

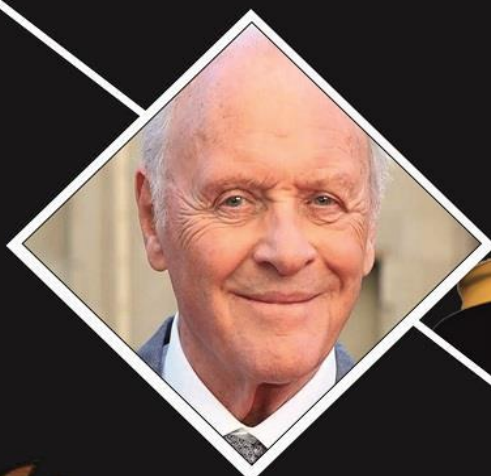
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FIGURES TO REMEMBER

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

INDIA'S RANK IN

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



NATIONAL NEWS

APRIL

MODI HOLDS TALKS WITH NETHERLANDS PM



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

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

6th RAISINA DIALOGUE HELD IN DELHI

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

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

IISC, B'LURU & CALCUTTA UNIV. RANKED BEST

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

SC GOES IN FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



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

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

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

DCGI ALLOWS EMERGENCY USE OF SPUTNIK V

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

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

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



INDIA FARES WELL IN INTERNET USAGE

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

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

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

INDIA AT 140th RANK IN GENDER EQUALITY

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

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



INDIA FARES POORLY IN PRESS FREEDOM

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

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

INDIA NOT GOOD IN ENERGY PERFORMANCE

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

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

MARCH

PM MODI MAKES 2 DAY VISIT TO BANGLADESH



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

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

US DEFENCE SECRETARY VISITS INDIA

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

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH FINLAND PM

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



INDIA & NORWAY TO WORK IN MARINE SPACE

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

VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD WITH SWEDISH PM

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

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

INDIA TAKES OVER CHAIRMANSHIP OF BRICS



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

'AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV' LAUNCHED

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

INDIA TO RENOVATE HERITAGE SITES IN NEPAL



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

MARITIME INDIA SUMMIT-2021

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

UNDP LAUNCHES 'SAHI DISHA' IN INDIA

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

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

GOOGLE'S 'WOMEN WILL' TO TRAIN WOMEN

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

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

2023: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS

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

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

LOK SABHA & RAJYA SABHA TV MERGED

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

INDIA DONATES RS. 1.5 MILLION TO TAIWAN

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

INDIA BEST IN 'HUMAN PERFORMANCE'

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

WORLD'S 1ST ALL WOMEN CARGO SHIP CREW

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



INDIA RANKED 71ST IN E-COMMERCE INDEX



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

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

INDIA SLIPS TO 88TH SPOT IN FREEDOM STATUS

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

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



INDIANS PRETTY LOW IN HAPPINESS

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

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

INDIA PLACED PRETTY LOW IN IP INDEX-2021



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

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

INDIA VERY LOW IN ECONOMIC FREEDOM

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

NEW DELHI IS MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL CITY



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

NEWS FROM STATES

APRIL

DISTRICT UDHAMPUR TOPS IN PMGSY

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

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

RAJASTHAN TO PROVIDE FREE HEALTH INS.

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



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

MARCH

LAKSHADWEEP & BUDGAM ARE FREE FROM TB

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



BENGALURU TOPS THE EASE OF LIVING INDEX

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

MANIPUR BEST IN VAN DHAN VIKAS YOJANA

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

INDORE AND NDMC ARE BEST MUNICIPALITIES



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

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

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

INDIA'S FIRST FOREST HEALING CENTER

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

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

CARGO TERMINAL LAUNCHED AT BENGALURU

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

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

MAITRI SETU LINKS NE STATES TO SEA ROUTES

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

LEH SELECTED UNDER PRASAD SCHEME

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

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

12 SITES – "SWACHH TOURIST DESTINATIONS"

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

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





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

GOVT. INITIATIVES

APRIL

STARTUP INDIA SEED FUND LAUNCHED

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

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

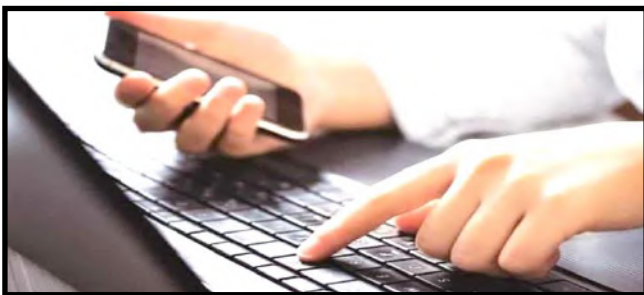
THREE NEW INITIATIVES OF NIXI LAUNCHED

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

The IP Guru is a group to extend support to all the Indian entities who are finding it technically challenging to migrate and adopt Internet Protocol version, IPv6.

The NIXI Academy has been created to educate technical and non-technical people in India about technologies like IPv6 which will lead to better management of Internet resources in the country.

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



MISSION 'AHAAR KRANTI' FOR NUTRITION

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

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

"SANKALP SE SIDDHI" DRIVE LAUNCHED

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village and Digital Connect Drive.



It is a 100-day drive starting from April 1 under which 150 teams (10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies / Mentoring Agencies / Partners) will visit ten villages each. The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in these villages.

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

NOW A UNIQUE NUMBER FOR ALL LAND PLOTS

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

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



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MANAS APP TO PROMOTE WELLBEING



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

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

'ANAMAYA' INITIATIVE FOR TRIBAL HEALTH

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

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



'E-SANTA' TO PROMOTE MARINE PRODUCTS

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

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

'SARTHAQ' TO PROMOTE SCHOOL EDUCATION

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

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

"MADHUKRANTI" LAUNCHED FOR HONEY

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

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

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

INDIA'S BIGGEST FLOATING SOLAR PLANT

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

TAX CONCESSION ON SCRAPPAGE OF VEHICLES



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

ONLINE COMPLAINT PORTAL FOR SCS

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

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

APP TO HELP IN LEARNING SANSKRIT

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



MARCH

CATCH THE RAIN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

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

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

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

NHAI TO LAUNCH ‘WAYSIDE AMENITIES’

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

‘GRAM UJALA’ TO OFFER CHEAPEST LED BULBS

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

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

MERA RATION MOBILE APP LAUNCHED



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

WCD MIN. LAUNCHES 3 UMBRELLA SCHEMES

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

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

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

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

RAILWAY STARTS SINGLE HELPLINE NO. 139

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



SUGAMYA BHARAT APP LAUNCHED

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

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

GOVT TO PROMOTE INDIAN DIGITAL GAMES



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

CA/CS/ICWA AT PAR WITH POST-GRADUATION

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

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

TOUGH NORMS DECLARED FOR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

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

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

MCA AND CBIC TO EXCHANGE DATABASES

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



ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

APRIL

INDIA TO GROW BY 12.5%: IMF

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

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

ADB PROJECTS INDIA'S GROWTH AT 11%

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

INDIAN GDP TO GROW BY 7.5 TO 12.5%

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

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

HSN/SAC CODE MADE MANDATORY

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

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

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

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



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

INDIA POISED TO GROW BY 12.8% IN 2021-22

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

OECD PROJECTS 12.6% GROWTH FOR INDIA

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



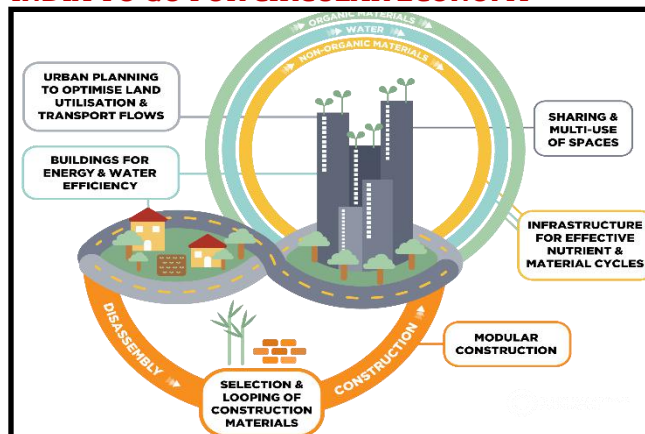
AGRI. PRODUCTION BREAKS ALL RECORDS

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

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

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

INDIA TO GO FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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

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

'RED RICE' EXPORTED TO USA



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

CHINA BECOMES INDIA'S TOP TRADE PARTNER

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

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

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

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

TAX EXEMPTION LIMIT RAISED ON PF

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



BANKING & FINANCE

APRIL

RBI RETAINS REPO RATE AT 4 PERCENT

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

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

INFLATION TARGET FOR RBI RETAINED AT 4%



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

RBI FIXES TENURE OF BANK HEADS

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

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

RBI RESTRICTS AMEX AND DINERS CLUB



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

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

RBI PANEL TO REVIEW WORKING OF ARCS

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

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



RBI's REGULATIONS REVIEW AUTHORITY

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

POs MAY OPEN 'ZERO BALANCE' ACCOUNTS

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

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



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

MAX. BALANCE HIKE IN PAYMENT BANKS

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

RBI TO PUBLISH FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX

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

AFA MADE MANDATORY FROM OCTOBER 1



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

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

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

"PAYTM WEALTH COMMUNITY" LAUNCHED

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

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

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



MARCH

C'TTEE FOR GRANTING ON-TAP LICENSES

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

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

NEW DFI FOR INFRA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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



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

PRIVATE BANKS ALLOWED GOVT BUSINESS

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

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

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

ALL BANKS TO IMPLEMENT CTS BY SEP 30



The Reserve Bank has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by September 30 this year to facilitate faster settlement of cheques resulting in better customer service. Truncation process involves discontinuing the flow of the physical cheque in its way of clearing. Instead of physical movement of cheque, a digital image of the cheque is transferred to the payee branch with vital essential data.

NPCI LAUNCHES 'RUPAY SOFTPOS'

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

HDFC BANK BEST FOR SMES

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



AXIS BANK LAUNCHES 'WEAR N PAY' DEVICES

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

HDFC BANK LAUNCHES 'SMARTUP UNNATI'

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

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

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

APRIL

WORLD'S FIRST EXPLOSIVE TRACE DETECTOR

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

INDIA TOOK PART IN 'LA PEROUSE' DRILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEBRIS FOUND OF INDONESIAN SUBMARINE

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

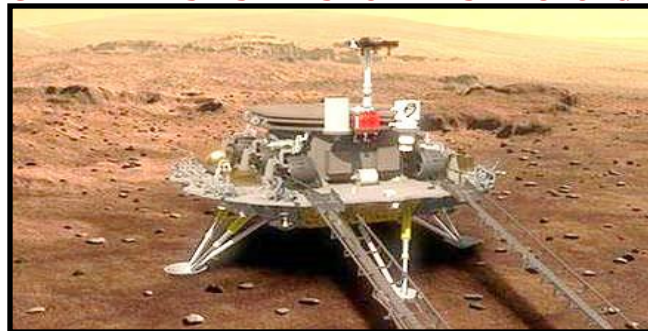
WORLD’S FIRST: WATER FROM AIR

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

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



CHINA NAMES ITS MARS ROVER AS “ZHURONG”



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

FIRST HELICOPTER FLIGHT OVER A PLANET

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

MARCH

INDIAN ARMY - 4TH STRONGEST IN WORLD

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

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

ICGS VAJRA JOINS INDIAN COAST GUARD

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

BDL TO SUPPLY MILAN-2T ATGMS



The Ministry of Defence placed an order with Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) to Indian Army at a cost of Rs 1,188 crore. The Milan-2T is a Tandem Warhead ATGM with a range of 1,850 metres. The missile is being produced by BDL under license from MBDA Missile Systems, France.

DRDO TESTS AIR INDEPENDENT PROPULSION

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

NAVY TO GET ITS FIRST SURVEILLANCE SHIP

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

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



SFDR TECHNOLOGY TESTED BY DRDO

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

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

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

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

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



INDIA TO SUPPLY BRAHMOS TO PHILIPPINES

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

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

WORLD'S FIRST MILITARY EXERCISE IN SPACE

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



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SATELLITE SINDHU NETRA LAUNCHED



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

ISRO-NASA TO LAUNCH SAR

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

ADVANCED BATTERY DEVELOPED FOR EVS

A Bengaluru based deep-tech start-up 'Log 9 Materials' announced the launch of a rapid charging battery technology for electric vehicles. Based on supercapacitor technology and 'Graphene', these batteries used in 2-wheeler and 3-wheeler EVs can be fully charged within just 15 minutes and have a longer life of over 15 years. Furthermore, these batteries offer up to 5 times more power and are five times safer in terms of fire- resistance and impact-resistance, when compared to the popular Lithium-Ion batteries that are being used widely at present.

ISRO LAUNCHED 19 SATELLITES

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

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



"FUGAKU" IS READY FOR OPEN USE

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

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

WORLD'S 1ST: HYDROGEN FROM BROWN COAL

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



RUSSIA LAUNCHES ARCTIC SATELLITE

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

APRIL

LEADERS CLIMATE SUMMIT HOSTED BY USA

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

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

BLUE NATURE ALLIANCE TO SAVE OCEANS



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

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

SINGAPORE FIRST TO RATIFY RCEP

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

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

JAPAN'S PASSPORT IS BEST IN THE WORLD

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

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

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

US EXPELS 10 RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS

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

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

PUTIN TO REMAIN PRESIDENT TILL 2036

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

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

MARCH

WORLD'S FIRST SHIP TUNNEL IN NORWAY

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

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



FIRST QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT HELD



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

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

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

G-20 MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS

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

MIT, USA—BEST UNIVERSITY IN WORLD

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

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

GIANT ICEBERG BREAKS AWAY IN ANTARCTICA

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

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

AUSTRALIA TO REIN IN MEDIA PLATFORMS

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

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

PERSONS IN NEWS

APRIL

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

MARCH

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

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

APRIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AWARDS & HONOURS

APRIL

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

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

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

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

FILMFARE AWARDS 2021 DECLARED

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

Best Film: Thappad by Anubhav Sinha

Best Director: Om Raut for Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior

Best Actor: Irrfan Khan for Angrezi Medium

Best Actress: Taapsee Pannu for Thappad

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

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

OSCARS DECLARED FOR THE YEAR 2020

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

Best Picture: Nomadland by Ms. Chloé Zhao

Best Director: Ms. Chloé Zhao (USA) for Nomadland

Best Actress in a Leading Role: Frances McDormand for Nomadland

Best Actor in a Leading Role: Anthony Hopkins for The Father

BAFTA AWARDS 2021 ANNOUNCED

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

Best Film: Nomadland by Ms. Chloé Zhao, USA

Best Director: Ms. Chloé Zhao for Nomadland

Best Leading Actress: Frances McDormand for Nomadland

Best Leading Actor: Sir Anthony Hopkins for The Father

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

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

MARCH

The 67th National Film Awards - 2019

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

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

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

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

Best feature film in Hindi: Chhichhore by Nitesh Tiwari

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

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

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

Most Film Friendly State: Sikkim

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dadasaheb Phalke awards announced

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

Best Actor (Female) – Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak

Best Actor (Male) – Akshay Kumar, Laxmii

Best Film – Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior

Best Director – Anurag Basu, Ludo

Best Web Series – Scam: 1992

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

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

Grammy Awards declared for best in music

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

Record of the Year: Everything I Wanted by Billie Eilish

Album of the Year: Folklore by Taylor Swift

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

Best New Artist: Megan Thee Stallion

Best Pop Solo Performance: Watermelon Sugar by Harry Styles

Best Pop Vocal Album: Future Nostalgia by Dua Lipa

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

Best Motion Picture – Drama: Nomadland by Chloé Zhao

Best Director: Chloé Zhao for Nomadland

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

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

Prize for Achievement in African Leadership-2020:

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

BOOKS & AUTHORS

APRIL

A Living Mountain by Amitav Ghosh

Whereabouts by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Cursed Inheritance by Sutapa Basu

The Crown of Gilded Bones by Jennifer L. Armentrout

When the Stars Go Dark by Paula McLain

The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth

The Hard Crowd by Rachel Kushner

Caul Baby by Morgan Jerkins

Broken by Jenny Lawson

Names of the Women by Jeet Thayil, renowned author best known for his book 'Narcopolis'

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, award winning US author; the novel explores the impact of Shakespeare's son Hamnet's illness and death, on his family.

MARCH

Undertow by Jahnvi Barua

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

Baanjh by Susmita Mukherjee, popular Bollywood actor and film producer

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

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

The Lost Soul by Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk (2018)

What's Mine and Yours by Naima Coster

The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner

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

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

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

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

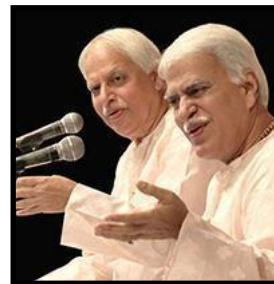
The autobiography was first published in Pukhto in 1983, in Kabul. Khan (1890-1988), popularly called the

'Frontier Gandhi', was born in Utmanzai in the North-West Frontier Province of British India. In India, he is known for his close association with Mahatma Gandhi and his leadership of the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement from 1930-47.

OBITUARY

APRIL

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



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

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan: Noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author passed away on April 21 due to Covid-19 complications. He was 97. Khan has written over 200 books on several aspects of Islam and is best known for having written a commentary on the Quran and its translation in English, Hindi and Urdu. He was recipient of several notable honors like Padma Vibhushan (2021), Padma Bhushan (2000) and the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award (2009).

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

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



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

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

MARCH

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

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

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

PLACES IN NEWS

APRIL

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

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

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

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

MARCH



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

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

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

SPORTS WORLD

APRIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

MARCH

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



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

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

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

She secured the spot in the World Cup Sabre Fencing Tournament held at Budapest in Hungary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

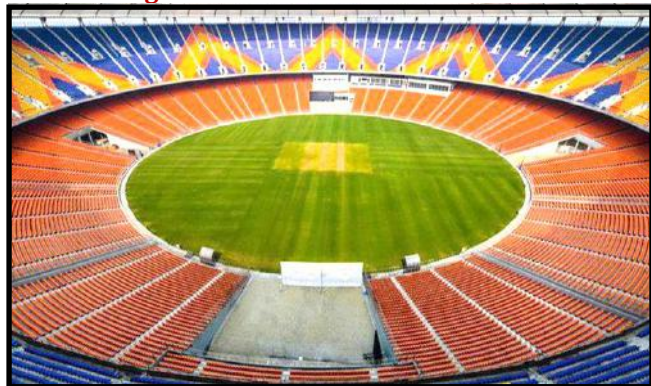
Khelo India Winter National Games: Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir topped the medals tally in the second edition of Khelo India Winter National Games. J&K won 11 gold, 18 silver and 5 bronze medals in the five-day mega sports event which concluded on March 2 in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in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

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

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

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

World's largest cricket stadium



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

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

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

DAYS & DATES

APRIL

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

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

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

April 2: International Children's Book Day

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

April 5: National Maritime Day

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

April 5: International Day of Conscience

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

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

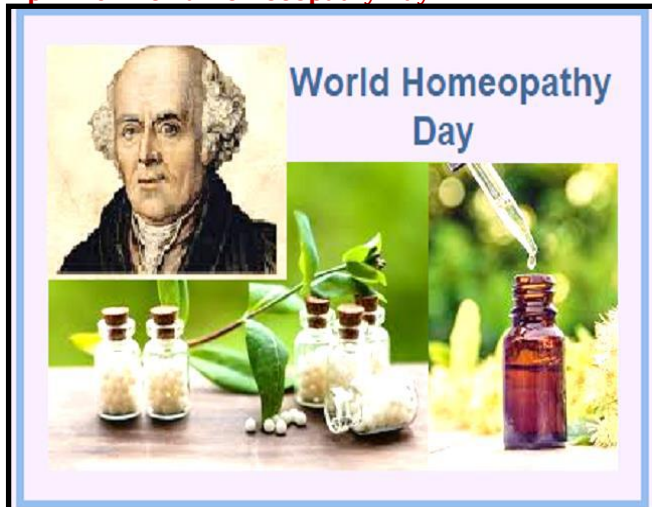
April 07: World Health Day

It is an initiative taken by the World Health Organization to raise awareness about overall health and well-being of people across the world. The Day aims to highlight WHO's constitutional principle that the



enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The theme for 2021 is "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone".

April 10: World Homoeopathy Day



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

April 11: National Safe Motherhood Day

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

April 11: World Parkinson's Day

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

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

April 12: International Day of Human Space Flight

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

April 13: India celebrates Baisakhi

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

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

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

April 13: Siachen Day

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

April 15: World Art Day

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

April 17: World Haemophilia Day

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

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

April 18: World Heritage Day

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



Notification Out

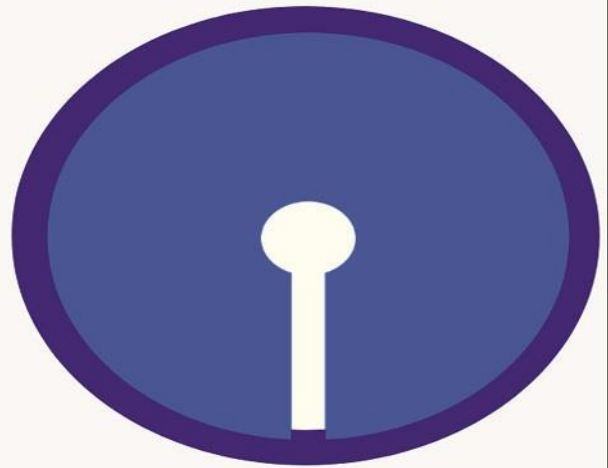
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April 19: World Liver Day



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

April 21: Civil Services Day

The Government of India celebrates this day as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work. The day provides an unique opportunity for introspection as also for working out future strategies to deal with the challenges being posed by the ever changing times.

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

April 21: World Creativity and Innovation Day

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

April 22: The Earth day

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

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

April 23: World Book and Copyright Day

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

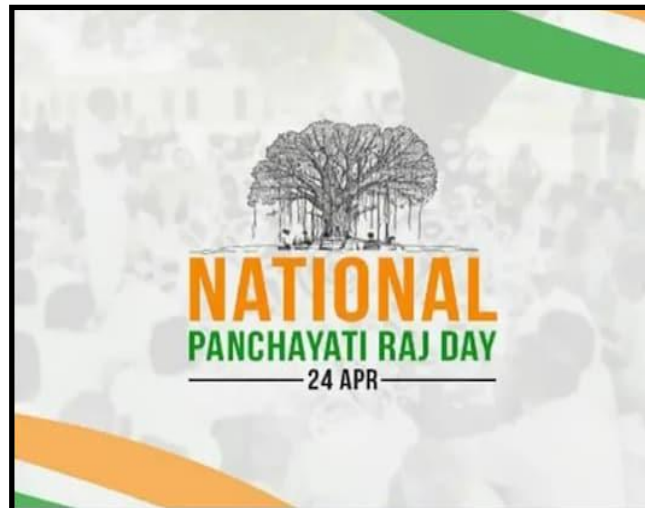
April 23: English Language Day

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

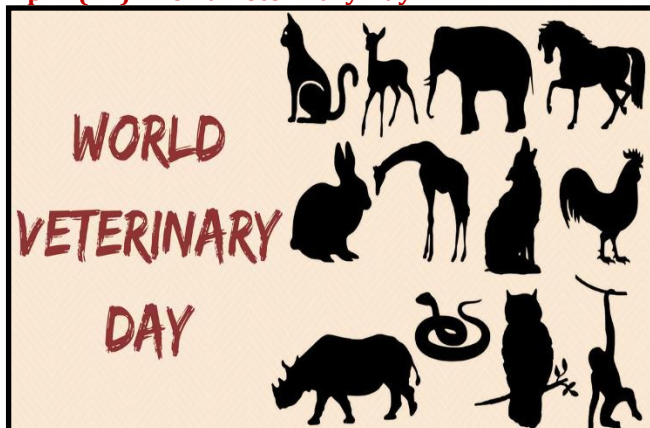
April 24: National Panchayati Raj Day

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

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



April (24): World Veterinary Day



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

April 25: World Malaria Day

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

April 26: World Intellectual Property Day

The day is celebrated to make people know how intellectual property (IP) rights encourage innovation and creativity. The celebrations are supported by the UN special agency - World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), Geneva. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is necessary to be safe, therefore, WIPO is not organising any physical events, and encouraged the community to celebrate via virtual channels. This year the theme is "SMEs & IP: Taking your ideas to market".

April 28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work

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

April 29: International Dance Day

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

April 30: Ayushman Bharat Diwas

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

MARCH

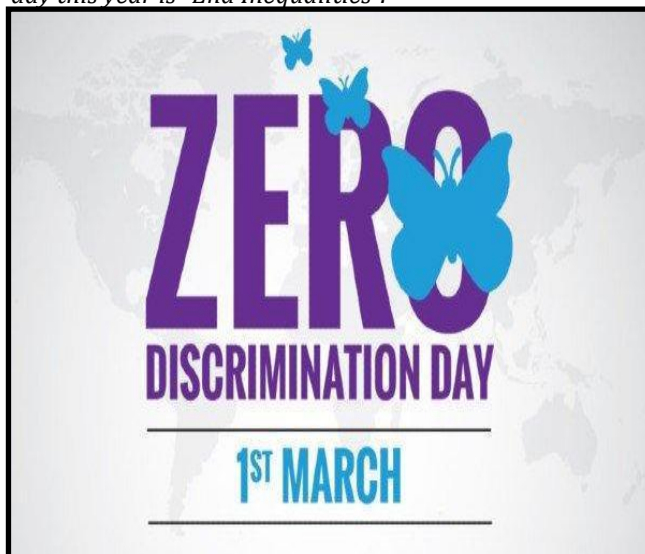
March 01: Civil Accounts Day

Celebrated to commemorate the creation of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) on this day in 1976. ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India, under the Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance. The service has been a pioneer in the use of technology for effective delivery of public services.

March 01: Zero Discrimination Day

Celebrated to promote and protect everyone's right, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin colour, etc.

It aims to raise the voice for the right to live life with dignity, despite one's choices, beliefs, profession, education, disability or even illness. The theme for the day this year is "End Inequalities".



A globe is depicted, its surface composed of a grid of numerous small, square images. These images showcase a wide variety of animals and plants, including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and various flora. The globe is centered against a deep blue background that features white, swirling, vortex-like patterns radiating outwards from the globe's center.

March 03: World Hearing Day

4: National Safety Day

March 4: National Security Day

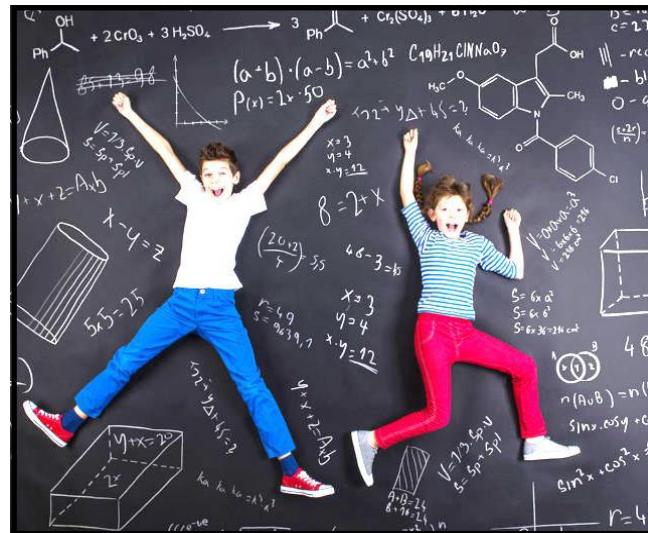
The National Security Council (NSC), is the chief agency that is concerned with the country's political, economic, energy and strategic security. Ajit Kumar Doval, the National Security Advisor of India, is the Chief Executive of NSC and Primary Advisor, to the Prime Minister on issues related to National Security.

