been awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 2020? Five |
| 407) | Name the para athlete who has been selected for this |

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| | year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: Mariyappan |
| 408) | Which national sports award is given for outstanding performance by coaches? Dronacharya Award |
| 409) | Which corporate entity has been selected for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility? Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, ONGC |
| 410) | Which university won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments? Panjab University, Chandigarh |
| 411) | Which IT company launched its job search app named 'Kormo Jobs' in India? Google |
| 412) | Government launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat " for developing products based on which two microprocessors? SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) |
| 413) | Where in USA widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres statewide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes? California |
| 414) | Ronnie O'Sullivan of England is a six time world champion in which sports? Snooker |
| 415) | The Uttar Pradesh government signed a MoU with _____ for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state: Israel |
| 416) | Which country has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea? Turkey |
| 417) | As per the new announcement made by the Finance Ministry, businesses with annual turnover up to Rs. _____ lakh will be exempted from GST: 40 |
| 418) | India's longest cable ropeway running for nearly 2 km over Brahmaputra River has been started in which city? Guwahati |
| JULY 2020 | |
| 419) | India celebrates National Statistics Day on which date? June 29 |
| 420) | National Statistics Day is celebrated to pay respects to which great Indian statistician? Dr P C Mahalanobis |
| 421) | Govt of India recently banned how many China based mobile apps? 59 |
| 422) | The 59 apps have been banned under the provisions of which Indian law? Information and Technology Act, 2000 |
| 423) | Which union ministry launched "PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises" (PM FME) scheme on 29th June? Ministry for Food Processing Industries |
| 424) | Who at present is the Minister for Food Processing Industries? Harsimrat Kaur Badal |
| 425) | Who is the present Attorney General for India? K K Venugopal |
| 426) | Why K K Venugopal was in news recently? His term has been extended by one year |
| 427) | Who is the current Solicitor General of India? Tushar Mehta |
| 428) | Government has extended the term of Tushar Mehta by |

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| | how many years? Three |
| 429) | The World Bank approved two loans, \$50 million and \$200 million for the Tamil Nadu Government for what purpose? To provide access to affordable housing to low-income groups |
| 430) | Forest department of which state has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari Park? Uttarakhand |
| 431) | India and _____ signed a pact for the construction of the 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project: Bhutan |
| 432) | The 600 MW Kholongchu Hydroelectric project is being built on which river? Kholongchu |
| 433) | Lazarus Chakwera has been elected as the new President of Malawi. It is in which continent? Africa |
| 434) | Micheal Martin has been elected as new Prime Minister of which country? Ireland |
| 435) | On which date India celebrates National Doctor's Day? July 01 |
| 436) | National Doctor's Day commemorates the birthday of which great Indian physician? Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy |
| 437) | Why July 1 has been selected as the date to celebrate Chartered Accountants Day? The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India was set up on this day in 1949 |
| 438) | If I plan to visit HQs of ICAI, which city will I have to visit? New Delhi |
| 439) | National Postal Worker Day is observed on which day of July? First |
| 440) | Which apex Indian institute has launched the world's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science? IIT, Madras |
| 441) | Which global FI has announced a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response Program to increase the flow of funds to MSMEs in India? World Bank |
| 442) | Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the _____ of Iceland for a second four-year term: President |
| 443) | Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award is given for the outstanding contribution in which field? Official Statistics |
| 444) | Who has been selected for the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? C. Rangarajan |
| 445) | Which union ministry has instituted Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award? Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) |
| 446) | The 36th edition of the biannual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit 2020 was held via video conferencing in which city? Hanoi, Vietnam |
| 447) | Who is our current Sports Minister? Kiren Rijiju |

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| 448) | Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mobile app named "NADA App". What is the full form of NADA? National Anti-Doping Agency |
| 449) | On July 1 Indian Railways achieved which milestone for the first time in its history? Running all trains on time |
| 450) | Which apex body has launched a new scheme called 'Accelerate Vigyan' to provide a single platform for research internships? The Science and Engineering Research Board |
| 451) | Name the senior diplomat who has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to various UN Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva? Indra Mani Pandey |
| 452) | Who is India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNO headquarters? T S Tirumurti |
| 453) | People of which country voted in majority to approve constitutional reforms that could keep their President in power until 2036? Russia |
| 454) | Who is the current President of Russia? Vladimir Putin |
| 455) | Indian government has extended AFSPA for another six months till December, 2020 in which state? Nagaland |
| 456) | What is the full form of AFSPA? Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 |
| 457) | Which international institution announced \$400 million support for India's program to rejuvenate the Ganga river and stem pollution in the river? World Bank |
| 458) | Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has been appointed as the new chairman of which apex Maharatna company? Indian Oil Corporation |
| 459) | Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)? Ravinder Bhakar |
| 460) | Who has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' of the 21st century by Wisden? Ravindra Jadeja |
| 461) | Which bank launched an all-in-one app 'e-Kisaan Dhan' to meet all banking and farming requirements of farmers? HDFC Bank |
| 462) | In which country, at least 162 people were killed in a massive landslide at a Jade mine in Hpakant? Myanmar |
| 463) | India's first plasma bank was inaugurated in which city? New Delhi |
| 464) | Name the ace choreographer whose iconic dance moves repeatedly made India go 'dhak dhak', died of cardiac arrest on July 3: Saroj Khan |
| 465) | India's foreign exchange reserves at over \$ 500 billion, ranked ____ largest in the world: Fifth |
| 466) | The present FX reserves of India are considered to be |

