

GENERAL AWARENESS

OCTOBER 2021

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GENERAL AWARENESS

October 2021

Vol. 10, Issue 2

A PUBLICATION OF GYANM EDUCATION & TRAINING INSTITUTE PVT. LTD.
SCO 13-14-15, 2ND FLOOR, SEC 34-A, CHANDIGARH

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FIGURES TO REMEMBER

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

India's RANK IN

Global Peace Index (GPI)	135 th
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

PUNJAB EXCISE INSPECTOR 2021

Taxation | Industrial Promotion &
Development Special MCQs (Page No. 73)

NATIONAL NEWS

AUGUST

INDIA MOST PREFERRED FOR MANUFACTURING



India has emerged as the second most sought after manufacturing destination across the world. According to Cushman and Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index, India has surpassed the US as the world's second most desired manufacturing hub. The rising focus on India can be attributed to India's operating conditions and cost competitiveness. Further, reforms to both land and labor laws are critical to India's success as a global manufacturing location. China continues to be at the top of the Index.

Cushman & Wakefield is a Chicago based multinational commercial real estate services firm. The Index assesses the most advantageous locations for global manufacturing among 47 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific. The countries are assessed based on four key areas:

- ✓ **Bounce Back:** Projected ability to restart manufacturing operations as vaccines are rolled out and business begins to return to normal
- ✓ **Conditions:** Business environment, including the availability of talent / labor and access to markets
- ✓ **Costs:** Operating costs including labor, electricity and real estate
- ✓ **Risks:** Political, economic and environmental

4 WETLANDS GET LISTED IN RAMSAR CONVENTION

Four Indian wetland sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Two of them are in Gujarat and two in Haryana. With this, the number of such sites in the country has risen to 46. The four selected sanctuaries are as under:

Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary: Located near Jhajjar, Haryana, it is a human-made freshwater wetland. It is also the largest in Haryana. Over 250 bird species use the sanctuary throughout the year as a resting and roosting site.



Sultanpur National Park: It is also located in Haryana near Gurgram, it supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles.

Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary: Located near Ahmedabad in Gujarat, it lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here. It is home to more than 30 threatened waterbird species.

Wadhvana Wetland: Also located in Gujarat, near Vadodara, it is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and prudent use of wetlands. It is named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed on February 2, 1971.

INDIA'S 1st GREEN HYDROGEN ELECTROLYZER

India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit was started at Bengaluru, Karnataka on August 24. The factory set up by the US-based renewable energy startup Ohmium International will manufacture Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers.

Green hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources as against blue hydrogen that is made from fossil sources. It can be used in industry as fuel and can be stored in existing gas pipelines to power household appliances.

To produce green hydrogen through any process, electrolysis is required. Electrolysis is the process used to split water into oxygen and hydrogen. An electrolyser is the system in which electrolysis is done, making it the most vital part in terms of making hydrogen economically viable. Making green hydrogen in India will give a cost advantage for manufacturers rather than going for imports.



FIRST COVID VACCINE FOR 12+ APPROVED

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved the DNA COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D developed by Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila for children in the age group of 12 to 18 years. It is India's first indigenously developed and world's first plasmid-DNA three-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccine has efficacy of 66.6 percent and it is to be stored at 2 degree Celsius to 8 degree Celsius. The vaccine is needle free to be administered intradermally (through skin) in three doses at day 0, 28 and 56.

WORLD'S HIGHEST MOTORABLE ROAD

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) crossed another significant milestone in the first week of August by completing the construction of the world's highest motorable tarmac road at the height of 19,300 feet at Umling La Pass in eastern Ladakh. The 52 km long road now connects the important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh. It smashed the earlier record held by a road in Bolivia that ran at an altitude of 18,953 feet.



The altitude of this road is higher than the base camps of Mount Everest as the South Base Camp in Nepal is situated at an altitude of 17,598 ft, while the North Base Camp in Tibet is at 16,900 feet. Infrastructure development in such harsh and tough terrain is extremely challenging. During the winter, the temperature dips to -40 degrees and the oxygen level at this altitude is almost 50 per cent less than at normal places.

INDIA CROSSED 100 GW RE TARGET

India's renewable energy (RE) capacity crossed the milestone of 100 gigawatts (GW), the government said in a statement on August 12, informed the union power and new and renewable energy minister Raj Kumar Singh. Now India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar, and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity. India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

OPERATION DEVI SHAKTI LAUNCHED

India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul after its swift takeover by the Taliban on August 15 has been named as "Operation Devi Shakti". India began the complex evacuation mission by airlifting 40 Indians from Kabul to Delhi on August 16. Later, over 800 people were evacuated in a number of attempts via Dushanbe, Tajikistan and Doha, Qatar.

S C ALLOWS WOMEN TO APPEAR IN NDA EXAM



The Supreme Court in a far-reaching judgement on August 18 allowed women candidates to appear for National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance exam scheduled on September 5, saying debarring them amounted to gender discrimination. It also directed the Union Public Service Commission to issue an appropriate notification taking into account its order and give it due publicity.

The court wondered why the government was not moving ahead in this direction even after its 2020 verdicts extending permanent commission in the Army and Navy to women. It may be noted that there are several modes of entry into the Army like NDA, Indian Military Academy (IMA) and Officers Training Academy (OTA) and currently, women can enter into the force only through OTA and IMA.

GOVERNORS CAN PARDON DEATH SENTENCE

The Supreme Court of India in a landmark judgement on August 3, held that the Governor of state can pardon prisoners, (though on the aid and advice of the State Government), including in the death sentence cases, under provisions of Article 161 of the Constitution. Governors can pardon the prisoners even before they have completed a minimum of 14 years of prison sentence.

The Court also observed that the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision given under Section 433-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which mandates that the sentence of the prisoner can be remitted only after 14 years of jail. The court said that Section 433-A of the Code cannot and does not affect the constitutional power of the President or Governor to grant pardon.

HALDIBARI - CHILAHATI RAIL LINK

The first goods train carrying stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari - Chilahati rail link left from Damdim station of Alipurduar Division in Northeast Frontier Railway in West Bengal for Chilahati in Bangladesh, on July 31. Haldibari - Chilahati route will provide a shorter route for transit of goods into Bangladesh from Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and Bhutan.

Besides Haldibari-Chilahati route, four more rail routes connect India and Bangladesh, namely Petrapole-Benapole, Gede-Darshana, Radhikapur-Birol and Singhabad-Rohanpur.

INDIA GETS UNSC PRESIDENCY FOR AUGUST

On August 01, India took over from France the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August. This is the first presidency for India during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC and eighth in total.

India's Permanent Representative/ Ambassador to UNO, T S Tirumurti informed that during presidency, India will be organising three high-level signature meetings focussing on our priority areas--maritime security, peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism. India will also be organising a solemn event in memory of UN peacekeepers.

INDIA FARES WELL IN ELDERLY CARE

Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh are the top five older states in the "Quality of Life for Elderly Index", released by the Economic Advisory council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on August 11. Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Chandigarh lead the rankings in the categories of relatively older states, northeastern states, and Union Territory, respectively.

The index created by the Institute for Competitiveness, at the request of EAC-PM, ranks states on the basis of state's financial well-being, social well-being, health care system, and income security for the elderly in the state. As per the index, older states refer to states with an elderly population of more than 5 million, and relatively older states refer to states with an elderly population of less than 5 million.

INDIA STANDS LOW IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Commonwealth Secretariat in London released the Global Youth Development Index 2020 for measuring the condition of young people across 181 countries. India ranks 122nd in the world in terms of youth development. However, India is among the 5 fastest growing countries in the field of youth development between 2010 and 2018. The Index was topped by Singapore, followed by Slovenia, Norway. The Index reveals that the conditions of young people have improved around the world by 3.1 per cent between 2010 and 2018.

The index ranks countries between 1.00 (highest) to 0.00 (lowest) and according to the developments in youth education, employment, health, equality and inclusion, peace and security, and political and civic participation. It looks at 27 indicators including literacy and voting to showcase the state of the world's 1.8 billion people in the age group of 15 to 29 years.



INDIA SECURES 40th SITE IN WORLD HERITAGE



Dholavira, a 5,000-year-old Harappan-era metropolis, in north Gujarat has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the 40th such site from India. The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, held online from Fuzhou in China, from July 16 to 31.

Dholavira, located in the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in the Great Rann of Kutch, is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia, which date back to around 2600-2100 BCE. It has a rectangular shape and organization, spread over 54 acres. Unlike Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, the city was constructed to a pre-existing geometrical plan consisting of three divisions – the citadel, the middle town, and the lower town.

Gujarat so far has three world heritage sites — Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological site, Rani ki Vav in Patan, and the historic city of Ahmedabad.

The World Heritage Sites list is maintained by the international World Heritage Program administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 “states parties” that are elected by their General Assembly. There are a total 1154 sites in the UNESCO’s list, of which 40 are in India.

RAMAPPA TEMPLE LISTED BY UNESCO



The 13th-century Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple in village Palampet in district Mulugu, Telangana has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Known after its sculptor Ramappa, it is the main Shiva temple in a walled complex built during the Kakatiya dynasty

period (1123–1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra.

The temple features decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite with a distinctive and pyramidal Vimana (horizontally stepped tower) made of lightweight porous bricks, so-called ‘floating bricks’, as they actually float on water.

NATIONAL DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTRE

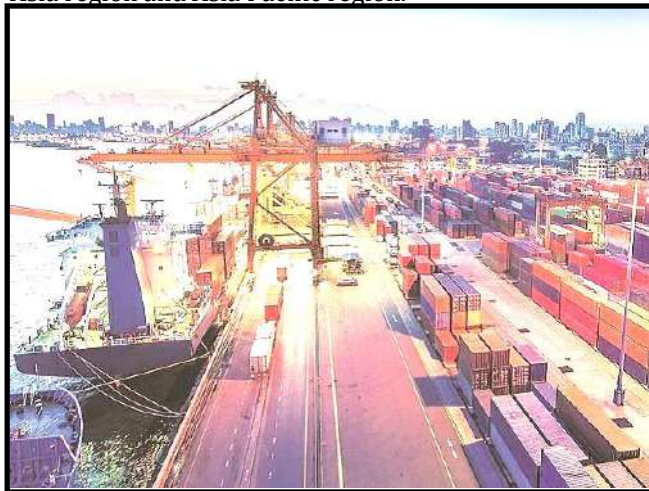
India and Asia’s first National Dolphin Research Centre is to be set up on the banks of the River Ganges in the Patna University campus in Bihar. The centre will support Project Dolphin that aims to protect and conserve Dolphins in both rivers and oceans of the country.

A 7 km long stretch between Sultanganj to Kahalgao in Bhagalpur district has already been declared as Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary. Bihar has around half of the country’s estimated 3,000 dolphin population.

The Gangetic Dolphin is India’s national aquatic animal. It is one of four freshwater dolphin species in the world. The other three are found in China’s Yangtze River, Pakistan’s Indus River and South America’s Amazon River.

INDIA EXCELS IN TRADE FACILITATION

India has scored 90.32 per cent in the latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation conducted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP). The survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49 per cent in 2019. The survey notes that India is the best performing country when compared to the South and South West Asia region and Asia Pacific region.

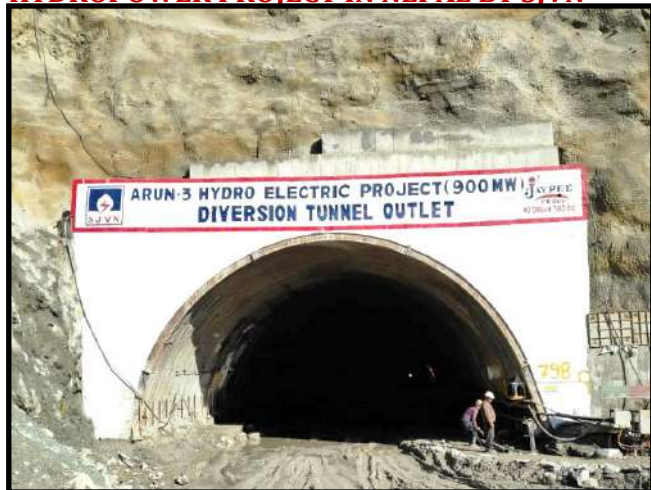


The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by UNESCAP. The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement.

WORLD’S LARGEST SOLAR PLANT BY NTPC

India and world’s largest solar power park of 4.75-Gigawatt (4750 MW) capacity is being set up in Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. The renewable energy park will be built by the largest power producer of the country, NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC. Proposed solar park is more than double of the current biggest solar park of India at Bhadla in Rajasthan.

HYDROPOWER PROJECT IN NEPAL BY SJVN



Nepal signed a \$1.3 billion deal with India's hydropower major Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) to develop the 679-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower Project on the tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers. The single largest foreign investment project is located between Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts in eastern Nepal.

JAPAN TO FUND COLD CHAIN IN INDIA

The Government of Japan announced to provide \$ 9.3 million worth of cold chain equipment and related assistance to India to help the country fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The assistance, under Japan's Emergency Grant Aid Scheme, will provide India with cold chain equipment including medical equipment such as cold storage facilities.

ASIA'S LONGEST HIGH-SPEED TRACK

A High-Speed Track (HST) – NATRAX was inaugurated for automobiles testing in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The 11.3 km track is the longest such track in Asia and world's fifth-longest. The HST will be used for measuring the maximum speed capability of high-end cars like BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Ferrari, Lamborghini and Tesla, which could not be measured on any of the Indian test tracks. The vehicles can achieve a max speed of 375 Kmph on curves. It will cater to the widest category of vehicles, ranging from two-wheelers to the heaviest tractor-trailers.



AIIMS, DELHI AHEAD OF OXFORD MEDICAL

Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has moved past prestigious institutes in the rankings for the 100 best medical schools in the world. According to the New York based CEO WORLD magazine, AIIMS stood 23rd in the list securing 86.38 marks, just ahead of UK-based Oxford University Medical School which secured a score of 86.02 to rank 24th.

The US-based Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore in Maryland ranked first with the highest score of 99.06, followed by Harvard Medical School, Boston (USA). Some other Indian medical schools in the list include Pune-based Armed Forces Medical College – 34th (83.04), Christian Medical College, Vellore stood – 49th (80.83).

INDIA JUMPS IN CYBER SECURITY RANKING

In the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI) released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), India was ranked at 10th place, moving up by 37 places from its previous GCI rank in 2018.

The GCI results for India show substantial overall improvement and strengthening under all parameters of the cybersecurity domain. India scored a total of 97.5 points out of 100. India is emerging as a global IT superpower, asserting its digital sovereignty with firm measures to safeguard data privacy and online rights of citizens.

Meanwhile, the US was ranked first with a score of 100 and the UK and Saudi Arabia shared the joint second rank with a score of 99.54 each. GCI assessment is done on the basis of performance on five parameters of cybersecurity – legal measures, technical measures, organisational measures, capacity development, and cooperation.

WORLD BANK SUPPORT FOR PANDEMIC

The World Bank approved a \$ 500 million loan programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress. The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks.

YAKS TO GET INSURANCE COVER

For the first time, the high-altitude Himalayan yaks will now be insured. The National Research Center on Yak-NRCY at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. For insuring their livestock. The insurance policy will shield the yak owners against the risks posed by diseases, weather calamities, surgical operations, in-transit mishaps, and strikes or riots.



Yaks are heavily built bovine animals with a sturdy frame covered with long, thick wooly fur coats. They belong to the bovine family (cows and buffalo) but are short legged. They can easily survive in frigid temperatures and are found generally above 8,000 feet in the Himalayas and in Tibetan Plateau.

They are domesticated and are reared for their tractability for plowing and threshing, high milk production, meat, hides and fur.

The total yak population in the country is about 58,000, most of which is located in union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and in Arunachal Pradesh.

NEPAL GETS RAIL CONNECTIVITY FROM INDIA

Indian Railways set another benchmark of success on July 18 when a successful trial of train movement to Kurtha in Nepal was achieved. The 34.50 km-long rail section is the first section of the rail line between the two countries which connects Jaynagar in Madhubani district of Bihar to Kurtha in Mahottari district of Nepal. The cost of this rail section is 619 crore. The Jayanagar – Kurtha Railway link has been set up by IRCON under India – Nepal friendship rail project with finance granted by the Indian government.

12 RESIGN FROM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Ahead of Union Cabinet expansion, 12 members of the Council of Ministers resigned from their post on July 7. President Ram Nath Kovind accepted their resignations. They included 7 cabinet ministers and 5 ministers of state:

Cabinet Ministers:

1. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (Education minister),
2. D.V. Sadananda Gowda (Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers),
3. Ravi Shankar Prasad (Minister of Law and Justice, Electronics and Information Technology and Communications),
4. Thaawarchand Gehlot (Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment),
5. Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences),
6. Prakash Javadekar (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and Broadcasting; Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises)
7. Santosh Kumar Gangwar (Minister of Labour and Employment).

Ministers of state:

8. Babul Supriyo, Environment, Forest and Climate Change
9. Sanjay Dhotre, Education
10. Rattan Lal Kataria, Jal Shakti
11. Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and MSMEs
12. Debasree Chaudhuri, Woman and Child Development

UNION CABINET EXPANSION-CUM-RESHUFFLE



As many as 43 ministers took oath in a much-awaited major Cabinet expansion-cum-reshuffle on July 7. 36 new faces, including 16 first time MPs were inducted and 12 sitting ministers shown the door, taking the tally in the Council of Ministers to 78, including PM.

Ministers of state G Kishan Reddy, Parshottam Rupala, Anurag Thakur, Hardeep Singh Puri, Mansukh Mandaviya, RK Singh and Kiren Rijiju, were elevated as Cabinet ministers. Here is the complete list of Council of Ministers:

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

Shri Narendra Modi: Prime Minister and also in-charge of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

CABINET MINISTERS

1. Shri Raj Nath Singh: Minister of Defence
2. Shri Amit Shah: Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
3. Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari: Minister of Road Transport and Highways
4. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman: Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
5. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar: Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
6. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar: Minister of External Affairs
7. Shri Arjun Munda: Minister of Tribal Affairs
8. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani: Minister of Women and Child Development
9. Shri Piyush Goyal: Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles
10. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan: Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11. Shri Pralhad Joshi: Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
12. Shri Narayan Rane Minister: of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

13. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal: Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
14. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: Minister of Minority Affairs
15. Dr. Virendra Kumar: Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
16. Shri Giriraj Singh: Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
17. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Minister of Civil Aviation
18. Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh: Minister of Steel
19. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw: Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
20. Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras: Minister of Food Processing Industries
21. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: Minister of Jal Shakti
22. Shri Kiren Rijiju: Minister of Law and Justice
23. Shri Raj Kumar Singh: Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
24. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri: Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
25. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya: Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
26. Shri Bhupender Yadav: Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
27. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey: Minister of Heavy Industries
28. Shri Parshottam Rupala: Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29. Shri G. Kishan Reddy: Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
30. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur: Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

1. Rao Inderjit Singh: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2. Dr. Jitendra Singh: Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

MINISTERS OF STATE

1. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Ministry of Tourism

2. Shri Fagga Singh Kulaste: Ministry of Steel; Ministry of Rural Development
3. Shri Prahalad Singh Patel: Ministry of Jal Shakti; Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of Culture
6. General (Retd.) V. K. Singh: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; Civil Aviation
7. Shri Krishan Pal: Ministry of Power; Ministry of Heavy Industries
8. Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao: Ministry of Railways; Ministry of Coal; and Ministry of Mines
9. Shri Ramdas Athawale: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ministry of Rural Development
11. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12. Shri Nityanand Rai: Ministry of Home Affairs
13. Shri Pankaj Chaudhary: Ministry of Finance
14. Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel: Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15. Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel: Ministry of Law and Justice
16. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17. Sushri Shobha Karandlaje: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh: Ministry of Textiles; and Ministry of Railways
20. Shri V. Muraleedharan: Ministry of External Affairs; and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21. Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi: Ministry of External Affairs; and Ministry of Culture
22. Shri Som Parkash: Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23. Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta: Ministry of Tribal Affairs
24. Shri Rameswar Teli: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Ministry of Labour and Employment
25. Shri Kailash Choudhary: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26. Smt. Annpurna Devi: Ministry of Education
27. Shri A. Narayanaswamy: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28. Shri Kaushal Kishore: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29. Shri Ajay Bhatt: Ministry of Defence; and Ministry of Tourism

30. Shri B. L. Verma: Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and Ministry of Cooperation
31. Shri Ajay Kumar: Ministry of Home Affairs
32. Shri Devusinh Chauhan: Ministry of Communications
33. Shri Bhagwanth Khuba: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34. Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil: Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35. Sushri Pratima Bhoumik: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36. Dr. Subhas Sarkar: Ministry of Education
37. Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad: Ministry of Finance
38. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh: Ministry of External Affairs; and Ministry of Education
39. Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
40. Shri Bishweswar Tudu: Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Ministry of Jal Shakti
41. Shri Shantanu Thakur: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42. Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai: Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Ministry of AYUSH
43. Shri John Barla: Ministry of Minority Affairs
44. Dr. L. Murugan: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
45. Shri Nisith Pramanik: Ministry of Home Affairs; and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

NEWS FROM STATES

AUGUST

COUNTRY'S 1st SMOG TOWER STARTS IN DELHI

India's first ever smog tower was inaugurated on August 23 in the national capital in Connaught Place area to improve air quality. The smog tower will be able to improve air quality in a radius of around one kilometer. The tower was built at the cost of 20 crore rupees.



INDIA'S HIGHEST HERBAL PARK



India's highest herbal park was inaugurated on August 21 at Mana village located close to the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. The herbal park is situated at an altitude of 11,000 feet. It is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China.

The Park has around 40 species that are found in high-altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region. As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the State Biodiversity Board, many of the species in the Herbal Park are endangered and threatened. They include many significant medicinal herbs also.

HARYANA TOPS IN CCTNS IMPLEMENTATION

The Haryana Police secured first position in the country for the best implementation of the Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & System (CCTNS) with 100 per cent marks. Gujarat secured the second position with 99.9 per cent marks and Himachal Pradesh is third with 99.6 per cent marks.

The CCTNS was implemented by the Union Home Ministry in the country in 2009 for effective policing through e-governance. It aggregates at the national level, local databases required for providing assistance and information for investigation and other purposes e.g. FIRs, criminals record, Finger Print Bureau, Forensic Labs etc. It aims at creating a nationwide networking infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled-state-of-the-art tracking systems around 'Investigation of crime and detection of criminals'.