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

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

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

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



March 15: World Consumer Rights Day



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

March 16: The National Vaccination Day

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

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

March 18: Ordnance Factory Day

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

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



March 18: Global Recycling Day

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

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

March (19): World Sleep Day

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

March 20: International Day of Happiness

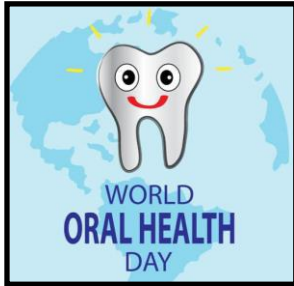


Celebrated with UN support as a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. Some of the big causes of unhappiness around the world are hunger, lack of education and awareness, lack of affordable medical facilities and violation of human rights. The day aims to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

March 20: World Sparrow Day

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

March 20: World Oral Health Day



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

March 21: International Day of Forests

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

March 21: World Poetry Day

Celebrated every year to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world. With a number of words coming together and rhyming, it is one of the most beautiful and prolific ways in which one can express in any dialect. The day was declared by UNESCO in 1999, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

March 22: World Water Day

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

March 23: Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's Day

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

March 23: World Meteorological Day

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

March 24: World Tuberculosis Day

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

March 27: World Theatre Day

Initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute, Paris, it is celebrated annually by ITI Centres and the international theatre community across the world. The Day aims to highlight the



importance of art form around the world. Various national and international theatre events are organized across the world to mark this occasion.

Earth Hour 2021: March (27)

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

March 31: The International Day of Drug Checking

Observed every year since 2017 to create awareness about the safer use of drugs and their effects. It aims at promoting harm reduction actions of drugs and reducing drug-related risks.

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

Bullet News

(November 2020 – February 2021)

For details visit – www.gyanm.in

NATIONAL NEWS

FEBRUARY

- India hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries on Feb. 18 to discuss COVID-19 crisis and exchange of best practices to tackle it.
- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit on Feb. 10. The theme of the summit was 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'.
- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement with Mauritius on Feb. 17.
- MoU signed with Afghanistan for construction of Shahtoot dam project on the River Kabul to provide safe drinking water to Kabul City.
- UNICEF signed an agreement with Serum Institute of India, Pune for long-term supply of AstraZeneca/Oxford and the Novavax vaccines for fighting Corona.
- Aatmanirbharta' implying self-reliance has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020 as it "validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic".
- New Delhi's iconic monument "India Gate" completed 100 years of its foundation laying on Feb 10, 1921. It was built in commemoration of more than 80,000 Indian soldiers who were killed during World War I.
- The SE Central Railways in Chhattisgarh created a new record by operating the world's longest ever freight train by amalgamating 300 wagons of goods trains as one unit of around 3.5 km in length.
- Named as 'Vasuki', it covered the distance of 224 km between Bhilai and Korba in Chhattisgarh in about seven hours.
- India's biggest silk fair, 8th India International Silk Fair was held from Jan 31 to Feb 4 by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council in virtual mode.
- India is the only country in the world which produces all the four major varieties of silk i.e., Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga.
- According to data from the US agency, the National Science Foundation (NSF), India is currently in third place, only behind China and the United States, in terms of number of scientific articles published in 2018.
- The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 placed India at seventh rank in terms of losses suffered from extreme weather events like cyclones, storms, floods and heatwaves in the year 2019.
- The Democracy Index 2020 placed India at 53rd position due to the "democratic backsliding" by authorities and "crackdowns" on civil liberties.
- The Index was topped by Norway, followed by Iceland and Sweden. North Korea was at the bottom.
- The Corruption Perception Index, 2020, released by Transparency International for 180 countries, has placed India at 86th rank.
- New Zealand and Denmark jointly secured the first position while Somalia and South Sudan ranked lowest at 179th position.
- The Bloomberg Innovation Index ranked South Korea as the most innovative nation, followed by Singapore at second and Switzerland at the third place. India was ranked 50th in the study of 111 countries.
- India and Nepal jointly inaugurated a 108-kilometre road connecting Indian borders with several areas of Nepal. The road runs from Laxmipur-Balara in India to Nepal's Gadhahiya in Sarlahi district.
- India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the reconstruction of six secondary schools in the Himalayan nation at a cost of Rs 32.63crore.

JANUARY

- The world's largest vaccination programme began in India on Jan 16 across all States/UTs. Currently, two types of vaccine are being used:
- Covishield: Indian name for the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune.
- Covaxin: Developed and produced by the Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech Ltd. in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology of ICMR.
- Government has decided to celebrate the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Diwas' on 23rd of January every year.
- Further, one of the oldest trains of Indian Railways, the Howrah-Kalka Mail has been renamed as the 'Netaji Express'.
- The USA retained the top spot with Russia at second spot in the 2021 Military Strength Ranking while India was placed at 4th rank. The 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th Jan in Goa, with the premiere of 'Another Round', a movie by Thomas Vinterberg from Denmark.
- Bangladesh was the country of focus at this festival. Veteran actor, director Biswajit Chatterjee was conferred the 'Indian Personality of the Year' award.
- The Golden Peacock for the best film was won by the film from Denmark 'Into the Darkness' directed by Anders Refn.
- International Migration Report 2020 says that India has the world's largest diaspora with about 18 million people born there now living abroad.
- On the other hand, the US emerged as the top host country for migrants with 51 million of them or 18 percent of the world's total living there.
- The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was held on Jan 9 in virtual format with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
- The Chief Guest was Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname.
- India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from Goa on Jan 4 with ice-class vessel MV Vasily Golovnin.
- The Union Cabinet approved the opening of Indian Missions in three nations including Estonia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic in 2021.
- As per an international report released Christian Aid, floods and Cyclone Amphan in India accounted for maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020.
- The National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

DECEMBER

- USA conferred the country's highest military decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Dec 21.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Virtual Global Climate Summit on the fifth anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement on Dec 12.
 - ✓ The summit named Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was co-hosted by the UK, UN, and France in partnership with China and Italy in virtual mode.
 - ✓ The Paris Climate Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015.
- India hosted the 19th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format on Nov 30.
- The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held on Dec 14 in virtual mode.
- The centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and of Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan (West Bengal) were held in the 4th week of December.
- The Supreme Court ordered the Centre, states and union territories to install CCTVs with night vision cameras in each and every police station, including central probe agencies such as CBI, ED, NIA etc. across India.
- Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has tied up with Hyderabad-based drug maker Hetero Drugs for producing "over" 100 million doses of Sputnik V Corona vaccine.
- The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November in a virtual mode.
- Malayalam film Jallikattu directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category.
- The 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) was held from Nov 26 to 28 in virtual mode.
- Indian Premier League - IPL was India's most searched word on Google in 2020, according to Google India's 'Year in Search' results.
- The World Bank approved four Indian projects worth \$ 818 million. The projects which were accepted are:
 - ✓ \$ 400 million for Second Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme

- ✓ \$ 100 million for Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG)
- ✓ \$ 68 million for Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project in Nagaland
- ✓ \$ 250 million for Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2) for improvements and strengthening of 120 dams in India.
- The World Bank signed a \$ 500 million deal for the Green National Highway Corridors Project to develop safe and green highways in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- The New Development Bank, Shanghai approved a loan for one billion dollar to provide support to AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme.
- The Asian Development Bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India.
- India has been ranked 10th in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) - 2020.
 - ✓ Sweden topped the index at fourth spot, followed by UK and Denmark at 5th and 6th spot.
- The World Bank recently came out with its revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report for 2020 placing India at 63rd rank. New Zealand topped the rankings.
- The Human Freedom Index 2020, a worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, placed India at the 111th spot out of 162 countries.
 - ✓ The first three spots have been bagged by New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong, respectively.
- India ranked 131st among 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index, a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
 - ✓ Norway topped the index, followed by Ireland, Switzerland and Hong Kong.
- Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer – Asia" has found that India has the highest bribery rate at 39%.
- Keith Gomes' short film 'Shameless' selected as India's official entry at the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars) in the 'Live Action Short Film' category.

NOVEMBER

- PM Modi and his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19. This was the first stand-alone Summit between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.

- PM Modi attended the 12th BRICS Summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode. The summit was hosted by Russia, under the theme Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth.
- PM Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc on November 12.
- The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for the period of 2021-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind on Nov 9.
- Nepali President Bidya Devi Bhandari released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi) - during a ceremony at Kathmandu.
- Indian army gifted 20 fully trained military horses and 10 mine detecting dogs to the Bangladesh army.
- India was ranked 77th in a list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020. The list has been compiled by TRACE; a US based anti-bribery standard setting organisation.

NEWS FROM STATES

FEBRUARY

- Kerala has set up the country's first Digital University in Technocity at Mangalapuram near Thiruvananthapuram, named as the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.
- India's first Carbon Watch, a mobile app for assessing carbon footprints was launched by the Environment and Forest department of Chandigarh.
- It assesses the amount of carbon dioxide emission made by an individual into the atmosphere.
- India's first ever geothermal power project named Geothermal Field Development Project, is to be established at Puga village in eastern Ladakh.
- India's first centralised AC railway terminal has been started at the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Byppanahalli, Bengaluru.
- Himachal Pradesh became the first State in the country to make the end-to-end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application.
- The Gujarat Govt inked an agreement with Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. to set up India's largest multi-modal logistics park at Virochannagar, Ahmedabad.
- The longest road arch bridge in India, the Wahrew Bridge at Sohbar, Meghalaya was formally inaugurated on Jan 22. The Single Arch Bridge has a span of 169.35 metre over the River Wahrew.

- Sikkim state launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students of Sikkim' initiative at the capital Gangtok to eradicate malnutrition and other health problems among the young generation.
- Union Transport Ministry has approved an investment of Rs. 13,000 crore for the proposed Delhi-Dehradun expressway that will reduce the travel time to 2.5 hours from 6.5 hours at present.
- A glacier burst took place on Feb 7 near the Rishi Ganga hydro power project after a portion of Nanda Devi glacier broke off in Tapovan area of Uttarakhand.
- It caused heavy flash floods in river Rishi Ganga, destroying the Rishi Ganga hydro power project.
- Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project on Yamuna river in district Dehradun of Uttarakhand.
- The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh from Feb 20 to 26.
- Uttar Pradesh became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22.

JANUARY

- As per the Innovation Index-2020 by NITI Aayog, Karnataka retained its first position in the Major States category.
- In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal stood first while Delhi was first in the UTs and small states category.
- The World Meteorological Organisation awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to the Patna Meteorological Centre in recognition of its meteorological observations for over 100 years.
- World's largest floating solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam in Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first Labour Movement Museum is being launched in Alappuzha, Kerala
- Country's first Pollinator Park was opened in Haldwani in Uttarakhand. Spread over 4 acres, the park has more than 40 pollinator species.
- The India Meteorological Department opened its second Meteorological Centre-MC in the Himalayan region at Leh in Ladakh.
- The first one is at Itanagar in Arunachal. Located at 3,500 metres above sea level, it is the highest MC in India.
- India's first hot air balloon safari in a tiger reserve was launched on Dec 25 in Madhya Pradesh's world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
- The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India.

- The Union Cabinet approved 5200 crore rupees for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The entire state of Nagaland was declared a disturbed area for another six more months from Dec 30 under the Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.
- In Manipur, the Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held on Jan 9 in Mao town of Senapati district marking the beginning of pink season in the district.
- A 450-km natural gas pipeline between Kochi in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka was inaugurated on Jan 5.

DECEMBER

- Lakshadweep has become the first U T to become 100% organic as all the farming here is carried out without the use of chemical pesticides/fertilizers.
- Nongpok Sekmai police station in Manipur's Thoubal district has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country.
- The foundation stone for the world's largest renewable energy park was laid at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch to produce power from energy of Sun and the wind.
 - ✓ Spread over 72,600 hectares of waste land, the 30,000-MW hybrid renewable energy park will be built along the Indo-Pak border at Khavda.
- Gwalior and Orchha of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO.
 - ✓ Orchha in Bundelkhand region is famous for its 16th century temples and palaces. Gwalior city is known for its historic monuments, forts, and palaces.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project on River Rispanain Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2 for more than doubling the number of tigers in the past four years, from 25 to 65.
- The Assam govt has proposed setting up of a 6th national park named Raimona National Park in an area of 422 sq km. in Ripu reserve forest.
- The largest Solar Project at a high altitude in the entire Leh-Ladakh UT has been established at the Air Force Station Leh with 15 megawatt capacity.
- The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode at the Naga Heritage village, Kisama in Nagaland from Dec 1 to 5.
- A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 and a postal stamp was released to mark the centennial foundation day of the University of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

ADB TO FUND SEVERAL PROJECTS IN INDIA

- \$430 million to Uttar Pradesh to strengthen 65,000 km of rural low-voltage distribution lines, benefitting 46,000 villages.
- \$133 million has been given to strengthen the power distribution sector in Meghalaya. The funds from ADB will be used for supporting the state's '24x7 Power for All' initiative.
- \$300 million to upgrade rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh.
- \$190 million for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in city of Bengaluru.
- \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project on River Kopili in district Dima Hasao in Assam.
- \$2.86 million to the Tripura for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state.
- \$4.21 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in Tripura.

NOVEMBER

- The four-day celebrations of the Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21 with devotees offering prayers to the rising sun in different parts of the country.
- People in Bihar and adjoining areas of UP and Jharkhand, celebrate this festival with great fervour.
- Nitish Kumar (of Janta Dal - United) was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time on November 16.
- In a first of its kind in the world, the West Bengal Transport Corporation launched a maiden tram library service in Kolkata for children, including students preparing for competitive exams.
- The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottur in Kerala is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world.
- The centre has facilities to accommodate 50 elephants including the existing 16 elephants.
- India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables.
- India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project was commissioned in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Mumbai has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus—land reservations for physical-social infrastructure designed to meet women's needs.
- A first of its kind solar energy-driven miniature train was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, situated 12 km away from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- In the 2nd National Water Awards, Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award in overall water conservation efforts.
- As per the 'Vital Statistics on India based on the Civil Registration System' report, Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country.
- In Arunachal 1,085 females were born per thousand males, while Manipur fared the worst with just 757.
- Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh created a new world record on Nov 13 by lighting 6,06,569 'diyas' on the banks of River Sarayu.
- The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in Tehri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand.
- The 725-metre long Dobra-Chanti suspension bridge has been built over the Tehri Lake.
- Govt approved the 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project on Satluj River near Kotgarh, Shimla in HP.
- Tamil Nadu government is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment.

GOVT INITIATIVES

FEBRUARY

- The first-ever National Toy Fair was held in virtual mode from 27th Feb to 2nd March to boost toy making in India and improving its global market share.
- Government approved 8 toy manufacturing clusters with investment of Rs 2,300 crore.
- The National Urban Digital Mission launched for providing an online platform for harnessing potential from the urban domain and technology towards creating citizen-centric governance.
- Go Electric Campaign launched to boost the adoption of electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances to ensure energy security in the country.
- Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana launched to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems.
- It will strengthen existing health systems and support future health interventions with an outlay of about 64,180 crores over next 6 years.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 launched to expand immunization coverage across the nation with focus on children and pregnant women who did not get the vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Ministry of Education has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools and hostels'.

- The National Informatics Centre launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes, the Indian version of WhatsApp.
- Sandes can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id.
- An online portal “e-Chhawani” launched to offer civil services to more than 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonments Boards across the country.
- ‘Shram Shakti’ portal launched to collect data related to the tribal migrant workers and to link them to the existing welfare schemes.
- A new Central Sector Scheme titled ‘Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)’ launched.
- The FPOs will form clusters to grow agricultural and horticultural products for leveraging economies of scale and improving market access.
- The FPOs will be provided financial assistance upto Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of three years.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) amended the Companies Rules to allow NRIs to incorporate one person companies (OPCs) in India.
- Further, the residency condition for NRIs has been reduced to 120 days from 182 days earlier.
- Under the new rules, the paid-up capital and turnover of the small company or OPC shall not exceed Rs 2 crores and Rs. 20 crores, respectively.
- India established its first centre for wetland conservation in Chennai, named as ‘Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management’.
- It is part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The Election Commission launched electronic version of the voters’ photo identity card e-EPIC (electoral photo identity card), which can be stored on mobile phones and downloaded on personal computers.

JANUARY

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme launched with Rs. 1,000 crore fund base to provide financial assistance to startups for their overall development.
- Government launched an inter-ministerial venture ‘Toycathon’ to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system.
- Six Light House Projects launched under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India in six states to build over 1,000 houses in each project.
- India’s first ever driverless train was flagged off on Delhi Metro’s Magenta Line covering 37 km stretch, having ability to run with speed up to 95 kmph.
- NITI Aayog launched India’s first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called ‘DigiBoxx’ to provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location.

- Petroleum Conservation Research Association under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched a month-long campaign SAKSHAM on Jan 16.
- It aims to highlight the adverse impacts of increasing carbon footprints and need to switch to cleaner fuels.
- The National Innovation Foundation, an autonomous body of the Deptt. Of Science and Technology, Govt of India, opened the National Innovation Portal to the general public.
- The portal is home to 1.15 lakh innovations scouted from public, covering Engineering, Agriculture, and Human Health.
- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers, thereby opening another frontier to women.
- Global Pravasi Rishta portal and app launched to act as a dynamic communication platform between NRIs, Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com. Over 50,000 products, ranging from apparel to home décor, will be available on this portal.

DECEMBER

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched a new web portal and mobile app named E-Sampada to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government.
- The Union Cabinet approved setting up of public Wi-Fi networks across the country by the name PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) scheme.
- The union cabinet approved the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana to boost employment in the formal sector during the Covid recovery phase.
 - ✓ Govt. will provide subsidy for two years in respect of PF of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and upto 30th June, 2021.

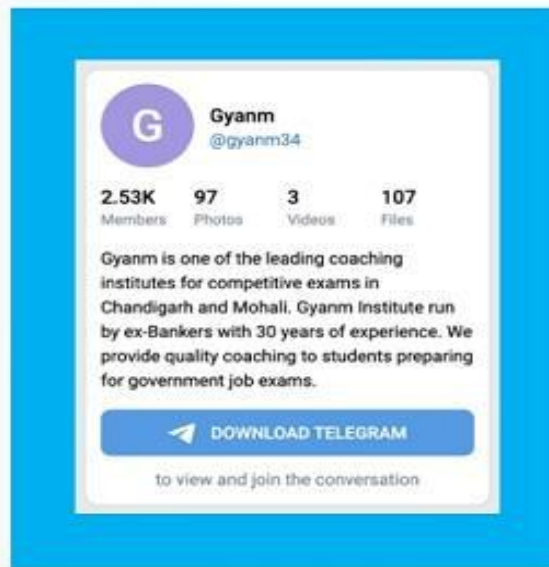
NOVEMBER

- ‘Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge’ launched to promote safety of sewer and septic tank cleaners by promoting mechanized cleaning to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana” launched under which govt will pay PF contribution of both, employee and of employer in the EPF-registered organizations for newly recruited employees.
- It will cover new employees whose monthly wages are less than Rs. 15000 and people who lost their jobs in the pandemic period from March 1, to September 30 in an EPFO-registered establishment.



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- The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in NCR (National Capital Region) and adjoining areas.
- Railways launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey, from starting station to destination station.
- India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated at Judicial Officers Training Institute in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The Nyay Kaushal will facilitate electronic-filing of cases in the Supreme Court, any High Court as well as district courts across the country.
- 'SERB - POWER' scheme launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent women researchers to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering.
- SERB-POWER stands for Science and Engineering Research Board - Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research.
- The National Board for Wildlife approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25 under which five vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to focus on development of ports and waterways.

ECONOMY

FEBRUARY

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

JANUARY

- As per the data released by the National Statistical Office on Jan 7, India's GDP is expected to contract by 7.7% in fiscal 2020-21, India's worst economic performance since 1961-62.
- Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that India's new Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect from April 1, 2021 for 5 years.
- As per the annual World Cooperative Monitor Report, 2020, Indian coop. giant IFFCO has topped among 300 leading cooperatives in the world, on the basis of ratio of turnover over the GDP per capita.

DECEMBER

- Data released by the National Statistics Office showed that Indian economy shrunk by 7.5% in the quarter ending Sep 30 against a fall of 23.9% during the stringent lockdown months of quarter ending June 30.
- The Reliance Industries-BP Plc combine started production of natural gas in Asia's deepest gas block at the deepwater R cluster.
 - ✓ The gas field is located at a water depth of greater than 2000 meters in the Bay of Bengal, near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched under the brand name 'XP-100' on Dec 1 by the Indian Oil Corporation.
- During April-September 2020, India attracted FDI worth \$8.30 billion from Singapore, making it top source of FDI, followed by USA investing \$ 7.12 billion. FDI in India has increased by 13%, though globally it fell by 42%.

NOVEMBER

- Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund - MIC Redwood 1 RSC Ltd became the first foreign SWF to be granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.

BANKING & FINANCE

FEBRUARY

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

JANUARY

- RBI has started Payments Infrastructure Development Fund on Jan 5 to create 30 lakh new touch points every year for promoting digital payments in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres.

- RBI launched a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India, with March 2018 as the base period with the score set at 100.
- Accordingly, the DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 is 153.47 and 207.84 respectively, indicating appreciable growth.
- RBI declared the continuation of the D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) status for 3 Banks for the year 2020 – ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank.
- RBI has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash to review the functioning of digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps.
- RBI has directed that the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI will be mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. 50 crore and above made via RTGS/NEFT.
- The LEI is a 20-digit number to identify parties involved in financial transactions world over.
- The Exim Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment.
- Airtel Payments Bank launched a new feature 'Airtel SafePay' to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds.
- The government has raised the authorised capital Punjab & Sind Bank to Rs.10, 000 crore from Rs. 3,000 crore at present.
- The Shivalik Mercantile Coop Bank, HO-Saharanpur, UP has become the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank.

DECEMBER

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

- ICICI Bank launched a new version of its mobile payment app 'iMobile Pay' which allows payments and other banking services to customers of any other bank.
- HDFC Bank Ltd crossed market capitalisation of Rs. 8 trillion for the first time on Nov 25, becoming India's first bank to achieve this milestone.

NOVEMBER

- RBI has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging technology and promoting innovation.
- Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.
- The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts.
- In view of its weak financials, the RBI has announced the merger The Lakshmi Vilas Bank with Delhi based DBS Bank India Limited, a subsidiary of DBS Bank of Singapore.
- The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for millennials – tech savvy persons in the age group of 18 to 35 years.
- It offers a mobile first, highly personalised and experiential led banking experience to them.
- NPCI has approved payments feature on WhatsApp for users across the country in 10 regional languages.
- DBS Bank, Singapore has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance. It was also ranked as the "Best Bank in the world."
- HDFC Bank Ltd. Has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India, in a poll conducted by the UK based publication Asiamoney.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FEBRUARY

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

- The Indian Army successfully tested the Helina (Army Version) and Dhruv Astra (Air Force Version) Missile Systems designed and developed by DRDO.
- For the first time in the history of CRPF, a contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into specialised jungle warfare commando force CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action).
- Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India-2021" was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka from Feb 3 to 5.
- **PASSEX:** The Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted bilateral military exercise PASSEX in the Arabian Sea on Feb 18
- **Yudh Abhyas 20:** The India-US joint military exercise was held in Mahajan Field Firing Range of Bikaner district in Rajasthan from Feb 8 to 21.
- **AMPHEX-21:** A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from January 21-25.
- Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of the surface-to-surface ballistic cruise missile 'Babur', having a range of 450 kms.
- ISRO has tied up with the digital mapping/location tech company MapmyIndia to offer a fully indigenous, mapping portal and related geospatial services.
- The India Meteorological Department plans to set up India's first thunderstorm research testbed at Balasore, Odisha, jointly with ISRO and DRDO.
- The project aims at reducing fatalities and loss of property due to frequent cyclones and lightning strikes in Odisha and the eastern states.
- The American space agency NASA successfully landed its fifth rover 'Perseverance' on Mars on Feb 18 in a deep crater near the planet's equator called Jezero.
- Researchers from five institutes across India have discovered a new gecko species in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The new species belongs to the genus *Cyrtodactylus* commonly known as bent-toed geckos.
- Gecko is a small size lizard found in warm climates.
- Bharti Airtel became the country's first telecom operator to successfully demonstrate live fifth-generation (5G) service over a commercial network in Hyderabad city on Jan 28.
- A rocket from Elon Musk's SpaceX, an US aerospace company created a new record by launching 143 satellites at one time into space on January 24.

JANUARY

- DRDO successfully tested indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon--SAAW from Hawk-I aircraft off the Odisha coast.

- It is capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kilometres.
- DRDO and the Indian Army's Infantry School at Mhow (MP) have jointly developed India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol named 'Asmi'.
- The govt approved the export of the indigenously built surface-to-air missile system Akash.
- It has a range of 25 km and can target fighter jets, cruise missiles, drones, etc.
- The DRDO inducted twenty-one 'bike ambulances' in the CRPF for casualty evacuation tasks in remote Naxal violence and insurgency-affected areas.
- The customised 'Rakshita' ambulances have been built on 350cc Royal Enfield motorcycles by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, New Delhi.
- DRDO & Indian Navy successfully tested SAHAYAK-NG, India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft of Indian Navy off the coast of Goa.
- **KAVACH:** A joint exercise of Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard conducted in the last week of January under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- **Sea Vigil-21:** Indian Navy coordinated the largest coastal defence exercise along the entire 7,516-kilometre long coastline on Jan 12-13.
- **Ex Desert Knight-21:** Joint exercise of Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force conducted at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, Jan 20-24.
- **PASSEX:** Indian and Vietnamese Navy's two-day passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in the South China Sea.
- The Ministry of Electronics and IT announced the establishment of a first of its kind Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India in partnership with Amazon Web Services.
- The move will give select researchers, scientists access to Amazon's Braket cloud-based quantum computing service.
- Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) unveiled India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine 'Pneumosil' on Dec 28.
- Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace became the first private company to successfully test-fire the technology demonstration version of their solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor – Kalam-5.

DECEMBER

- In a first, India has inducted two American drones — MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series — into the Navy.
- They were put into flying operations at Indian Navy base INS Rajali at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu.

- Govt approved a new post of a Deputy Chief of Army Staff - Strategy, who will act as a "single-point advice" person to the Vice Chief of Army on operational issues.
- India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was launched in Hyderabad. It is capable of simulating speeds of Mach 5 to 12. (mach is speed of sound. One mach= 1234.8 km per hour)
- **ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet**, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) were commissioned at Goa.
- **INS Himgiri**, a Nilgiri-class frigate under 'Project 17A' was launched at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) facility at Kolkata.
- The Indian Navy has placed an order with the Israeli firm Smart Shooter for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems for fitting on AK-47 and AK 203 rifles.
- Ind-Indo Corpat: The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in Indian Ocean on Dec 17-18.
- Passage Exercise (PASSEX): The Indian Navy along with Russian Navy conducted a joint naval exercise in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region on Dec 4-5.
- ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite CMS-01 onboard PSLV-C50 rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness Control Centre named "NETRA", at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru.
 - ✓ The "NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis (NETRA)" will monitor, track and protect India's space assets.
- Russian space agency Roscosmos test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14 from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia.
 - ✓ It is capable of carrying payloads heavier than 20 tonnes into orbit.
- The East Coast Railway became the first railway zone in the country to commission the "End of Train Telemetry System" to run trains without guards.
- China's Chang'e-5 probe successfully touched down on Earth on Dec 17, bringing home the first samples of the moon in over 40 years.
- China's 'Chang'e 5 lunar probe achieved an historic feat on Dec 3 by planting China's national flag on the Moon's surface.
 - ✓ China became the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon, first being the USA during the Apollo mission in 1969.
- On Dec 5, Japanese spaceship Hayabusa-2 successfully released towards earth a small capsule containing samples from the asteroid Ryugu, which is about 300 million km away from earth.

- Chinese scientists have built the world's first light-based quantum computer 'Jiuzhang' which is one trillion times faster than the most powerful supercomputer.
 - ✓ It took a little over three minutes to complete a task that the world's fastest conventional machines would not be able to complete in 600 million years.
- Researchers at University of Texas, USA, have created the world's smallest memory device yet down to just one single square nanometre.

NOVEMBER

- Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first heavyweight anti-submarine electrically-propelled Torpedo, Varunastra, to the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy received the ninth Boeing P-8I surveillance plane from the USA at its naval air base in Goa on November 18.
- Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class advanced stealth submarine INS Vagir, was launched on Nov 12 at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai.
- India Coast Guard ship C-452 indigenously designed and built by M/s L & T, Surat, was inducted into Indian Coast Guard at its Ratnagiri base in Maharashtra.
- Three French Rafale fighter jets landed in Jamnagar in Gujarat on Nov 4, taking the total number of jets received till date to eight. Later, they flew to their home base at Ambala, Haryana.
- Army Chief General MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepali Army" by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu.
- 'Bull Strike': A joint military exercise of Army, Navy and Air Force was carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Nov 3 to 5.
- **MALABAR EXERCISE:** Joint exercise of the QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6.
- **SIMBEX-20:** Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise with Republic of Singapore Navy from Nov 23 to 25 in Andaman Sea.
- **SITMEX-20:** Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand conducted Trilateral Maritime Exercise in Andaman Sea for two days - Nov 21-22.
- **Indo-Thai CORPAT:** The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy from Nov 18 to 20 near the Andaman Sea.
- India's AI supercomputer 'Param Siddhi' achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world.
- The supercomputer is installed in the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Pune, Maharashtra.