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| | enough to cover ____ months of imports: 13 |
| 467) | Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country? France |
| 468) | The RBI issued operational guidelines for the Rs 30,000-crore special liquidity facility for ____ companies: Non-banking finance |
| 469) | In keeping with its spirit to give a fillip to Indian languages, All India Radio started the broadcast of its first ever news magazine programme in ____ language from June 4: Sanskrit |
| 470) | Which country has passed a legislation to end coal-fired power generation by 2038? Germany |
| 471) | The government plans to launch TOPS for the junior athletes also. What ois the full form of TOPS? Target Olympic Podium Scheme |
| 472) | Name the former world number one badminton player, two-times Olympic (2008 and 2012) champion from China, who announced his retirement from the sport: Lin Dan |
| 473) | NLC India Ltd and ____ have joined hands to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW in India: Coal India Ltd. |
| 474) | Which state created a new record on July 5 by planting more than 25 crore saplings in a single day? Uttar Pradesh |
| 475) | What is the name of the India's first social media super app which has been created by more than 1000 IT professionals? Elyments |
| 476) | Ennio Morricone, Oscar-winning film composer, who composed music for over 500 films, passed away recently. He hailed from which country? Italy |
| 477) | Which Bank announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities? HDFC Bank |
| 478) | ____ has become the first state in India where 100% households have LPG gas connections: Himachal Pradesh |
| 479) | Valtteri Bottas, winner of the season's first F1 race, the Austrian Grand Prix 2020, hails from which country? Finland |
| 480) | ____ Tourism launched "Intzaar Aap Ka" campaign on social media platforms to attract tourists in the state. Madhya Pradesh |
| 481) | Name the veteran actor and comedian known for his role as "Soorma Bhopali" in blockbuster "Sholay", who passed away in Mumbai: Jagdeep |
| 482) | G Akash from ____ became India's 66th Chess Grandmaster: Chennai |
| 483) | Name the American wrestler-turned-actor, who has been named Instagram's highest-paid celebrity recently: Dwayne Johnson |

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| 484) | The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with _____ to offer digital skills to India's youth in the next 12 months amid the COVID-19 crisis: Microsoft |
| 485) | One of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia is being established in Rewa in which state? Madhya Pradesh |
| 486) | The Indian Railways has decided to run how many tarins by private operators? 151 |
| 487) | Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has released a \$50 million loan to which Indian corporate? L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd |
| 488) | AIIB has given \$50 million loan to L&T for what purpose? For funding renewable energy projects in India |
| 489) | What is the name butterfly that has been named as India's largest butterfly? Himalayan Golden Birdwing |
| 490) | If you want to see the Himalayan Golden Birdwing butterfly, which place you will have to visit? Didihat town in district Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand |
| 491) | The fourth edition of the Ministerial on Climate Action was held in virtual mode hosted by which organisation? The European Union |
| 492) | The Paris Agreement on climate control was entered in which year? 2015. |
| 493) | The Paris Agreement 2015 was entered into under the aegis of UNFCCC. Write full form of UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| 494) | The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an agreement with which apex body for data exchange and sharing of information between the two organisations? Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) |
| 495) | WHO has declared which two South East Asian nations free from Measles and Rubella? Sri Lanka and Maldives |
| 496) | What is the name of the special insurance policy approved by IRDAI for covering Corona cases? Corona Kavach |
| 497) | India celebrates National Fish Farmers' Day on which date? July 10 |
| 498) | In which country world's first Fish Cryobank is being established? India |
| 499) | Which ministry launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship |
| 500) | Which is the first Arab country that has sent a probe to Mars? UAE |
| 501) | As per the Global Real Estate Transparency Index, India has been placed at which rank? 34th |

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| 502) | Which country secured the top spot in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index? United Kingdom |
| 503) | According to data from the RBI, which state has topped market borrowings among States in the country? Tamil Nadu |
| 504) | The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has entered into a partnership with which global organisation for clean energy development? The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) |
| 505) | Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Population Day on July 11? United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) |
| 506) | The first parcel cargo train with red chillies for export to Bangladesh was flagged off from _____ in Andhra Pradesh on July 10. Reddipalem, Guntur |
| 507) | The 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook is what type of helicopter? Heavy lift cargo helicopter |
| 508) | What is the name of the most advanced multirole attack helicopter acquired by India from Boeing? AH-64E Apache |
| 509) | Lee Hsien Loong has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country? Singapore |
| 510) | _____ has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. Russia |
| 511) | Which apex body has approached all IITs, NITs to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of National Highways on voluntary basis as part of Institutional Social Responsibility? National Highway Authority of India |
| 512) | Who is the Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India? Sukhbir Singh Sandhu |
| 513) | Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? Turkmenistan |
| 514) | Which IIT has developed has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing product named SHUDH? IIT Kanpur |
| 515) | Which state has emerged on top in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi-PM Swa Nidhi scheme for providing easy finance to the street vendors? Madhya Pradesh |
| 516) | Maximum how much loan can be given to a street vendor under the PM SwaNidhi? 10, 000/- |
| 517) | Which global IT giant has announced to invest \$10 billion for promotion of digital India? Google |
| 518) | Andrzej Duda has been re-elected as the _____ of Poland for another term of five years. President |
| 519) | Which Maharatna energy corporate has been awarded with the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019? NTPC Ltd |
| 520) | The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of which family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple? Travancore royal |

