

GENERAL AWARENESS

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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

Ease of Doing Business	63
Human Freedom Index	111
Human Development Index	131
Receiving Spam Calls	9
Global Hunger Index 2020	94 th
Teacher Status Index (GTSI)	6 th
Asia Power Index 2020	4 th
Global Economic Freedom Index	105 th
Human Capital Index	116 th
Global Innovation Index	48 th
World Risk Index (WRI)	89 th
Budget Transparency Index	53 rd
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



NATIONAL NEWS

DECEMBER

MODI HONOURED WITH "THE LEGION OF MERIT"



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

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

PM ADDRESSES VIRTUAL GLOBAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

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

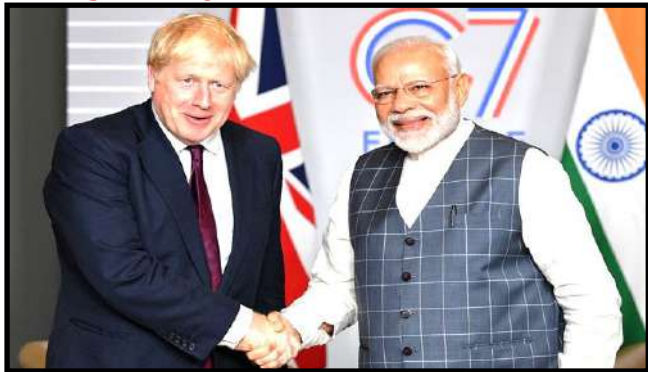
VICE PRESIDENT CHAIRS SCO MEETING

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

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



BRITISH PM TO ATTEND R. DAY PARADE



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

TWO UNIVERSITIES CELEBRATE CENTENARY

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

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH UZBEKISTAN

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

TRILATERAL GROUP MEET ON CHABAHAR

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

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

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



ALL POLICE STATIONS TO HAVE CCTV SYSTEM

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

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

RUSSIA TO MANUFACTURE VACCINE IN INDIA

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

10th NATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL HELD



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

JALLIKATTU NOMINATED FOR OSCARS

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

UNDP TO PUSH INVESTMENT IN INDIA



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

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

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

3rd RE-INVEST 2020 HELD IN VIRTUAL MODE

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

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

'IPL': THE MOST SEARCHED WORD ON GOOGLE

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



WORLD BANK APPROVES 4 INDIAN PROJECTS

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

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

\$500 MILLION LOAN FOR NH CORRIDORS

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

NDB APPROVES \$1BILLION LOAN FOR INDIA



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

\$ 2.5 MILLION FUNDING BY ADB FOR BIOFUELS

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

INDIA FARES VERY WELL IN CLIMATE CONTROL



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

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

INDIA JUMPS TO 63rd RANK IN EoDB

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

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



INDIA 9th IN RECEIVING SPAM CALLS

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

INDIA FARES POORLY IN 'HUMAN FREEDOM'

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

INDIA CONTINUES TO BE LOW ON HDI

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



INDIA WORST IN CONTEXT OF BRIBERY

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

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

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

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH LUXEMBOURG PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19. This was the first stand-alone Summit meeting between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades. The two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relationship, including strengthening of India-Luxembourg cooperation in the post-COVID world. Luxembourg is a small European country, surrounded by Belgium, Germany and France.

PM MODI ATTENDS 12TH BRICS SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 12th BRICS Summit on November 17 in virtual mode. The summit was hosted by Russia, under the theme Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth. India will be taking over the Chairship of the BRICS for the year 2021 and will host the 13th BRICS Summit next year.

P M ADDRESSES 17TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc on November 12. The Summit provides the opportunity for India to engage with ASEAN nations at the highest level. ASEAN is a regional group of ten south east Asian countries.

REPORT BY 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION



The Fifteenth Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for the period of 2021-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind on Nov 9. The report will now be tabled in the Parliament by the Finance Minister along with an Action Taken Report of the government.

A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution. Its main function is to recommend how the Union government should share taxes levied by it with the states. These recommendations cover a period of five years.

TRAINED HORSES & DOGS GIFTED TO B'DESH

Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army. The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. The Indian Army also trained Bangladesh Army for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

DIPAM SEEKS SUPPORT FROM WORLD BANK

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with the World Bank to receive advisory services for asset monetization. DIPAM, a unit under Ministry of Finance, is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of Rs. 100 crore and above.

BOOK ON GANDHI RELEASED IN NEPAL

Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'MaileBujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi) - during a ceremony at Kathmandu. The book has been brought out by the Embassy of India along with the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation to cherish the values of the Mahatma's universal teachings with Nepali friends.

WEF SELECTS 4 INDIAN CITIES

Four Indian cities - Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad figure among the 36 cities across the world that have agreed to pioneer a roadmap for safely adopting new technology as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance. Other selected cities include cities such as London, Moscow, Toronto, Brasilia, Dubai and Melbourne.



The cities were selected by the World Economic Forum (WEF) from 22 countries across the world to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities developed by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.

INDIA HAS FAIR BUSINESS BRIBERY RISKS

India has been placed at 77th position in a global list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020. The list has been compiled by TRACE, a US based anti-bribery standard setting organisation. According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest. The ranking is based on four factors: business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight, including the role of the media.

NEWS FROM STATES

DECEMBER

L'DWEEP GOES FOR 100% ORGANIC FARMING



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

INDIA'S BEST POLICE STATION IS IN MANIPUR

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

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

WORLD'S LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

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

UP TO START BLOCKCHAIN SOLAR TRADING

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

GWALIOR & ORCHHA GET HERITAGE STATUS

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

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

RAMCHARITMANAS CRUISE ON RIVER SARYU

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

SONG DAM TO BE BUILT NEAR DEHRADUN

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



PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE WINS TX2 AWARD



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

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

LOAN FOR ASSAM HYDROPOWER PROJECT

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

ADB TO FUND SEVERAL PROJECTS IN INDIA

- \$430 million to Uttar Pradesh to strengthen 65,000 km of rural low-voltage distribution lines, benefitting 46,000 villages.
- \$133 million has been given to strengthen the power distribution sector in Meghalaya. The funds from ADB will be used for supporting the state's '24X7Power for All' initiative.
- \$300 million to upgrade rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh.
- \$190 million for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in city of Bengaluru.
- \$2.86 million to the Tripura for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state.
- \$4.21 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in Tripura.



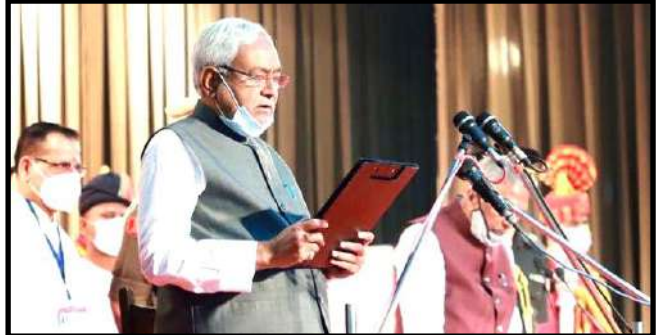
- ❖ The Assam govt has proposed setting up of a 6th national park named Raimona National Park in an area of 422 sq km. in Ripu reserve forest.
- ❖ The largest Solar Project at a high altitude in the entire Leh -Ladakh UT has been established at the Air Force Station Leh with 15 megawatt capacity.
- ❖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

NOVEMBER

CHHATH PUJA CELEBRATED WITH FERVOUR

The four-day celebrations of the immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21 with devotees offering prayers to the rising sun in different parts of the country. People in Bihar and adjoining areas of UP and Jharkhand, celebrate this festival with great fervour. Coming towards the end of the harvest season, the sixth day after Diwali, Chhath Puja started as a thanksgiving ritual, to express farmers' gratitude for a bumper crop. Devotees offer their prayers to and seek blessings from the Sun God and his sister Chhathi Maiyya.

NITISH IS BIHAR CM FOR 7TH TIME



Nitish Kumar (of Janta Dal - United) was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time on November 16. Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Kumar at Raj Bhavan in Patna. BJP legislature party leader Tarkishore Prasad and Deputy Leader Renu Devi were made the new Deputy Chief Ministers.

WORLD'S FIRST TRAM LIBRARY IN KOLKATA

In a first of its kind in the world, the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) has launched a maiden tram service in Kolkata for children, including students preparing for competitive exams. Students will also have access to Wi-Fi. As of now, a 32-seater car will run on the Shyambazar-Esplanade route.

This will not only attract the students but will also reinvigorate the love for trams and reading. The Kolkata tramways have been operating since 1873 when the maiden tram took off with horses.

WORLD'S BIGGEST ELEPHANT CARE CENTRE



The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world. The first phase of the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre will be commissioned in February 2021. The project is being implemented at a cost of Rs 108 crore. The centre has facilities to accommodate 50 elephants including the existing 16 elephants. The aim of the centre is to give elephants a natural ecosystem just like in the forest.

COUNTRY'S FIRST MOSS GARDEN OPENED

India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The garden aims to conserve the various species of moss and other bryophytes and to make people aware of its significance in the environment besides creating a recreation centre for tourists.

Moss is one of the most ancient flora on the planet, existing since the Jurassic era. They are the first plants to grow on rocky land and by breaking down the rocks and the soil.

KERALA FIRST TO FIX MSP FOR VEGETABLES

Kerala has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. The scheme would come into effect from November 1. The MSP will be 20 per cent above the production cost of the vegetable.

INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project was commissioned in Arunachal Pradesh. The project, built at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore, would provide drinking water to 17,480 people in 39 villages of Lower Dibang Valley district in Arunachal Pradesh. The project also includes an amusement park including swimming pool, amphitheatre, fountains, and sit-outs.



MUMBAI IS FIRST WOMEN FOCUSED CITY

Mumbai has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus—land reservations for physical-social infrastructure designed to meet women's needs. With women in the workforce as the pivot, the revised urban design now seeks to address other aspects of inclusion too such as housing, transport, education, healthcare, and safety to alter the overall landscape for women in the city.

INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR MINIATURE TRAIN

A solar energy-driven miniature train, billed as the country's first of its kind, was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, situated 12 km away from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The train would be an attraction especially for children. The miniature rail has all the features of a fully-equipped rail system, including a tunnel, station and a ticket office. Artificial steam spouted by the engine of the train, modelled after the vintage steam locomotive, will stir nostalgic feelings.

TAMIL NADU TOPS IN WATER CONSERVATION

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation announced the Second National Water Awards on November 11. Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award in overall water conservation efforts, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan at second and third spot, respectively.

ARUNACHAL TOPS IN FEMALE BIRTHS

According to a 2018 report on the 'Vital statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System', Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country with 1,085 females born per thousand males, while Manipur fared the worst with just 757. Arunachal is followed by Nagaland (965) and Mizoram (964). Before Manipur came Lakshadweep (839) and Daman-Diu (877).

Sex ratio refers to the number of females born per thousand males. The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.



CHANDLAULI TOPS ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September, 2020. Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum (both in Jharkhand) have been placed at second and third positions, respectively. The rankings took into account incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas during September.

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

AYODHYA CREATES NEW WORLD RECORD



About 8,000 volunteers, drawn from a local college and NGOs, lit up over six lakh earthen lamps lined up on the Saryu river bank in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on Nov 13 to mark the home coming of Lord Rama. Officials from Guinness Book of World Records confirmed a final count as 6,06,569 'diyas', saying it was "largest display of oil lamps" in the world, creating a new world record.

INDIA'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE

The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in Tehri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand. The 725-metre long Dobra-Chanti suspension bridge has been built in 14 years over the Tehri lake with a cost of Rs. 2.95 crore. It would help connect Pratap Nagar town with Tehri Garhwal district headquarters.

WB LOAN FOR ROADS OF MEGHALAYA

The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of Meghalaya. The project will improve about 300 kilometres of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions.

LUHRI HYDRO POWER PROJECT APPROVED

The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project on Satluj River in Himachal Pradesh with an investment of Rs 1,810.56 crore. The project located near Kotgarh, Shimla, will be implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) on the Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis in next five years.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment.
- ❖ Shanghai based New Development Bank (BRICS Bank) approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project in the National Capital Region.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in West Bengal.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank agreed to provide a \$132.8 loan to the Indian state of Meghalaya for upgrading the power distribution network and improving the power quality.

GOVT. INITIATIVES

DECEMBER

E-PORTAL FOR ALL GOVT PROPERTIES



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

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

CABINET NOD FOR A PUBLIC WI-FI NETWORK

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

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



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ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA



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

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

NOVEMBER

NATIONAL NEWBORN WEEK – NOV 15 TO 21

India observed the National Newborn Week from 15 to 21 November. This week is observed every year to reinforce the importance of newborn's health as a key priority area of the health sector. It aims to minimise the infant mortality rate by improving healthcare conditions for babies in the neonatal period. The theme of this year's week was 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere'.

'SAFAIMITRA SURAKSHA CHALLENGE'

Government launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' for the safety of sewer or septic tank cleaners. It will promote mechanized cleaning to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, which many times proves fatal. The challenge will focus on promoting infrastructure creation for mechanized cleaning. Government had enacted the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 to prohibit manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning of septic tanks.



AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA

Government has announced an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana". Under it, the government will give Employees contribution and employer's contribution to EPF-registered organizations on recruiting new people. It will cover new employees whose monthly wages are less than Rs. 15000 and people who lost their jobs in the pandemic period from March 1, to September 30 in an EPFO-registered establishment. The Centre will provide subsidy for two years in respect of newly eligible employees engaged on or after October 1, 2020 under the scheme.

Rs. 2200 CRORE FOR IMPROVING AIR QUALITY



Based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for the improvement of air quality measures in their million-plus cities. The grant will help the states to undertake various air quality measures which include capacity-building of the local bodies in their million-plus cities. The 15th Finance Commission completed the report under the chairmanship of NK Singh.

COMMISSION TO MANAGE AIR POLLUTION

The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in NCR (National Capital Region) and adjoining areas. The commission will be chaired by a government official equivalent to the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary, and it will also include a representative from the Ministry of Environment, members from the state of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and technical experts from Central Pollution Control Board and ISRO. It will help in better coordination among institutions, research and identify problems in improving the air quality in NCR regions.

"NYAY KAUSHAL" FOR E-FILING OF CASES

India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated at Judicial Officers Training Institute in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The Nyay Kaushal will facilitate electronic-filing of cases in the Supreme Court, any High Court as well as district courts across the country to enable speedy justice for litigants, by utilising technology.

'MERI SAHELI' INITIATIVE BY RAILWAYS



Railways has launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones. It aims to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey, from starting station to destination station. The scheme will be implemented by the Railway Protection Force, RPF. The RPF team will collect only the seat numbers of the ladies and convey them to stoppages en-route. The RPF personnel at the stopping stations en-route keep an unobtrusive watch over the concerned coaches and berths to ensure full safety of the lady passengers.

SCHEME TO PROMOTE WOMEN SCIENTISTS

A new scheme 'SERB - POWER' launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent women researchers to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering. SERB-POWER stands for Science and Engineering Research Board - Promoting Opportunities For Women in Exploratory Research. The scheme aims to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.

The scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of 35-55 years. SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

CREDIT G'TEE SCHEME EXTENDED



The Finance Ministry has extended the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for small businesses, business enterprises, and individual loans for business purposes till March 31, 2021. The ECLGS 2.0 has been launched for 26 stressed sectors including construction, real estate, power and iron and steel manufacturing.

Under the scheme, the entities will get additional credit up to 20 percent of outstanding credit. The repayment can be done in five years, which includes 1-year moratorium and 4 years of repayment.

OTT CONTENT TO BE REGULATED

Responding to the streaming of uncensored objectionable content on the OTT (over the top) platform, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought digital/online media under its purview. Currently, there is no law or autonomous body governing digital content.

The 2nd Schedule of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 has been amended to include the Films and Audio-Visual programmes, News and current affairs content. This means that digital content providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hotstar will now be regulated by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

ACTION PLAN FOR VULTURE CONSERVATION

The National Board for Wildlife approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25 under which five vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra,



Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Will get a each, according to the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025.

Vultures are often overlooked and perceived as lowly scavengers, but they play a crucial role in the environments in which they live. Vultures, also known as nature's cleanup crew, do the dirty work of cleaning up after death, helping to keep ecosystems healthy as they act as natural carcass recyclers.

- ❖ *Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to focus on development of ports and waterways.*

OCTOBER

NEW SCHEMES TO PUSH CONSUMER SPENDING

The Finance Minister announced a consumer spending related proposal, comprising of two components:

Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Cash Voucher scheme

Under this, government employees can opt to receive cash amounting to leave encashment plus 3 times ticket fare, to buy items that attract a GST of 12% or more, before March 31, 2021. However, only digital transactions will be allowed and GST invoices will need to be produced.

The Special Festival Advance Scheme

Under this scheme, all central government employees will get an interest-free advance of Rs 10,000, in the form of a prepaid RuPay Card, to be spent by March 31, 2021. The interest-free advance will have to be paid back in 10 instalments.

'E-DHARTI GEO PORTAL' LAUNCHED



The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched the 'e-Dharti Geo Portal' which will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system. It will allow the data to become geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.

The portal will have details of around 60,000 properties that are commercial, residential, industrial as well as institutional. The portal will issue a certificate for each property that will include details like land type, property type, date of allotment, property status, property address, details about present lessee and litigation status, among others.

SUMMIT 'RAISE' ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog organized the Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: "Summit RAISE (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment) 2020" from 5 to 9 of October. Global tech leaders from across the globe discussed cross-sector topics such as 'Leveraging AI for Pandemic Preparedness', the Impetus that Innovation Places on Digitisation', Inclusive AI and Partnerships for Successful Innovation.

During the summit, delegates and experts in research, policy and innovation on Artificial Intelligence exchanged ideas to chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR HEALTHCARE COOPS

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation. The scheme aims to help cooperatives play an important role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in India. Under the scheme, prospective cooperatives will get term loans up to 10 thousand crore rupees in the future.

STARS PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING

The Union Cabinet approved the "Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States" -STARS project supported by the World Bank. The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.

The STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy as part of New Education Policy. Initially, it will cover six States, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.

KAMDHENU DEEPAWALI ABHIYAN LAUNCHED

Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has started a nationwide campaign to celebrate Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan for promoting extensive use of cow-dung products during this Diwali Festival. The range will include Cow dung-based Diyas, Candles, Dhoop, Swastik, Wall-piece, Paper-weight, Havan Samagri, Idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi and many more such items.

RKA was constituted in Feb 2019 to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. It functions under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. *As per 2012 livestock census, India has 300 million bovine population; out of this 191 million are cattle (cows) and 108.7 million are buffaloes. India is the global leader in milk production with peak milk production of 176.35 MMT during 2017-18.*

PROPERTY RIGHTS TO RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

The Prime Minister virtually launched the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' scheme on October 11 to enable around 1 lakh household property holders in rural areas to download their property cards through the SMS link which will be delivered on their registered mobile phones. Now they can use their property as a financial asset to take loans or for other financial benefits. It will also help in reducing disputes over land property.



SVAMITVA – “Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas” Scheme aims at providing the ‘records of the title’ to the household owners in villages in the rural areas and issue property cards. It is a central sector scheme of the Panchayati Raj Ministry. Initially, one lakh villages will be covered in the six states.

‘KAPILA’ TO PROMOTE IP LITERACY

On the 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, government launched a campaign named ‘KAPILA’, which stands for Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness to spread awareness through educational programs about the importance of patenting an invention, to lead India towards self-reliance.

NATIONAL START-UP AWARDS-2020

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry declared winners of the first National Start-Up Awards-2020. The awards were given in 35 categories across 12 sectors like health, education, agriculture, food, energy, space and many more. Startups were shortlisted on the basis of innovation, enterprise, employment generation, and social impact. A cash prize of Rs 5 lakh each will be given to the winning startup in each area.

PM LAUNCHES VAIBHAV SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik, VAIBHAV Summit on October 2 through video conferencing. The Summit is a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and academicians that will continue till the 31st October.

The summit aims to bring Indian origin luminaries in academic institutes and Research and Development organizations across the world and resident counterparts on a single platform. The participants will explore possibilities for collaboration mechanisms to strengthen the academic and Science and Technology base in India for global development.



SOCIAL INNOVATION & INCUBATION MISSION



Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot launched the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund for SCs, with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. The objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.

SWIGGY TO PROMOTE STREET FOOD VENDORS

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform. The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses.

The arrangement has been facilitated under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. The street vendors will be helped with PAN and FSSAI registration, training on technology, menu digitization and pricing along with hygiene and packaging best practices.

ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

DECEMBER

GDP SHRINKS BY 7.5% IN 2ND QUARTER

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

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

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

S&P RAISES GDP GROWTH RATE TO -7.7%



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

FITCH LOWERS GDP GROWTH TO -9.4%

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

ASIA'S DEEPEST GAS BLOCK

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

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

100 OCTANE PREMIUM PETROL LAUNCHED

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

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

SINGAPORE TOPS IN FDI IN INDIA

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

NOVEMBER

INDIAN ECONOMY ENTERS RECESSION

A recent RBI report says that India's economy has entered into a recession for the first time in history, in the first half of 2020-21. RBI's Economic Activity Index estimates that India's GDP growth for the second quarter of the current financial year was negative and the GDP contracted by 8.6 per cent during the quarter ending September, 2020, recording the second successive quarter of GDP contraction.

India's economy had shrunk about 24 per cent in the first quarter ended June, 2020. A recession is defined as two successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP.

1st FOREIGN SWF TO GET 100% TAX REBATE

Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) – MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited – has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.

MIC Redwood has been provided 100 per cent income tax exemption to income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for its investment in India's priority sector. The income tax exemption to SWFs and the Pension Fund is expected to provide much needed foreign funding to the infrastructure sector and will go a long way in boosting the growth in the infrastructure sector.

A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment fund which comprises money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.

BANKING & FINANCE

DECEMBER

CONTACTLESS CARD LIMIT RAISED

In order to expand the adoption of digital payments in a safe and secure manner, the RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from



January 1, 2021. In addition, the transaction limit on e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards and UPI has been proposed to be increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021. This increase in limits will, however, be at the discretion of the user.

RTGS TO BE AVAILABLE 24X7 ON ALL DAYS



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

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

RBI RESTRAINS HDFC BANK

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

POST BANK LAUNCHES APP 'DAK PAY'

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



'INFINITE INDIA' PORTAL BY ICICI BANK

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

INDUSIND LAUNCHES METAL CREDIT CARD

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

ICICI LAUNCHES OPEN MOBILE BANKING APP

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

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

HDFC BANK CROSSES MARKET CAP OF 8 TRN.

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

NOVEMBER

RBI LAUNCHES INNOVATION HUB

The Reserve Bank of India has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging technology and creating an environment which would facilitate and foster innovation. Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.

NO SERVICE CHARGE ON BSBD ACCOUNTS

The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on the 60 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, including over 40 crore Jan Dhan accounts. The clarification was issued in view of several media reports alluding to steep increase in service charges by certain Public Sector Banks.

As per RBI guidelines, all banks, including Public Sector Banks, are permitted to levy charges for their services in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, but the BSBD accounts are exempt from service charges. However, BSBD accounts have some limitations such as balance not more than 50,000 and not more than 10,000 rupees withdrawal in a month.

LAKSHMI VILAS BANK TO BE MERGED

In view of its weak financials, the Reserve Bank has placed the Chennai based Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited under moratorium (temporary freezing of accounts) from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days with a view to protect depositors' interest.

Besides, RBI has also announced the draft scheme of amalgamation of The Lakshmi Vilas Bank with Delhi based DBS Bank India Limited, a subsidiary of DBS Bank of Singapore.

'MINE' FOR MILLENNIALS FROM ICICI BANK

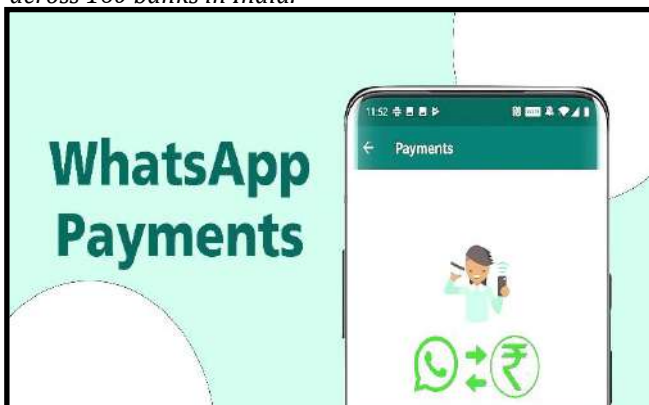
The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for millennials -- tech savvy persons in the age group of 18 to 35 years. It offers a mobile first, highly personalised and experiential led banking experience to them.

It offers an instant savings account, a feature driven iMobile application that offers investment guidance to suit the demand of millennials, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans & overdrafts, and even an experiential branch with social engagement space.

WHATSAPP TO LAUNCH PAYMENTS FEATURE

WhatsApp Inc., the Facebook-owned messaging platform, will roll out payments feature for users across the country in 10 regional languages. The arrangement has been approved by the National Payments Corporation of India. Anyone having a debit card with a bank that supports UPI can set it up straight away.

WhatsApp Pay will join an already crowded market of payment services offered via the UPI network. Google Pay, PhonePe and PayTM are some of the largest processors of UPI payments, apart from applications of individual banks. Using WhatsApp the users can transfer funds across 160 banks in India.



DBS BANK RANKED BEST IN THE WORLD



DBS Bank, Singapore, the largest bank in south-east Asia, has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance. It was also ranked as the "Best Bank in the world."

DBS's rankings as the fourth-safest commercial bank in the world and 14th safest bank globally, remain unchanged from 2019 and 2018.

Citibank, New York won the award for Best Corporate Bank and Best Global Transaction Bank and several other awards in different categories.

❖ *HDFC Bank Ltd. has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India, in a poll conducted by the well-known UK based publication Asiamoney.*

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DECEMBER

A NEW POST OF 'DEPUTY' CHIEF IN ARMY

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

HYPERSONIC WIND TUNNEL FACILITY

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

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

UAV SEA GUARDIAN JOINS INDIAN NAVY



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATION SATELLITE CMS-01

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

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

ISRO's NETRA FOR SATELLITE TRACKING

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

DoS ALLOWS ACCESS TO PRIVATE SECTOR

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

EAST COAST RLY FIRST TO USE EoTT SYSTEM

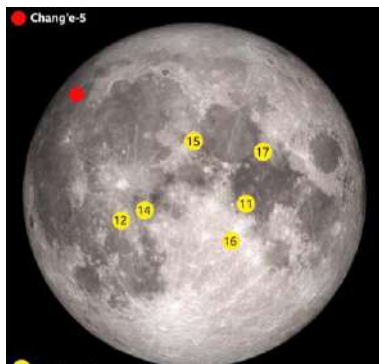
The East Coast Railway has become the first railway zone in the country to commission the "End of Train Telemetry System" to run trains without guards. It is the cutting edge technology for operation of trains without a brake van and guards. The system mainly consists of Head of Train (HOT) fitted in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

RUSSIA LAUNCHES SPACE ROCKET ANGARA A5

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



CHINA BRINGS BACK SAMPLES FROM MOON



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

programme of orbiting and landing, and bringing back samples.

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

CHINA UNFURLS ITS NATIONAL FLAG ON MOON

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

HAYABUSA SENDS BACK A CAPSULE TO EARTH

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

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



WORLD'S SUPER FAST QUANTUM COMPUTER

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

WORLD'S SMALLEST MEMORY DEVICE

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

NOVEMBER

NAVY GETS TORPEDO - VARUNAstra

Giving a major boost to India's Naval firepower, Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavyweight Torpedo, Varunastra, to the Indian Navy. The weapon has a range of 40 kilometers, can travel at a speed of up to 70 kilometers per hour, and dive to a maximum depth of 400 meters.

It has been designed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, a unit of the DRDO in Visakhapatnam. Varunastra is an anti-submarine torpedo and is electrically-propelled.

NAVY GETS 9TH SURVEILLANCE PLANE

In a major boost to the Indian Navy's warfare capabilities, the ninth Boeing P-8I surveillance plane was delivered to it from the US at its naval air base in Goa on November 18. The plane is capable of exceptional maritime surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

SUBMARINE INS VAGIR JOINS INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine INS Vagir, having superior stealth features like the advanced acoustic absorption technique, was launched on Nov 12 at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai. These submarines can undertake missions like anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance.

Vagir is named after the Sand Fish, a deadly deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean.

India Coast Guard ship C-452 indigenously designed and built by M/s L & T, Surat, was inducted into Indian Coast Guard at its Ratnagiri base in Maharashtra.



The Indian Navy successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from its guided missile corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal on October 30 as part of a drill that reflected its combat readiness in the strategic sea.

THREE MORE RAFALE JETS LAND IN INDIA

Three more French built multi role Rafale fighter jets landed in Jamnagar in Gujarat on Nov4, taking the total number of jets to arrive in India from France to eight. They will now fly to their home base at Ambala, Haryana.

The Rafale jets flew nonstop directly from Istres in France and were accompanied by French Air Force mid-air refuelling aircraft. They covered a distance of over 6,850 km in eight hours before landing in India. The IAF is expecting three to four Rafale jets being delivered every two months, with all the 36 planes likely to join the air force's combat fleet by the next year-end.

ARMY DEVELOPS SAI MESSAGING APP

Indian Army has developed and launched Secure Application for Internet (SAI), a simple and secure messaging application like WhatsApp, Telegram. SAI allows end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms using the internet. This means that messages exchanged between the two devices cannot be read by any third party.