- India has become the fourth country in the world to have its Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System – IRNSS recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).
- ISRO's rocket PSLV-C49 successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and placed into its intended orbit on November 7.
- Indian researchers discovered a genus of tree frog in the Andaman Islands and in the northeast. The new genus is named Rohanixalus after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda.
- A mushroom documentation project has discovered a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom 'Roridomyces Phyllostachys' in forests of East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya.
- China has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully sent the 6G communications test satellite into the orbit.

INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY

- The Myanmar Military Tatmadaw (official name of Myanmar Military) executed a coup in the country on Feb 1.
- Military arrested the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other senior leaders of the ruling party National League for Democracy.
- Denmark plans to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea to cover the electricity needs of 3 million European households.
- The energy will be generated from hundreds of wind turbines surrounding the island.
- The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with Russia for five years from Feb 2021.
- The treaty aims to make the world safer as unconstrained nuclear competition would endanger the entire world.
- The Office for National Statistics, UK stated that the British economy suffered its biggest decline in more than 300 years in 2020 as it shrank by 9.9%.
- The fall was due to coronavirus pandemic that closed shops and restaurants, devastated the travel industry and curtailed manufacturing.
- The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into effect from January 22, 2021. The treaty was adopted by UNO in July 2011.
- It is a legally binding treaty prohibiting the signatories to develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

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

JANUARY

- Joe Biden took oath on Jan 20 as the 46th President of the United States of America. 78 year old Biden has become the oldest US President in history.
- Kamala Harris was sworn in as 49th Vice-President of the country. Kamala is America's first woman and first person with south Asian roots to take the office of the Vice President.
- On January 13, Donald Trump became the first president in US history to be impeached twice.
- He was charged with inciting violent rampage by his supporters in the Capitol Complex on Jan 9.
- However, he was acquitted by the Senate (Upper House) as motion of impeachment could not muster the required two third support.
- The Henley's passport index retained Japan on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world while India secured 85th spot.
- It offers visa-free access to 191 destinations around the world. It is followed by Singapore (190) and Germany and S Korea (189).
- The Government of France organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video conferencing on January 11.
- The summit aimed at protecting the world's biodiversity with the theme "Let's act together for nature!"
- In the gravest assault on the symbol of American democracy in more than 200 years, hundreds of Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol on Jan 6 in a shocking bid to overturn his election defeat.
- Rioters crashed their way past metal security barricades, broke windows and scaled walls to fight their way into the parliament building.
- Archaeologists discovered the world's oldest known cave art—a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia.

DECEMBER

- Britain became the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine developed by the American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.
- Singapore's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

- Morocco has become the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help.
- UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ✓ Starting November 2021, the \$ 50 thousand award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.
- Nepal and China jointly announced on Dec 8 that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest was 8,848.86 meter (29,031.7 feet), about 86 cm more than the last measurement in 1954.
- In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is at number one, for the 10th year in a row.
- According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, Pakistani city Lahore was once again found to be the most polluted city in the world.
- As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, Afghanistan was the most impacted of the 163 countries, recording 5725 deaths in 1422 terror incidents.
- Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced "pandemic" as its 2020 word of the year.
- Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as Word of the Year 2020.
- The first clean coal-based power plant of Arab world- Hassyan is being developed in Saih Shuaib, Dubai, UAE.

NOVEMBER

- The 15th G20 Summit was held on Nov 21-22 in virtual mode, chaired by Saudi Arabia. The theme of the summit was "Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All".
- The 2020 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held on Nov 20 under the chairmanship of Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in a virtual mode.
- 15 Asia Pacific countries formed world's largest trading bloc, comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries, and South Korea, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand.
- The deal named 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP) is led by China.
- FAO of the UN formally launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems and agriculture worldwide.
- Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the 46th President of the United States.
- Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris also secured her position as the first woman to be the Vice President of the USA.

- The USA formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Nov 4.
- Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025.
- 'Lockdown', the containment measure adopted around the world to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020 by the Collins online dictionary, Glasgow, Scotland.

PERSONS IN NEWS

FEBRUARY

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

JANUARY

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

DECEMBER

Roshni Nadar Malhotra: CEO of IT major HCL Technologies topped the list of the richest women in the country with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore.

Gitanjali Rao: 15-year-old Indian-American girl, has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year' for her "astonishing work" using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying.

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

Dr. Gaurav Sharma: Member of Parliament (MP) in New Zealand created history by becoming the first Indian-origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land.

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

TIME 'Person of the year-2020'

US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year'.

NOVEMBER

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

FEBRUARY

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

Dr. Ajay Mathur: Selected as the new Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Presently, he is Director General of The Energy & Resources Institute.

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

Mallikarjun Kharge: The Indian National Congress named the party veteran as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: The former Finance Minister of Nigeria and a former MD of the World Bank was selected by the UN General Assembly as the next Director General of the World Trade Organisation.

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

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

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

JANUARY

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

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

Yoweri Museveni: Ugandan President scored a decisive election victory to win a record sixth term as the President.

Sadyr Japarov: Former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan elected as the new President of the country.

Faustin-Archange Touadera: Re-elected as the President of Central African Republic.

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

DECEMBER

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

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

Uday Shankar: Elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21. He is currently the president of The Walt Disney Company, Asia Pacific.

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha: Appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner, head of Central Information Commission, a statutory body.

Girish Chandra Murmu: Comptroller & Auditor General of India was elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva.

Dr. M. M. Kuttu: Appointed chairperson of the newly set up Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.

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

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

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

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

AWARDS & HONOURS

FEBRUARY

Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana, emerged as the top winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020 on Feb 10.

- ✓ Manika Sheokand from Haryana was declared VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020 and Manya Singh from Uttar Pradesh was crowned VLCC Femina Miss India 2020 – runner-up.

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

Koozhangal wins Tiger award for the best film

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

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

PADMA AWARDS DECLARED

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

Seven persons were selected for Padma Vibhushan.

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

Ten persons will get Padma Bhushan and 102 persons will get Padma Shri.

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

Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar:

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

Golden Peacock award for the best film:

Danish World War II drama "Into the Darkness" directed by Anders Refn, was declared the best film at the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

JANUARY

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

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

Eminent Engineer Award-2020: Conferred upon V.K. Yadav, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board by the Institution of Engineering and Technology, London for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms in Indian Railways.

DRDO's Scientist of the Year Award: Won by senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin for treatment of Leucoderma.

SKOCH Challenger Award: Conferred upon Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda for outstanding performance in e-Governance.

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

2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize: Nikhil Srivastava, a young Indian mathematician, won the prestigious prize along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison-Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs.

DECEMBER

Global Teacher Prize 2020: The one-million-dollar prize was won by Ranjitsinh Disale, 32, a primary school teacher from Paritewadi village in Maharashtra for his efforts to promote girls' education using QR codes.

The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians:

Awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (First non Indian women mathematician to get this award)

- ✓ The Prize is given every year to mathematicians less than 45 years of age who have conducted outstanding research in a developing country.
- ✓ Given by the government's Department of Science and Technology in the memory of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a genius in pure mathematics.

ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award: Presented to Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the TATA group to mark the contribution of his business group in India's progress.

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

UN Global Climate Action Award: Won by Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh for helping remote communities in accessing solar energy.

Booker Prize for Fiction: New York-based 44 year old Scottish writer Douglas Stuart won the prestigious 50,000-pound prize for his autobiographical debut novel 'Shuggie Bain'.

International Children's Peace Prize: Awarded to a Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens.

OBITUARY

FEBRUARY

Justice (Retd) M Rama Jois: The former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand and eminent jurist, passed away on February 16 in Bengaluru due to old age-related ailments. He was 89 years old.

JANUARY

Ustad Mustafa Khan: Renowned Indian classical musician of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana breathed his last at his Mumbai residence on Jan 17. He was 89. He taught music to likes of AR Rahman, Shaan, Hariharan, Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle, Sonu Nigam, Alisha Chinoy and many others.

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

Dr. V Shanta: The world-renowned oncologist passed away after brief illness in Chennai. She was 94. Her medical life of over 60 years was dedicated to cancer care. She was the Chairperson of Adyar Cancer Centre, Chennai. Her contribution to Oncology earned her the Magsaysay award, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards.

Narendra Chanchal: Popular bhajan singer from Amritsar passed away at a private hospital in New Delhi. He was 80. He will always be remembered for his numerous iconic bhajans devoted to Goddess Durga (Sheranwali Mata).

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

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

Pierre Cardin: French fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, died aged 98. Cardin was the first designer to sell clothes collections in department stores in the late 1950s.

DECEMBER

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

Roddam Narasimha: Eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka died in Bengaluru on Dec 14. He was 87. He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan in 2013.

Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya: Renowned Sanskrit scholar, a propagator of the Madhva ideology and a great orator, died in Udupi, Karnataka due to age related illness. He was 85.

Astad Deboo:

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

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

Faqir Chand Kohli: Known as Father of Indian IT Industry, Kohli passed away due to a heart attack on November 26 at his residence in Mumbai. He was 96.

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NOVEMBER

Ahmed Patel: Congress veteran and AICC treasurer passed away on Nov 25, losing his two-month-old battle against Covid. He was 71. Patel was an eight-time parliamentarian – five times in the Rajya Sabha and three times in the Lok Sabha.

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

Soumitra Chatterjee: Veteran actor and Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient passed away at a Kolkata Nursing Home. He was 85. His performances won him several national and international awards including Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan and Légion d'Honneur (France).

Diego Maradona: Argentinean football legend passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest on Nov 25. The flamboyant player, best known for leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title, was 60.

Prince Khalifa: The world's longest serving Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, passed away on Nov 11. He was 84.

Sir Sean Connery: Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom as the suave, handsome and sophisticated British agent James Bond, 007, died aged 90. He will always be remembered for his unforgettable iconic opening words 'the name's Bond... James Bond'. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 2000.

PLACES IN NEWS

FEBRUARY

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

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

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

Texas: In the United States, millions of people in Texas state suffered in extreme cold as they were forced to spend winter days with no electricity as a unusual severe winter storm named Uri struck the south-eastern part of the country.

JANUARY

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER

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

Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad: It has become the first zoo in the country to receive the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from the Accreditation Services for Certification Bodies (ASCB), UK.

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

NOVEMBER

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

Baghjan oil well: In Assam, the blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. The experts from Canada, with the help of a 60 tonnes snubbing unit, killed the blowout well.

Kabartal Wetland, Begusarai (Bihar), also known as 'Kanwar Jheel'; **Sur Sarovar,** also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh and **Lonar Lake,** the Crater Lake in Buldhana district of Maharashtra, all three have been declared as wetlands of international importance under 'Ramsar Convention'.

Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh: It has been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that will explore innovative ways to achieve eco-conservation and sustainability.

Nagorno-Karabakh: Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed a peace agreement brokered by Russia to end over six week old military conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Izmir, Turkey: An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern Turkey on Oct 30, killing over 90 people in Elazig province and four in the neighbouring province of Malatya.

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

Typhoon Vamco: Dozens of towns in Cagayan region north of the capital Manila in Philippines were submerged in flash flood waters on Nov 13-14.

Storm Eta: A powerful hurricane with wind speeds up to 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains hit Nicaragua in Central America on Nov 3.

Typhoon Goni: The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of the Philippines' main island of Luzon on Nov 1 with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph.

SPORTS WORLD

FEBRUARY

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

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

Rishabh Pant: The Indian wicketkeeper-batsman won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award 2021.

Arundhati Choudhary and Naorem B. Chanu won gold medals at the 30th Adriatic Pearl Boxing Tournament in Budva, Montenegro (a tiny country in southern Europe).

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

10th National Ice Hockey Championship: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) won the trophy after a win over Ladakh in the finals played in Gulmarg, J&K.

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GRAND SLAM held in Melbourne Park, Australia

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

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

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

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

JANUARY

Anshu Malik became the first wrestler of the country to win silver at the Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia.

India Wins Series Against Australia

India created history by defeating Australia by three wickets in the fourth and final Test at the Gabba in Brisbane and retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

INTERNATIONAL

The Yonex Thailand Open, 2021: Year's first international Badminton tournament held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Men's Singles title: Victor Axelsen, Denmark; Women's Singles Title: Carolina Marin, Spain

Sir Lewis Hamilton: Seven-time Formula One world champion and winner of all-time record 95 wins in F1 races, was awarded knighthood in the United Kingdom New Year Honours list, adding title of 'Sir' to his name.

Player of the Century Award: Won by Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal at the Globe Soccer (Football) Awards. He plays for the Club Juventus.

Claire Polosak, Australian cricket coach scripted history on Jan 7 by becoming the first female match official in the 144 year old history of men's Test matches. She acted as the fourth umpire in the pink test between India and Australia played in Sydney.

ICC Awards of the Decade declared

The prestigious cricket awards were declared in Dubai on Dec 28:

Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade: Virat Kohli
 Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade: Ellyse Perry (Australia)
 Test/ODI/T-20 Male Cricketer of the Decade: Steve Smith/ Virat Kohli/Rashid Khan
 ODI/T-20 Female Cricketer of the Decade: Ellyse Perry/Ellyse Perry
 ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade: M S Dhoni

DECEMBER

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

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

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

Jehan Daruvala, became the first driver from the country to win a Formula 2 race. He won the Sakhir sprint race in Bahrain. 22 year old Daruvala hails from Mumbai and races for team Carlin of UK.

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

The Sports Ministry approved the inclusion of four indigenous games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana.

✓ The games include Gatka (martial art of Punjab), Kalaripayattu (martial art of Kerala), Thang-Ta (martial art of Manipur) and Mallakhamb, traditional pole based gymnastics, very popular in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

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

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

Hockey World Cup 2023: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in Odisha, for a second consecutive time.

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

Parthiv Patel, one of the youngest to have played Test cricket for India at the age of 17, announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game, three months short of his 36th birthday.

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie smashed the half marathon (21 km) world record by 29 seconds on Dec 7, becoming the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes.

✓ He won the Valencia Half Marathon in Spain in 57 minutes and 32 second, breaking the previous record of 58:01 set by compatriot Geoffrey Kamworor in September 2019.

BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020: Won by Formula 1 world champion, Lewis Hamilton of Britain.

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

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

World Athletics Awards 2020

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

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

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

Asian Games 2030 & 2034: The Olympic Council of Asia announced that the 2030 Asian Games will be hosted by Doha, Qatar, while the 2034 edition will be hosted by Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

✓ It may be noted that the 2022 Asian Games are to be hosted by Hongzhou, China and 2026 edition by Nagoya, Japan.

Russia was banned on Dec 17 from using its name, flag and anthem at the next Olympics or any world championships for the next two years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne (Switzerland).

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

Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



APRIL GK TEST - 01

1. **Dr Ajay Mathur has been appointed as the Director General of the International Solar Alliance - ISA. Headquarters of ISA are located in which city?**
 - a. Paris
 - b. Gurugram
 - c. Bengaluru
 - d. Marseille
 - e. Basel
2. **Lloyd J Austin III arrived in India from the USA on March 19 for a three-day visit. He holds which position in US administration?**
 - a. Secretary of the Treasury
 - b. Secretary of Defence
 - c. Secretary of the Interior
 - d. Secretary of Commerce
 - e. Secretary of Education
3. **Which Indian film celebrity has been honoured with the Film Archive Award-2021?**
 - a. Aamir Khan
 - b. Gulzaar
 - c. Amitabh Bachhan
 - d. Akshay Kumar
 - e. Mahesh Bhatt
4. **The Ministry of Defence has recently inked an agreement with which company for the supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) to Indian Army?**
 - a. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
 - b. Bharat Dynamics Limited
 - c. Ordnance Factory, Jabalpur
 - d. Bharat Electronics
 - e. Indian Ordnance Factory, Cossipore
5. **The United Nations Development Program-UNDP has launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' in India for what purpose?**
 - a. For rehabilitation of drug addicts
 - b. For hospital treatment of Cancer patients
 - c. For rehabilitation of widows in rural area
 - d. To promote women entrepreneurship in rural India
 - e. To promote women SHGs in tribal areas
6. **What is meant by "Underwriting", a term frequently used in financial sector?**
 - a. Undervaluation of the assets
 - b. The act of covering a risk for a fee
 - c. Giving a guarantee that a loan will not become a bad loan
 - d. The act of permission to float on IPO
 - e. None of these
7. **Nur-Sultan is the capital city of which of the following countries?**
 - a. Uzbekistan
 - b. Kazakhstan
 - c. Tajikistan
 - d. Turkmenistan
 - e. Kyrgyzstan
8. **The Jal Shakti ministry launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign. It will cover which areas?**
 - a. 115 Aspirational districts
 - b. 254 Stressed districts
 - c. Rural areas of all districts
 - d. Drought prone rural districts
 - e. All rural and urban areas of all districts
9. **Government launched which scheme for offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a nominal cost of Rs. 10 per bulb?**
 - a. Gram Uday
 - b. Gram Ujala
 - c. Gram Prakash
 - d. Gram Roshni
 - e. Gram Jyoti
10. **Which film won the National Award for the "Best Feature Film" for 2019?**
 - a. Kumbalangi Nights
 - b. Thanneermathan Dinangal
 - c. Gully Boy
 - d. Jallikattu
 - e. Marakkar: Arabi Kadalinte Simham

11. **Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, winner of the 2019 Gandhi Peace Prize, was the former head of which country?**
 - a. Oman
 - b. Kuwait
 - c. UAE
 - d. Bahrain
 - e. Brunei
12. **The Reserve Bank of India has set up a committee headed by Ms. Shyamala Gopinath for what purpose?**
 - a. To examine functioning of Payment Banks
 - b. To review efficiency levels of public sector banks
 - c. To suggest improvements in security of digital payments
 - d. To evaluate applications for "on-tap" licensing of universal banks and small finance banks
 - e. To probe incidence of frauds in the online loans & advances
13. **As per the provisions of which Act bankers have been empowered to take possession of the assets charged to them, without intervention of court?**
 - a) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
 - b) Bankers Recovery of Loans Act, 1971
 - c) SARFAESI Act, 2002
 - d) Debt Recovery Tribunal Act, 1993
 - e) No such provision is there
14. **PM Ujjwala yojana is associated with:**
 - a. LPG connections
 - b. LED bulbs
 - c. Renewable Energy
 - d. Solar Farm Pumps
 - e. Street Lighting
15. **The NITI Aayog has formed 11 committees to move the country toward a circular economy aimed at:**
 - a. Linking the raw material suppliers to manufacturers
 - b. Eliminating wastages and ensuring continual use of resources
 - c. Ensuring proper end use of surplus farm produce
 - d. Rationalising the production cycles of small units
 - e. Improving recycling of used products
16. **The book titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future" is a collection of memoirs of which great lady?**
 - a. Michelle Obama
 - b. Angela Merkel
 - c. Indra Nooyi
 - d. Kamala Harris
 - e. Sonia Gandhi
17. **Which country has decided to build the world's first ship tunnel?**
 - a. Sweden
 - b. Norway
 - c. Finland
 - d. Denmark
 - e. Netherland
18. **Name the Hindi author who has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman for 2020:**
 - a. Kuldeep Raghav
 - b. Bhagwant Anmol
 - c. Prof. Sharad Pagare
 - d. Mamta Kalia
 - e. Sunita Jain
19. **Name the former deputy governor of Reserve Bank who passed away on March 26 in Mumbai:**
 - a. Y V Reddy
 - b. K C Chakrabarty
 - c. K H Udeshi
 - d. Usha Thorat
 - e. Subir Gokaran
20. **Which of the following is/are NOT true about the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana?**
 1. The scheme is designed to achieve the government's goal of Comprehensive Financial Inclusion.
 2. The account holders are not required to maintain any minimum balance in their accounts.
 3. Every account holder gets a RuPay Debit Card free of charge to facilitate transactions, besides a free accident cover.
 4. The government contributes Rs. 1000 initially towards every account to ensure that it has at least some balance.

Select the right option:

 - a) 2 and 3
 - b) 3 Only
 - c) 4 only
 - d) 1 and 4
 - e) All statements are correct
21. **Which state was declared first under the National TB Elimination Programme?**
 - a. Meghalaya
 - b. Kerala
 - c. Uttarakhand
 - d. Himachal Pradesh
 - e. Manipur
22. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited capital Dhaka on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on March 26-27. Who is the President of Bangladesh?**
 - a. Khaleda Zia
 - b. Hussain Muhammad Ershad
 - c. Mohammed Abdul Hamid
 - d. Tarique Rahman
 - e. Fakhruddin Ahmed
23. **Saurabh Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which apex organisation?**
 - a. UIDAI
 - b. NIA
 - c. BHEL
 - d. FCI
 - e. NHAI
24. **Which country topped the medal tally in the ISSF World Cup at Delhi?**
 - a. South Korea
 - b. USA
 - c. Italy
 - d. Denmark
 - e. India
25. **Soma Mondal has been elected as the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE). She heads which PSU?**
 - a. BHEL
 - b. NTPC
 - c. SAIL
 - d. ONGC
 - e. IOC
26. **As per Reserve Bank of India, the amount lying in unclaimed accounts for a period more than 10 years is required to be transferred to an account called**

APRIL GK TEST - 02

- e. Justice Ashok Bhushan
44. Cyclone Seroja triggered heavy floods and widespread landslides on April 3-4 in which country?
a. Cambodia b. Vietnam
c. Indonesia d. Malaysia
e. Philippines
45. _____ became the first state in the country to provide a free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state:
a. Kerala b. Rajasthan
c. Haryana d. Sikkim
e. Telangana
- 46) Which of the following is NOT a government scheme?
a. AMRUT b. PMAY
c. SAMMAAN d. HRIDAY
e. PRASAD
47. The latest World Economic Outlook report has projected India's GDP growth at 12.5% for the current year. This report is brought out by which global organisation?
a. World Bank b. IFCI
c. AIIB d. IMF
e. OECD
48. The Monetary Policy Committee in its meeting on April 7 decided to keep the key policy rate unchanged. Which rate is being talked about?
a. Repo Rate b. Reverse Repo Rate
c. MSF Rate d. Bank Rate
e. Prime Rate
49. The Indian Navy participated in a _____ led multi nation naval drill named "La Perouse", from April 5 to 7 in the Bay of Bengal:
a. Australia b. USA
c. Japan d. France
e. China
50. Who has been appointed as the new Revenue Secretary under the Ministry of Finance?
a. T V Somanathan b. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
c. Tarun Bajaj d. Debashish Panda
e. Tuhin Kanta Pandey

ANSWER KEY | APRIL GK TEST | 1

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

1. The Reserve Bank has decided to bring out a Financial Inclusion Index. It will be released annually in the month of ____:
a. January b. March
c. April d. July
e. December
2. What is the name of the Indian Coast Guard ship that was formally commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24?
a. ICGS Varaha b. ICGS Vijaya
c. ICGS Vikram d. ICGS Vajra
e. ICGS Varad
3. AM Turing Award is given for the outstanding contribution in which field?
a. Artificial Intelligence b. Computer Science
c. Nanotechnology d. Space Research
e. Atomic Science
4. The Reserve Bank has enhanced the limit of maximum balance in accounts with Payment Banks to Rs. _____ lakh.
a. 1.5 b. 2.0
c. 2.5 d. 3.0
e. 5.0
5. S Ramann has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of which DFI?
a. NABARD b. EXIM Bank
c. NHB d. SIDBI
e. IFCI
6. The Supreme Court of India on April 7 launched its Artificial Intelligence portal named SUPACE. What does the letter 'U' stand for?
a. Union b. Universal
c. Unitary d. Under
e. None of these
7. Mortgage is a
a. Security of movable property for a loan given by a bank.
b. Security of immovable property for a loan given by a bank.
c. Concession on immovable property for a loan given by a bank.
d. Facility on immovable property for a loan given by a bank
e. Security on immovable property for a deposit received by a bank.



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8. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with Mark Rutte on April 9. He is the newly elected Prime Minister of which country?**
 - a. Sweden
 - b. Denmark
 - c. Spain
 - d. Netherlands
 - e. Iceland
9. **Government launched a portal on April 7 to promote the honey mission in the country. What is its name?**
 - a. Honeypro
 - b. Madhu Grow
 - c. Madhukranti
 - d. Shahad Vriddhee
 - e. Honey Bank
10. **On April 7, the government launched a multi-stakeholder initiative named 'Anamaya' for what purpose?**
 - a. To promote tribal handicrafts in online markets
 - b. To compile complete profile of Anganwadi workers
 - c. To focus on the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities
 - d. To upgrade working of ASHA workers
 - e. To focus on health status of pregnant women in tribal areas
11. **India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector. What is its name?**
 - a. Microtracer
 - b. De-explo
 - c. Nano Sniffer
 - d. Micro Sniffer
 - e. Micro Explorer
12. **Prince Philip, British Queen Elizabeth's husband, died at the age of 99. He was officially known as Duke of _____ :**
 - a. Windsor
 - b. Glasgow
 - c. Scotland
 - d. Edinburgh
 - e. Wales
13. **World Homoeopathy Day is observed on April 10 to honor the birth of the father of Homoeopathy. Who was he?**
 - a. Hippocrates
 - b. Samuel Hahnemann
 - c. James Tyler Kent
 - d. Robert Ellis Dudgeon
 - e. Melanie Hahnemann
14. **Where is the headquarters of ISRO?**
 - a. Bengaluru
 - b. Delhi
 - c. Hyderabad
 - d. Mumbai
 - e. Chennai
15. **Agha Khan Cup is related to which sports?**
 - a. Hockey
 - b. Cricket
 - c. Football
 - d. Badminton
 - e. Basketball
16. **As per the recently published Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU 2020), which university was declared best in India?**
 - a. Delhi University
 - b. Banaras Hindu University
 - c. Calcutta University
 - d. Madras University
 - e. JNU, New Delhi
17. **Ms. Frances McDormand won the BAFTA award for the best actress in the leading role for which movie?**
 - a. Clemency
 - b. Rocks
 - c. Nomadland
 - d. His House
 - e. The Father
18. **The first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961. He hailed from which country?**
 - a. USA
 - b. Britain
 - c. Russia
 - d. France
 - e. Germany
19. **World Parkinson's Day is observed on April 11. Parkinson disease is associated with which system of the human body?**
 - a. Digestive
 - b. Nervous
 - c. Respiratory
 - d. Muscular
 - e. Circulatory
20. **In which Indian state festival of Baisakhi is celebrated as Puthandu?**
 - a. Kerala
 - b. Karnataka
 - c. Tamil Nadu
 - d. Andhra Pradesh
 - e. Telangana
21. **Who has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India?**
 - a. Sunil Arora
 - b. Rajiv Kumar
 - c. Umesh Sinha
 - d. Gulshan Kumar
 - e. Sushil Chandra
22. **Which of the following statements regarding "Amortisation" is true?**
 - a) Reduction in the amount of debt through regular payment
 - b) Sanction of a loan for purchase of a house
 - c) Deposit of title deeds of immovable property with the lender/banker
 - d) Opening a bank account for a large loan
 - e) Early repayment of a mortgage loan
23. **Free and Compulsory Elementary Education to all children in the age group 6-14 years is a Fundamental Right granted by the _____ amendment to the Constitution.**
 - a. 76th
 - b. 86th

- c. 56th
e. 78th
- d. 72nd
24. The 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in virtual mode from April 13 to 16. Which country hosted this event?
- a. India
b. Germany
c. Maldives
d. Sri Lanka
e. Seychelles
25. Guneet Monga, acclaimed filmmaker was honoured with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by which country?
- a. Belgium
b. Britain
c. Iceland
d. France
e. Netherlands
26. Government launched the e-SaNTa platform for promotion of _____ products:
- a. Poultry
b. Cotton
c. Cottage
d. Tribal
e. Marine
27. Which of the following is a correct statement?
- a. Interest is paid on current accounts at the same rate as term deposit accounts.
b. The rate of interest on current account and saving account are the same
c. No interest is paid on current accounts
d. Interest on current account is paid on discretion of the bank
e. Interest on current account is less than interest paid on savings bank accounts
28. Which article in the Indian Constitution deals with the Annual Financial Statement (Budget)?
- a. Article 112
b. Article 110
c. Article 123
d. Article 108
e. Article 110
29. The five-nation group BRICS established its own developmental bank called _____:
- a. BRICS Development Bank
b. BRICS World Bank
c. New BRICS Bank
d. New Development Bank
e. New World Bank
30. A mobile application called "Little Guru" has been launched to enable the user to learn _____ language:
- a. Tamil
b. Maithilee
c. Awadhi
d. Sanskrit
e. Malayalam
31. Which Indian company has been allowed by the Drug Controller General of India restricted

emergency use of Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V in India?