INDORE IS FIRST WATER PLUS CITY

Cleanest city of the country Indore has now been declared as the first Water Plus city of the country, by the Central Government. Total 84 cities of the country had applied in the selection process of Water Plus, out of which only 33 cities were found suitable for ground verification.

The Water Plus certificate is awarded to cities that have met all the standards of ODF Double Plus. Also, the residual sewage from residential and commercial establishments is released into the environment only after treatment. Re-use of treated wastewater is also ensured for this award.



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NAGALAND TOPS IN VAN DHAN AWARDS

Nagaland won seven national awards in the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21 announced on the 34th foundation day of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). The awards were presented by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda on August 6 through a Zoom webinar. The state secured first positions in three categories: 'Best Survey State', 'Best Training', and 'Most number of VDVKC's (Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters) established'.

C'GARH FIRST TO ISSUE CFRR CERTIFICATES

Chhattisgarh became the first State to recognize the Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) in urban areas. The first set of CFRR certificates were issued on August 9 by the state government to the residents of Dhamtari district, spread over 4,127 hectares of forest, and over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of the tiger reserve. This will allow the gram sabhas to protect, conserve, regenerate and manage the entire forest area falling within their traditional boundary.

According to Section 2(a) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, any forest resource that the tribal and other forest dwelling communities use and depend on for a livelihood, is known as Community Forest Resource. It includes customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village. It also covers reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as sanctuaries and national parks to which the community had traditional access.

KAZIRANGA 1st TO HAVE SATELLITE PHONES

Kaziranga National Park in Assam has become the first National Park in India to be equipped with satellite phones. It will help in preventing poaching and ensure better coordinated functioning, especially during flood times. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority has procured the 10 satellite phones for the National Park at an estimated cost of Rs. 16 lakh.

Kaziranga National Park is spread over a massive 430 sq km area and has many areas with poor to no connectivity. The satellite phones, which draw signals from the satellites instead of mobile towers will ensure connectivity in most of the remote locations.



USAID SELECTS INDORE FOR CLEAN AIR

Indore, the cleanest city of India, in Madhya Pradesh, is the only city from the country to be selected for the International Clean Air Catalyst Programme launched by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and a global consortium of organisations, led by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to combat air pollution in low and middle-income countries by accelerating clean air solutions.

Under the project, USAID and partners will work with local communities to better understand local pollution sources and identify, test, accelerate, and scale solutions for cleaner, healthier air. The project will be operated for a period of five years to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

QAZIGUND-BANIHAL TUNNEL OPENED



An all-weather 8.5 km tunnel between Jammu and Kashmir's Qazigund and Banihal was opened for traffic on a trial basis on August 4. The tunnel on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been built at a cost of ₹21,00 crore in 10 years. Built at a height of 5800 feet above the sea level, across the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas, It will reduce travel time between Banihal in Jammu province and Qazigund in south Kashmir by about 90 minutes and shorten distance by 16 kms.

The tunnel will replace Jawahar Tunnel as an all-weather option for people travelling between Jammu and Srinagar. It will bypass the Jawahar Tunnel and Shaitan Nalla, both of which turn a nightmare during heavy snowfall and are often closed due to extreme conditions during winters causing bottlenecks in the strategically important road linking Kashmir to the rest of the country.

Asian Development Bank approved a \$500 million loan to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with the construction of two new metro lines totaling 56 kilometers.

Asian Development Bank approved a \$300 million loan for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project for upgrading rural roads and connecting remote areas with markets.

Asian Development Bank approved a Rs 831 crore (\$112 million) loan to finance water supply infrastructure in four towns in Jharkhand.

ASSAM-MIZORAM DISPUTE TURNS VIOLENT



Six Assam Police personnel were killed and around 50 were injured during an armed clash with Mizoram Police on July 26 at the Assam-Mizoram Border, lying over Assam's Cachar district and Mizoram's Kolasib district. Tension flared along the border after eight Mizo farmers' huts were set ablaze by unidentified miscreants on July 25.

The situation along the Mizoram-Assam border has been on the boil since June-end when Assam Police allegedly took control over an area known as 'Aitlang hnar' about 5 km from Vairengte in Mizoram, accusing the neighbouring state of encroaching on its territory.

Mizoram and Assam share a 164.6-km inter-state border that was decided by a 1933 notification by British. Assam follows this but Mizoram does not and this is the bone of dispute between the two states.

8 STATES GET NEW GOVERNOR

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new governors in eight states on July 6. While some of the current governors have been transferred to new states, in some others, new appointments have been made. All the latest appointments will come into effect from the dates these Governors take charge of their respective offices.

- **Bandaru Dattatreya:** Haryana, shifted from Himachal Pradesh
- **PS Sreedharan Pillai:** Goa - shifted from Mizoram
- **Satyadev Narayan Arya:** Tripura, shifted from Haryana
- **Ramesh Bais:** Jharkhand, shifted from Tripura
- **Thawarchand Gehlot:** Karnataka, shifted from the union cabinet
- **Hari Babu Kambhampati:** Mizoram, new appointment, senior BJP leader from Andhra Pradesh
- **Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel:** Madhya Pradesh, new appointment, senior BJP leader from Gujarat
- **Rajendran Vishwanath Arlekar:** Himachal Pradesh, new appointment, BJP leader from Goa

PURI 1st TO HAVE DRINK FROM TAP PROJECT

City of Puri in Odisha has become the first city in India to have a Drink From Tap Project that will dispense safe hygienic drinking water 24X7, directly from a tap, eliminating the need for widely used plastic bottles. Under the project, water fountains have been set up across 400 sites in Puri, avoiding approximately 400 metric tons of plastic waste annually.

Puri is now included among the global cities such as New York, London, and Singapore in offering safe and hygienic drinking water directly from a tap facility. The project will cater to approximately 40 lakh population across Odisha and additional 2 crores tourists visiting Puri annually.

INDIA'S FIRST GRAIN ATM PUT UP IN HARYANA

India's first Grain ATM has been installed by the Haryana government as a pilot project in Farrukhnagar, Gurugram under the 'World Food Programme' of the United Nations. Its formal name is Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine. It functions like regular bank ATM machines.

The Grain ATMs will address all the complaints regarding the right measurement of ration quantity and waiting time. It can dispense up to 70 kg of foodgrains in 7 minutes. It will dispense three types of grains – rice, millet, and wheat. Currently, the Grain ATM in Gurugram is ready to dispense wheat. It will be operated by using the beneficiary's aadhar number.

INDORE & SURAT BEST SMART CITY



The Central government declared the Smart City awards 2020 in which Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) were declared the joint winner for their overall development. Among states, Uttar Pradesh emerged on the top, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the Smart City award, 2020.

INDIA'S FIRST CRYPTOGAMIC GARDEN

India's first cryptogamic garden, with around 50 different species grown, was inaugurated on July 11 in Deoban area of Dehradun in Uttarakhand. Situated at a height of 9,000 feet, it is spread over an area of three acres.

Cryptogams are the non-seed-bearing plants which do not reproduce through seeds. For example, algae, bryophytes (moss, liverworts), lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of cryptogams that require moist conditions to survive.

MANIPUR MAKES DEBUT ON RAILWAY MAP

In a new milestone for Indian Railways, the north eastern state of Manipur made its debut on Indian Railway map on July 2 when a passenger train-Rajdhani Express from Assam's Silchar railway station-reached the Vaingaichunpao railway station in district Tamenglong for a trial run in Manipur, covering a distance of 11 kms.

GOA BECOMES FIRST 'RABIES FREE' STATE

After not reporting a single rabies case in the last three years, Goa has now become the first rabies-free state in the country. The task of rabies control was carried out under the Mission Rabies project, which is being run through a central government grant.

Rabies is a preventable viral disease, most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal, the most common being bites by dogs and monkeys.

MONK FRUIT MAKES DEBUT IN INDIA

For the first time, cultivation of monk fruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*) from China has been taken up in India in Himachal Pradesh in Kullu by the Palampur-based CSIR-IHBT - (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology).

In spite of its high demand, this crop is cultivated only in China. The plant prefers mountainous areas with an annual mean temperature of about 16-20°C and humid conditions, hence, Himachal is a suitable place for its large-scale cultivation.

The monk fruit is known for its properties as a non-caloric natural sweetener. Its sweet taste is attributed to cucurbitane-type triterpene glycosides known as mogrosides, which is about 300 times sweeter than sucrose or cane sugar. The economic benefits of the new crop are estimated to be between Rs 3 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh per hectare.



GUJARAT HIGH COURT FIRST TO GO LIVE



In a step towards ensuring transparency and openness in the Indian judiciary, the Gujarat High Court has become the first high court to begin from July 17 live-streaming of court proceedings on YouTube.

Live streaming of proceedings will cater to the dissemination of the information, which is an important aspect of Article 19 (right to freedom of speech and expression) of the Constitution of India.

LADAKH EXCELS IN VACCINE COVERAGE

Ladakh has become the first Union Territory of India to vaccinate all the residents as well as the 'guest population', consisting of hotel workers, migrant labourers, and Nepalese citizens, with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

As per the official data, a total of 89,404 citizens from all the eligible age groups, including 18-44 years, have been administered the first dose of vaccine. The second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to 60,936 people.

According to the administration officials, in spite of the low population in Ladakh, this is no mean feat in view of the region's challenging terrain, extreme weather, and isolated centers- many of which are extremely difficult to access.

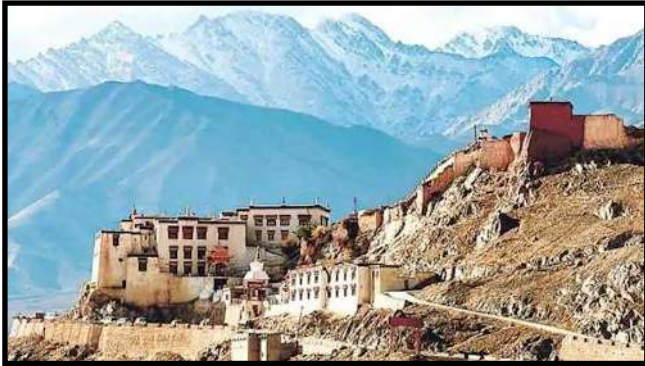
AMAZON'S FIRST DIGITAL KENDRA IN SURAT

E-Commerce company, Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat. Digital Kendras provide micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.

MSMEs can visit the Kendra to avail services like training on benefits of e-commerce, GST and taxation support, shipping and logistics support, cataloging assistance and digital marketing services.



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AND CORP. FOR LADAKH



The union cabinet made two big announcements for the Ladakh region on July 22. First, for setting up a Central University at a cost of Rs. 750 crores and second, establishment of an integrated multi-purpose infrastructure development corporation for Ladakh, to boost all round development in Ladakh.

The central university to be established in Khalti in Leh, will provide world-class education facilities to the youth of Ladakh. The corporation for Ladakh would help in employment generation and socio-economic development and will result in inclusive and integrated development of the area.

RAMGARH VISHDHARI SANCTUARY

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has sanctioned Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary as the fourth tiger sanctuary in Rajasthan. Located in the Bundi district of the state, the Sanctuary will connect Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the Northeast to the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the Southern side.

HISTORIC DARBAR MOVE SCRAPPED IN J&K

In a historic decision, LG of J & K, Manoj Sinha decided to say goodbye to the 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting capitals between Srinagar and Jammu, involving movement of hundreds of official files physically in hundreds of trucks on the treacherous Jammu-Srinagar highway. The move will save several precious man days and annual expenditure of about Rs. 200 crores.

The practice of the Darbar shifting originated in 1872 from the discomfort of the then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Gulab Singh, with the harshness of the winter in Kashmir and the sweltering heat of Jammu in summers.



ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION FOUND IN KERALA

A first case of Zika virus infection was confirmed on July 8 in a 24-year-old pregnant woman in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. She was admitted to the hospital due to various symptoms like fever, headache and red rashes. Thirteen others from Thiruvananthapuram are also suspected to be infected by the Zika virus.

Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus). These mosquitoes bite during the day and night. Aedes mosquitoes are the same that transmit dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. According to the US CDC, there is no specific medicine/vaccine for Zika virus as yet.

UP ANNOUNCES NEW POPULATION POLICY

In Uttar Pradesh, the government announced a new Population Policy 2021-2030' on the occasion of World Population Day on July 11. The policy aims to bring wellness and happiness in people's life and will cover all segments of society. The policy contains incentives and disincentives for the promotion of the two-child norm in the state.



According to the draft policy, people having more than two children will not be able to fight local body elections. Those having up to two offspring will be provided more government facilities and incentives. Government employees not following the two children norm will be deprived of several benefits. People breaching policy will not be able to take advantage of various subsidies and government schemes.

THE WORLD BANK LOANS FOR INDIA

The World Bank approved a number of loans for Indian states as under:

- A loan of \$ 250 million to support a programme to transform foundational learning in government schools in Andhra Pradesh.
- A \$125 million program to support the Resilient Kerala Program for strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks and pandemics.
- A \$32 million loan for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project. The loan aims to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, with a focus on the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.

GOVT. INITIATIVES

AUGUST

SAMRIDH LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT STARTUPS



Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched the “Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for pProduct Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)” programme on August 25 to create a conducive platform for Indian Software start-ups to improve their products and securing investments for scaling their business. The initiative will not only provide the funding support to the startups but will also help in bringing skill sets together which will help them to become successful.

The SAMRIDH programme will focus on accelerating the 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international exposure in the next three years. It will provide investment support of up to ₹ 40 lakh to the start-up, based on its current valuation and growth stage.

The programme aims to further the Indian start-up growth which has seen the emergence of 63 Unicorns. India is now the third largest Unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of \$168 billion. In business, a unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion.

E-SHRAM PORTAL LAUNCHED

Government launched the e-Shram portal – National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW) on August 25. The portal will maintain a database of workers in the country's unorganised sector.

It will help take welfare schemes to their doorstep. All trade union leaders have welcomed the move and extended their full support for the successful launch and implementation of the e-shram portal.



GEOSPATIAL PORTAL YUKTDHARA LAUNCHED

The Government has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara' on August 23. It will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.

This portal will serve as a repository of assets, Geotags created under various national rural development programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act, (MGNREGA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana along with field photographs.

The initiative is a joint effort of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Rural development developed on ISRO's Geoportal Bhuvan

Geo-tagging is a process of adding geographical information such as latitude and longitude to various media such as photos or videos.

NATIONAL MONETISATION PIPELINE

The Finance Ministry launched a National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in New Delhi on August 23. It comprises a four-year pipeline of the Central Government's brownfield infrastructure assets.

Besides providing visibility to investors, NMP will also serve as a medium-term road map for the asset monetisation initiative of the government. The government has planned a Rs 6-trillion pipeline of assets that can be monetised, which will include a range of assets put on the block for private sector participation.

Asset Monetization involves creation of new sources of revenue by unlocking the value of hitherto unutilized or underutilized public assets. Internationally, it is recognized that public assets are a significant resource for all economies. Many public sector assets are sub-optimally utilised and could be appropriately monetized to create greater financial leverage and value for the companies and of the equity that the government has invested in them.

Brownfield infrastructure assets are the existing infrastructure like buildings, factory premises, projects, etc. In contrast, opposite of this is Greenfield Assets referring to assets that have to be created totally afresh.

INDIA'S FIRST EV-FRIENDLY HIGHWAY

With the inauguration of a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations on August 19, the Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the country's first EV-friendly highway.

The network has been set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under the FAME-1 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The Solar EV charging stations are equipped with individual grid-connected rooftop solar plants that will supply green and clean energy to the charging stations.

RoDTEP TO REFUND TAXES ON EXPORT ITEMS



The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced on August 17 guidelines and rates of the long pending Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme for 8555 export items for a cost of ₹12500 crore to the exchequer. The scheme for zero rating of exports will boost our exports and competitiveness in the global markets.

The scheme provides for refund of duties/ taxes/ levies, at the Central, State & local level, borne on the exported product. It works on the principle that "taxes and duties should not be exported, while taxes and levies on exported products should either be exempted or remitted to exporters". The scheme will be effective from January 1, this year.

NEW NATIONAL GENE BANK LAUNCHED

The world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank was inaugurated on August 16 at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa in New Delhi. The National Gene Bank was originally established in 1996 for preserving the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations.

The bank has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds. The farmers would be greatly benefited by the new gene bank with state-of-the-art facilities for storing germplasm. It will also give them access to new biofortified crop varieties.

Germplasms are living genetic resources such as seeds or tissues that are maintained for the purpose of animal and plant breeding, preservation, and other research uses.

Biofortification refers to the process to raise the nutritional value of crops.

National Animal Gene Bank is situated at National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR - Karnal, Haryana), has the objective of conserving the indigenous livestock biodiversity. NBAGR is one of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes.



2nd PHASE OF 'SAMVAD' LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched on August 14 the 2nd phase of SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress). It is a national initiative for child protection, mental health and psychosocial care of children.

The project was launched in June 2020 in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru. The phase -2 will begin work with Panchayati Raj systems to integrate child protection and mental health in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.

'TAPAS' LAUNCHED TO PUSH SOCIAL DEFENCE

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched an online portal named TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) to provide filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence.



Presently there are 5 courses under TAPAS: Drug Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and Social Defence Issues.

TAPAS is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The courses can be taken up by anyone and are free of cost.

PM GATI SHAKTI TO BOOST INFRASTRUCTURE

Addressing the nation on the 75th Independence Day, the Prime Minister announced PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to help the local manufacturers turn globally competitive in the near future. It will help local manufacturers in raising their global profile and help them compete with their counterparts worldwide.

This new initiative with a support of Rs 100 lakh crore will bring employment opportunities to the youth and will develop possibilities of new future economic zones. It will also encourage manufacturing of world class products, using cutting-edge innovation and new age technology.

POLICY ANNOUNCED TO SCRAP OLD VEHICLES



The National Automobile Scrappage Policy announced formally on August 13 has made it mandatory for all private and commercial vehicles to undergo 'fitness tests' as soon as they age 20 years and 15 years, respectively. Vehicles will be scientifically tested through authorized, automated testing centres. Unfit vehicles will be scrapped scientifically.

A certificate will be issued on the scrapping of old cars, and the owners will not have to pay any money for registration on the purchase of a new vehicle and concession in road tax. The policy is expected to bring in a fresh investment of more than ₹10 thousand crores and will create thousands of jobs through setting up testing centers in each district and an overall push to the automobile sector.

The policy will play a big role in the modernization of the vehicular population in the country, removing unfit vehicles from the roads in a scientific manner and boosting demand for new vehicles.

The policy will follow the principle of Reuse, Recycle and Recovery, playing a key role in the 'Waste to Wealth' programme and reducing pollution in our cities. It will also reduce the maintenance cost, repair cost and improve the fuel efficiency of the vehicles.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TO BE OUT BY 31-7-22

The Government notified on August 13 the Plastic Waste Management (amendment) Rules 2021 prohibiting identified single-use plastic items from July 01, 2022. It will cover manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of several single-use plastics. The thickness of plastic carry bags will be increased from fifty microns to seventy-five microns with effect from the 30th of September this year and to 120 microns with effect from December 31, 2021, to facilitate reuse of carry bags.

The prohibited items include earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers, etc. The plastic packaging waste has not been prohibited as it will be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way.

'PM-DAKSH' FOR SKILL UPGRADATION

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Portal and Mobile Application on August 07. This portal and app will make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Safai Karamcharis. By the virtue of this initiative, the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programs more easily. The PM-DAKSH Yojana is being implemented by the Ministry from the year 2020-21.

Dr. Virendra Kumar is the present Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

BILL PASSED FOR NEW INSOLVENCY PACKAGE

Parliament passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on August 3 to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt. The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving the insolvency of corporate debtors.

The Bill introduces an alternate insolvency resolution process for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), called the Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP). Application for initiating PIRP may be filed in the event of a default of at least one lakh rupees. The bill aims to support stressed MSMEs which require support in view of COVID pandemic.

ESSENTIAL DEFENCE SERVICES BILL PASSED

The Lok Sabha passed the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 on August 3. The bill seeks to replace the Ordinance promulgated in June 2020 and allows the Central Government to prohibit lockouts, strikes and layoffs in the units engaged in the essential defence services, such as various ordnance factories.

The Bill has a direct bearing on around 70,000 employees of 41 Ordnance Factories. The employees are unhappy with the corporatization of OFB and fear that it will impact their service and retirement conditions. The Bill amends the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to include the essential defence services under the public utility services.



UGC LAUNCHES ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDITS



The University Grants Commission (UGC) notified the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) on July 28 an academic service mechanism for storing and transferring of academic credits of a student. The scheme is in line with the provisions of the new National Education Policy.

According to the gazette notification released by the government, Academic Bank of Credits shall be a national-level facility to promote flexibility of curriculum framework and interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary academic mobility of students across higher education institutions in the country.

The ABC will provide an opportunity to students to tailor their degrees or make specific modifications or specialisations rather than undergoing the rigid, regularly prescribed degree or courses of a single university or autonomous college.

It will also permit students to attain a degree or diploma or any other academic qualification, working on the principle of multiple entry-multiple exit as well as any-time, any-where, and any-level learning.

Similar to a bank account, the credit bank will be a repository where students' academic credits — calculated on the basis of classwork and tutorials. Thus, students can choose to study one course in a year in one institution and switch to another one the next year.

RESERVATION FOR OBC/EWS IN AIQ

The Ministry of Health announced on July 29 a 27 per cent reservation for OBCs and 10 per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the All-India Quota (AIQ) Scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical/dental courses (MBBS / MD / MS / Diploma / BDS / MDS) from the current academic year 2021-22 onwards in all AIQ seats of State medical and dental colleges.

Now the students from other backward classes and economically weaker sections will find it easier to study in any medical college of their choice across India from the 2021-22 academic session. This decision would benefit, every year, nearly 1,500 OBC students in MBBS and 2,500 OBC students in post-graduation and around 550 EWS students in MBBS and around 1,000 EWS students in post-graduation.

The AIQ Scheme was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Supreme Court to provide for domicile-free merit-based opportunities to students from any state to aspire to study in a good medical college located in another state.