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| family |
| 521) Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, reportedly the richest temple of world, is located at which place? Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala |
| 522) Shark Awareness Day is observed on which day of July? 14 th |
| 523) Which UN special agency supports the celebration of World Youth Skills Day on July 15? UNESCO -United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| 524) Which Indian bureaucrat has been appointed as the vice president of the Asian Development Bank? Ashok Lavasa |
| 525) Where is the head office of the Asian Development Bank? Manila, Philippines |
| 526) Who is the President of ADB? Masatsugu Asakawa |
| 527) K Sivan has been honoured with the Von Karman Award 2020. He heads which organisation? ISRO |
| 528) Latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce shows that the _____ has emerged as India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal year in 2019-20: United States of America |
| 529) Low-cost test kit "Corosure", claimed to be the world's most affordable diagnostic kit for coronavirus, has been developed by which IIT of India? Delhi |
| 530) The Defence Acquisition Council has delegated powers to armed forces for expediting urgent capital acquisition up to Rs ____ crore: 300 |
| 531) _____has successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite onboard its Long March 3B carrier rocket: China |
| 532) Rudrendra Tandon has been appointed as the India's next Ambassador to which country? Afghanistan |
| 533) Who has been appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Bangladesh? Vikram Doraiswami |
| 534) Who is Sachin Awasthi, one of the 100 winners of the Global Humanitarian Award 2020? A noted social activist from UP |
| 535) Name the NGO that gives away the Global Humanitarian Award: World Humanitarian Drive, London |
| 536) Which country has allowed India access to its Mongla and Chattogram ports for trade purposes? Bangladesh |
| 537) Which three India states will benefit from the opening of the Mongla and Chattogram ports? Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura |
| 538) In which state the NISHTHA programme of central government was launched for the first time in virtual mode? Andhra Pradesh |
| 539) What is the full form of the acronym NISHTHA? National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement |

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| 540) The NISHTHA project is the part of which major educational programme? Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan |
| 541) India has entered in to the Bilateral Air Bubbles arrangement with USA, France and Germany. It is for what purpose? To facilitate mutual international flights |
| 542) The Rail Coach Factory, _____ launched a new state-of-the-art, 'Post COVID Coach' in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus infection: Kapurthala, Punjab |
| 543) Union HRD Ministry released 'PRAGYATA' guidelines for what purpose? To set the guidelines digital education by schools |
| 544) The country's "first cable-stayed" railway bridge – the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge is being built across which river? Chenab |
| 545) Which Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway has bagged the Water Heroes Award? Ongole |
| 546) Name India's richest woman who became the first woman to head a listed Indian IT company: Roshni Nadar |
| 547) Roshni Nadar has become chairperson of which major IT company? HCL Technologies, Gurugram |
| 548) Which International Day is observed on July 17 to highlight the work of the International Criminal Court? World Day for International Justice |
| 549) The International Criminal Court is located at which place? The Hague, Netherlands |
| 550) In which year Nelson Mandela dethroned white Europeans from South Africa and became first Black President of South Africa? 1994 |
| 551) DRDO has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System capable of para dropping military stores of up to 7-ton weight from which military cargo aircraft? IL 76 'Gajraj' |
| 552) India opened a new Land Customs Station at Ahllay, Pasakha to promote trade with which country? Bhutan |
| 553) Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual keynote address on July 17 at which high-level segment of the United Nations? Economic and Social Council |
| 554) Which Bollywood actor has been chosen as the ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020? Priyanka Chopra Jonas |
| 555) India ranks _____ in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions: Third |
| 556) Which country topped the Global Manufacturing Risk Index, 2020? China |
| 557) CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for class XI and XII in the current academic year 2020-21 in collaboration with which IT major? IBM, |