- a. Bharat Biotech
b. Serum Institute of India
c. Dr. Reddy's Lab
d. Apollo Pharma
e. Sun Pharma
32. Government has launched an online Grievance Management Portal of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to facilitate online filing of complaints. Who is the current head of the NCSC?
- a. Swami Prasad Maurya
b. Vijay Sampla
c. Ashok Tanwar
d. Ramdass Athawale
e. Chirag Paswan
33. Government launched "_____", a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition:
- a. Uttam Aahar
b. Poshan Abhiyaan
c. Food Priority
d. Aahar Kranti
e. Khadya Poorti
34. Government launched the MANAS App to promote wellbeing across all age groups. What does the second 'A' depict in the acronym MANAS?
- a. Aadmi
b. Aarogya
c. Asthaee
d. Augmentation
e. Authority
35. As per the Banking Ombudsman scheme, a complainant must wait for the reply from the bank for maximum how many days after which he can move complaint to Ombudsman?
- a. 90
b. 15
c. 30
d. 10
e. 7
36. Kaziranga National Park is located in which state?
- a) Gujarat
b) Rajasthan
c) Kerala
d) Assam
e) Bihar
37. Which district bagged top position at National level for successfully implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2020-21?
- a. Gurdaspur
b. Solapur
c. Udhampur
d. Sirmour
e. Mahendragarh
38. On 13 April 1984, the Indian Army launched 'Operation _____' to secure Bilafond La

and other passes on the Salto Ridge, from Pakistani aggression:

- a. Himshikha b. Parbatraj
- c. Himdhwan d. Meghdoot
- e. Himprahaar

39. Which country announced the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats on April 15?

- a. North Korea b. Germany
- c. Ukraine d. USA
- e. Iraq

40. Sarita Mor (of Sonipat, Haryana) won the gold in the Asian Wrestling Championships hosted by Almaty in _____:

- a. Iran b. Serbia
- c. Kazakhstan d. Ukraine
- e. Poland

41. The Reserve Bank has decided to set up a new Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) from May 1, 2021 under the headship of _____:

- a. Urjit Patel b. Y H Malegam
- c. M K Jain d. M Rajeshwar Rao
- e. M R Hota

42. Which country topped in the usage of internet as per the recently released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021?

- a. Britain b. France
- c. Sweden d. Switzerland
- e. USA

43. No money can be withdrawn from the _____ without prior parliamentary approval.

- a. Consolidated Fund of India
- b. Provident Fund of India
- c. Contingency Fund of India
- d. Public Account
- e. Emergency Fund of India

44. Financial Inclusion means providing:

- a. Financial services, namely, payments, remittances, savings, loans and insurance at affordable cost to persons not yet given the same.
- b. Ration at affordable cost to persons not yet given the same.
- c. Housing finance at low rate of interest to persons not yet given the same.
- d. Houses at affordable cost to persons not yet given the same.
- e. Education at affordable cost to persons not yet given the same.

45. Mirabai Chanu set a new World Record in the women's 49kg Clean and Jerk category at Asian

Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent on April 17. She hails from which state?

- a. Mizoram b. Tripura
- c. Manipur d. Nagaland
- e. Assam

46. The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was held at which place?

- a. Chushool b. Almaty
- c. Spiti d. Bishkek
- e. Nur Sultan

47. April 17 is observed as the World Haemophilia Day. Haemophilia is associated with:

- a. Cases of low blood pressure
- b. Cases of high blood pressure
- c. Swelling of blood carrying veins
- d. Incidence of clotting in brain cells
- e. Slow/delayed clotting of blood

48. Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Heritage Day on April 17?

- a. UNICEF b. UNESCO
- c. UNCTAD d. IUCN
- e. INTACH

49. The Indian budget can be introduced in the _____ of Parliament.

- a. Lower or Upper house
- b. Upper house only
- c. Lower house only
- d. Jointly before two houses
- e. There is no fixed procedure

50. World's largest cricket stadium - Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera is located in which state?

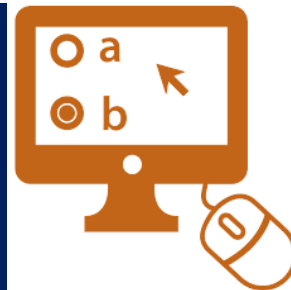
- a. Gujarat b. Punjab
- c. Maharashtra d. Karnataka
- e. Rajasthan

ANSWER KEY | APRIL GK TEST | 2

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

IBPS PO - PRE

(MODEL TEST PAPER)



REASONING ABILITY

Reasoning Ability

Directions (Qs. 1 to 5): Study the following information to answer the given questions.

Twelve cars viz Mercedes, Swift, Santro, Accord, Innova, Polo, Punto, Figo, Civic, City, Ferrari and Landrover are parked in two parallel rows containing six cars each, in such a way that there is an equal distance between adjacent cars. The cars parked in row – 1 are parked in such a manner that the driver seated in the cars would face the South. In row – 2, cars are parked in such a manner that the drivers seated in these cars would face the North. Therefore, in the given parking arrangement each car parked in a row faces another car of the other row.

(i) Mercedes being a big car must be parked at one of the extreme ends. Mercedes is parked second to the left of Santro. Santro faces Figo.

(ii) Punto and Innova are parked immediately next to each other. Neither is parked next to Figo or Santro.

(iii) Civic is parked in such a manner that its driver when seated in the parked car would face South. Civic is parked third to the left of Polo.

(iv) City is parked in such a manner that it faces Ferrari. Ferrari is parked second to the left of Landrover. Landrover faces North and is not parked next to Figo.

(v) Swift is parked third to the right of Ferrari and faces Innova.

(Note) Left and right parking directions are with reference to the driver as if the driver is seated in the car.)

1) How many cars are parked between Santro and Civic?

- a) One
- b) Two
- c) Three
- d) Four
- e) Both cars are parked in different rows

2) Polo is related to Ferrari in the same way as Innova is related to Accord. To which of the following is City related to, following the same pattern?

- a) Mercedes
- b) Innova
- c) Santro
- d) Punto
- e) Landrover

3) Which of the following cars are parked at extreme ends of the rows?

- a) Landrover, Punto
- b) Innova, Polo
- c) Polo, Accord
- d) Landrover, Innova
- e) Ferrari, Swift

4) Which of the following cars faces Polo?

- a) Mercedes
- b) Civic
- c) Landrover
- d) Punto
- e) Accord

5) Which of the following is true regarding Figo?

- a) A driver seated in the parked Figo would face North
- b) Swift is parked second to the right of the car facing Figo.
- c) Punto and Ferrari are parked immediately next to Figo
- d) Mercedes and Accord are parked at the extreme ends of the row in which Figo is parked
- e) None is true

Directions (Qs. 6 to 10): Study the following information carefully to answer the given questions.

Eight players of different games are sponsored by different companies. Sachin who plays cricket is not sponsored by Pepsi or Britannia. The player who is sponsored by Adidas plays badminton. The player of billiards is sponsored by Reebok. Mahesh is sponsored by MRF. He does not play Table Tennis or Chess. Singers sponsored players plays football. Dinko does not play hockey. The volleyball player is sponsored by Pepsi. Laxman and Ramesh play Volleyball and Badminton, though not necessarily respectively. Rahul plays Billiards. Dhanraj who is sponsored by Ispat International does not play chess. Mukesh is not sponsored by Britannia. Manikchand sponsored player does not play table tennis or hockey.

6) Who is sponsored by Singers?

- a) Dinko
- b) Mukesh
- c) Sachin
- d) Can't be determined
- e) None of these

- 7) **Dinko plays which game?**
 a) Football b) Table Tennis
 c) Chess d) Hockey
 e) Can't be determined
- 8) **Who plays Table tennis?**
 a) Dhanraj b) Dinko
 c) Mukesh d) Sachin
 e) Can't be determined
- 9) **The player sponsored by MRF plays which game?**
 a) Cricket b) Hockey
 c) Chess
 d) Can't be determined
 e) None of these
- 10) **Which of the following combination is definitely false?**
 a) Laxman - Volleyball - Pepsi
 b) Ramesh - Badminton - Adidas
 c) Rahul- Billiards - Reebok
 d) Mahesh - Football - MRF
 e) None of these

Directions (Qs. 11-15): In each of the questions below are given four statements, followed by four conclusions: I, II, III, IV. You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. Read the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the given statements disregarding commonly known facts.

- 11) **Statements:**
 Some carpets are books.
 All books are pens
 Some pens are cartons.
 All cartons are notebooks.
Conclusions:
 I. Some cartons are carpets
 II. Some cartons are books
 III. Some pens are carpets.
 IV. Some notebooks are pens.
 a) Only I and II follow
 b) Only II and III follow
 c) Only III and IV follow
 d) Only I and III follow
 e) None of these
- 12) **Statements:**
 Some paints are bottles
 Some bottles are brands
 Some brands are colours
 All colours are erasers.
Conclusions:
 I. Some paints are brands
 II. Some erasers are bottles
 III. Some erasers are brands
 IV. Some bottles are colours
 a) None follows b) Only III follows
 c) Only II and IV follow d) Only IV follows
 e) Only I, II and III follow

- 13) **Statements:**
 Some boxes are triangles
 All spheres are triangles
 All Circles are boxes.
 All triangles are quadrilaterals.
Conclusions:
 I. Some quadrilaterals are boxes.
 II. Some quadrilaterals are triangles
 III. Some triangles are spheres.
 IV. No Circle is quadrilateral.
 a) Only I follows b) Only II follows
 c) Only I, II and III follow d) Only III follows
 e) All follow

- 14) **Statements:**
 All plastics are trees.
 Some trees are buildings
 Some buildings are windows
 Some windows are papers.
Conclusions:
 I. Some papers are plastics
 II. Some buildings are papers
 III. No paper is tree
 IV. Some trees are windows.
 a) Only I follows b) Only II follows
 c) Only I and IV follow d) Only III follows
 e) None follows

- 15) **Statements:**
 All rings are phones.
 All phones are spoons.
 Some phones are files
 All files are covers
Conclusions:
 I. Some files are rings
 II. Some covers are spoons.
 III. Some spoons are phones
 IV. Some rings are covers
 a) Only II and IV follow
 b) Only I, II and III follow
 c) Only I and II follow
 d) Only II and III follow
 e) None follows

Directions (16-20): Study the information and answer the given question.

In a certain code language 'prepare for your exams' is written as 'xn nt oz wl'
 'hard work for prepare' is written as 'nt ml oz tk'
 'prepare your studies well' is written as 'sd jk nt xn'
 'work well best results' is written as 'ds lu jk ml'

- 16) **What is the code for 'best' in the given code language?**
 a) lu b) ml
 c) sd d) ds
 e) Either ds or lu
- 17) **In the given code language 'nt' is the code of which word?**
 a) prepare b) your
 c) hard d) work e) exam

- 18) What may be the code for 'exams are hard' in the given code language?
 a) wl ml tk b) zr tk ko
 c) wl xn tk d) tk zr wl
 e) ke wl xn
- 19) What is the code for 'studies for' in the given code language?
 a) ds sd b) jk sd
 c) jk xn d) oz jc
 e) oz sd
- 20) What is the code for 'well' in the given code language?
 a) xn b) nt
 c) wl d) jk
 e) ml

Directions (21-25): Study the following information carefully and answer the question given below-

A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are eight persons sitting around a rectangular table. Four of them sit middle side of table and facing away from the center and other four of them sit at the corner of table and they are facing towards the center of the table. They all have different age. The age of all the four persons who sit at the corner of table is multiple of 3 and the age of all four persons who sit at the middle of table is multiple of 2.

E sits third to left of A. A faces outside. Two persons sit between E and the one whose age is 54. H sits second to right of one whose age is 54 year. Three persons sit between H and B, whose age is 76 year. One of immediate neighbor of H is 69 year old person. C sits second to right of one whose age is 69 year. Only one person sits between C and F. The age of one who sits second to left of F is one year less than B. The age of one who is immediate neighbor of one whose age is 75 year is equal to difference between the age of B and A. D is not immediate neighbor of E. The age of one of them is 27 year but he is not immediate neighbor of B. The age of H is perfect square and his age lies between the age of B and A. The age of D is 1 year less than age of H.

- 21) What is the age of D?
 a) 64 year b) 81 year
 c) 36 year d) 16 year
 e) None of these.
- 22) Which one of the following sits immediate left of G?
 a) F b) G
 c) E d) D
 e) None of these
- 23) How many persons are there between A and D, when counted from left of A?
 a) Four b) Two
 c) Three d) No one.
 e) One

- 24) Who sits opposite to A?
 a) F b) G
 c) E d) D
 e) None of these
- 25) The difference of age between F and C is?
 a) 69 year b) 51 year
 c) 27 year d) 42 year
 e) None of these

Directions (26-30): Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below:

Six persons D, E, F, G, H and I belong to different cities, viz Patna, Pune, Ranchi, Delhi, Gurgaon and Noida but not necessarily in the same order. Each of them likes a different colours, viz Black, White, Pink, Purple, Grey and Brown. They use different types of laptops, viz HP, Dell and Sony but not necessarily in the same order. At least two persons use the same type of laptop.

The one who belongs to Gurgaon uses Sony. I uses Sony and likes White, but belongs neither to Patna nor to Ranchi. The one who belongs to Delhi uses HP. E uses the same type of laptop as the one who likes Black, but he does not belong to Pune. The one who belongs to Patna uses HP. G belongs to Gurgaon and likes neither Pink nor Brown.

The one who belongs to Pune uses Dell. H belongs to Delhi and likes Purple, but he does not use the same laptop as F. D does not like Grey or Brown. The one who uses Sony belongs neither to Delhi nor to Ranchi. Those who like Purple and Pink use the same type of laptop.

- 26) Which of the following combinations is true?
 a) H – Delhi – Purple – Sony
 b) D – Patna – Pink – HP
 c) E – Pune – Black – Dell
 d) H – Patna – Grey – HP
 e) G – Noida – White – Sony
- 27) Who among the following use the same type of laptop?
 a) G, H b) E, I
 c) D, H d) F, G
 e) I, D
- 28) Who among the following likes Purple?
 a) The one who belongs to Delhi and uses Dell
 b) The one who belongs to Pune and uses Sony
 c) The one who uses Dell
 d) The one who belongs to Noida
 e) None of these
- 29) Which of the following statements is not true?
 a) D belongs to Patna and uses HP.
 b) G likes Grey colour and uses Sony.
 c) I belongs to Noida and likes White
 d) Those who like Pink and Brown use the same type of laptop.
 e) All are true.

30) Who among the following belongs to Noida?

- a) The one who likes Pink
- b) The one who uses HP
- c) I, who likes White
- d) F, who uses Dell
- e) None of these

31) In which of the following expressions will the expressions $R < P$ as well as $S > Q$ be definitely true?

- a) $P > Q = R \leq T < S$
- b) $S > T \geq R > Q < P$
- c) $Q > R \leq T > P \geq S$
- d) $S > T \geq R > Q > P$
- e) None of these

Directions (Q. 32-33): Study the following questions carefully and answer the questions given below. (Each question has one statement followed by three conclusions).

You have to assume that the given conclusions are true and according fill the blanks in the statements.

32) **Statements:** $C \geq D = F ? J ? R = H ? T$

Conclusions:

I. $H = J$ II. $D \geq H$ III. $D > T$

If all the given conclusion are definitely true, then fill in the blanks.

- a) $=, \geq, \geq$ b) $=, =, >$
- c) $\geq, =, >$ d) \geq, \geq, \geq
- e) None of these

33) **Statements:** $A \geq B ? C > D = F ? G \geq L$

Conclusions:

I. $D < G$ II. $A > C$ III. $D < A$

If all the given conclusion are definitely true, then fill in the blanks.

- a) $>, =$ b) $>, >$
- c) $>, <$ d) $=, <$
- e) \geq, \leq

Directions (34-35): Study the following information to answer the given questions.

Point P is 9m towards the East of Point Q. Point R is 5m towards the South of Point P. Point S is 3m towards the West of Point R. Point T is 5m towards the North of Point S. Point V is 7m towards the South of Point S.

34) If a person walks in a straight line for 8 m towards West from Point R, which of the following points would he cross the first?

- a) V b) Q
- c) T d) S
- e) Cannot be determined

35) Which of the following points are in a straight line?

- a) P, R, V b) S, T, Q
- c) P, T, V d) V, T, R
- e) S, V, T

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Directions (1-5): In the following question, two equations numbered I and II are given. You have to solve both the equations and answer the question.

1) I. $9p^2 - 21p + 12 = 0$

II. $18q^2 - 50q + 32 = 0$

- a) $p > q$ b) $p < q$
- c) $p \geq q$ d) $p \leq q$
- e) $p = q$ or no relation can be established between 'p' and 'q'.

2) I. $3p^2 - 8p - 60 = 0$

II. $20q^2 - 288q + 1036 = 0$

- a) $p > q$ b) $p < q$
- c) $p \geq q$ d) $p \leq q$
- e) $p = q$ or no relation can be established between 'p' and 'q'.

3) I. $5p^2 - 65p + 180 = 0$

II. $3q^2 - 90q + 483 = 0$

- a) $p > q$ b) $p < q$
- c) $p \geq q$ d) $p \leq q$
- e) $p = q$ or no relation can be established between 'p' and 'q'.

4) I) $12m^2 - 126m + 294 = 0$

II) $7n^2 + 123n - 504 = 0$

- a) If $m \geq n$ b) If $m < n$
- c) If $m > n$ d) If $m = n$
- e) If $m \leq n$

5) I. $x^2 - 30x + 216 = 0$

II. $y^2 - 39y + 360 = 0$

- a) $x > y$ b) $x \geq y$
- c) $x < y$ d) $x \leq y$
- e) $x = y$ or the relationship cannot be established

Directions (6- 10): Which of the following does not fit in the series?

6) 824, 408, 396, 96, 44, 18, 5

- a) 824 b) 408 c) 396
- d) 18 e) 44

7) 5, 7, 13, 25, 45, 87, 117

- a) 7 b) 87 c) 45
- d) 117 e) None

8) 2185, 727, 241, 79, 30, 7, 1

- a) 2185 b) 727 c) 79
- d) 30 e) 214

9) 2, 3, 10, 15, 25, 35, 50, 63

- a) 25 b) 10 c) 35
- d) 63 e) 50

10) 2, 7, 10, 15, 25, 35, 50, 63

- a) 2 b) 10 c) 25
- d) 60 e) 15



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Directions (11-15): What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following questions?

- 11) $92 \times 576 \div (2\sqrt{1296}) = (?)^3 + \sqrt{49}$
 a) 3 b) $(9)^2$
 c) 9 d) 27
 e) None of these
- 12) $1/6$ of 92% of $1\frac{1}{23}$ of (650) = 85 + ?
 a) 18 b) 21
 c) 19 d) 28
 e) None of these
- 13) $(15 \times 0.40)^4 \div (1080 \div 30)^4 \times (27 \times 8)^4 = (3 \times 2)^{?+5}$
 a) 8 b) 3
 c) 12 d) 16
 e) None of these
- 14) $3\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{5}{6} = \frac{(?)^2}{10} + 1\frac{5}{12}$
 a) 25 b) $\sqrt{5}$
 c) 625 d) 15
 e) 5
- 15) $(\sqrt{8} \times \sqrt{8})^{1/2} + (9)^{1/2} = (?)^3 + \sqrt{8} - 340$
 a) 7 b) 19
 c) 18 d) 9
 e) None of these

Directions (16-20): 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

- 16) 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
- 17) 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

- 18) Whose earning increased consistently from the year 2005 to the year 2010?
 a) A b) B
 c) C d) D
 e) E
- 19) 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
- 20) 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. 3.62 lacs b) Rs. 2.64 lacs
 c) Rs. 3.64 lacs d) Rs. 10.86 lacs
 e) None of these
- 21) Three taps A, B and C can fill a tank in 12, 15 and 20 hours respectively. If A is open all the time and B and C are open for one hour each alternately, in what time will the tank be full?
 a) 9 hours b) 7 hours
 c) 8 hours d) 10 hours
 e) 11 hours
- 22) A and B started a business in partnership investing Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. After six months, C joined them with Rs. 20,000. What will be B's share in total profit of Rs. 25,000 earned at the end of 2 years from the starting of the business?
 a) Rs. 8,000 b) Rs. 8,500
 c) Rs. 9,000 d) Rs. 7,500
 e) Rs. 9,500
- 23) A boatman goes 2 km against the current of the stream in 1 hour and goes 1 km along the current in 10 minutes. How long will it take to go 5 km in stationary water?
 a) 80 minutes b) 75 minutes
 c) 70 minutes d) 72 minutes
 e) 84 minutes
- 24) In a lottery, there are 15 boys and 10 girls. Three students are selected at random. What is the probability that 1 girl and 2 boys are selected?
 a) $\frac{31}{47}$ b) $\frac{21}{46}$
 c) $\frac{22}{47}$ d) $\frac{31}{46}$ e) $\frac{21}{47}$
- 25) Two stations A and B are 110 km apart on a straight line. One train starts from A at 7 am and travels towards B at 20 kmph. Another train starts from B at 8 am and travels towards A at a speed of 25 kmph. At what time will they meet?
 a) 9 am b) 11 am

- c) 11:30 am d) 10 am
e) 12:30 pm

- 26) The difference between a two-digit number and the number obtained by interchanging the digits is 36. What is the difference between the sum and the difference of the digits of the number if the ratio between the digits of the number is 1 : 2?
a) 10 b) 9
c) 11 d) 8
e) 7
- 27) Mr. Sinha invests 12% of his monthly salary, i.e. Rs. 3,660 in insurance Policies. Later he invests 16% of his monthly salary on Family Medclaim Policies; also he invests another 3% of his salary on NSCs. What is the total annual amount invested by Mr. Sinha?
a) Rs. 1,13,460 b) Rs. 1,22,440
c) Rs. 1,06,540
d) Cannot be determined
e) Rs. 2,01,342
- 28) In how many different ways can the letters of the word "GAMBLE" arranged?
a) 720 b) 840
c) 360 d) 420
e) None of these

Directions (Q. 29 - 33): Study the following information carefully to answer the questions that follow:

There are two trains, Train A and Train B. Both trains have four different types of coaches, viz General, Sleeper, First class and AC. In Train A, there are total 700 passengers. Train B has thirty percent more passengers than Train A. Twenty per cent of the passengers of Trains A are in General Coach. One fourth of the total number of passengers of Train A are in AC coach. Twenty three percent of the passengers of Train A are in sleeper Coach. Remaining passengers of Train A are in First Class Coach. The total number of passengers in AC Coach in both the trains together is 480. Thirty percent of the number of passengers of Train B are in Sleeper Coach. Ten percent of the total passengers of Train B are in First Class Coach. The remaining passengers of Train B are in General Coach.

- 29) What is the ratio of the number of passengers in First Class Coach of Train A to the number of passengers in Sleeper Coach of Train B?
a) 13 : 7 b) 7 : 13
c) 32 : 39 d) Data inadequate
e) None of these
- 30) What is the total number of passengers in the General Coach of Train A and AC coach of Train B together?
a) 449 b) 459
c) 435 d) 445
e) None of these

- 31) What is the difference between the number of passengers in the AC Coach of Train A and the total number of passengers in Sleeper and First Class Coach together of Train B?
a) 199 b) 178
c) 187 d) 179
e) None of these
- 32) The total number of passengers in General Coaches of both the trains together is approximately what percentage of the total number of passengers in Train B?
a) 35 b) 42
c) 46 d) 38
e) 31
- 33) If the cost per ticket of First Class Coach is Rs. 450, what will be the total amount generated from First Class Coach of train A?
a) Rs. 1,00,080 b) Rs. 1,08,000
c) Rs. 1,00,800 d) Rs. 10,800
e) None of these
- 34) Pratibha covers a distance of 24 km at the speed of 8km/hr and a distance of 18km at the speed of 9 km/hr. Further, she covers a distance of 12 km at the speed of 3 km/hr. What is her average speed in covering the whole distance?
a) 8km/hr b) 5.5 km/hr
c) 3 km/hr d) 6km/hr
e) None of these
- 35) The mean of the marks obtained by 100 students is 60. If the marks obtained by one, of the students was incorrectly calculated 75; wheare as the actual makes obtained by him was 65 what is the correct mean of the marks obtained by the students?
a) 59 b) 5850
c) 50
d) Cannot be determined
e) None of these

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (1-10): Read the following paragraph. Some of the words have been highlighted in bold. Answer the questions based on this paragraph.

The internet has become the integral part of today's generation of people; from communicating through instant messages and emails to banking, travelling, studying and shopping, internet has touched every aspect of life. With the growing use of the internet by people, protecting important information has become a necessity. A computer that is not having appropriate security controls can be infected with malicious logic and thus any type of information can be accessed in moments. Number of infected Web Pages and malicious websites can be seen every day that infects the computer and allow hackers to gain illegal

access to other computer systems. Hacking of important data, network outages, computer viruses and other cyber related threats affect our lives that range from minor inconvenience to serious incidents. Cyber threats can be caused due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents. The main objectives of such type of system attackers or hackers are to steal confidential information, to make illegal monetary transactions, to destroy or to change data and the like. System attackers can be terrorists, crackers or recreational hackers. They have a variety of tools that can harm or infect the computer; usually they use malicious logic or virus to gain unauthorized access to a computer. Opening email attachments that carry the virus, clicking malicious links or websites or unintentionally downloading a dangerous program are common ways through which a computer can be infected and data can be stolen. As the number of data networks, digital applications, as well as internet and mobile users are growing, so do the chances of cyber exploitation and cyber crimes. Even a small mistake in securing data or bad social networking can prove to be extremely dangerous. If accounts are not properly secured, it makes easier for hackers or unauthorized users to spread viruses or social engineered attacks that are designed to steal data and even money. Such types of issues highlight the need for cyber security as an essential approach in protecting and preventing data from being used in appropriately. In simple language, Cyber Security or Information technology security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorized or unintended access, destruction or change. It encompasses all the mechanisms and processes that protect digital equipment, information and records from illegal or unintended access, manipulation or destruction. In today's dynamic environment, cyber security has become vital for individuals and families, as well as organizations (such as military, government, business houses, educational and financial institutions, corporations and others) that collect and store a wide range of confidential data on computers and transmit that to other computers across different networks. For families, protection of children and family members from cybercrime has become substantially important. For an individual, protecting information that could impact social life as well as personal finance is essential. The internet has provided a wide array of learning opportunities, but there are risks too. Photos, videos and other personal information shared by an individual on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter can be inappropriately used by others may lead to serious and even life-threatening incidents. Social networking sites have become the most popular medium for sharing information and connecting with other people. But these sites have created varied opportunities for cybercrimes, compromised personal identities and information leakage. Therefore, it is

important for individuals to understand how to protect against cyber threats, and must also comprehend the difference between virtual and real world. One should learn how to protect computers and personal information from being hacked and should engage in appropriate online behaviour in order to eliminate changes of cyber threats and thereby creating a safer online environment.

1) According to the author what does the cyber security means?

- a) Cyber Security means the dispersion of important data and devise a structural engineering that allow easy flow of information
- b) Cyber Security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorized or unintended access, destruction or change.
- c) Cyber Security means the blocking of all the websites that are available in free domain
- d) Cyber Security means the Hacking of important data, network outages, computer viruses and other cyber related threats affect our lives that range from minor inconvenience to serious incidents.
- e) None of the above

2) According to the author, what is the main reason behind cyber threats?

- a) the unknown person with malice
- b) due to intelligence, veneration and intentional threats.
- c) due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents.
- d) by communicating through instant messages and emails to banking, travelling, studying and shopping on internet
- e) None of the above

3) What is the downside of Social media, according to the author?