AIQ consists of 15% of total available UG seats and 50% of total available PG seats in government medical colleges. Initially, there was no reservation in the AIQ Scheme till 2007, when the Supreme Court introduced reservations of 15 per cent for SCs and 7.5 per cent for STs in the AIQ Scheme.

In the same year, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act also became effective, providing for uniform 27 per cent reservation to OBCs, in all the Central Educational Institutions only, leaving behind states. This anomaly has now been rectified.

JULY

NOW, DO BTECH IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

Keeping in line with provisions of the new National Education Policy (NEP) that calls for education in one's mother tongue as far as possible, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted engineering colleges to offer B.Tech programmes in 11 regional languages (Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, Malayalam and Bengali, Assamese, Punjabi and Oriya).

Fourteen engineering colleges across eight states have secured permission from AICTE to collectively admit over 1,000 students in undergraduate programmes that will be taught in regional languages from the new academic year (2021-22). At least half of them — four from Uttar Pradesh, two from Rajasthan and one each from Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand — will teach in Hindi. The remaining colleges — from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu — will offer the programme in Telugu, Marathi, Bengali and Tamil, respectively.

To facilitate smooth conduct of courses in regional languages, AICTE has put in massive efforts for translation of technical study material in regional languages. It has already finished translating all video lectures on engineering on the Education Ministry's SWAYAM platform in eight regional languages. Content will soon be translated into Oriya, Assamese and Punjabi, too.

SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a programme initiated by the ministry of education to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. It aims to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.



'SMILE' LAUNCHED TO SERVE THE BEGGARS



The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging.

This scheme aims to focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on for beggars. As a pilot project, the scheme will initially be launched in ten metros of India. The scheme will be implemented with the active support of state governments. Central government has allocated a fund of Rs. 182 crore for the scheme for next five years.

UMANG APP INTEGRATED WITH MAPMYINDIA

The government's UMANG app will now start showing blood banks, petrol pumps, mandis and other service areas as a result of its integration with MapmyIndia Maps. Users will also be able to view these locations on detailed, interactive building street and village level maps of India built by MapmyIndia.

To begin with, the UMANG app has added map functionality for three services: Mera Ration, eNAM and Damini. The 'Mera Ration' integration will let users navigate to the 'Nearest Fair Price Shops', which will be visible in the form of pointers on the MapmyIndia integrated map. For eNAM, the map will show nearby mandis, while for Damini, the map will give lightning alerts to users with visuals of nearby areas where lightning has struck in the last few minutes.

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is an umbrella app developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to promote Mobile Governance in India. UMANG provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India a wide variety of e-Gov services offered by Central to Local Government bodies, such as Aadhaar, DigiLocker, and PayGov, Ayushman Bharat, Bharat Bill Pay, CBSE, CoWIN, EPFO, ESIC, PMJDY, Skill India and many more.

MapmyIndia is an Indian Deep-Tech company which specialises in Digital Maps, Navigation, Tracking, Analytics, GIS, GPS, IoT and location technologies. The Delhi based company was founded in 1995. It has tied up with ISRO to provide local GPS services through our own satellites.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HERITAGE AT NOIDA

The central government has decided to set up the Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, for imparting higher education and research in the field of rich Indian heritage and its conservation. It will be a world-class university that will focus on conservation and research in India's rich tangible heritage. It will be an umbrella body under which all the heritage institutes in the country will operate.

It will have facilities for Masters and PhD courses in History of Arts, Conservation, Museology, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Preventive Conservation, Epigraphy and Numismatics, Manuscriptology, etc. It will also have conservation training facilities for in-service employees and students of the institute.

'KISAN SARATHI' APP LAUNCHED

The government launched the 'Kisan Sarathi' platform on July 16 to provide additional support to millions of farmers to get crucial information at their fingertips in the language of their choice. It will enable farmers to get information about good crop practices and many other basic things to boost their output. The information related to the crop will be provided directly by scientists of local Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

PROG. TO TRAIN TEACHERS IN INNOVATION

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda jointly launched the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program. It aims to train 50 thousand school teachers on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Design Thinking, Product development and Idea generation.

The20rogramm has been designed by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) for School Teachers. The training will be given in online mode only.



NEW MINISTRY OF COOPERATION FORMED



The Union Government created a new Ministry of Cooperation (*Sahkarita Mantralaya*) on July 6 with an aim to implement the vision of 'Sahakar se Samridhi' or prosperity through cooperation. The ministry has been carved out of the Ministry of Agriculture.

It will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. It will work to streamline processes for ease of doing business for cooperatives and enable the development of multi-state cooperatives. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been given additional charge of this ministry.

DPE BROUGHT UNDER MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The government has decided to bring the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the finance ministry. Till now the DPE was under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The change is aimed to ease coordination related to future disinvestment plans.

The finance minister had already mentioned this change in her 2021 budget speech. A notification was issued by the Central Secretariat, amending the new change. The amendment will come into force with immediate effect.

The DPE will be the sixth department in the ministry of finance. The other five are the Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure, Department of Revenue, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management and Department of Financial Services.



MATSYA SETU APP TO BOOST FISHERIES

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh launched the Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu. The app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

The app has species-wise or subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish and pearl farming.

The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.

ONDC LAUNCHED TO STRENGTHEN LOGISTICS



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). It aims at promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. The ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.

NIPUN BHARAT TO BETTER SCHOOL LEARNING

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy – NIPUN Bharat on July 5.

The vision of NIPUN Bharat Mission is to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy. This is to ensure that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

(The new Minister of Education is Shri Dharmendra Pradhan)

'ATMANIRBHAR KRISHI APP' LAUNCHED



The Union Government launched the 'Atmanirbhar Krishi App' to provide farmers with actionable agricultural insights and weather alerts. The app will enable farmers to access evidence based-information which has been generated by the research organizations of India such as ISRO, IMD, CGWA, and ICAR.

The information on the app, when used by the farmers to make decisions on the cropping patterns, stubble burning, or mechanization of small farmers' holdings, will ensure that the decisions are being made considering the sustainability of water level and other local environmental factors.

NEW ECONOMIC PACKAGE ANNOUNCED

Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a fresh economic package on June 28, to provide relief to people and businesses affected by the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The package amounting to Rs. 6,28,993 crore included a total of 17 measures which were further grouped into 3 broad categories, viz. Economic Relief from Pandemic (8), Strengthening Public Health (1) and Impetus for Growth & Employment (8).

ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

AUGUST

HIGHEST EVER FRP FOR SUGARCANE

The Union Cabinet approved on August 25 the highest ever Fair and Remunerative Price of 290 rupees per quintal for Sugarcane. The decision will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents. It will also be immensely beneficial to five lakh workers employed in sugar mills and related ancillary activities.



"UBHARTE SITAARE" TO BOOST EXPORTS

The Finance Ministry launched a Rs 250 crore worth alternate investment fund (AIF) on August 21 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh for small and mid-sized export-oriented companies. The fund has been named "Ubharte Sitaare" (emerging stars). It will be jointly sponsored by the Exim Bank of India and SIDBI. The fund will identify Indian companies that have the potential to be the future champions in the domestic arena while meeting global demands.

BHOOT JOLOKIA MAKES EXPORT DEBUT

Bhoot Jolokia, one of the hottest chillies in the world, was exported from Nagaland to London for the first time on July 29. Also known as "Raja Mircha" or king chilli from Nagaland, Bhoot Jolokia got its GI certification in 2008. This development will give a major boost to exports of Geographical Indications (GI) products from the north-eastern region.



NATIONAL EDIBLE OIL MISSION LAUNCHED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) on August 9 to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils, including palm oil. Under the NMEO-OP, the central government will ensure that farmers get all facilities including quality seeds and technology to promote farming to produce palm oil and other oil seeds. It will also promote the expansion of the cultivation of other traditional oilseeds crops.

India is the world's biggest importer of edible oils, importing over \$10 billion worth of vegetable oil annually. By promoting palm farming, a large portion of this amount will go to the local farmers, besides saving valuable foreign currency.

Palm Oil is one of the cheapest edible oils available naturally and is relatively stable at high temperatures. It is, therefore, suitable for reuse and deep-frying.

JULY

IMF SLASHES GDP GROWTH RATE TO 9.5%

The International Monetary Fund has projected India's growth rate at 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal year - 2021-22. This forecast is lower than the 12.5 per cent growth that the IMF had projected in April before the second wave of COVID-19 took a grip. In its latest World Economic Outlook report, IMF said, growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave during March-May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback.

ADB PROJECTS GDP GROWTH AT 10%



Asian Development Bank (ADB) downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to 10%, from 11% projected earlier this year, mainly on account of the adverse impact of the coronavirus pandemic. As per the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement, India's GDP growth recovered to 1.6% in the last quarter of fiscal year ended March 2021, narrowing contraction in the whole fiscal year from 8% estimated in April to a revised 7.3%.

S&P CUTS DOWN GROWTH RATE TO 9.5%

S&P Global Ratings, New York, cut India's growth forecast on June 24 for the current fiscal (2021-22) to 9.5 per cent, from 11 per cent earlier, and warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of Covid pandemic. The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that lockdowns imposed by states due to a severe second Covid outbreak in April and May led to a sharp contraction in economic activity.

FITCH SLASHES GROWTH RATE TO 10%

The global rating agency Fitch Ratings cut India's growth forecast to 10% for the current fiscal (2021-22), from 12.8% estimated earlier, due to slow recovery post the second wave of Covid. Fitch believes that rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence; however, without it, economic recovery would remain vulnerable to further waves and lockdowns.

It may be noted that the Indian economy contracted by 7.3% in fiscal 2020-21 as the country battled the first wave of Covid, as against a 4% growth in 2019-20.



RECORD PRODUCTION IN FRUITS & VEGGIES

The Agriculture Ministry released on July 15 the second advance estimates of area and production of various horticultural crops for the year 2020-21 based on information received from the states and UTs and other government source agencies. The record horticulture production of 329.86 million tonnes in the year 2020-21 was on account of the farmer-friendly policies of the government, tireless efforts of farmers and research of scientists, all put together.

The production estimates are highest so far, reflecting an increase of 9.39 million tonnes in comparison to 2019-20. The increase in production has been registered in vegetables, spices, medicinal and aromatic crops.

India produced 196.27 million tonnes of vegetables this year against 188.28 million tonnes in 2019-20. The production of fruits is estimated to be 102.76 million tonnes this year against 102.08 million tonnes last year. The area under cultivation of fruits stood at 6.66 million hectares while vegetables were cultivated in 10.35 million hectares.

India's diverse climate ensures availability of all varieties of fresh fruits & vegetables. It ranks second in fruits and vegetables production in the world, after China.

According to FAO (2019), India is the largest producer of ginger and okra (bhindee) amongst vegetables and ranks second in production of potatoes, onions, cauliflowers, brinjal, Cabbages, etc.

Amongst fruits, the country ranks first in production of Bananas (26.08%), Papayas (44.05%) and Mangoes (including mangosteens and guavas) (45.89%).

During 2020-21, India exported fruits and vegetables (both, fresh and processed) worth Rs. 16,447 crores.

FDI HIKED TO 74% IN PENSION FUNDS

The government issued a notification to increase the limit of FDI in National Pension System (NPS) pension funds from 49 percent to 74 percent and has named it as PFRDA Regulation 2021.

To increase the scope of pension in the country, new On-tap Pension Fund Managers licenses will be issued and with the new announcement, big companies will have a chance to enter the pension business. The FDI limit for the new On-tap Pension Fund Managers license will be 74 percent.

After stagnating for over a decade, the NPS is now gaining support in the private sector with about 10 lakh new subscribers expected to join it in FY22. Higher tax-saving potential and attractive returns vis-à-vis other traditional products are seen spurring demand for NPS. Despite the pandemic, nearly 6 lakh new private subscribers joined the NPS in FY21, up from about 5 lakh in FY20.

PFRDA - Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, New Delhi



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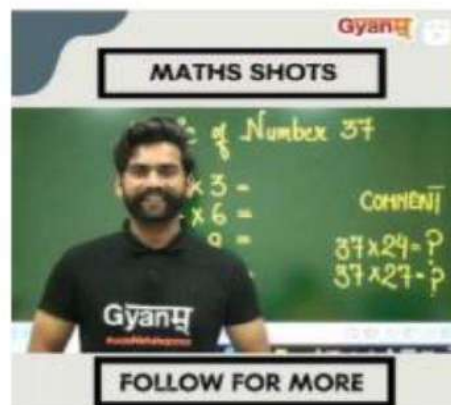
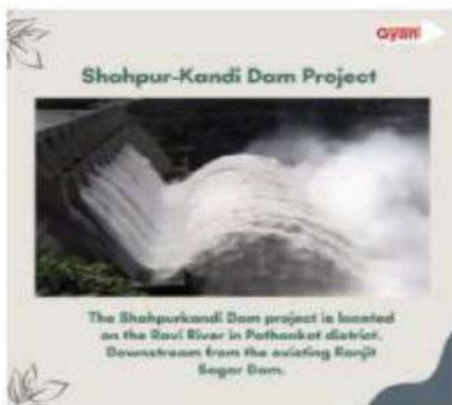
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CHINA INDIA'S 2nd LARGEST EXPORT PARTNER



According to government data, China replaced the UAE as the second largest export destination for India in fiscal 2021, with outbound shipments from India to the neighbouring country rising 27.5% to \$21.18 billion in the pandemic year. The US remained the country's top export partner, attracting exports worth \$ 51.6 billion in 2020-21, though falling by 2.78% from the previous year.

BYJU'S BUYS EPIC AND GREAT LEARNING

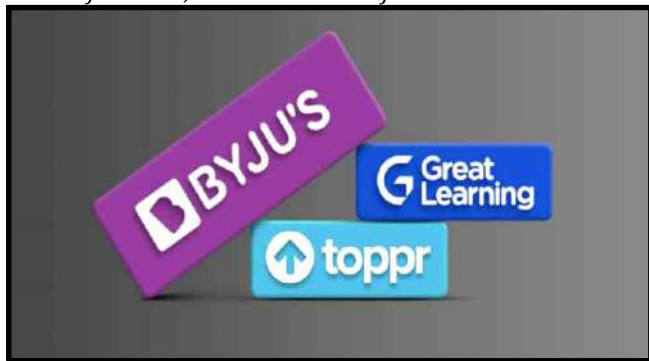
After making news for its about \$1-billion buyout of Aakash Educational Services a few months back, EdTech major Byju's has now acquired US-based digital reading platform 'Epic' for \$500 million (around Rs 3,729.8 crore).

The acquisition will help Byju's expand its footprint in the US by providing access to the over two million teachers and 50 million kids in Epic's existing global user base.

Epic has a collection of over 40,000 books, audio books and videos from more than 250 of the world's best publishers. It has made access free to educators, and over two million teachers have signed up for classroom use.

Later on July 26, Byju's acquired Singapore based Great Learning, a leading global player in the professional and higher education segment in a transaction valued at \$ 600 million, with a commitment to invest \$ 400 more for its further growth.

The acquisition marks BYJU'S strong push into the professional upskilling and life-long learning space globally. Great Learning will continue to operate as an independent unit under the BYJU'S group under the leadership of its Founder and CEO, Mohan Lakhmraju and co-founders, Hari Nair and Arjun Nair.



BANKING & FINANCE

AUGUST

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR BANK LOCKERS

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised guidelines for locker and safe custody facility in the banks.

The new guidelines will be effective from 1st January 2022 and be applicable to new as well as existing lockers. Main features of the policy:

- Banks will have to maintain a branch-wise list of vacant lockers and a wait-list to ensure transparency.
- Banks would also need to adopt the model locker agreement to be framed by the Indian Banking Association that will incorporate a clause prohibiting the customer to keep illegal or hazardous items in bank lockers.
- To ensure prompt payment of locker rent, banks are allowed to obtain a Term Deposit, at the time of allotment, which would cover three years' rent and the charges for breaking open the locker in case of such eventuality. However, Banks can not insist on such Term Deposits from the existing locker holders or those who have satisfactory operative account.
- Banks cannot be liable for loss caused by natural calamities, but they must take all steps to protect their premises from such catastrophes.

Bank's liability in case of incidents like fire, robbery or fraud committed by an employee will be one hundred times the prevailing annual rent of the locker.

FIRST FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX RELEASED

The Reserve Bank of India released the first edition of the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) on August 17 to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country. RBI announced the creation of the FI Index in the first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2021-2022 on 17 April. It will be published annually in July every year. The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 against 43.4 for the period ending March 2017.

The FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index, incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector, in consultation with government and respective sectoral regulators. It captures the extent of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0-100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion. The Index comprises three broad parameters -- Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%), with each of these consisting of dimensions computed based on several indicators.

CASH-OUT AT ATMS TO ATTRACT PENALTY



RBI notified a Scheme of Penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs on August 10. It asked banks to regularly monitor availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs. From 1st October 2021, cash-out at any ATM for more than ten hours in a month will attract a penalty of ₹ 10,000/- per ATM.

If a customer is not able to withdraw cash due to non-availability of cash in a particular ATM will be counted as an instance of cash-out in an ATM. Banks have been asked to submit system generated statements on cash-outs of ATMs to the Issue Department of RBI for every month within five days of the following month.

RBI's 'PRISM' FOR BETTER SUPERVISION

The Reserve Bank of India is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities (SEs). It is aimed at helping supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis. *PRISM will have various functionalities like inspection; compliance; incident functionality for cyber security; complaints; and returns functionalities. It will have built-in remedial workflows, time tracking, notifications and alerts, MIS reports and dashboards for regular updation.*

NO SECURITY FOR SHG LOANS

With a view to promote self-help groups (SHGs) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), RBI notified on August 9 the enhancement of collateral (additional security) free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) from Rs 10 lakh at present to Rs 20 lakh.

Further, no margin (borrower's contribution) will be taken in these loans. The notification also said that no lien should be marked against savings bank accounts of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.

SHGs are small voluntary groups of usually poor people formed for pursuing some economic activity. SHGs promote small savings among their members and create a common fund in the name of the SHG. The SHG gives small loans to its members from its common fund.

They do not require any registration under any Societies Act, State cooperative Act, etc. They are eligible for a loan from banks in proportion to their common fund size. Guidelines for operations of SHGs are issued by the NABARD.

***DAY-NRLM** is the flagship programme of the Government of India for promoting poverty reduction through building strong institutional support for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods.*

SEBI INTRODUCES 'ACCREDITED INVESTOR'

Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced the concept of 'accredited investors' in the Indian securities market. The move is expected to open up a new channel for raising funds.

Individuals, HUFs, family trusts, sole proprietorships, partnership firms, trusts and body corporates can get accreditation based on financial parameters like annual income, networth, specified by the SEBI.

Accredited investors will have the flexibility to participate in investment products with an investment amount lesser than the minimum amount mandated in the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) norms and Portfolio Management Services (PMS) rules.

An accredited investor is an internationally renowned concept that allows sophisticated knowledgeable investors more latitude and agency in the investment decisions they choose to make.

RBI DECIDES NOT TO CHANGE KEY RATES

The Monetary Policy Committee of RBI in its bi-monthly meeting on August 6, kept the Repo rate unchanged at 4%. The repo rate was kept unchanged for the 7th consecutive time. Other major rates like Reverse Repo Rate (3.35), Bank Rate (4.25), MSF (4.25), CRR (4.0), SLR (18.0) have also been kept unchanged.

The MPC also decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.



e-RUPI- NEW DIGITAL PAYMENT INSTRUMENT



The government launched e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless prepaid e-voucher for digital payment on August 2. It is a person and purpose specific digital payment solution, a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile phone of the beneficiaries and can be used for specified purpose only. eRUPI has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

The concept of electronic voucher takes forward the vision of Good Governance. It is a revolutionary initiative in the direction of ensuring a leak-proof delivery of welfare services. It can also be used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support under Mother and Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes, drugs and diagnostics under schemes like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and fertilizer subsidies.

RTGS/NEFT OPENED TO NON-BANK PSPs



In a notification issued on July 28, the Reserve Bank allowed non-bank payment system providers (PSPs) to participate in its centralized payment systems (CPS) such as Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and the National

Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) System. In the first phase, authorised non-bank PSPs, including fintech firms such as Paytm and Phonepe, PPI issuers, card networks and white label ATM operators shall be eligible to participate in CPS as direct members. The Reserve Bank is trying to speed up digital payments by increasing access to the payment system.

Till now, only banks and a few select financial institutions were allowed to use the facilities of RTGS and NEFT payments. The NEFT and RTGS systems were made available 24x7x365 with effect from December 2019 and December 2020 respectively. In RTGS, there is a threshold limit of Rs. two lakh and time limit of two hours while in NEFT, there are no such limitations.

SWIFT GO TO SERVE SMEs PAYMENTS

Belgium based SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications), a provider of secure financial messaging services, announced the launch of SWIFT Go service on July 27.

It enables small businesses and consumers to send fast, predictable, highly secure, and low-value cross-border payments anywhere in the world, direct from their bank accounts.

Seven global banks, which collectively handle 33 million low-value cross-border payments per year, are already live with this service.

JULY

NEW RULES FOR LOANS TO DIRECTORS

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors, by the banks. As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to ₹5 crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit for such loans was ₹25 lakh.

NARCL SET UP TO MANAGE BIG NPAS

Ending a long wait for the so-called "Bad Bank", the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. was registered as a government owned entity in Mumbai on July 7. The company with a paid-up capital of ₹74.6 crore will be headed by the former State Bank NPA expert Padmakumar Madhavan Nair as the managing director. All twelve public sector banks and four leading private banks have agreed to invest in the NARCL.

The company is part of the nation's ongoing efforts to reduce one of the world's largest piles of bad debts from the balance sheet of banks and enable them to accelerate lending. It will take over bad loan accounts of Rs. 500 crore and above. Initially, state-run banks will transfer 22 bad loan accounts worth ₹89,000 crore to NARCL. Total bad loans worth ₹2 trillion are likely to be transferred in tranches.

INDIA'S BHIM-UPI APP LAUNCHED IN BHUTAN

In a virtual ceremony, the Indian digital payment app BHIM-UPI was launched in Bhutan on July 13.

Now the payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit tourists and businessmen from India who travel to Bhutan and vice versa. This will enhance the ease of living and travelling through cashless transactions.