ARMY CHIEF HONOURED BY NEPAL



Army Chief General MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepali Army" by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu. He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital

Niwas' in Kathmandu. He was also presented with a sword and scroll during the function. The practice follows a seven decade old tradition of conferring Army Chiefs of each other's country with the honorary title.

TRI-SERVICE EXERCISE BULL STRIKE HELD

A military exercise involving Special Forces was carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between November 3 and 5 as the Army, Navy and Air Force got together for the war games. The exercise 'Bull Strike' focussed on enhancing interoperability and synergy among the three Services, to maximise combat potential.

QUAD NATIONS CONDUCT MALABAR EXERCISE

The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted 'Malabar' Exercise in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6, their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade. Australia joined the exercise this year. *The QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) grouping is an informal group of the four largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific region.*

SIMBEX-20: Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise with Republic of Singapore Navy from Nov 23 to 25 in Andaman Sea.



SITMEX-20: Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand conducted Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 in Andaman Sea for two days - Nov 21-22. The exercise was hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy

Indo-Thai CORPAT: The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy from Nov 18 to 20 near the Andaman sea to prevent illegal and unregulated fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

'PARAM-SIDDHI' - INDIA'S FASTEST COMPUTER

India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer 'Param Siddhi' has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. The supercomputer was established earlier this year, under the National Supercomputer Mission (NSM) and is going to be installed in the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing' (C-DAC) in Pune, Maharashtra.

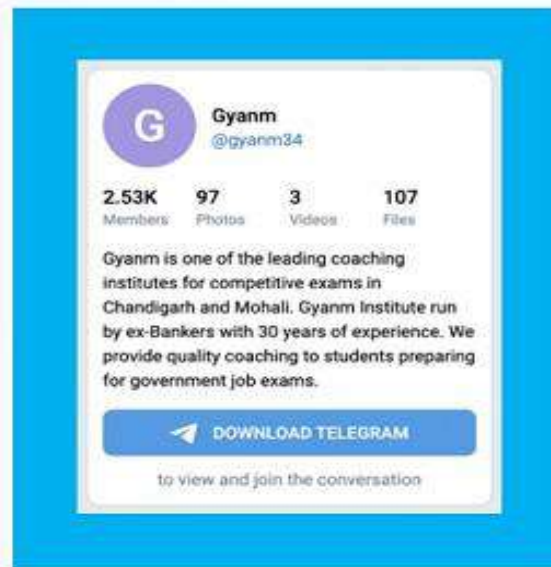
Another Indian super computer Pratyush, used for weather forecasting at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, ranked 78th.

PARAM-Siddhi has 6.5 petaflops of power. The ranking is topped by Japanese supercomputer Fugaku (442 petaflops) and IBM's Summit (148.8 petaflops). The Top 500 project tracks the most powerful supercomputers in the world, and is published twice a year. on the November edition of the list.



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IRNSS GETS RECOGNISED BY IMO



India has become the fourth country in the world to have its Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System -- IRNSS recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).

The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China. The navigation system can now replace GPS in the Indian Ocean waters upto 1500 km from the Indian boundary.

The IRNSS is a set of seven satellites managed by ISRO with the operational name NavIC - Navigation with Indian Constellation.

EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE EOS-01

India's workhorse rocket PSLV-C49 successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and placed into its intended orbit on November 7. This was the first developmental flight of a new class of rocket called the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle - SSLV. The SSLV can carry satellites weighing upto 500 kg into low earth orbit.

The launch vehicle also put nine other customer satellites into space, including four from the USA. The Satellite EOS-01 will provide increased capacity for the user agencies of the nation in viewing the surface of the earth seamlessly for agriculture, forestry and disaster management applications, even in cloudy conditions.

NEW SPECIES OF FROGS FOUND IN ANDAMANS

Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog found in the Andaman Islands and the northeast. Named after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda, the frogs of the new genus *Rohanixalus* are characterised by a rather small and slender body (size about 2 to 3 cm long).

The genus has several unique behavioural traits including maternal egg attendance where the female (mother) attends the egg clutches until hatching and assists in the release of the tadpoles into the water.

LIGHT EMITTING MUSHROOM DISCOVERED

A mushroom documentation project in the forests of Northeast India has discovered a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom in forests of East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya. The mushroom is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world that glow in dark. It has been named as *Roridomyces Phyllostachys*.

6G COMMUNICATIONS TEST SATELLITE

China has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully sent the 6G communications test satellite into the orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi Province. As per the reports, the technology is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DECEMBER

BRITAIN FIRST TO APPROVE CORONA VACCINE

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

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

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

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

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

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



UNESCO PRIZE IN THE NAME OF MUJIB



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

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

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

MOROCCO TO NORMALISE TIES WITH ISRAEL

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

MT EVEREST IS TALLER BY 86 CM

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

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

FORBES RANKS ANGELA MERKEL AT THE TOP

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

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

WHO SIGNS MoU WITH RED CROSS

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

LAHORE IS MOST POLLUTED CITY IN WORLD

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WORST HIT BY TERRORISM

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

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



'PANDEMIC' - WORD OF THE YEAR



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

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

'QUARANTINE' IS WORD OF THE YEAR 2020

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

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

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



NOVEMBER

G20 SUMMIT HELD IN A VIRTUAL FORMAT

The 15th G20 Summit was held on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format. The Summit was chaired by Saudi Arabia and the theme was "Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All". Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at the Summit. This is the second G20 Leaders' meeting this year. During the Summit, the leaders discussed preparedness for pandemic COVID-19 and the ways and means to restore jobs.

The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Comprising 19 nations and European Union, it brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent. Collectively, G20 members represent around 80% of the world's economic output, two-thirds of global population and 75% of international trade.

APEC MEETING HELD IN VIRTUAL MODE

The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held on Nov 20 under the chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in a virtual mode.

APEC is a Singapore based inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The APEC Summit 2021 will be hosted by New Zealand.

TRADE BLOC RCEP FORMED

15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc, comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries, as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The deal named 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP) is led by China. Members of the RCEP account for nearly a third of the world's population and around 30 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).

FAO LAUNCHED 'FOOD COALITION'

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has formally launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems and agriculture worldwide.

The Coalition is a voluntary multi-stakeholder and multi-sector alliance that will support innovative initiatives to ensure global food access to prevent potential food crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Food Coalition was first proposed by Italy and its establishment was first announced by the United Nations in June this year. As of now, at least 30 countries have joined the international movement.



BIDEN TO BECOME 46TH US PRESIDENT



Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States. In a very closely fought presidential election which witnessed many cliffhanger episodes, Biden clinched the race by securing 279 electoral votes from a total of 540 votes.

Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris has also secured her position as the first woman to be the Vice President of the USA. Ms. Harris is also credited to be the first woman of Indian-American and African-American origin to be a member of the United States Senate.

The Electoral College representatives elected by the popular votes will now cast their votes to officially elect the new president on the 14th of next month. The new president will thereafter assume office on the 20th of January next year after the inauguration ceremony.

THE US QUITS PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT



The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Nov 4, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius; the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.

The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. After China, it is the largest producer of greenhouse gasses, accounting for over 25 percent of global GHG emissions.

Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025. He also said it gave other major emitters, like China and India, a free pass.

LONDON IS THE 'BEST CITY' IN WORLD

In this latest World's Best Cities Report, Vancouver, Canada based Resonance Consultancy ranked the world's 100 best cities with populations of more than a million. London was ranked as the best city followed by New York, Paris and Moscow. Only one Indian city could reach the top 100, Delhi at 62nd rank.

The report ranks the world's best cities with populations of more than a million, using a combination of statistical performance and qualitative evaluations by locals and visitors in 25 areas grouped into six core categories. It identified cities that are most desirable for locals, visitors, and business people alike, rather than simply looking at livability or tourism appeal.

H K, ZURICH & PARIS MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES

According to a new survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Hong Kong, Zurich and Paris share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the list, which comprises 133 cities. The EIU released its biannual 'Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)' report of the World's Most Expensive Cities in 2020, based on their cost of living.

Damascus (Syria), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Lusaka (Zambia) ranked at the last three spots as the most cheap cities. The report took into account the price of 138 items of daily use and the falling or rising value of that country's currency due to Covid, to rank the cities accordingly.

LOCKDOWN: COLLINS WORD OF THE YEAR

Lockdown, the containment measure implemented by governments around the world to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020. According to the dictionary, 'lockdown' is defined as "the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces".

The dictionary said it registered over 2.5 lakh usages of the word lockdown during 2020, against only 4,000 the previous year.

PERSONS IN NEWS

DECEMBER

Roshni Nadar Malhotra:

CEO of IT major HCL Technologies topped the list of the richest women in the country with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore, followed by Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at Rs 36,600 crore. The list prepared by Hurun India and Kotak Wealth, has a total of 100 women having a networth of at least Rs 100 crore or more.



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



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



Dr. Gaurav Sharma: Member of Parliament (MP) in New Zealand created history by becoming the first Indian - origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land. Dr. Sharma is one of the youngest and newly-elected MPs from the Labour Party in the NZ

Parliament. He hails from Himachal Pradesh. However, to show deep respect for the local cultural traditions, he took oath first in New Zealand's indigenous Maori language and then in Sanskrit.

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

TIME 'Person of the year-2020'

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

NOVEMBER

Azim Premji: The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, has topped the EdelGiveHurun India Philanthropy List 2020. The 75-year-old made the highest contribution of Rs 7,904 crore between April 2019 and March 2020 towards philanthropic causes. Shiv Nadar, founder and chairman of HCL Technologies, ranked second (Rs. 795 crore) on the list.

Priyanca Radhakrishnan: 41 year old Indian-origin politician created history by becoming the first Indian-Kiwi woman to become a minister in New Zealand. She was one of five new ministers inducted into freshly re-elected Labour Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. A two-time MP, Radhakrishnan has spent 14 years as a Labour Party leader.

APPOINTMENTS

DECEMBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha: Government of India has approved the appointment of the former Foreign Service officer as the new Chief Information Commissioner, head of Central Information Commission, a statutory body.

Girish Chandra Murmu: Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva for a term of three years.

Dr M. M. Kuty: Former Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.

Maia Sandu: Won the Presidential elections in Moldova, a small east European land-locked country sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine.

John Magufuli: Tanzanian President won a second term, with a landslide victory securing more than 84% of the vote in the recent elections.

Alassane Ouattara: Elected as the President of the Ivory Coast for the third time. Ivory Coast, also known as Côte d'Ivoire, officially the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is a country located on the south coast of West Africa.

Luis Arce: Elected as the President of Bolivia, after winning a landslide victory in the 2020 Bolivian general election.

AWARDS & HONOURS

DECEMBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

UN Global Climate Action Award: An Indian organisation, Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh that leverages tourism and technology to help remote communities access solar energy, won this prestigious award for its efforts to combat climate change amid the Covid pandemic.

Children's Climate Prize: Vinisha Umashankar, a 14-year-old student from Tamil Nadu won this prestigious award for designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box rather than conventional charcoal.

Vinisha will receive the prize of 100,000 Swedish krona (Rs 8.64 lakh approximately), diploma, and medal from the Sweden-based Children's Climate Foundation.





Booker Prize for Fiction: New York-based 44-year-old Scottish writer Douglas Stuart won the prestigious 50,000-pound prize for his autobiographical debut novel 'Shuggie Bain', a coming of age tale of love and alcoholism set in 1980s Glasgow.

International Children's

Peace Prize: Awarded to a Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens. *The prize is given away by the international children's rights organization KidsRights in Amsterdam, Netherland to a child who fights courageously for children's rights.*

BOOKS & AUTHORS

DECEMBER

Oh Mizoram by P S Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Mizoram

The Light of Asia by Jairam Ramesh, former union minister

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

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

The Patient Assassin by Anita Anand

Let Us Dream by Pope Francis

The City and the Sea by Raj Kamal Jha

Gun Island by Amitav Ghosh

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

Reporting India by Prem Prakash

A Sky Beyond the Storm by Sabaa Tahir

Layla by Colleen Hoover

The Cousins by Karen M. McManus

NOVEMBER

Burnt Sugar by Avni Doshi

Boskiyana by Yashwant Vyas. A book on the life of famous lyricist Gulzar

Insomnia: Army Stories by Rachna Bisht Rawat, a senior journalist

I am no Messiah: Autobiography of SonuSood co-authored by Meena Iyer

Your Best Day Is Today! by Actor Anupam Kher

How to be a Writer by Ruskin Bond

Till We Win: a book on Covid 19 co-written by AIIMS Director RandeepGuleria and leading public policy and health systems expert Chandrakant Lahariya and renowned vaccine researcher Gagandeep Kang.

Bye Bye Corona: World's 1st scientoon book written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy by Tamal Bandyopadhyay, Sr journalist, Business Standard

Jacind Ardern: Leading with Empathy by Supriya Vani and Carl A Harte. It is biography of Prime Minister of New Zealand

The Archer by Paulo Coelho

A Promised Land: Memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President

OBITUARY

DECEMBER

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

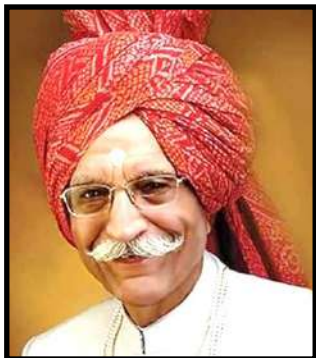
Roddam Narasimha: Eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14. He was 87. He taught Aerospace Engineering at the IISc, Bengaluru from 1962 to 1999. He also served as the director of the National Aerospace Laboratories from 1984 to 1993.

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

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

Astad Deboo:

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



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

his first spices store in Delhi's Karol Bagh.

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

Ahmed Patel: Congress veteran and AICC treasurer passed away on Nov 25, losing his two-month-old battle against Covid. He was 71. Patel was a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat and a serving political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Patel was an eight-time parliamentarian -- five times in the Rajya Sabha, three times in the Lok Sabha.

Tarun Gogoi: Former Chief Minister of Assam and a former union minister, veteran Congress leader passed away in Guwahati on November 23 due to multi organ failure after a prolonged illness. He was 86.

He was the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam, completing a record 15 consecutive years as Chief Minister of Assam in May 2016. Overall, he served six terms as a Member of Parliament (MP) in Lok Sabha.

Soumitra Chatterjee: Veteran actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient passed away at a Kolkata Nursing Home. He was 85. His performances won him several national and international awards including Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan and Légion d'Honneur (France). He will be especially remembered for the 'Apu' trilogy and other memorable performances in Satyajit Ray's masterpieces.

Diego Maradona: Argentinian football legend passed away at his home in Tigre (in Buenos Aires, Argentina) after suffering a cardiac arrest on Nov 25. The flamboyant player, best known for leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title, was 60. In Argentina, he was worshipped as 'El Dios' - The God - partly a play on words on his number 10 shirt, 'El Diez.' He will always be remembered for scoring the iconic and controversial "Hand of God" goal in the 1986 World Cup

Prince Khalifa: The world's longest serving Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, passed away on Nov 11. He was 84. Prince Khalifa became prime minister after Bahrain gained independence in 1971, serving for almost 50 years.

Sir Sean Connery: Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom as the suave, handsome and sophisticated British agent James Bond, 007, died aged 90. The Scottish actor, who graced the silver screen for over 4 decades, appeared in seven of the Bond movie series, starting with Dr. No in 1962 and ending with 'Never Say Never Again' in 1983.

He will always be remembered for his unforgettable iconic opening words 'the name's Bond... James Bond'. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 2000.

PLACES IN NEWS

DECEMBER

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

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

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



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

NOVEMBER

Cyclone Nivar: A strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram during late evening on Nov 25, causing very heavy rainfall in the area.

Baghjan oil well: In Assam, the blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. The well has been killed with brine solution. The experts from Canada, with the help of a 60 tonnes snubbing unit, killed the blowout well. The oil well operated by Oil India Limited (OIL) caught fire on June 9 this year. As per norms, the well would be abandoned now.

Kabartal Wetland, Begusarai (Bihar): Also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', it has been designated as Ramsar site, making it a 'Wetland of International Importance'. The classification is done by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland.

The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea.

Sur Sarovar: Also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been selected as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971. It is one of the oldest intergovernmental agreements signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.

The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.

Lonar Lake: The Crater Lake in Buldhana district of Maharashtra has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It was formed by a meteorite impact about 50 thousand years ago. It is the 41st 'Ramsar site' in the country and the second in Maharashtra.

Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh: The reserve which once saw its entire tiger population disappear in 2009, is now home to 54 tigers due to its outstanding conservation efforts. It has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that will explore innovative ways to achieve eco-conservation and sustainability. Panna Tiger Reserve spans 576 kilometers in Panna and Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.

Nagorno-Karabakh: Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed a peace agreement brokered by Russia to end over six week old military conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Under the deal, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict. To enforce the truce, Russian peacekeepers will be deployed to patrol the front line.

Kabul: Three Gunmen stormed into Kabul University on November 2 during an ongoing book fair. In the ensuing gun battling, at least 25 people were killed and more were wounded. All the three attackers were killed in the gun fight. Kabul is the capital city of Afghanistan.

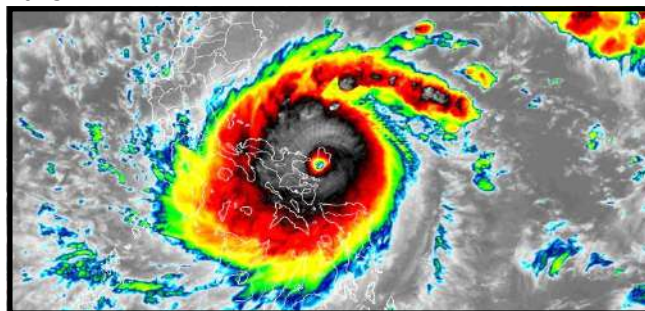
Izmir, Turkey: An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern Turkey on Oct 30, killing over 90 people in Elazig province and four in the neighbouring province of Malatya. More than 1,600 others were hurt. Much of the damage occurred in and around the resort city of Izmir, which has three million residents and is filled with high-rise apartment blocks.

Storm Iota: A strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across Central America on Nov 18 in areas already waterlogged from the earlier storm Eta (Nov 3), forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee from their homes.

Typhoon Vamco: Dozens of towns in Cagayan region north of the capital Manila in Philippines were submerged in flash flood waters on Nov 13-14, affecting thousands of families, some of whom fled to rooftops to escape two-storey high flash floods caused by Typhoon Vamco, the country's deadliest cyclone this year.

Storm Eta: A powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains hit Nicaragua in Central America on Nov 3. It then weakened into a tropical depression as it moved into neighbouring Honduras and later Guatemala. Across the Central American region, Eta is believed to have killed more than 170 people.

Typhoon Goni: The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of the Philippines' main island of Luzon on Nov 1 with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph. Goni is among the strongest typhoons to hit the Philippines since Haiyan, which killed more than 6,300 people in 2013.



SPORTS WORLD

DECEMBER

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

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

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

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

FICCI Sportspersons of the Year: Men: Wrestler Bajrang Punia Women: Shooter Elavenil Valarivan

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

Four traditional sports at national level

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

Yoga declared a competitive sport

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



India donates \$1million to WADA

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

Hockey World Cup 2023

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

World Athletics Awards 2020 announced

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

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

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

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

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

Asian Games 2030 & 2034

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

Break dance to enter Olympics

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

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



Russia to face ban from international sports



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

NOVEMBER

World silver-medalist Amit Panghal (52kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) struck gold in their first competition after a coronavirus-forced break, claiming the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France.

Mumbai Indians win their 5th IPL title

Mumbai Indians clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final at Dubai on Nov10. Mumbai Indians now has more IPL titles than any other team in the 13-year history of the league.

Delhi Capitals' Kagiso Rabada won the Purple Cap claiming highest – 30 wickets in the season while Kings XI Punjab's captain K L Rahul secured Orange Cap by scoring highest – 670 runs in the League.

Gyanendro Ningombam, former CEO of Manipur Hockey has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India, the official national governing body for promoting Hockey in India.

FIFA cancelled the Women's Under-17 Football World Cup 2020 that was earlier postponed to 2021, to be hosted by India. The same will now be held in 2022 with India as the host.

INTERNATIONAL

Lewis Hamilton, British F1 champion wrote his name into the Formula One record books with a victory in the Turkish Grand Prix in Istanbul. With this victory he secured his seventh world championship title, equaling Michael Schumacher's record.

Lewis Hamilton (Britain) celebrated a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in Imola, Italy.

Rafael gets his 1,000 win

Rafael Nadal has become just the fourth player in history to win 1,000 matches on the ATP Tour, achieving the remarkable feat after beating Feliciano Lopez (Spain) in the Paris Masters on Nov 4.

The 34-year-old Spaniard joins towering company in Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,242) and Ivan Lendl (1,068) as the only men's 1,000-club members since the Open era began in 1968.

The ICC has announced that the Women's T20 World Cup has been moved from its current 2022 slot to February 9-26, 2023, to be hosted by South Africa.

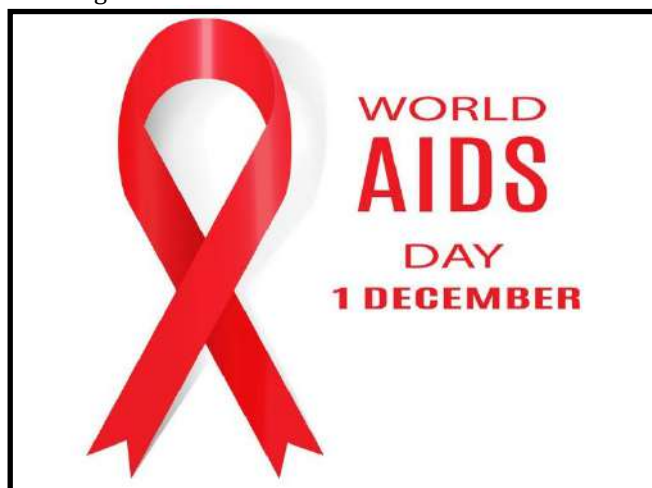
The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced a minimum age policy, according to which, a player must be of minimum 15-years of age to play international cricket. Age bar aims to improve the safeguarding of players. Earlier there was no such minimum age bar.

DAYS & DATES

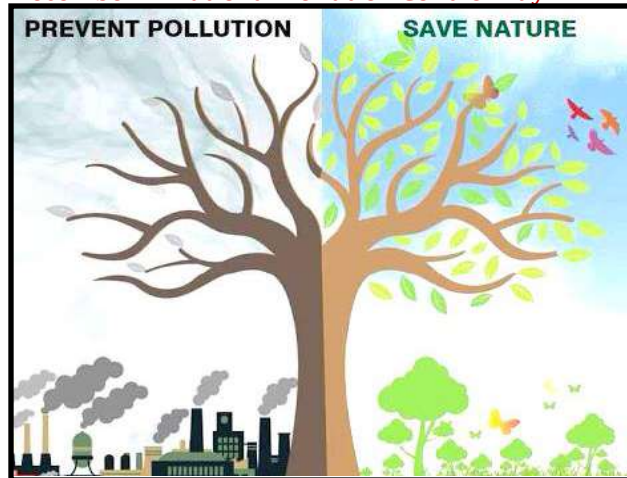
DECEMBER

December 1: World AIDS Day

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



December 2: National Pollution Control Day



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

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

December 2: World Computer Literacy Day

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

Dec 02: International Day for Abolition of Slavery

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

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

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

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



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December 4: National/Indian Navy Day



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

December 4: International Day of Banks

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

December 5: World Soil Day

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

December 5: International Volunteer Day



Also called International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, it celebrates with UN support people and organizations who volunteer their time and energy to improve the lives of others. This day is

an opportunity for everyone to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts at local, national, and international levels.

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

December 7: Armed Forces Flag Day

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

December 7: International Civil Aviation Day

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

December 09: National Submarine Day

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

December 09: International Anti-Corruption Day

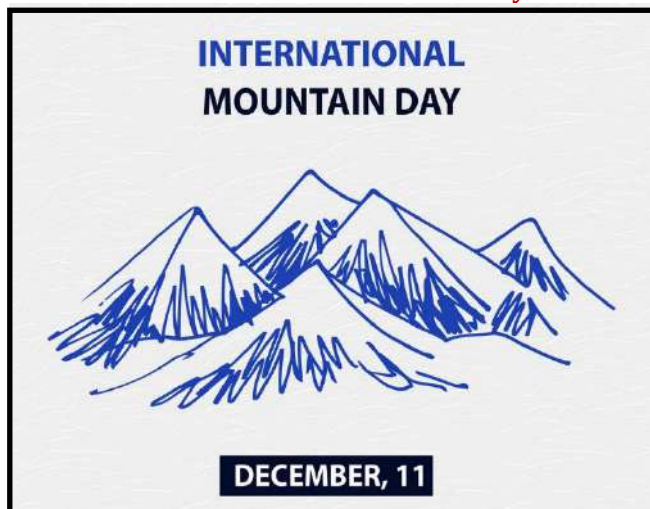
Celebrated every year with UN support to spread awareness against corruption. The day also highlights the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in combating and preventing it. This year the worldwide campaign against corruption will focus on "mitigating corruption and enhancing accountability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

December 10: Human Rights Day

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

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

December 11: International Mountain Day



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

December 11: UNICEF Day

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

Dec12: International Universal Health Coverage Day

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



Dec. 14: The National Energy Conservation Day

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

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

December 15: International Tea Day

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

December 16: Vijay Diwas

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

December 18: Minorities Rights Day

It is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities in India which focuses on religious harmony, respect, and a better understanding of all minorities'



communities. In India, six communities have been notified as 'minority' namely Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jain. The Union Government established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in 1993 under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to protect and promote the rights and interests of minority communities.

December 18: International Migrants Day

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

December 20: International Human Solidarity Day



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

December 22: National Mathematics Day

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

Dec 23: National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)

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

December 24: The National Consumer Day



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

December 25: Good Governance Day

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

NOVEMBER

November 1: World Vegan Day

Celebrated annually by vegans across the globe. It is observed to motivate people to follow a vegan lifestyle, which is beneficial for animal welfare and the environment. People who are vegetarians but do not consume dairy products such as milk, cheese, paneer, etc. are called vegans. The day marks the founding day of The Vegan Society in 1944 in the United Kingdom.

November 5: World Tsunami Awareness Day

Observed every year to promote national and local risk reduction plans against tsunami calamity. The term 'Tsunami' is a Japanese term which means "harbour wave". It refers to a series of giant waves caused by earthquakes or undersea volcanic eruptions and underwater landslides. Tsunami waves can travel at the speed of 800 km/hour and its height can be 20 feet to 300 feet.

According to the UN, by 2030, an estimated 50 percent of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms, and tsunamis. This year's theme promotes the "Sendai Seven Campaign," target, declared in March 2015 at Sendai, Japan.

November 07: National Cancer Awareness Day

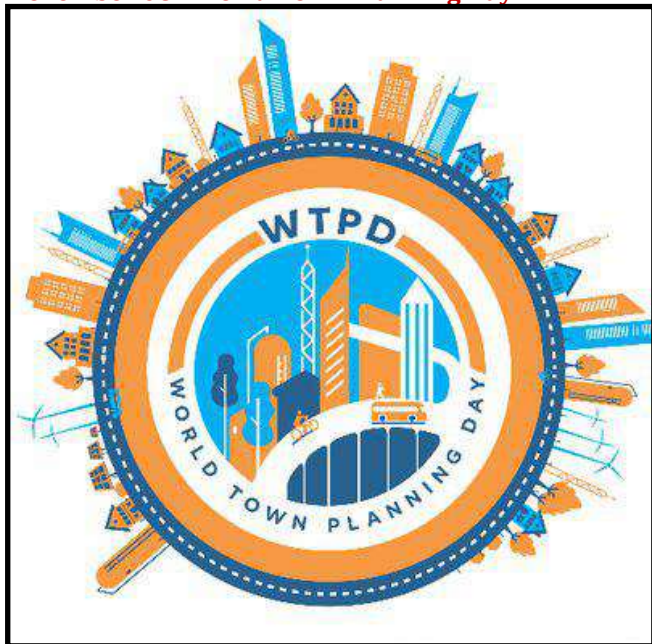
The day is dedicated to spreading awareness on preventing the spread of cancer and how can one detect any symptoms early. Cancer is among the leading causes of death globally and according to WHO, 1 in every 6 deaths in 2018 occurred due to cancer. One of the major causes of cancer in India is consumption of tobacco. Chewing tobacco has shown a direct link with cancer.

The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Marie Curie, the eminent scientist who received two Nobel prizes for her work in Physics and Chemistry. Her deep research in Radium led to one of the effective ways to treat cancer.

November 08: International Day of Radiology

This day is celebrated to mark the discovery of X-radiation as measured by Roentgen on this day in 1895 by German scientist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. This day is organised by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT). This day raises awareness about radiology and the critical role it plays in various high end diagnostic procedures such as X-rays, MRI scans, ultrasounds, etc.

November 08: World Town Planning Day



Also known as World Urbanism Day, it aims at promoting the role of planning in creating livable urban communities. It also creates awareness of the environmental impact created by the development of cities and territories. It brings together professional planners and the general community to see how we can shape the world into an ideal place that we want to live and work in.

November 09: National Legal Services Day

The day is celebrated every year by all Legal Services Authorities, to commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 which led to formation of Lok Adalats. It aims to make people aware of the various provisions under the Act and to offer free of charge, proficient and legal services to the people belonging to weaker sections of society.

November 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development

This day is celebrated with active support from UNESCO to stress the importance of science in day to day life and to keep people informed of the latest developments in science. The theme for this year is "Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic".