- a) the long hours usage of social media could affect an individual mentally and become the victim of depression
- b) by sharing sensitive information, one can be vulnerable to sudden outburst of emotions
- c) information shared by an individual for socializing purposes can be distorted and can be used for malignant purpose.
- d) the social media owners can steal the information and sell this information for monetary purposes
- e) None of the above

4) According to this passage, how the virus gets into the computers?

- a) by saving data and clicking on the desktop
- b) by opening a document file in the search History
- c) by texting online and receiving files on social media platforms

d) Opening email attachments that carry the virus, clicking malicious links or websites or unintentionally downloading a dangerous program

e) None of the above

5) **What will be the apt title for this passage?**

a) life hacks

b) Cybercrime and hacking

c) technology and its advantages

d) technological advances

e) The impact of social media

6) **In the following question, find the word that is most similar in the meaning to the word 'malicious'?**

a) benefactor

b) benign

c) benevolent

d) vitriolic

e) vituperate

7) **In the following question, find the word that is most similar in the meaning to the word "illegal"?**

a) symposium

b) chagrin

c) chauvinistic

d) Felonious

e) charlatan

8) **In the following question, find the word that is opposite in the meaning to the word "unauthorized"?**

a) accredit

b) unaccredited

c) inadmissible

d) increment

e) liaison

9) **In the following question, find the word that is opposite in the meaning to the word "appropriate"?**

a) malapropos

b) opportunely

c) sequester

d) usurp

e) commandeer

10) **In the following question, find the word that is most similar in the meaning to the word "unintentional"?**

a) despotic

b) harbinger

c) fortuitously

d) immaculate

e) innocuous

Directions (Q. 11-15): Select the phrase/connector from the given three options which can be used in the beginning (to start the sentence) to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same meaning as expressed in the statement sentences.

11) **What Doklam standoff aims to gain out of this crisis has been subject to much speculation. It hopes to peel Bhutan away from India's orbit.**

i. It is speculated that.....

ii. Being the subject of speculation

iii. In accordance to.....

a) All except ii

b) All except iii

c) Only I

d) Both i and iii

e) None of these

12) **Both the Central government and many state governments have appointed advisers and consultants on an ad-hoc basis. Some of them, recruited into the Finance Ministry, and more recently into public enterprises, have distinguished themselves.**

i. After the recruitment into.....

ii. Being appointed as

iii. In view of distinguishing.....

a) Only i

b) Only ii

c) Only iii

d) All of the above

e) None of these

13) **The quiet railway station in the heart of Karmatar draws its name from one of the country's greatest social reformers. Today hardly anyone seems to be aware of the connection of this place to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.**

i. Having drawn its name from one of the

ii. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar railway

iii. In view of its connection

a) Only i

b) Only ii

c) Both i and ii

d) Both i and iii

e) None of these

14) **The Niti Aayog released the draft National Energy Policy. It invited comments from the public to help strengthen its perspectives on some of the complex issues.**

i. The Niti Aayog invited comments from the.....

ii. The Niti Aayog released the draft

iii. Being invited

a) Only i

b) Both i and iii

c) Both ii and iii

d) Both i and ii

e) All of these

15) **A nation's energy policy can have a huge bearing on society and health. It is thus important to ensure that policies are compatible with public health goals.**

i. Although it has a bearing.....

ii. Because it has a huge bearing.....

iii. Having a bearing on society.....

a) All except i

b) Both i and ii

c) All of these

d) None of these

e) Only ii

Directions (Q. 16-20): Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error or idiomatic error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The letter of that part is the answer. If there is no error; the answer is e). (Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)

16) (a) It is time we design / (b) intelligent question papers / (c) that respect competence / (d) rather than just memory. / e) No error

17) (a) With India's urban population expected to grow / (b) exponentially over the next couple of decades / (c) urban housing will be a central issue / (d) to the government. / e) No error

- 18) (a) With the crisis of depleting clean water sources / (b) looming over us, / (c) considerable alternative sources/ (d) is imperative. /e) No error
- 19) (a) The Bengaluru Police are proposing to use electronic tags / (b) on habitual offenders to monitor their movements, / (c) after an analysis revealed that they were involved / (d) in more than forty percent crimes reported in the city. / e) No error
- 20) (a) Having a visionary and motivating leader, / (b) she thinks out of the box and / (c) has her own style of doing things, one of which / (d) is treating and respecting her employees as assets, /e) No error

Directions (21-30): 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 fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

The frail nature of rural India's health systems and the.....(21).....patient load on a few.....(22).....hospitals have become even more evident from the crisis at the Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur. The institution has come under the spotlight after reports emerged of the death of several children over a short period, although epidemics and a high mortality level are chronic features here. Medical infrastructure in several surrounding districts and even neighbouring states is so weak that a large number of very sick patients are sent to such apex hospitals as the last resort. The.....(23).....aspects of the system are.....(24).....from the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on reproductive and child health under the National Rural Health Mission for the year ended March 2016. Even if the audit objections on financial administration were to be ignored, the picture that emerges in several States is one of inability to.....(25).....the funds allocated, shortage of staff at primary health centres (PHCs), community health centres (CHCs) and district hospitals, lack of essential medicines, broken down equipment and unfilled doctor vacancies. In the case of Uttar Pradesh, the CAG found that about 50% of the PHCs it.....(26).....did not have a doctor, while 13 States had significant levels of vacancies. Basic facilities in the form of health sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs met only half the need in Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, putting pressure on a(27).....of referral institutions such as the Gorakhpur hospital. Templates for an upgraded rural health system have long been finalised and the Indian Public Health Standards were issued in 2007 and 2012, covering facilities from health sub-centres upwards. The Centre has set.....(28).....health goals for 2020 and is in the process of deciding the

financial.....(29).....for various targets under the National Health Mission, including reduction of the infant mortality rate to 30 per 1,000 live births, from the recent.....(30).....of 40.

- 21) a) shatterable b) brittle
c) extraordinary d) crisp
e) shivery
- 22) a) referral b) elementary
c) facile d) lucid
e) walkover
- 23) a) dysfunctional b) intact
c) harmed d) instability
e) disequilibrium
- 24) a) unscathed b) disequilibration
c) evident d) assets
e) receipts
- 25) a) disputable b) vague
c) harvest d) absorb
e) drawings
- 26) a) audited b) obscure
c) proceeds d) payoff
e) revenue
- 27) a) astasia b) gravity
c) compensation d) handful
e) commission
- 28) a) honorarium b) ambitious
c) content d) avails
e) withdraw
- 29) a) deduct b) fulfilled
c) withhold d) detract
e) outlay
- 30) a) unassuming b) estimate
c) satisfied d) diminish
e) decrease

ANSWER KEY

Reasoning Ability

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	E	2	C	3	C	4	A	5	B
6	B	7	C	8	A	9	B	10	D
11	C	12	B	13	C	14	E	15	D
16	E	17	A	18	D	19	E	20	D
21	E	22	A	23	D	24	B	25	D
26	B	27	C	28	E	29	D	30	C
31	A	32	C	33	C	34	D	35	E

Quantitative Aptitude

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	B	2	B	3	E	4	C	5	E
6	C	7	B	8	D	9	A	10	D
11	C	12	C	13	B	14	E	15	A
16	C	17	E	18	D	19	B	20	A
21	B	22	D	23	B	24	B	25	D
26	D	27	A	28	A	29	C	30	D
31	E	32	B	33	C	34	D	35	E

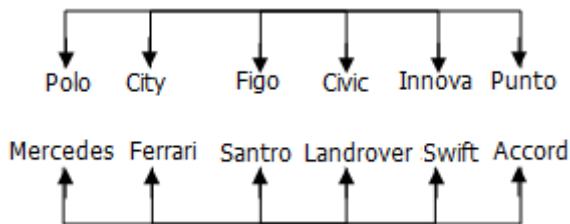
English Language

Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.	Q.	A.
1	B	2	C	3	C	4	D	5	B
6	D	7	D	8	A	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	E	13	C	14	D	15	A
16	A	17	D	18	C	19	E	20	A
21	C	22	A	23	A	24	C	25	D
26	A	27	D	28	B	29	E	30	B

SOLUTIONS

Reasoning Ability

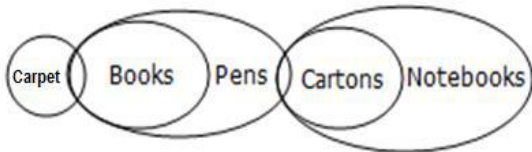
(01- 05):



(06- 10):

Players	Game	Sponsorship
Sachin	Cricket	Manik Chand
Rahul	Billiards	Reebok
Mukesh	Football	Singer
Ramesh / Laxman	Volleyball	Pepsi
Dhanraj	Table Tennis	Ispat
Dinko	Chess	Britannia
Laxman / Ramesh	Badminton	Adidas
Mahesh	Hockey	MRF

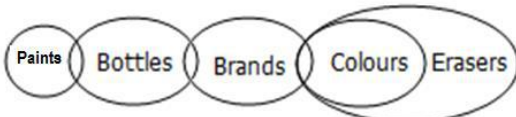
11) c):



1) x
3) ✓

2) x
4) ✓

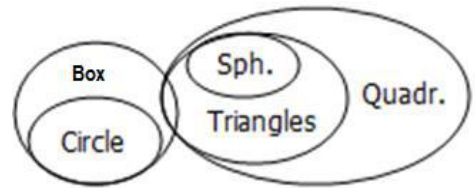
12) b):



1) x
3) ✓

2) x
4) x

13) c):



1) ✓
3) ✓

2) ✓
4) X

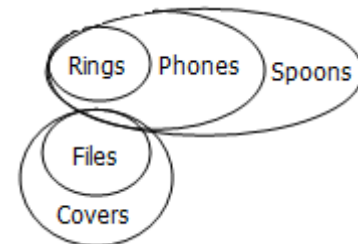
14) e):



1) x
3) x

2) x
4) x

15) d):



1) x
3) ✓

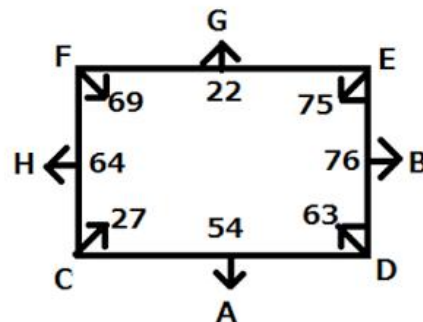
2) ✓
4) x

(16- 20):

Prpare for your exam
Hard work for prepare
Prepare your studies well
Work well best results
Well - jk
Work - ml
Best/results = Either ds or lu
Prepare = nt
For = oz
Your = xn
Exam = wl
Studies = sd
Hard = tk

xn nt oz wl
nt ml oz tk
sd jk nt xn
ds lu jk ml

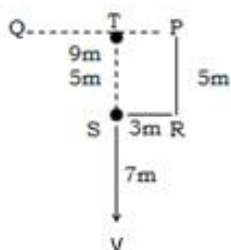
Solution (21-25):



(26-30):

Person	City	Colour	Laptop
D	Patna	Pink	HP
E	Ranchi	Brown	Dell
F	Pune	Black	Dell
G	Gurgaon	Grey	Sony
H	Delhi	Purple	HP
I	Noida	White	Sony

(34-35):



Quantitative Aptitude

1) (b)

$$I. 9p^2 - (9+12)p + 12 = 0$$

$$9p^2 - 9p - 12p + 12 = 0$$

$$9p(p-1) - 12(p-1) = 0$$

$$(9p-12)(p-1) = 0$$

$$\therefore p = \frac{4}{3}, 1$$

$$II. 18q^2 - 50q + 32 = 0$$

$$9q^2 - 25q + 16 = 0$$

$$9q^2 - 9q - 16q + 16 = 0$$

$$9q(q-1) - 16(q-1) = 0$$

$$(q-1)(9q-16) = 0$$

$$\therefore q = \frac{16}{9}, 1$$

We cannot determine the exact relation.

since in case : $p = \frac{4}{3}$ and $q = 1$ then $p > q$

but if : $p = 1$ and $q = \frac{16}{9}$., then $q > p$

2) (b)

$$I. 3p^2 - (18-10)p - 60 = 0$$

$$3p^2 - 18p + 10p - 60 = 0$$

$$3p(p-6) + 10(p-6) = 0$$

$$(p-6)(3p+10) = 0$$

$$\therefore p = 6, -\frac{10}{3}$$

$$II. 20q^2 - 288q + 1036 = 0$$

$$5q^2 - 72q + 259 = 0$$

$$5q^2 - 35q - 37q + 259 = 0$$

$$5q(q-7) - 37(q-7) = 0$$

$$(q-7)(5q-37) = 0$$

$$\therefore q = 7, \frac{37}{5}$$

Hence, $p < q$

3) (e)

$$I. p^2 - 13p + 36 = 0$$

$$p^2 - 9p - 4p + 36 = 0$$

$$p(p-9) - 4(p-9) = 0$$

$$(p-4)(p-9) = 0$$

$$\therefore p = 4, 9$$

$$II. 3q^2 - 90q + 483 = 0$$

$$q^2 - 30q + 161 = 0$$

$$q^2 - 23q - 7q + 161 = 0$$

$$q(q-23) - 7(q-23) = 0$$

$$(q-23)(q-7) = 0$$

$$q = 23, 7$$

Relationship can't be established

4) (c)

$$12m^2 - 126m + 294 = 0$$

$$12m^2 - (84+42)m + 294 = 0$$

$$12m^2 - 84m - 42m + 294 = 0$$

$$12m(m-7) - 42(m-7) = 0$$

$$(m-7)(12m-42) = 0$$

$$m_1 = 7$$

$$m_2 = \frac{7}{2}$$

$$7n^2 + 123n - 504 = 0$$

$$7n^2 + (147-24)n - 504 = 0$$

$$7n^2 + 147n - 24n - 504 = 0$$

$$7n(n+21) - 24(n+21) = 0$$

$$(n+21)(7n-24) = 0$$

$$n_1 = -21$$

$$n_2 = \frac{24}{7}$$

$m > n$

5) (e)

$$I. x^2 - 30x + 216$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ -18 & & -12 \end{array}$$

Now after changing the sign we get

$$x = 18, 12$$

$$II. y^2 - 39y + 360$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ -15 & & -24 \end{array}$$

Now after changing the sign we get

$$y = 15, 24$$

$$x > y, y < x$$

The relationship cannot be established

6) (c) $396; [(824-8) \div 2 = 408; (408-8) \div 2 = 200; (200-8) \div 2 = 96; \underline{\quad}]$

7) (b) 87; (Add 2, 6, 12, 20, 30 and 42 to the successive numbers)

8) (d) $30; [(2185 - 4) \div 3 = 727; (727-4) \div 3 = 241; (241-4) \div 3 = 79; \underline{\quad}]$

9) (a) $25; [1^2+1=2; 2^2-1=3; 3^2+1=10; 4^2-1=15; 5^2+1=26; \underline{\quad}]$

10) (d) $60; [13+1=2; 23-1=7; 33+1=28; 43-1=63; \underline{\quad}]$

11) (c) $92 \times 576 \div 2 \times 36 = x^3 + 7$
 $736 - 7 = x^3$
 $x^3 = 729$ So, $x = 9$

12) (c) $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{92}{100} \times \frac{24}{23} \times 650 - 85$
 $= 104 - 85 = 19$

13) (b) $\left(\frac{15 \times 0.4 \times 30 \times 27 \times 8}{1080} \right)^4 = 6^{x+5}$
 $36^4 = 6^{x+5}$
 $x = 3$

14) (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 $x=5$

15) (a) $\sqrt{8}+3=x^3+\sqrt{8}-340$
 $x^3=343$
 So $x=7$

16) (c) $\frac{A(2006)+C(2010)}{E(2009)} \times 100$
 $= \frac{1.44+7.84}{5.53} \times 100$
 $= 165\% \text{ approx.}$

17) (e) $D(2010) \rightarrow 9.45$
 $D(2009) \rightarrow 8.42$
 So, percentage increase =
 $\frac{1.03}{8.42} \times 100 = 12\% \text{ approx}$

18) Observation from Graph

19) (b) $\frac{B(2007)}{D(2010)} = \frac{2.79}{9.45}$

20) (a) $\frac{B(2006)+C(2008)+E(2005)}{3}$
 $= \frac{3.34+5.83+1.69}{3} = 3.62$

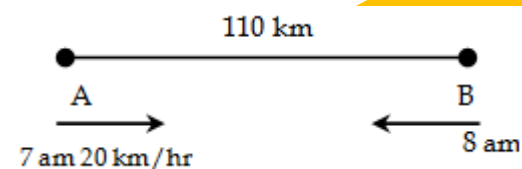
21) (b) A - 12 hrs 51
 B - 15 hrs 41
 60 l
 C - 20 hrs 31
 A + B, A + C
 1st hour 2nd hour
 $5+4=9l$ $4+3=8l$
 In 2 hours tanker filled = 17l
 $51l + 9l = 60l$
 6hrs next hour 7 hrs

22) (d) A B C
 $20,000 \times 24$ $15,000 \times 24$ $20,000 \times 18$
 $4 : 3 : 3$
 B's share = 2500×3
 $10 = 25,000$
 $= 7500/-$ $1 = 2500$

23) (b) Upstream (U_s) = 2 km/hr
 Downstream = (D_s) = 1 km per 10 mins or 6 km/hr
 $S \text{ of man} = \frac{D_s+U_s}{2} + \frac{2+6}{2} = 4 \text{ km/hr}$
 Time taken by him for 5 km in stationary water = $\frac{D}{S}$
 $= \frac{5}{4} \text{ hr} = \frac{5}{4} \times 60 = 75 \text{ minutes}$

24) (b) $\frac{{}^{10}C_1 \times {}^{15}C_2}{{}^{25}C_3} \times \frac{10 \times \frac{15 \times 14}{2 \times 1}}{25 \times 24 \times 23} = \frac{10 \times 15 \times 7}{25 \times 24 \times 23} = \frac{21}{46}$

25) (d)



After one hour one train covered distance = 20 km
 Remaining Distance = $110 - 20 = 90 \text{ km}$
 Relative speed = $20 + 25 = 45 \text{ km/hr}$

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

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

\therefore Difference between two digits = 4

Difference between their ratio = 1

$\therefore 1 = 4$

\therefore No is 48

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

27) (a) 12% of monthly salary – Rs. 3660

$\therefore (12\% + 16\% + 3\%)$ of monthly salary

$\frac{31\% \text{ of } \times 3660}{12} = \text{Rs. } 9455$

Annual = $12 \times 9455 = \text{Rs. } 1,13,460$

28) (a) $6! = 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 720$

29-33): Train A (700) Train B (910)

Gen coaches	140	241
Sleeper coaches	161	273
First class	224	91
AC coaches	175	305

29) c 30) d 31) e 32) b 33) c

34) (d) $\frac{24+18+12}{3+2+4} = 6 \text{ km/hr}$

35) (e) $75 \rightarrow 65 \quad 100 \rightarrow 10$

Incorrect correct actual $1 \rightarrow \frac{10}{100} = 0.1$

= 59.9

English Language

- 1) b):** It is mentioned in the passage that Cyber Security means protecting data, networks, programs and other information from unauthorized or unintended access, destruction or change.
- 2) c):** The reason mentioned in the paragraph for cyber threats is "due to negligence and vulnerabilities, or unintentional accidents."
- 3) c):** information shared by an individual for socializing purposes can be distorted and can be used for malignant purpose.
- 4) d):** Opening email attachments that carry the virus, clicking malicious links or websites or unintentionally downloading a dangerous program
- 5) b):** The appropriate title for the given passage would be 'Cybercrime and hacking'.
- 6) d):** malicious- characterized by malice; intending or intended to do harm. vitriolic-filled with bitter criticism or malice. Hence, these two words are synonyms to each other.
- 7) d):** Felonious-relating to or involved in crime. hence illegal and Felonious are synonyms to each other.

8) a): accredit-(of an official body) give authority or sanction to (someone or something) when recognized standards have been met. hence, accredit and unauthorized are antonyms to each other.

9) a): malapropos-in an inopportune or inappropriate way. hence, malapropos and appropriate are antonyms.

10) c): fortuitously- Happening by accident or chance. Hence, fortuitously and unintentional are synonyms to each other.

11) b): It is speculated that Doklam standoff aim is to peel Bhutan away from India's Orbit. Being the subject of speculation, Doklam standoff aims to peel Bhutan away from India's orbit.

12) e):

13) c): Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar railway station, being quiet railway station in the heart of Karmatar, hardly have connection with anyone. Having drawn its name from one of the country's greatest social reformers, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar railway station hardly have connection with anyone.

14) d): The Niti Aayog released the draft National Energy Policy and it invited comments from the public to help strengthen its perspectives on some of the complex issues.

The Niti Aayog invited comments from the public to help strengthen its perspectives on some of the complex issues after it released the draft National Energy Policy.

15) a): Because it has a huge bearing on society and health, a nation's energy policy ensures to be compatible with public health goals.

Having a bearing on society and health, a nation's energy policy ensures to be compatible with public health goals.

16) a): Replace "design" with "designed"

17) d): Replace "to" with "for"

18) c): Replace "considerable" with "considering"

19) e): No error

20) a): Replace "Having" with "Being"

21) c): very unusual or remarkable.

22) a): an act of referring someone or something for consultation, review, or further action.

23) a): dysfunctional – not operating normally or properly.

24) c): evident – clearly seen or understood; obvious.

25) d): absorb – take in or soak up (energy or a liquid or other substance) by chemical or physical action.

26) a): audited – conduct an official financial inspection of (a company or its accounts).

27) d): handful – a quantity that fills the hand.

28) b): ambitious – having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed.

29) e): outlay – an amount of money spent on something.

30) b): estimate – roughly calculate or judge the value, number, quantity, or extent of.

Latest G.K. Bytes

APRIL 2021

1. What was the name of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27? **VARUNA 2021**
2. The Hyundai Archery World Cup was hosted by which country? **Guatemala**
3. Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das are the top India players of which sports? **Archery**
4. Name the renowned Hindustani classical vocalist from Banaras gharana who died on April 25 due to COVID-19 complications: **Pandit Rajan Mishra**
5. Which former Governor of Reserve Bank of India was regarded as the "Father of banking reforms in India"? **M Narasimham**
6. Malaria is caused through the bites of infected female _____ mosquitoes: **Anopheles**
7. Celebrations of the World Intellectual Property Day on April 26 are supported by which UN Agency? **World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), Geneva**
8. What is the title of the latest novel written by noted novelist Amitav Ghosh? **A Living Mountain**
9. 'Whereabouts' is the title of the latest novel written by? **Jhumpa Lahiri**
10. Who is the author of the popular novel titled "The Hard Crowd"? **Rachel Kushner**
11. Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28? **International Labour Organization (ILO)**
12. The Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed on April 30 is associated with which national health scheme? **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**
13. Which picture won the Oscar for the Best Picture for 2020? **Nomadland**
14. Ms. Chloé Zhao of USA won the Oscar for the best director for which movie? **Nomadland**
15. Who won the Oscar for the Best Actor in a leading role? **Anthony Hopkins for The Father**
16. The RBI has capped the tenure of MD & CEO of commercial banks to a maximum of ____ years: **15**
17. The Asian Development Bank has projected Indian economy to grow at ____ per cent in the current financial year: **11**
18. China has named its first-ever Mars rover as _____ after an ancient fire god: **Zhurong**
19. What is the official name of the China's space agency? **China National Space Administration**

20. The submarine 'KRI Nanggala (402)', that went missing on 21 April, 2021, killing all the 53 mariners on board, belonged to which country? **Indonesia**
21. Which leading Indian digital financial services provider launched on April 26 India's first video-based wealth community? **Paytm**
22. Some leading not-for-profit environmental and social organisations came together to form the Blue Nature Alliance for what purpose? **To protect the oceans from environmental threats**
23. India and the US held a two-day naval PASSEX exercise on March 28-29 in which place? **Bay of Bengal**
24. Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve was selected recently for which international award? **International Ranger Award**
25. Which country topped the medal tally in the ISSF World Cup at Delhi? **India**
26. Which country successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-1A on March 26? **Pakistan**
27. 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' has been set up in which Indian city? **Visakhapatnam**
28. Who has been elected as the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)? **Ms. Soma Mondal**
29. Soma Mondal is the chairperson of which public sector organization? **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**
30. Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has proposed up to ____ percent tax concession on the purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate: **25**
31. RBI has made use of AFA mandatory for all recurring payments through cards or UPI, wef April 1, 2021. What is AFA? **Additional Factor of Authentication**
32. Who is the director of the film 'Thappad', winner of Filmfare Award for the Best Film? **Anubhav Sinha**
33. Who won the Filmfare Award for the Best Actor in lead role? **Irrfan Khan for Angrezi Medium**
34. Om Raut won the Filmfare Award for the Best Director for which film? **Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior**
35. Taapsee Pannu won the Filmfare Award for the Best Actress in lead role for which film? **Thappad**
36. The International Day of Drug Checking is observed every year on which day of March? **31st**

37.	Lewis Hamilton of Britain won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix F1 championship on March 28 for which team? Team Mercedes
38.	What is the cash award given in the national Dadasaheb Phalke Award? Rs. 10 lakh
39.	Who won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019? Superstar Rajnikant
40.	What is the real name of Rajnikant? Shivaji Rao Gaekwad
41.	Which country fared best in the gender parity as per the WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2021? Iceland
42.	What was India's rank in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021? 140th
43.	Where are the headquarters of the World Economic Forum? Cologne, Switzerland
44.	What was the name of the 11th edition of Indo-US joint special forces exercise held at Special Forces training school, Bakloh? Vajra Prahar 2021
45.	Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh is in which state? Himachal Pradesh
46.	Saraswati Samman is bestowed for outstanding contribution in which field? Literature
47.	What is the cash award given with the Saraswati Samman? Rs. 15 lakh
48.	Who is the winner of the Saraswati Samman for 2020? Dr Sharankumar Limbale
49.	Dr Sharankumar Limbale won the Saraswati Samman for which book? Sanatan
50.	Dr. Limbale is a renowned writer of which language? Marathi
51.	World Autism Awareness Day is observed on which date? April 2
52.	An area at Amboli in Western ghats has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site. It is in which state? Maharashtra
53.	India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 MW is being set up by the NTPC at its Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir. It is in which state? Telangana
54.	Who is the Governor of Telangana? Tamilisai Soundararajan
55.	The Central Government plans to issue a ____ digit identification number "Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)" to every plot of land in the country: 14
56.	From April 1 this year, GST taxpayers having turnover of more than 5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year, will have to furnish 6 digits HSN Code. What is HSN? Harmonised System of Nomenclature
57.	CBIC issues 6-digit SAC to uniformly classify each service under the applicable rate of GST. What is SAC? Service Accounting Code
58.	The government has decided to keep the inflation-targeting framework for the RBI unchanged at ____ % for the next five-year period: Four
59.	"Sankalp se Siddhi" drive is an initiative of which union ministry? Ministry of Tribal Affairs

60.	Veteran actress of over 100 Hindi films passed away at her residence in Mumbai on April 4. What was her real name? Shashikala Jawalkar
61.	As many as 23 CRPF jawans were killed and around 50 were injured after an encounter with local Naxalites on April 3 in Jagargunda area. It is in which state? Chhattisgarh
62.	Hubert Hurkacz won the men's singles title at the Miami Open Tennis Tournament. He hails from which country? Poland
63.	Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board? Mallika Srinivasan
64.	The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan for \$ 300 million for canal-based drinking water project in which state? Punjab
65.	India celebrates National Maritime Day on which day of April? 5th
66.	Justice NV Ramana has been appointed as the ____ Chief Justice of India: 48th
67.	Which country suffered flash floods and landslides triggered by tropical cyclone Seroja? Indonesia
68.	_____ became the first state in the country to provide free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state: Rajasthan
69.	RBI in its first MPC meeting kept the benchmark interest rate - Repo Rate unchanged at ____ percent: Four
70.	Which big country passed a law to facilitate its current President to hold office for two additional 6-year terms till 2036? Russia
71.	The Indian Navy participated in a France-led multi nation naval drill named _____ from April 5 to 7 in the Bay of Bengal: "La Perouse"
72.	Tarun Bajaj has been appointed as the new ____ Secretary under the Ministry of Finance: Revenue
73.	_____ appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance: Ajay Seth
74.	The Reserve Bank has decided to bring out a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index). It will be released annually in the month of ____: July
75.	AM Turing Award is given for recognizing outstanding excellence in which field? Computer Science
76.	Who won the AM Turing Award for the year 2020? Prof. Alfred V Aho of USA
77.	The Reserve Bank has enhanced the limit of maximum balance to Rs. _____ in accounts of Payment Banks? Two lakh
78.	_____ has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI: S Ramann
79.	The Supreme Court of India on April 7 launched its Artificial Intelligence portal by what name? SUPACE
80.	What is the full form of SUPACE? Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency