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| New York | |
| 558) | Which state government plans to convert waste generated in the state into electricity through 'Waste to Energy' initiative? Uttarakhand |
| 559) | The Indian Prime Minister ranks ____ among the World's top favourite leaders on Twitter, crossing 60 million followers: Third |
| JUNE 2020 | |
| 560) | World Asteroid Day is observed on June 30 to commemorate the crashing of a huge asteroid in _____ in Siberia on this day in 1908? Tunguska |
| 561) | What is the name of the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System inducted in the Indian Navy? Maareech |
| 562) | FIFA announced the hosting rights for the Women's World Cup 2023 jointly to which country? Australia and New Zealand |
| 563) | The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in which city? Los Angeles, USA |
| 564) | What is the name of the behaviour change campaign launched by the NITI Aayog recently in partnership with several other agencies? Navigating the New Normal |
| 565) | Which multi governmental organisation supports the celebration of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day on June 27? United Nations Organisation - UNO |
| 566) | International Widows Day is observed on which day of June? 23rd |
| 567) | Why June 23 has been selected to be celebrated as World Olympic Day? The day marks the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement in 1894 |
| 568) | The German Book Trade has chosen which Indian Nobel laureate for its Peace Prize 2020? Amartya Sen |
| 569) | Moody's Investors Service in its Global Macro Outlook (2020-21) has projected the Indian economy to shrink by ____ in the fiscal year 2020: 3.1% |
| 570) | Which institution has created Indian GPS beneficiary chip "Dhruva"? IIT Bombay |
| 571) | Name the veteran journalist, former Member of Parliament and founder member of the Press Club of India, who passed away at the age of 94. Vishwa Bandhu Gupta |
| 572) | NITI Aayog launched which project on June 24 to develop a low-carbon transport system in the country? Decarbonising Transport in India |
| 573) | The government introduced a Rs. ____ crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund for infrastructure related development in animal husbandry, dairy and livestock related enterprises: 15,000/- |
| 574) | The IMF has predicted that the global economy will shrink by ____ per cent this year: 4.9 |
| 575) | Which major European country has decided to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cotton buds and food containers, as well as polystyrene cups and boxes by July 3, 2021? Germany |
| 576) | The union cabinet approved the move to bring all urban cooperative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of ____? Reserve Bank of India |

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| 577) | Which state has launched a scheme to procure cow dung from livestock owners at a fixed procurement rate? Chhattisgarh |
| 578) | Which state won the first prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020 scheme of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj? Himachal Pradesh |
| 579) | The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for what purpose? To encourage the participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities |
| 580) | Which international day is observed on June 25 to pay respect to sailors around the world for the valuable services rendered by them? Day of the Seafarer |
| 581) | Who was Wajid Khan, a noted Bollywood personality, who passed away recently at a young age of 42 years? Popular music composer, with brother Sajid Khan |
| 582) | On which date UNO supports the celebration of Global Day of Parents? June 01 |
| 583) | To highlight the importance of milk in our diet, we celebrate World Milk Day on which day of June? First |
| 584) | What is the theme of this year's Global Day of Parents? "Honour Your Parents" |
| 585) | Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which country? United Kingdom |
| 586) | Government launched PM SVANidhi, a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to which category of people? Street Vendors |
| 587) | What is the full form of the newly launched micro credit scheme PM SVANidhi? Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi |
| 588) | What is the maximum amount of loan available under PM SVANidhi scheme? Rs. 10,000/- |
| 589) | What is the name of the disinfection unit developed by the DRDO especially for disinfecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others? Ultra Swachh |
| 590) | Which private company became the first space company to send two astronauts from the Earth to the International Space Station? SpaceX |
| 591) | Which country recently faced nationwide street protests over the death of a non white person by a white police man? USA |
| 592) | What is the name of the black man whose death in police action generated nationwide protests? George Floyd |
| 593) | Who is the only Indian sportsperson to figure in the Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020? Virat Kohli, 66 |
| 594) | Who has been ranked at number one in the Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020? Swiss tennis star Roger Federer |
| 595) | What were the last words uttered by George Floyd just before his death that became a war cry for protesters around the world? "I can't breathe" |
| 596) | Which global organisation launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) to share with all the latest scientific and technological advancements to fight COVID-19? World Health Organization (WHO) |
| 597) | Union Government has launched a new initiative named 'SWADES' for what purpose? To conduct a |

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| | skill mapping exercise of the Indians returning from abroad |
| 598) | What is the full form of SWADES? “Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support” |
| 599) | SWADES is a joint initiative of three ministries -- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, _____ Ministry and External Affairs Ministry: Civil Aviation |
| 600) | Under the new definition of MSMEs, manufacturing and services enterprises with investments up to Rs 10 crore and turnover up to Rs 50 crore will be classified as _____ enterprises: Small |
| 601) | As per the new definition of MSMEs, Enterprises with investment up to Rs ____ crore and turnover up to Rs ____ crore will be termed as ‘medium’ enterprises. 20; 100 |
| 602) | Name the severe cyclonic storm that landed in Raigad district in Maharashtra on June 3 and caused widespread devastation: Nisarga |
| 603) | Name the veteran filmmaker-screenwriter best known for directing films like Choti si Baat, Rajnigandha, Baaton Baaton Mein, and many others, who died recently: Basu Chatterjee |
| 604) | The HRD Ministry jointly with Urban Affairs Ministry launched a joint initiative, TULIP for which target group? Fresh engineering graduates |
| 605) | What is the full form of the recently launched program ‘TULIP’? “The Urban Learning Internship Programme” |
| 606) | TULIP aims to provide hands on works experience to the Fresh engineering graduates in which field? 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the country |
| 607) | Who has taken over as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21? Uday Kotak |
| 608) | Which ministry has launched ‘#Commit’ campaign to promote sustainable more efficient use of energy? Ministry of Power. |
| 609) | Who is the current Power Minister of India? Raj Kumar Singh |
| 610) | On which date United Nation supports the celebration of the World Environment Day? June 05 |
| 611) | The Asian Football Confederation awarded the hosting rights of the Women's Asian Cup 2022 tournament to which country? India |
| 612) | Where are the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation? Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 613) | On World Environment Day, June 5, the government announced which scheme to develop 200 urban forests across the country in the next five years? The Nagar Van (Urban Forests) scheme |
| 614) | For the first time, a bilateral summit between India and _____ was held in virtual mode on June 4 between the two prime ministers: Australia |
| 615) | Who is the prime minister of Australia? Scott Morrison |
| 616) | The central government has approved to rename the Kolkata Port Trust as _____ Port Trust. Syama Prasad Mookerjee |
| 617) | The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust is the only major port of India not located on sea shore. It is |