November 11: National Education Day

The day commemorates the birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He served as the first education minister of independent India from 1947 to 1958. The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.

For his contribution – both as an educationist as a freedom fighter – he was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992. Azad breathed his last in 1958.

November 12: Public Service Broadcasting Day

The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. The Father of the Nation addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.

November 12: World Pneumonia Day

Observed every year to raise awareness about pneumonia, the world's leading infectious killer of children under the age of 5. It aims to promote interventions to protect against, prevent, and treat pneumonia. Pneumonia is the single biggest infectious killer of adults and children - claiming the lives of 2.5 million, including 672,000 children, in 2019.

Pneumonia is an infectious disease that causes infection in one or both lungs. It can be serious and life-threatening.

November 13: World Kindness Day

Celebrated to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us. The day aims at encouraging people across the globe to better understand "the pains of others" and touch their lives "positively". The theme for the day in 2020 intends to promote 'empathy' for World Kindness Day 2020 celebration among people.

November (13): World Ayurveda Day

Celebrated around the world on the auspicious day of Dhanteras. It is believed that on this day, Lord Dhanwantari emerged with Amruth Kalash. Lord Dhanvantari is an Avatar of Lord Vishnu. He appears in the Vedas and Puranas as the physician of the gods and the God of Ayurvedic medicine. This year India will celebrate Ayurveda Day under the theme of 'Ayurveda for Covid-19'.

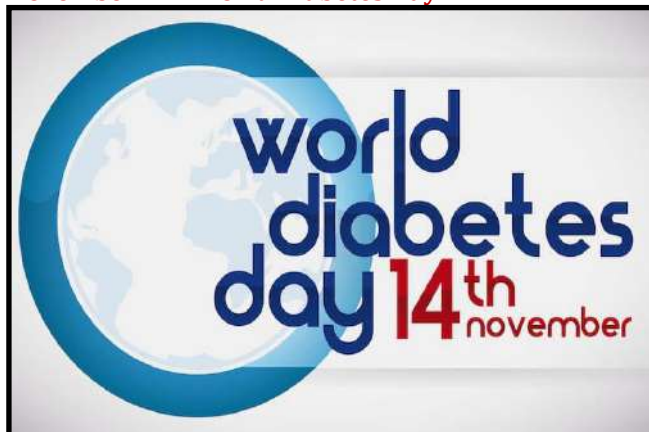
November 14 - Children's Day

The day is celebrated across the country to increase awareness about the rights, care and education of children. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as he was very affectionate with children.

It may be noted that World Children's Day is observed on Nov 20.



November 14 - World Diabetes Day



Observed all over the world, supported by the WHO to generate awareness about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. The day marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. The theme for this year is "The Nurse and Diabetes."

Diabetes is a metabolic and chronic disease that indicates a higher level of blood glucose and loss of insulin production by the body.

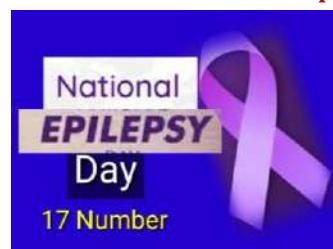
November 16: National Press Day

The day is celebrated to honour the existence of free and responsible press in India. It was on this day in 1966 that the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog. The Council has been mandated by Parliament to improve the standards of journalism and maintain its freedom. It ensures that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.

November 16: International Day for Tolerance

As the name suggests, the day is observed to build tolerance among the cultures and people. The day was started by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995. The day aims to make educational institutions and people at large believe that tolerance is an integral part of society. The date of November 16 was chosen as it is the anniversary of UNESCO's Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.

November 17: National Epilepsy Day



This day is celebrated by the Epilepsy Foundation of India to educate people about the epilepsy disease and its treatment methods. On this day, various hospitals also provide free treatment and organise consultation camps for the patients.

Epilepsy is a chronic brain disorder resulting in recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'. Seizures occur due to the sudden, excessive electrical discharges in the neurons or brain cells.

November 18: Naturopathy Day

The Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (Ayush) ministry celebrated the first Naturopathy Day in 2018 with the aim of promoting the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.

Naturopathy is a system of man building in harmony with constructive principles of Nature on physical, mental, moral, and spiritual planes of living.

November 19: World Toilet Day

The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. The 6th Sustainable Development Goal of UNO aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030. All over the world, 4.5 billion people do not have access to a safe toilet and 892 million people still practise open defecation. The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change'.

November 19: Women's Entrepreneurship Day

Observed every year to celebrate, recognise and appreciate all women entrepreneurs around the world. This is an influential day for all aspiring women who wish to be entrepreneurs. Women are important agents of change and they can be crucial for the sustainable and inclusive recovery of economies and societies from the Covid crisis.

November 19: International Men's Day



The day is observed to commemorate the achievements and contributions of men and boys to the nation, society, community, family, marriage, and childcare. In India, the inaugural celebration of the day was organized by the leading Indian Men's rights organisation named Indian Family on 19 November 2007. This day's theme for 2020 is "Better Health for Men and Boys" with the aim to make practical improvements to the health and wellbeing of the male population.

Nov. (19): World Philosophy Day

Observed across the world on 3rd Thursday of November to renew the national, sub-regional, regional and international commitment to philosophy and to foster philosophical analysis, research and studies on major contemporary issues, so as to respond more effectively to the challenges that are confronting humanity today.

This year's celebrations will focus on the importance of philosophical thinking in helping us cope with the multiple challenges the world faces. In particular, it will invite reflection on the meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

November 20: Awaas Diwas

Celebrated every year to mark the launch of the Rural Housing Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) on this day in 2016 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide "Housing for All" by 2022 by the completion of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022. By now 1.20 crore houses have been completed.

Nov. 20: World / Universal Children's Day

Supported by UNICEF, it is observed around the world to improve child welfare and promote children's rights around the world. It also commemorates the anniversary of the date on which the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights. The day is significant as it gives a serious message in a fun way to advocate for children rights and calls for actions that build a better world for children.

November 21: World Fisheries Day

Observed across the world by the fisherfolk community to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries and healthy oceans ecosystems. It demonstrates the importance of maintaining the fisheries of the world along with highlighting the problems like overfishing and mechanization.

As per the latest reports, India currently contributes about 7.7 per cent to the global fish production and it ranks 4th in global exports of fish products.

November 21: World Television Day



The day is observed to highlight the increasing impact of television on decision-making capabilities of people. It brings world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and in sharpening the

focus on economic and social issues. UNO has acknowledged Television as a major tool in influencing public opinion and world politics. The television was invented in 1924 by John Logie Baird.

November (24): NCC Day

Observed on the fourth Sunday of every November to commemorate the raising of the first unit of the National Cadet Corps in 1948 in New Delhi. The NCC aims at developing character, comradeship, discipline, a secular outlook, the spirit of adventure and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens.

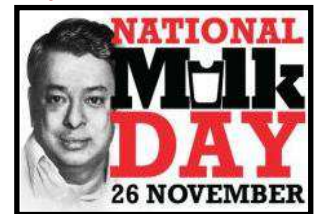
November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The day marks the launch of the 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10 December 2019, International Human Rights Day. The initiative aims to raise public awareness around the issue and promoting both, policymaking and resources dedicated to ending violence against women and girls worldwide.

The 2019 theme of the day is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" The focus is on bridging the funding gaps to ensure essential services for the survivors of violence during the ongoing pandemic.

November 26: National Milk Day

Celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, promoter of India's most successful dairy enterprise - AMUL. Credit goes to him for making India world's largest milk producer by launching 'Operation Flood'.



He is also known as the 'Father of the White Revolution' in India. He was awarded the Padma Shri in the year 1965, the Padma Bhushan in the year 1966 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999. He passed away on September 9, 2012, at the age of 90.

Please note that the World Milk Day is on June 01.

November 26: The Constitution Day

On this day in 1949, the India's constitution was adopted by the constituent assembly and it came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of India. On this day tributes are paid to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, considered as the father of Indian constitution. He prepared the world's lengthiest and bulkiest constitution, comprising 448 Articles and 12 Schedules.

This day is also known as the National Law Day.

November 27: Indian Organ Donation Day

The day aims to promote organ donation for those who are in need of them and create awareness for removing the taboo around organ donation. Many people could live to see a new day if only people with healthy organs could go ahead and donate their organs.

Please note that the World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13.

World Heritage Week: Nov 19-25

It is celebrated every year from the 19 to 25 November supported by UNESCO. There are 38 world heritage UNESCO sites in India which include 30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and one mixed site. The week is celebrated across the world to increase awareness among the general public about the importance of preservation of cultural heritage and monuments.

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

Bullet News

(July 2020 – October 2020)

For details visit – www.gyanm.in

NATIONAL NEWS

OCTOBER

- India and the US signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister External affairs attended the 2nd QUAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, Japan on October 6.
 - ✓ *QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations - India, Australia, Japan and USA and all four have conflict with China.*
- Indian Prime Minister held a Virtual Bilateral Summit on Sep 28 with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen.
- Eight beaches from India have secured the coveted International Blue Flag Certification, one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches.
- Apurva Chandra, Labour and Employment Secretary, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization, ILO for the period Oct 2020- June 2021.
- World's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel was inaugurated at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ *Built in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 10,000 feet, it will connect Manali to Leh throughout the year.*
- The CBSE launched Facial Recognition technology that will enable students to download their digital academic documents of class X and XII.
- The Government hiked the poll campaign spending limit by 10 percent for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
 - ✓ *The new limit for Lok Sabha polls is now Rs. 77 lakh, up from Rs. 70 lakh earlier and for the Assembly election, it is Rs. 30.80 lakh, up from Rs. 28 lakh.*
- The Supreme Court appointed former SC judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur as a one-man committee to monitor and prevent instances of stubble (Parali) burning by farmers in the three States.
- Railways has decided to upgrade all non-AC sleeper coaches to AC ones for high speed trains (with speed of 130 kmph and above).
- The USAID to give \$1.9 million aid for informal sector workers whose livelihoods have been disrupted due to COVID-19.
- The New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank, approved funds worth USD 741 million for infrastructure projects in India.
- India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute.
- A recent report by the UK-based Varkey Foundation ranked India at sixth spot for people's implicit, unconscious and automatic views on the status of teachers in the country.
- India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and was in the 'serious' hunger category with a score of 27.2.
- India has announced \$ 15 million grant to Sri Lanka for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries.
- India re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance and France as the Co- President. Head Office of the ISA is in Gurugram, Haryana.
- London based global human rights watchdog, Amnesty International India stopped its operations in India on account of the complete freezing of its bank accounts by the Government of India.

SEPTEMBER

- BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.) has entered into a MoU with the Swiss Rapide AG of Switzerland for development of Maglev Train projects in India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Sep 26 in virtual mode.
- The theme of the 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".
- The first-ever World Technology Summit was held on Sep 8, organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a virtual platform.
- The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation.
- India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- India will be a member of the prestigious body of 45 members for four years from 2021 to 2025.
- With 96.2% literacy, Kerala is most literate state, followed by Delhi at 88.7%, and Uttarakhand at 87.6%. Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with literacy rate of 66.4%, trailed by Rajasthan at 69.7%.
- Overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 per cent; 73.5% in rural areas and 87.7% in urban areas; Male literacy is 84.7% and 70.3% among women.
- The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Mahwas celebrated during the month of September under the "PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment"- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- The International Finance Corporation will provide \$2 trillion to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy to boost and support urban development.
- India's new medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission, came into force from Sep 25, abolishing the 87-year-old Medical Council of India.
- A direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives commenced for the first time on Sep 21. The service will run twice a month, and will be operated by Shipping Corporation of India.
- The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to the Nepal Railway for a price of Nepali Rs. 84.65 crore.

- This will be the first broad-gauge railway service in Nepal. These trains have been manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.
- India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on September 17.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Sep 15.
- The Bill seeks to reduce the salaries of MPs and Ministers by 30% for one year, wef April 1, 2020 to provide support to Corona fighting operations.
- Supreme Court ruled that students can't be promoted without holding final-year examinations by Sep30 as fixed by the UGC.
- In the Global Innovation Index, released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, India jumped four positions to rank at 48th.
- The Archaeological Survey of India announced the setting up of 7 new administrative circles with a view to improve the management of monuments.
- India was ranked 89th among 181 countries on the World Risk Index released by the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security at Bonn, Germany.
- India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to rank 105th. The Index has been released in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report.
- The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in Goa.

AUGUST

CABINET APPROVES SETTING UP OF NRA

- Govt to set up a National Recruitment Agency – NRA, to conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET) for selection to non-gazetted posts in the central govt and banks.
 - ✓ *The NRA will replace 3 recruiting agencies: Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS for Banks*
 - ✓ *The multi-agency body will conduct a separate CET each for the three levels of candidates: Graduate, Higher secondary(12th) and Matriculate (10th)*
 - ✓ *The CET will be for preliminary tests based on multiple choice objective type question papers.*
 - ✓ *The CET will be held twice a year.*
 - ✓ *The score of CET will be valid for three years.*
 - ✓ *The CET would be available in many languages.*
- Ending almost five centuries long wait, 'bhoomi puja' was done at Ayodhya, marking the symbolic beginning of the construction of the Ram Mandir.

- ✓ *The Grand Temple will be 161 feet tall and three story structure. It will have Ramlala at ground floor while Ram Darbar will be on the first floor.*
- P M Modi announced the mega plan of "One Sun, One World, One Grid", a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe.
 - ✓ *It will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.*
- India ranked first in terms of number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming.
 - ✓ *Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.*
- The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India in association with Google has undertaken flood forecasting initiatives and sent numerous public alerts to people in impacted regions across the country.
- The UK Govt. launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India to support scientists to tackle the most acute global challenges such as COVID-19 and the threat to the environment.
- Govt approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps for a major expansion in all the border and coastal districts. Over one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC.
- IIT Madras ranked number-one in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements' (ARIIA).
- The 2313 kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands was inaugurated on August 10.
- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) joined hands with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST.
 - ✓ *It is an incubator capabilities enhancement program for creating high performing startups.*
- India has extended a \$ 18 million Line of Credit to the Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company.
- India approved a \$500-million package to help the Maldives build a connectivity project linking its capital Male with three islands.
- India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh designed for speed of up to 120 km per hour.
- India extended medical assistance of \$1 million to North Korea in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- 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 projects 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.

NEWS FROM STATES

OCTOBER

- As per the Indian Tourism Statistics released by the Ministry of Tourism for 2019, UP emerged at top attracting 53.6 crore domestic tourists.
 - ✓ *For Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu topped, attracting 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.*
- Haryana topped the Anemia Mukht Bharat Index. The Anemia Mukht Bharat is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF.
- India's first sand dune park is soon to come up in the beach state Goa. The World Bank has sanctioned a sum of Rs 3 crore for the project.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools. Over 3.74 lakh digital equipments were distributed in 16,027 schools for the smart classroom project.
- Goa has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household under the "HarGhar Jal Yojna".
- Kerala has become the first state in India to set up 'Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board' for the welfare of farmers in the state.
- India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed parks will come up in Gujarat with an aim to encourage capacity building and adoption of best practices.
 - ✓ *NABARD-supported Organic Spices Seed Park for Saunf (fennel seed) will come up in the Banaskantha district and Jeera (cumin seed) in Patan.*
- Mohali's Gharuan-based Chandigarh University in Punjab has emerged as the top varsity in India by filing the highest number of patents in a year.
- With the opening of Kumbharia to Kadodora route in the Surat Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) corridor, Surat becomes the first city in India to have the longest, 108 km BRTS network.
- Meghalaya to partner with Israel for the establishment of a one of its kind Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga launched Dolphin Safari in three states – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, on River Ganga
- Dalle Khursani, one of the hottest chillies in world, from Sikkim, is set to get a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India's first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant.
- Haryana launched 'Gram Darshan', a digital platform making the accessibility of data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online.
- Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd signed a pact with Gujarat govt to set up India's largest green field Zinc smelter in the Tapi district with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore.

SEPTEMBER

- Biggest Film City in India will be built near Hastinapur area on the Delhi - Agra Yamuna Expressway.
- The proposed site is just six km from the upcoming international airport in Jewar and around 70 km from Delhi and 150 km from Agra.
- Mizoram, Punjab and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have emerged as the top in the first ever India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness.
- Country's first integrated air ambulance service was launched in Bengaluru. International Critical Air Transfer Team will run the services in collaboration with the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
- Govt announced the 2nd edition of its state startup rankings. Gujarat among states and Andaman Nicobar among UTs were declared the best performers.
- Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings. Uttar Pradesh and Telangana bagged second
- Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore started in Meghalaya to bolster farmers' income and make the State self-sufficient in the production of pork which has a huge domestic market.
- A new Roll-on-Roll off train service started between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in Maharashtra
- Keralites across the globe celebrated the popular festival Thiruvonam on August 31. Thiruvonam is the most auspicious day of Onam festival.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) is set to invest 650 million Euros for the construction of Kanpur's first city metro line.
- The World Bank approved an \$82 million loan for the implementation of the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project.

AUGUST

- NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index ranked Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu at the top three ranks, in descending order.
- Indore in Madhya Pradesh has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020, for the fourth time.
 - ✓ New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.
 - ✓ Chhattisgarh was awarded the first place in the states with over 100 cities
 - ✓ Jharkhand stood first among states with less than 100 cities.
 - ✓ Jalandhar Cantonment Board was conferred the cleanest cantonment board in the country.
 - ✓ Ahmedabad in Gujarat was awarded for being the cleanest city with over 40 lakh population.
- The Uttar Pradesh signed a MoU with Israel for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state.
- Chhattisgarh government has decided to provide urban forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes.
- ✓ *The Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation became the first urban body in the country to provide land entitlement in city's forests to the urban tribals.*
- Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think-tank Niti Aayog for the February-June 2020 period.
- Two coastal villages of Odisha have been declared 'Tsunami-Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.
- ✓ *These are Venkatraipur village in Ganjam district and Noliassahi village in Jagatsingpur district.*
- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product scheme.
- The 2 km long India's longest cable ropeway opened over Brahmaputra connecting Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati.
- The Forest Department of Uttarakhand has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani. The park has species mentioned in Valmiki's Ramayan.
- Asian Development Bank approved a loan of \$1 billion to support the construction of the high-speed, modern Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- Goa's traditional festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harmal Chilli and Mandoli Banana have been granted GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.

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 Atmanirbhar Nidhi-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.



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- Madhya Pradesh Tourism launched “Intzaar Aap Ka” 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.

GOVT INITIATIVES

OCTOBER

- The Finance Minister announced 2 schemes to boost consumer spending:
 - ✓ **LTC Cash Voucher scheme:** Allows govt employees to receive cash equal to leave encashment plus 3 times ticket fare, to buy items that attract a GST of 12% or more, before March 31, 2021.
 - ✓ **Special Festival Advance Scheme:** To give interest-free advance of Rs 10,000 to all central government employees, to be spent by March 31, 2021.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog organized the Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: “Summit RAISE (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment) 2020” from 5 to 9 of October.
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation.
- The Union Cabinet approved the “Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States” -STARS project supported by the World Bank.
 - ✓ *The Project aims to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating with direct linkages to improved education outcomes.*
- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog started a nation-wide campaign to celebrate Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan for promoting extensive use of cow-dung products during this Diwali Festival.
- ‘SVAMITVA’ scheme launched on Oct 11 to enable around 1 lakh household property holders in rural areas to get their property cards.
 - ✓ *They can download their property cards through the SMS link which will be delivered on their registered mobile phones.*
 - ✓ **SVAMITVA**-“Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas”
- On the 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, govt launched ‘KAPILA’ program to promote patenting of inventions.
 - ✓ **KAPILA:** Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness

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

SEPTEMBER

THREE FARM BILLS PASSED

- Recently, the Parliament passed three important bills related to the farm sector aimed at liberalising the farm sector and strengthening the hands of farmers.
- Farmer’s Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 to allow farmers to trade their produce outside the markets or ‘mandis’.
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 to make a framework for contract farming in India.
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities
- Parliament passed 3 labour codes to reform the Labour Laws. These labour codes are Industrial Relations Code; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, and Social Security Code.
- Parliament passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill to convert Raksha Shakti University at Gandhinagar, Gujarat as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University as an institution of national importance.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 to establish a National Forensic Sciences University as an institution of national importance by upgrading the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- FSSAI issued a notification stating that “...in case of non-packaged and loose sweets, the container/tray holding the sweets at the outlet for sale, must display the best-before date mandatorily wef Oct 1, 2020”.
- ICAR announced KRITAGYA (Krishi-Taknik-Gyan) hackathon under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project.
- It aims to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment.

- The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Ajay Tirkey to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in the agriculture sector.
- The roadmap aims to develop a framework for the rights of landless farm workers who miss out on welfare benefits.
- WhatsApp has teamed up with Common Services Centres to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services and resources in the country.
- People can send 'Namaste' to CSC Academy's official WhatsApp no.9999189321, to access details about course modules of flagship programmes.
- Deptt. of Posts launched 'Five Star Villages' scheme to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- "SAROD-Ports" (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes-Ports) scheme launched to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.
- Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0 launched to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions.
- "Streets for People Challenge" launched as a response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.
- A National Evaluation Centre, 'Parakh' established for overall improvement in the education evaluation system.
- PARAKH - "Performance Assessment, Review/ and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development"
- Indian power market crossed another milestone with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity.
- GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States and will increase participants in the renewable energy sector.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building to lay foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants
- The institutional framework will consist of PM's Public HR Council, Capacity Building Commission, and Coordination Unit headed by Cabinet Secretary.
- The Public Human Resources Council will comprise of select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders and Public Service functionaries.
- A first-of-its-kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal launched which will help investors zero in on land located in various states for potential projects.
- The portal will provide details of logistics, land, rail & air connectivity, tax incentives, drainage system, power supply and raw material availability from the various industrial belts.

- "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns.
- 'Kiran', a toll- free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation.

AUGUST

- After a gap of 34 years, the union cabinet approved the new National Education Policy, 2020 on July 29.
 - ✓ *The Cabinet also approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to the Education Ministry.*

Highlights of the new policy include:

- ✓ *A single regulator for higher education institutions*
- ✓ *Multiple entry and exit options in degree courses,*
- ✓ *Discontinuation of MPhil programmes,*
- ✓ *Board exams only for 12th,*
- ✓ *Common entrance exams for universities, etc.*

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

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

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

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

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

- National Digital Health Mission: a "completely technology-based" initiative for providing digital Health ID card to every citizen.
 - ✓ *Card will contain all information about past medical conditions, treatment and diagnostic reports and the medicines prescribed by the doctor.*
- 'Transparent Taxation- Honouring the Honest' platform launched to honour the honest taxpayers by bringing in faceless assessment, faceless appeal, and taxpayers' charter.
- GPS based mobile app 'Harit Path' launched to monitor the plantations along the national highways.
- Government launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat" to invite innovators.
- They will use two microprocessors namely "SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit)" to develop various technology products.
- 'Swasthya': e-portal launched on tribal health and nutrition to provide all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population.

- Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with Dell Technologies, the US based multinational tech company.
- Project Lion and Project Dolphin to be launched to replicate the success of Project Tiger for conservation of Lions and Dolphins.
- "Surakhsya": The National Portal on human elephant conflict launched for collection of real time information and for managing the conflicts on a real time basis.
- Country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or "Kisan Rail" was flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra for Bihar's Danapur Railway station.
 - ✓ *The train will transport agricultural produce from Maharashtra region to Bihar region and vice versa.*
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department.
 - ✓ *The app offers current temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction for 200 cities and the information is updated eight times a day.*
- KVIC launched Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.
- 'BIS-Care' app launched by the Consumer Affairs Ministry. Consumers can use this app for checking the authenticity of ISI and hallmark certified products.
- The railways is set to end a colonial-era practice of appointing "khalasis" or "bungalow peons" who worked at the residences of senior officials.
- In an attempt to encourage usage of electric vehicles, the Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without pre-fitted batteries.
- Government has made FASTag mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country.
- India has banned 47 more Chinese apps on July 24 which were clones of 59 Chinese apps which were banned on June 29.

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.

ECONOMY

OCTOBER

- New series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) released with the new Base Year 2016.
 - ✓ *The CPI-IW is used for measuring Dearness Allowance payable to workers in PSUs, Banks and Insurance companies besides government employees.*
- For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferulaasafoetida) has been started in Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ *Currently, Heeng is not produced in India and is imported from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan.*
- State-run power giant NTPC topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes.
- Amazon India has collaborated with IRCTC to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site.
- With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has banned imports of air conditioners with refrigerants.

SEPTEMBER

- Indian economy contracted by massive 23.9% in the April to June quarter as COVID-19 pandemic compressed consumer demand and private investments.
- Government announced an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops.

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

- Asian Development Bank has projected that India's economic growth will contract by 9% in 2020-21 as the coronavirus pandemic weighs heavily on economic activity and consumer sentiment in the country.
- S & P Global Ratings, USA slashed its FY 2020-21 growth forecast for India to -9%, from -5% estimated earlier, saying that rising Covid cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.
- The Union Cabinet approved a new policy for raising the cap of FDI through automatic approval in the defence sector from 49% to 74%.
- Railways plans 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. Around 63% broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year.
- The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura started on Sep 3 through river Gumti.
- Reliance Industries Ltd's market valuation crossed 200 billion mark (Rs 14,67,350 crore) to become the first domestic company to achieve this milestone.
- Popular telecom brands Vodafone and Idea rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', pronounced as 'we'.

AUGUST

- Finance Minister announced that businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh will be exempted from GST. Earlier this limit was Rs. 20 lakh.
 - ✓ Further, businesses with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax.
 - ✓ Earlier, this limit was Rs. 75 lakh and tax rate was 2%. The Scheme now has been extended to the service sector also.
- Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for 2020-21 fixed at Rs 285/quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10 per cent.
- India's top corporate Reliance Industries Ltd. crossed another milestone on August 11, becoming the first Indian company to figure in the top 100 in the Fortune Global 500 list.

- Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the Future Brand Index 2020.
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index, Bulldex, on August 24.

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 Sundar Pichai 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.

BANKING & FINANCE

OCTOBER

- M Rajeshwar Rao, RBI's senior-most executive director has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the central bank.
- The RBI has excluded six public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.
 - ✓ *The six banks are Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank.*
- To make digital payments more secure, both debit & credit cardholders will be able to register for some new options wef Oct 1, 2020.
 - ✓ *The options are opt-in or opt-out, spend limits for online transactions, international transactions and contactless transactions.*

- RBI launched a safer "Positive Pay System" for cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees. The system will be implemented by NPCI w.e.f. January 1, 2021.
 - ✓ *Customers will now have to furnish details of cheques like name of the beneficiary, amount and date to the drawee bank through available means, SMS, internet banking or ATM and mobile app.*
- IDBI Bank launched WhatsApp banking to provide services like balance information, last five transactions, request for a cheque book, account statement, etc. on WhatsApp.
- A **commemorative coin** of 75 rupees denomination was released to mark the 75th Anniversary of the FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy.
- A **commemorative 100-rupee** coin was released in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on her 100th birth anniversary.
- RBI has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign: "RBI Kehta Hai... Jaankaar Baniye.. SatarkRahiye"

SEPTEMBER

- Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to bring parity in application of rules and regulations in co-operative banks as applicable in other commercial banks.
- The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate NPA classification and provisioning calculation process by June 30, 2021.
- RBI has included bank finance to start-ups up to 50 crore rupees, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants and loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas plants under priority sector.
- Government has constituted a committee chaired by former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers.
- Public Sector Banks have started Doorstep Banking Services by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 cities across the country.
- RBI has ceased the banking operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank under Banking Regulations Act 1949 with effect from July 28, 2020.
- The bank had already applied for its winding up (closing) operations in July last year due to its economically non-viable operations.
- SBI and Titan Watch have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called "Titan Pay".

- Bank of India launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above.
- IBA announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks. Bank of Baroda secured the first spot.
- EASE stands for 'Enhanced Access and Service Excellence'. The EASE Banking Reforms Index is prepared by the IBA and Boston Consulting Group.

AUGUST

- The Governing Board of RBI approved the transfer of Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20, ending on June 30.
- RBI set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of veteran banker K V Kamath to oversee the resolution of stressed assets (NPAs) created by COVID-19.
- The RBI plans to set up an Innovation Hub in order to promote innovation across the finance sector in India by leveraging on technology.
- RBI prohibited banks from opening current accounts for customers who have availed cash credit or overdraft facilities, with a view to improve credit discipline.
- SIDBI launched a one-stop knowledge portal named as "MSME Saksham" in association with Trans Union CIBIL.
 - ✓ *It will provide comprehensive financial education and knowledge to MSMEs and will support them in managing their credit obligations.*
- Paytm launched an Android-based mini portable point of sale (PoS) device that is enabled with integrated billing software, camera for QR scanning and supports Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity.
- To effectively and promptly deal with the increasing number of queries from customers, Axis Bank launched Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT.
- HDFC Bank launched 'Shaurya KGC Card' - a first-of-its-kind product for the armed forces, based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines by the government.
- IRCTC and SBI Card together launched their new co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform.
 - ✓ *The card has Near Field Communication technology with which users can*

do their transactions at the PoS machines by swaying the card near the machines.

- The ICICI Bank became the first bank in India to use satellite data—imagery from Earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of farmers.
- SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called "Shagun - Gift an Insurance", which is a Personal Accident Insurance policy that can be gifted to any third party.
- State Bank of India waived SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance for all its Savings Accounts.