BHIM-UPI stands for **Bharat Interface for Money using Unified Payments Interface**. One can make direct bank payments to anyone on UPI using their UPI ID or scanning their QR with the BHIM app. You can also request money through the app from a UPI ID.



RBI RETAIL DIRECT FOR SALE OF G-SECS



The Reserve Bank of India introduced the RBI Retail Direct facility on July 12. The facility is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities, G-Sec by individual investors.

The RBI said, under this facility, retail investors can open and maintain the Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account with RBI. The account aims to improve ease of access by retail investors through online access to the government securities market. Saving Account holders in India with PAN, Valid KYC documents, email ID and Registered Mobile number are eligible to open this account.

RBI ASKS BANKS TO EXIT LIBOR

The Reserve Bank of India has asked banks and other financial institutions to stop using the benchmark London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) as the reference rate for entering into new financial contracts, as soon as possible and mandatorily by December 31 and move to any Alternative Reference Rates (ARR). Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) and Sterling Overnight Interbank Average Rate (SONIA) are the two popular alternatives, but are nowhere near as popular internationally as Libor.

LIBOR has been used in the global financial system as one of the benchmarks for a large volume and broad range of financial products and contracts. The LIBOR had to be scrapped after a rate fixing scandal was unearthed a few years back. With the demise of Libor, the popular Indian benchmark Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR), which uses Libor as a benchmark, has to be scrapped too.



RBI MODIFIES INTT. ON OVERDUE DEPOSITS

The Reserve Bank of India has modified on July 2 the instructions governing the interest rate to be paid by banks on the amount of Term Deposit that has matured and the proceeds are left unclaimed. Earlier, such unclaimed term deposits earned an interest rate as applicable on Savings Bank accounts. As per revised guidelines, such deposits will now earn an interest rate as contracted in the matured Term Deposit or the rate applicable to a savings account, **whichever is lower.**

RBI RESTRAINS MASTERCARD

The Reserve Bank imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited for adding new domestic customers from 22nd July 2021 as the company failed to comply with the RBI's directions on Storage of Payment System Data in India. Thus, from July 22, MasterCard will not be allowed to add new customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network. However, the order will not impact existing Mastercard customers.



It may be recalled that RBI had issued a circular in April 2018, directing all system providers to ensure that all information related to payments systems operated by them are stored in India.

RETAIL/WHOLESALE TRADE TO BE MSMEs

The government has decided to include retail and wholesale trade under MSMEs as per which they will also now get the benefit of priority sector lending under RBI guidelines. The government aims to provide economic assistance to them during these difficult times.

Businesses up to Rs 250 crore of annual turnover will now be able to avail immediate-term finance as part of various schemes announced under Atmanirbhar Bharat. The revised guidelines are expected to benefit about 2.5 crore retail and wholesale traders.

Under priority sector lending norms, all commercial banks are required to lend not less than 40 percent of their total loans to the identified sectors such as agriculture and allied activities, MSMEs, home loans, education loans, etc.

INDIAN BANK PROGRAMME FOR MSMEs



Indian Bank launched its flagship Business Mentoring Program 'MSME Prerana' from Nagpur, Maharashtra. It is a novel, unique and innovative business mentoring program, first of its kind to empower MSME Entrepreneurs. The programme aims to develop managerial and financial capabilities of MSME Entrepreneurs besides creating awareness on various initiatives taken by the government. Soon the programme will be extended all over India.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AUGUST

FIRST INDIGENOUS HAND GRENADES FOR ARMY

The Indian Army received the first batch of indigenous Multi Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG) in a ceremony held at Nagpur, Maharashtra on August 24. The consignment is part of the army's order for 10 lakh multi-mode grenades developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and produced by Economic Explosives Ltd in Nagpur at a cost of over Rs 400 crore.

The grenade offers multiple advantages to soldiers in terms of safety and penetration attack as compared to the vintage hand grenades.

The MMHG operates in a dual mode. In the offensive mode, the grenade does not have a fragment sleeve and is used for low-intensity attacks. This mode is used when the soldier targets the attack within five metres from the point of burst. In the defensive mode, the grenade is assembled with its fragmenting sleeve. This grenade mode is used when the soldier is in shelter and the enemy is in an open area.



NSG HOLDS ANNUAL EXERCISE 'GANDIV'

Multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and the National Capital Region hosted synchronised commando drills as part of a national mock exercise by the counter-terrorist force NSG - National Security Guard, from August 22 to 28.

The exercise named 'Gandiv' aims to check NSG's response time and reaction in critical situations. It will "validate the planning parameters" of the commando force in the event of a terrorist attack, hijack of an aircraft or hostage situation. Gandiv was the name of Arjuna's bow in Mahabharata.

The NSG was raised as a federal world class zero error counter-terrorist force in 1984 to undertake surgical commando operations in order to neutralise serious terrorist and hijack threats. It is to be used only in exceptionally grave circumstances to thwart grave acts of terrorism. It also has a special squad that provides armed security cover to at least 13 high-risk VVIPs at present.

RUSSIA TO SUPPLY 70,000 AK-203 RIFLES



India and Russia signed a deal on August 19 for the immediate procurement of 70,000 AK-200 series AK-203 assault rifles. It is the latest version of the AK-47 rifle. Later, these rifles will be produced in India by the Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd. It will replace the Indian Small Arms System 5.56x45 mm assault rifle that are currently being used by the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force besides other security forces.

DRDO DEVELOPS CHAFF TECHNOLOGY

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats. Chaff is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats. The technology has been transferred to the industry for production in large quantities to meet the annual rolling requirement of the Indian Air Force.

NIRBHAY TESTED WITH MANIK ENGINE

The DRDO successfully tested Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile Nirbhay off the coast of Odisha's Balasore district on August 11. The missile flew for around 150 km with an indigenous cruise engine MANIK. It is a Small Turbofan engine developed by DRDO.

IAF's HIGHEST ATC TOWER IN LADAKH



In a major breakthrough, the Indian Air Force has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in Ladakh's Nyoma area at an elevation of 13,700 feet. The ATC controls operations of the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operating in the eastern Ladakh region. The IAF has been deploying fighter aircrafts including MiG-29s and Rafale in eastern Ladakh and also been operating highly advanced Apache and Chinook helicopters in this area.

INS VIKRANT MAKES IT MAIDEN SEA DEBUT

August 4 was a proud and historic day for India as the reincarnated aircraft carrier Vikrant began her maiden sea trials, off the coast of Kochi, Kerala, almost 50 years of her illustrious predecessor's key role in victory in the 1971 war. INS Vikrant was decommissioned in 1997.

It's the largest and most complex warship ever to be designed and built in India, reaching a big milestone in our quest for Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiative.

This is the maiden attempt of the Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier.

The ship is 262 metre long, 62 metre at the widest part and height of 59 m including the superstructure. It will be able to launch 30 aircraft, including 20 fighter jets and 10 helicopters. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 24,000 crore. At present, INS Vikramaditya remains the only aircraft carrier in the navy's fleet.



US APPROVES SALE OF HARPOON TO INDIA

The United States approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to India for an estimated cost of \$ 82 million. Induction of Harpoon will further boost the Indian Navy's firepower. *The Harpoon, developed by Boeing Defence, USA, is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile system. It has a low-level, sea-skimming cruise trajectory with active radar guidance. It is the world's most successful anti-ship missile and is in service with the armed forces of more than 30 countries.*

TRICA (TRICHY CARBINE) - A NEW WEAPON

The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli launched a new weapon called TriCa (Trichy Carbine), a mini version of the Trichy Assault Rifle on July 29. The 7.62 x 39 mm portable weapon launched on the carbine platform has been entirely manufactured locally.

TriCa weighs 3.17 kg (including the magazine), less than the assault rifles. It is equipped with a special muzzle booster to hide the flash and mitigate the sound during the firing. The weapon has an effective range of 150 to 175 metre.

It is a compact automatic weapon designed for the crews of infantry combat vehicles, helicopters, para- troopers, state police force and special operation forces.

NAVY GETS REMOTE CONTROL GUNS

Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) handed over fifteen 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Guns to the Indian Navy and 10 such guns to the Indian Coast Guard on July 17. These guns have been manufactured with transfer of technology agreement from Elbit Systems, Israel.

They are meant for marine applications and can remotely engage targets. They are equipped with an inbuilt CCD camera, thermal imager and a laser range finder for observation and tracking of targets through day and night operations.

BILATERAL DEFENCE EXERCISES

KAZIND-21: The 5th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Army Training Exercise was held at Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan from August 30 to September 11, 2021. The exercise conducted training for counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism operations in the mountains or rural scenarios under UN mandate.

Two ships of the Indian Navy, namely INS Ranvijay and INS Kora carried out a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Frigate BRP Antonio Luna of the Philippine Navy on August 23 in the West Philippine Sea.

A 101-member contingent of the Indian Army participated in the International Army Games – 2021 held in Russia from 22 August to 4th September, 2021.

The Quad country navies including India, the US, Japan and Australia, conducted the annual Malabar naval exercises, from August 21 to 25, off the coast of Guam Island, in the Western Pacific Ocean.



The Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy undertook bilateral maritime exercise on August 18 in the South China Sea, to strengthen the defence ties among the two navies.

INS Kochi participated in the four-day Maritime Partnership Exercise with ships of Royal Bahrain Naval Force in the Persian Gulf from August 18 to 21.

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar participated in the 'Exercise Konkan 2021', the annual bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and Britain's Royal Navy, held in the English Channel near Portsmouth in England on August 12.

Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021: Indian Navy's destroyer INS Kochi, participated in the "Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" exercise off the Port Al-Jubail of Saudi Arabia in the Persian Gulf from 12 to 14. This is India's first naval exercise with the Royal Saudi Navy.

The Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise in Singapore on August 10. The exercise included 20 partner nations from the Indo-Pacific region, including India.

Zair-Al-Bahr: 2nd edition of India-Qatar Bilateral Maritime Exercise "Zair-Al-Bahr" was held from 09-14 August in the Persian Gulf.

Zayed Talwar 2021: Joint exercise of Indian Navy and UAE Navy was held on August 7, off the coast of Abu Dhabi in the Persian Gulf. Indian warship INS Kochi and a UAE ship AL - Dhafra took part in the exercise.

Exercise INDRA 2021: The Indo - Russian joint training military exercise commenced at Prudboy Ranges, Volgograd in Russia on August 4. The exercise will enhance interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies.

The aim of the exercise is to facilitate joint training between Indian and Russian Armies to jointly plan and conduct counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate.

The 36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia was held on 30-31 July in the Indian Ocean region. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel and Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo took part in the coordinated patrol (CORPAT).

12th Indra Navy exercise: Indian and Russian Navies conducted the 12th edition of Indra Navy exercise in the Baltic Sea from July 28 to July 29. Exercise Indra Navy is a biennial bilateral maritime exercise that was initiated in 2003. The exercise showcases the long-term strategic relationship between the Indian Navy and Russian Navy.

INDIA'S 1st HEART FAILURE BIOBANK

The first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) in the country that would collect blood, biopsies, and clinical data as a guide to future therapies, was inaugurated on August 5 at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The biobank will provide insights into heart diseases and heart failure among Indian children and adults, which are very different from that seen in the West. It will greatly help in guiding future therapies and technologies and would benefit the heart failure patients significantly.

SCTIMST is an autonomous medical school and an Institute of National Importance established in 1976 under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

WORLD'S 1st STEEL PRODUCED WITHOUT COAL

Swedish green steel venture HYBRIT made the 'world's first' steel produced without using coal. The steel was made using Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology, which uses 100% fossil-free hydrogen instead of coal and coke. It aims to replace coking coal, traditionally needed for ore-based steel making, with fossil-free electricity and hydrogen. The venture delivered the fossil-free steel to the Truck maker Volvo Group as part of its trial run.



WORLD'S 1st RE-PROGRAMMABLE SATELLITE



Eutelsat Quantum, the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifted off from French Guiana on July 30 on board an Ariane 5 rocket, with the hope of a new era of more flexible communications. Developed under an ESA (European Space Agency) partnership project with satellite operator Eutelsat and prime manufacturer Airbus, it is the first commercial fully flexible software-defined satellite in the world. Unlike conventional models that are designed and "hard-wired" on Earth and cannot be repurposed once in orbit, the Eutelsat Quantum allows users to tailor the communications to their needs -- almost in real-time.

JULY

DRDO TESTS NG AKASH AND MPATGM

DRDO successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile, a surface-to-air Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha.

The missile demonstrated high maneuverability required for neutralising fast and agile aerial threats like aircrafts, etc. It can strike targets at a distance up to around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.

DRDO also successfully flight-tested indigenously developed third generation Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).



MH-60R MULTI-ROLE HELICOPTERS FOR NAVY

Officials from the Indian Navy received the first two Sikorsky MH-60R multi-role helicopters from the United States Navy at Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego, USA.

The Indian Navy is procuring 24 of these Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) manufactured by Lockheed Martin from the US government at an estimated cost of \$2.4 billion (Rs. 18,000 crore).

***MH-60R** is the most advanced maritime multi-mission all weather helicopter in operation - deployed globally, and its mission performance is, by far, second to none.*

DRDO TESTED AGNI-P MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY

India successfully carried out the test-firing of a new missile in the Agni series known as Agni P on June 28, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha. Agni P is the first of the new class of Agni missiles to be launched by DRDO. The missile has a range of 1000 to 2000 kms, weighs 50% less than Agni 3 and has new guidance and a new generation of propulsion.

DRDO TESTS ADVANCED PINAKA ROCKETS



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. The enhanced range version of the 122mm Caliber Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45 kilometers.

EXERCISE CUTLASS EXPRESS 2021

Indian Naval Ship Talwar participated in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, held along the East Coast of Africa near Kenya, from 26 July to 06 August. Besides 12 African countries, USA, UK and several international organisations took part in the exercise. It is an annual maritime exercise conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.

Indian Navy participated in a two-day bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21 led by the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth in the Bay of Bengal from 21 to 22 July. HMS Queen Elizabeth is the Fleet Flagship of the Royal British Navy.

'SPARSH' TO MANAGE DEFENCE PENSIONS



The Defence Ministry has implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension. This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.

SPARSH envisages establishment of Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason.

INS Tabar, a war frigate of Indian Navy undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with ITS Antonio Marceglia, a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy, on 04 and 05 July in the Tyrrhenian Sea, west of Italy.

RUSSIA TESTS MOST ADVANCED MISSILE

The Russian defence ministry reported a successful test launch of its new Zircon (Tsirkon) hypersonic cruise missile on July 19. The missile was fired from the Admiral Gorshkov, a warship in the White Sea. It successfully hit a target more than 350 kilometers away on the coast of the Barents Sea. It can achieve speeds of up to mach 9, highest among missiles, and has a range of 1,000 kms.

ISRO SUCCESSFULLY TESTED ITS VIKAS ENGINE

In a major milestone, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed the final testing of one of the three stages of the launch vehicle GSLV MkIII that will carry humans to space under the Gaganyaan mission.

The space agency test-fired the Vikas engine used in the second stage of the rocket for 240 seconds, the full duration it will operate during an actual mission, at the engine test facility ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)-Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUGUST

CYBERSECURITY MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

The World Bank launched on August 16 a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund' to roll-out a cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner. The new fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.

The fund aims to enhance cyber and digital security capability and capacity in World Bank member countries. The World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.

WHO SETS UP ADVISORY GROUP 'SAGO'

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the formation of the International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens, or SAGO, a new advisory group that will develop a global framework to study pathogens with pandemic potential and advise WHO accordingly.



WHO has made an open call for nominations to SAGO from the member countries, thus providing a transparent foundation for the new scientific advisory group. The group will also work towards finding the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

JULY DECLARED THE HOTTEST EVER MONTH

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of USA declared on August 13 month of July 2021 as the world's hottest month ever recorded. This new record adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set for the globe.

The combined land and ocean-surface temperature around the world was 62.07 degreeF (16.73 C), 1.67 degrees F (0.93 of a degree C) above the 20th-century average of 60.4 degrees F (15.8 degrees C), making it the hottest July since records began 142 years ago. Current July's temperature was 0.02 of a degree F (0.01 of a degree C) higher than the previous record set in July 2016, which was then tied in 2019 and 2020.

One factor behind this extreme heat world over this summer is a natural weather cycle called the Arctic Oscillation, which is almost like El Nino, which in its positive phase is associated with more warming. El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, affecting the local weather from Australia to South America and beyond.

WESTERN USA DEVASTATED BY WILDFIRES



The state of Oregon in the Pacific Northwest region of the USA suffered the nation's largest and worst wildfire in history. Starting July 6 onwards, it burned through more than 3 lakh acres, forcing thousands of evacuations. Over 2,000 fire-fighters struggled to tackle the vast fire named Bootleg Fire.

The hot rising air formed gigantic, smoky pyrocumulus clouds that reached thousands of feet high and created its own lightning, further igniting the parched dry landscape created by an intense heat wave and months of drought.

Currently, more than 80 major fires are raging across 13 US states, spurred by heat waves and high winds, engulfing and devastating over 18 lakh acres. On July 9, Death Valley National Park in California recorded a staggering high of 54 degree Celsius.

Firefighters battling wildfires said the air is so dry that much of the water dropped by aircraft to quell the flames evaporates before it reaches the ground. By the end of July, hardly 30 percent of fires could be controlled.

US FORCES FINALLY EXIT AFGHANISTAN

July 2 proved a big turning point in the chequered war-torn history of Afghanistan as the American troops pulled out (empty handed) of their main military base in Afghanistan, leaving behind a piece of the World Trade Center they buried here 20 years ago, to avenge the attack on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001 by the Al-Qaeda.

Less than one month after the 11/9 attacks, on 7 October, the US forces aided by other NATO forces, initiated military action, bombing Taliban and Al-Qaeda-related camps to remove the Taliban from power.

The quiet departure from Bagram Air Base near Kabul, brought an effective end to the longest, deadliest and most expensive war in US history. Bagram was the base from where the US military coordinated its air war and logistical support for its entire Afghan mission.

As expected, the Taliban insurgents ramped up their offensive throughout the country along with the departure of US forces, an opportunity they were waiting for long. After all, they had once ruled this country, from 1996 to 2001. By the end July, 2021, the Taliban had secured control over half of Afghanistan's 421 districts. Nothing can be predicted about the future right now as a section of US forces is still providing the crucial air support to the Afghani defence forces in their offensive against Taliban.

Taliban is a Pashto word, meaning student or seeker. They are largely local Pashtoon insurgents waging an armed struggle – Jihad against the present government to seek back their lost control over Afghanistan. They are infamous for their staunch belief in extremely harsh Sharia laws. Since 2016, the Taliban's leader has been Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada.

PHILIPPINES GETS NOD FOR GOLDEN RICE

The Philippines has become the first country in the world to get approval for the commercial production of the first genetically modified "Golden Rice", named so due to its bright yellow color.

This variety of rice is enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition. A cup of golden rice can provide as much as 40 percent of vitamin A required for children aged six months to five years, to combat childhood blindness and save lives in the developing world.

Golden rice has been developed by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), after nearly two decades of research.

CHINA LAUNCHES WORLD'S FASTEST TRAIN

China has unveiled a maglev train which is capable of a top speed of 600 kmph. The maximum speed will make the train the fastest ground vehicle globally. The maglev train, with the use of electro-magnetic force, levitates above the track with no contact between the body and the rail, thereby minimising the friction.

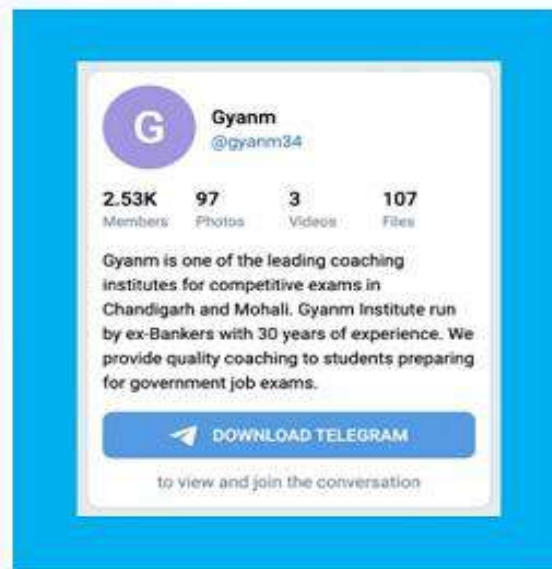
At 600 kph, the maglev train in China will take only 2.5 hours to travel from Beijing to Shanghai by train. It is a journey of more than 1,000 kms (620 miles). In comparison, the journey will be 3 hours by plane and 5.5 hours by high-speed rail.





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AFRICA FIRST TO HAVE DIGI LAND USE DATA



Africa has become the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land use change data under the Africa Open DEAL initiative. DEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Initiative.

The DEAL initiative is led by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC), secretariat of the African Union (representing all the 55 African nations). The survey covered 100 parameters on each sampling point of about 0.5 hectares and included tree counts, farmlands, wildfires and existing infrastructure.

FLASH FLOODS KILL NEARLY 200 IN GERMANY

Around 200 persons were reported killed and several others were reported missing as record sudden rainfall in western Germany and adjoining areas of Eastern Belgium on July 15 caused the Meuse River to burst its banks, causing widespread devastation.

Flash floods swept away homes and inundated low lying areas. Among the worst-hit German villages was Schuld, where several homes collapsed and dozens of people remained unaccounted for.

Rescue operations were hampered by blocked roads and phone and internet outages across the Eifel, a volcanic region of rolling hills and small valleys in Germany.

CHINA DECLARED FREE FROM MALARIA



The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared China a malaria-free country, after a 70-year effort to wipe it out. China used to report 30 million cases a year during the 1940s. Since then, strenuous eradication efforts have driven down case numbers.

The WHO said the country had now gone four years without registering a case, giving it malaria-free certification. Globally, 40 countries and territories have been granted a malaria-free certification from WHO.

USA FAR AHEAD IN STARTUPS

Startupblink released Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021, which ranks 100 countries and 1,000 cities based on the startup environment. In country wise ranking, India was ranked 20th with a score of 8.8. The USA topped the index with a high score of 124.4, followed by the U K (28.7) and Israel (27.7).

Among cities, San Francisco with 18763 startups scored 328.9 to top the index, followed by New York (110.8) and Beijing (66.0). Indian city Bengaluru was ranked at 10th spot with a score of 25.4.