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| | located on which river? Hooghly |
| 618) | Raveesh Kumar has been appointed as India's next ambassador to which country? Finland |
| 619) | On June 3, India joined the group of select nations to have a Real-Time Market (RTM) in which commodity? Electricity |
| 620) | The Reserve Bank has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 500 Crore for what purpose? To improve the digital payments ecosystem in the northeast and rural India. |
| 621) | The Payment Infrastructure Development Fund aims to promote which particular channel of digital payments? Card swipe machines |
| 622) | _____ has become the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizens. Kerala |
| 623) | Which state launched K-FON project aimed at providing free high speed internet facility to poor families? Kerala |
| 624) | Who is the first non-white person to become the chairman of the apex film and TV award body of Britain – BAFTA? Krishnendu Majumdar |
| 625) | What is the full expansion of the acronym BAFTA? British Academy of Film and Television Arts |
| 626) | On which date the World Bicycle Day is celebrated around the world? June 3 |
| 627) | Name the former Governor of Manipur, Mizoram and Jharkhand, who passed away in Goa: Ved Marwah |
| 628) | Which UN special agency supports the celebrations of the World Food Safety Day? WHO – World Health Organisation |
| 629) | On which date we celebrate the World Food Safety Day? June 7 |
| 630) | What is the theme of this year's World Food Safety Day? Food safety, everyone's business |
| 631) | Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs launched which programme at Bengaluru and Chennai for technology based faster Customs clearance of imported goods? Turant Customs |
| 632) | Who has become the first Indian to win the Richard Dawkins Award? Javed Akhtar, veteran writer-lyricist |
| 633) | Which is the deepest point of the Earth? Challenger Deep, in Mariana Trench, around 11,000 mts deep |
| 634) | As per the State Food Safety Index released by the FSSAI, Which state topped the index among large states? Gujarat |
| 635) | Among UTs, which UT topped the State Food Safety Index? Chandigarh |
| 636) | Name the India's 1st indigenous wireless system for monitoring physiological parameters of the COVID-19 affected patients? COVID BEEP |
| 637) | Name the Indian corporate selected as the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw |
| 638) | Who is Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (her position)? Chairperson of Biocon Ltd., India's largest bio-pharmaceutical company |
| 639) | On which date do we celebrate the World Oceans Day? June 8 |
| 640) | Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? Switzerland |



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| 641) | As per the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions under the NIRF, which is the overall best institute of India? IIT Madras |
| 642) | What is the full form of the abbreviation NIRF? National Institutional Ranking Framework |
| 643) | Among the Indian universities, _____ has been ranked as the best by the India Rankings-2020 for Higher Educational Institutions: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru |
| 644) | _____, Delhi has been ranked as the best college in India: Miranda House (for girls) |
| 645) | Indian Railways has set a new world benchmark by successfully running the first Double-Stack Container Train in which state? Gujarat |
| 646) | Which company has become the first company in the world to reach a \$1.5 trillion market cap? Apple Inc. |
| 647) | A massive oil fire erupted at a leaking natural-gas oil well in which Assam oilfield on June 8? Baghjan oil field |
| 648) | The Government of India has raised the Customs duty on bamboo imports from 10% to ____ with immediate effect with a view to encourage the use of domestic bamboo. 25% |
| 649) | India has recorded a ____ increase in the population of Asiatic Lions in the last five years. 29% |
| 650) | Asiatic Lions are found in the wild in the ____ sanctuary in western Gujarat. Gir 70 . ICGS Kanaklata Barua is what type of ship recently delivered to the Indian Coast Guard? Fast Petrol Vessel |
| 651) | Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2021 has ranked which university at the top rank? Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA |
| 652) | The World Bank has given Rs. 1,950 crore loans to which state for tackling COVID situation and developmental work in the State? West Bengal |
| 653) | Name the eminent Indian-American soil scientist who won the World Food Prize-2000: Dr. Rattan Lal |
| 654) | Who is the head of the Working Group set up by the RBI to review the guidelines related to private sector banks? P K Mohanty |
| 655) | On which date the World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated around the world? June 12 |
| 656) | Which specialised UN agency supports the celebration of the World Day Against Child Labour? ILO -- The International Labour Organization |
| 657) | Name the founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia who has been selected for the Medal of the Order of Australia: Shobha Sekhar |
| 658) | The OECD has forecasted Indian economy to contract by 3.7% in the fiscal year 2020-21. Its headquarters are located in which city? Paris |
| 659) | What is the full form of OECD? Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| 660) | The Indian Navy inaugurated its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at which of its Command Office? Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam |
| 661) | Which country's team has topped the recent rankings released by FIFA? Belgium |
| 662) | What is India's ranking in the latest FIFA rankings? 108th |
| 663) | _____ has become the first state in the country to |