81.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his _____ counterpart Mark Rutte on April 9: Netherlands
82.	Government launched which portal on April 7 to promote the honey mission in the country? Madhukranti
83.	The Government launched on April 7 the Tribal Health Collaborative named: Anamaya
84.	What is the name of the Indian World Heavyweight Champion recently inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame? Dalip Singh Rana (Great Khali)
85.	India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector named: Nano Sniffer
86.	Prince Philip, British Queen Elizabeth's husband, died at the age of 99. What was his official title? Duke of Edinburgh
87.	Which Bank approved a \$ 484 million loan to improve the road maintenance and transport connectivity in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor? Asian Development Bank
88.	World Homoeopathy Day is observed on April 10 to commemorate the birthday of ____: Dr. Samuel Hahnemann
89.	The National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on which date? April 11
90.	As per the recently published Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU 2020), which university topped the rankings in India? Calcutta University
91.	Which university topped in the world the Academic Ranking of World Universities? Harvard University, USA
92.	Which film won the BAFTA award for the best film? Nomadland
93.	Who won the BAFTA for the Best Director? Ms. Chloe Zhao
94.	Yuri Gagarin, the first human being to undertake the space flight, hailed from which country? Russia
95.	The Parkinson disease is associated with which system of human body? Nervous
96.	Festival of Baisakhi marks the thanksgiving by the farmer community for the bumper ____ crops: Rabi
97.	In which state Baisakhi is celebrated as Rongali Bihu? Assam
98.	In Kerala, festival of Baisakhi is celebrated as ____: Vishu
99.	Name the Election Commissioner who has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sushil Chandra
100.	India participated in a 10-day multinational military exercise held in Bangladesh. What was its name? Shantir Ogroshena
101.	Which country hosted the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in virtual mode from April 13 to 16? India
102.	Guneet Monga has been selected for the French civilian honour the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. She is a renowned ____: Film maker
103.	Government launched the e-SaNta platform for promotion of ____ products: Marine

104.	Government launched a mobile application called "Little Guru" to enable the user to learn _____ language: Sanskrit
105.	The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted its approval to _____ Laboratories for restricted emergency use of Russian COVID-19 vaccine: Dr. Reddy's
106.	What is the name of Russian COVID – 19 vaccine? Sputnik V
107.	Guillermo Lasso has been elected as the President of which South American country? Ecuador
108.	The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is headed by ____: Vijay Sampla
109.	Government launched _____, a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition: Aahaar Kranti
110.	Government launched MANAS App to promote wellbeing across all age groups. What is the full form of MANAS? Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
111.	Which Indian cricketer has been named Wisden Almanack's ODI player of the 2010s? Virat Kohli
112.	World Art Day celebrated on April 15 is associated with birthday of which legendary artist/painter? Leonardo da Vinci
113.	Which district bagged top position at National level for successfully implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during 2020-21? Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir
114.	Indian Army celebrates April 13 as Siachen Day to mark its victorious operation _____ in 1984 against Pakistan: Meghdoot
115.	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology unveiled three path breaking initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India. What is its short name? NIXI
116.	Which country announced the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats on April 15? USA
117.	Sarita Mor (of Sonipat, Haryana) won the gold in the Asian _____ Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan: Wrestling
118.	The Reserve Bank has decided to set up a new Regulations Review Authority headed by ____? M Rajeshwar Rao
119.	Which country topped the Inclusive Internet Index 2021? Sweden
120.	What was India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2021? 49th
121.	Which Indian set a new World Record in the women's 49kg Clean and Jerk at Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent? Mirabai Chanu of Manipur
122.	The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was held at which place? Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
123.	World Haemophilia Day is observed on April 17. Haemophilia is associated with which ailment? Bleeding disorders

124.	Celebration of World Heritage Day on April 18 is supported by which UN agency? UNESCO
125.	The Henley Passport Index placed which country's passport at the top? Japan
126.	What was Indian passport's rank on the Henley Passport Index? 84th
127.	Miguel Díaz-Canel has been appointed as the new President of which country? Cuba
128.	NASA's Mars helicopter named _____ made history with a successful flight on the Red Planet: 'Ingenuity'
129.	The World Liver Day is observed on which date? April 19
130.	The Reserve Bank constituted a panel to carry out a review of the working of ARCs. What is the full form of ARC? Asset Reconstruction Company
131.	ARC is a specialized financial institution that buys the _____ from banks at a mutually agreed value: Bad loans (NPAs)
132.	The ARCs are to be registered with which apex organization? RBI
133.	The Government of India celebrates Civil Services Day on which date? April 21
134.	Who referred to civil servants as the 'Steel frame of India' in 1947? Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
135.	Which country secured top rank in the Energy Transition Index released by the WEF? Sweden
136.	What was India's rank in the Energy Transition Index released by the WEF? 87th
137.	The Press Freedom Index 2021 that evaluates the press freedom situation in 180 countries, ranked which country at the top? Norway
138.	India was placed at ____ rank in the recently released Press Freedom Index 2021: 142nd
139.	Which international day is observed on April 22 to create awareness about pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet? The Earth Day
140.	What is the theme of this year's Earth Day? Restore our Earth
141.	Which city has been selected as the World Book Capital for a one-year period on the occasion of the World Book and Copyright Day on April 23? Tbilisi in Georgia
142.	Which international day marks the birthday and death anniversary of the legendary writer William Shakespeare on April 23? The English Language Day
143.	_____ hosted a two-day Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders on the Earth Day, April 22: US President Joe Biden
144.	What was the theme of the Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders held on the Earth Day, April 22? Our Collective Sprint to 2030
145.	Name the noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author who passed away on April 21 due to Covid-19 complications: Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

146.	Shankha Ghosh, an eminent Bengali _____ passed away on April 21 losing his battle against COVID 19: Poet
147.	_____ became the first country to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement on April 9: Singapore
148.	In which year government enacted the Panchayati Raj Act? 1993
149.	Which number amendment of the Indian Constitution is associated with the enactment of Panchayati Raj Act? 73rd
150.	Which country, along with Russia, topped the medal tally at the World Youth Boxing Championships held in Kielce, Poland? India
151.	Rekha M Menon, Chairperson of IT firm Accenture India, has been appointed as chairperson of which apex business body? National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
152.	The World Veterinary Day is observed on the _____ Saturday of April every year: Last
MARCH 2021	
153.	The book 'India's Power Elite' is written by_____: Sanjay Baru, ex-media to former prime minister Manmohan Singh
154.	What is the name of the sixth offshore patrol vessel commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24? ICGS Vajra
155.	Who has been selected to head the RBI committee formed to evaluate applications for "on-tap" licensing of universal banks and small finance banks? Ms. Shyamala Gopinath
156.	NITI Aayog formed 11 committees to expedite the transition of the country from a linear economy to a _____ economy: Circular
157.	_____ has decided to develop world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
158.	Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to Rs. ____lakh: Five
159.	Which country plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadthavet Sea? Norway
160.	Vyas Samman is associated with which field? Hindi literature
161.	Who is the winner of Vyas Samman – 2020? Prof. Sharad Pagare
162.	Prof. Sharad Pagare won the Vyas Samma for which book? Patliputra Ki Samragyi
163.	What is the amount of cash award given in the Vyas Samman? Rs. four lakhs
164.	Name the former Deputy Governor of the RBI who left for heavenly abode on March 26: KC Chakrabarty
165.	Name the noted journalist and author who died in Mumbai on March 26: Anil Dharker

166.	Which country topped the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? USA
167.	India was placed at which spot in the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? 40th
168.	Which district has been declared as the first TB free district in India? Budgam, J&K
169.	With which country India conducted its first Passage Exercise (PASSEX) on 24 March in western Indian Ocean? Madagascar
170.	Denis Sassou Nguesso has been re-elected as the President of which country for the next five years? Republic of Congo
171.	Bangladesh is celebrating which year of its liberation? 50th
172.	Who is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh? Sheikh Hasina Wajed
173.	Who has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)? Saurabh Garg
174.	World Theatre Day is observed on which day of March? 27th
175.	Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the _____ Saturday of March: Last
176.	Which bank has been adjudged the India's best bank for SMEs at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 202? HDFC Bank
177.	Out of wheat and rice, which crop is produced more in India? Rice
178.	The Centre has lifted embargo on private sector banks for conduct of _____ business related transactions: Government
179.	What is the formal name of the world's largest cricket stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad? Narendra Modi Stadium
180.	Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes? Vijay Sampla
181.	Jasmine Harrison, a 21-year-old British woman from England became the youngest woman to do what? To row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
182.	Which film won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the best film? Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
183.	Akshay Kumar won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the Best Actor for which film? Laxmii
184.	Irakli Garibashvili has been appointed as the new _____ of Georgia: Prime Minister
185.	The Ministry of Corporate Affairs signed a MoU on Feb 25 for exchange of data with which Central Board? Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
186.	Under which Act the government announced new policies for regulation of content on social media and over the top (OTT) platforms? Information Technology Act, 2000
187.	Which country passed amendments to their News Media Bargaining Code to force online platforms like

	Google and Facebook to pay for news they source from local media? Australia
188.	Which country emerged as India's biggest trade partner in 2020? China
189.	Which Buddhist pilgrimage city has been selected recently under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme? Leh, Ladakh
190.	Name the Indian social activist in the field of Right to Information in India who has been selected by the US government for the International Anti-corruption Champions Award? Anjali Bharadwaj
191.	Mohamed Bazoum has been elected as the new President of which African country? Niger
192.	Dushyant Chautala, Deputy CM of Haryana, has been re-elected as the President of which sports federation of India? Table Tennis
193.	The central government has selected 12 tourist sites under the Swachh Iconic Places under an initiative of which ministry? Ministry of Jal Shakti
194.	The famous historical monument Sanchi Stupa is in which state? Madhya Pradesh
195.	Which state is famous for Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ramdevra Temple? Rajasthan
196.	Government has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in collaboration with which IIT of the country? IIT Bombay
197.	ISRO launched the Amazonia 1 optical earth observation satellite for which country? Brazil
198.	Who won the gold medal on Feb 28 in the women's 53-kg category at XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament in Kyiv, Ukraine? Vinesh Phogat
199.	Which country has taken over chairmanship of BRICS group for 2021? India
200.	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh. It is in which state? Jharkhand
201.	Matam Venkata Rao has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of which Bank? Central Bank of India
202.	Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for what purpose? For enhancing physical accessibility for elderly and the disabled
203.	Which was the partner country in the Maritime India Summit-2021 held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4? Denmark
204.	Which national day is celebrated on March 01 to commemorate the creation of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) on this day in 1976? Civil Accounts Day
205.	March 07 is observed as Janaushadhi Diwas. Jan Aushadhi Kendras are the initiative of which government department? Department of Pharmaceuticals
206.	21st National Sqay Championship was held at which place? Jaipur, Rajasthan

207.	Sqay is the traditional martial art of which area? Kashmir
208.	Golden Globe Awards are associated with which field? Cinema & TV
209.	Which film won the Golden Globe for the Best Motion Picture – Drama? Nomadland
210.	Chloé Zhao won the Golden Globe for the best director for which film? Nomadland
211.	India donated Rs. 1.5 million to the National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine of which country? Taiwan
212.	Indian Air Force gifted a legacy Alouette III helicopter to which country? Bangladesh
213.	A giant iceberg, around 490 sq km in size, broke off from the ice shelf in which area? Antarctica
214.	Who became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021? Virat Kohli
215.	Who is the most followed sportsperson on the Instagram, having 266 million followers? Cristiano Ronaldo
216.	ISRO successfully launched satellite Sindhu Netra on Feb 28. It is what type of satellite? Surveillance satellite
217.	A special contingent of the Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise “Desert Flag” in which country? UAE – United Arab Emirates
218.	Which state/UT topped the medals tally in the 2 nd Khelo India Winter National Games? J&K
219.	2nd Khelo India Winter National Games were held in which city in J&K? Gulmarg
220.	Government has decided to merge the Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV channels. The new channel will be known as _____ TV: Sansad TV
221.	What is the theme for this year’s Zero Discrimination Day? End Inequalities
222.	Which country successfully launched its first satellite to monitor the Arctic’s climate and environment? Russia
223.	Which are the two international days that are observed on March 3? World Wildlife Day and World Hearing Day
224.	With which country India agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years? Norway
225.	Which city is the capital of Norway? Oslo
226.	Which heritage iconic railway station in Mumbai is popularly known as CST station? Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
227.	As per the 'Ease of Living Index' _____ topped the list as the most livable city among 111 cities (with population above 1 million) covered in the index: Bengaluru
228.	In the category of cities with 'population less than million', _____ was ranked at the top in the Ease of Living Index: Shimla

229.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with Stefan Löfven on March 5. Who is he? Prime Minister of Sweden
230.	India exported the first consignment of ‘red rice’ on March 4 to which country? USA
231.	Iron rich ‘red rice’ is grown in which Indian river valley? Brahmaputra valley in Assam
232.	Name the West Indies ODI and T20I skipper became the third batsman in the history of international cricket to hit six 6s in an over on March 3: Kieron Pollard
233.	With which country India signed a key pact on March 2 for the supply of BrahMos supersonic missiles? Philippines
234.	BrahMos missiles are built in India in collaboration with which country? Russia
235.	Which Indian boxer has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Boxing Association’s (AIBA) champions and veterans committee? Mary Kom
236.	India has decided to fund the reconstruction of three more Cultural Heritage projects in which country? Nepal
237.	Which country hosted the 2021’s first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in virtual mode on Feb 26? Italy
238.	Which prestigious environment prize was conferred upon PM Narendra Modi via video conferencing on March 5 at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week? CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award
239.	DRDO successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on SFDR technology for the long-range air to air missiles. What is SFDR? Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet
240.	Which city topped the final rankings in million plus cities of the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 for the 111 Indian cities? Indore
241.	The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings ranked which university as the best in the world? Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA
242.	Which Indian Institute/University secured highest (172nd) rank in the QS World University Rankings? Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
243.	The UN General Assembly has declared on March 3 year 2023 as the year of ____? Millets
244.	Among Ragi, Bajra, Makai and Jowar, which one is NOT a millet? Makai
245.	What is this year’s theme of the National Safety Day? “Sadak Suraksha” (Road Safety)
246.	India observes National Security Day on March 4. Who is India’s National Security Advisor? Ajit Kumar Doval
247.	Washington-based noted think tank Freedom House in its report, titled ‘Democracy Under Siege’, has ranked India at which rank? 88th

248.	What is the theme of this year's International Women's Day? #ChooseToChallenge
249.	Which Indian boxer won gold at the Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain? Manish Kaushik
250.	Which Indian boxers reached number one world ranking in both men's and women's category? Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat
251.	Which Indian organization launched an 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna? Shipping Corporation of India
252.	An 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna was launched from which Indian port? Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai
253.	NPCI partnered with which company to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants? SBI Payments
254.	Which ministry has decided to classify all of its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes for their better implementation? Women and Child Development Ministry
255.	Google launched which web platform to help one million women in rural India to become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship? Women will
256.	Which country topped the UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020? Switzerland
257.	What was India's rank in the recently released UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020? 71st
258.	Which global organization raised the projection for India's economic growth rate by 4.7 percentage points at 12.6 percent for 2021-22? OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris
259.	The Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) on Feni river is located in which state? Tripura
260.	Indian Railway integrated all its helplines into single number. What is this number? 139
261.	The Maitree Setu will link South Tripura to which International port in Bangladesh? Chittagong
262.	Koneru Humpy won the "BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year" (ISWOTY) award for 2020. She plays which sports? Chess
263.	The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated recently at which place in Uttarakhand? Ranikhet
264.	ISRO and the NASA recently completed the development of a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR. What is its name? NISAR
265.	DRDO conducted the final development test of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system on Mar 8. It is to be used at which place? Submarines
266.	Which bank launched 'SmartUp Unnati'-- a dedicated mentoring programme to support women entrepreneurs? HDFC Bank

267.	What is the name of the second edition of the India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise held in Ranikhet in Uttarakhand? DUSTLIK-II
268.	The "Economic Freedom Index" released by the US based think tank - Heritage Foundation placed which country at the top? Singapore
269.	India was ranked at which spot in the Economic Freedom Index? 121st
270.	Which country launched the world's first military exercise in space from March 8 to 12? France
271.	What was the name of the military space exercise launched by France? AstreX
272.	President of which country was selected for the Prize for Achievement in African Leadership-2020? Niger
273.	Who has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the year 2021? Girish Chandra Murmu
274.	The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. How many countries are member of Quad group? Four
275.	Who is the Prime Minister of Japan? Yoshihide Suga
276.	What is the full form of the acronym QUAD? Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
277.	Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand? Tirath Singh Rawat
278.	Who is the Governor of Uttarakhand? Ms. Baby Rani Maurya
279.	Who became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats? Mithali Raj
280.	_____ became the first bank in India on March 10 to launch its own range of wearable contactless payment devices named as 'Wear N Pay': Axis Bank
281.	What is the upper limit of amount of transactions that can be done through 'Wear N Pay' devices? Rs. 5,000/-
282.	Thomas Bach has been re-elected as the President of which international sports body? International Olympic Committee (IOC)
283.	Where are the headquarters of the IOC located? Lausanne, Switzerland
284.	Who has been appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India by the Central Government? Dr. G P Samanta
285.	Which two countries signed a MoU to jointly construct a lunar space station that will be open to all countries? China and Russia
286.	Which Indian actress has joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum? Deepika Padukon
287.	Which mobile app has been launched for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood? Mera Ration
288.	Which Indian Industrialist added the highest wealth in the world to his fortune in 2021? Gautam Adani
289.	World Kidney Day is observed globally on the _____ Thursday of March every year: Second

290.	Prime Minister Modi launched the celebrations for the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' from which place? Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
291.	Who became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T-20 Internationals? Virat Kohli
292.	Which team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for 2021? Team Mumbai
293.	Vijay Hazare Trophy is played in which format of cricket? 50 over one day
294.	Tamil Nadu's CA Bhavani Devi became the first ever Indian _____ to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games: Fencer
295.	Who became the first player in the world to complete 7,000 runs in women's ODI cricket? Mithali Raj
296.	'The Lost Soul' is a novel written by Olga Tokarczuk. She belongs to which country: Poland
297.	The world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku" has been developed by which country? Japan
298.	International Day of Mathematics is observed on March 14. It also commemorates the birthday of a great mathematician. Who is he? Albert Einstein
299.	What is the value of Pi expressed in a fraction? 14/3
300.	World Consumer Rights Day is observed on which day of March month? 15th
301.	What is the theme of this year's World Consumer Rights Day? Tackle plastic pollution
302.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of _____, on March 16: Finland
303.	RBI has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by _____ this year: September 30
304.	The UGC has recognised three professional qualifications as equivalent to post-graduation. Can you name them? CA, CS, and ICWA
305.	Grammy awards are given to recognise excellence in which field? Music
306.	Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee Laxman Pai passed away on March 14. He was a renowned _____? Artist and painter
307.	Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal has been launched at which international airport? Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
308.	Which country topped the Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific region released by the JLL? India
309.	Which artist created a record of winning highest number of Grammy awards (28), after winning 4 Grammys this year? Beyonce
310.	Which artist won the Grammy this year for the "Record of the Year"? Billie Eilish
311.	The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with an initial capital infusion of 20 thousand crore rupees

	for what purpose? For long-term funding of infrastructure development projects
312.	Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Security Guard? M A Ganpathy
313.	Kuldiep Singh, Sr IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of which para-military force? CRPF
314.	_____ became the first country in Central America to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization: El Salvador
315.	_____ has been adjudged as the world's most polluted capital city by World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation, IQAir: New Delhi
316.	What is the name of the Indian Navy's first advanced surveillance ship? INS Dhruv
317.	What is the name of the world's highest honor in architecture, also known as Nobel of architecture? Pritzker Architecture Prize
318.	Pritzker Architecture Prize for 2021 has been won by Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. They hail from which country? France
319.	India's first ordnance factory was established at which place in 1801? Cossipore, West Bengal
320.	What is the theme for this year's Global Recycling Day observed on March 18? Recycling Heroes
321.	Which International day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth? World Sleep Day
322.	Dr Ajay Mathur has been appointed as the Director General of which global organization? International Solar Alliance, Gurugram, Haryana
323.	Who is Lloyd J Austin III who arrived in India on March 19 for a three-day visit? Defence Secretary of USA
324.	International Day of Happiness is observed on which day of March? 20th
325.	What is the theme of this year's World Sparrow Day observed on March 20? I love sparrows
326.	As per the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released on March 19, _____ is the happiest country to live in the world: Finland
327.	What was India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2021? 139th
328.	_____ has been declared as the best state under the government's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana: Manipur
329.	Which Indian film celebrity has been honoured with the prestigious Film Archive Award-2021? Amitabh Bachchan
330.	With which firm the Ministry of Defence placed an order for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles? Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad
331.	Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan has been sworn in as the first female President of which African country? Tanzania

332.	Mark Rutte won the 2021 parliamentary elections for the fourth term in a row to become Prime Minister in which country? Netherlands
333.	The Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf with the navy of which country? Bahrain
334.	Which global organization launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' to promote women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the rural India? UNDP-United Nations Development Program
335.	Who became the first Indian Table Tennis player to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games? Achanta Sharath Kamal
336.	What is the theme of this year's World Water Day observed on March 22? Valuing Water
337.	What is the name of the water conservation campaign launched by the Prime Minister Modi on March 22? Catch the Rain Campaign
338.	India's Singhraj won the gold medal in the 2021 _____ World Cup at Al Ain in the UAE: Para Shooting
339.	Who won the men's singles title at the All-England Badminton Championships? Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia
340.	Nozomi Okuhara won the women's singles title at the All-England Badminton Championships. She represents which country? Japan
341.	Government launched an ambitious scheme named _____ for offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas: Gram Ujala
342.	The memorial in the honour of great revolutionary fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev is located at which place on the banks of River Satluj? Hussainiwala
343.	Which film won the National Award for the 'Best Feature Film' for 2019? Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea
344.	Who won the National Award for the Best Director for 2019? Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain
345.	National award for the Best Actress for 2019 has been won by: Kangana Ranaut
346.	_____ was declared as the most film friendly state for 2019: Sikkim
347.	The Gandhi Peace Prize – 2019 was conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said. He was former head of which country? Oman
348.	Government of India honoured Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with which prestigious global award? The Gandhi Peace Prize-2020
349.	What is the amount of the cash prize given with the Gandhi Peace Prize? Rs. One crore
350.	According to a study released by defence website Military Direct on March 21, Indian army is the _____ strongest army of the world: Fourth
351.	According to Military Direct, which is the strongest military force in the world: China
352.	Which two other countries are ahead of India in military force: USA (2nd) and Russia (3rd)

353.	World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on March 24 to commemorate the discovery of TB on this day by _____ : Dr. Robert Koch in 1882
354.	RBI has decided to grant 'on-tap' banking licenses to Universal banks and Small Finance Banks. What does 'on-tap' mean? RBI will accept applications and grant banking licenses throughout the year
355.	Who was called by the name of Frontier Gandhi? Late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (also known as Badshah Khan)
356.	'My Life in Full' is a book written by which corporate honcho? Indra Nooyi, former CEO of Pepsico
357.	The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle is English translation of autobiography of which freedom fighter? Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
358.	What is the name of the book recently written by senior RSS leader Ram Madhav? Because India Comes First
FEBRUARY 2021	
359.	Who became Table Tennis Men's national champion at the 82nd National Table Tennis Championships in Panchkula, Haryana? Sathiyam Gnanasekaran
360.	The Reserve Bank brought the State Bank of _____ under its regulation: Sikkim
361.	_____ became the first state in the country to table a paperless budget in the state assembly on Feb 22: Uttar Pradesh
362.	Which Arabian country has permitted the women of the country to join the armed forces? Saudi Arabia
363.	India's first Carbon Watch, a mobile app for assessing carbon footprints has been developed by which state/UT? Chandigarh
364.	Government has approved _____ toy manufacturing clusters with investment of Rs 2,300 crore: 8
365.	Which state has set up the country's first Digital University? Kerala
366.	What is the name of India's first Digital University? Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology
367.	The Indian Army successfully tested the Helina and Dhruv Astra Missile Systems. They are what type of missiles? Anti Tank Guided Missiles
368.	The Soil Health Card Day is observed on which day of February? 19th
369.	The World Social Justice Day is observed on Feb 20 with the support of which UN agency? International Labour Organization
370.	Government launched the Go Electric Campaign to boost the adoption of which items? Electric mobility vehicles and electric cooking appliances
371.	Government launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 (IMI 3.0) for what purpose? To expand immunization coverage across the nation

372.	The Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted bilateral military exercise PASSEX on Feb 18 in which area? Arabian Sea
373.	Which Indian company indigenously made K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/ 52 calibre self-propelled guns for Indian Army? Larsen and Toubro (L&T)
374.	International Mother Language Day is observed on which day? February 21
375.	The second Khelo India University Games will be hosted by which state? Karnataka
376.	The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was held in which state from Feb 20 to 26? Madhya Pradesh
377.	Australian Open Grand Slam was held in which Australian city? Melbourne
378.	Who won men's singles title at the Australian Open? Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
379.	_____ won the Australian Open Women's singles title: Naomi Osaka
380.	The book <i>Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha</i> is the life story of which para military force? CRPF
381.	'Unfinished: A Memoir' is the autobiography of which Indian cinema celebrity? Priyanka Chopra Jonas
382.	What is the title of the recent book by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama? The Little Book of Encouragement
383.	Central Excise Day is observed on Feb 24 to mark the enactment of which act that was enacted on this day in 1944? Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944
384.	National Science Day is observed on Feb 28 to mark which scientific recovery on this day in 1928? Raman Effect by Sir C V Raman
385.	Sir C V Raman was awarded Nobel Prize in 1930 in which field? Physics
386.	Government launched the National Urban Digital Mission aimed at providing an online platform for what purpose? For creating a platform for citizen-centric governance
387.	Which bank approved a \$ 304 million dollar loan for Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project? The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
388.	The World Bank granted a \$68 million support to improve the quality of education in which state? Nagaland
389.	The 30th Adriatic Pearl Boxing Tournament was held in Budva. It is in which country? Montenegro
390.	Which film won the Golden Peacock Award for the best film at the 51 st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa? "Into the Darkness" directed by Anders Refn
391.	Director Anders Refn hails from which country? Denmark
392.	What is the cash amount given in the Golden Peacock Award? Rs. 40 lakh

393.	Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is given for outstanding performance in which field? Disaster management
394.	Who is the winner of this year's Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar in individual category? Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari
395.	What is the amount of cash award won by Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari? Rs. Five lakh
396.	10 th National Ice Hockey Championship was held at which place? Gulmarg, J&K
397.	Which team won the 10 th National Ice Hockey Championship? Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
398.	The longest road arch bridge in India - the Wahrew Bridge has been built in which state? Meghalaya
399.	The Wahrew Bridge in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya has been built across which river? Wahrew
400.	A rocket from which US aerospace company created a new record by launching 143 satellites at a time into space? SpaceX
401.	The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the 'Shram Shakti' portal to collect data related to the _____ workers? Tribal migrant
402.	The Gujarat Government plans to set up India's largest multi-modal logistics park in which city? Ahmadabad
403.	The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into effect from which date? January 22, 2021
404.	Is India a signatory to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? No
405.	Which state launched door delivery of rice to ration card holders across the state? Andhra Pradesh
406.	India's top civilian awards, Padma awards are approved by which authority? President of India
407.	Which union ministry makes recommendations for the Padma Awards? Ministry of Home Affairs
408.	How many Padma Awards have been declared this year? 119
409.	Who is the only foreign dignitary to be honoured this year with Padma Vibhushan? Shinzo Abe, former PM of Japan
410.	Maximum how many Padma awards can be declared in total in one year (excluding awards given posthumously and to foreigners)? 120
411.	Who is the winner of the only MahaVir Chakra declared this year? Colonel B Santosh Babu
412.	Colonel B Santosh Babu has been decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra for display of outstanding gallantry in which area? Galwan Valley
413.	The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 has placed India at which rank? Seventh
414.	Which were the two most affected countries in 2019 as per the Global Climate Risk Index 2021? Mozambique and Zimbabwe