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 Zip Drive to its customers in 1,000 cities.
- HDFC Bank has launched the 'e-Kisaan Dhan' 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.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OCTOBER

- INS Kavaratti, anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile near Chandipur, off Odisha coast.

✓ *It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa). Developed by DRDO, it has a range of 15 to 20 km.*

- India successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation anti-tank guided missile -- Nag -- on October 21 at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan.
- The DRDO successfully test-fired Rudram-1, India's first indigenously developed new generation anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
- Nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile 'Shaurya' tested successfully with a strike range of around 1,000 km.
- DRDO and Indian Navy successfully test fired BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile from the warship INS Chennai.
- DRDO successfully tested BrahMos missile fitted with a homemade booster, airframe and other components for a strike range of 400 km.
- The Offshore Patrol Vessel "Vigraha" built by the Larsen and Toubro was handed over to the Indian Coast Guard at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The Indian Air Force on October 8, created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at the Khardung La, near Leh, touching down at an altitude of 17,982 feet.
- **Sagar Kavach:** A two-day Coastal Security Exercise - was conducted on October 8-9 in the Arabian Sea alongside the western coast.
- **Bongosagar-2:** The 2nd edition of Indo-Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise was held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5.
- **ICGS Kanaklata Barua**, a fast patrol vessel built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata, was inducted in the Indian Coast Guard on October 1 at Kolkata.
- **SLINEX-20:** The 8th annual joint exercise between Indian and Sri Lankan navies took place off Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October.
- **DRDO** successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo", SMART on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Russia successfully test-fired its hypersonic cruise missile Tsirkon (Zircon) having speed of more than Mach 8 (9800 kmph) and a range of 1,000 km.

SEPTEMBER

- India successfully flight-tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) missile technology from the Abdul Kalam Island near Balasore, Odisha.
- The HSTDV powers cruise missiles and operates on scramjet engines that can attain the speed of around Mach 6.

- India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicles from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur near Balasore (Odisha).
- In a first, two women officers, Sub Lieutenant (SLT) Kumudini Tyagi and SLT Riti Singh, have been selected to join as 'Observers' (Airborne Tacticians) in the Indian Navy's helicopter stream.
- India finalised a deal with Russia to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India at Korwa Ordnance Factory in Uttar Pradesh.
- JIMEX 2020: The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in the North Arabian Sea from Sep 26 to 29.
- PASSEX: Navies of India and Australia conducted mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24.
- Indra Navy: The Indian and Russian navies conducted mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal on Sep 4-5.
- The CSIR-CMERI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute) has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in Durgapur, West Bengal.
- Indian astronomers discovered one of the farthest star galaxies in the universe through India's first Space Observatory 'AstroSat'.
- It detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- China successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of a rocket from a platform on a ship at sea.

AUGUST

- In a rare historic moment, the first batch of five Rafale jets landed in Air Force base in Ambala on July 29.
- The Indian Air Force launched a mobile app "MY IAF" to provide career-related information and guidance to the people who wish to join the Indian Air Force.
- Ministry of Defence launched portal SRIJAN, a 'one stop shop' that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.
- Israel successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2" ballistic missile interceptor.
- ICGS Sarthak: An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) indigenously built by the Goa Shipyard Limited was formally inducted in the Indian Coast Guard
- The Terrain Mapping Camera - 2 onboard ISRO's Chandrayaan 2 captured an image of a crater on the Moon.

- ✓ *ISRO named this crater after Indian astrophysicist Vikram Sarabhai on the occasion of his birth centenary.*
- ISRO is all set to allow the private sector to set up their own launchpad at the Sriharikota Launch Centre (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh, so that they can launch their own rocket or spacecraft.
- A Hyderabad based space-tech startup – Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine.
 - ✓ *Used in the launch vehicle Vikram-I, it is named 'Raman' after Nobel laureate Dr. C V Raman.*
- Techgentsia Software, a startup by Joy Sebastian of Kerala won the national competition for developing a world-class indigenous video conference solution.
 - ✓ *The product named 'Vconsol' won Rs. One crore prize from the Ministry of Information and Technology.*
- The tech giant Google launched its new “People Cards” feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card and build their public profile for search engine.
- NASA successfully sent its Mars Rover Perseverance on a seven-month journey to the red planet.
 - ✓ *It is one of the biggest, most sophisticated Mars rovers ever built — a car-sized six wheel vehicle weighing over a ton, equipped with cameras, microphones, drills and lasers.*

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.

INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER

- The Principality of Andorra joined the IMF on Oct 16 as its 190th member. It is a micro nation, sandwiched between France in the north and Spain in the south.

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- The World Economic Outlook report by the IMF predicted a deep global recession in 2020 and shrinkage of 4.4% in the world economic growth.
- Singapore has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition.
- The WTO has projected a fall of 9.2 per cent in goods trade volume in 2020. It is much less than the 12.9 percent decline it had predicted in April.

SEPTEMBER

- The Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design, released the Smart City Index.
- Singapore topped the Index, followed by Helsinki and Zurich in the second and the third place respectively.
- The meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, on September 03 in virtual mode.
- Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation after UAE to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump.
- Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds.
- UNICEF has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure safe, equitable access to the initial doses for all.
- The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed University of Oxford, UK at the top in the overall category.
- Australia's economy suffered its sharpest economic contraction since the Great Depression due to the pandemic, with data released recently confirming the country is in its first recession in 28 years.
- The economy shrank 7% in the April-June quarter, the biggest contraction since records began in 1959. Previous quarter also ended with a 0.3 percent fall.
- Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving PM announced his resignation citing poor health as reason, ending a stint at the helm of the world's third-biggest economy.

AUGUST

- The WHO has declared Africa free of wild polio, meaning that no active case of polio has been reported in the last four years from the entire Africa.
 - ✓ *It was in 2016 that the last case of wild, circulating polio was reported in Nigeria.*

- Turkey has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea.
- Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a landmark peace accord sealed by President Trump on August 13.
- Russia announced the successful launch of the first vaccine – Sputnik-V in the world against the corona virus.
- UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant's 1st Unit got operational on July 31.

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.

PERSONS IN NEWS

OCTOBER

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

Fortune 40 Under 40

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

Khushi Chindaliya: A 17-year-old girl from Gujarat's Surat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme – Tunza Eco-Generation.

SEPT - AUGUST

Akshay Kumar: Bollywood superstar is the only Indian to feature in the Forbes 2020 list of 10 Highest Paid Male Actors in the world.

Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash: The 20-year-old boy from Hyderabad won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title.

Kala Narayanasamy: Indian-origin nurse in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeff Bezos: Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 billion on August 26.

Kamala Harris: Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden chose her as his vice-presidential running mate for the 2020 US Elections.

JULY

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

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

OCTOBER

Shekhar Kapur: Noted Filmmaker has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune and Chairman of Governing Council of FTII.

Dr P. D. Vaghela: Appointed as the Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India- TRAI.

Rajkiran Rai G: Union Bank of India's MD and CEO has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21.

M A Ganapathy: Appointed as the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, New Delhi.

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

Alpha Conde: Elected as the President of Guinea for a third term. Guinea is located in western Africa.

Saad al-Hariri: The Sunni Muslim politician of Lebanon appointed as the Prime Minister of the country by the President Michel Aoun.

Jacinda Ardern: Elected as the Prime Minister of New Zealand for the second consecutive three-year term.

Bisher Al-Khasawneh: Appointed as the Prime Minister of the country by Jordan's King Abdullah.

Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah: Sworn in as the ruling Emir of the tiny oil-rich country Kuwait

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

SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

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

Dinesh Kumar Khara: The Banks Board Bureau recommended SBI's senior-most managing director as the next chairman of the State Bank of India.

Ayushmann Khurrana: UNICEF India has selected Bollywood actor as its famous advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child".

Yoshihide Suga: The 71 year old senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was elected as Japan's new Prime Minister by the powerful House of Representatives on September 16.

Mustapha Adib: Lebanon's ambassador to Germany since 2013, was appointed Prime Minister of Lebanon.

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

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

AUGUST

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

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

Manoj Sinha: Appointed as the next Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by the President Ram Nath Kovind.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Nath Kovind.

Rudrendra Tandon: Appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Afghanistan

Vikram Doraiswami: 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.

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

Ravinder Bhakar: 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.

AWARDS & HONOURS

OCTOBER

NOBEL PRIZES FOR 2020

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Awarded jointly to Harvey J. Alter, USA Michael Houghton, Britain and Charles M. Rice, USA "for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus". All three will share the Swedish Kroner 10 million (around Rs. 8.24 crore) prize equally.

Nobel Prize in Physics: Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and US scientist Ms. Andrea Ghez won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics for their discoveries about the black hole.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry: Awarded to Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA) for the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors in 2012.

Nobel Prize for Literature: Awarded to American poet Louise Glück. A professor at Yale University, USA, Glück made her debut in 1968 with her collection titled 'Firstborn'.

Nobel Peace Prize: Awarded to the United Nations' World Food Programme for its efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity in regions of conflict and hardship around the globe.

Nobel Economics Prize: US economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the coveted honour for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.

Sakharov Prize 2020: The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line regime. The prize carries a cash award of Euro 50,000.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award-2020: Aishwarya Sridhar, a Mumbai based young photographer became the first Indian woman to win this most prestigious award of wildlife photography, given by the Natural History Museum of Britain.

2020 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA selected for this award for his outstanding work on high dimensional expanders in combinatorial and geometric topology and on Golden Gates for 3-D unitary groups in Maths. .

"Earthshot Prize" to save environment

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

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

Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing: Kerala Tourism's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' bagged this prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award at a presentation ceremony of Virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020 in Beijing.

SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award: Bollywood actor, Sonu Sood has been conferred this prestigious award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for helping lakhs of migrants in getting back to their homes.

Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize - 2020: The names of 14 scientists were announced for the country's highest science award on the foundation day of the CSIR on Sep 26.

SEPTEMBER

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019: Conferred upon David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian, by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. The prize carries a cash award of Rs. 2.5 million.

Kerala won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.

Aditya Puri: Managing Director of HDFC Bank conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.

International Booker Prize 2020: Won by Dutch Author, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld for her debut novel 'The Discomfort of Evening'. Rijneveld became the youngest author to win the prize at the age of 29.

The book was translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator.

AUGUST

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

SKOCH Gold Award: Ministry of Tribal Affairs won the award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project.

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.

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.

OBITUARY

OCTOBER

Ram Vilas Paswan: Union minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, died on Oct 8 at the age of 74.

Jaswant Singh: One of the founding members of BJP, a towering leader of BJP from Rajasthan, breathed his last on Sep 27 after prolonged illness, in Delhi.

Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia: The 74-year old renowned economist, who also worked extensively on issues related to urbanisation and education, passed away in New Delhi, losing her battle to cancer.

BhanuAthaiya: India's first Oscar winner costume designer died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness. She was 91. Athaiya won an Oscar for her work in the 1983 epic film "Gandhi".

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

Eddie Van Halen: Considered as one of rock music's greatest guitar players, Eddie lost his battle against cancer at the age of 65 in Los Angeles, USA.

SEPTEMBER

Pranab Mukherjee: Former President of India passed away on August 31 at the age of 84. He had served as the 13th President of India from 2012 till 2017. He was honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

SP Balasubrahmanyam: After nearly two months of struggle with Covid-19, the iconic versatile singer, also lovingly called Balu or SPB, lost the battle of life on Sep 25. With more than 40,000 songs under his belt, his discography runs like a book of records.

Dr. Sekhar Basu: Noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson died of Covid-19 in Kolkata. He was 68.

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan: A leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history, passed away at her Delhi home, at the age of 91. She was honoured with Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011.

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh: Veteran Rashtriya Janata Dal -RJD leader and former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) passed away in New Delhi. He was 74.

Swami Agnivesh: Veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure. He was 80. He founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked for release of bonded labour.

Dr. Govind Swarup: Father of India's Radio Astronomy, passed away in Pune. He was 91. He will be remembered for developing the Giant Metre wave Radio Telescope near Pune.

Swami Kesavananda Bharati: The 79-year old Swami of the Edneer Mutt, district Kasargod, Kerala died due to age-related ailments. He will always be remembered for the court case he filed in the Supreme Court challenging a Kerala Land Reform Act nearly four decades ago.

In one of the most often referred cases on Constitution's supremacy, the Court ruled that the Supreme Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the same can be amended but not its basic structure.

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

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A firebrand senior Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, a diminutive yet towering women's rights champion who became the court's second female justice, died at her home in Washington. She was 87.

AUGUST

Pandit Jasraj: Legendary Indian classical vocalist passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. He was 90. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 1990 and Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

Rahat Indori: Noted Urdu poet and lyricist died of cardiac arrest in Indore, in Madhya Pradesh on August 11 at the age of 70 year.

Chetan Chauhan: Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister passed away following multiple organ failure. He was 73.

Ebrahim Alkazi: Theatre doyen and legendary teacher died on August 4 in New Delhi, after suffering a heart attack at the age of 94. He was honoured with Padma Shri (1966), the Padma Bhushan (1991), and the Padma Vibhushan in 2010.

Amar Singh: Four times Rajya Sabha MP, who once wielded immense influence in power circles died in a Singapore hospital where he was undergoing treatment for kidney failure. He was 64.

Kumkum: Veteran Bollywood actress died in Mumbai at the age of 86. Her real name was Zaibunnissa. She has featured in over 110 Hindi films.

Olivia de Havilland: The British-American actress famous for her role in the film *Gone with the Wind* (1939), passed away at the age of 104 years in Paris.

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 GadiSansthan, 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.

PLACES IN NEWS

OCTOBER

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

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

Hurricane Laura: One of the most powerful storms in the country's history struck Louisiana, a south eastern state of the USA.

SEPT – AUGUST

Rajamala: More than 55 people lost their lives in a massive landslide that occurred in the Pettimudi Tea Estate near Rajamala in Idukki district of Kerala on the night of August 6.

Vijaynagar: One of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country has been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity. The area is the easternmost corner of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Myanmar.

Beirut: At least 135 people were killed and 5,000 wounded in a massive explosion that shook the capital of Lebanon on Beirut on August 4. More than 300,000 people were displaced from their homes.

California: State of USA was in the news as widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres state wide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes.

JULY

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

SPORTS WORLD

OCTOBER

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Indian men's team goalkeeper and women's squad's mid-fielder Sanju Yadav were declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year award, men and women, respectively, for the 2019-20 season.

Neetu David, one of finest women cricketers of India in the late '90s and early 2000, has been appointed as the Chairman of the 5 member women's national selection panel by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a period of four years.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian, 16-year-old Indian shooter won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.

The Odisha Government signed an agreement with the Indian Rugby Football Union to sponsor the Indian national rugby team for the next three years and facilitate high performance training of the players.

INTERNATIONAL

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) won the 2020 Eifel Grand Prix, held at the Nürburgring in Nürburg, Germany. With this win, he equalled the all time record of 91 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany.

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

French Open concludes at Roland Garros, Paris

Rafael Nadal (Spain) defeated Novak Djokovic (Serbia) to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

Polish teenager IgaSwiatek won the Women's singles title. She won her first Grand Slam by beating Sofia Kenin (USA), winner of Australian Open, 2020.

Denmark Open Badminton Tournament: Anders Antonsen of Denmark won the men's singles title while NozomiOkuhara of Japan clinched the women's singles title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the finals held in Odense, Denmark.

SEPTEMBER

P Iniyan, 17 year old Indian Grandmaster from Erode, Tamil Nadu won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament.

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

Prize money hiked for National Sports Awards

(Amount in Lakhs)

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

INTERNATIONAL

Tour de France: TadejPogacar of Slovenia won the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world. 22 year old Tadej became the Tour's youngest champion since 1904.

US Open Tennis Grand Slam, New York

Dominic Thiem of Austria won the men's singles title, beating Alexander Zverev of Germany. **Women's singles** won by Japan's Naomi Osaka, defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Italian Open Tennis Tournament, Rome, Italy

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won the men's singles title by beating Diego Schwartzman of Argentina. Women's singles title was won by Simon Halep of Romania.

Armand Duplantis, 20 year old Swedish pole vaulter broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. Duplantis cleared 6.15 meter besting Bubka's mark of 6.14 meter set in July 1994.

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

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

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

AUGUST

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Based on recommendations of the selection committee headed by a former Judge of Supreme Court, Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma, the government announced the National Sports Awards 2020.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

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

Arjuna Award

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

Dronacharya Award

Given to the coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

Dhyan Chand Award

Given for lifetime contribution in development and enrichment of sports. Named after wizard of Hockey - Major Dhyan Chand.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

The highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air. It carries cash award of Rs. 5.00 lakh

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar

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

ONGC: For encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility

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

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

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

Haryana will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni: Former Indian Cricket Team Skipper announced his retirement from International Cricket.

Suresh Raina: Following the footsteps of M S Dhoni, left handed batsman also announced his retirement from international cricket.

INTERNATIONAL

James Anderson, England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets.

Three entries in ICC Hall of Fame

Legendary South African all-rounder 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.

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

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

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

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

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 leader board at the first edition of the Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM) 2020.

Ravindra Jadeja, 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.

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Model Test For

General / Economy /

Banking Awareness



DECEMBER GK TEST - 01

- According to a new survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which three cities share the top spot as the most expensive cities?
 - Hong Kong, Tokyo and Paris
 - New York, Zurich and Paris
 - Hong Kong, Zurich and Paris
 - Shanghai, Zurich and Sydney
 - Hong Kong, London and Paris
- TarunGogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam for 15 years and a former union minister, passed away recently. He hailed from which political party?
 - Assam Gana Parishad
 - Assam Peoples Party
 - BJP
 - Congress
 - Assam Janta Dal
- Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavy Weight Torpedo to Indian Navy. What is its name?
 - Jalastra
 - Varunastra
 - Jalagneya
 - Samudra Shakti
 - Sea Rocket
- A mushroom documentation project in the forests of Northeast India has discovered a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom in forests of which state?
 - Assam
 - Arunachal
 - Tripura
 - Meghalaya
 - Nagaland
- National Milk Day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of which great pioneer of the dairy industry?
 - Dr. VergheseKurien
 - P V Shetty
 - Nirmal Iyengar
 - S. Govind Narayan
 - Dr. G B Pant
- "The Name you Can Bank Upon" is tagline of which of the following Banks?
 - State Bank of India
 - Central Bank of India
 - Punjab National Bank
 - Canara Bank
 - HDFC Bank
- Indian city Srinagar is situated on banks of which of the following rivers?
 - Ravi
 - Sutluj
 - Jhelum
 - Chenab
 - Beas
- Which of the following is the only tin producing state in India?
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Odisha
 - Karnataka
 - None of these
- Diego Maradona, Argentinian football legend passed away at his home in Tigre on Nov 25. He is best known for leading Argentina to victory in the _____ World Cup title:
 - 1978
 - 1982
 - 1986
 - 1990
 - 1994
- The 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) was held from Nov 26 to 28 in _____ :
 - New Delhi
 - Moscow
 - Osaka
 - Vancouver
 - Virtual mode
- The UNDP and Invest India launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map for India. Headquarters of UNDP are in which city?
 - Tokyo
 - Venice
 - New York
 - Ottawa
 - Geneva
- Greg Barclay has been elected as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council. He hails from which country?
 - Australia
 - Britain
 - West Indies
 - New Zealand
 - South Africa
- 'Jallikattu' has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category. It is a film in which language?
 - Marathi
 - Tamil
 - Malayalam
 - Kannada
 - Telugu

14. When more than one Banks are providing credit facilities to one party in coordination with each other under a formal arrangement, the arrangement is generally known as:
 - a. Participatory Lending
 - b. Consortium Lending
 - c. Joint Lending
 - d. Multibank Lending
 - e. Group Lending
15. If you are planning a trip to Kaziranga wildlife sanctuary, which state you will have to visit?
 - a. Nagaland
 - b. Maharashtra
 - c. Kerala
 - d. Assam
 - e. Madhya Pradesh
16. Which of the following is NOT a missile of Indian Army?
 - a. Agni
 - b. Prithvi
 - c. Astra
 - d. Akash
 - e. Shastra
17. Which Indian web series won the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards 2020?
 - a. Mirzapur
 - b. Delhi Crime
 - c. Ludo
 - d. J L 50
 - e. Scam 1992
18. The Pilibhit ____ Reserve bagged the international award TX2 for more than doubling the number of ____ in the past four years. Which animal we are talking about?
 - a. Peacock
 - b. Rhino
 - c. Leopard
 - d. Lion
 - e. Tiger
19. The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November in association with which state?
 - a. Assam
 - b. Odisha
 - c. Kerala
 - d. Tripura
 - e. Sikkim
20. In which country Dr. Gaurav Sharma, a Member of Parliament, created history by becoming the first Indian-origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land?
 - a. Mauritius
 - b. Maldives
 - c. New Zealand
 - d. Britain
 - e. Fiji
21. Faqir Chand Kohli, known as Father of Indian ____ industry, passed away in Mumbai on November 26:
 - a. Textile
 - b. Pharma
 - c. Petrochemical
 - d. IT
 - e. Chemical
22. What does letter D stands for in SDR, a term frequently used with respect to International Monetary Fund?
 - a. Drawing
 - b. Deposit
 - c. Demand
 - d. Derivative
 - e. Debt
23. 'Kathak' is a classical dance form associated with which state?
 - a. Karnataka
 - b. Bihar
 - c. Uttar Pradesh
 - d. Kerala
 - e. Tamil Nadu
24. According to government data released on Nov 27 for the second quarter (July-September) of 2020-21, the Indian economy contracted by ____ per cent in the quarter ending Sep 30:
 - a. 5
 - b. 7.5
 - c. 9
 - d. 10.8
 - e. 12
25. Which country has been ranked at the top in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA?
 - a. Belgium
 - b. Germany
 - c. France
 - d. Portugal
 - e. Argentina
26. Which country has tied up with Hyderabad-based drugmaker Hetero Drugs for producing "over" 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine?
 - a. Germany
 - b. USA
 - c. France
 - d. Britain
 - e. Russia
27. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in which state?
 - a. Himachal Pradesh
 - b. Sikkim
 - c. Arunachal
 - d. Uttarakhand
 - e. Meghalaya
28. Cambridge Dictionary has named _____ as Word of the Year 2020:
 - a. Isolation
 - b. Social Distancing
 - c. Pandemic
 - d. Quarantine
 - e. Covid-19
29. Which services are available free in the 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'?
 - a. Deposit of cash
 - b. Withdrawal of cash
 - c. Receipt/credit of money through electronic payment channels
 - d. Receipt/credit of money through by means of deposit/collection of cheque at ATMs
 - e. All of the above
30. What is the short name for the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna?
 - a. PMSURYA
 - b. SAUBHAGYA
 - c. GRAMOGYA
 - d. SAHAJBIJLI
 - e. BIJLIGHAR
31. Which of the following is NOT a range of Himalayas?
 - a. Karakoram
 - b. PirPanjal
 - c. Zaskar
 - d. Khardung-La
 - e. Dhauladar

32. India hosted the 19th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format on Nov 30. Who chaired this meeting?
- President of India
 - Vice President of India
 - Prime Minister of India
 - Minister of External Affairs
 - Minister of Defence
33. A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 and a special postal stamp was released to mark the centennial foundation day of which University?
- Punjab University
 - University of Patna
 - Mumbai University
 - University of Lucknow
 - Allahabad University
34. In a first, India inducted two drones — MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series — into the Navy. They have been taken on lease from which country?
- America
 - Canada
 - Israel
 - Russia
 - Britain
35. Which bank crossed Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time on Nov 25, becoming India's first bank to achieve this milestone?
- ICICI Bank
 - SBI
 - PNB
 - HDFC Bank
 - BoB
36. The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf countries is being developed in Saih Shuaib. It is in which country?
- Saudi Arabia
 - Syria
 - Jordan
 - UAE
 - Kuwait
37. Who has become the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs, in just 462 innings?
- Ricky Ponting
 - Chris Gayle
 - Virat Kohli
 - Rohit Sharma
 - G J Maxwell
38. World AIDS Day is celebrated on which day of December?
- 1st
 - 11th
 - 15th
 - 22nd
 - 29th
39. What is the minimum amount that can be sent by using RTGS?
- 1 lakh
 - 1.5 lakh
 - 2 lakh
 - 2.5 lakh
 - 3 lakh
40. During April-September 2020, India attracted the highest amount of FDI from which country?
- USA
 - Japan
 - Britain
 - Singapore
 - Mauritius
41. India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol XP100 has been launched by which oil company?
- Hindustan Petroleum
 - Indo Burma Petroleum
 - Reliance Petroleum
 - Indian Oil Corporation
 - Bharat Petroleum
42. In which of the following types of banking, the banks offer all types of financial services to expand their business?
- Narrow banking
 - Social banking
 - Universal banking
 - Wholesale banking
 - Retail banking
43. Which of the following protocol is NOT associated with climate control?
- Nagoya Protocol
 - Kyoto Protocol
 - Montreal Protocol
 - Bonn Agreement
 - Paris Agreement
44. _____ has become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine:
- Britain
 - France
 - USA
 - Germany
 - Italy
45. Nongpok Sekmai police station, selected as the best performing Police Station in the country, is in which state?
- Mizoram
 - Assam
 - Manipur
 - Tripura
 - Meghalaya
46. The Reserve Bank has asked which Bank to temporarily stop all launches of its Digital Business generating activities?
- ICICI Bank
 - Paytm Bank
 - IDFC First Bank
 - HDFC Bank
 - Yes Bank
47. Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, who passed away on Dec 3, was undisputed king of which industry?
- Soap
 - Washing Powder
 - Spices
 - Shampoo
 - Desi Ghee
48. Researchers in which country have created the world's smallest memory device?
- Britain
 - USA
 - China
 - South Korea
 - Sweden
49. Asian Development Bank approved a loan of \$ 563 million to augment the power distribution in which two Indian states?
- Sikkim and Kerala
 - Odisha and Bihar
 - Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh
 - Uttarakhand and Sikkim
 - Assam and Goa
50. Which of the following is NOT a novel written by the legendary author William Shakespeare?
- Hamlet
 - Julius Ceaser
 - Ivanhoe
 - Othello
 - King Lear

DECEMBER GK TEST - 02

1. **The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held recently in virtual mode in which state?**
a. Nagaland b. Manipur
c. Odisha d. Sikkim
e. Chhattisgarh
2. **According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, which is the most polluted city in the world?**
a. New Delhi b. Ludhiana
c. Lahore d. Karachi
e. Kathmandu
3. **As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, which country was the worst victim of terrorism for the second year in a row?**
a. Iraq b. Pakistan
c. Syria d. Afghanistan
e. Nigeria
4. **Uttar Pradesh Government announced a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana on which river?**
a. Ganga b. Yamuna
c. Saryu d. Gomti
e. Saraswati
5. **The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise in which area?**
a. Arabian Sea b. Bay of Bengal
c. Philippine Sea d. Western Indian Ocean
e. Eastern Indian Ocean
6. **The RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs _____ from January 1, 2021:**
a. 3,000 b. 4,000
c. 5,000 d. 6,000
e. 7,000
7. **Gitanjali Rao, a 15-year-old Indo - _____ girl has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year':**
a. British b. American
c. Australian d. Canadian
e. Japanese
8. **Ranjitsinh Disale, 32, a primary school teacher from the state of _____ won the Global Teacher Prize 2020:**
a. Karnataka b. Gujarat
c. Maharashtra d. Rajasthan
e. Madhya Pradesh
9. **Which of the following is an objective of Monetary Policy?**
a. Regulate capital markets
b. Support Fiscal Policy to minimize govt expenditure
c. Regulate commodity markets
d. Achieve price stability and push economic growth
e. Lend support to money supply
10. **The border between China and Arunachal Pradesh is known as which of the following?**
a. Radcliffe Line b. Durand Line
c. McMahon Line d. Curzon Line
e. Hastings Line
11. **Which of the following women topped the list of the richest women in the country with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore?**
a. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
b. Radha Vembu
c. Jayshree Ullal
d. Roshni Nadar Malhotra
e. Neeta Ambani
12. **Scientists of which country have built the world's first light-based quantum computer which is one trillion times faster than the most powerful supercomputer?**
a. China b. France
c. USA d. Britain
e. Sweden
13. **As per the Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer - Asia", which Asian country has the highest incidence of bribery?**
a. Bangladesh b. Pakistan
c. India d. Indonesia
e. Brunei
14. **The Indian Air Force recently carried out firing of the short-range Igla missiles. These have been supplied by which country?**
a. Israel b. France
c. USA d. Russia
e. Britain
15. **Which state proposes to set up Raimona National Park as the 6th park in the state?**
a. Jharkhand b. Assam
c. Karnataka d. Madhya Pradesh
e. Tamil Nadu
16. **The government has given its nod to create a new position at senior level in the Indian Army. What is its name?**
a. Director General of Army
b. Deputy Chief of Army (Strategy)
c. Deputy Chief of Army (operations)
d. Director General - operations
e. Vice Army Chief
17. **The majority stake holder in the capital of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is**
a. Mutual Fund Companies
b. Central Government
c. Sponsoring Bank d. Financial Corporates
e. State Government