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| | receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students. Odisha |
| 664) | The Ministry of _____ has reconstituted a new committee to review the welfare of the freedom fighters: Home Affairs |
| 665) | Who is the head of the new committee formed to review the welfare of the freedom fighters? G Kishan Reddy |
| 666) | Which TV serial made Sushant Singh Rajput a household name? Pavitra Rishta |
| 667) | Which apex Indian organisation launched web portal 'Aarogya Path'? CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi |
| 668) | What is the basic purpose of the web portal 'Aarogya Path'? To facilitate online availability of medical logistics |
| 669) | The World Blood Donor Day is observed on which day of June month? 14th |
| 670) | What is the theme of this year's World Blood Donor Day? Safe blood saves lives |
| 671) | The Department of Biotechnology launched India's first mobile infectious disease diagnostic lab. This is the initiative of which ministry? Ministry of Science and Technology |
| 672) | Which international day is celebrated to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons? World Elder Abuse Awareness Day |
| 673) | On which date we celebrate the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day? June 15 |
| 674) | As per a recent report by the UNCTAD, India was the world's _____ largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI): 9th |
| 675) | Which bank has decided to completely digitise its lending operations? Bank of Baroda |
| 676) | In which border area India lost its 20 soldiers in a violent conflict with Chinese forces? Galwan Valley |
| 677) | India recently joined which international group as its founder member to promote Artificial Intelligence? Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) |
| 678) | India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a ____ year term: Two |
| 679) | India's two year term will begin on which date? January 1, 2021. |
| 680) | The non-permanent members of UNSC are elected by the members of which forum? UN General Assembly |
| 681) | How many members are there in the UN General Assembly? 193 |
| 682) | Name the Turkish diplomat and politician who was elected as President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly: Volkan Bozkir |
| 683) | Vera Lynn, renowned veteran singer who passed away recently, hailed from which country? Britain |
| 684) | A new fish species named as "Schizothorax sikusirumensis" has been discovered recently in which Indian state? Arunachal Pradesh |
| 685) | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is celebrated on which day of June? 17th |
| 686) | Which new facility will enable EPFO offices to settle online claims from any of its regional offices, across the country? Multi Location Claim Settlement facility |
| 687) | The DARPG recently launched the "Feedback Call |

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| | Centres on Public Grievances". What is the full form of DARPG? Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances |
| 688) | Name the 23 year old US sikh citizen who made history by becoming the 1st observant Sikh to graduate from a distinguished US Military Academy: Anmol Narang |
| 689) | Which Bank has introduced an online overdraft (OD) facility 'Insta FlexiCash' for its salary account customers? ICICI Bank |
| 690) | What is the name of country's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform? Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) |
| 691) | Which country will host the 4th Asian Youth Para Games in December 2021? Bahrain |
| 692) | Which international day is observed annually on June 18 to respect the rights of persons with autism? Autistic Pride Day |
| 693) | Which Ministry released India's first ever National Report on the state of the Climate Crisis titled "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region"? Ministry of Earth Sciences |
| 694) | Who is the current minister of the Earth Sciences Ministry? Dr Harsh Vardhan |
| 695) | Which mission has been launched on June 20 to generate employment opportunities in rural India for returning migrant workers? Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan |
| 696) | Government has decided to establish 1000 _____ Centers at the district level across the country to develop local sports talent: Khelo India |
| 697) | Which ministry launched R&D portal "Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)" for Science and Technology Programme Scheme? Ministry of Mines |
| 698) | Who is the current head of the ministry of mines? Pralhad Joshi |
| 699) | The United Nations celebrates the World Refugee Day every year on which date? June 20 |
| 700) | What is the theme for this year's World Refugee Day? Every Action Counts |
| 701) | The Reliance Industries Ltd has become the first Indian company to reach \$ ____ billion mark in terms of market capitalisation. 150 |
| 702) | Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi? Urjit Patel |
| 703) | World Music Day is celebrated around the world on which date to promote peace and spread goodwill through music? June 21 |
| 704) | On which Sunday of June we usually celebrate the Father's Day? Third |
| 705) | What was the theme for this year's International Day of Yoga? Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home |
| 706) | _____ holds the record for most wickets taken in Ranji Trophy history as he scalped 637 wickets. Rajinder Goel |
| 707) | The Exim Bank extended a \$20.10 million Line of Credit to which country for the reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital? Icaragua |
| 708) | Vijay Khanduja has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which country? Republic of Zimbabwe |