Startupblink.com is the world's most comprehensive startup ecosystem map and research center, based in Israel.

JOINT PLATFORM TO COUNTER CORONA

Heads of the global health, intellectual property and trade bodies have announced the formation of a joint platform to help countries plug the gaps in accessing Covid-19 vaccines, treatments and technologies.

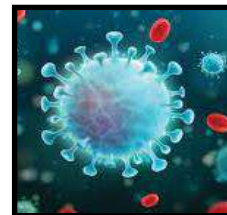
The platform will provide a one-stop shop that will make available the full range of expertise on access, intellectual property and trade matters provided by the three organisations - WHO, WIPO and WTO. It would support countries in assessing and prioritising their unmet needs for Covid-19 vaccines, medicines and other related technologies.

WHO: World Health Organisation;
Director General: Tedros Adhanom

WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization;
Director General: Daren Tang

WTO: World Trade Organization;
Director General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

All these three organisations are based in Geneva, Switzerland.



CANADA SUFFERS WORST HEAT STROKE

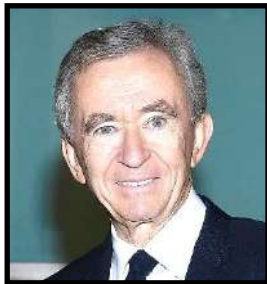
A heatwave that smashed all-time high temperature records in western Canada and the Northwest United States of America left hundreds of people dead in its wake. British Columbia, the western most province of Canada, reported over 500 hyperthermia related deaths in the last week of June, more than three times the usual number that would occur in the province over that period.

The temperature soared up to record 49.6 degree Celsius in Lytton, British Columbia. Around 100 heat stroke related deaths were reported from the northwest USA.

The heat over western parts of Canada and the US has been caused by a dome of static high-pressure hot air over the area. The heat dome is a weather phenomenon that traps heat and blocks other weather systems from moving in, leading to extreme weather conditions.

PERSONS IN NEWS

AUGUST



Bernard Arnault: French business tycoon, chairman and CEO of the French luxury conglomerate LVMH Moët Hennessy — Louis Vuitton, became the world's richest person after Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' net worth fell by \$13.9 billion in a day.

According to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, Arnault, whose subsidiaries consist of high-end fashion companies such as Louis Vuitton, Sephora, Moët & Chandon, and Tiffany & Co, held a net worth of \$199.1 billion on August 5, 2021. Meanwhile, Bezos' real time net worth stood at \$193.8 billion, while that of Elon Musk (of Tesla) was \$184.7 billion.

JULY

Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata: Indian pioneer industrialist and founder of the Tata Group, topped the inaugural EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century list, which ranked the world's 50 most generous individuals in the last century.

The total donations made by Jamsetji were estimated at \$102.4 billion. He is the only Indian among the top 10 list. Bill Gates & Melinda Gates ranked second with donations worth \$74.6 billion.

Kanchan Ugursandi: A young lady mountain biker from Delhi finished in New Delhi the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern Himalayan Mountain ranges. The month-long expedition witnessed many firsts by a solo woman rider.

Miss Ugursandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass, the first woman to cover the 18 passes and also the first woman to traverse a distance of 3,187 kilometre from New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi in one go.



Jeff Bezos: Wealthiest person on Earth, former CEO of Amazon, blasted into space from a remote launch pad in Western Texas, USA on July 20. This was the first crewed flight of his reusable rocket ship, New Shepard, built by his space company Blue Origin.

With a speed of 3700 kmph, it went up in space to a height of 107 kms, detached the capsule and came back to earth. The crew experienced about three minutes of weightlessness inside the capsule.

Within 11 minutes of the blast, the window-filled capsule soft landed back on earth, supported by three big parachutes.

Bezos was accompanied by Mark Bezos, his brother, Wally Funk, an 82-year-old pioneer of the space race, and an 18-year-old student, Oliver Daemen (from Netherland), the oldest and the youngest to ever fly in space.

Richard Branson: British billionaire, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, founder of Virgin Group of companies, hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship on July 11, in his commercial space mission "Unity 22", his boldest adventure to date. Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Jeff Bezos by nine days. (Bezos' flight is scheduled for July 20th).



The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space tourism company reached an altitude of about 86 km over the New Mexico desert — enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth — and then safely glided back home to a runway landing. The mission lasted approximately one hour. The crewmates included Sirisha Bandla, an American lady of Indian origin, aeronautical engineer and vice president at Virgin Galactic.

Jeff Bezos: Counted as the richest person on Earth, Amazon's CEO announced to quit his post on July 5, exactly 27 years since he founded the e-commerce company in a garage in West Bellevue, Washington, USA. Amazon Web Services CEO Andy Jassy has succeeded him as the new Amazon CEO.

APPOINTMENTS

AUGUST

ELa Ganesan: Veteran BJP leader and former MP from Tamil Nadu, appointed as the new Governor of Manipur.



Pankaj Kumar Singh: A 1988-batch IPS officer has been appointed as Director General of the country's largest border guarding force BSF - Border Security Force. BSF guards over 6,300 km of the Indian frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Rekha Sharma: The Central Government nominated her as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, for another term of three years wef August 07. Sharma, 57, assumed the charge of NCW chairperson on August 7, 2018.

Mini Ipe: Appointed as the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India, India's 2nd-largest financial services institution (after SBI).

Shanti Lal Jain: Appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank, for a period of three years.

Sandeep Bakhshi: The Reserve Bank of India approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the MD & CEO of ICICI Bank for next two years.

Ismail Sabri Yaakob: Former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of the country by King Al-Sultan Abdullah.

Hakainde Hichilema: Elected as the new President of Zambia, a land-locked country in southern Africa.

Ebrahim Raisi: Sworn in as the new president of Iran on August 05, 2021.

Nikol Pashinyan: Re-appointed as the prime minister of Armenia by the President Armen Sarkissian on August 02.

Guido Bellido: Appointed as the new prime minister of Peru by the newly sworn in President of Peru, Pedro Castillo.

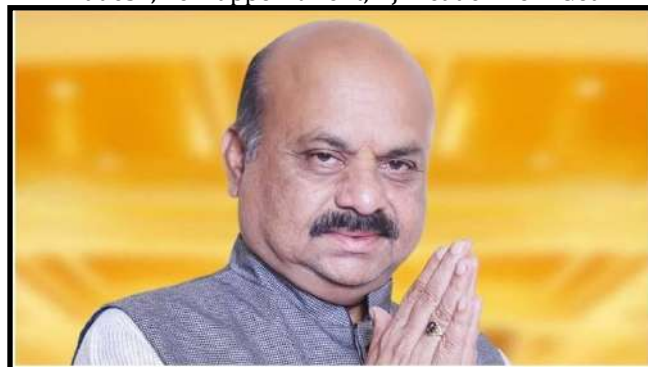
Min Aung Hlaing: The military Chief of Myanmar, Senior General Hlaing declared himself as the Prime Minister of Myanmar on August 1. He said that he plans to be in charge for two years during an extended state of emergency before holding an election in the country in 2023.

Myanmar's democratically elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, was overthrown by the country's military in February 2021, claiming that the elections held in November 2020 were fraudulent.

JULY

NEW GOVERNORS IN 8 STATES

- **Bandaru Dattatreya:** Haryana, shifted from Himachal Pradesh
- **PS Sreedharan Pillai:** Goa - shifted from Mizoram
- **Satyadev Narayan Arya:** Tripura, shifted from Haryana
- **Ramesh Bais:** Jharkhand, shifted from Tripura
- **Thawarchand Gehlot:** Karnataka, shifted from the union cabinet
- **Hari Babu Kambhampati:** Mizoram, new appointment, senior BJP leader from Andhra Pradesh
- **Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel:** Madhya Pradesh, new appointment, senior BJP leader from Gujarat
- **Rajendran Vishwanath Arlekar:** Himachal Pradesh, new appointment, BJP leader from Goa



Basavraj Somappa Bommai: Senior BJP leader, son of former Karnataka chief Minister S R Bommai, has been elected as the new chief minister of Karnataka.

Pushkar Singh Dhami: A senior BJP leader and MLA from Khatima Constituency in the Kumaon region, took oath on July 4 as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He succeeds Tirath Singh Rawat who resigned from the post on July 2.

SD Shibu Lal, Former Infosys CEO, appointed chairperson of a three-member task force formed to help the government in bringing major bureaucratic reforms through its ambitious "Mission Karmayogi" -- a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building, under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Najib Mikati: Noted Lebanese businessman and two-time former prime minister was once again elected by the Parliament of Lebanon as the new prime minister of the country.



Pedro Castillo: A 51-year-old former school teacher and union leader, secured just over 50% of the votes to be declared as the President of Peru.

Ariel Henry: Elected as the new prime minister of Haiti, a tiny nation in Caribbean Sea, north of Colombia. Before this, earlier prime minister Jovenel Moïse was assassinated at his residence on July 7.

Abiy Ahmed: Re-elected as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia after his ruling party Prosperity Party secured a landslide victory in the general elections.

Eric Garcetti: Nominated as Ambassador of USA to India by US President Joe Biden. Garcetti is a former Defence intelligence officer and mayor of Los Angeles.

Atul Keshap: American diplomat of Indian origin took charge as United States' new Charge d'Affaires to India.

Sher Bahadur Deuba: Appointed as next Prime Minister of Nepal on July 13 by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, following the order of the Supreme Court. He is the President of the Nepali Congress Party, the largest opposition party in the house. This will be his fifth term as the prime minister.

Nepal had plunged into a political crisis on December 20, 2020, when the President had dissolved the lower house on the recommendation of the then prime minister, KP Sharma Oli. However, his opponents moved the Supreme Court against the decision and on Feb 23, 2021, the court ordered for reinstatement of the dissolved house and asked for a vote of trust. Accordingly, Oli was once again given a chance to seek a vote of trust which he failed to secure, on May 10.

Since no one else laid the claim, he was made interim prime minister on May 13. He again recommended to the President that the parliament be dissolved. Accordingly, she ordered the dissolution of the house on May 22 and holding of fresh elections.

The President's move was again challenged in the Supreme Court on the plea that she was mandated to exhaust all options before calling for dissolving the House and calling for fresh elections. Admitting the plea, the SC on July 13 ordered for restoration of the house and asked Deuba, leader of the largest opposition party to be installed as prime minister and seek a vote of trust by August 12. Abiding by the court decision, Oli resigned on July 13.

AWARDS & HONOURS

AUGUST

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award renamed

Following a number of requests from citizens across the country to rename the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, the government decided to rename the highest national sports award for sports as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

The exceptional performance of the Men's and Women's Hockey Teams has captured the imagination of the entire country and there is a renewed interest towards Hockey that is emerging across the length and breadth of India. So renaming the highest sports award after the hockey legend was considered the most befitting tribute to sports.

Launched in 1991-92, the award carries a medallion, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakh.

Popularly known as the "Wizard of Hockey", Major Dhyan Chand (29 August, 1905 - 3 December, 1979), is widely regarded as the greatest player in hockey for his extraordinary skills in handling the ball. In his career that spanned from 1926 to 1949, he clinched Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. His birthday, August 29 is celebrated as the National Sports Day. A national award for "Lifetime Achievement in Sports" is also named after Dhyan Chand.

JULY

UN AWARD FOR 3 INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS

Three India-based enterprises are among the 50 winners of a \$100,000 global competition of 'Best Small Businesses' of the "Good Food for All" competition, announced by the United Nations. These units are providing inspiring, diverse and impactful solutions in improving access to healthy and sustainable food. The winners were selected from nearly 2,000 applications from 135 countries. The prize money will be shared by all the 50 winners.

The three Indian winners include:

Edible Routes, New Delhi, provides consumers easy access to naturally and locally grown, fresh farm produce, by helping them run their own mini farms or kitchen gardens.

Oorja Development Solutions Ltd., New Delhi, finances, installs and maintains solar energy systems for agricultural use and sells affordable and reliable irrigation, milling and cooling services to farmers so they can move from diesel to solar, avoiding both expenses and pollution.

TARU Naturals & Organics, Mumbai, is a grassroots movement of 10,000 tribal & small-scale farmers across India; a fair-trade network connecting farmers to markets, with healthy, pure & organic produce.

Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, 2020: Renowned Odia poet Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda selected for the national award instituted in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu. The award includes a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.



Kuppali Venkatappa Puttappa, popularly known by his pen name Kuvempu, was a noted Kannada poet, playwright, novelist and critic. He was the first Kannada writer to win the Jnanpith Award. The Government of India honoured him with Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.

Delhi Metro wins Japanese award

Delhi Metro's Phase I, II and III projects have been awarded the prestigious Japan Society of Civil Engineers 'Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for the year 2020. The JSCE termed the Delhi Metro's project as a 'High-Quality Infrastructure Development Project'.



Palme d'Or: (Golden Palm) The prize for the 'Best Film' at the Cannes Film Festival 2021 was won by the film Titane directed by Ms. Julia Ducournau of France. The festival concluded on July 17.

Palme d'Or is regarded as the most prestigious award in the global cinema circles. Director Payal Kapadia's,

"A Night of Knowing Nothing" won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

AUGUST

How the Earth Got Its Beauty by Sudha Murty.

In An Ideal World by Kunal Basu

A Different Route to Success by Ramesh Narayan

The Earthspinner by Anuradha Roy

Discordant Notes: The Voice of Dissent in the Last Court of Resort by Rohinton Fali Nariman, retired Supreme Court judge

All In: An Autobiography by Billie Jean King, veteran Tennis star

Billy Summers by Stephen King.

Her Heart for a Compass by Sarah Ferguson.

All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days by Rebecca Donner.

The Turnout by Megan Abbott.

Sky Beyond the Storm by Sabaa Tahir

The Heart Principle by Helen Hoang

A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins

Afterparties: A collection of stories from Anthony Veasna So

JULY

Anyway the Wind Blows by Rainbow Rowell

The Stranger in The Mirror: Autobiography of filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra written jointly with Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta.

The India Story by Bimal Jalan, former Governor of RBI

Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington D.C. by Kaushik Basu, noted Indian economist

It's a Wonderful Life by Ruskin Bond

Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story by Sundeep Misra

The Light of Asia by Jairam Ramesh, senior Congress leader and former union minister

The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji by late Baljit Kaur Tulsi, mother of noted lawyer KTS Tulsi

The Long Game by Vijay Gokhale, former foreign secretary of India

An Ordinary Life by Ashok Lavasa, Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank, former Election Commissioner of India

The Great Big Lion: Drawn and written by Chryseis Knight, a 3-year-old Mensa prodigy from Canada, reportedly the youngest author in the world

Renegades: Born in the USA by Barack Obama and legendary musician Bruce Springsteen

She Who Became the Sun by Shelley Parker-Chan

Such a Quiet Place by Megan Miranda

OBITUARY

AUGUST

Kalyan Singh: Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh passed away in Lucknow on August 21. He was 89. He served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh two-time and also as Governor of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. He was elected as MLA for 9 times.



He had been synonymous with the Ram Temple movement. Demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992 took place when he was CM. Just hours after mobs of 'karsevaks' demolished it, he quit as CM owning moral responsibility.

Padma Sachdev: Noted author and Padma Shri awardee, the first modern woman poet of Dogri language, passed away at a Mumbai hospital on 4th August, at age of 81. She was honoured with prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2015 for her autobiography "Chitt-Chete" in Dogri language. She played a vital role in the inclusion of Dogri in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Man Kaur: Multiple World Masters Championship gold medalist and multiple Asian Masters Championship medalist, 105-year-old athlete from Patiala, Punjab, passed away on July 31, losing her battle with liver cancer.

She started running at the age of 90 and won her first medal in the Chandigarh Masters Athletics meet in 2007. She shot to fame after winning the 100-metre sprint at the World Masters Games in Auckland in 2017.

JULY

Dilip Kumar: Legendary actor left for heavenly abodes on July 7 after prolonged illness. He was 98. Dilip Kumar aka Mohammed Yousuf Khan, the original badshah of Bollywood, lorded over the silver screen and people's hearts like few can.

The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1991, Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994, and Padma Vibhushan in 2015. He was the only Indian to receive "Nishan-e-Imtiaz" in 1998, the highest civilian honour of Pakistan where he was revered like a God.

Known to generations of film-goers as 'tragedy king', his stellar performances in movies such as 'Andaz', 'Aan', 'Devdas', 'Azaad' and the historical 'Mughal-e-Azam' and 'Ganga Jamuna' earned him a name in the hall of fame.

Surekha Sikri: Three-time national award-winning actress passed away on July 16 following a cardiac arrest in Mumbai. She was 75. She will always be remembered for her outstanding performances in 'Tamas', 'Mammo', 'Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro', 'Zubeidaa', 'Badhaai Ho' and daily soap 'Balika Vadhu'. Surekha gained immense popularity in the twilight of her career playing 'Dadi Sa' in Colors TV Serial Balika Vadhu.

Danish Siddiqui: Noted Indian photojournalist was killed in crossfire on July 16 when he was covering a clash between Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters in Spin Boldak, near the Pakistan border. He was covering the situation in Kandahar over the last couple of days. He won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for documenting the Rohingya refugee crisis. The Mumbai based photographer has been working for global news agency Reuters since 2010.

Dr. PK Warriar: An internationally renowned Ayurvedic physician and managing trustee of the famous Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, passed away on July 10, at his residence in Malappuram, Kerala. He was 100. Dr. Warriar dedicated his life for popularizing Ayurveda across the world. He was honoured for his contributions in Ayurveda with the prestigious Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2010.

Virbhadra Singh: Veteran Congress leader and six-time chief minister of Himachal Pradesh, passed away on July 8 in Shimla, losing his three-month long battle against Covid-19. He was 87. Popular as "Raja Sahib", he had won nine assembly and five Lok Sabha elections, a feat few politicians can boast of. He hailed from the erstwhile royal family of Bushahr (present day Kinnaur and Shimla area).

Jovenel Moïse: President of Haiti, a tiny Caribbean country north of Colombia, was assassinated in an attack on his home in the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince. The President's residence was stormed by a group of unidentified armed men on July 7. Motive of assassination was not clear.



PLACES IN NEWS

AUGUST

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's capital became the first city in India to achieve hundred percent vaccination of its people against covid-19 by July 31. Additionally, about one lakh migrant workers have also been administered the first dose of covid vaccine in the capital city. Those vaccinated include about 9 lakh people of age 18 years and above.



Copenhagen: The capital city of Denmark, has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities, in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the London based global economic research group Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The cities were ranked on their score across 76 indicators based on digital, health, infrastructure, environmental and personal security. Copenhagen scored 82.4 points, followed by Toronto (82.2) and Singapore (80.7)

From India, New Delhi and Mumbai have found place in the index. New Delhi is placed at 48th position with a score of 56.1, while Mumbai is at 50th place with a score of 54.4. Yangon is at the bottom of the index, as least safe city, with a score of 39.5.

Haiti: The tiny country near Cuba in the Caribbean Sea was hit by a 7.2-magnitude quake on August 14, claiming over 2,000 lives and leaving several hundred others injured. The earthquake and its aftershocks reduced churches, hotels, schools and homes to rubble.

Turkey wildfires: In the midst of a severe heatwave and following months of dry weather, Turkey faced some of its worst wildfires in the recent decades. More than 130 wildfires were reported across 30 Turkish provinces in the first week of August. Most of the fires have ignited along the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea coasts, flared by the gusty sea winds. Several other wildfires were reported in resort areas around Antalya, Mugla, and Marmaris.

Evia Island: A large island to the north and east of Athens, capital of Greece, has been facing two fire fronts from the beginning of August that have destroyed thousands of hectares of land, along with a number of businesses and houses. A number of nations have

responded to Greece's call for help including Germany, France, and the UK. Altogether, they have deployed 9 planes, close to 200 vehicles, and 1,000 firefighters to Greece.

JULY

Western Maharashtra: The death toll in rain-related incidents in Maharashtra in the third week of July rose to 164 with Raigad district recording over 70 deaths in the flash floods. More than 100 people were still missing. Over 2.30 lakh people were evacuated from the affected areas. Over 40 deaths were reported from Satara district and over 20 from Ratnagiri district.

Gwalior and Orchha: The two cities in Madhya Pradesh were selected by UNESCO on July 19 under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project' that began in 2011. The project aims at the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving their cultural and heritage value.

Orchha, located in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, is famous for its ancient temples and palaces. Orchha was the 16th century capital of the erstwhile Bundela dynasty.

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

Liverpool: UNESCO has removed this city in England from its list of World Heritage Sites. Liverpool has been removed because of the concerns over new buildings that are being planned in the city. As per the committee, they will undermine the Victorian heritage of the site.

Typhoon In-fa: Severe cyclone hit China's east coast south of Shanghai on July 25. The typhoon with strong winds of over 155 kmph made landfall in Zhoushan in Zhejiang province. Two international airports in Shanghai cancelled all passenger flights and all high-speed trains were fully stopped. Authorities evacuated over 3.60 lakh people from Shanghai.

Zhengzhou: Unprecedented rainstorm hit Central China's Henan province on July 18 to 20, battering the capital metropolis Zhengzhou (having a population of over 10 million) on the banks of Yellow River and causing flash floods that killed more than 63 people and affected over three million people.

The downtown area of Zhengzhou received an average precipitation of 457.5 mm within 24 hours on July 20, the highest daily rainfall since the weather record began. Water entered many public avenues and subway tunnels, trapping thousands of commuters.

As many as 3,00,000 residents were evacuated to safer places. More than a dozen cities were affected due to flooding forcing the cancellation of flights and closing of the key roads. The three days of rain matched a level seen only "once in a thousand years", the Zhengzhou weather bureau said.

Highest sand castle in Blokhust: A sandcastle built by Wilfred Stijger in the town of Blokhust in Denmark has entered into a new Guinness World Record for being the tallest sandcastle in the world. The triangular-shaped sandcastle stands 21.16 metres high. This new structure is 3.5m taller than the previous record held by sandcastle measuring 17.66 m in Germany in 2019.

Jacobabad: City in Sindh province in southeastern Pakistan recorded the world's highest temperature, up to almost 52°C (126 Fahrenheit) at the end June. The city with a population of over two lakh, is located on the Tropic of Cancer, which means that the sun is vertically overhead during the summers. The city has a hot desert climate with extremely hot summers and mild winters.