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18. Which of the following is NOT a term related to inflation?
 a. Deflation b. Escalation
 c. Stagflation d. Hyperinflation
 e. Disinflation
19. Spaceship Hayabusa-2 successfully sent on earth a small capsule containing samples from a distant asteroid. It belongs to which country?
 a. China b. South Korea
 c. Japan d. Russia e. USA
20. Which two cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO?
 a. Indore and Bhopal
 b. Pachmarhi and Jabalpur
 c. Gwalior and Orchha d. Indore and Orchha
 e. Mhow and Pachmarhi
21. Which Indian top formula racer created history on Dec 6 as he became the first driver from the country to win a Formula 2 race?
 a. Narain Karthikeyan b. Karun Chandhok
 c. Jehan Daruvala d. Yash Aradhya
 e. Sailesh Bolisetti
22. Which Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which allows customers of other banks also to operate it?
 a. HDFC Bank b. Canara Bank
 c. Indian Overseas Bank d. ICICI Bank
 e. Yes Bank
23. The International Olympic Committee has recognised which popular dance form as an official Olympic sport?
 a. Hip hop b. Robotics
 c. Contemporary d. Breakdance
 e. Salsa
24. What is the name of China's lunar probe that unfurled its national flag on the Moon's surface?
 a. Feng-II b. Luna -V
 c. Chang'e 5 d. Deng - II
 e. Zheng - I
25. RBI uses which of the following indices of inflation in India to formulate its Monetary Policy?
 a. Cost of Living Index (COLI)
 b. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 c. Industrial Price Index
 d. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)
 e. Producers Price Index (PPI)
26. Dr. B R Ambedkar was the first Minister of _____ in independent India.
 a. Parliamentary Affairs b. Social Justice
 c. Law and Justice d. Social Welfare
 e. Company Affairs
27. Who is the winner of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020?
 a. Amitav Ghosh b. Anita Anand
 c. Amish Tripathi d. Raj Kamal Jha
 e. Arundhati Roy
28. India has been ranked ____ in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) -2020:
 a. 10th b. 13th
 c. 17th d. 21st
 e. 32nd
29. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana government will contribute PF subscription of both, employee and of employer, for newly recruited employees for how many months?
 a. 12 b. 15
 c. 18 d. 24 e. 30
30. _____ has become the first Union Territory to practise 100% organic farming:
 a. Andaman & Nicobar b. Lakshadweep
 c. Puducherry d. Ladakh
 e. Delhi
31. With which country the Indian Navy has placed an order for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems?
 a. France b. USA
 c. Israel d. Russia
 e. England
32. As per the data released by the Swedish company Truecaller, what is India's rank in terms of receiving spam calls?
 a. 9th b. 13th
 c. 17th d. 23rd
 e. 33rd
33. Which of the following have been named as the TIME '2020 Person of the Year'?
 a. Kamala Harris b. Joe Biden
 c. Donald Trump
 d. Joe Biden & Kamala Harris e. Tedros Adhanom
34. Astad Deboo, a veteran Indian artist passed away on Dec 10. He was a renowned _____:
 a. Painter b. Sculptor
 c. Theatre person d. Contemporary dancer
 e. Classical singer
35. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Virtual Global Climate Summit on Dec 12 on the fifth anniversary of the _____ Climate Agreement:
 a. Kobe b. Rio-de-Janeiro
 c. Dublin d. Paris
 e. Geneva
36. Which of the following statement regarding Reserve Bank of India is NOT true?
 a. RBI is Banker to the Central and State Govt.
 b. RBI is the custodian of foreign exchange reserves of the country
 c. RBI represents India at World Bank and IMF
 d. RBI represents India at World Trade Organization Summits
 e. RBI extends short term loans to Central and State governments

37. _____ has become the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help:
a. UAE b. Jordan
c. Morocco d. Yemen
e. Libya
38. The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, _____ and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held on Dec 14.
a. Iraq b. Saudi Arabia
c. Iran d. Oman
e. UAE
39. Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya, renowned Sanskrit scholar, a propagator of the Madhva ideology and a great orator, died recently. He hailed from which state?
a. Gujarat b. Rajasthan
c. Telangana d. Karnataka
e. Maharashtra
40. Which global organisation has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?
a. IMF b. UNICEF
c. WEF d. World Bank
e. UNESCO
41. Where are the headquarters of OECD located?
a. Geneva b. Paris
c. New York d. Berlin
e. The Hague
42. Who is the current vice chairman of the NITI Aayog?
a. Amitabh Kant b. Dr Rajiv Kumar
c. V K Saraswat d. Nirpendra Mishra
e. Atanu Chakraborty
43. Which organisation signed a MoU with 'Red Cross' to launch a new collaboration to strengthen the delivery of emergency medical and health services during humanitarian crises.
a. WHO b. UNDP
c. UNICEF d. USAID
e. World Bank
44. A Nilgiri-class frigate under 'Project 17A' was launched at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) facility at Kolkata. What is its name?
a. INS Dhaulgiri b. INS Himadri
c. INS Vindhyagiri d. INS Himgiri
e. INS Sheshadri
45. The Department of Post (India Post) and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched a new digital payment app named _____:
a. Dak Bank b. Digi Dak
c. Dak Pay d. Post Bank
e. Post Pay

46. Prime Minister of which country will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021?
a. Germany b. France
c. Australia d. Britain
e. Canada
47. The International Hockey Federation has announced to host 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in which Indian state?
a. Punjab b. Maharashtra
c. West Bengal d. Tripura
e. Odisha
48. Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14?
a. USA b. China
c. Russia d. Britain
e. France
49. Who among the following is credited with introducing the "era of liberalisation" in India?
a. Rajiv Gandhi b. A.B.Vajpayee
c. Manmohan Singh d. Pranab Mukharjee
e. Narender Modi
50. Which of the following institutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India?
a. ARCIL b. DICGC
c. ARSEC d. CIBIL
e. ONICRA

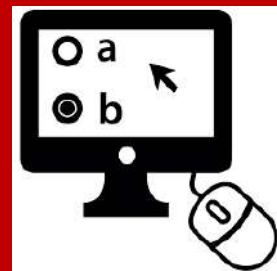
ANSWER KEY | DECEMBER GK TEST | 1

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

ANSWER KEY | DECEMBER GK TEST | 2

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

IBPS PO - PRE EXAM (MODEL TEST PAPER)



QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Directions (1-5): What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following questions?

- 1) $92 \times 576 \div (2\sqrt{1296}) = (?)^3 + \sqrt{49}$
 (a) 3 (b) $(9)^2$
 (c) 9 (d) 27
 (e) None of these
- 2) $1/6$ of 92% of $1\frac{1}{23}$ of (650) = 85 + ?
 (a) 18 (b) 21
 (c) 19 (d) 28
 (e) None of these
- 3) $(15 \times 0.40)^4 \div (1080 \div 30)^4 \times (27 \times 8)^4 = (3 \times 2)^{?+5}$
 (a) 8 (b) 3
 (c) 12 (d) 16
 (e) None of these
- 4) $3\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{5}{6} = \frac{(?)^2}{10} + 1\frac{5}{12}$
 (a) 25 (b) $\sqrt{5}$
 (c) 625 (d) 15
 (e) 5
- 5) $(\sqrt{8} \times \sqrt{8})^{1/2} + (9)^{1/2} = (?)^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$
 (a) 7 (b) 19
 (c) 18 (d) 9
 (e) None of these

Directions (Q. 6- 10): What approximate value will come in place of ? in the following questions?

- 6) $-(4.99)^3 + (29.98)^2 - (3.01)^4 = ?$
 (a) 550 (b) 590
 (c) 620 (d) 650
 (e) 690
- 7) $466.97 - 3245.01 + 1122.99 = ? + 2309.99$
 (a) -8965 (b) -2965
 (c) -7965 (d) -3965
 (e) -965

- 8) $5998 \div 9.98 + 670.99 - 139.99 = ?$
 (a) 1080 (b) 1280
 (c) 1180 (d) 1130
 (e) 1230
- 9) 67.99% of 1401 - 13.99% of 1299 = ?
 (a) 700 (b) 720
 (c) 770 (d) 800
 (e) 740
- 10) $\left(\frac{24}{9}\right)^2 \times \frac{399}{39} \div \frac{41}{899} = ?$
 (a) 1600 (b) 1650
 (c) 1700 (d) 1550
 (e) 1750

Directions (11- 15): Find the number that will come in place of question mark (?) in the following number series:

- 11) 3 7 15 27 63 127 255
 (a) 7 (b) 15
 (c) 27 (d) 63
 (e) 127
- 12) 19 26 33 46 59 74 91
 (a) 26 (b) 33
 (c) 46 (d) 59
 (e) 74
- 13) 445 221 109 46 25 11 4
 (a) 221 (b) 109
 (c) 46 (d) 25
 (e) 11
- 14) 3 7 15 39 63 127 255 511
 (a) 7 (b) 15
 (c) 39 (d) 63
 (e) 127
- 15) 1 3 10 21 64 129 356 777
 (a) 10 (b) 21
 (c) 64 (d) 129
 (e) 356

Directions (16-20): In the following questions two equations numbered I and II are given. You have to solve both the equation and

Give answer if

- a) $x > y$
 b) $x \geq y$
 c) $x < y$
 d) $x \leq y$
 e) $x = y$ or the relationship can't be determined

- 16) I. $(x^{7/5} \div 9) = 169 \div x^{3/5}$
 II. $y^{1/4} \times y^{1/4} \times 7 = 273 \div y^{1/2}$
 (a) $x > y$ (b) $x \geq y$
 (c) $x < y$ (d) $x \leq y$
 (e) $x = y$ or the relationship can't be determined
- 17) I. $\frac{(2)^5 + (11)^3}{6} = x^3$
 II. $4y^3 = - (589 \div 4) + 5y^3$
 (a) $x > y$ (b) $x \geq y$
 (c) $x < y$ (d) $x \leq y$
 (e) $x = y$ or the relationship can't be determined
- 18) I. $\sqrt{1225}x + \sqrt{4900} = 0$
 II. $(81)^{1/4}Y + (343)^{1/3} = 0$
 (a) $x > y$ (b) $x \geq y$
 (c) $x < y$ (d) $x \leq y$
 (e) $x = y$ or the relationship can't be determined
- 19) I. $\frac{18}{x^2} + \frac{6}{x} - \frac{12}{x^2} = \frac{8}{x^2}$
 II. $y^2 + 9.68 + 5.64 = 16.95$
 (a) $x > y$ (b) $x \geq y$
 (c) $x < y$ (d) $x \leq y$
 (e) $x = y$ or the relationship can't be determined
- 20) I. $12x^2 + 11x + 12 = 10x^2 + 22x$
 II. $13y^2 - 18y + 3 = 9y^2 - 10y$
 (a) $x > y$ (b) $x \geq y$
 (c) $x < y$ (d) $x \leq y$
 (e) $x = y$ or the relationship can't be determined
- 21) The respective ratio between the present ages of Ram, Rohan and Raj is 3 : 4 : 5. If the average of their present ages is 28 years then what would be the sum of the ages of Ram and Rohan together after 5 years?
 (a) 45 years (b) 55 years
 (c) 52 years (d) 59 years
 (e) None of these
- 22) Raman scored 456 marks in an exam and Sita got 54 percent marks in the same exam which is 24 marks less than Raman. If the minimum passing marks in the exam is

34%, then how much more marks did Raman scored than the minimum passing marks?

- (a) 184 (b) 196
 (c) 190 (d) 180
 (e) None of these

- 23) The cost of five chairs and three tables is Rs. 3,110/-. Cost of one chair is Rs. 210/- less than cost of one table. What is the cost of two tables and two chairs?
 (a) Rs 1,660/- (b) Rs 1860/-
 (c) Rs 2,600/-
 (d) Cannot be determined (e) None of these
- 24) The total area of a circle and a rectangle is equal to 1166 sq. cm. The diameter of the circle is 28 cm. What is the sum of the circumference of the circle and the perimeter of the rectangle if the length of the rectangular is 25 cm?
 (a) 186 cm (b) 182 cm
 (c) 184 cm
 (d) Cannot be determined
 (e) None of these
- 25) A 320 meter long train moving with an average speed of 120 km/hr crosses a platform in 24 seconds. A man crosses the same platform in 4 minutes. What is the speed of man in meter/second?
 (a) 24 (b) 15
 (c) 16 (d) 20
 (e) None of these
- 26) Smallest angle of a triangle is equal to two-third the smallest angle of a quadrilateral. The ratio between the angles of the quadrilateral is 3 : 4 : 5 : 6. Largest angle of the triangle is twice its smallest angle. What is the sum of second largest angle of the triangle and largest angle of the quadrilateral?
 (a) 160° (b) 180°
 (c) 190° (d) 170°
 (e) None of these
- 27) Seema purchased an item for Rs. 9,600/- and sold it for loss of 5 percent. From that money she purchased another item and sold it for gain of 5 percent. What is her overall gain/loss?
 (a) Loss of Rs 36/- (b) Profit of Rs 24/-
 (c) Loss of Rs 54/- (d) Profit of Rs 36/-
 (e) None of these
- 28) The sum of 8 consecutive odd numbers is 656. Also average of four consecutive even

number is 87. What is the sum of the smallest odd number and second largest even number?

- (a) 165 (b) 175
(c) 163
(d) Cannot be determined
(e) None of these

29) The simple interest accrued on a sum of certain principal is Rs. 7,200/- in six years at the rate of 12 p.c.p.a what would be the compound interest accrued on that principal at the rate of 5 p.c.p.a. in 2 years.

- (a) Rs 1020/- (b) Rs1055/-
(c) Rs1050/- (d) Rs1025/-
(e) None of these

30) Sum of square of first number and cube of second number together is 568. Also square of the second number is 15 less than square of 8. What is the value of three-fifth of the first number? (Assuming both the numbers are positive)

- (a) 18 (b) 8
(c) 9 (d) 16
(e) None of these

Directions (31-35): Study the following table carefully to answer the questions that follow.

AMOUNT EARNED (IN LACS) BY FIVE PERSONS IN SIX DIFFERENT YEARS

Year	Person				
	A	B	C	D	E
2005	2.24	4.33	5.64	3.73	1.69
2006	1.44	3.34	6.93	5.52	5.52
2007	4.63	2.79	7.52	5.68	4.28
2008	6.65	6.63	5.83	6.74	6.83
2009	5.34	4.50	5.94	8.42	5.53
2010	7.38	5.36	7.84	9.45	9.94

31) Total amount earned by Person -A in the year 2006 and person C in the year 2010 together was approximately what percent of the amount earned by Person - E in the year 2009?

- (a) 151 (b) 155
(c) 168 (d) 174
(e) 162

32) What is the approximate percent increase in the amount earned by Person-D in the year 2010 as compared to the previous year?

- (a) 7 (b) 21
(c) 18 (d) 15
(e) 12

33) Whose earning increased consistently from the year 2005 to the year 2010?

- (a) A (b) B
(c) C (d) D
(e) E

34) What was the respective ratio between the amount earned by person - B in the year 2007 and person - D in the year 2010?

- (a) 32 : 107 (b) 31 : 105
(c) 29 : 107 (d) 32 : 105
(e) None of these

35) What was the average of the earning of person-B in the year 2006, C in the year 2008 and E in the year 2005 together?

- (a) Rs 362 lacs (b) Rs 264 lacs
(c) Rs 364 lacs (d) Rs 1086 lacs
(e) None of these

REASONING ABILITY

36) **Statements:** Some tasks are hurdles. All hurdles are jobs. Some jobs are works.

Conclusion I: All works being hurdles is a possibility.

Conclusion II: At least some works are tasks.

- (a) Either conclusion I or II is true
(b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
(c) Both conclusion I and II are true
(d) Only conclusion I is true
(e) Only conclusion II is true

37) **Statements:** Some tasks are hurdles. All hurdles are jobs. Some jobs are works.

Conclusion I: Some jobs are tasks.

Conclusion II: All jobs are tasks.

- (a) Either conclusion I or II is true
(b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
(c) Both conclusion I and II are true
(d) Only conclusion I is true
(e) Only conclusion II is true

38) **Statements:** Some problems are solutions. No solution is a trick. All rules are tricks.

Conclusion I: No rule is a solution.

Conclusion II: Some problems are definitely not tricks.

- (a) Either conclusion I or II is true
(b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
(c) Both conclusion I and II are true
(d) Only conclusion I is true
(e) Only conclusion II is true

39) **Statements:** All ministers are deans. Some deans are heads. Some heads are principals.

Conclusion I: No principal is a minister.

Conclusion II: All heads being ministers is a possibility.

- (a) Either conclusion I or II is true
- (b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
- (c) Both conclusion I and II are true
- (d) Only conclusion I is true
- (e) Only conclusion II is true

40) Statements: No queue is a line. Some queues are rows.

Conclusion I: No row is a line.

Conclusion II: All rows are lines.

- (a) Either conclusion I or II is true
- (b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
- (c) Both conclusion I and II are true
- (d) Only conclusion I is true
- (e) Only conclusion II is true

Directions (Q. 41 - 42): Study the following information and answer the given question.

D is the father of A. D is married to P. P is the mother of J. P has only one daughter. J is married to U. U is the son of L.

41) How is J related to L?

- (a) Daughter
- (b) Granddaughter
- (c) Cannot be determined
- (d) Niece
- (e) Daughter-in-law

42) How is A related to U?

- (a) Cannot be determined
- (b) Brother-in-law
- (c) Brother
- (d) Sister
- (e) Sister-in-law

Directions (Qs. 43-47): Study the given information carefully and answer the given question.

Ten people are sitting in two parallel rows containing five people each, in such a way that there is equal distance between adjacent persons. In row 1-J, K, L, M and N are seated (not necessarily in the same order) and all of them are facing north. In row-2 R, S, T, U and V are seated (not necessarily in the same order) and all of them are facing south. Therefore in the given seating arrangement each member seated in a row faces another member of the other row.

V sit one of the extreme ends of the line. Only two people sit between V and R. The one who faces R sits to the immediate left of L. Only one person sits between L and K. The one who faces K sits to the immediate left of S. N sits second to the right of J. Neither K nor L face U.

43) Who amongst the following is facing M?

- (a) U
- (b) R
- (c) T
- (d) V
- (e) S

44) Four of the following five are alike in a certain way based on the given arrangement and hence form a group.

- (a) NK
- (b) JL
- (c) ML
- (d) RU
- (e) ST

45) What is the position of U with respect to S?

- (a) Third to the right
- (b) Immediate left
- (c) Second to the left
- (d) Second to the right
- (e) Immediate right

46) Which of the following statements is true regarding N?

- (a) Only two persons sit between N and M.
- (b) N sits at an extreme end of the row.
- (c) N faces one of the immediate neighbours of R.
- (d) None of the given statements is true.
- (e) L sits to the immediate right of N.

47) Who amongst the following is facing T?

- (a) N
- (b) M
- (c) K
- (d) J
- (e) L

Directions (Qs. 48-52): In this question, relationship between different elements is shown in the statements. The statements are followed by conclusions. Study the conclusions based on the given statement and select the appropriate answer

48) Statements $C \geq O = M < U \leq N < D$

Conclusions

- I. $O < D$
- II. $C > N$
- (a) Both conclusions I and II are true
- (b) Only conclusion I is true
- (c) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
- (d) Either conclusion I or II is true
- (e) Only conclusions II is true

49) Statements $P > L = A \geq C = E$

Conclusions

- I. $E \leq L$
- II. $P > C$
- (a) Either conclusion I or II is true
- (b) Only conclusion II is true
- (c) Both conclusions I and II are true
- (d) Only conclusion I is true
- (e) Neither conclusion I nor II is true

50) Statements $S > T \leq A = I; L \geq A$

Conclusions

- I. $L \geq T$
- II. $A > S$

- (a) Only conclusion II is true
- (b) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
- (c) Only conclusion I is true
- (d) Either Conclusion I or II is true
- (e) Both conclusions I and II are true

- 51) Statements** $S > T \leq A = I; L \geq A$
Conclusion
 I. $S > L$ II. $I \leq L$
 (a) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
 (b) Only conclusion I is true
 (c) Both Conclusions I and II are true
 (d) Either Conclusion I or II is true
 (e) Only conclusion II is true

- 52) Statements** $N \leq U < M = B \geq E > R$
Conclusions
 I. $N \leq R$ II. $E \leq U$
 (a) Either Conclusion I or II is true
 (b) Both Conclusion I and II are true
 (c) Only conclusion II is true
 (d) Only conclusion I is true
 (e) Neither conclusion I nor II is true

Directions (Qs. 53-57): Study the given information carefully to answer the given question.

In certain code language
 'committee to review papers' is written as 'es fr re pt'
 'review meeting in morning' is written as 'ch ba mo fr'
 'meeting to appoint members' is written as 're dv ch gi'
 'appoint chairman in review' is written as 'mo gi fr yu'
 (All the codes are two letter codes only)

- 53) What is the code for 'morning' in the given code language?**
 (a) mo (b) yu
 (c) ch
 (d) other than those given as options
 (e) ba
- 54) In the given code language, what does the code 'pt' stands for?**
 (a) appoint
 (b) either 'papers' or 'committee'
 (c) morning (d) review
 (e) either 'for' or 'members'
- 55) What is the code for 'review call' in the given code language?**
 (a) dv lq (b) lg gi
 (c) lq fr (d) gi es
 (e) fr dv
- 56) What is the code for 'to' in the given code language?**
 (a) mo (b) fr
 (c) gi (d) dv
 (e) re

- 57) If 'appoint new members' is coded as 'dv wz gi' in the given code language, then what is the code for 'new chairman meeting'?**
 (a) wz ch es (b) ch wz yu
 (c) yu mo wz (d) fr es wz
 (e) ch yu fr

Directions (Qs. 58-62): Study the given information carefully to answer the given question.

C, D, E, F, P, Q, R and S are sitting around a circular table facing the centre with equal distance between each other (but not necessarily in the same order). Each one of them is also related to D in some way or the other. P sits third to the right of E. D sits to the immediate left of E. Only one person sits between P and D's son. R sits to the immediate right of D's son. Only three people sit between D's husband and R. Only one person sits between D's husband and C.

F sits to the immediate right of Q. D's father sits second to the right of F. Only three people sit between D's father and D's brother.

D's daughter sits second to the right of S. D's sister sits third to the right of D's mother.

- 58) Which of the following statements is TRUE with respect to the given information?**
 (a) S is the brother of R.
 (b) Only three people sit between Q and S.
 (c) E sits third to the right of D's daughter.
 (d) All the given options are true
 (e) R is an immediate neighbour of D.
- 59) Who among the following is the brother of D?**
 (a) Q (b) E
 (c) F (d) C
 (e) R
- 60) As per the given seating arrangement, Q : P in the same way as R: E. Then following the same pattern D: ?**
 (a) R (b) S
 (c) Q (d) C
 (e) F
- 61) Who sits to the immediate left of D's son?**
 (a) D's father (b) R
 (c) Q (d) S
 (e) D's mother
- 62) How is Q related to P?**
 (a) Sister
 (b) Sister-in-law
 (c) Niece
 (d) Brother-in-law
 (e) Aunt

Directions (Qs. 63-65): Read the given information carefully and answer the given question.

Each of the six buses R, S, T, U, V and W has different number of occupants. T has more number of participants than R and S but less than V. U has less number of occupants than only W. S does not have the lowest number of occupants. The bus having second lowest number of occupants has 20 occupants and the bus having second highest number of occupants has 64 occupants. T has 21 less number of occupants than U.

- 63) Which of the following buses has third lowest number of occupants?
 (a) S (b) T
 (c) R (d) U
 (e) V
- 64) If the number of occupants of bus R is more than 7 and is an odd number which is divisible by 3 but not 5, how many occupants are there in bus R?
 (a) 9 (b) 21
 (c) 15 (d) 27
 (e) 19
- 65) How many occupants does bus V possibly have?
 (a) 43 (b) 72
 (c) 20 (d) 36
 (e) 56

Directions (Qs. 66-70): Study the following information and answer the question.

Seven people namely M, N, O, P, Q, R and S have an anniversary but not necessarily in the same order, in seven different months (of the same year) namely February, March, April, June, September, October and November. Each of them also likes a different flower namely Rose, Jasmine, Lily, Marigold, Daffodil, Sunflower and Orchid but not necessarily in the same order.

R has an anniversary in the month which has more than 30 days. Only one person has an anniversary between R and the one who likes Rose. Both S and O have an anniversary in one of the months after the one likes Rose. S has an anniversary immediately before O. The one who likes Lily has an anniversary in the month which has less than 30 days. Only three people have an anniversary between the one who likes Lily and the one who likes Orchid. Only two people have an anniversary between S and the one who likes Marigold. P has an anniversary immediately after the one who likes Marigold. Only two people have an anniversary between P and Q. M has an anniversary immediately before the one who likes Jasmine. O does not like Sunflower.

- 66) Which of the following represents the month in which S has an anniversary?
 (a) Cannot be determined
 (b) October (c) March
 (d) April (e) September
- 67) Which of the following does O like?
 (a) Rose (b) Jasmine
 (c) Marigold (d) Daffodil
 (e) Orchid
- 68) As per the given arrangement, Lily is related to April and Marigold is related to September following a certain pattern, which of the following is Orchid related to following the same pattern?
 (a) February (b) June
 (c) October (d) November
 (e) March
- 69) Which of the following represents the people who have an anniversary in April and November respectively?
 (a) N, M (b) Q, M
 (c) Q, O (d) N, O
 (e) N, S
- 70) How many people have an anniversary between the months in which Q and M have an anniversary?
 (a) None (b) One
 (c) Three (d) Two
 (e) More than three

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 71-78): Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

We have inherited the tradition of secrecy about the budget from Britain where also the system has been strongly attacked by eminent economists and political scientists including Peter Jay. Sir Richard Clarke, who was the originating genius of nearly every important development in the British budgeting techniques during the last two decades, has spoken out about the abuse of budget secrecy: "The problems of long-term tax policy should surely be **debated** openly with the facts on the table. In my opinion, all governments should have just the same duty to publish their expenditure policy. Indeed, this obligation to publish taxation policy is really essential for the control of public expenditure in order to get realistic taxation implications." Realising that democracy **flourishes** best on the principles of open government, more and more democracies are having an open public debate on budget proposals

before introducing the appropriate Bill in the legislature. In the United States the budget is conveyed in a message by the President to the Congress, which comes well in advance of the date when the Bill is introduced in the Congress. In Finland the Parliament and the people are already discussing in June the tentative budget proposals which are to be introduced in the Finnish Parliament in September. Every budget contains a cartload of figures in black and white - but the dark figures represent the **myriad** lights and shades of India's life, the contrasting tones of poverty and wealth, and of bread so dear and flesh and blood so cheap, the deep tints of adventure and enterprise and man's ageless struggle for a brighter morning. The Union budget should not be an annual **scourge** but a part of presentation of annual accounts of a partnership between the Government and the people. That partnership would work much better when the nonsensical secrecy is replaced by openness and public consultations, resulting in fair laws and the people's acceptance of their moral duty to pay.

71. **How do the British economists and political scientists react to budget secrecy? They are**
 (a) in favour of having a mix of secrecy and openness.
 (b) indifferent to the budgeting techniques and taxation policies.
 (c) very critical about maintenance of budget secrecy.
 (d) advocates of not disclosing in advance the budget contents.
 (e) None of these
72. **The author thinks that openness in budget is essential as it leads to**
 (a) prevention of tax implications
 (b) people's reluctance to accept their moral duties
 (c) exaggerated revelation of the strengths and weaknesses of economy
 (d) making our country on par with Finland
 (e) None of these
73. **The author seems to be in favour of**
 (a) maintaining secrecy of budget
 (b) judicious blend of secrecy and openness
 (c) transparency in budget proposals
 (d) replacement of public constitution by secrecy
 (e) None of these
74. **The secrecy of the budget is maintained by all of the following countries except**
 A. Finland B. India
 C. United States
 (a) Only A (b) Only B
 (c) Only C (d) A and C
 (e) B and C

75. **Which of the following statements is definitely TRUE in the context of the passage?**
 (a) The British Government has been religiously maintaining budget secrecy.
 (b) Budget secrecy is likely to lead to corrupt practices.
 (c) Consulting unjustifiable taxes with public helps make them accept those taxes.
 (d) There should be no control on public expenditure in democratic condition.
 (e) None of these
76. **Sir Richard Clarke seems to deserve the credit for**
 (a) transformation in the British budgetary techniques.
 (b) maintenance of secrecy of the British budget.
 (c) detection of abuse of transparency in budget.
 (d) bringing down the tax load on British people.
 (e) None of these
77. **From the contents of the passage, it can be inferred that the author is**
 (a) authoritarian in his approach.
 (b) a democratic person.
 (c) unaware of India's recent economic developments.
 (d) a conservative person.
 (e) None of these
78. **For making the budget realistic, the Government should**
 (a) refrain from making public the proposed provisions before finalisation.
 (b) discuss it secretly within themselves.
 (c) encourage the public to send in their suggestions.
 (d) consult the public, defend their own plans and accept public suggestions.
 (e) None of these

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 79-80) : Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

79. **SCOURGE**
 (a) ritual
 (b) presentation
 (c) whip
 (d) compromise
 (e) remedy
80. **MYRIAD**
 (a) adequate
 (b) functional
 (c) incompatible
 (d) abundant
 (e) excellent



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DIRECTIONS (Qs. 81-82) : Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

- 81. FLOURISHES**
 (a) disappears (b) degenerates
 (c) vanishes (d) blooms
 (e) opens
- 82. DEBATED**
 (a) questioned severely
 (b) opposed strongly
 (c) accepted unconditionally
 (d) discussed frankly
 (e) implemented forcibly

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 83-87): Rearrange the following six sentences (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions given below them.

A. The British government plans to insist that spouses should have to learn English before they are allowed into Britain to join their husbands or wives have run into a barrage of opposition and warnings that the idea could breach human rights laws.

B. The responses to an official consultation on the proposal published on Thursday was more than two to one against the proposal, with many warning it could break up marriages because many cannot afford or access English lessons.