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| 709) | Which day is observed on June 23 to highlight the contribution of public servants in the development process? United Nations Public Service Day |
| MAY 2020 | |
| 710) | Tarun Bajaj, the 1988 batch IAS officer has been given charge of the _____ Secretary of the country: Economic Affairs |
| 711) | Which popular TV serial has created the world record of highest viewed entertainment programme globally? Ramayan |
| 712) | Name the legendary Footballer, captain of the gold medal winning team of Jakarta Asiad, who died in Kolkata after prolonged illness. Chuni Goswami |
| 713) | Order of Rising Sun is one of the highest civilian honour of which country? Japan |
| 714) | Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana offers a health insurance cover of how much amount to eligible families? Rs 5 lakh |
| 715) | J. Arunkumar, former Karnataka cricketer, has been appointed the head coach of which country's national cricket team? USA |
| 716) | The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$ 346 million loan to Maharashtra for what purpose? To provide reliable power connections in rural areas of the state |
| 717) | What is another popular name for the Labour Day / International Workers' Day observed on May 1? May Day |
| 718) | According to a recent report titled 'The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2020)', which country suffered largest number of displacements in 2019? India |
| 719) | Which apex organisation launched the Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system? CSIR |
| 720) | What is the full form of CSIR? Council of Scientific and Industrial Research |
| 721) | The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is based in which city? New Delhi |
| 722) | A faculty member at IIT Madras Prof. T. Pradeep has won the Nikkei Asia Prize for which achievement? For his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification |
| 723) | Nikkei Asia Prize is given by Nikkei – the biggest media group of _____. Japan |
| 724) | The Open budget survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) has placed India at ____ position among 117 nations: 53rd |
| 725) | Which country was ranked on top in terms of budget transparency? New Zealand |
| 726) | Which global day is observed on May 3 to pay gratitude to those journalists who lost their lives in |

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| order to bring us honest and real news? World Press Freedom Day |
| 727) What is the theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day? "Journalism without Fear or Favour." |
| 728) Hafthor Bjornsson set a new world record for the deadlift on May 2 when he lifted 1,104 pounds (501 kg). He is from which Country? Iceland |
| 729) World Tuna Day is observed on which date? May 2 |
| 730) Tuna is a popular fish food of which country? Almost all countries |
| 731) Dr. Shobhana Narasimhan, a noted Indian scientist has been given which international honour recently? Elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science |
| 732) WHO supports the celebrations of Hand Hygiene Day on which date? May 05 |
| 733) What is the theme of this year's Hand Hygiene Day? Save lives: Clean your hands |
| 734) Which international NGO supports the celebration of World Asthma Day? Global Initiative for Asthma |
| 735) Which flower product produced in the Kashmir Valley has recently been granted GI tag? Saffron |
| 736) What is the name of the Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower developed by the DRDO for the chemical-free and rapid disinfection of high infection-prone areas? UV Blaster |
| 737) The government launched which mission to operate 64 flights from May 7 to 13 to bring home thousands of Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown? Vande Bharat Mission |
| 738) Three photojournalists from which Indian state won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography? Jammu and Kashmir |
| 739) Mustafa al-Kadhimi has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country by its Parliament? Iraq |
| 740) Marcus Wallenberg Prize is awarded for outstanding achievement in which field? For contribution in the field of forestry and forest industries |
| 741) Which Arabian country recently changed its currency from Rial to Toman to counter the hyperinflation? Iran |
| 742) This year's World Athletics Day was observed on which date? May 7 |
| 743) What is the new name adopted by the International Amateur Athletic Federation for itself? World Athletics |
| 744) AIIB signed a ____ million dollar "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems |

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| Preparedness Project" in New Delhi to strengthen public health preparedness in India: 500 |
| 745) What is the full form of AIIB? Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank |
| 746) Where are the headquarters of AIIB located? Beijing |
| 747) The Border Roads Organisation successfully completed road connectivity from Dharchula to _____, famously known as Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route: Lipulekh |
| 748) On which Sunday of May the world celebrated the Mother's Day? Second |
| 749) What is the other popular name for the Vesak Day? Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima |
| 750) On which auspicious day the Buddhists across the world celebrate the Vesak Day? On the first full moon day of May |
| 751) World Red Cross Day is celebrated on which day of May? 8th |
| 752) World Red Cross Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which great person? Henri Dunant |
| 753) Who was Henri Dunant? Founder of International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland |
| 754) The Thalassaemia disease is related to which part/function of human body? It's a type of blood disorder |
| 755) What happens to a person suffering from Thalassaemia? Reduction in red blood cells |
| 756) Which international NGO supports the celebration of the World Thalassaemia Day? Thalassaemia International Federation, Geneva |
| 757) World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on which date? May 8 |
| 758) Which Indian telecom major recently received foreign investment worth Rs. 11,367 crore from US-based private equity firm Vista Equity Partners? Jio Platforms of Reliance Industries |
| 759) Rob Gibbs, 55 year old veteran animation director, story artist and writer from USA was in news recently for what reason? He passed away |
| 760) Rob Gibbs was associated with which famous studios for over 20 years? Pixar Animation Studios, California, USA |
| 761) Name the Congress leader in Lok Sabha has been reappointed chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC)? Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury |
| 762) Who is the appointing authority for the chairperson of the PAC? Speaker of the Lok Sabha |
| 763) PAC comprises of not more than 22 MPs, ____ from |