Tigray Region, Ethiopia:

The region in northern Ethiopia is in the grip of widespread violent civil war since November 2020. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched an armed offensive against local Tigrayans in November, 2020, that led to thousands of deaths, displaced 1.7 million people, and led to charges of atrocities like ethnic cleansing and horrific sexual violence, mostly committed by government forces and their allies.

Ethiopia's two biggest ethnic groups, the Oromo and the Amhara, make up more than 60 percent of the population, while Tigrayans, the third-largest, are just 6 to 7 percent. Yet the Tigray People's Liberation Front - TPLF, formed around mid-seventies, became the most powerful rebel force in the country, eventually leading an alliance that toppled the government in 1991 and ruled the country till 2018 when the counter rebels led by Abiy Ahmed came to power.

Abiy government declared TPLF its political and military enemy, and there have been reports of thousands of ethnic Tigrayans around Ethiopia, mostly soldiers and police officers but also civilians, being held in detention without charge.



SPORTS WORLD

AUGUST

Harshit Raja, 20-year-old chess player from Pune became the 69th Grand Master from India. Raja achieved his final GM norm at the Biel Masters Open 2021 in Switzerland.



Komalika Bari, 19-year-old Indian girl became the new under-21 recurve world champion at the Youth World Archery Championships held in Wroclaw, Poland from 9 to 15 August. In total, India won 15 medals, including eight gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze.

Vantika Agarwal from Delhi won the inaugural National women's online chess championship title. The championship was organized by the All-India Chess Federation (AICF) from July 26-28.

INDIA'S STAR OLYMPIANS

Neeraj Chopra: 23-year-old athlete from Panipat, Haryana created history on August 7 at Tokyo Olympics by throwing his javelin 87.58 meters to secure maiden gold for India in athletics, since the inception of the games in 1896.

The only other individual gold was won by shooter Abhinav Bindra in 2008 in Beijing Olympics.

Neeraj is a Subedar with the Rajputana Rifles in the Indian Army.

Mirabai wins first medal for India: Indian Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu secured the first medal for the country at the Tokyo Olympics, winning the silver medal in the women's 49-kilogram category. She lifted a total 202 kilograms in the clean and jerk category. Hou Zhihui of China won the gold lifting 210 kilograms, creating an Olympic record.

Ravi Kumar Dahiya, promising Indian wrestler from Sonapat, Haryana, settled for silver after losing a hard-fought final against two time world champion, Russian Zaur Uguev in the Men's 57kg freestyle wrestling on August 5.

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain bagged a Bronze Medal for the country in the welterweight 69-kilogram category. 23-year-old Arjuna award winner young boxer hails from Golaghat, Assam. She has become only the third Indian boxer to secure an Olympic medal, after Vijender Singh (Bronze, 2008) and M C Mary Kom (Bronze, 2012).

P V Sindhu, Indian star shuttler secured a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympic, defeating China's He Bing Jiao in Women's Singles on August 1. Sindhu became the first Indian woman to bag medals in the two consecutive Olympics in the individual capacity. She had already won the silver medal in the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Bajrang Punia: 27-year-old wrestler from Haryana earned a Bronze Medal in the men's freestyle 65-kilogram category by flooring Niyazbekov Daulet of Kazakhstan 8-0 on August 7, despite suffering from a knee injury.

Hockey team scripts history with Bronze

Indian men's Hockey team led by captain Manpreet Singh scripted history with their sticks on August 5 as they defeated Germany 5-4 to win a bronze in Tokyo Olympics. This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. The quest for a medal for India ended after the long wait of 41 years.

The senior most player of the team, 33-year-old goalkeeper P R Sreejesh ensured victory by saving a penalty corner from Germany in the last six seconds. For India, Simranjit Singh scored two goals and Harmanpreet, Hardik, Rupinder Pal Singh scored one goal each. The victorious team was coached by Australian Graham Reid.

Before this, India had won gold in hockey 8 times, one silver and bronze, two times.

Women's Hockey team settles for 4th place

In Women's Hockey, India lost 3-4 to Great Britain in the bronze medal match on August 6 to settle down at fourth place. This was the first time that the Indian women's team reached the semi-finals in the Olympics. Though they missed the medal, they won the hearts by their brave display of excellent fighting spirit till the last moment.

Javelin thrower Tek Chand led the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of 16th Paralympic games on August 24 in the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo. 54 athletes represented India at the Tokyo Paralympics in 9 sports disciplines. The main concept for the opening ceremony was "We Have Wings".



INTERNATIONAL

USA MAINTAINS SUPREMACY IN OLYMPICS

After a spectacular 16-day action, curtains came down on World's biggest sporting event, the 32nd Summer Games with a closing ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo on August 8. Wrestler Bajrang Punia led the Indian contingent out during the parade of athletes at the closing ceremony. Due to coronavirus protocols, the opening as well as closing ceremonies were held without spectators.

The United States of America once again topped the Olympic medal tally with a total of 113 medals, including 39 gold, 41 silver and 33 bronze. China came a close second winning 38 gold but lagging behind in silver-32 and bronze-18.

Caeleb Dressel of USA became the most successful participant, winning five golds in men's swimming. Among women, Emma McKeon from Australia won seven medals, four gold and three bronze in swimming.

India's campaign in the Tokyo edition was the most successful one yet that brought the country a first-ever gold medal in track and field as well as highest ever seven medals, — one gold, two silver and four bronze. Overall, we stood 48th in the medal tally.

Next Olympics will now be held in Paris in July, 2024.

Germany's Alexander Zverev defeated Russian Karen Khachanov to win the men's singles Tennis gold at the Tokyo Olympics. He became the first German to win singles Olympic gold.

Concacaf Gold Cup 2021: The U.S. National Team defeated Mexico to be crowned as the winner in finals played on August 01 at Las Vegas, USA. The CONCACAF Gold Cup is the biennial international men's football championship organized by CONCACAF, the football ruling body in North America, Central American, and the Caribbean.

The 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships was held in Nairobi, Kenya from August 17 to 22.

JULY

Rubina Francis, para shooter from Madhya Pradesh won the gold in the 10-metre air pistol para women's event at World shooting Para Sport Cup in Peru. She scored 238.1 points and created a new world record.

Abhishek Verma and Deepika Kumari bagged a gold each at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 held in Paris. Deepika also won Gold medals in the mixed recurve event and women's recurve team.

Nihal Sarin, 16-year-old young Indian Grandmaster from Kerala emerged champion in the Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship held in Belgrade, capital of Serbia.

Rahi Sarnobat won gold in women's 25 meters pistol event in ISSF World Cup held in Osijek, Croatia from June 22 to July 3.

Viswanathan Anand, Chess maestro from Chennai, defeated former world champion from Russia, Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy on July 18 at Dortmund, Germany. It was a No-Castling Chess event, a brand-new format of chess.

Abhimanyu becomes youngest Grandmaster

In Chess, Abhimanyu Mishra made history by becoming the youngest chess Grandmaster, breaking the 19-year-old record of 12 years and seven months set by Russian Sergey Karjakin in 2002. Abhimanyu reached the milestone in 12 years, four months, and 25 days.

The Indo-American player from New Jersey, USA scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, by defeating the 15-year-old Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca with the black pieces, securing a performance rating higher than 2600 Elo over nine rounds.

India wins 13 medals at Budapest

Five young junior wrestlers Aman Gulia, Sagar Jaglan, Priya Malik, Tannu and Komal won gold in their respective categories and eight other wrestlers won a silver and seven bronze, as India dished out an impressive show at the Cadet World Wrestling Championship 2021 at Budapest, Hungary, from July 19 to 25.

Bala Devi (from Manipur), forward player of Indian women's football team and Sandesh Jhingan (from Chandigarh), defender in Men's football team, won the women's and men's AIFF Player of the Year awards.

Mithali Raj, Indian women's cricket team skipper became the top run-getter in the world scoring 10,277 in international cricket across all formats, surpassing former England batter Charlotte Edwards (10,273). The 38-year-old Mithali reached the milestone in Worcester, England, playing in an ODI against England.

Shafali Verma from Haryana, became the youngest (17 years and 150 days) Indian cricketer on June 27, to make debut across all the three formats after playing her first One Day International against England at Bristol, England.

Shafali was 15 years and 239 days old when she made her debut in T20Is in September 2019. She played her first test match (against England) on June 17, 2021. The youngest cricketer to have this achievement is Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman (17 Years and 78 days).

First Indian to judge gymnastics in Tokyo

Deepak Kabra has become the first Indian to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the Tokyo Olympic Games. He will be seen officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games.

The 33-year-old Kabra is a professional category 2 gymnastics judge from Maharashtra. He also officiated as a judge in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2018, Youth Olympics in Argentina, besides other international events such as World Cups.

Pawan Singh, the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has been selected as the first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.

Karnam Malleswari: Former Olympic medalist weightlifter was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University by the Delhi government. She is the first Indian woman weightlifter to bring home an Olympic medal, bronze in 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) released the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent on June 23. The song titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai" (*The target is before you*) has been composed and sung by popular singer Mohit Chohan.

2nd Khelo India University Games will be hosted by Karnataka in Bengaluru from March 5, 2022. As many as 158 universities with 3182 sports persons besides technical officials, assistants, about 6000 persons are expected to participate in the event.

4th Khelo India Youth Games 2021: The sports mega event will now be hosted by the state government of Haryana in February 2022. Around 8,500 players will participate in the event to be held in the Under-18 category.



INTERNATIONAL

In Formula One, Lewis Hamilton (of Britain) won the British Grand Prix on July 18 at the Silverstone Circuit in Northamptonshire, England.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring, Spielberg, Austria.

Max Verstappen (Netherlands) of team Red Bull won the F1 Styrian Grand Prix in Styria, Austria on June 27.

Karsten Warholm, a 25-year-old athlete from Norway, broke the long-standing world record in the 400m hurdles during the Bislett Games held in Oslo, Norway by clocking a timing of 46.70 seconds. The earlier record was held by American hurdler Kevin Young for 46.78 seconds in 1992.

Chris Gayle on July 13, became the first batsman in history to score 14,000 runs in T20 format. The landmark achievement came during the third T20I of West Indies vs Australia played in St. Lucia, a tiny Caribbean island country.

Wimbledon concludes on July 11 in London

World Number One Novak Djokovic clinched his sixth Wimbledon title after beating seventh-seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy. With this victory, the 34-year-old Serbian equaled the record of 20 Grand Slam trophies won by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Women's singles title was won by Australian top seed Ashleigh Barty by defeating eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic

Wimbledon is the oldest (being played since 1877) tennis tournament in the world and is widely regarded as the most prestigious one. Each winner of the 2021 championship got prize money of British Pounds 17 lakh (Rs. 17.58 crore 46approx..) It is the only grand slam still played on traditional grass courts. It is also famous for its traditional rule of an all-white dress code for the players.

Italy lifts Euro Cup 2020

Italy was crowned Euro Cup 2020 champion after a shootout win over England on July 10 in the finals played at Wembley Stadium in London. Italy beat England 3-2 on penalties after the final ended 1-1 following extra time. Italy won the Euro Cup last time 53 years ago in 1968. It was the first major final for England since they won the World Cup 55 years ago. Portugal captain and modern-day great Cristiano Ronaldo won the Golden Boot for top score of five goals.

The UEFA European Football Championship, less formally the European Championship and informally the Euros, is the most popular primary association football competition of Europe, held every four years. It is contested by the 24 senior men's national teams of the members of the Union of European Football Associations, determining the continental champion of Europe.

Argentina wins Copa America after 28 years

In a historic breakthrough, Argentina led by Lionel Messi defeated Brazil 1-0 to win the Copa America tournament on July 10, ending its 28-year drought for a major international trophy. The final was played at Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Copa America is one of the oldest and most popular football tournaments in South America.

IOC allots 2032 Olympics to Brisbane

The International Olympic Committee in its meeting in Tokyo announced that Australian city of Brisbane will host the 2032 Summer Olympic Games. Brisbane will also host the Paralympic Games.

Brisbane, located about 450 miles north of Sydney, will become the third Australian city to host the Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000. The IOC decided in 2017 that Paris would host the 2024 Summer Games and Los Angeles would host them in 2028.

Mongolia, Tajikistan, Switzerland join ICC

The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Switzerland, and Tajikistan as its new member countries at its 78th Annual General Meeting on July 18.

Mongolia and Tajikistan from Asia region are now the 22nd and 23rd member countries of the ICC, respectively and Switzerland from Europe is the 35th member country of the ICC. There are a total of 106 member countries, including 94 associates in the ICC.

DAYS & DATES

AUGUST

August 01: Muslim Women Rights Day



Supported by the union ministry of minority affairs, it is observed across the country to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq on this day in 2019. The law made the social malpractice of Triple Talaq a criminal offense.

The Supreme Court in August 2017 declared the practice of triple talaq or a form of divorce based on the husband pronouncing the word "Talaq (divorce)" thrice in quick succession as 'unconstitutional'. In December 2017, citing the Supreme Court judgment and cases of triple talaq in India, the government introduced the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill in Parliament that was passed in July 2019. The bill received assent from the President on August 01, 2019. The legislation, which outlaws instant triple talaq, sets forth three years jail for violations and also makes the violator liable to pay a fine.

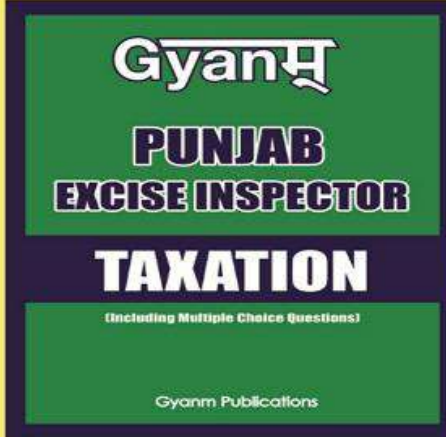
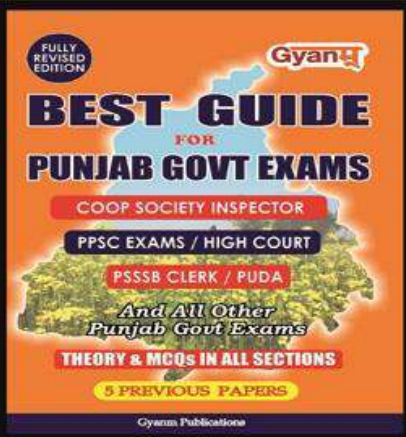
August 01: World Lung Cancer Day

It is observed every year to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment. It aims to inform people about the leading causes of lung cancer, such as, smoking and exposure to asbestos, arsenic, uranium, etc.

On an average it accounts for approximately 2.09 million deaths annually, according to data collected by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The campaign was first organized in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and also the American College of Chest Physicians.

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August 6: Hiroshima Day



The day focuses on creating awareness for anti-war and anti-nuclear discussions and demonstrations. In 1945, the United States detonated two nuclear bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively, killing lakhs of people instantly and paralysing several lakhs for times to come.

Japan surrendered two weeks later, ending World War II, though at a terrible cost. These are the only two nuclear bombs ever to have been used till date.

August 7: National Handloom Day

Celebrated to honour the handloom weavers in the country and to highlight their outstanding skills and craftsmanship. Supported by the union Textiles Ministry, the day aims to generate awareness about the handloom industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.

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

The Ministry in collaboration with the State governments is setting up three Handloom Craft Villages at Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala; Mohpara Village, District Golaghat in Assam and Kanihama, Budgam in Srinagar for promoting the local artisans.

August 8: August Kranti Diwas

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



August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Also called the World Tribal Day, it is observed every year with UN support to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population and acknowledge their achievements and contributions. The day is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population. There are more than 476 million indigenous people spread across 90 countries, accounting for 6.2 percent of the global population.

The date recognizes the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.

The theme for 2021 is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract."

August 10: National Deworming Day

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

August 10: World Lion Day

This day is observed to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation.

Lions are known as the "king of beasts" or king of the jungle". They are the second largest cats in the world after tigers. In 2020, the population of Asiatic lions increased by almost 29% to 674 in Gujarat's Gir forests.

August 10: World Biofuel Day

Observed every year to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. Three major types of Biofuels are -- Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas.

On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine, for the first time successfully ran a mechanical engine with Peanut Oil, marking the beginning of biofuels.

In India, the Day is observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015. The theme for the year 2021 is "Promotion of biofuels for a better environment".

August 12: World Elephant Day

The day focuses on bringing the world together to help elephants and also inform people and organisations about the threat that an elephant faces. The day is dedicated to the preservation and protection of elephants. Although elephants are loved all around the world, they are also on the verge of extinction due to their illegal poaching for their tusks (ivory).

In the IUCN Red List of threatened species, African elephants are listed Vulnerable and Asian elephants as Endangered. Currently, Botswana has the largest number of elephants, over 1,34,000 and India has an elephant population of over 28,000.

August 12: International Youth Day



Observed across the world to recognize the role of young people in bringing about change and to raise awareness regarding the problems and challenges faced by them. It is an occasion to highlight the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of the society.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12th August be declared International Youth Day. The theme of this year is - Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health which highlights the success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports confers the National Youth Awards on individuals aged between 15 to 29 years and organizations for excellent work and contribution in different fields of development and social service such as health, promotion of human rights, active citizenship, community service etc.

August 13: World Organ Donation Day

This day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save other lives. Organ donation refers to retrieving a donor's organs like heart, liver, kidneys, eyes, intestines, lungs, pancreas, etc. after his death and then transplanting into another person who is in need of an organ.

There is a large number of people who die due to organ failure. As per the National Health Portal, 500,000 people die due to non-availability of organs. It attempts to eliminate the myths and fears people have in their mind about organ donation.

India has its own National Organ Donation Day that is observed on November 27 each year. On this day, the government encourages people to volunteer to donate their organs and save lives.

"Partition Horrors Remembrance Day"

The Government of India has declared August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (विभाजन विभीषिका स्मृति दिवस), to remind the present and future generations of Indians of the pain and suffering faced by the people of India during the partition. The gazette notification for the same was issued by the Union home ministry on August 14.

Pakistan was carved out as a separate country after the Partition in 1947 on August 14-15. The partition caused one of the largest migrations in human history, affecting about 20 million people. Millions of families had to abandon their ancestral villages/towns/cities and were forced to find a new life as refugees. Lakhs of them lost their lives in the communal violence that followed.

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

Observed across the world with UN support to pay tribute to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services and to gather support for people affected by crises around the world. This is a day to say 'thank you' to those humanitarian workers who gave their lives or were injured while providing life-saving support and protection to people in need.

The celebrations are supported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - OCHA, a part of the UN Secretariat. This year's theme for the Day is '#theHumanRace', which is a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with the people who need it most.

August 19: World Photography Day

The day is dedicated to the art, craft, science and history of photography. It aims to inspire photographers across the planet to share their photos with a simple purpose of sharing their world with the world. The day encourages enthusiasts to express their feelings, emotions, and social thinking through their photography skills.

A photograph has the power to capture a place or an area, an experience, an emotion, a flash in time. That is why it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words.

August 20: Sadbhavna Diwas (Harmony day)

Observed across India to promote national integration and communal harmony among people of all religions and languages. It commemorates the birthday of Rajiv Gandhi who served as Prime Minister from 1984 -89. Rajiv Gandhi, the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40, was a very ardent advocate of communal harmony, peace, and national integrity in India and was known as a goodwill ambassador to the world.

August 20: Akshay Urja Diwas

The day is devoted to raising awareness about the developments of renewable energy in India. It has been observed since 2004, supported by the Ministry for New & Renewable Energy. Renewable energy is the energy that is generated from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a regular basis, such as water, sunlight, wind, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Interestingly, India is the only country in the entire world to have a separate ministry for the development of renewable energy resources. Currently it is headed by Sh. Raj Kumar Singh.

August 20: World Mosquito Day

Observed annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented. The day commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. He received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902.

According to the National Health Portal of India, Aedes, Anopheles, and Culex mosquitoes act as vectors (living organisms that can transmit infectious diseases among humans or from animals to humans) and spread many diseases.

August 21: World Senior Citizens Day

Supported by the UNO, it is observed to raise awareness about the condition of older people and to support them throughout the aging process. It is an occasion to remind the society of its commitment to work for the welfare of older people of all ages and to help them end hunger and poverty.

It's a day to remember and celebrate the elderly persons and thank them for their contributions to enhance their inclusiveness in the society.

August (22): World Sanskrit Day: It is celebrated on the occasion of the Poornima (full moon day) of the Shravan month in the Hindu calendar. The Indian government declared in 1969 to celebrate Sanskrit Diwas to promote and revive the ancient Indian language.

This day is dedicated to reviving the love for the beautiful and historically and culturally rich Sanskrit language. It is considered the mother of all Indian languages and one of the most ancient languages spoken in India.

August 26: Women's Equality Day

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

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

August 29: National Sports Day

The day is celebrated every year to mark the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand, wizard of Hockey. He won gold medals in Olympics for India successively in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936. On this day, the President gives away the National Sports Awards. Recently, the highest national award was renamed in his honour as the "Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award".

He is the only Hockey player to be honoured with Padma Bhushan.

August 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests

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

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

JULY

July 01: National Doctor's Day



This day is celebrated to thank the doctors and physicians for their relentless service to humanity. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted their role and the sacrifices and contributions made by them all over the world. This day gives a perfect opportunity to salute their work.

The day also marks the birthday (July 01, 1882) of noted Physician and former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (Bharat Ratna). Incidentally, he died on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years.

July 01: Chartered Accountants Day

The Day is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on this day in 1949 by an act of parliament. ICAI is the second largest accounting body in the world, after the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Notably,

ICAI is the only licensing and regulatory body for the financial audit and accounting profession in the country. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.

July 1: National Postal Worker Day

This day is celebrated to the recognition of postal workers across the world as a unique way to say 'thanks' to the postmen and all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us. During the pandemic, postal workers also emerged as frontline workers who even risked their lives to work tirelessly to ensure connectivity and communication by delivering mail and packages at every doorstep.

July 2: World Sports Journalists Day

It is observed globally every year to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. They are a vital link between sportspersons and fans. The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association.

July (3): The International Day of Cooperatives

Celebrated across the world every year on the first Saturday of July, to increase awareness about cooperatives and to promote ideas of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality and world peace.

The theme for 2021 is "Rebuild better together". More than one billion cooperative members worldwide continue to prove that no one needs to face a crisis like the pandemic on their own.