415.	The South-East Central Railways created a new record by successfully operating the world's longest ever freight train in which state? Chhattisgarh
416.	BSF launched "Operation Sard Hawa" from Jan 21 to 27 to increase security on the borders in which area? Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
417.	As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, which country recorded highest trade surplus in 2020? China
418.	As per a recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo institute, which country recorded highest trade deficit in 2020? USA
419.	A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 was conducted in which area from January 21-25? Andaman & Nicobar Islands
420.	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa won a second five-year term after winning the 2021 Presidential election with a landslide victory in which country? Portugal
421.	The International Customs Day is celebrated on which date? January 26
422.	The DRDO conducted a successful maiden launch of which missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha. Akash-NG (New Generation) ----- upto 28/1
423.	Kaja Kallas has been elected as the first female President of which country? Estonia, Central Europe
424.	The Election Commission rolled out the electronic version of the voters' photo identity card e-EPIC. What is EPIC? Electoral photo identity card
425.	Which Indian company has been ranked 5th on Brand Finance's Global 500 ranking of the strongest brands globally? Reliance Jio
426.	Which global financial body approved a \$500 million programme to support Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS) of India? The World Bank
427.	The Corruption Perception Index, 2020, released by Berlin based NGO Transparency International has placed India at which rank? 86th
428.	Which country topped the Corruption Perception Index, 2020? New Zealand and Denmark, jointly
429.	According to the National Science Foundation, USA, India is at which rank in terms of number of scientific articles published in 2018? Third
430.	World Wetlands Day is observed on which day of February? 2nd
431.	Out of Mulberry, Eri, Chanderi, Tassar, and Muga – which one is NOT a variety of Silk? Chanderi
432.	In which South Asian country military executed a coup on Feb 1 after arresting the top political leaders? Myanmar
433.	Which team won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy on Jan 31? Tamil Nadu
434.	Which word has been named by Oxford Languages as its Hindi word of the year 2020? Aatmanirbharta

435.	Badminton World Tour Finals were played on Jan 31 in which city? Bangkok
436.	Who won women's singles title at the Badminton World Tour Finals? Tai Tzu Ying (China)
437.	Men's singles title at the Badminton World Tour Finals was won by: Anders Antonsen, Denmark
438.	The BCCI has decided to not to conduct which national tournament for the first time in its history of 87 years? Ranji Trophy
439.	The Finance Minister announced launch of Pradhan Mantri Bharat _____ Yojana to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems? Atmanirbhar Swasth
440.	Asia's biggest aero show "Aero India-2021" was held at Yelahanka Air Force Station in which city? Bengaluru
441.	The defence ministers of 27 countries from Indian Ocean region participated in a conclave held at _____ in first week of February: Bengaluru
442.	A team of researchers from five institutes across India have discovered a new gecko species in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
443.	Which state government launched the year long Chauri Chaura Centenary Celebrations here on Feb 4? Bihar
444.	Ajay Singh has been re-elected as President of the _____ Federation of India: Boxing
445.	According to the Democracy Index 2020 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit, London, India secured _____ rank in the Index: 53rd
446.	What is the theme of this year's World Cancer Day observed on Feb 4? I am and I will
447.	India established its first centre for wetland conservation in which place? Chennai
448.	The United States has extended the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty with which country? Russia
449.	The New START has been extended for how many years? Five
450.	District Shravasti topped in the ranking of aspirational districts done by the Niti Aayog in December 2020. It is in which state? Uttar Pradesh
451.	The ministry of corporate affairs has allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate OPCs. What is OPC? One Person Company
452.	Which country topped the medal tally at the first Asian Online Shooting Championship hosted online by Kuwait? India
453.	_____ has become the first State in the country to make the end to end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing e-cabinet application: Himachal Pradesh
454.	Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar electricity project in which district of Uttarakhand? Dehradun
455.	The Lakhwar electricity project is being constructed on which river? Yamuna

456.	YudhAbhyas 20, the India-US joint military exercise was held in Mahajan Field Firing Range in which state? Rajasthan
457.	India's first ever geothermal power project will be established at Puga village in which area? Eastern Ladakh
458.	In which state a glacier burst caused widespread devastation on Feb 7? Uttarakhand
459.	For the first time in the history of CRPF, a contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into which of its units? CoBRA
460.	What is the full form of CoBRA? Commando Battalion for Resolute Action
461.	Who has been appointed as the head of the National Safety Council by the Labour Ministry? S N Subrahmanyam
462.	Which country plans to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea? Denmark
463.	Government has enhanced the agricultural credit target to _____ lakh crore rupees for the year 2021-22: 16.5
464.	With which country India signed a MoU for the construction of Shahtoot dam project? Afghanistan
465.	The Shahtoot dam project is to be built across which river? Kabul
466.	Who has been honoured as the Global Citizenship Ambassador by the Northeastern University Center for Spirituality, Dialogue and Service, Boston, USA? Sri Sri Ravishankar
467.	Who won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month award 2021? Rishabh Pant
468.	With which neighbouring country India recently inaugurated a newly constructed 108-kilometre road? Nepal
469.	The Ministry of Agriculture launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations FPOs'. What is a FPO? Farmer Produce Organization
470.	Which country signed a \$43 billion agreement to build the world's largest offshore wind farm? South Korea
471.	With which Indian firm UNICEF, Paris entered into a long-term supply agreement for the AstraZeneca/Oxford and the Novavax vaccines? Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune
472.	Novavax vaccines are the product of which country? USA
473.	India's first centralised AC railway terminal is about to be operational by February end in which city? Bengaluru
474.	According to the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index, which country is the most innovative nation? South Korea
475.	India has been placed at which rank in the latest Bloomberg Innovation Index? 50th
476.	Who is the top winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020? Manasa Varanasi

477.	Which iconic historical monument in the Indian capital completed 100 years of its foundation laying on Feb 10? India Gate
478.	The India Meteorological Department (IMD) plans to set up India's first thunderstorm research testbed at _____, Odisha: Balasore
479.	The National Deworming Day is observed two times in a year on which dates? Feb 10 and August 10
480.	Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Pulses Day on Feb 10? Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
481.	The Unani Day is celebrated every year on Feb 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim _____: Ajmal Khan
482.	The Unani medicine is based on the philosophy of which Greek thinker? Hippocrates
483.	ISRO has tied up with which digital mapping and location-based deep-tech company to offer a fully indigenous, mapping portal and related geospatial services? MapmyIndia
484.	Which national day is observed on Feb 12 to commemorate the establishment of a council on this day in 1958, based on its name? National Productivity Day
485.	What is the three pronged theme for this year's World Radio Day? Evolution, Innovation, Connection
486.	India celebrates National Women's Day on Feb 13 to commemorate the birthday of which great Indian woman? Sarojini Naidu
487.	What was the popular sobriquet attributed to Sarojini Naidu? Bharat Kokila
488.	Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first CNG tractor on Feb 12. What is CNG? Compressed Natural Gas
489.	The Tamil film "Koozhangal" won "Tiger" award for the best film at the 50th edition of the _____ International Film Festival: Rotterdam
490.	The Export-Import Bank of India has approved a \$400 million credit a mega connectivity project in which country? Maldives
491.	Which country conducted a successful training launch of the surface to surface ballistic cruise missile 'Babur'? Pakistan
492.	Mario Draghi has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of which European country? Italy
493.	The World Bank approved a \$100 million support for CHIRAAG project in which state? Chhattisgarh
494.	Indian Army placed an order for 118 indigenously manufactured Arjun Mark 1-A tanks. What is its popular name? Hunter Killer
495.	Arjun Mark 1-A tanks are built at the Indian Ordnance Factory's production facility at which place? Avadi, Chennai
496.	The Indian National Congress named which party veteran as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha? Mallikarjun Kharge

497.	Who has been selected as the new Director General of the International Solar Alliance? Dr. Ajay Mathur
498.	Who became the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen? Ravichandran Ashwin
499.	RBI formed a committee headed by _____ for drawing a vision document to strengthen urban co-operative banks: N S Vishwanathan
500.	Who has been named as the new Director General of the World Trade Organisation? Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
501.	Which state launched the 'Free Gift Milk to Girl Students' initiative? Sikkim
502.	Dr. Kiran Bedi, former IPS Officer has been removed from the post of Lieutenant Governor of which UT? Puducherry
503.	Which State's Chief Minister has been honoured with the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award? Andhra Pradesh
504.	Who is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh? Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
505.	In which state at least 51 persons, including 20 women, were killed when a bus skidded off the road and plunged into a canal? Madhya Pradesh
506.	The government launched an online portal _____ to offer civil services in 62 Cantonments Boards across the country: e-Chhawani
507.	The Indian Navy got its third indigenously built Scorpene Submarine on Feb 15. What is its name? INS Karanj
508.	Name the former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand and eminent jurist, who passed away on February 16 in Bengaluru: Justice (Retd) M Rama Jois
509.	At which place three fossils of the world's earliest known living animal- the 550 million years old Dickinsonia- have been discovered by the researchers? Bhimbetka rock shelters, Madhya Pradesh
510.	In which US state millions of people suffered in extreme cold as a severe winter storm snapped electricity supply? Texas
511.	Which country hosted a virtual health secretary-level meeting with other SAARC countries on February 18 to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 crisis? India
512.	The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with which country? Mauritius
513.	The Ministry of Education has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as ____ : Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools and hostels
514.	The Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arbor Day Foundation have recognized _____ as a 2020 Tree City of World: Hyderabad
515.	The American space agency NASA successfully landed its fifth rover named _____ on Mars on Feb 18: Perseverance

516.	Who won her second women's national title at the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championships? Manika Batra
517.	The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called _____ : Sandes
518.	The Exim Bank extended a line of credit (LOC) of \$15 million to which country for improving potable water facilities? Sierra Leone
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519.	India's first ever driverless train operations were flagged off on _____ Metro's Magenta Line: Delhi
520.	Indian and Vietnamese Navy concluded the two-day naval passage exercise on Dec 26-27 in which area? South China Sea
521.	Which Football player won the FIFA Player of the Century Award? Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal
522.	NITI Aayog launched India's first Digital Asset Management and Storage platform, called _____ : 'DigiBoxx'
523.	Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade? Virat Kohli
524.	Who won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade? Ellyse Perry (Australia)
525.	India's first hot air balloon safari in a tiger reserve was launched on December 25 in which national park? Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
526.	Which Municipal Corporation has been announced as the best performing civic body in India? Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh
527.	The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on ____ day of December: 27th
528.	The India Meteorological Department opened its highest Meteorological Centre located at 3,500 metres above sea level at which place? Leh, Ladakh
529.	_____ has become the first wrestler of the country to win silver at the Individual Wrestling World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia: Anshu Malik
530.	Name the French fashion king who made his name by selling designer clothes to the masses, who died aged 98: Pierre Cardin
531.	As per an international report which country suffered maximum loss of lives in the world due to climate change-triggered events in 2020? India
532.	Which is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses? Serum Institute of India, Pune
533.	What is the name of India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine? Pneumosil
534.	Government launched which portal and mobile app to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world? The Global Pravasi Rishta
535.	The government has approved the export of which indigenously built missile system? Akash
536.	The entire state of _____ was declared a disturbed area for another six more months from Dec 30: Nagaland

537.	What is the name of India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container? SAHAYAK-NG
538.	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, 1985 batch IPS officer has been appointed the Director General of which paramilitary force? Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
539.	Winner of the Scientist of the Year Award, senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey hails from which apex organization? DRDO
540.	Who has been elected as the youngest mayor of India in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala? Arya Rajendran
541.	Which F1 driver has been honoured with the Knighthood in Britain? Lewis Hamilton
542.	Country's first Pollinator Park was thrown open to the public in _____ in Uttarakhand: Haldwani
543.	Who has been appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO? Suneet Sharma
544.	The Asian Development Bank cleared a \$ 231 million loan to augment electricity generation capacity in which state? Assam
545.	Name the veteran Congress leader and former Union home minister who passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi: Buta Singh
546.	Winner of Eminent Engineer Award-2020, V.K. Yadav, is Chairman & CEO of which apex organization? Railway Board
547.	Which is the first private company to successfully test-fire the technology demonstration version of their solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? Skyroot Aerospace, Hyderabad
548.	What is the name of India's first private sector solid fuelled propulsion rocket motor? Kalam-5
549.	Which apex organisation has unveiled an e-commerce portal — eKhadiIndia.com? Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
550.	World Braille Day is celebrated on Jan 4 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? Louis Braille
551.	How many convex dots are used in the Braille language that forms all the letters and symbols? Six
552.	The Reserve Bank of India launched _____ Index to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India: Digital Payments
553.	Which billionaire has zoomed to the second spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021? Elon Musk
554.	Billionaire Elon Musk is associated with which business? Tesla Motors, USA
555.	A 450-km natural gas pipeline between _____ in Kerala and Mangaluru in Karnataka, was inaugurated on Jan 5: Kochi
556.	The National Metrology Conclave 2021 was organised by the CSIR & National Physical Laboratory. Metrology is associated with which field? Weight and measures
557.	Alexander Ellis has been appointed as the new British High Commissioner to which country? India

558.	India's 40th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was launched from _____ on Jan 4: Goa
559.	Which Bank raised \$1-billion through a ten year bond issue to provide support to overseas Indian projects and investment? EXIM Bank
560.	The Reserve Bank operationalised its Payments Infrastructure Development Fund on Dec 5 for what purpose? For promoting digital payments
561.	The Asian Development Bank sanctioned a \$100 million loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in which city? Bengaluru city
562.	The World Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in which state? West Bengal
563.	The World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Meteorological Centre in India? Patna
564.	Which special force inducted the first batch of over 100 women calamity combatants and rescuers? National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
565.	Headquarters of the Exim Bank are located in which city? Mumbai
566.	World's largest solar energy project of 600 MW is being set up in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam on _____ River: Narmada
567.	Omkareshwar dam project is located in which state? Madhya Pradesh
568.	Which global Bank approved a \$105 million project support to improve inland waterways in West Bengal? The World Bank
569.	The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva awarded the status of the "Centennial Observing Station" to which Indian Meteorological Centre? Patna
570.	What is the name of the inter-ministerial venture launched to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system? Toycathon
571.	RBI has made use of the Legal Entity Identifiers-LEI mandatory for all fund transfers worth Rs. ____: 50 crore and above
572.	LEI is a unique identification code comprising of ____ digits: 20
573.	Which organization brings out the Global Economic Prospects Report? World Bank
574.	Faustin-Archange Touadera has been re-elected as the President of Central _____ Republic: African
575.	World Day of War Orphans is observed on which day of January? 6th
576.	What is the cash prize given in the National Florence Nightingale Award? Rs. 50,000
577.	As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Jan 7, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by _____ % in fiscal 2020-21: 7.7
578.	The New Development Bank, Shanghai signed loan agreements worth \$646 million with the

Government of India for two road projects in which Indian State? Andhra Pradesh
579. Which is the first urban co-operative bank in India to receive a license from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank? The Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Saharanpur
580. Claire Polosak scripted history on Jan 7 by becoming the first female _____ in the 144 year old history of men's Test matches: Match official
581. Claire Polosak hails from which country? Australia
582. Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters stormed which building on Jan 6 in a stunning bid to overturn his election defeat? US Capitol
583. Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 9 marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 from which country? South Africa
584. World Hindi Day is observed on January 10 to mark the holding of which event for the first time in 1975? World Hindi Conference
585. The National Hindi Diwas is observed on which date? Sep 14
586. Who was the Chief Guest for the celebrations of this year's PravasiBharatiya Divas? Chandrikapersad Santokhi
587. Who is Sh.Chandrikapersad Santokhi? President of Suriname
588. What was the theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas? Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat
589. Indian Navy coordinated the second edition of the largest coastal defence exercise named _____ : Sea Vigil-21
590. Naval defence exercise Sea Vigil-21 was conducted at which place? All along the Indian coast and EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)
591. EEZ is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources. It extends up to what limit: 200 nautical miles (370.4 km)
592. Which organization has offered to adopt one hundred Atal Tinkering Labs to promote Space Education and related innovations for school students? Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO
593. Which organization looks after the functioning of Atal Tinkering Labs? NITI Aayog
594. National Youth Day is observed on January 12to commemorate the birth anniversary of which great personality? Swami Vivekananda
595. What was the original of Swami Vivekananda? Narendra Nath Datta
596. Who was the Guru of of Swami Vivekananda? Ramakrishna Paramhansa
597. The Henley's passport index has retained _____ on top of passport rankings among 199 passports of the world: Japan
598. The Indian passport was placed at which rank in the Henley's Passport Index? 85

599. Four times Chief Minister of Gujarat and two times union minister from Gujarat passed away on Jan 9. Who was he? Madhavsinh Solanki
600. The Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held on Jan 9 in Mao town of Senapati district of which state? Manipur
601. Government has approved procurement of 83 Tejas LCA worth about Rs 48,000 crore. What is LCA? Light Combat Aircraft
602. Which company will supply 83 Tejas LCA to Indian Air Force? Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru
603. Makar Sankranti is celebrated by which name in Gujarat? Uttarayan
604. State of Assam celebrates Makar Sankranti in the form of which festival? Magh Bihu
605. India's first ever ice climbing festival was held in Nubra valley in which place? Leh, Ladakh
606. According to a recent government survey, Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and Great Himalayan National Park were declared the best. They are in which place? Kullu, HP
607. Which country organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through video conferencing on January 11? France
608. SadyrJaparov, former Prime Minister of _____ has been elected as the new President of the country: Kyrgyzstan
609. Which National Day is celebrated on Jan 15 to mark the taking over of command of Indian Army by then Lt Gen K M Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief? Army Day
610. Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, some 45,500 years old, in which country? Indonesia
611. The Reserve Bank has set up a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI for what purpose? To review the functioning of digital lending
612. As per the International Migration Report 2020 released by the UN's Population Division, _____ has the world's largest Diaspora: India
613. Which country is host to the largest number of migrants in the world? USA
614. What is the name of the India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol developed by DRDO? Asmi
615. Which Indian ministry won the SKOCH Challenger Award for outstanding performance in e-Governance? Ministry of Tribal Affairs
616. International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened on 16th January in Goa. It was which edition of the festival? 51st
617. Who was the head of the jury at the 51 st IFFI? Pablo Cesar of Argentina
618. Which was the country of focus at the 51 st IFFI? Bangladesh

619.	To spur entrepreneurship across the Nation, the government announced Startup India Seed Fund Scheme with a corpus of Rs. _____ crore: 1,000
620.	A unicorn startup is one with a valuation of _____ dollar and above: One billion
621.	In Indonesia a powerful earthquake rocked _____ island, killing at least 92 people: Sulawesi
622.	Who was the renowned Indian classical musician of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana who breathed his last at his Mumbai residence on Jan 17? Ustad Mustafa Khan
623.	Ustad Mustafa Khan was honoured with which of the national Awards - Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan? All three
624.	What does letter 'R' stands for in the abbreviation PCRA? Research
625.	What is the name of the one month long awareness campaign launched by the PCRA on Jan16? SAKSHAM
626.	The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, opened which portal to the general public? National Innovation Portal
627.	ICICI Bank has tied up with Niyo to issue prepaid cards 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card' to which segment of customers? The blue collar workers of MSMEs
628.	What is the name of the bike ambulances launched by the DRDO for the CRPF? Rakshita
629.	Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that India's new Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect from April 1, 2021 for which period? 2021 to 26
630.	The new Foreign Trade Policy aims to make India a \$ _____ trillion economy by boosting exports: Five
631.	President of which African country scored a decisive election victory in third week of January to win a record sixth term as the President? Uganda
632.	Who has won the sixth term as President in Uganda? Yoweri Museveni
633.	Which city hosted the Yonex Thailand Open – 2021 Badminton Tournament? Bangkok
634.	India's first Labour Movement Museum is to be launched in _____ in Kerala: Alappuzha
635.	Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force conducted a five day (Jan 20 to 24) bilateral Air exercise at which place? Air Force Station, Jodhpur
636.	What was the name of the 5 day joint Indo-French air exercise held in Jodhpur? Ex Desert Knight-21
637.	Dr. V. Shanta, the world renowned _____ passed away due to brief illness in Chennai: Oncologist
638.	An oncologist specializes in which field of medicine? Cancer treatment
639.	India created history by winning series against Australia. Where was the fourth and final match played? Brisbane

640.	Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was recently felicitated with which international honour in literature? Canada Sahitya Gaurav
641.	The 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built on which river? Chenab
642.	The Ratle Hydro Electric Project is to be built in which state/UT? J&K
643.	NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020. Which major state topped the index? Karnataka
644.	Which small state or UT stood first in the India Innovation Index-2020? Delhi
645.	Which state topped the India Innovation Index-2020 in the North East and Hill States category? Himachal Pradesh
646.	Indian Defence Forces conducted which joint exercise in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal to explore the synergy of all the four forces? Exercise Kavach
647.	The first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive was launched on which date? January 16
648.	What is the name of the covid vaccine developed and produced indigenously in India? Covaxin
649.	What is the name of the covid vaccine being produced in India by the Serum Institute of India, Pune? Covishield
650.	Covishield vaccine has been developed by whom? University of Oxford and AstraZeneca
651.	Which mobile app has been developed by the Central government to ensure smooth implementation of Covid vaccination across the country? CoWIN
652.	Joe Biden was sworn in as the ____ President of USA on Jan 20: 46th
653.	New US President has declared that the USA will re-join international organization ____: WHO – World Health Organisation
654.	USA has announced that it will not boycott the _____ Accord: Paris Climate
655.	India's first ever Winter Sports Festival was held under the Khelo India initiative at which place? Zaskar in district Kargil of Ladakh
656.	Name the Indian who won the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize given for outstanding and innovative research in mathematics: Nikhil Srivastava
657.	Government has decided to celebrate Jan 23, birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as which national day? Parakram Diwas
658.	Indian Railways has decided to rename one of its oldest trains -- Howrah-Kalka Mail. What's the new name? Netaji Express
659.	Airtel Payments Bank launched which new innovative feature to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds? Airtel SafePay

660.	Which ministry announced the establishment of a first of its kind Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India? Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
661.	Quantum Computing Applications Lab will be established with technical collaboration with which global tech venture? Amazon Web Services
662.	The Reserve Bank declared the continuation of the D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) status for which three Indian Banks for the year 2020? ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank
663.	Global Firepower ranked India at which rank in terms of Military Strength? Fourth
664.	What is Pakistan's rank in the Military Strength Ranking released by the Global Firepower? Tenth
665.	India celebrates National Girl Child Day on which date? January 24
666.	The International Day of Girl Child is observed on which date? October 11
667.	Which day of January is celebrated as the International Day of Education? 24th
668.	In India which day has been selected to be observed as the National Education Day? November 11
669.	The Election Commission of India came into existence on Jan 25, 1950. Which national day is observed to commemorate this day? National Voters Day
670.	Internationally, World Leprosy Day is observed on which day? Last Sunday of January
671.	Leprosy is also known as _____ disease: Hansen's
672.	Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on Jan 31 in 1948. This day is nationally observed as which day? Martyrs Day/Anti Leprosy Day
673.	The Commonwealth of Cricket is a recent book written by whom? Ramchandra Guha
674.	What is the title of the recent novel authored by Rachel Hawkins? The Wife Upstairs
675.	Gazing Eastwards is a book written by which noted historian? Romila Thapar
676.	What is the title of the recent book written by S Y Quraishi, former CEC of India? The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India
677.	According to the annual World Cooperative Monitor Report, 2020, which Indian cooperative ranked number one in terms of ratio of turnover over the per capita GDP? IFFCO-- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd.
678.	Which cooperative has been declared as the biggest cooperative in the world in terms of annual turnover? Groupe Cr�dit Agricole of France
679.	Name the popular iconic bhajan singer from Amritsar who passed away in New Delhi: Narendra Chanchal
680.	DRDO successfully conducted a captive and release trial of indigenously developed SAAW from Hawk-i

	aircraft. Expand the term SAAW: Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon
681.	The government has raised the authorised capital of which Bank to Rs.10,000 crore from Rs. 3,000 crore at present? Punjab & Sind Bank
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682.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first Heavy Weight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? Varunastra
683.	What is the strike range of Varunastra? 40 kms
684.	Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? Meghalaya
685.	International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women is celebrated on which day? November 25
686.	National Milk Day is observed on Nov 26 to mark the birth anniversary of which great pioneer of milk industry? Dr. Verghese Kurien
687.	World Milk Day is observed around the world on which date? June 01.
688.	The Constitution Day celebrated on Nov 26 is also known as _____ Day: National Law Day
689.	Which national day is observed on Nov 27 to promote organ donation? Indian Organ Donation Day
690.	Name the Congress veteran and AICC treasurer who passed away on Nov 25: Ahmed Patel
691.	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
692.	Which country will host APEC summit in 2021? New Zealand
693.	Name the strong tropical cyclone from the south west Bay of Bengal which crossed the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on Nov 25: Nivar
694.	World Heritage Week is celebrated every year from Nov 19-25 with the support of which UN agency? UNESCO
695.	Name the Argentinean football legend who passed away on Nov 25: Diego Maradona
696.	Who has been elected as the new independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Dubai? Greg Barclay
697.	Which web series has become first from India to win the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards, 2020? Delhi Crime
698.	Which film has been selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards - Oscars in the foreign-language film category? Jallikattu
699.	Jallikattu film has been made in which language? Malyalam
700.	Which Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh bagged the international award TX2? Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
701.	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.
702.	The 10th edition of the prestigious National Science Film Festival was held from 24 to 27 November with association of which state? Tripura
703.	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
704.	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
705.	Faqir Chand Kohli was the first CEO of which major IT company? TCS – Tata Consultancy Services
706.	According to data by the NSO on Nov 27, the Indian economy contracted by ____ per cent in the quarter ending Sep 30: 7.5
707.	Which country has been ranked at the top in the final rankings list for 2020, released by FIFA on November 27? Belgium
708.	Russia has selected which Indian drug company to manufacture Sputnik V Corona vaccine in India? Hetero Drugs, Hyderabad
709.	Govt has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth Rs 1100 crore in which state? Uttarakhand
710.	Roch Marc Christian Kabore has been re-elected as the President of Burkina Faso, a small landlocked country in ____? Western Africa
711.	Cambridge Dictionary has named ____ as Word of the Year 2020: 'Quarantine'
712.	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
713.	Who from India chaired the 19th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting in virtual format? Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu
714.	How many countries are the members of SCO? Eight
715.	Who is the Secretary General of SCO? Valadimir Norov
716.	A commemorative coin of Rs. 100 was released to mark the centennial foundation day of which university? University of Lucknow
717.	MQ-9B Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series was recently inducted into Indian Navy. What it is? Drone
718.	Which country has supplied MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone to India? USA
719.	Where in India the largest Solar Project is being set up at a high altitude place? Air Force Station, Leh.
720.	Which bank became the first bank in India to cross Rs. 8 trillion in market capitalization? HDFC Bank
721.	The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf countries is being developed in Saih Shuaib, in which country? UAE

722.	Which batsman recently created a new record for becoming the fastest batsman to complete 22,000 runs? Virat Kohli
723.	December 1 is observed as the World AIDS Day. Which virus causes AIDS? HIV - human immunodeficiency virus
724.	RBI has increased the timings for RTGS transactions wef Dec 14, 2020. What are the new timings? 24x7 – round the clock – all the days
725.	During April-September 2020, India attracted highest amount of FDI from which country? Singapore
726.	India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol was launched recently under which brand name? XP-100
727.	Which public sector oil marketing company has launched XP_100 petrol? Indian Oil Corporation Limited
728.	____ become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine: Britain
729.	Nongpok Sekmai police station has been chosen as the best performing Police Station in the country. It is in which state? Manipur
730.	The Reserve Bank has asked which Bank to temporarily stop all launches of the 'Digital Business generating activities'? HDFC Bank
731.	India's spice king and a noted philanthropist, owner of MDH spices, passed away on Dec 3. What was his name? Mahashay Dharampal Gulati
732.	What is the full form of MDH? Mahashian di Hatti
733.	Researchers at which university have created the world's smallest memory device: University of Texas, USA
734.	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also called World Disability Day is observed on which date? December 3
735.	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
736.	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
737.	Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as ____ of Lok Sabha with effect from 1 December: Secretary-General
738.	Who appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha? Lok Sabha Speaker
739.	The 21st edition of the famous Hornbill Festival was held in virtual mode in which state? Nagaland
740.	According to US Air Quality Index's data released on Dec 1, ____ is the most polluted city in the world: Lahore
741.	As per the Global Terrorism Index 2020, ____ is the most impacted country by terrorism, for the second year in a row: Afghanistan