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| Lok Sabha and ___ from Rajya Sabha: 15; 7 |
| 764) What is the primary function of the PAC? To keep a check on government expenditure by scrutinising reports submitted by CAG |
| 765) Which national day is celebrated to commemorate the day on which India successfully test-fired its first nuclear bombs in 1998? National Technology Day |
| 766) What was the code name for the successful test-firing of India's first nuclear bombs in 1998? "Operation Shakti" in Pokhran, Rajasthan |
| 767) What was the code name for the India's first successful nuclear test conducted in 1974? Smiling Buddha |
| 768) International Nurses Day is observed on which date? May 12 |
| 769) International Nurses Day commemorates the birth day of which legendary British social reformer? Florence Nightingale |
| 770) Florence Nightingale was popularly known with which nick name? Lady with the Lamp |
| 771) Olive Ridley is a popular species of which animal? Turtles |
| 772) Which Indian state is known for its famous turtle rookeries in Gahirmatha and Rushikulya? Odisha |
| 773) India had launched Mission Sagar on May 10 to provide assistance to ___ island nations of Eastern Indian Ocean Region amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis: Five |
| 774) The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) and the _____ jointly launched a postal stamp to mark the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication on May 8: World Health Organisation (WHO) |
| 775) The Ministry of MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) launched which portal to assist Indian MSMEs in becoming national and global champions? CHAMPIONS |
| 776) The Supreme Court has ruled that all _____ banks in the country can also make use of the SARFAESI Act to make recovery from defaulting borrowers: Co-operative |
| 777) The SARFAESI Act was passed in which year? 2002 |
| 778) The SARFAESI Act empowered bankers for the first time for what action? To seize the assets of defaulting borrowers, directly, without going to the court |
| 779) Name the Indian who is the President of International Hockey Federation, Lausanne, Switzerland: Narinder Batra |
| 780) Which state launched the country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana': Madhya Pradesh |

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| 781) The Kempegowda International Airport of which city has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia? Bengaluru |
| 782) Which country has named a street in its biggest city, after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore? Israel, in Tel Aviv |
| 783) Name the senior para-athlete who announced her retirement from Paralympics games in order to serve as the office-bearer in the Paralympic Committee of India: Deepa Malik |
| 784) The Prime Minister announced a stimulus packages on May 13, amounting to 20 lakh crore rupees under which banner? Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self Reliant India Mission) |
| 785) _____ has become the first Indian state to regulate the cultivation of crops in the state: Telangana |
| 786) The BRICS's New Development Bank has decided to provide \$ 1 billion emergency assistance loan to India for what purpose? To support its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic |
| 787) What is India's rank in the recently released Global Energy Transition Index compiled by the World Economic Forum? 74th |
| 788) Which country secured the first rank in the Global Energy Transition Index? Sweden |
| 789) Which ministry has decided that from June 01, 2020, all the dry canteens of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will sell only indigenous products? Home Ministry |
| 790) Name the Indian media personality who has been selected for one of the 17 Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Awards: Siddharth Varadarajan |
| 791) Siddharth Varadarajan is associated with which digital news platform? The Wire |
| 792) Name the Odisha cadre IAS officer who has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)? Manoj Ahuja |
| 793) With the support of the UNO, which day is celebrated across the world on May 15 to highlight the importance of families in strengthening the social fabric all over the world? International Family Day |
| 794) What is the theme of this year's International Family Day? Families in Development |
| 795) Which union ministry promotes the celebration of the National Dengue Day? Ministry of Health and Family Welfare |
| 796) Who is the present Minister of Health and Family Welfare in India? Dr Harsh Vardhan |

- 797) Dengue is a viral disease, transmitted by the infective bite of which mosquito? **Aedes Aegypti**
- 798) The government plans to launch a 20,000 crore rupees scheme for the development of marine and inland fisheries. What is its name? **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**
- 799) Celebrations of the International Day of Living Together in Peace are supported by which international organisation? **United Nations**
- 800) The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed in May on which day? **16th**
- 801) The government plans to launch a 20,000 crore rupees scheme for the development of marine and inland fisheries. What is its name? **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** (Prime Minister Fisheries Wealth Scheme)
- 802) Name the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament that has been scrapped for the first time since World War II due to havoc of Corona. **Wimbledon, London**
- 803) The Union cabinet has approved a ____ percent cut in the salaries of the Members of Parliament for one year w.e.f. April 1 this year. **30%**
- 804) The Union cabinet has decided to suspend MPLADS funds for two years from 2020-21 to 2022. What is the full form of MPLADS? **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme**
- 805) Every MP gets how much funds every year under the MPLADS? **Rs 5 crore**
- 806) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce three new subjects for class 11 from 2020-21 academic session. Name these subjects. **Design Thinking, Physical Activity Trainer and Artificial Intelligence**
- 807) Which global agency has approved a fast-track \$1 billion support for "India Covid Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project"? **The World Bank**
- 808) The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system has suffered its worst mass coral bleaching in recent years. Where is it located? **In the sea around northeast Australia**
- 809) Name the FIFA event that was to be held in India in November this year, which has been postponed by FIFA due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic across the globe. **The FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup**
- 810) The New Delhi _____ World Cup, which had already been postponed from March to May, has now been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **Shooting**

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