C. Immigration lawyers have told ministers that spouses and fiancés should not be barred from joining a partner in the U.K. for language reasons and that the plan could breach the human rights convention's guarantees to the right to marry and have a family life.

D. The anonymised responses were 68 to 31 against the preen try English test for spouses.

E. Other immigration organizations said the measure would discriminate against those from rural areas in South Asia, where the opportunities to learn English are limited.

- 83. Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence?**
 (a) A (b) B
 (c) C (d) D
 (e) E
- 84. Which of the following should be the SECOND sentence?**
 (a) A (b) B
 (c) C (d) D
 (e) E
- 85. Which of the following should be the THIRD sentence?**
 (a) A (b) B

- (c) C (d) D
 (e) E

- 86. Which of the following should be the FOURTH sentence?**
 (a) A (b) B
 (c) C (d) D
 (e) E
- 87. Which of the following should be the FIFTH (LAST) sentence?**
 (a) A (b) B
 (c) C (d) D
 (e) E

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 88-92) :In each of these questions, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases marked (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Choose one word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

- 88.** It's (a) imperative that a management student maintains (b) a grade point of (c) "B" in his (d) major field. No errors (e).
- 89.** Regardless of (a) your teaching method, the objective of any conversation class should be (b) for the students to practice (c) speaking words. (d). No errors (e)
- 90.** When they have been (a) frightened, (b) as for example, by (c) an electrical storm, dairy cows may refuse giving (d) milk. No errors (e)
- 91.** If the ozone gases of the atmosphere did not filter out (a) the ultraviolet rays of the sun, life as (b) we know it (c) would not have evolved on earth (d). No errors (e)
- 92.** The pleura that cover (a) the exterior (b) of the lungs (c) and the inner walls of the chest cavity is (d) a thin elastic membrane. No errors (e)

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 93-100) : In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fills the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Fourteen centuries ago when the world was much younger, the ruler of all India, Rajah Balhait, was(93).... about his people. A new game of dice, called hard, had(94).... the imagination of his subjects, teaching them that chance alone-a roll of the dice guided the(95).... of men. All who played this game of fortune lost their(96).... in the virtues of courage, prudence, wisdom and hope. It bred a fatalism that was(97).... the spirit of the kingdom. Raja Balhait commissioned Sissa, an intelligent courtier at his court to find an answer to this(98).... After much(99).... the clever Sissa invented another game. Chaturanga, the exact(100).... of hard, in which the four elements of

the Indian army were the key pieces. In the game these pieces-chariots, horses, elephants and foot soldiers-joined with a royal counselor to defend their king and defeat the enemy.

93. (a) concerned (b) confident
(c) ignorant (d) indifferent
(e) partisan
94. (a) propelled (b) enshrined
(c) captured (d) activated
(e) enhanced
95. (a) communities (b) ways
(c) abnormalities (d) destiny
(e) groups
96. (a) bravado (b) interest
(c) peace (d) wealth (e) faith
97. (a) appalling (b) crushing
(c) moistening (d) promoting
(e) overwhelming
98. (a) apprehension (b) risk
(c) problem (d) game
(e) destiny
99. (a) deliberation (b) absorption
(c) insight (d) hesitation
(e) reluctance
100. (a) nature (b) equivalent
(c) picture (d) opposite
(e) replica

ANSWER KEY

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	C	2	C	3	B	4	E	5	A
6	E	7	D	8	D	9	C	10	A
11	C	12	B	13	C	14	B	15	E
16	D	17	A	18	A	19	E	20	B
21	D	22	A	23	A	24	B	25	D
26	B	27	B	28	C	29	D	30	C
31	C	32	E	33	D	34	B	35	A
36	D	37	D	38	C	39	E	40	B
41	E	42	B	43	A	44	C	45	A
46	A	47	E	48	B	49	C	50	C
51	E	52	E	53	E	54	B	55	C
56	E	57	B	58	B	59	C	60	C
61	A	62	E	63	B	64	A	65	E
66	B	67	D	68	D	69	D	70	C
71	C	72	E	73	B	74	D	75	E
76	A	77	B	78	D	79	C	80	D
81	B	82	C	83	A	84	B	85	D
86	C	87	E	88	C	89	C	90	D
91	A	92	A	93	A	94	C	95	D
96	B	97	B	98	C	99	A	100	D

SOLUTIONS

- 1) c) $92 \times 576 \div 2 \times 36 = x^3 + 7$
 $736 - 7 = x^3$
 $x^3 = 729$ So, $x = 9$
- 2) c) $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{92}{100} \times \frac{24}{23} \times 650 - 85$
 $= 104 - 85 = 19$
- 3) b) $\left(\frac{15 \times 0.4 \times 30 \times 27 \times 8}{1080} \right)^4 = 6^{x+5}$
 $36^4 = 6^{x+5}$
 $x = 3$
- 4) e) $3 + 2 - 1 - 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{5}{6} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{x^2}{10}$
 $3 + \frac{3+6-5-10}{12} = \frac{x^2}{10}$
 $3 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{x^2}{10}$
 $\frac{5}{2} = \frac{x^2}{10}$
 $x^2 = 25$
So $x = 5$
- 5) a) $\sqrt{8} + 3 = x^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$
 $x^3 = 343$
So $x = 7$
- 6) e) $-5^3 + 30^2 - 3^4$
 $= -125 + 900 - 81$
 $= 694$
- 7) d) $467 - 3245 + 1123 - 2310 = x$
- 8) d) $\frac{5998}{10} + 670 - 140$
 $600 + 670 - 140 = 1130$
- 9) c) 68% of 1400 - 14% of 1300
 $= 952 - 182 = 770$
- 10) a) $\frac{576}{81} \times \frac{399}{39} \times \frac{899}{41}$
 $= 7.1 \times 10.2 \times 21.9$
So, 1600 (approx)
- (11- 15):
- 11) c) $3 \times 2 + 1 = 7, 7 \times 2 = 1 + 15, 15 \times 2 + 1 = 31, 31 \times 2 + 1 = 63$
(c) 27
- 12) b) $19 + 7 = 26, 26 + 9 = 35, 35 + 11 = 46, 46 + 13 = 59$
(b) 33
- 13) c) $445 - 3 \div 2 = 221, 221 - 3 \div 2 = 109, 109 - 3 \div 2 = 53$
(c) 46

14) c) $3 \times 2 + 1 = 7, 7 \times 2 + 1 = 15, 15 \times 2 + 1 = 31$

(c) 39

15) e) $1 \times 2 + 1 = 3, 3 \times 3 + 1 = 10, 10 \times 2 + 1 = 21, 21 \times 3 + 1 = 64, 64 \times 2 + 1 = 129,$
 $129 \times 3 + 1 = 388$ (e) 356

16) d) $x^{\frac{7}{5}} \times x^{\frac{3}{5}} = 169 \times 9$ $y = \frac{273}{7} = 39$

$x = \pm 13 \times 3$

x	y
39	39

- 39

So, $x \leq y$

17) a) $x^3 = \frac{1363}{6}$

$y^2 = \frac{589}{4}$

$x > y$

18) a) $35x = -70$

$X = -2$

$3y = -7$

$y = -\frac{7}{3}$

$x > y$

19) e) $\frac{2}{x^2} = \frac{6}{x}$

$3x^2 = x$

$x = 3, 0$

$y^2 = 16.95 - 9.68 - 5.64$

$y^2 = 1.63 = 1.69$ (approx)

So, $y = \pm 1.3$

x	y
0	1.3
3	-1.3

C.B.D

20) b): $2x^2 - 11x + 12 = 0$

- 8	- 3
8	3
2	2

$4y^2 - 8y + 3 = 0$

- 6	- 2
6	2
4	4

x	y
4	1.5
1.5	0.5

$x \geq y$

21) d) $3 : 4 : 5 \rightarrow 28 \times 3 = 84$

21, 28, 35

After 5 years, $26 + 33 = 59$ yrs

22) a) Rama = 456

Sita = 54%

$54\% \equiv 432$

$1\% \equiv \frac{432}{54}$

$100\% \equiv \frac{432}{54} \times 100 = 800$

Pass %age = 34% of 800
 $= 272$

Raman = 184 marks more than pass marks

23) a) $5C + 3T = 3110$

$IC = T - 210$

So, $2T + 2CH = 1660$

24) b) $\pi r^2 + L \times B = 1166$

$196 \pi + L \times B = 1166$

$196 \pi + 25 \times B = 1166$

$25 B = 550$

$B = 22$

Now, $2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 14 + 2(25 + 22)$

$= 88 + 94 = 182$

25) d) $\frac{320 + P}{24} = 120 \times \frac{5}{18}$

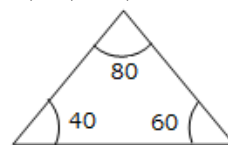
$P = 480m$

Speed of man = $\frac{480}{240} = 2m/s$

26) b) Sum

$3 : 4 : 5 : 6 \rightarrow 360$

60, 80, 100, 120



So, $60 + 120 = 180$

27) b) C.P = 9600

S.P = $9600 - 480 = 9120$

C.P = $9120 + 456 = 9576$

So, Loss = $9600 - 9576$
 $= 24$

28) c)

75	77	79	81	83	85	87	89
84	86	88	90				

So, $75 + 88 = 163$

29) d) $72\% \equiv 7200$

$1\% \equiv 100$

$100\% \equiv 10,000$

$$\text{So, C.I} = 2(500) + 1(25) \\ = 1025$$

30) c) $x^2 + y^3 = 568$

$$y^2 = 64 - 15$$

$$y^2 = 49$$

$$\text{So, } y = 7$$

$$\text{So, } x = \sqrt{568 - 343}$$

$$x = \sqrt{225} \quad x = 15$$

31) c) $\frac{A(2006) + C(2010)}{E(2009)} \times 100$

$$= \frac{1.44 + 7.84}{5.53} \times 100$$

$$= 165\% \text{ approx.}$$

32) e) $D(2010) \rightarrow 9.45$

$$D(2009) \rightarrow 8.42$$

$$\text{So, percentage increase} =$$

$$\frac{1.03}{8.42} \times 100 = 12\% \text{ approx}$$

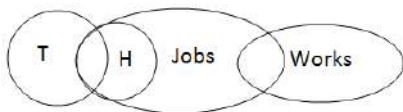
33) Observation from Graph

34) b) $\frac{B(2007)}{D(2010)} = \frac{2.79}{9.45}$

35) a) $\frac{B(2006) + C(2008) + E(2005)}{3}$

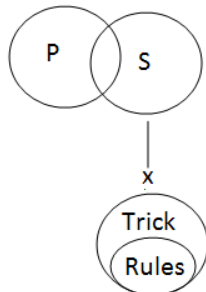
$$= \frac{3.34 + 5.83 + 1.69}{3} = 3.62$$

36) (d) (i) \checkmark (ii) x

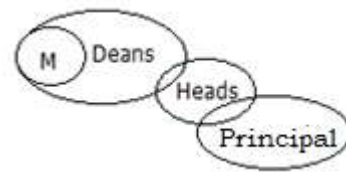


37) (d) (i) \checkmark (ii) x

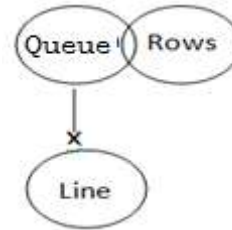
38) (c) (i) \checkmark (ii) \checkmark



39) (e) (i) x (ii) \checkmark



40) (b)



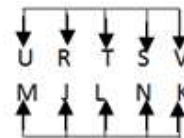
(i) x

(ii) x

(41-42)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^+ & = & P^- \quad L \\ | & & | \quad | \\ A^+ & & J^- = U^+ \end{array}$$

(43-47):



(48-52):

48) (b): $C \geq O = M < U \leq N < D$

$$O < D \quad \checkmark$$

$$C > N \quad X$$

49) (c): $P > L = A \geq C = E$

$$E \leq L \quad \checkmark$$

$$P > C \quad \checkmark$$

50) (c): $S > T \leq I = A \leq L$

$$L \geq T \quad \checkmark$$

$$A > S \quad X$$

51) (e): $S > T \leq I = A \leq L$

$$S > L \quad X$$

$$I \leq L \quad \checkmark$$

52) (e): $N \leq U < M = B \geq E > R$

$$N \leq R \quad X$$

$$E \leq U \quad X$$

(53-57):

Committee to Review papers

Review meeting in morning

Meeting to appoint members

Appoint chairman in review

Review - fr

Meeting - ch

es fr re pt

ch ba mo fr

re dv ch gi

mo gi fr yu

Appoint – gi
 Members – dv
 Chairman - yu
 in – mo
 morning – ba
 to – re
 papers/committee – pt/es

53) (e): Morning = ba

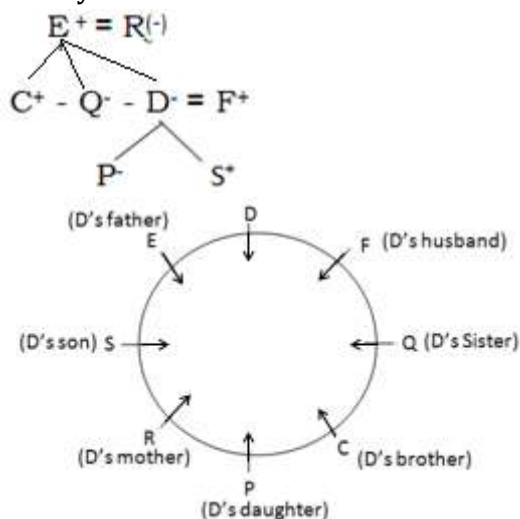
54) (b): pt = either papers or committee

55) (c): Review call = fr lq

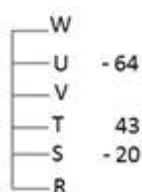
56) (e): to = re

57) (b): new chairman meeting = ch wz yu

(58-62): Family Tree



(63-65):



(66-70):

Person	Flower	Month
Q	Lily	February
R	Sunflower	March
N	Marigold	April
P	Rose	June
M	Orchid	September
S	Jasmine	October
O	Daffodil	November

71. (c) Eminent British economists and political scientists have strongly attacked the tradition of budget secrecy.

72. (e) It leads to the control of public expenditure in order to set realistic taxation implications.

73. (b) He has presented the example of both the open budget system and the secret budget system, practised by various countries and has looked into all their aspects.

76. (a) Sir Richard Clarke was the originating genius of nearly every important development in the British budgeting techniques during the last two decades.

78. (d) An open public debate on budget proposals should be held before introducing the appropriate bill.

(Q.83-87): The required arrangement is ABDCE.

A is the opening sentence as is clear from the given options.

A is followed by B as 'the proposal' mentioned in B is referring to whatever has been talked in A. B is followed by D as D continues to talk about the response mentioned in B.

Also note that B mentions a 2 : 1 response against the proposal which is also clear by the 68 : 31 mentioned in D. D is followed by C and C is followed by E. The 'other immigration organizations' mentioned in E clearly states that the previous sentence must have a statement from some other organization, which is the immigration lawyers as mentioned in C.

88. (c) 'Of' is unnecessary. The right use is grade point 'B'.

89. (c) There are two usage of practice-practice which is a noun and practise, which is verb. to + verb is the correct use so the right answer should be 'to practise'.

90. (d) Replace "refuse giving" by "refuse to give"

91. (a) The last part of the sentence refers to the work completed in the past. In the format of, if and then, the tenses of two verbs in both parts should be same so it should have been 'had not filtered out'.

92. (a) For singular subject the verb in the simple present tense is plural so 'covers' not 'cover'.



Latest G.K. Bytes

DECEMBER 2020

- 1) Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavy Weight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? **Varunastra**
- 2) What is the strike range of Varunastra? **40 kms**
- 3) Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? **Meghalaya**
- 4) International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women is celebrated on which day? **November 25**
- 5) National Milk Day is observed on Nov 26 to mark the birth anniversary of which great pioneer of milk industry? **Dr. Verghese Kurien**
- 6) World Milk Day is observed around the world on which date? **June 01.**
- 7) The Constitution Day celebrated on Nov 26 is also known as _____ Day: **National Law Day**
- 8) Which national day is observed on Nov 27 to promote organ donation? **Indian Organ Donation Day**
- 9) Name the Congress veteran and AICC treasurer who passed away on Nov 25: **Ahmed Patel**
- 10) The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held on Nov 20 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister of which country? **Malaysia**
- 11) Which country will host APEC summit in 2021? **New Zealand**
- 12) Name the strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal which crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on Nov 25: **Nivar**
- 13) World Heritage Week is celebrated every year from Nov 19-25 with the support of which UN agency? **UNESCO**
- 14) Name the Argentinean football legend who passed away on Nov 25: **Diego Maradona**
- 15) Who has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Dubai? **Greg Barclay**
- 16) Which web series has become first from India to win the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards, 2020? **Delhi Crime**
- 17) Which film has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category? **Jallikattu**
- 18) Jallikattu film has been made in which language? **Malayalam**
- 19) Which Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2? **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**

- 20) Pilibhit Tiger Reserve won the TX2 award for which achievement? **For more than doubling the number of tigers in the past four years, from 25 to 65.**
- 21) The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November with association of which state? **Tripura**
- 22) In which country Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Member of Parliament (MP) created history by becoming the first Indian-origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land? **New Zealand**
- 23) Faqir Chand Kohli passed away due to a heart attack on November 26 at his residence in Mumbai. He was known as the "Father of _____ Industry": **IT**
- 24) Faqir Chand Kohli was the first CEO of which major IT company? **TCS - Tata Consultancy Services**
- 25) According to data by the NSO on Nov 27, the Indian economy contracted by ____ per cent in the quarter ending Sep 30: **7.5**
- 26) Which country has been ranked at the top in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA on November 27? **Belgium**
- 27) Russia has selected which Indian drug company to manufacture Sputnik V Corona vaccine in India? **Hetero Drugs, Hyderabad**
- 28) Govt has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in which state? **Uttarakhand**
- 29) Roch Marc Christian Kabore has been re-elected as the President of Burkina Faso, a small landlocked country in _____? **Western Africa**
- 30) Cambridge Dictionary has named _____ as Word of the Year 2020: **'Quarantine'**
- 31) Which Indian short film has been selected as India's official entry at the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars) in the 'Live Action Short Film' category? **Shameless**
- 32) Who from India chaired the 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format? **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu**
- 33) How many countries are the members of SCO? **Eight**
- 34) Who is the Secretary General of SCO? **Valadimir Norov**
- 35) A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 was released to mark the centennial foundation day of which university? **University of Lucknow**
- 36) MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series was recently inducted into Indian Navy. What is it? **Drone**
- 37) Which country has supplied MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone to India? **USA**

38)	Where in India the largest Solar Project is being set up at a high altitude place? Air Force Station, Leh.
39)	Which bank became the first bank in India to cross Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalization? HDFC Bank
40)	The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf countries is being developed in Saih Shuaib, in which country? UAE
41)	Which batsman recently created a new record for becoming the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs? Virat Kohli
42)	December 1 is observed as the World AIDS Day. Which virus causes AIDS? HIV - human immunodeficiency virus
43)	RBI has increased the timings for RTGS transactions wef Dec 14, 2020. What are the new timings? 24X7 – round the clock – all the days
44)	During April-September 2020, India attracted highest amount of FDI from which country? Singapore
45)	India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched recently under which brand name? XP-100
46)	Which public sector oil marketing company has launched XP_100 petrol? Indian Oil Corporation Limited
47)	_____ become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine: Britain
48)	Nongpok Sekmai police station has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. It is in which state? Manipur
49)	The Reserve Bank has asked which Bank to temporarily stop all launches of the 'Digital Business generating activities'? HDFC Bank
50)	India's spice king and a noted philanthropist, owner of MDH spices, passed away on Dec 3. What was his name? Mahashay Dharampal Gulati
51)	What is the full form of MDH? Mahashian di Hatti
52)	Researchers at which university have created the world's smallest memory device: University of Texas, USA
53)	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also called World Disability Day is observed on which date? December 3
54)	December 2 is observed as the National Pollution Control Day. It is associated with which big industrial disaster? Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Dec 2-3, 1984
55)	What was the name of the highly poisonous gas leakage of which in Bhopal claimed over 6,000 lives in 1984? Methyl Iso-cyanate – MIC
56)	Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as _____ of Lok Sabha with effect from 1 December: Secretary-General
57)	Who appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha? Lok Sabha Speaker
58)	The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode in which state? Nagaland

59)	According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, _____ is the most polluted city in the world: Lahore
60)	As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, _____ is the most impacted country by terrorism, for the second year in a row: Afghanistan
61)	What was India's rank as per the Global Terrorism Index 2020? 8th
62)	Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced _____ as its 2020 word of the year: Pandemic
63)	World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated around the world on which date? December 2
64)	Government has announced launch of a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana, on which river? Saryu
65)	Severe cyclonic storm Nivar made landfall early on Dec 3 at Marakkanam in which state? Tamil Nadu
66)	Which national day is observed on Dec 4 to mark the fierce attack by Indian Navy on Karachi harbour? National/Indian Navy Day
67)	The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise named _____ from 4 to 5 December: PASSEX
68)	The PASSEX exercise with Russian Navy was conducted in which area? Eastern Indian Ocean Region
69)	Name the former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron who announced to return his Padma Vibhushan award in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws: Parkash Singh Badal
70)	The RBI has proposed to enhance the limit for contactless card transactions from Rs 2,000 to Rs _____ from January 1, 2021: Rs. 5,000
71)	Who has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year'? Gitanjali Rao
72)	Who is the winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020? Ranjitsinh Disale from Gujarat
73)	What is the cash award given with the Global Teacher Prize? \$ 1 million
74)	Who has topped the list of the richest women in India with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore? Roshni Nadar Malhotra
75)	Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the CEO of which company? HCL Technologies
76)	Scientists in which country have built the world's first light-based quantum computer which is one trillion times faster than the most powerful supercomputer? China
77)	Who has been elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21? Uday Shankar
78)	International Day of Banks is observed on which day of December? Fourth
79)	What is the theme of the World Soil Day observed on Dec 5? Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity

80)	Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer – Asia" has found that _____ has the highest bribery rate at 39%: India
81)	The Indian Air Force carried out successful firing of the short-range Igla missiles. They have been supplied by which country? Russia
82)	Which state proposes to set up Raimona National Park that will cover an area of 422 sq km.? Assam
83)	The government has given its nod to create a new position in the India army. What is its name? Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy
84)	Who is the first appointee to the newly created post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy? Lt Gen Paramjit Singh
85)	Japanese spaceship _____ successfully sent on earth a small capsule to deliver samples collected by it from a distant asteroid: Hayabusa-2
86)	What is the name of the space agency of Japan? Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency – JAXA
87)	International Volunteer Day is observed on which date? December 5
88)	Which two cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO? Gwalior and Orchha
89)	Name the India's top formula racer who created history on Dec 6 as he became the first driver from the country to win a Formula 2 race: Jehan Daruwalla
90)	International Civil Aviation Day is observed on Dec 7 to highlight the role and importance of which international organization? International Civil Aviation Organisation
91)	Where are the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organisation located? Montreal, Canada
92)	Which national day is observed throughout the country on Dec 7 to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform: Armed Forces Flag Day
93)	Asian Development Bank approved a \$ 190 million loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in which Indian city? Bengaluru
94)	Which International day is observed on Dec 2 to spread awareness about ending human trafficking and the exploitation of humans? International Day for Abolition of Slavery
95)	Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of which international foundation? WHO Foundation
96)	Which Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which allows its use to customers of any other bank? ICICI Bank
97)	The International Olympic Committee has registered which dance form as an official Olympic sport with the name breaking? Break-dance
98)	_____ has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface: China
99)	Which global bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India? Asian Development Bank

100)	Who has been declared World Athlete of the Year – Male by the World Athletics? Mondo Duplantis of Sweden
101)	Mondo Duplantis is associated with which sports? Pole Vault
102)	Who is the winner of the World Athlete of the Year – Female award? Yulimar Rojas
103)	Yulimar Rojas is an outstanding champion of which athletic event? Triple jump
104)	Sergio Perez became the first Mexican victor (since 1970) in F1 race winning the Sakhir Grand Prix in which country? Bahrain
105)	Sergio Perez, winner of the Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain, hails from which country? Mexico
106)	Who became the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes? Kibiwott Kandie
107)	Kibiwott Kandie is a marathon runner from which country? Kenya
108)	International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on which day of December? 9th
109)	What is the theme of this year's International Anti-Corruption Day? Recover With Integrity
110)	The Indian Navy celebrates National Submarine Day on Dec 9 to commemorate the induction of the first submarine named _____ : INS Kalvari
111)	Nepal and China jointly announced on Dec 8 that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest. The new height is higher by which amount? 86cm
112)	In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, who has been placed at top? Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
113)	Which politician has secured highest rank, 41 st , among Indians in the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women? Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister
114)	Parthiv Patel announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game. He led which Ranji team to its first victory? Gujarat
115)	Which Indian organization won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award? Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
116)	The ICAR is based in which city? New Delhi
117)	Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for which of his novel? The City and the Sea
118)	India has been ranked at which place in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) - 2020? 10th
119)	Which day of December has been selected for celebrating the Human Rights Day? 10th
120)	_____ has beaten Coronavirus to second place to become India's most searched word on Google in 2020: IPL - Indian Premier League
121)	The union cabinet approved on Dec 8 which scheme to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities? Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

122)	Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana government will provide PF contribution of both employee and of employer for how many years? Two
123)	_____ has become the first Union Territory to practise 100% organic farming? Lakshadweep
124)	The Union Cabinet approved on Dec 9 the setting up of public Wi-Fi networks across the length and breadth of the country, by which name? PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI)
125)	The Indian Navy has placed an order for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems with which country? Israel
126)	According to a report by Truecaller, India has been placed at which place in terms of the number of spam calls? 9th
127)	Who has been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year'? Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
128)	Name the contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, who died in Mumbai on Dec 10: Astad Deboo
129)	Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of which Arabian country? Kuwait
130)	Which international day is observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world? International Mountain Day
131)	Who won FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Men for 2020? Wrestler Bajrang Punia
132)	Which female shooter won the FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Women for 2020? Elavenil Valarivan
133)	A joint virtual summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of _____ Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Dec 11: Uzbekistan
134)	The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 was awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from _____: Brazil
135)	Which international day is celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946? UNICEF Day, Dec 11
136)	Headquarters of UNICEF are located in which city? New York
137)	Who is the current head of the UNICEF? Ms. Henrietta H. Fore
138)	Which UN agency celebrates the International Universal Health Coverage Day on Dec 12? WHO - World Health Organisation
139)	The summit named Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was held recently to mark fifth anniversary of which climate agreement? Paris Climate Agreement
140)	_____ became the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help: Morocco
141)	The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, _____ and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held on Dec 14 in virtual mode: Iran
142)	Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and propagator of the Madhva

	ideology, passed away recently. He hailed from which state? Karnataka
143)	Which UN organization has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu? UNESCO
144)	Which great Bangladeshi leader is popularly known as Bangabandhu? Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
145)	Headquarters of UNESCO are located in which city? Paris
146)	Who is the current Director General of UNESCO? Ms. Audrey Azoulay
147)	WHO signed a MoU also known as 'Red Channel Agreement' with which popular NGO? Red Cross
148)	What is the name of the Nilgiri-class frigate that was recently launched at Kolkata? INS Himgiri
149)	Max Verstappen, winner of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, hails from which country? Netherlands
150)	The National Energy Conservation Day is observed on which day of December? 14th
151)	The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated by which organization under the Ministry of Power? Bureau of Energy Efficiency
152)	Yash Vardhan, the 17-year-old shooter from _____ won gold in the 10m air rifle at the 6th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship: Rajasthan
153)	Vijay Diwas is observed every year on Dec 16 to mark the victory over Pakistan in which war? 1971
154)	India Post Payments Bank launched a new digital payment app for its customers to operate their banking services online. What is its name? Dak Pay
155)	The United Kingdom has confirmed that Britain's Prime Minister _____ will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021: Boris Johnson
156)	The International Hockey Federation had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in _____, India: Odisha
157)	ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) were commissioned at Goa in which wing of Indian forces? Indian Coast Guard
158)	Name the eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka who died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14: Roddam Narasimha
159)	Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate Tea Day on which date? Dec. 15
160)	Which is the largest tea producing state of India? Assam
161)	Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14? Russia
162)	What is the name of the space agency of Russia? Roscosmos
163)	The New Development Bank approved a \$1 billion loan to provide support to _____ Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme: Atma Nirbhar Bharat

164)	Name the 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur engineer who won the Young Champions of the Earth 2020: Vidyut Mohan
165)	India slipped by one spot to rank ____ among 189 countries covered in the 2020 Human Development Index: 131
166)	Which country topped the 2020 Human Development Index? Norway
167)	A capsule from which Chinese spacecraft successfully brought back samples from the Moon's surface? Chang'e-5
168)	India signed a \$400 million pact with the _____ to protect the poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19: World Bank
169)	Name the American media personality who was announced the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes in its Highest-Paid Celebrity List 2020: Kylie Jenner
170)	Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected as the President of _____, a country in west Africa: Ghana
171)	ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite. What is its name? CMS-01
172)	Government has decided to include _____ henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games: Yoga
173)	ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre named _____, at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru: NETRTA
174)	The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in _____, Gujarat: Kutch
175)	India contributed \$ 1 million to which global sports body? World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
176)	Which country has been banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the next Olympics or any world championships for the next two years? Russia
177)	Which international day is observed every year on Dec 18 to protect the rights of migrant workers and of members of their families? International Migrants Day
178)	What is the theme for this year's International Migrants Day? Reimagining Human Mobility
179)	India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on Dec 18. How many minority communities are recognized in India? Six
180)	_____ has become the first zoo in the country to receive the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from the Accreditation Services for Certification Bodies (ASCB), UK: Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad
181)	Who won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2020 Award? Robert Lewandowski
182)	Robert Lewandowski hails from which country? Poland
183)	Which player won the Best FIFA women's Player 2020 Award? Lucy Bronze, England
184)	The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in which area? Indian Ocean