A cooperative is defined as a business setup that is owned and operated by all those who work for it and share the profit/loss.

July 6: World Zoonoses Day

Celebrated every year to raise awareness for the risk of zoonotic diseases. Zoonoses are infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa, either with direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne.

It was on this day in 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease.

July 10: National Fish Farmers' Day

The Day is celebrated with support from the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board to honor fishermen, aquapreneurs in appreciation of their achievements in the field of fisheries.

The day aims to draw attention to the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.

July 11: World Population Day

Supported by the UNO, the day seeks to bring attention to the urgency and importance of population related issues around the world. The day aims to highlight the difficulties created by overpopulation and raise awareness about how overpopulation may harm the ecosystem and progress of humanity.

According to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), this year's theme is "Rights and Choices are the Answer: Whether baby boom or bust, the solution to shifting fertility rates lies in prioritising all people's reproductive health and rights."

July 12: World Malala Day

Designated by the United Nations, this day commemorates the birthday of the young Pakistani human rights activist, Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. The day aims to honour the young woman who has been a prominent activist for female education since her early teens.

She founded the Malala Fund, a non-profit organisation in 2013 along with her father to ensure free, safe, quality school education for girls around the world.

July 14: Shark Awareness Day

Celebrated worldwide to promote awareness about the need to conserve Shark fish. The worldwide demand for shark-fin soup, shark-tooth medallions, and a false sense of security on beaches everywhere, all combine to leave sharks persecuted and endangered, with millions of them being killed each year. Overfishing is the biggest threat. An estimated 100 million sharks are killed each year, mostly to meet demand for an expensive Chinese dish called shark fin soup.

Sharks are the most popular predator fish found in deep and shallow waters throughout the world's oceans. They come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Most sharks eat smaller fish and invertebrates, but some of the larger species prey on other sea animals. Sharks do not have bones—they are made up of cartilage. They are called Elasmobranchs, which translates into fish made of cartilaginous tissues.

July 15: World Youth Skills Day

Observed with the support of UNESCO to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth by providing them with appropriate skills as a means to meet the challenges of unemployment. The day celebrates the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.

The theme this year is Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic. This year, the UN will pay tribute to the resilience and creativity of youth through the crisis.

July 17: World Day for International Justice

Observed all around the world to promote international criminal justice and as a way of supporting the work of the ICC - International Criminal Court based at the Hague, Netherlands. It is also known as **International Criminal Justice Day** or **International Justice Day**.

The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court. The day unites all those who wish to support justice, promote the rights of the victims, and also help in preventing crime that threatens the peace, security, and well-being of the world.

July 18: International Nelson Mandela Day



Observed every year with UN support in recognition of Nelson Mandela's contribution in promoting the culture of peace and freedom. The day commemorates the birthday of the great African leader. Like Gandhi Ji, he was the man who dethroned white Europeans from South Africa and became first Black President of South Africa in 1994. He was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

The theme of Mandela Day 2021 is "One Hand Can Feed Another". The theme highlights the importance of governments and citizens working together to build a peaceful, sustainable and equitable world for all.

July 20: World Chess Day

The United Nations celebrates this day to mark the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) on this day in Paris in 1924. It also provides an important platform to foster dialogue, solidarity and culture of peace along with recognizing the instrumental role played by the FIDE in supporting international cooperation for chess activity.

Invented in India in the fifth century, this board game was originally named "Chaturanga".

FIDE is based in Lausanne, Switzerland and Geoffrey D. Borg is its present CEO.

July 20: National Moon Day (USA)

Also called "Space Exploration Day", it commemorates the day man first walked on the moon in 1969. NASA reported the moon landing as being "...the single greatest technological achievement of all time."

On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 carried the first humans to the moon. Six hours after landing on the moon, American Neil Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface. He spent two and a half hours outside the spacecraft. His fellow astronaut, Buzz Aldrin soon followed, stepping onto the lunar surface.

July 22: National Mango Day

The day is celebrated to honour the 'National Fruit' of India, also known as 'King of Fruits'. Mango, besides being very delicious, is also rich in vitamin A and C, Potassium, fibre and Vitamin B-6, making it a very important superfood for our body. It is one of the most popular and widely cultivated fruits of the tropical world.

The scientific name of Mango is Mangifera Indica and is a member of the cashew family (Anacardiaceae).

July 22: World Brain Day

The day is dedicated to raising awareness and promoting advocacy related to brain health. This year, the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and MS International Federation (MSIF) are at the forefront, leading the campaign to spread awareness about multiple sclerosis (MS), a neurological disease whose effects range from cognitive impairment to significant physical disability. The theme of this year's celebrations is "Stop Multiple Sclerosis".

July 23: National Broadcasting Day

The day is observed to commemorate the first ever radio broadcast in the country that went on the air on this day in 1927, from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company. The company failed in 1930 and the government took it over and named it Indian State Broadcasting Service. Later, on June 8, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio, the official radio broadcaster of India.

July 24: Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrates this day to commemorate the introduction of income tax for the first time on this day in 1860 by Sir James Wilson. The tax was levied to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence in 1857.

First Income Tax Day was celebrated in 2010. Several outreach programmes are organized across the country to celebrate the Day to promote payment of taxes as a value norm and for sensitizing potential tax payers that payment of taxes was an ethical duty of all citizens.

July 26: Kargil Vijay Diwas

This year is the 22nd anniversary of Kargil Vijay. The day is named after the successful 'Operation Vijay' on July 26 in 1999, when India regained control of the high mountain outposts which had been stealthily taken over by Pakistan.

In the history of independent India, the Kargil War will be remembered as the fiercest and the most valiant operations conducted by the Indian Army. It is estimated that as many as 527 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives while more than 1,300 were injured. The main function to pay tributes to the martyrs is held at the Kargil War Memorial in the Drass area of Ladakh.



July 26: World Mangrove Day



Each year the day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

Also known as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, it was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015.

Mangroves are extraordinary ecosystems, located at the interface of land and sea in tropical regions, which offer a considerable array of ecosystem goods and services. They not only provide sustainable livelihoods to millions of people but also function as a protective barrier for its inhabitants from natural calamities by taking the lashes on itself.

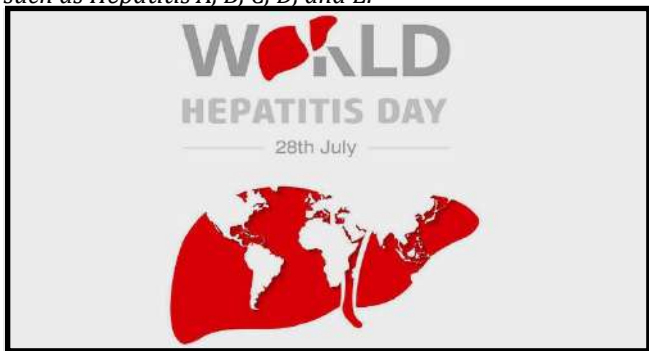
The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 hectares), is spread over the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers in West Bengal and adjoining areas of Bangladesh.

July 28: World Hepatitis Day

The day provides an opportunity to step up national and international efforts to counter Hepatitis and highlight the need for a greater global response to fight against Hepatitis. The day commemorates the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for it.

Supported by the WHO, this year's theme is "Hepatitis can't wait". With a person dying every 30 seconds from a hepatitis related illness – even in the current COVID-19 crisis – we can't wait to act on viral hepatitis.

Hepatitis refers to an inflammatory condition of the liver, usually caused by a viral infection. It has several variants such as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.



July 28: World Nature Conservation Day

This Day is observed to increase awareness about the best practices to protect our natural resources. It aims to create and increase awareness about the importance of natural resources and how one can live sustainably. The day encourages people to save and protect Earth's natural resources that are fast-depleting owing to over-exploitation and even misuse.

We can promote conservation and sustainability of nature by adopting measures like planting more trees, conserving energy, using green fuels, saving water and avoiding use of single-use plastics.

July 29: Global Tiger Day

Also known as the International Tiger Day, it is observed every year to create awareness about tiger conservation and protection of their natural habitat. At Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia in 2010, Governments of tiger populated countries had vowed to double tiger population by 2020. India has achieved this target as the Tiger Estimation Report 2018 says that India now has 2967 tigers. MP has the highest numbers - 526, closely followed by Karnataka at 524. India has the largest number of tigers in the world.

July 30: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Observed with support from UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to raise awareness about the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.

This year's theme is "Victims' Voices Lead the Way", focusing on highlighting the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking as they are key actors in the fight against human trafficking.

Human trafficking refers to the crimes that exploit women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Since 2003 UNODC has collected information on about 225,000 victims of trafficking detected worldwide and many more are reported by countries across the globe.

July 31: The World Ranger Day

The day aims to commemorate the Rangers who lost their lives or got wounded while on duty and to celebrate the work that Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage. It was on this day in 1992 that the International Ranger Federation (IRF) was founded in Britain.

A Ranger is a person tasked with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas. A Ranger typically refers to a forest ranger or a park ranger. They provide recreational opportunities and interpretation of sites while providing links between local communities, protected areas and area administration.

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

Bullet News

(March 2021 – June 2021)

For details visit – www.gyanm.in

NATIONAL NEWS

JUNE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed a UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought' on June 14.
- Sh. Modi is the President of the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The World Giving Index 2021 released by the UK based Charities Aid Foundation ranked India as the 14th most generous country in the world. Indonesia topped the index.
- India and the USA launched a hydrogen task force under the aegis of Strategic Clean Energy Partnership to provide a push to India's energy security efforts.
- Green hydrogen gas is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolyzer that may be powered by electricity generated from renewable energy sources.
- India hosted a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of BRICS states on June 1. It was chaired by external affairs minister S Jaishankar.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the 18th edition of the World's International University rankings on June 9.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has been ranked as number one University in the world in the research category.
- The US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was ranked number one.
- The World Bank approved a \$ 500 million program to help boost India's 5.50 lakh MSMEs.
- India has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC for the three-year term Jan. 2022- Dec. 2024.
- The World Competitiveness Index by Switzerland based Institute for Management Development

(IMD) ranked India at 43rd spot in a list of 64 nations.

- The Index is topped by Switzerland, followed by Sweden at second place.
- The Global Peace Index by the Institute for Economics and Peace, ranked India pretty low at 135th rank.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, since 2008. Afghanistan continues to be at the bottom at 163rd rank, behind Yemen and Syria.
- The State of India's Environment Report 2021 revealed that India slipped by two places from last year to 117 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MAY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders' Meeting on May 9 (in virtual mode) as a special invitee of European Council President, Charles Michel.
- The meeting was hosted by Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, as Portugal currently holds the Presidency of the E U Council.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson participated in the India UK Virtual Summit on May 04.
- They adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
- The Drugs Controller General of India has given its approval for the emergency use of the anti-COVID drug- 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) developed by DRDO.
- The Indian Navy launched "Operation Samudra Setu-II" to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic.

- India received over \$ 83 billion in remittances in 2020, highest in the world, according to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief.
- Remittance outflow was the maximum from the United States (\$ 68 billion), followed by UAE (\$ 43 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$ 34.5 billion).
- India has been placed at 49th position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index. Finland secured the top position in the Index.
- Jupitice Justice Technologies, a Chandigarh-based legal tech startup, has launched the world's first private digital platform to conduct virtual arbitration, conciliation, mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

APRIL

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The IISc Bangalore secured the top position among the best higher education institutes in India, as per the Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2020.
- The EIU-Facebook Inclusive Internet Index 2021 ranked India at 49th spot. The index was topped by Sweden, followed by the USA and Spain.
- India has fallen 28 places to 140th spot in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021, covering 156 countries. Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 12th time.
- World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders, Paris placed India pretty low at 142nd position (out of 180 countries). Norway retained its top spot for the fifth year.
- The World Economic Forum and Accenture released the Energy Transition Index. India was ranked at the 87th position among 115 countries. Sweden secured the first position followed by Norway and Denmark.

MARCH

- P M Narendra Modi visited capital Dhaka on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on March 26-27. He addressed the National Day Programme of Bangladesh in Dhaka.
- The visit was in connection with the commemoration of the birth centenary of Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, called 'Father of the Nation in Bangladesh'.

- India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years.
- US Defence Secretary (counterpart of our defence minister) Lloyd J Austin III visited India on March 19 for a three-day visit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a Virtual Summit with Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland, on March 16.
- PM Modi held a virtual summit with his Swedish counterpart Stefan Löfven on March 5.
- India began its BRICS Chairship for 2021 with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting on Feb 24-26 at New Delhi.
- The theme for this year is "BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus".
- Prime Minister Modi flagged off a Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Dandi in district Navsari (Gujarat) on March 12.
- It marked the beginning of mega event 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.
- A National Implementation Committee set up headed by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to plan celebrations of the 75 years of India's Independence.
- The Maritime India Summit-2021 was held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4 to discuss a roadmap for India's Maritime sector for next decade.
- The United Nations Development Program- UNDP launched a campaign named 'Sahi Disha' (Right Direction) to facilitate and promote women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the rural India.
- Google launched 'Women Will' web platform to help one million women in rural India.
- It will help them become entrepreneurs through business tutorials, tools and mentorship, as part of the Google Internet Saathi programme.
- The UN General Assembly adopted on March 3 an India sponsored resolution and supported by over 70 nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- Millets are coarse grains such as jowar (sorghum), ragi (finger millet), bajra (pearl millet).
- The Shipping Corporation of India flagged off an 'All Women Officers' Sailing' crew on the cargo ship MT Swarna Krishna from Mumbai.
- This was the first time in the world maritime history that a ship was being sailed by all women officers.
- Government has decided to merge the Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV channels. The new channel will now be known as Sansad TV.

- The Human Performance Indicator for Asia Pacific has shown that India is at the top with 81 percent of high performers practising flexible working, including flexible hours and work-from-home.
- According to UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2020, Switzerland is the most prepared nation for adopting e-commerce. India was placed at 71st spot.
- The UN World Happiness Report 2021 ranked world's 149 countries on "how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be".
- India has been placed low at 139th rank. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world.
- The International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2021 evaluated the status of IP rights in 53 economies. The USA topped the Index while India was placed at 40th rank.
- The "Economic Freedom Index" for 184 countries, ranked the countries based on the extent of freedom available in four fields – Rule of Law, Government Size, Regulatory Efficiency, and Open Markets.
- Singapore topped the rankings for the second consecutive year, while India scored low in the Index securing 121st rank.

NEWS FROM STATES

JUNE

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index by NITI Aayog placed Kerala at the top with 75 points on a score of 100.
- In the Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21, Madhya Pradesh secured first position with a score of 64.1 followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.
- Punjab Government initiated for the first time in India, the usage of eIDs equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.
- It was introduced in Punjab Mandi Board. These cards will be used primarily as an authentication tool.
- Odisha became the only Indian state to have all 3 major kinds of crocodile species in River Mahanadi: Saltwater crocodiles, Muggers, and freshwater Gharials.
- The Ease of Living Index 2020, released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on June 16 named Bengaluru as the most livable city of India.

MAY

- Jharkhand topped the recent ranking released by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, based on the progress of the implementation of the Smart City Mission's schemes.

- The Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has been given the 'Best BMC in India' award.
- The India Biodiversity Awards were given by the National Biodiversity Authority of the union ministry of environment, forests & climate change.
- Karnataka topped in establishing Health & Wellness Centres under the Ayushman Bharat Program to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas in 2020-21.
- Assam became the first Indian state to have a real-time digital flood reporting system Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS).
- FRIMS has been developed jointly by Assam State Disaster Management Agency and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India, including IOC, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL, inked a MoU with the Shri Badrinath Utthaan Charitable Trust.
- The MoU is for construction and redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand as a Spiritual Smart hill Town.

APRIL

- 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.
- Rajasthan became the first state in the country to provide free health insurance up to Rs. 5 lakh under Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme to all the citizens of the state.

MARCH

- The government declared Lakshadweep and Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district to be first in the country to be free from TB. Among states, Himachal Pradesh was declared first under the National TB Elimination Programme.
- As per the 'Ease of Living Index' by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Bengaluru topped as the most liveable city among 111 cities covered in the index, followed by Pune, and Ahmedabad.
- Manipur has been declared as the best state under the government's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana for generating maximum employment for the local tribals.
- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs released the Municipal Performance Index for the 111 Indian cities.
- Indore Municipality topped in the million plus category, while New Delhi Municipal Council topped in less than million category.

- The First Forest Healing centre of the country was inaugurated at Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.
- The centre has been developed after research on the healing properties of the forests and their impact on overall health and wellbeing.
- Country's first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal was launched at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.
- The terminal has been launched for meeting export/ import operations of international couriers.
- The Maitri Setu (Friendship Bridge) was inaugurated on river Feni connecting Sabroom in South Tripura to Ramgarh in Bangladesh on March 9.
- The bridge will connect landlocked Tripura with Chittagong port in Bangladesh and other inland waterways.
- Govt has selected 12 tourist sites spanning across nine states and UTs under the Swachh Iconic Places initiative of the newly formed Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Leh, a great seat of Buddhism in Ladakh has been shortlisted under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme.
- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. Almost 900 years old monastery was buried under a mound in a village of Jharkhand.

GOVT INITIATIVES

JUNE

- The Department of Biotechnology launched "Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)" in northeast region.
- It will focus on the problems of the local farmers and provide scientific solutions to those problems.
- The Central Government approved the Deep Ocean Mission to tap vast marine living and non-living resources, conduct research on deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- The Home Ministry operationalised the national Helpline 155260 and a Reporting Platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber frauds.
- The Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System provides a mechanism for persons cheated in cyber frauds to report such cases to prevent loss of their hard-earned money
- The Labour and Employment Ministry constituted an expert group chaired by Ajit Mishra, to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor level for minimum wages.
- The SAGE (Senior care Ageing Growth Engine) portal launched on June 4 to help elderly persons.

SAGE will select, support and create a 'one-stop access' of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.

- Ministry of Education launched 'YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors'. YUVA stands for Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.
- It is an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors, below 30 years of age. It will be implemented by the National Book Trust.
- The Union Cabinet approved the draft of Model Tenancy Act (MTA) for adoption and enactment by States and UTs to promote rental housing in the country. The MTA seeks to cover urban as well as rural areas.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched on May 29 an online tracking portal "Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)" for children affected by COVID-19, needing care and protection, all over India.
- Government announced on May 29, a number of welfare measures under the PM CARES for Children Scheme for children who lost their parents due to COVID-19 pandemic, starting from March 11, 2020.
- **PM CARES:** Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations

MAY

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs plans to set up 10 'One-Stop Centres' (OSCs).
- The OSCs will be set up across nine countries to provide comprehensive support to Indian women affected by violence in public or private places.
- The Union Power Ministry plans to set up a National Mission on the use of biomass in coal-based thermal power plants.
- It will reduce air pollution caused by farm-stubble burning and reduce the carbon footprints of thermal power generation by using farm stubble and other such organic bio-waste as fuel for generating power.
- The National Bamboo Mission launched an MIS (Management Information Systems) based reporting platform for agarbatti stick production.
- It will collate the locations of stick making units, availability of raw material, functioning of the units, production capacity, and marketing.

APRIL

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme launched to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.



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- 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.
- NIXI was set up in 2003 to facilitate improved internet services in the country.
- Government launched Aahaar Kranti, a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition.
- The movement aims to highlight richness of India's traditional diet, healing powers of local fruits and vegetables and the miracles of a balanced diet.
- TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village and Digital Connect Drive.
- It aims to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in tribal villages, provide them assistance in marketing products and MSP for forest produce.
- 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.
- 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.
- MANAS App launched to promote wellbeing across all age groups. MANAS stands for Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
- The app aims to augment mental well-being of Indian citizens.
- The app integrates the health and wellness initiatives of various ministries, scientifically validated indigenous tools developed by various national research institutions.
- Government released an implementation plan for school education under National Education Policy 2020, called "Students" and Teachers" Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)".
- It would benefit all stakeholders including 25 crore students, 15 lakh schools, 94 lakh teachers.
- e-SaNta portal launched 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".
- National Centre for Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
- 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.

- Govt launched an online Grievance Management Portal of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes to facilitate online filing of complaints.
- A mobile app "Little Guru" launched to enable the user to learn Sanskrit, the ancient language of the country, often called the 'Language of the Gods'.
- Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has proposed up to 25% tax concession on the purchase of new vehicles on submission of scrappage certificate.
- Purchase of personal vehicles will get 25% concession with vehicle scrappage certificate while for commercial vehicles, the tax relief will be 15%.

MARCH

- Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign launched for both rural and urban areas, with the theme "catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls".
- The National Highways Authority of India has decided to develop world class 'Wayside Amenities' at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years.
- The amenities will include numerous facilities such as Fuel Station, Electric Charging, Food Court, Retail Shops, ATM, Toilets, Children Playing Area, Clinic, Village Haat for local handicrafts etc.
- Government launched an ambitious scheme "Gram Ujala", for offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a nominal cost of Rs. 10 per bulb.
- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched Mera Ration Mobile App for the benefit of those ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood.
- Railway has integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 which is Rail Madad Helpline for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey.
- The Women and Child Development Ministry has decided to classify all its major programmes under three Umbrella Schemes- Mission Shakti, Mission Poshan 2.0, and Mission Vatsalya- for their better implementation.
- Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for people with disabilities and even the elderly to register issues regarding physical accessibility to buildings, in modes of transport by uploading pictures on it.
- Government has decided to form a Centre of Excellence in online gaming with focus on VFX and Animation in collaboration with IIT Bombay.
- UGC has approved Chartered Accountant (CA), Company Secretary (CS) or Cost and Works Accountant (ICWA) degrees as equivalent to postgraduate degree.
- The government announced new policies for regulation of content on social media and over the top (OTT) platforms.

- Now the govt can ask the social platforms to reveal the first originator of any message that appears to be anti-national and detrimental to the security and sovereignty of the country.
- Further, all such messages may be asked to be removed within 36 hours of it being flagged under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000.
- Streaming services like Netflix, Amazon and Google's YouTube, etc. must self-regulate and classify content in categories according to age.