742.	What was India's rank as per the Global Terrorism Index 2020? 8th
743.	Merriam-Webster, America's most trusted online dictionary announced _____ as its 2020 word of the year: Pandemic
744.	World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated around the world on which date? December 2
745.	Government has announced launch of a luxury cruise tour based on the epic Ramayana, on which river? Saryu
746.	Severe cyclonic storm Nivar made landfall early on Dec 3 at Marakkanam in which state? Tamil Nadu
747.	Which national day is observed on Dec 4 to mark the fierce attack by Indian Navy on Karachi harbour? National/Indian Navy Day
748.	The Indian Navy along with Russian Federation Navy conducted a joint naval exercise named _____ from 4to 5 December: PASSEX
749.	The PASSEX exercise with Russian Navy was conducted in which area? Eastern Indian Ocean Region
750.	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
751.	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
752.	Who has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year'? Gitanjali Rao
753.	Who is the winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2020? Ranjitsinh Disale from Gujarat
754.	What is the cash award given with the Global Teacher Prize? \$ 1 million
755.	Who has topped the list of the richest women in India with a networth of Rs 54,850 crore? Roshni Nadar Malhotra
756.	Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the CEO of which company? HCL Technologies
757.	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
758.	Who has been elected as the new president of FICCI for the year 2020-21? Uday Shankar
759.	International Day of Banks is observed on which day of December? Fourth
760.	What is the theme of the World Soil Day observed on Dec 5? Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
761.	Transparency International's report titled "Global Corruption Barometer – Asia" has found that _____ has the highest bribery rate at 39%: India
762.	The Indian Air Force carried out successful firing of the short-range Igl missiles. They have been supplied by which country? Russia
763.	Which state proposes to set up Raimona National Park that will cover an area of 422 sq km.? Assam

764.	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
765.	Who is the first appointee to the newly created post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Strategy? Lt Gen Paramjit Singh
766.	Japanese spaceship _____ successfully sent on earth a small capsule to deliver samples collected by it from a distant asteroid: Hayabusa-2
767.	What is the name of the space agency of Japan? Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency – JAXA
768.	International Volunteer Day is observed on which date? December 5
769.	Which two cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage Cities by UNESCO? Gwalior and Orchha
770.	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
771.	International Civil Aviation Day is observed on Dec 7 to highlight the role and importance of which international organization? International Civil Aviation Organisation
772.	Where are the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organisation located? Montreal, Canada
773.	Which national day is observed throughout the country on Dec 7 to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform: Armed Forces Flag Day
774.	Asian Development Bank approved a \$ 190 million loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in which Indian city? Bengaluru
775.	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
776.	Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of which international foundation? WHO Foundation
777.	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
778.	The International Olympic Committee has registered which dance form as an official Olympic sport with the name breaking? Break-dance
779.	_____ has become the second country in the world to unfurl its national flag on the moon surface: China
780.	Which global bank approved technical assistance of \$ 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) to support advanced biofuels development in India? Asian Development Bank
781.	Who has been declared World Athlete of the Year – Male by the World Athletics? Mondo Duplantis of Sweden
782.	Mondo Duplantis is associated with which sports? Pole Vault

783.	Who is the winner of the World Athlete of the Year – Female award? Yulimar Rojas
784.	Yulimar Rojas is an outstanding champion of which athletic event? Triple jump
785.	Sergio Perez became the first Mexican victor (since 1970) in F1 race winning the Sakhir Grand Prix in which country? Bahrain
786.	Sergio Perez, winner of the Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain, hails from which country? Mexico
787.	Who became the first person to finish a half marathon in under 58 minutes? Kibiwott Kandie
788.	Kibiwott Kandie is a marathon runner from which country? Kenya
789.	International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on which day of December? 9th
790.	What is the theme of this year's International Anti-Corruption Day? Recover With Integrity
791.	The Indian Navy celebrates National Submarine Day on Dec 9 to commemorate the induction of the first submarine named _____ : INS Kalvari
792.	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
793.	In the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women, who has been placed at top? Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
794.	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
795.	Parthiv Patel announced his retirement on Dec 9 from all forms of the game. He led which Ranji team to its first victory? Gujarat
796.	Which Indian organization won the International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award? Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
797.	The ICAR is based in which city? New Delhi
798.	Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for which of his novel? The City and the Sea
799.	India has been ranked at which place in the top 10 in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) -2020? 10th
800.	Which day of December has been selected for celebrating the Human Rights Day? 10th
801.	_____ has beaten Coronavirus to second place to become India's most searched word on Google in 2020: IPL - Indian Premier League
802.	The union cabinet approved on Dec 8 which scheme to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities? Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana
803.	Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana government will provide PF contribution of both employee and of employer for how many years? Two

804.	_____ has become the first Union Territory to practise 100% organic farming? Lakshadweep
805.	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)
806.	The Indian Navy has placed an order for supply of 'SMASH 2000 Plus' fire control systems with which country? Israel
807.	According to a report by Truecaller, India has been placed at which place in terms of the number of spam calls? 9th
808.	Who has been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year'? Joe Biden and Kamala Harris
809.	Name the contemporary Indian dancer, renowned for marrying Kathak and Kathakali into a unique form, who died in Mumbai on Dec 10: Astad Deboo
810.	Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of which Arabian country? Kuwait
811.	Which international day is observed with support from UNO to encourage sustainable development in mountains all over the world? International Mountain Day
812.	Who won FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Men for 2020? Wrestler Bajrang Punia
813.	Which female shooter won the FICCI Sportspersons of the Year-Women for 2020? Elavenil Valarivan
814.	A joint virtual summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of _____ Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Dec 11: Uzbekistan
815.	The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 was awarded to Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from _____ : Brazil
816.	Which international day is celebrated every year to mark the establishment of UNICEF on this day in 1946? UNICEF Day, Dec 11
817.	Headquarters of UNICEF are located in which city? New York
818.	Who is the current head of the UNICEF? Ms. Henrietta H. Fore
819.	Which UN agency celebrates the International Universal Health Coverage Day on Dec 12? WHO – World Health Organisation
820.	The summit named Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was held recently to mark fifth anniversary of which climate agreement? Paris Climate Agreement
821.	_____ became the fourth Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help: Morocco
822.	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
823.	Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and propagator of the

Madhva ideology, passed away recently. He hailed from which state? Karnataka
824. Which UN organization has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu? UNESCO
825. Which great Bangladeshi leader is popularly known as Bangabandhu? Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
826. Headquarters of UNESCO are located in which city? Paris
827. Who is the current Director General of UNESCO? Ms. Audrey Azoulay
828. WHO signed a MoU also known as 'Red Channel Agreement' with which popular NGO? Red Cross
829. What is the name of the Nilgiri-class frigate that was recently launched at Kolkata? INS Himgiri
830. Max Verstappen, winner of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, hails from which country? Netherlands
831. The National Energy Conservation Day is observed on which day of December? 14th
832. The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated by which organization under the Ministry of Power? Bureau of Energy Efficiency
833. 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
834. Vijay Diwas is observed every year on Dec 16 to mark the victory over Pakistan in which war? 1971
835. 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
836. 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
837. The International Hockey Federation had announced that the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup will be hosted in _____, India: Odisha
838. ICGS Saksham and ICGS Sujeet, indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) were commissioned at Goa in which wing of Indian forces? Indian Coast Guard
839. Name the eminent aerospace scientist from Karnataka who died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Dec 14: Roddam Narasimha
840. Every year India and several tea producing countries celebrate Tea Day on which date? Dec. 15
841. Which is the largest tea producing state of India? Assam
842. Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift space rocket Angara A5 on Dec 14? Russia
843. What is the name of the space agency of Russia? Roscosmos
844. The New Development Bank approved a \$1 billion loan to provide support to _____ Abhiyan through MGNREGA Scheme: Atma Nirbhar Bharat

845. Name the 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur engineer who won the Young Champions of the Earth 2020: Vidyt Mohan
846. India slipped by one spot to rank _____ among 189 countries covered in the 2020 Human Development Index: 131
847. Which country topped the 2020 Human Development Index? Norway
848. A capsule from which Chinese spacecraft successfully brought back samples from the Moon's surface? Chang'e-5
849. India signed a \$400 million pact with the _____ to protect the poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19: World Bank
850. 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
851. Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected as the President of _____, a country in west Africa: Ghana
852. ISRO successfully launched the country's new communication satellite. What is its name? CMS-01
853. Government has decided to include _____ henceforth as a competitive sport and part of sports disciplines in all national and university games: Yoga
854. ISRO has set up a dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre named _____, at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru: NETRTA
855. The foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park was laid in _____, Gujarat: Kutch
856. India contributed \$ 1 million to which global sports body? World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
857. 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
858. 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
859. What is the theme for this year's International Migrants Day? Reimagining Human Mobility
860. India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on Dec 18. How many minority communities are recognized in India? Six
861. _____ 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
862. Who won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2020 Award? Robert Lewandowski
863. Robert Lewandowski hails from which country? Poland
864. Which player won the Best FIFA women's Player 2020 Award? Lucy Bronze, England

865.	The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol was conducted by Navies of India and Indonesia in which area? Indian Ocean
866.	The Olympic Council of Asia awarded hosting of 2030 Asian Games to _____ and of 2034 Asian Games to _____ : Doha, Qatar; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, respectively
867.	Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance? Singapore
868.	Which Bank in partnership with Mastercard, launched India's first metal credit card – 'PIONEER Heritage'? IndusInd Bank
869.	The Human Freedom Index 2020 placed India at the _____ spot out of 162 countries: 111th
870.	Which country topped the Human Freedom Index 2020? New Zealand
871.	India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility of DRDO was inaugurated at which place? Hyderabad
872.	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
873.	Martial art Thang Ta is associated with which state? Manipur
874.	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
875.	International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on which date? Dec 20
876.	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
877.	President of which country conferred the country's highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi? USA
878.	Amit Panghal, Manisha Moun and Simranjit Kaur, all three won gold medal in the World Cup of which sports? Boxing
879.	Who has been honoured with the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award? Ratan Tata
880.	National Mathematics Day is observed in India on which date? Dec 22
881.	National Mathematics Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which legendary mathematician? Srinivasa Ramanujan
882.	Which state became first to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India? Uttar Pradesh
883.	The World Bank recently came out with its revised 'Ease of Doing Business' report. India was placed at which spot in this report? 63rd

884.	ADB approved a \$231 million loan to develop the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project in which state? Assam
885.	Who is the winner of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020 Award? Lewis Hamilton
886.	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
887.	Which two prominent universities held their centenary celebrations in the month of December? Aligarh Muslim University and Viswa Bharti University
888.	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) on Dec 23 marks the birth anniversary of which veteran farmer leader? Chaudhary Charan Singh
889.	Which day in December is observed as the National Consumer Day in India? Dec 24
890.	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
891.	Who has been elected as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)? Vineet Aggarwal
892.	Which bank launched a first of its kind portal 'Infinite India' to attract foreign firms to India? ICICI Bank
893.	Which country topped the final rankings for 2020 for men's team released by the International Hockey Federation? Belgium
894.	India has added Tso Kar wetland complex to the list of Ramsar Sites. It is in which state? Ladakh
895.	Who has been appointed chairman of the senior national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee? Chetan Sharma
896.	'Oh Mizoram' is a book written by P S Sreedharan Pillai. Who is he? Governor of Mizoram
897.	What is the title of the recent book by Pranab Mukharjee, former President of India? The Presidential Years 2012-2017
898.	Noted journalist and author Raj Kamal Jha won an international prize for which of his books? The City and the Sea
899.	Who is the author of the recently published popular book "A Sky Beyond the Storm"? Sabaa Tahir
900.	India celebrates Good Governance Day on December 25 in the honour of which great statesman of India? Atal Bihari Vajpayee
901.	What is the name of the Samadhi of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi? Sadaiv Atal
902.	What is the name of the web portal launched to provide online access to all the properties owned by the central government? E-Sampada
903.	Florin Citu has been elected as the new _____ of Romania, a country in south eastern Europe: Prime Minister

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- 904.** Which Indian organization has won the UN Global Climate Action Award? **Global Himalayan Expedition, Leh**
- 905.** Luis Arce has been elected as the President of which country? **Bolivia**
- 906.** The President signed an ordinance for setting up a commission to manage air quality in which region? **NCR – National Capital Region**
- 907.** As per the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25, how many vulture conservation and breeding centres will be established? **Five**
- 908.** Which state is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment? **Tamil Nadu**
- 909.** _____ has become the first state in the country to fix the minimum support price (MSP) for 16 varieties of vegetables. **Kerala**
- 910.** Railways has launched which initiative for focused action on security of women passengers across all zones? **'Meri Saheli'**
- 911.** Indian Army has developed a simple and secure messaging app like Whatsapp, Telegram. What is its name? **Secure Application for Internet (SAI)**
- 912.** Why October 29 has been selected as the International Internet Day? **First internet transmission took place on this day in 1969**
- 913.** 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**
- 914.** Which bank has been ranked as the "Best Bank in The World" by the Global Finance? **DBS Bank, Singapore**
- 915.** Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India? **Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha**
- 916.** Kabartaal Wetland, also known as 'Kanwar Jheel', has been designated as Ramsar site. It is in which state? **Bihar**
- 917.** Which agency grants the 'Ramsar site' status? **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, based in Gland, Switzerland**
- 918.** The Indian Navy successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from which war ship on October 30? **INS Kora**
- 919.** Which national park has now been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve? **Panna National Park**
- 920.** Panna National Park is located in which state? **Madhya Pradesh**
- 921.** Panna National Park is associated with conservation of which animal? **Tiger**
- 922.** An earthquake of 6.8 on Richter Scale struck eastern _____ on Oct 30, killing over 50 people: **Turkey**
- 923.** Name the Scottish movie legend, who shot to international stardom playing British agent James Bond, 007: **Sir Sean Connery**

- 924.** Lewis Hamilton celebrated a record-extending 93rd career win at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in which country? **Italy**
- 925.** Which two Indians won the gold at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France? **Amit Panghal and Sanjeet**
- 926.** World Savings Day is observed on which day in India? **October 30**
- 927.** The super typhoon Goni devastated the southern part of which country with winds and gusts of up to 290 kph? **Philippines**
- 928.** A new scheme 'SERB – POWER' has been launched to encourage and support emerging as well as eminent _____.: **Women researchers**
- 929.** The SERB POWER scheme will cover women researchers in the age group of _____ years: **35-55**
- 930.** World Vegan Day is observed on which date? **November 01**
- 931.** In which country gunmen stormed a book fair being held in a university, killing over 25 persons? **Afghanistan**
- 932.** The central government released Rs. 2,200 crores as the first installment to 15 states for what purpose? **Improvement of air quality measures**
- 933.** The Ministry of Finance has clarified that no service charge is applicable on _____ accounts: **Basic Savings Bank Deposit**
- 934.** 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**
- 935.** The QUAD nations- India, United States, Japan and Australia conducted their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade, by which name? **Malabar Exercise**
- 936.** The Malabar Exercise was conducted in which area? **Bay of Bengal**
- 937.** Priyanka Radhakrishnan, 41 year old politician created history by becoming the first Indian-origin woman minister in which country? **New Zealand**
- 938.** Which Indian bank has been voted 'Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector' in India by Asiamoney? **HDFC Bank**
- 939.** Alassane Ouattara has been elected as the _____ of the Ivory Coast for the third time: **President**
- 940.** Which tennis star recently became fourth player in the history to win 1,000 ATP matches? **Rafael Nadal**
- 941.** India's first-ever E-resource centre and virtual court called "Nyay Kaushal" was inaugurated in which city? **Nagpur**
- 942.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$132.8 loan to _____ for upgrading the power distribution network: **Meghalaya**
- 943.** In which country John Magufuli secured 84% votes to become the President for the second term? **Tanzania**
- 944.** Which company built the ship ICGS C-452, recently inducted in the Indian Coast Guard? **L&T Shipbuilding, Surat**

945.	Which nation conferred the honorary rank of "General" upon our Army Chief General M M Naravane? Nepal
946.	Name the powerful hurricane with wind speeds upto 225 km/hr and heavy torrential rains that hit Nicaragua in Central America: Storm Eta
947.	Which Social media platform has recently been allowed to use India's UPI platform to make bank payments? WhatsApp
948.	The union government approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project in which state? Himachal Pradesh
949.	The Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is being built on which river? Satluj
950.	_____ is the first country to announce its exit from the Paris Climate Agreement – 2015: USA
951.	Which country is the largest producer of the Green House Gases in the world? China
952.	World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on which day of November? 5th
953.	The Sendai Framework-2015 is associated with what? Disaster Risk Reduction
954.	The Sendai Framework-2015 was adopted in which city? Sendai, Japan
955.	The ICICI Bank launched 'Mine', the country's first full banking stack for category of its customers? Milleniala
956.	The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in India at which airbase? Jamnagar, Gujarat
957.	Gyanendro Ningombam has been elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India. He is former Hockey chief of which state? Manipur
958.	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
959.	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
960.	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
961.	Which district of Uttar Pradesh topped the rankings of aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti Aayog for September? Chandauli
962.	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. Kutty
963.	ISRO successfully launched India's latest Earth Observation Satellite named _____. EOS-01
964.	Democrat Joe Biden beat Republican Donald Trump to become the _____ President of the United States: 46th
965.	Who has been elected as the new Vice President of USA? Kamala Harris
966.	International Day of Radiology is associated with which great scientist? Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen

967.	The X-radiation is measured in which unit? Roentgen
968.	President of which country released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' (My understanding about Gandhi)? Nepal
969.	The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman N.K. Singh submitted its report for which period? 2021-26
970.	A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article ____ of the Constitution: 280
971.	India's 'first of its kind' solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project has been commissioned in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
972.	National Legal Services Day observed on Nov 9 is associated with enactment of which Act? Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
973.	World Town Planning Day or World Urbanism Day is celebrated on which day? Nov 08
974.	Government has decided to rename the Ministry of Shipping as what? Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
975.	Which UN organization supports the celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development on Nov 10? UNESCO
976.	The country's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge was inaugurated in which state? Uttarakhand
977.	Indian army gifted 20 trained horses and 10 sniffer dogs to the army of which country? Bangladesh
978.	_____ clinched their record-extending fifth IPL (Indian Premier League) title after beating Delhi Capitals: Mumbai Indians
979.	Which word has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020? Lockdown
980.	Which UN agency launched the Food Coalition, an international coalition to address COVID-19 impact on food systems? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation
981.	National Education Day is associated with the birth day of which great leader? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
982.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad held which portfolio in the first cabinet of free India? Education Ministry
983.	World Pneumonia Day is observed on which date? Nov 12
984.	Pneumonia affects which part of human body? Lungs
985.	Public Service Broadcasting Day is associated with the sole visit of which great leader to radio station, Delhi? Mahatma Gandhi
986.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with Prime Minister of which other country? Vietnam
987.	Which state topped the Second National Water Awards announced on November 11? Tamil Nadu
988.	The world's longest serving Prime Minister, who died recently, was from which country? Bahrain

989.	Armenia and Azerbaijan engaged in a fierce military battle over which disputed territory? Nagorno-Karabakh
990.	What is the name of the Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine that was launched recently? INS Vagir
991.	A recession is defined as ____ successive quarters of decline in the growth of GDP: Two
992.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has brought OTT digital/online media under its purview. What is OTT? Over The Top
993.	_____ has reportedly become the world's first country to have successfully launched the 6G communications test satellite: China
994.	Which corporate leader has topped the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020? Azim Premji
995.	Which country's Sovereign Wealth Fund has become the first foreign SWF to get 100% income-tax exemption in India? Abu Dhabi
996.	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
997.	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
998.	Sadat Rahman who won the International Children's Peace Prize, hails from which country? Bangladesh
999.	Lonar Lake, the Crater Lake in Buldhana, has been declared as a wetland area under 'Ramsar Convention'. It is in which state? Maharashtra
1000.	Which city created a world record for lighting largest number of diyas (over 6 lakh) at one time? Ayodhya
1001.	Over 6 lakh diyas were lighted on the banks of which river? Saryu
1002.	Typhoon Vamco devastated dozens of towns in Cagayan region of which country? Philippines
1003.	World Kindness Day is observed on which date? November 13
1004.	What is the theme for this year's World Diabetes Day? The Nurse and Diabetes
1005.	National Press Day is observed on Nov 16 to mark the founding of which organization? Press Council of India
1006.	International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 with the support of which UN agency? UNICEF
1007.	Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh was in news for what reasons? It has been declared 'Ramsar wet land'
1008.	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

1009.	Indian researchers have discovered a genus of tree frog named Rhaniaxalus. It is found in which area? Andaman Islands and the northeast
1010.	World Ayurveda Day is associated with which great ancient sage? Dhanwantari
1011.	What is the theme for this year's World Ayurveda Day? Ayurveda for Covid
1012.	National Epilepsy Day is observed on which day of November? 17th
1013.	Epilepsy is associated with which organ of human body? Brain
1014.	Which country hosted the 12th BRICS summit on Nov 17 in virtual mode? Russia
1015.	Which country has been given the hosting of 13th BRICS Summit? India
1016.	Who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time? Nitish Kumar
1017.	The blowout in Baghjan gas well in Tinsukia was killed successfully after months of struggle. It is in which state? Assam
1018.	The Baghjan oil well is owned by which oil company? OIL - Oil India Ltd.
1019.	Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM signed an agreement with which global body to receive advisory services for asset monetization? World Bank
1020.	15 Asia Pacific countries formed the world's largest trading bloc. What is its name? Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' (RCEP)
1021.	World's first of its kind tram car library has been started in which Indian city? Kolkata
1022.	Which F1 champion equaled the Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles? Lewis Hamilton, Britain
1023.	Lewis Hamilton drives for which F1 team? Mercedes
1024.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his _____ counterpart Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on Nov 19: Luxembourg
1025.	India's Artificial Intelligence supercomputer _____ has achieved 63rd rank among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world: 'Param Siddhi'
1026.	RBI placed which bank under moratorium from Nov 17 for a period of thirty days? Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Chennai
1027.	Which country will now host FIFA Women's Under-17 Football World Cup? India
1028.	Storm Iota, a strong tropical storm unleashed devastating floods across which area? Central America
1029.	RBI launched Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote innovation in which field? Financial sector
1030.	Who will be the first chairperson of the RBIH? Kris Gopalakrishnan
1031.	The Naturopathy Day is celebrated on which date? Nov 18

1032. In the acronym AYUSH, what the letter 'S' stands for? Siddha
1033. Siddha refers to which line of treatment? Ayurveda as it is practiced in Kerala
1034. World celebrates World Toilet Day on which day of November? 19th
1035. What is the name of the surveillance plane recently inducted in the Indian Navy? Boeing P-81
1036. World Philosophy Day is observed on which Thursday of November? Third
1037. Which UN agency supports the celebration of World Children's Day on Nov 20? UNICEF
1038. Which bank approved a \$500 million loan for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit project? New Development Bank
1039. Where are the headquarters of the New Development Bank? Shanghai
1040. The World Bank granted a \$120 million loan to improve and modernise the transport sector of which state? Meghalaya
1041. Booker Prize for Fiction has been won by which noted author? Douglas Stuart
1042. Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for which novel? Shuggie Bain
1043. What is the amount of cash award in the Booker Prize? Pound 50,000
1044. Government launched 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge' for the safety of which segment of workers? Sewer or septic tank cleaners
1045. 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
1046. What is the sex ratio at birth in Arunachal Pradesh as per a recent report? 1085 girls per 1000 boys
1047. World Economic Forum (WEF) selected how many Indian cities to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities? Four
1048. In this latest World's Best Cities Report, which city has been ranked at the top? London
1049. Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed on ____ November: 19th
1050. What is the theme of this year's International Men's Day observed on Nov 19? Better Health for Men and Boys
1051. _____ has become the first Indian city to have an urban plan with a gender-specific focus: Mumbai
1052. World Fisheries Day is observed on which day? Nov 21
1053. World Television Day is observed on Nov 21. Who invented TV? John Logie Baird
1054. India's first moss garden has been developed at Khurpatal in which state? Uttarakhand
1055. As per new rule by ICC, a player must be of minimum ____ years of age to play international cricket: 15
1056. The Women's T20 World Cup will now be hosted in Feb 2023 by which country? South Africa

1057. Who has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva? G C Murmu
1058. India celebrates NCC Day every year on ____ Sunday of November: Fourth
1059. Which national day is celebrated every year on Nov 20 to mark the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin? Awaas Diwas
1060. What was the name of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise conducted by the Navies of India, Singapore and Thailand in Andaman Sea? SITMEX- 20
1061. Which country hosted the 15th G20 Summit on Nov 21-22 in a virtual format? Saudi Arabia
1062. The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol was held from Nov 18 to 20 at which place? Andaman Sea
1063. India observed the National Newborn Week from ____ to ____ November: 15 to 21
1064. India has been placed at which rank in a global list of 194 countries that measured business bribery risks in 2020? 77th
1065. What is the title of the latest novel by Paulo Coelho? The Archer
1066. 'Boskiyana' is a book written by Yashwant Vyas. It is the story of the life of which famous lyricist? Gulzar
1067. What is the title of the book that is memoirs of Barack Obama, former US President? A Promised Land
1068. "I am no Messiah" is the title of the autobiography of which popular Bollywood star? Sonu Sood
1069. Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise from Nov 23 to 25. What was its name? SIMBEX-20
1070. The immensely popular Chhath Puja concluded on Nov 21. It is associated with worship of which deity? Sun
1071. The Asian Development Bank approved a \$50 million loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in which state? West Bengal
1072. What is the operational name of Indian GPS (IRNSS)? NavIC
1073. Name the Indian girl who won the Children's Climate Prize of Norway: Vinisha Umashankar
1074. Vinisha Umashankar won the Children's Climate Prize for which invention? A mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power a steam iron box
1075. 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
1076. Name the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam who passed away recently? Tarun Gogoi
1077. Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Hyderabad handed over its first HeavyWeight Torpedo to the Indian Navy. What is its name? Varunastra
1078. What is the strike range of Varunastra? 40 kms

1079. Recently, a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom has been discovered in forests of which state? **Meghalaya**
1080. India and the US signed which agreement at the end of the third Indo-US 2+2 summit? **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**
1081. 201. Which national day is observed on October 31 to celebrate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**
1082. Which International day is observed across the world on October 31 to work together for planned and sustainable urban life? **World Cities Day**
1083. "The Battle of Belonging" is a book written by which former Congress union minister? **Shashi Tharoor**
1084. What is the title of the latest book by V E Schwab? **The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue**
1085. 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**
1086. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on which day of October? **27th**
1087. Which company topped the list of Indian PSUs under 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes? **NTPC Ltd.**
1088. Which F1 driver broke the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher? **Lewis Hamilton**
1089. India has secured which rank in the Global Teacher Status Index? **6th**
1090. Army celebrates Infantry Day on October 27 to commemorate the sacrifice of its soldiers in which battle? **Indo Pak battle of 1947**
1091. 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**
1092. Which Bank approved two loans totalling \$570 million for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh? **Asian Development Bank**
1093. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu won the AIFF Footballer of the Year award. Who is he? **Goalkeeper of Indian men's team**
1094. Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**
1095. The Reserve Bank has introduced which system for safer cheque payments of above 50,000 rupees to prevent cases of fraud? **Positive Pay System**
1096. 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**
1097. Name the 74-year old renowned economist, who passed away in New Delhi: **Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia**

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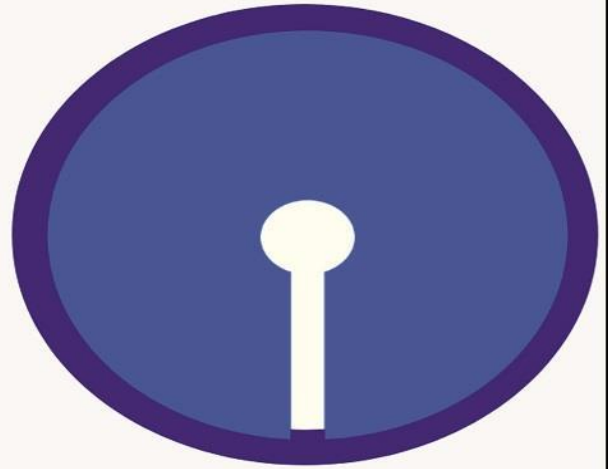
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