185)	The Olympic Council of Asia awarded hosting of 2030 Asian Games to _____ and of 2034 Asian Games to _____ : Doha, Qatar; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, respectively
186)	Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance? Singapore
187)	Which Bank in partnership with Mastercard, launched India's first metal credit card - 'PIONEER Heritage'? IndusInd Bank
188)	The Human Freedom Index 2020 placed India at the _____ spot out of 162 countries: 111th
189)	Which country topped the Human Freedom Index 2020? New Zealand
190)	India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was inaugurated at which place? Hyderabad
191)	The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of which four indigenous games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021? Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang Ta and Mallakhamb
192)	Martial art Thang Ta is associated with which state? Manipur
193)	Name the Congress veteran, who was twice Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and former Governor of UP, who passed away a day after his 93rd birthday: Motilal Vora
194)	International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on which date? Dec 20
195)	Name the 19 year old female wrestler from Haryana who won a silver in the 57 kg category at the World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia: Anshu Malik
196)	President of which country conferred the country's highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi? USA
197)	Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur, all three won gold medal in the World Cup of which sports? Boxing
198)	Who has been honoured with the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award? Ratan Tata
199)	National Mathematics Day is observed in India on which date? Dec 22
200)	National Mathematics Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which legendary mathematician? Srinivasa Ramanujan
201)	Which state became first to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India? Uttar Pradesh
202)	The World Bank recently came out with its revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report. India was placed at which spot in this report? 63rd
203)	ADB approved a \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project in which state? Assam
204)	Who is the winner of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020 Award? Lewis Hamilton
205)	The Reliance Industries-BP Plc combine started production of natural gas in Asia's deepest gas block in

	Bay of Bengal near which place? Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh
206)	Which two prominent universities held their centenary celebrations in the month of December? Aligarh Muslim University and Viswa Bharti University
207)	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) on Dec 23 marks the birth anniversary of which veteran farmer leader? Chaudhary Charan Singh
208)	Which day in December is observed as the National Consumer Day in India? Dec 24
209)	Which Bank sanctioned a Rs 2,100 crore loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state? Asian Development Bank
210)	Who has been elected as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)? Vineet Aggarwal
211)	Which bank launched a first of its kind portal 'Infinite India' to attract foreign firms to India? ICICI Bank
212)	Which country topped the final rankings for 2020 for men's team released by the International Hockey Federation? Belgium
213)	India has added Tso Kar wetland complex to the list of Ramsar Sites. It is in which state? Ladakh
214)	Who has been appointed chairman of the senior national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee? Chetan Sharma
215)	'Oh Mizoram' is a book written by P S Sreedharan Pillai. Who is he? Governor of Mizoram
216)	What is the title of the recent book by Pranab Mukharjee, former President of India? The Presidential Years 2012-2017
217)	Noted journalist and author Raj Kamal Jha won an international prize for which of his books? The City and the Sea
218)	Who is the author of the recently published popular book "A Sky Beyond the Storm"? Sabaa Tahir
219)	India celebrates Good Governance Day on December 25 in the honour of which great statesman of India? Atal Bihari Vajpayee
220)	What is the name of the Samadhi of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi? Sadaiv Atal
221)	What is the name of the web portal launched to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government? E-Sampada
222)	Florin Citu has been elected as the new _____ of Romania, a country in south eastern Europe: Prime Minister
NOVEMBER 2020	
223)	Which Indian organization has won the UN Global Climate Action Award? Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh
224)	Luis Arce has been elected as the President of which country? Bolivia
225)	The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in which region? NCR - National Capital Region

226)	As per the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25, how many vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established? Five
227)	Which state is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment? Tamil Nadu
228)	_____ has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. Kerala
229)	Railways has launched which initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones? 'Meri Saheli'
230)	Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging app like Whatsapp, Telegram. What is its name? Secure Application for Internet (SAI)
231)	Why October 29 has been selected as the International Internet Day? First internet transmission took place on this day in 1969
232)	Which bank has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance? DBS Bank, Singapore
233)	Which bank has been ranked as the "Best Bank in The World" by the Global Finance? DBS Bank, Singapore
234)	Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India? Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
235)	Kabartaal Wetland, also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', has been designated as Ramsar site. It is in which state? Bihar
236)	Which agency grants the 'Ramsar site' status? Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland
237)	The Indian Navy successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from which war ship on October 30? INS Kora
238)	Which national park has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve? Panna National Park
239)	Panna National Park is located in which state? Madhya Pradesh
240)	Panna National Park is associated with conservation of which animal? Tiger
241)	An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern _____ on Oct 30, killing over 50 people: Turkey
242)	Name the Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom playing British agent James Bond, 007: Sir Sean Connery
243)	Lewis Hamilton celebrated a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in which country? Italy
244)	Which two Indians won the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France? Amit Panghal and Sanjeet
245)	World Savings Day is observed on which day in India? October 30
246)	The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of which country with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph? Philippines
247)	A new scheme 'SERB - POWER' has been launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent _____: Women researchers

248) The SERB POWER scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of _____ years: 35-55
249) World Vegan Day is observed on which date? November 01
250) In which country gunmen stormed a book fair being held in a university, killing over 25 persons? Afghanistan
251) The central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for what purpose? Improvement of air quality measures
252) The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on _____ accounts: Basic Savings Bank Deposit
253) A solar energy-driven miniature train, billed as the country's first of its kind, was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village in which state? Kerala
254) The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade, by which name? Malabar Exercise
255) The Malabar Exercise was conducted in which area? Bay of Bengal
256) Priyanka Radhakrishnan, 41 year old politician created history by becoming the first Indian-origin woman minister in which country? New Zealand
257) Which Indian bank has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India by Asiamoney? HDFC Bank
258) Alassane Ouattara has been elected as the _____ of the Ivory Coast for the third time: President
259) Which tennis star recently became fourth player in the history to win 1,000 ATP matches? Rafael Nadal
260) India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated in which city? Nagpur
261) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$132.8 loan to _____ for upgrading the power distribution network: Meghalaya
262) In which country John Magufuli secured 84% votes to become the President for the second term? Tanzania
263) Which company built the ship ICGS C-452, recently inducted in the Indian Coast Guard? L&T Shipbuilding, Surat
264) Which nation conferred the honorary rank of "General" upon our Army Chief General M M Naravane? Nepal
265) Name the powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains that hit Nicaragua in Central America: Storm Eta
266) Which Social media platform has recently been allowed to use India's UPI platform to make bank payments? WhatsApp
267) The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in which state? Himachal Pradesh
268) The Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is being built on which river? Satluj
269) _____ is the first country to announce its exit from the Paris Climate Agreement – 2015: USA

270) Which country is the largest producer of the Green House Gases in the world? China
271) World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on which day of November? 5th
272) The Sendai Framework-2015 is associated with what? Disaster Risk Reduction
273) The Sendai Framework-2015 was adopted in which city? Sendai, Japan
274) The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for category of its customers? Millennials
275) The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in India at which airbase? Jamnagar, Gujarat
276) Gyanendro Ningombam has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India. He is former Hockey chief of which state? Manipur
277) National Cancer Awareness Day is observed on Nov 7. It commemorates the birthday of which great scientist whose research helped in finding cure for cancer? Marie Curie
278) What was the name of the military exercise involving Special Forces of Army, Navy and Air force, held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands? Bull Strike
279) The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world. It is in which state? Kerala
280) Which district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September? Chandauli
281) Who has been appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas? Dr M. M. Kuty
282) ISRO successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite named _____ : EOS-01
283) Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the _____ President of the United States: 46th
284) Who has been elected as the new Vice President of USA? Kamala Harris
285) International Day of Radiology is associated with which great scientist? Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen
286) The X-radiation is measured in which unit? Roentgen
287) President of which country released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi)? Nepal
288) The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for which period? 2021-26
289) A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article ____ of the Constitution: 280
290) India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project has been commissioned in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
291) National Legal Services Day observed on Nov 9 is associated with enactment of which Act? Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
292) World Town Planning Day or World Urbanism Day is celebrated on which day? Nov 08

293) Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as what? Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	315) The Finance Ministry has extended the ECLGS for small businesses, individual loans for business purposes till March 31, 2021. What is expansion of ECLGS? Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme
294) Which UN organization supports the celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development on Nov 10? UNESCO	316) Which new scheme has been launched to give Employees contribution and employer's contribution to EPF-registered organizations on recruiting new people? Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
295) The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in which state? Uttarakhand	317) Sadat Rahman who won the International Children's Peace Prize, hails from which country? Bangladesh
296) Indian army gifted 20 trained horses and 10 sniffer dogs to the army of which country? Bangladesh	318) Lonar Lake, the Crater Lake in Buldhana, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It is in which state? Maharashtra
297) _____ clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals: Mumbai Indians	319) Which city created a world record for lighting largest number of diya (over 6 lakh) at one time? Ayodhya
298) Which word has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020? Lockdown	320) Over 6 lakh diya were lighted on the banks of which river? Saryu
299) Which UN agency launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation	321) Typhoon Vamco devastated dozens of towns in Cagayan region of which country? Philippines
300) National Education Day is associated with the birth day of which great leader? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	322) World Kindness Day is observed on which date? November 13
301) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad held which portfolio in the first cabinet of free India? Education Ministry	323) What is the theme for this year's World Diabetes Day? The Nurse and Diabetes
302) World Pneumonia Day is observed on which date? Nov 12	324) National Press Day is observed on Nov 16 to mark the founding of which organization? Press Council of India
303) Pneumonia affects which part of human body? Lungs	325) International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 with the support of which UN agency? UNICEF
304) Public Service Broadcasting Day is associated with the sole visit of which great leader to radio station, Delhi? Mahatma Gandhi	326) Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh was in news for what reasons? It has been declared 'Ramsar wet land'
305) Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of which other country? Vietnam	327) Soumitra Chatterjee, a Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient, passed away at Kolkata Nursing Home at the age of 85. He was associated with which field? Acting
306) Which state topped the Second National Water Awards announced on November 11? Tamil Nadu	328) Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog named Rhaniaxalus. It is found in which area? Andaman Islands and the northeast
307) The world's longest serving Prime Minister, who died recently, was from which country? Bahrain	329) World Ayurveda Day is associated with which great ancient sage? Dhanwantari
308) Armenia and Azerbaijan engaged in a fierce military battle over which disputed territory? Nagorno-Karabakh	330) What is the theme for this year's World Ayurveda Day? Ayurveda for Covid
309) What is the name of the Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine that was launched recently? INS Vagir	331) National Epilepsy Day is observed on which day of November? 17th
310) A recession is defined as ____ successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP: Two	332) Epilepsy is associated with which organ of human body? Brain
311) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought OTT digital/online media under its purview. What is OTT? Over The Top	333) Which country hosted the 12th BRICS summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode? Russia
312) _____ has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully launched the 6G communications test satellite: China	334) Which country has been given the hosting of 13th BRICS Summit? India
313) Which corporate leader has topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020? Azim Premji	335) Who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time? Nitish Kumar
314) Which country's Sovereign Wealth Fund has become the first foreign SWF to get 100% income-tax exemption in India? Abu Dhabi	336) The blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. It is in which state? Assam
	337) The Baghjan oil well is owned by which oil company? OIL - Oil India Ltd.

338) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with which global body to receive advisory services for asset monetization? World Bank
339) 15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc. What is its name? Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP)
340) World's first of its kind tram car library has been started in which Indian city? Kolkata
341) Which F1 champion equaled the Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles? Lewis Hamilton, Britain
342) Lewis Hamilton drives for which F1 team? Mercedes
343) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his _____ counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19: Luxembourg
344) India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer_____ has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world: 'Param Siddhi'
345) RBI placed which bank under moratorium from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days? Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Chennai
346) Which country will now host FIFA Women's Under-17 Football World Cup? India
347) Storm Iota, a strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across which area? Central America
348) RBI launched Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation in which field? Financial sector
349) Who will be the first chairperson of the RBIH? Kris Gopalakrishnan
350) The Naturopathy Day is celebrated on which date? Nov 18
351) In the acronym AYUSH, what the letter 'S' stands for? Siddha
352) Siddha refers to which line of treatment? Ayurveda as it is practiced in Kerala
353) World celebrates World Toilet Day on which day of November? 19th
354) What is the name of the surveillance plane recently inducted in the Indian Navy? Boeing P-81
355) World Philosophy Day is observed on which Thursday of November? Third
356) Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Children's Day on Nov 20? UNICEF
357) Which bank approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project? New Development Bank
358) Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? Shanghai
359) The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of which state? Meghalaya
360) Booker Prize for Fiction has been won by which noted author? Douglas Stuart
361) Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for which novel? Shuggie Bain

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

387) "I am no Messiah" is the title of the autobiography of which popular Bollywood star? Sonu Sood
388) Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise from Nov 23 to 25. What was its name? SIMBEX-20
389) The immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21. It is associated with worship of which deity? Sun
390) The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in which state? West Bengal
391) What is the operational name of Indian GPS (IRNSS)? NavIC
392) Name the Indian girl who won the Children's Climate Prize of Norway: Vinisha Umashankar
393) Vinisha Umashankar won the Children's Climate Prize for which invention? A mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box
394) According to a new survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which three cities share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the world? Hong Kong, Zurich and Paris
395) Name the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam who passed away recently? Tarun Gogoi
396) Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first HeavyWeight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? Varunastra
397) What is the strike range of Varunastra? 40 kms
398) Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? Meghalaya
OCTOBER 2020
399) India and the US signed which agreement at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit? Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)
400) 201. Which national day is observed on October 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? Rashtriya Ekta Diwas
401) Which International day is observed across the world on October 31 to work together for planned and sustainable urban life? World Cities Day
402) "The Battle of Belonging" is a book written by which former Congress union minister? Shashi Tharoor
403) What is the title of the latest book by V E Schwab? The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue
404) Who is the author of the recently released book titled "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside"? N K Singh, renowned politician and economist
405) The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on which day of October? 27th
406) Which company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes? NTPC Ltd.
407) Which F1 driver broke the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher? Lewis Hamilton
408) India has secured which rank in the Global Teacher Status Index? 6th

409) Army celebrates Infantry Day on October 27 to commemorate the sacrifice of its soldiers in which battle? Indo Pak battle of 1947
410) One of the founding members of BJP, a towering leader of BJP from Rajasthan, breathed his last on Sep 27. Who was he? Jaswant Singh
411) Which Bank approved two loans totalling \$570 million for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh? Asian Development Bank
412) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the AIFF Footballer of the Year award. Who is he? Goalkeeper of Indian men's team
413) Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
414) The Reserve Bank has introduced which system for safer cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees to prevent cases of fraud? Positive Pay System
415) Neetu David, one of finest women cricketers of India in the late '90s and early 2000, has been appointed to which important position? Chairman of the women's national selection panel
416) Name the 74-year old renowned economist, who passed away in New Delhi: Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia
417) Who has been appointed as the President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune? Shekhar Kapur
418) The Reserve Bank of India has roped in which Bollywood megastar for its customer awareness campaign? Amitabh Bachchan
419) Moctar Ouane has been appointed as new prime minister of Mali. Where is this country? Western Africa
420) The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) under Venture Capital Fund has been launched for which segment of people? SC students studying in higher educational institutions
421) Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been sworn in as the ruling Emir of which oil-rich country? Kuwait
422) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing award has been won by Tourism department of which state? Kerala
423) Which Bollywood actor has been conferred with SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award? Sonu Sood
424) Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding scientists below the age of ____ years: 45
425) Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is given to the outstanding Scientists in how many fields: Seven
426) Alyssa Healy surpassed Dhoni's world record of 91 dismissals by a wicket keeper in T20i. She plays for which country? Australia
427) RBI has deferred implementation of which provisions made under Basel III capital norms? Capital Conservation Buffer and Net Stable Funding Ratio
428) India has announced USD 15 million grant assistance to which country for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries? Sri Lanka

429) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik Summit on October 2. What is its short name? VAIBHAV	450) Which country will host the 12th BRICS Summit on 17th November 2020 via video conferencing? Russia
430) International Day of Older Persons is observed on which date? October 01	451) Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020 has been awarded jointly to Harvey J. Alter, USA Michael Houghton, Britain and Charles M. Rice, USA for which discovery? For the discovery of Hepatitis C virus
431) Which global human rights organisation froze its operations in India? Amnesty International	452) What is the amount of cash award for the 2020 Nobel Prize? Swedish Kroner 10 million
432) Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? London	453) Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020? Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
433) The RBI has excluded how many public sector banks that were merged with other banks, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934? Six	454) Britain's Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and US scientist Ms. Andrea Ghez won the 2020 Nobel Prize in which field? Physics
434) ICGS Kanaklata Barua, a fast patrol vessel (FPV) was inducted in to Indian Coast Guard at which place? Kolkata	455) Which apex body decides the winner of Nobel Prize in Physics? Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden
435) Which International day aims to highlight the benefits of vegetarianism? World Vegetarian Day, Oct 01	456) Name the 16-year-old Indian shooter who won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship: Vishnu Shivaraj Pandian
436) National Voluntary Blood Donation Day is observed in India on which date? October 01	457) World Teachers' Day is celebrated on which day of October? 5th
437) Which international day is observed to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence? International Day of Non-violence	458) Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of _____ got a GI tag recently: Sikkim
438) At which place Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated on Oct 3 the world's longest highway tunnel, Atal Tunnel? At Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh	459) GI tag registry is located at which place? Chennai
439) The Atal Tunnel has been built across which mountain range? Pir Panjal	460) World Animal Day is celebrated on which day of October? 4th
440) The Atal Tunnel connects Manali with the area of which valley? Lahaul Spiti Valley	461) M A Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director General of which national body? Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
441) What is the name of the 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise held in Northern Bay of Bengal from Oct 3 to 5? Bongosagar-2	462) Which department of central government declared winners of the first National Start-Up Awards-2020? Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
442) Which country has committed \$1.9 million to support Indian workers whose livelihoods were disrupted due to COVID-19? USA	463) One of rock music's greatest guitar players, _____ lost his battle against cancer at the age of 65 in Los Angeles, USA: Eddie Van Halen
443) What is the name of indigenously developed nuclear-capable hypersonic surface to surface ballistic missile, with a strike range of around 1,000 km? Shaurya	464) The 2nd QUAD Ministerial Meeting was held on October 6 in which city? Tokyo
444) A Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence: "Summit RAISE 2020" was held from 5 to 9 of October. What is full form of RAISE? Responsible AI for Social Empowerment	465) QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic grouping of four nations - India, Australia, Japan and _____: USA
445) Which state launched 'Gram Darshan' portal to bring data of all the 6,197 Gram Panchayats of the state online? Haryana	466) Ms. Emmanuelle Charpentier (France) and Ms. Jennifer A. Doudna (USA) won the Nobel Prize in which field? Chemistry
446) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has signed a MoU with which food delivery platform to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform? Swiggy	467) Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded for the discovery of one of gene technology's sharpest tools. What is its name? CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors
447) DRDO successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo" on Oct 5 from Wheeler Island. What is its short name? SMART	468) India's first-of-its-kind organic spices seed park will come up at two places in which state? Gujarat
448) The World Habitat Day is observed on which Monday of October? First	469) India celebrates October 5 every year as the '_____ River Dolphin Day': Ganga
449) What is the theme for this year's World Habitat Day? Housing For All: A better Urban Future	470) 'My Ganga My Dolphin' campaign has been launched to conduct Dolphin census in 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora in which state? Uttar Pradesh

471) The Indian Air Force celebrates its raising day on which date? October 8
472) Who was the first Indian chief of the Indian Air Force? Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee
473) The World Cotton Day is observed on which day? October 7
474) Which country is the largest producer of cotton in the world? India
475) Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI? M Rajeshwar Rao
476) The Offshore Patrol Vessel "Vigraha" recently handed over to the Indian Coast Guard, has been built by which company? Larsen and Toubro
477) Which country successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon (Zircon)? Russia
478) Who has been selected for the Nobel Prize for Literature 2020? Ms. Louise Glück
479) Ms. Louise Glück is a famous poet of which country? America
480) Name the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, who died on Oct 8: Ram Vilas Paswan
481) Which state entered into partnership with Israel for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence to promote high value vegetables in the state? Meghalaya
482) Which day is observed on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment? World Sight Day
483) Bisher Al-Khasawneh has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? Jordan
484) Which e-commerce major has collaborated with IRCTC to let users book train tickets via the e-commerce site? Amazon India
485) World Egg Day is celebrated on the _____ Friday in October every year to raise awareness about the benefits of eggs: Second
486) World Post Day is observed to mark the anniversary of establishment of which organization in 1874? Universal Postal Union
487) World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on second Saturday of which two months? May and October
488) _____ has become the first state in the country to provide tap water connection to every rural household: Goa
489) What is the name of India's first new generation anti-radiation missile successfully test-fired by DRDO? Rudram
490) Which UN agency has been selected for the prestigious Nobel Prize 2020? World Food Programme
491) Which official body decides the winner of Nobel Peace Prize? The five-member committee of the Parliament of Norway
492) Which Bank approved funds worth \$741 million for infrastructure projects in India? New Development Bank

493) Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? Shanghai
494) A two-day Coastal Security Exercise- 'Sagar Kavach'- was conducted on October 8-9 in which area? In the Arabian Sea alongside the western coast
495) Headquarters of the World Trade Organisation are in which country? Switzerland
496) Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Mental Health Day on October 10? WHO - World Health Organisation
497) Which global day is observed every year on October 11 to focus on issues like female infanticide to gender inequality to sexual abuse? International Day of the Girl Child
498) The Indian Air Force created a new world record for the highest skydive landing at which place? Khardung La, near Leh
499) How many beaches from India have secured the coveted International Blue Flag Certification? Eight
500) Railways has decided to upgrade all its trains capable of running at a maximum speed of 130 km per hour and beyond, with which type of coaches? Air conditioned coaches
501) A commemorative 100 rupee coin was released in the honour of _____ Scindia on her 100 th birth anniversary: Vijaya Raje
502) What is the popular name for the French Open Grand Slam held in Paris? Roland Garros
503) Who lifted the men's singles title in the French Open Grand Slam? Rafael Nadal
504) _____ won the women's singles title in the French Open in Paris: Iga Swiatek
505) Iga Swiatek hails from which country? Poland
506) Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the coveted Nobel Prize in which field? Economics
507) Government launched which two schemes for its employees to boost the consumer spending? LTC Cash Voucher scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme
508) Which scheme has been launched on Oct 11 for physical distribution of house property cards in rural areas? 'SVAMITVA'
509) The SVAMITVA scheme has been launched by which central ministry? Panchayati Raj Ministry
510) World Arthritis Day is observed on which date? October 12
511) Arthritis is an ailment related to which part of body? Inflammation of joints
512) Which national day marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on postal stamps? National Philately Day
513) Which apex body has started a nation-wide campaign to celebrate Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan for promoting extensive use of cow-dung products during this Diwali Festival? Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog
514) Which country is the largest producer of milk in the world? India

515)	ADB approved a \$ 300 million loan to finance water supply and sanitation infrastructure in 14 secondary towns of which state? Rajasthan
516)	Who has equaled the all time record of 91 F1 wins by the legendary Michael Schumacher of Germany? Lewis Hamilton
517)	_____ has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools: Kerala
518)	Which global organization has projected 4.4 percent shrinkage in growth of world economy? IMF - International Monetary Fund
519)	International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed on which day of October? 13th
520)	Which international day is observed on Oct 14 to raise awareness about importance of standardization in the global economy? World Standards Day
521)	What is the name of the most prestigious global environment prize announced in history? Earthshot Prize
522)	_____ has become the first state in India to set up Farmers Welfare Fund Board for the welfare of farmers: Kerala
523)	Which international day is observed on Oct 15 to highlight role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural communities? International Day of Rural Women
524)	World Students' Day is observed on Oct 15 to commemorate the birthday of which great leader? APJ Abdul Kalam
525)	Which union ministry sponsors the celebration of Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas? Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry
526)	The Union Cabinet approved the "Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States" -STARS project with the support of which global organization? World Bank
527)	A commemorative coin of 75 rupees denomination was released to mark the 75th Anniversary of which UN agency? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
528)	Where are the headquarters of the FAO? Rome, Italy
529)	Which country has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? India
530)	Which state signed an agreement with the Indian Rugby Football Union to sponsor the Indian national rugby team for the next three years? Odisha
531)	International E-Waste Day is observed on which day of October? 14th
532)	SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is sponsored by which institution? SASTRA University, Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu)
533)	Who has been selected for this year's SASTRA Ramanujan Prize? Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA
534)	What is the theme for this year's Global Handwashing Day? Hand Hygiene for All
535)	With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has

	banned imports of _____ with refrigerants: Air conditioners
536)	Name the India's first Oscar winner costume designer who died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness: Bhanu Athaiya
537)	Bhanu Athaiya won the Oscar for costume designing of which film? Gandhi
538)	Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd is going to set up India's largest greenfield zinc smelter in which state? Gujarat
539)	World Food Day commemorates the setting up of which special agency of UNO? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
540)	Establishment of FAO was done in which city in Canada? Quebec
541)	Headquarters of FAO is situated in which city? Rome, Italy
542)	Which University has emerged as the top varsity in India by filing the highest number -- 336 of patents in a year? Chandigarh University
543)	Chandigarh University is located at which place? Gharuan near Mohali in Punjab
544)	India ranked at which number among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020? 94th
545)	Which country scored the lowest rank in the Global Hunger Index 2020? Chad
546)	The Supreme Court appointed which former Supreme Court judge, as a one-man committee to monitor and prevent instances of stubble-burning by farmers in the three States? Justice Madan B. Lokur
547)	International Poverty Eradication Day is observed on which date? October 17
548)	Government launched a campaign named 'KAPILA' in the honour of which great leader? Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
549)	What is the objective of KAPILA campaign? To promote patenting of inventions
550)	What is the expansion of the acronym KAPILA? Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness
551)	What is the name of the 8th annual joint exercise held between Indian and Sri Lankan navies? SLINEX – 20
552)	Joint naval exercise SLINEX – 20 was held at which place? Off the Trincomalee coast of Sri Lanka
553)	Which city of Denmark hosted the Denmark Open Badminton Tournament? Odense
554)	Who won the men's singles title in the Denmark Open? Anders Antonsen of Denmark
555)	Women's singles title of Denmark Open was won by which player? Nozomi Okuhara of Japan
556)	Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association for the term 2020-21? Rajkiran Rai G
557)	Rajkiran Rai G is the MD & CEO of which bank? Union Bank of India
558)	Asian Development Bank, Manila approved a \$177-million loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state

highways and major district roads in which state? Maharashtra
559) Who has been reelected as the prime minister of New Zealand? Jacinda Ardern
560) Which global institution awards the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award? Natural History Museum of Britain
561) Name the young photographer who won this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award: Aishwarya Sridhar
562) World Statistics Day is observed after an interval of how many years? Five
563) World Osteoporosis Day is observed on which date? October 20
564) Osteoporosis is an ailment related to which part of human body? Bones
565) A person suffering from Osteoporosis is more prone to have ____ : Fractures
566) Ayushman Sahakar scheme, developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation aims to help cooperatives play an important role in which field? Creation of healthcare infrastructure
567) For the first time in India, cultivation of Heeng (Ferulaassafoetida) has been started in which area? Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh
568) National Solidarity Day is observed on October 20 to salute the valour of our soldiers in which battle? 1962 Indo-China war
569) _____ has become the first country in the world to provide access to various online government services through facial recognition: Singapore
570) Which special day is observed on October 21 to honour the sacrifice of ten CRPF men in 1959 in an ambush with Chinese army? Police Commemoration Day
571) Which state topped the AnemiaMukt Bharat Index among 29 states in the country? Haryana
572) Which public sector bank announced the launch of banking services on WhatsApp? IDBI Bank
573) Which country was ranked as the most powerful in influencing Asia Pacific region by the Asia Power Index 2020? USA
574) What was India's rank in the recently released Asia Power Index 2020? 4th
575) What is the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls? Rs. 77 lakh
576) A candidate contesting state legislature elections cannot spend more than Rs. ____ for campaign expenditure: 30.80 lakh
577) What is the name of the low cost rapid diagnostic technology for COVID-19 developed by researchers at IIT, Kharagpur? Covirap
578) Name the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette that was recently commissioned into Indian Navy: INS Kavaratti
579) India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed SANT missile. What is the full form of SANT? Stand-off Anti-tank

580) DRDO successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation ATGM Nag on October 21. Expand the abbreviation ATGM: Anti-tank guided missile
581) Which Indian city recently inaugurated India's longest – 108 km long BRTS corridor? Surat, Gujarat
582) What is the full form of the abbreviation BRTS? Bus Rapid Transit System
583) In the new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (CPI-IW), what is the new Base Year? 2016
584) Which government agency compiles the CPI-IW? Labour Bureau under Ministry of Labour and Employment
585) Which government agency releases the regular Consumer Price index? Central Statistics Office
586) The CBSE has introduced a state of the art Facial Recognition technology for what purpose? To enable students to securely download their digital academic documents of class X and XII
587) Saad al-Hariri, the Sunni Muslim politician, has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country? Lebanon
588) Which state attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics, 2020? Uttar Pradesh
589) Which state was visited by the largest number of foreign tourists in 2019? Tamil Nadu
590) Which micro nation joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 16 as its 190th member? Andorra
591) Micro nation Andorra is located in which region? Europe, between France in the north and Spain in the south
592) International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed on which date? October 22
593) Stuttering is associated with deformity of which human skill? Speech
594) Which e-portal has been launched to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system? e-Dharti Geo Portal
595) India has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of which special UN agency? ILO - International Labour Organization
596) International Snow Leopard Day is observed on which day of October? 23rd
597) Snow Leopard is the state animal of which state? Himachal Pradesh
598) FX reserves crossed all time high of \$ 555 billion on week ended October 16. This data is issued by which agency? RBI – Reserve Bank of India
599) Sakharov Prize for Peace is given by which organization? European Union
600) Alpha Conde has been elected as the President of ____ for a third term: Guinea
601) The United Nations Day is observed on Oct 24. Who is the current Secretary General of UNO? Antonio Guterres

602) Currently, how many countries are member of UNO? 193
603) Which international day is observed on Oct 24 to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio? World Polio Day
604) Which are the only two countries where wild polio virus cases are still there? Afghanistan and Pakistan
605) The government announced waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs. ____ crore irrespective of whether moratorium was availed or not: Two
606) WavelRamkalawan has been elected as the President of Seychelles. He has linkages with which Indian state? Bihar
607) Lee Kun-hee, charismatic leader of South Korea's biggest conglomerate, died on Oct 25. He headed which corporate group? Samsung
608) World's longest passenger ropeway service was started at Girnar Mountain in Junagadh district of which state? Gujarat
609) India's first sand dune park is expected soon to come up in which state? Goa
SEPTEMBER 2020
610) International Translation Day is celebrated on which day of September? 30th
611) What is the theme for this year's World Heart Day? Use Heart to beat CVD (cardiovascular diseases)
612) World Rabies Day is observed on Sep 28 to mark the death anniversary of which noted microbiologist? Louis Pasteur
613) India was ranked ____ among 181 countries on the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 released by the United Nations University: 89th
614) Which country was placed on top of World Risk Index, being the riskiest country? Vanuatu
615) Which country was ranked as the safest country on the World Risk Index? Qatar
616) Which state won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals? Kerala
617) The Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of which great philosopher, historian and political activist? Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
618) What is the theme for this year's World Pharmacist Day? Transforming Global Health
619) FSSAI has made it mandatory to display "best before date" wef Oct 1 on which products? Non-packaged and loose sweets
620) An iconic personality from film music world lost his battle to Corona on Sep 25. Identify him: SP Balasubrahmanyam
621) The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held next year in Goa in which month? January
622) Which institution has replaced Medical Council of India wef Sep 25? National Medical Commission
623) Who has been named as the Chairman of the National Medical Commission? Suresh Chandra Sharma

624) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed which number session of the United Nations General Assembly? 75th
625) The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) was held in which area? North Arabian Sea
626) Which celebrity chef has authored the book Kitchens of Gratitude? Vikas Khanna
627) Which famous film celebrity has authored the book- " <i>The Big Thoughts of Little Luv</i> "? Karan Johar
628) What is the title of the latest book by noted authoress Arundhati Roy? Azadi: Freedom-Fascism-Fiction
629) <i>One by One</i> is a famous novel of which noted novelist? Ruth Ware
630) Mohamed Hussein Roble has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which East African country? Somalia
631) In a historic move, the Parliament passed how many labour codes on September 23 to reform the Labour Laws? Three
632) ICAR announced a hackathon to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization. What is its name? KRITAGYA
633) World Tourism Day is celebrated on which date? September 27
634) World Maritime Day is celebrated on which Thursday of September? Last
635) Name the noted atomic scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission Chairperson who died of Covid-19: Dr. Sekhar Basu
636) 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
637) 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
638) A virtual bilateral summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of which other country on 26 September? Sri Lanka
639) 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: KushiChindaliya
640) Alexander Lukashenko was sworn in as the President of which country for a record sixth term? Belarus
641) Railways have planned for 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by which year? 2023
642) Which day is observed on Sep 23 to raise awareness about the importance of sign language? International Day of Sign Languages
643) Navies of India and _____ conducted a two-day mega passage exercise in the Indian Ocean on Sep 23-24: Australia
644) Which popular Bollywood actor has been named among the world's 100 most influential people by the Time Magazine? Ayushman Khurana

645) Who won the Tour de France - the most prestigious and most difficult cycle race in the world? TadejPogacar
646) TadejPogacar hails from which country? Slovenia
647) Chief Minister of which state announced that the 'biggest' Film City in India will be built in his state? Uttar Pradesh
648) Which country accounts for the largest number of one horned Rhinos? India
649) Which Indian state is home to largest number of one horned Rhinos? Assam
650) The National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 proposes to establish National Forensic Sciences University in which city? Gandhinagar
651) Which university in Gujarat is to be upgraded as the new Rashtriya Raksha University? Raksha Shakti University
652) India successfully conducted the flight test of High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle. What is its name? ABHYAS
653) The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to which country? Nepal
654) A direct cargo ferry service between India and _____ commenced for the first time on Sep 21: Maldives
655) 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
656) The World Rose Day observed on Sep 18 is associated with which disease? Cancer
657) What is the theme of this year's World Alzheimer's Day? Let's talk about dementia
658) Which International Day encourages people to rid beaches of the garbage? The International Coastal Cleanup Day
659) The International Coastal Cleanup Day is observed on which Saturday of September? Third
660) Who won the men's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament? Novak Djokovic
661) _____ won the women's singles title in the Italian Open Tennis Tournament: Simona Halep
662) The Union Government announced an increase in the MSP of Wheat. What is the new MSP? Rs. 1975/ql
663) In a first, two women officers have been selected to join as 'Observers' in which stream of the Indian Navy? Fighter helicopters
664) The RBI has mandated banks to fully automate classification and provisioning calculation process of which product? NPAs - Bad loans
665) Name the former union minister for Rural Development (2004-09) who passed away in New Delhi: Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
666) Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is known as Father of which national flagship scheme? MNREGA

667) World Ozone Day commemorates the signing of _____ Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in 1987: Montreal
668) The Ozone molecules are formed by how many atoms of Oxygen? Three
669) The Ozone layer helps in protecting our ecosystem from which rays from Sun? Ultraviolet rays
670) The Ozone layer is found in which layer of the atmosphere? Stratosphere
671) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 proposes how much cut in salaries and allowances for MPs? 30 percent
672) Managing Director of which bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020? HDFC Bank
673) Who is the Managing Director of the HDFC Bank? Aditya Puri
674) 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
675) 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
676) Name the noted scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history who passed away recently? Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan
677) 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
678) Which bank has tied up with Titan Watch Company to launch contactless payment services through watches, called 'Titan Pay'? State Bank of India
679) The latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index, India has been placed at which rank? 116th
680) Which country secured the first rank in the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index? Singapore
681) The World Patient Safety Day is observed on which date to create a global awareness for patient safety? September 17
682) India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at which international airport? Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
683) _____ has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bonds: Mexico
684) Which social media platform has teamed up with Common Services Centers (CSC) to launch a chatbot for citizens to receive digital literacy services? Whatsapp
685) 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
686) World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 with the support of which organisation? World Bamboo Organization

687) Which country is the largest producer of Bamboos in the world? China
688) Which state topped the first ever annual India Happiness Report measuring national wellbeing and people's happiness? Mizoram
689) 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
690) Armand Duplantis broke Sergey Bubka's 26-year-old outdoor world record in pole vault jumping. He is from which country? Sweden
691) In the recently released Smart City Index 2020, which city secured the first rank? Singapore
692) 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
693) What is the theme of this year's International Day of Peace? Shaping Peace Together
694) International Day of Peace is celebrated on which date? September 21
695) 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
696) Which bank launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals? Bank of India
697) RBI has ceased the banking operations by which Payments Bank? Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank
698) Which state launched India's first integrated air ambulance service? Karnataka
699) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved asset monetisation of subsidiaries of which poer company? Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd
700) Government has constituted a committee chaired by _____ to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers: Rajiv Mehrishi
701) Which country will host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020: India
702) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO is a permanent inter-governmental international organisation of how many countries? Eight
703) Reliance Industries Ltd.'s market cap crossed which milestone on Sep 10? \$ 200 billion
704) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National School of Drama, New Delhi? Paresh Rawal
705) National School of Drama is a premier national institute set up by which union ministry? Ministry of Culture
706) Which programme has been launched for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly? Streets for People Challenge
707) 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

708) What is the expansion of the acronym PISA, a programme associated with educational evaluation? Programme for International Student Assessment
709) Name the veteran Arya Samaj leader and social activist who passed away in New Delhi due to multi organ failure: Swami Agnivesh
710) Which is the second country, first being UAE, to normalise diplomatic ties with Israel? Bahrain
711) Which country played the crucial role in bringing together Israel and Bahrain? USA
712) Which state topped the second edition of State Startup Rankings announced recently by the government? Gujarat
713) In the context of startups, what is a 'unicorn'? A privately held startup company with a current valuation of \$1 billion or more
714) What is the name of the new dispute redressal mechanism launched for the maritime sector? "SAROD-Ports"
715) In the name "SAROD-Ports", what is the full form of SAROD? Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes
716) Which Bank launched a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs? ICICI Bank
717) To enforce uniform compliance practices across banks, RBI has asked banks to create which new post? Chief Compliance Officer
718) Which government department has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? Department of Posts
719) What is the objective of the scheme called 'Five Star Villages'? To ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas
720) 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
721) Country's largest Piggery Mission worth Rs 209 crore was rolled out on Sep 10 in which state? Meghalaya
722) India slipped 26 spots from last year on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, to be ranked at _____ spot. 105th
723) Which country topped the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020? Hong Kong
724) UNICEF India has selected which Bollywood actor as its advocate for the children's rights campaign, "For Every Child"? Ayushmann Khurrana
725) The World First Aid Day is celebrated on which Saturday of September? Second
726) In the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York, who won the men's singles title? Dominic Thiem of Austria
727) Who won the women's singles title in the US Open Tennis Grand Slam in New York? Japan's Naomi Osaka
728) Which national day is observed every year to remember the martyrs who laid their lives to protect forest resources? The National Forest Martyrs Day

729) The National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on which date? September 11
730) In which year Hindi was adopted as another official language of India? 1949
731) Which international day aims to promote the government's role in maintaining open democracy among all the countries? International Day of Democracy
732) Engineer's Day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of which acclaimed civil engineer? Bharat Ratan M Visvesvaraya
733) Name the JDU MP who has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha: Harivansh Narayan Singh
734) India has been elected as the member of which body of the UN Economic and Social Council? Commission on Status of Women
735) The Times World University Rankings 2021 has placed which university at the top rank? University of Oxford, UK
736) With which country India finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47/203 rifles in India? Russia
737) India will manufacture the AK-47/203 rifles in which of its ordnance factory? Korwa Ordnance Factory, U P
738) Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first _____ of independent India: Vice President
739) International Day of Charity is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of which great personality? Mother Teresa
740) Loans up to Rs. ____ crore to the startups have now been covered under the Priority Sector Lending: 50
741) All scheduled commercial banks in India are required to allocate ____ percent of their total lending to priority sector: 40
742) Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks are required to lend ____ percent of their total lendings to the priority sector: 70
743) Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament: P Inian
744) 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
745) Which state topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings? Andhra Pradesh
746) Which organisation conducts the Business Reform Action Plan rankings? Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
747) The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of which country? Russia
748) The first International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was celebrated in which year? 2020
749) India observes which month as the 'PoshanMah'? September

750) The often quoted court case on constitutional law, was filed by the Swami Kesavananda Bharti against which state? Kerala
751) 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
752) Which two telecom companies rebranded themselves under a new brand identity 'Vi', read as 'we'? Vodafone and Idea
753) India successfully flight tested HSTDV missile technology on Sep 7. What is full form of HSTDV? Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle
754) Which powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea? Haishen
755) International Literacy Day is celebrated on which day? Sep 8
756) Dr. Govind Swarup, a noted scientist passed away in Pune. He worked in which field? Radio Astronomy
757) Pierre Gasly from the team Scuderia AlphaTauri, won Italian Grand Prix 2020. He hails from which country? France
758) Which UN agency has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine? UNICEF
759) The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8 by which global organisation? International Solar Alliance
760) 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
761) Which organisation confers the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust
762) Who won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019? David Attenborough
763) David Attenborough is a noted personality from which field? Natural History
764) What is the cash award of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize? Rs. 25 lakh
765) 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
766) The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020 has been compiled by which UN agency? UNICEF
767) As per a recent report from the National Sample Survey, India's overall literacy rate has improved to ____ percent: 77.7
768) Which state has the lowest literacy rate as per a recent report from the National Sample Survey? Andhra Pradesh
769) The World Bank approved a \$82 million loan for the implementation of the _____ State Roads Transformation Project: Himachal Pradesh
770) Which state started the celebration of Himalayan Day on Sep 9 in 2010? Uttarakhand
771) What is the theme for this year's Himalayan Day? Himalayas and Nature

772)	Which organisation announced the EASE awards to reward the performance of public sector banks? IBA – Indian Banks Association
773)	Which bank secured the first spot in the EASE Banking Reforms Index? Bank of Baroda
774)	The public sector banks recently launched Doorstep Banking Services in how many cities? 100
775)	Where are the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organisation? Geneva, Switzerland
776)	World Coconut Day is observed on which day of September? 2nd
777)	Which state is the largest producer of coconut in India? Kerala
778)	Which major economy slipped into recession after registering negative growth successively in two quarters? Australia
779)	Which country appointed Mustapha Adib as its Prime Minister? Lebanon
780)	Who has been appointed as the first ever CEO of the Railway Board? Vinod Kumar Yadav
781)	Which country hosted the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-20 Group in virtual mode? Saudi Arabia
782)	The trial run for a new inland water route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in _____ started recently: Tripura
783)	The new water way Dadukandi and Sonamura has been started through which river? Gumti
784)	S Krishnan has been appointed MD & CEO Of which bank? Punjab & Sind Bank
785)	What was the name of the one of the most powerful storms that struck a south eastern state of the USA? Hurricane Laura
786)	Hurricane Laura devastated which state of USA? Louisiana
787)	Assam government signed an agreement with which e-commerce platform to promote the state's local artefacts and handloom products on its digital marketplace? Flipkart
788)	The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the setting up of _____ new administrative circles: Seven
789)	Which West Indies all-rounder became the first bowler to pick up 500 wickets in T20 cricket? Dwayne Bravo
790)	What is the name of the toll- free helpline number 1800-599-0019 launched for mental health rehabilitation on August 27? Kiran
791)	What is the name of the Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched to further boost startups and software products? Chunauti
792)	What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award? Rs.25 lakh
793)	What is the new enhanced amount of cash prize for Arjuna Award? Rs. 15 lakh
794)	Government has revised the cash award for the Dhyan Chand Award to what amount? Rs. 10 lakh
795)	Prime Minister of which major economy resigned on health grounds? Japan

796)	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
797)	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
798)	International Booker Prize 2020 has been won by which Dutch author? Marieke Lucas Rijneveld
799)	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
800)	Reliance Industries Ltd announced the acquisition of which retail chain for Rs 24,713 crore? Future Group (owner of Big Bazaar)
801)	International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on which date? August 29
802)	A new Roll-on-Roll-off train service between Nelamangala in Bengaluru to Bale railway station in Solapur in which state? Maharashtra
803)	Onam is a popular cultural festival of which state? Kerala
804)	India was declared joint winner of the first ever Online FIDE Chess Olympiad, with which other country? Russia
805)	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
806)	Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India passed away on August 31. He was _____ the President of India: 13th
807)	The CSIR-CMERI has set up the world's largest solar tree at its residential colony in which city? Durgapur, West Bengal
808)	Dr S. Padmavati, India's first female and oldest _____ died at the age of 103. Cardiologist
809)	What is the name of India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory which detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth? 'AstroSat'
810)	The European Investment Bank is set to invest EUR650 million for the construction of first city metro line of which city? Kanpur
811)	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
812)	Which organisation released the Global Innovation Index? World Intellectual Property Organisation
AUGUST 2020	
813)	SBI General Insurance launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product. What is its name? Shagun – Gift an Insurance
814)	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

815) _____ became the first bank in India to use satellite data—imagery from Earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of farmers. ICICI Bank	834) Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Mumbai launched the country's first bullion index. What is its name? Bulldex
816) Sanjiv Singh, former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman has joined Reliance Industries in what capacity? President for the firm's oil-to-chemicals business	835) Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India? Ashwani Bhatia
817) NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. Which state topped the Index? Gujarat	836) Name the legendary South African all-rounder who has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame: JaquieKallis
818) Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, the 20-year-old boy from _____ won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title: Hyderabad	837) 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
819) 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	838) What is the name of the GPS based mobile app launched to monitor the plantation along the national highways? 'Harit Path'
820) What is the title of the latest novel by Chetan Bhagat? One Arranged Murder	839) Which international Bank approved a loan of \$ 500 million for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III? Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
821) Name the former Deputy Governor of RBI who has authored the book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India": Viral V. Acharya	840) Where are the headquarters of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? Beijing
822) Which union minister has authored the book titled " <i>The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World</i> "? Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar	841) Who is the President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? JinLiquan
823) Name the German professional sports club that won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20: Bayern Munich	842) The Reserve Bank of India has extended a _____ million dollar currency swap facility to the Central Bank of _____ till November 2022: 400; Sri Lanka
824) Name the renowned Indian scientist, was given a two-year extension till August 2022 as the chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy	843) Which state will host the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, 2021? Haryana
825) Which state extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28? Assam	844) India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to which country in July last week? Bangladesh
826) Which England pacer became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets? James Anderson	845) Which Ministry launched the mobile app "Mausam" for the India Meteorological Department? Ministry of Earth Sciences
827) Overall which bowler holds the world record for taking highest number of wickets? Muttiah Muralitharan	846) 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
828) WHO has declared entire Africa free from wild polio. Which was the last African country to get rid of Polio? Nigeria	847) Which country has honoured Kala Narayanasamy with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic? Singapore
829) Which are the only two countries in the world where polio cases still occur? Pakistan and Afghanistan	848) India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to which country in response to a request received from the WHO? North Korea
830) In its annual report released on August 25, the Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at _____ for 2020-21: -4.5%	849) Which city is the capital of North Korea? Pyongyang
831) Government has made _____ mandatory to allow users to avail any discount at the highway toll plazas across the country: FASTag	850) This year is the _____ anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. 21st
832) National Sports Day is celebrated every year on _____ to mark the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand: August 29	851) Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on which date? 26th July
833) 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	852) World _____ Day is observed on July 28 to raise awareness about which disease? Hepatitis
	853) Who invented the diagnostic test and vaccine for the Hepatitis? Dr Baruch Blumberg, USA
	854) Which International Day is observed to increase awareness about the best practices to protect our natural resources? World Nature Conservation Day
	855) World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated across the world on which day? 28th July
	856) The world celebrated Global / International Tiger Day on which date? July 29

857) 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	880) The Sriharikota Launch Centre is located in which state? Andhra Pradesh
858) 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	881) Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed as the Private Secretary (PS) to which apex authority? Prime Minister
859) HichemMechichi has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia. Where is this country? In North Africa	882) Which district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by Niti Aayog? Bijapur
860) Which union ministry launched a mobile app named 'BIS-Care'? Ministry of Consumer Affairs	883) How many districts are there in the Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme? 115
861) Which quality certification mark is used in India for gold jewellery? Hallmark	884) Which union ministry won the SKOCH award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project? Ministry of Tribal affairs
862) The ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for _____ products in India since 1955: Industrial	885) Which apex Financial Institution has launched a one-stop knowledge portal named as "MSME Saksham" in association with TransUnion CIBIL? SIDBI
863) The Cabinet has approved changing the name of the Human Resources Development Ministry to _____: Education Ministry	886) _____ became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy as its Barakah Nuclear Power Plant became operational? UAE - United Arab Emirates
864) The new National Education Policy has been developed on the recommendations of the panel headed by _____: K Kasturirangan, former ISRO chief	887) 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
865) Which PG programme has been discontinued as per the new NEP? M Phil	888) 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
866) The new NEP has decided to do away with board exam for which class? 10th	889) Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been elected as the President of Guyana. Where is this country? On the northern edge of the South American continent
867) The new NEP has divided total schooling structure, from pre-nursery to class 12 in to how many stages? Four	890) Name the new scheme launched by KVIC to make India Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti (incense sticks) production: Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission
868) The 'Foundation Stage' will cover students of which age group? 3 to 8 years	891) Ajay Tyagi, Chairman of markets regulator SEBI was in news recently for what reasons? He was given 18 month extension
869) Students of class 3 to 5 have been classified in which stage? Preparatory Stage	892) Who has been appointed as the new Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir? Manoj Sinha
870) The 'Middle Stage' will comprise of students of which age group? 11 to 14 years	893) Which Indian brand has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020? Reliance Industries Ltd.
871) What is the name given to the stage comprising of students of 9 to 12 class? Secondary Stage	894) There are total how many IIMs in India? 20
872) The first batch of five Rafale jets landed on July 29 in which Air Force base? Ambala, Haryana	895) Which bank launched Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA', an Artificial Intelligence powered conversational voice BOT? Axis Bank
873) What is the name of the 17 squadron of Indian Air Force that will host Rafale jets? Golden Arrows	896) What is the name of the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train, flagged off from Deolali in Maharashtra? Kisan Rail
874) What is the name of the French firm that supplied Rafale jets to India? Dassault	897) Who has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of the country? Girish Chandra Murmu
875) What is the name of India's first solar-powered ferry that won the prestigious Gustave Trousseau Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating? Aditya	898) Hiroshima Day is celebrated to mark the dropping of nuclear bomb on the city. This incident occurred in which year? 1945
876) What is the name of the Mars rover launched recently by NASA? Perseverance	899) Celebration of National Handloom Day on August 7 coincides with the launch of which national movement? Swadeshi Movement in 1905
877) Niti Aayog's AIM joined hands with Gates Foundation to launch AIM-iCREST for what purpose? For enhancement of incubator capabilities	
878) What is the full form of AIM? Atal Innovation Mission	
879) 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	

900) Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905 to protest against which decision of British Viceroy? Partition of Bengal	920) Nation Deworming Day is observed twice every year, on August ____ and on February _____. 10 and 10
901) 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	921) Which leading digital payment service provider recently launched an Android-based, pocket-sized portable point of sale (PoS) device? Paytm
902) The railways has decided to end a colonial-era practice of appointing _____ who worked at the residences of senior officials: Khalasis or bungalow peons	922) Which state has signed an MoU with e-commerce major, Flipkart to promote its One District, One Product scheme? Uttar Pradesh
903) India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN _____ Fund for supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities: Development Partnership	923) Which state has decided to provide urban forestland to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes? Chhattisgarh
904) Which institute won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020? Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune	924) 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
905) 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	925) 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
906) Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex organisation of India? Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	926) World Elephant Day is celebrated on which date? August 12
907) 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	927) What is the name of the COVID-19 vaccine launched by Russia? Sputnik V
908) The Forest Department of _____ has developed a Green Ramayana Park in Haldwani: Uttarakhand	928) 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
909) For the first in India as well as the Indian ocean region, two coastal villages of _____ have been declared 'Tsunami-Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO: Odisha	929) The Fortune Global 500 list of top corporate is topped by which company? Walmart Group
910) International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on August 9. What is its popular short name? World Tribal Day	930) What is the name of the National Portal on human elephant conflict (HEC) launched recently? Surakhya
911) Name the India's biggest public sector power producer which achieved over 100 billion units of cumulative generation in the current financial year: NTPC	931) Walter Roger Martos Ruiz has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of a South American Country. Can you name it? Peru
912) 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	932) Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new _____ of Mauritania, a country in Western Africa: Prime Minister
913) 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	933) Who has been chosen as Vice Presidential candidate by the Democratic Party Presidential candidate of USA, Joe Biden? Kamala Harris
914) The 2021 edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be hosted by which country? India	934) _____ launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card: Google
915) RBI has set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of _____ to oversee the resolution of NPAs created by COVID-19: K V Kamath	935) What is the name of the new income tax reform package launched recently by the Prime Minister? Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest
916) A 2313 kilometer submarine opticalfibre cable network has been laid between _____ and Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Chennai	936) Who is the only Indian to figure in the top 10 highest paid male actors in recent Forbes list? Akshay Kumar
917) World Bio-fuel Day is celebrated on which date? August 10	937) Name the first Indian private firm to successfully test fire an upper stage space rocket engine: SkyrootAerspace, Hyderabad
918) Name the three most popular bio-fuels: Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas	938) What is the name of the India's first rocket engine launched by a private firm? Raman
919) What is the theme for the World Bio-fuel Day this year in India? Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat	939) Government has allowed the sale and registration of electric vehicles without _____: Pre-fitted batteries
	940) 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

941) Israel recently revived its diplomatic relations with which country? UAE
942) RBI has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs _____ and above. 50,000
943) Which Indian bank has already been following 'Positive Pay' system? ICICI Bank
944) Atal Innovation Mission rolled out the second edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) in collaboration with which IT giant? Dell Technologies
945) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched which project to promote indigenisation initiatives with focus on innovation in Indian Navy? Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation
946) India approved a \$500-million package to help the _____ build a connectivity project: Maldives
947) 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
948) Which organisation approved the transfer of 57,128 crore rupees as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20? RBI
949) Which country successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, "Arrow-2"? Israel
950) Three products - sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy HermalChilli and Mandoli Banana, of which state have been granted GI tag? Goa
951) Which day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives? World Organ Donation Day
952) Prime Minister announced the launching of which completely technology-based health initiative on Independence Day? National Digital Health Mission
953) ISRO in collaboration with which institute has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface? IISc, Bengaluru
954) M S Dhoni will be remembered always for his _____ ICC World Cup victory. 2011
955) Following the footsteps of Dhoni, which other leading cricketer announced his retirement? Suresh Raina
956) Government approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps to expand in to _____ coastal and border districts. 173
957) The NCC was raised in which year? 1948
958) Where are the headquarters of NCC? New Delhi
959) Name the former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister who passed away recently. Chetan Chauhan
960) ISRO has decided to name a crater on Moon after which great scientist? Vikram Sarabhai
961) The Central Government is planning to launch Project _____ and Project _____ to replicate the success of Project Tiger. Lion; Dolphin
962) Who has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force? Rakesh Asthana
963) Name the legendary Indian classical vocalist who passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. Pandit Jasraj

964) Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Meghalaya? Satya Pal Malik
965) What is the name of the e-portal launched for promoting health of tribals? Swasthya
966) Prime Minister Modi announced launch of mega programme OSOWOG for what purpose? Promoting solar energy
967) What is the full form of OSOWOG? One Sun, One World, One Grid
968) Which Bank launched a first-of-its-kind product for the armed forces called 'Shaurya KGC Card'? HDFC Bank
969) Which institute has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India? IIT Madras
970) Which bank has waived SMS charges in addition to its penalty waiver on non-maintenance of minimum balance? State Bank of India
971) RBI has unveiled the framework for setting up pan-India Umbrella Entity for which financial segment? Retail Payments
972) Keith Rowley has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which island nation? Trinidad & Tobago
973) The Central Water Commission (CWC) of India has tied up with which global IT company to undertake flood forecasting initiatives? Google
974) Which country has launched a Pound 3-million "Innovation Challenge Fund" in India? Britain
975) Which bank has approved a loan of \$1 billion for construction of Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System? Asian Development Bank
976) 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
977) The NRA will initially replace 3 recruiting agencies. Which are these agencies? Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and IBPS
978) The score of the CET will be valid for how much period? Three years
979) Which city has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards? Indore
980) _____ has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country: New Delhi
981) Which city was awarded for being the cleanest city among the cities with over 40 lakh population? Ahmedabad
982) Which country has ranked first in the world in terms of number of organic farmers? India
983) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane at Rs. ____ per quintal? 285
984) Which one of the remotest and easternmost parts of the country, has recently been connected with 2 G mobile connectivity? Vijaynagar
985) World Humanitarian Day is observed on which date? August 19

986)	Which global day is observed on August 19 to pay tribute to art and science of photography? World Photography Day
987)	Which day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi who served as Prime Minister from 1984 -89? Sadbhavna Diwas
988)	World Senior Citizens Day is observed across the world on which day of August? 21st
989)	Techgentsia Software, a startup won the national competition to develop Indian video conferencing solution. What is its name? Vconsole
990)	Which film won the first prize in an Online Short Film Contest on Patriotism organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting? Am I?
991)	Name the former finance secretary who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner. Rajiv Kumar
992)	Who headed the Selection Committee for the National Sports Awards 2020? Justice (Retd.) Mukundakam Sharma
993)	How many sportspersons have been awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 2020? Five
994)	Name the para athlete who has been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: Mariyappan
995)	Which national sports award is given for outstanding performance by coaches? Dronacharya Award
996)	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
997)	Which university won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments? Panjab University, Chandigarh
998)	Which IT company launched its job search app named 'Kormo Jobs' in India? Google
999)	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)
1000)	Where in USA widespread wildfires burned nearly one million acres statewide in a week and destroyed hundreds of homes? California
1001)	Ronnie O'Sullivan of England is a six time world champion in which sports? Snooker
1002)	The Uttar Pradesh government signed a MoU with _____ for improving water management in the Bundelkhand region of the state: Israel
1003)	Which country has discovered 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the biggest-ever natural gas reserve in the Black Sea? Turkey
1004)	As per the new announcement made by the Finance Ministry, businesses with annual turnover up to Rs. _____ lakh will be exempted from GST: 40

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