ECONOMY

JUNE

- As per latest CSO data, the Indian economy contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21, its worst recession since independence.
- GDP at current prices for the FY 2020-21 was estimated at Rs. 197.46 lakh crore (203.51 lakh crore in 2019-20). Per capita income for 2020-21 was estimated at Rs. 1.29 lakh.
- The ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution made the BIS hallmarking of gold mandatory from June 16 to ensure quality of gold.
- In the seven months ending May 31, 2021, Malaysia surpassed Indonesia to become India's biggest Crude Palm Oil exporter in 2020-21.
- In a breakthrough, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) launched on May 31 the "World's 1st Nano Urea Liquid".
- Nano Urea will replace conventional urea and may curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%.
- In a landmark deal the Bharti Airtel and Tata Group joined hands for a strategic partnership for implementing 5G networks solutions for India.

MAY

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released the Third Advance Estimates of Principal Crops for 2020-21.
- India is expected to register record foodgrain production of 305.44 million tonnes in the year 2020-21, 7.94 million tonnes higher than the previous high of 297.50 million tonnes in 2019-20.
- India attracted the highest ever total FDI inflow of \$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21.
- Gujarat received the highest share, 37% of total FDI. In terms of investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29% share, followed by the USA (23%).
- The Finance Ministry notified final rules for raising foreign investment limit to 74 per cent (from 49% earlier) in the insurance sector, which came into effect on May 19, 2021.
- Tata Communications announced the launch of the 'School of Hope and Empowerment' (S.H.E.) at the 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

- S.H.E. is a multi-media, multi-stakeholder communications initiative that aims to inspire at least a million women to realise their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs.

APRIL

- 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 or SAC code on the invoices issued.
HSN: Harmonised System of Nomenclature
SAC: Service Accounting Code

MARCH

- Agriculture Ministry released the second advance estimates of production of principal crops in the year 2020-21.
- Country's foodgrain production is projected at a record 303.34 million tonnes for crop year 2020-21. The crop year in India is from July to June.
- In a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was sent to the USA on March 4.
- Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer.
- China pushed USA to 2nd spot to emerge India's biggest trade partner in 2020 as India continued to rely on import of machinery and telecom equipment from China.
- Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to Rs. 5 lakh per annum in specified cases as against 2.5 lakh rupees proposed in the Budget.

BANKING & FINANCE

JUNE

- The Ministry of Finance has allowed housing finance companies with asset size of over Rs. 100 crores to recover their dues under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.
- Earlier, only HFCs with assets over Rs. 500 crore were allowed to use SARFAESI law to recover their dues.
- State-owned Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth during FY 2020-21.
- DBS Bank has been named by Forbes in their Indian list of World's Best Banks 2021. DBS was ranked #1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the second consecutive year.

MAY

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank on May 28 for violation of provisions under various sections of the Banking Regulation Act.
- RBI decided to transfer Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to Centre for nine months ended March 31, 2021.
- The RBI also approved a Rs 1,76,000 crore (\$24.8 billion) dividend payment made to the government, including Rs 1,48,000 crore for FY20.
- Now money kept in various online wallets like Amazon pay, Ola money, Mobikwik, Phone pe, etc. can be withdrawn using an ATM or PoS.
- RBI permitted all non-bank payment prepaid instruments (PPIs) cash withdrawal of up to Rs. 2,000 per transaction, maximum Rs. 10,000 per month.
- The Reserve Bank of India joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Paris as a Member.
- IDBI Bank launched its fully digitised, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its MSME and Agri borrowers.

APRIL

- The government has decided to keep the inflation-targeting framework for the RBI unchanged at 4%, with a 2-percentage point leeway on either side, for the next five-year period beginning 1 April, 2021.
- The RBI has capped the tenure of MD & CEO of commercial banks to a max. of 15 years. The same limit will also apply to whole time directors – WTDs.
- The upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in private banks has been retained at 70 years.
- The RBI constituted a panel headed by former Executive Director of RBI, Sudarshan Sen to review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies.
- The Reserve Bank has decided to set up a new Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0).
- It will review regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures of RBI for making them more effective and efficient
- The RRA headed by M Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, will have a time frame of one year.
- The govt has amended the Post Office Savings Account Scheme rules to allow certain people to open zero balance basic savings accounts with the post office.
- The RBI enhanced the limit of max balance limit in individual customers' accounts in Payments Bank to Rs 2 lakh from Rs. One lakh earlier.
- The RBI has decided to bring out a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) that will gauge the extent of financial inclusion in the country.

- The index will be published in July every year for the financial year ending previous March.
- 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.
- India's leading digital financial services provider Paytm launched on April 26 India's first video-based wealth community called the "Paytm Wealth Community".

MARCH

- The RBI has set up an external advisory committee to evaluate applications for "on-tap" licensing of universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs).
- The committee will be chaired by the former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath. The panel will have a tenure of three years.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI) with an initial capital infusion of 20 thousand crore rupees.
- The DFI will raise long-term funds for infrastructure development projects in the country.
- Govt lifted embargo on private sector banks for conduct of government business related transactions such as tax collection and other revenue payment facilities, pension payment and small saving schemes.
- RBI has asked all banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System in all branches by Sep. 30 this year to facilitate faster settlement of cheques.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for millions of Indian merchants.
- This will transform NFC (Near Field Communication) enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers.
- On March 10, Axis Bank became the first bank in India to launch its own range of wearable contactless payment devices.
- Dubbed as 'Wear N Pay', these are available in many forms as arm band, key chain and watch loop.

DEFENCE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JUNE

- The Union Cabinet approved a plan on June 16 to scrap the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), under the Ministry of Defence.

- The 41 ordnance factories will be converted into seven function oriented corporate entities on the lines of Defence Public Sector Undertakings, fully owned by the government.
- Three indigenously-built Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) MK III were inducted into Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on June 12.
- Three ALH MK-III Helicopters were inducted in the Indian Navy at the Indian Naval Station Dega, in Visakhapatnam on June 7.
- INS Sandhayak, the first indigenously designed and built hydrographic survey ship of Indian Navy was decommissioned on June 4 after serving the nation for 40 years.
- Indian Naval Ships and aircrafts participated in a Passage Exercise with US Navy Carrier Strike Group Ronald Reagan during its transit through Indian Ocean Region on June 23-24.
- Indian Navy's warship INS Trikanth participated in the maiden IN – EUNAVFOR (European Union Naval Force) Joint Naval Exercise in the Gulf of Aden on June 18-19.
- Ships of the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participated in a joint naval exercise on June 13 in the Indian Ocean.
- India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was held in the Andaman Sea from June 9 to 11.
- China successfully sent its three astronauts to the country's Tiangong (Heavenly Palace) space station onboard spaceship Shenzhou-12 (Divine Vessel).
- The scientists in China have designed an 'Artificial Sun' on Earth that has sustained a temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius.
- The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak fusion reactor designed by China burns at 8 times the Sun's core temperature of 15 million C.

MAY

- India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas added 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability on April 27.
- INS Rajput, the first destroyer of the Indian Navy, was finally decommissioned on May 21 at Visakhapatnam Dockyard, putting an end to a glorious era of 41 years of outstanding services.
- The U.S. government approved the proposed sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment on April 30. The deal is estimated to cost \$2.42 billion.
- Indian and Indonesian navies carried out a military drill 'Passage' exercise (PASSEX) in the Southern Arabian Sea on May 8.
- The first batch of women military police comprising 83 soldiers was inducted into the Army at the Corps of Military Police Centre and School in Bengaluru.

- China successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) into orbit on May 19.
- China succeeded for the first time in landing a spacecraft on Mars on May 15. The six-wheeled rover Zhurong robot landed in Utopia Planitia region of Mars.
- China launched a robot prototype named 'NEO-01', in the Earth's low orbit, that will use a large net to capture debris left behind by other spacecrafts and then burn it using its electric propulsion system.
- China successfully sent a new remote sensing satellite, Yaogan-34 to be used for the survey of land resources, urban planning, crop yield estimation, and disaster prevention and reduction.
- A team of researchers from the marine research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM built the world's first AI ship, the 'Mayflower 400'.
- The unmanned 15-mt -long trimaran that weighs nine tons is a completely autonomous ship powered by Artificial Intelligence and solar power.
- NASA's Perseverance rover has successfully created, for the first time, oxygen from the thin atmospheric carbon dioxide present on Mars.
- The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment aboard the rover on Mars carried out the experiment on 20 April.

APRIL

- India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector, using a micro electro-mechanical system, called NanoSniffer.
- 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.
- The Indian Navy participated in a France-led multi nation naval drill named "La Perouse", from April 5 to 7 in the Bay of Bengal.
- **VARUNA-2021:** The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise was held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27.
- **Khanjar:** The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was held 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 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.
- **India and the US** held a two-day naval PASSEX exercise on March 28-29 in the Bay of Bengal.

- **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 kilometres.
- 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.
- NASA's Mars helicopter named 'Ingenuity' made history by making, for the first time, a successful flight on Mars on April 19.

MARCH

- According to defence website Military Direct, China with 82 points has the strongest military force in the world.
- The USA, despite its enormous military budgets, came in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India – 61 and then France with 58 points.
- In terms of military spending, the USA is at the top with a budget of \$ 732 billion per year, followed by China (\$261 billion), and India - \$71 billion.
- Indian Coast Guard ship 'Vajra' was commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24. The ship was indigenously designed and built by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding Ltd.
- The Ministry of Defence placed an order with Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Hyderabad for supply of 4,960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles at a cost of Rs 1,188 crore.
- India is set to commission its first advanced surveillance ship INS Dhruv to track satellites, strategic missiles and map the Indian Ocean bed.
- DRDO successfully tested the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology for the long-range air to air missiles from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.
- The INS Shardul and MNS Trozona of Madagascar carried out their first Passage Exercise (PASSEX) on 24 March in western Indian Ocean near Madagascar.
- The Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Bahrain Naval Force under Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf on March 17.
- DUSTLIK-II: Second edition of the India – Uzbekistan joint military exercise was held in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand from March 10 to 19.
- Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise Desert Flag on March 3 along with France and the United States in the UAE.
- India signed a key pact with the Philippines for supply of defence material and equipment, including BrahMos Cruise Missiles to the Philippines.
- Indian Air Force gifted a legacy Alouette III helicopter to the Bangladesh Air Force to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of 1971 War of

Liberation. Bangladesh Air Force in return gifted a legacy F-86 Sabre fighter jet to India.

- France launched the world's first military exercise codenamed ASTREX in space from March 8 to 12 aimed at testing the country's abilities to protect its satellites and other defence equipment from other space forces.
- A Bengaluru based deep-tech start-up 'Log 9 Materials' announced the launch of a rapid charging battery technology for electric vehicles.
- ISRO and NASA jointly developed a Synthetic Aperture Radar- SAR capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint Earth observation satellite mission that will be launched by ISRO in early 2022.
- ISRO successfully launched surveillance satellite 'Sindhu Netra' on Feb 28. It has been developed by the DRDO to monitor activities of both military warships and merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean.
- Based on supercapacitor technology and 'Graphene', these batteries can be fully charged in just 15 minutes and have a longer life of over 15 years.
- ISRO launched 19 satellites from Brazil, USA and India on board the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C51 (PSLV-C51) rocket from Sriharikota on Feb 28.
- Of the 19 satellites, Brazil's 637-kilogram Amazonia 1 optical earth observation satellite was the primary passenger.
- The world's most powerful supercomputer named "Fugaku", developed by RIKEN and Fujitsu of Japan, is now available for research work. It has astonishing high speed of processing of 442 petaflops.
- A Japanese-Australian venture has begun producing hydrogen from brown coal in a test project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced and exported safely to Japan.
- The Russian space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its first satellite "Arktika-M" to monitor the Arctic's climate and environment.

INTERNATIONAL

JUNE

- The leaders of the G7 countries met at the seaside resort of Carbis Bay, Cornwall in the UK on June 11-13, under the Presidency Britain.
- UK prime Minister invited India, along with Australia, South Korea and South Africa, as Guest Countries for the 47th G7 Summit. The theme for the Summit was 'Build Back Better'.
- The G7 leaders launched a new global infrastructure initiative "Build Back Better World" (B3W) to help developing nations, aimed at countering China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- The G-7 finance ministers in their meeting in London agreed in principle to a global minimum tax rate of 15 per cent for multinational companies in each country they operate in.
- Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and the United Arab Emirates were elected unopposed on June 11 to the powerful UN Security Council as non-permanent members for the 2022-23 term.
- The International Criminal Police Organisation, known as Interpol, launched a global database named 'I-Familia'
- It aims to identify the missing individuals through family DNA and to help police solve the old cases in the member countries.
- El Salvador has become the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as a legal tender. However, its use will be optional and would not bring risks to users.
- Seven south Asian countries observed the 24th foundation Day of BIMSTEC on June 6.
- **BIMSTEC:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation with HQ at Dhaka.
- The United Nations launched the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration-2021 to 2030. The event will be co-led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- Several warships and dozens of aircrafts took part in NATO military exercises stretching across the Atlantic, through Europe and into the Black Sea region.
- The war games, named Steadfast Defender 21, were aimed at simulating the NATO's response to an attack on any one of its members.
- NATO is an alliance of countries from Europe and North America.
- In a major policy shift from the existing limit of two children per couple, China announced on May 31 that married couples may have up to three children.

MAY

- The WHO and Switzerland signed a memorandum of understanding to launch the First WHO Biohub Facility.
- It will allow convenient sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and global partners.
- The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven countries -7 was held in London on May 4-5.

APRIL

- 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 summit's theme was "Our Collective Sprint to 2030".

- Some leading not-for-profit environmental and social organisations have come together to form the Blue Nature Alliance.
- Launched on April 20, it has raised \$125 million to protect the ocean from environmental threats.
- Singapore became the first country to complete the official process for ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement.
- It is the world's largest Free Trade Agreement, signed by all 10 ASEAN members and 5 key partners in Nov. 2020.
- The Henley Passport Index was topped by Japan, enjoying visa free access to 193 countries, followed by Singapore – 192 countries.
- It ranked Indian passport at number 84 as it enjoys Visa Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.
- 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 years terms, till 2036.
- The 68-years old President has already been in power for more than two decades and his current tenure will continue till end 2024.

MARCH

- Norway plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadhavet Sea.
- The 1700 metre long, 37 metre high and 26.5-metre-wide tunnel will burrow through the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in northwestern Norway.
- The First Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12. Prime Ministers of India, Australia, Japan and US President participated in the Summit.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated virtually in the First Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting on Feb 26 under the Italian Presidency.
- The 11th edition of the QS World University Rankings placed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA at top for the ninth year in a row.
- Australia's Parliament on Feb 25 passed amendments to their News Media Bargaining Code as per which Facebook agreed to lift a ban on Australians accessing and sharing news.
- The new rules force online platforms like Google and Facebook to pay for news they source from local media.

PERSONS IN NEWS

JUNE

Nagaraj Naidu: The Indian Deputy Ambassador to the UN, has become the first Indian diplomat to be appointed as Chef de Cabinet to the President of the UN General Assembly.

Satya Nadella: Microsoft's India-born CEO was named the company's Chairman on June 16, in place of John Thompson who will now be Lead Independent Director.

Antonio Guterres: UN Secretary General was granted a second five-year term in the office, wef January 1, 2022.

Tsang Yin-hung: The 45-year-old school teacher from Hong Kong created a new world record by climbing the Mount Everest in just 25:50 hours (from the base camp), becoming the fastest woman to scale the peak. She beat the earlier record of 39 hours and 6 minutes, which was set by a Nepali woman climber, Phunjo Jhangmu Lama in 2018.

MAY

Ms. Jacinda Ardern: Prime Minister of New Zealand secured the top spot on Fortune magazine's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders.

Sir David Attenborough: Renowned English broadcaster and natural historian was named as the "People's Advocate" of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021, under the Chairmanship of UK.

Kami Rita: 51-year-old Sherpa guide scaled Mount Everest for the 25th time on May 7, breaking his own record for the most ascents of the world's highest peak.

APRIL

The Great Khali: India's first WWE 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.

MARCH

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

JUNE

Arun Kumar Mishra: A retired Supreme Court Judge, was appointed as the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC in New Delhi, by the President of India.

Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair: Appointed as the 21st Director General of the Assam Rifles, a paramilitary force based in Shillong, Meghalaya.

T.V. Narendran: CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel, elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22.

Abdulla Shahid: Foreign Minister of Maldives elected as the President of 76th United Nations General Assembly.

Nikol Pashinyan: Elected as the Prime Minister of Armenia, a tiny country east of Turkey.

Ebrahim Raisi: Former judiciary chief elected as the new President of Iran.

Henri Marie Dondra: Appointed as the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, a land-locked country in central Africa.

Naftali Bennett: Former defence minister and a high-tech millionaire, was sworn-in as the 13th Prime Minister of Israel.

Isaac Herzog: Elected as Israel's 11th President by the parliament of Israel - Knesset.

Ukhnaa Khurelsukh: Former Mongolian Prime Minister became the country's sixth democratically elected President.

MAY

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal: The 1985-batch IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre, appointed as the next regular Director of the CBI.

Himanta Biswa Sarma: Elected as the new chief minister of Assam.

MK Stalin: President of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

N Rengasamy: The NR Congress Chief was sworn in as the Chief Minister of UT of Puducherry.

T Rabi Sankar: Appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI for a period of three years, by the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet.

Jose J Kattoor: Appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India by the RBI.

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

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

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

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

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

Penpa Tsering: Elected as the President of the Central Tibetan Administration, elected Parliamentary government of Tibet, based in Dharamshala, HP.

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

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

APRIL

Justice NV Ramana: Appointed as the 48th Chief Justice of India by the President Ram Nath Kovind. He took oath on April 24.

Sushil Chandra: The senior-most Election Commissioner was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India by the President of India.

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

Tarun Bajaj: Appointed as the new Revenue Secretary under the Ministry of Finance.

Ajay Seth: Appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

Mallika Srinivasan: Appointed as the Chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

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).

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.

Guillermo Lasso: Won Ecuador's presidential elections.

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, a tiny country in northeast Europe.

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, a small country in central Europe.

MARCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AWARDS & HONOURS

JUNE

International Booker Prize: David Diop became the first French writer to win the prestigious prize for his novel, *At Night All Blood is Black* (originally titled "Frère d'ame" in French).

The £50,000 prize will be split between Diop and the book's translator (from French to English)- US author and poet Anna Moschovakis.

MAY

Lifetime Award in honour of Satyajit Ray

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

The Award will carry a cash prize of 10 lakh, a certificate, Shawl, along with a Silver Peacock medal and a Scroll.

International Eni Award 2020: Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao has been honoured with this prestigious global award for his research in renewable energy sources and energy storage.

WILD Innovator Award 2021: Dr. Krithi K Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for this award.

Rudolf V Schindler Award: Noted gastroenterologist Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, was selected for this esteemed award by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

International Invincible Gold Medal: Conferred on Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.

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

"Order of Rising Sun": Third highest civilian award of Japan was awarded to Shyamala Ganesh, a teacher of Japanese at the Septuagenarian Institution and at the Ohara School of Ikebana in Bengaluru.

World Food Prize 2021: Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, a global nutrition expert of Indian descent, won the prestigious prize for her ground breaking research in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems.

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

Millennium Technology Prize: One million Euro (\$1.22 million) prize awarded to Cambridge University professors Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman for creating ever faster and cheaper ways to sequence the human genome.

Billboard 2021 Music Awards: The popular music award show of the USA was held on May 23 in Los Angeles.

Canadian singer-songwriter Abel Makkonen Tesfaye who is professionally known as 'Weeknd' dominated the ceremony with 10 awards, including the iconic Top Artist Trophy.

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

APRIL

Saraswati Samman, 2020: Awarded to noted Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale for his book 'Sanatan'. The award carries 15 lakh rupees cash prize.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019: Highest film award from the government side has been conferred on legendary actor and producer Rajinikanth. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh and a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus).

The 66th Filmfare Awards for the year 2020 were given on 28 March in Mumbai.

Best Film: Thappad by Anubhav Sinha

Best Director: Om Raut, *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).

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 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: Frances McDormand for Nomadland

Best Actor: Anthony Hopkins for The Father

The British Academy Film & Television Awards-BAFTA 2021 were announced in London.

Best Film: Nomadland by Ms. Chloe Zhao, USA

Best Director: Ms. Chloe Zhao for Nomadland

Best Actress: Frances McDormand for Nomadland

Best 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.

MARCH

The 67th National Film Awards – 2019

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 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.

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

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

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

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

U N’s Asia Environmental Enforcement Award: In a first for India, a female forest officer from Odisha, Sasmita Lenka has been felicitated with this award.

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

Dadasaheb Phalke awards announced

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

Best Actor (Female) – Deepika Padukone, Chhapaak

Best Actor (Male) – Akshay Kumar, Laxmii

Best Film – Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior

Best Director – Anurag Basu, Ludo

Best Web Series – Scam: 1992

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

Pritzker Architecture Prize-2021: Architecture’s highest honour, awarded to Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, founders of Lacaton & Vassal, the French duo renowned for their multiple sustainable housing projects.

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

Grammy Awards declared for best in music

The 63rd annual Grammy Awards were presented at the Los Angeles Convention Center on March 15, 2021. The awards are known for recognising best in music (in 84 categories) in the world. Some of the top Grammys are:
Record of the Year: Everything I Wanted by Billie Eilish
Album of the Year: Folklore by Taylor Swift
Song of the Year: I Can't Breathe by H.E.R.
Best New Artist: Megan Thee Stallion
Best Pop Solo Performance: Watermelon Sugar by Harry Styles
Best Pop Vocal Album: Future Nostalgia by Dua Lipa

The 78th Golden Globe Awards ceremony took place in a hybrid format on February 28.

Best Motion Picture – Drama: Nomadland by Chloé Zhao
Best Director: Chloé Zhao for Nomadland
Best Actor – Male: Chadwick Boseman (posthumously) for “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom”
Best Actor – Female: Andra Day for “The United States vs. Billie Holiday”

Prize for Achievement in African Leadership-2020: World’s largest leadership prize, worth \$5 million conferred upon Mahamadou Issoufou, the incumbent President of Niger.

OBITUARY

JUNE

Milkha Singh: The track legend “Flying Sikh” passed away on June 18 due to post-COVID complications. He was 91. He was the only athlete to win gold in 400m, both at the Asian Games and in the Commonwealth Games.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Two times former President and four-time Prime Minister of Mauritius passed away on June 3 due to age related ailments. He was 91. He was considered the father of the Mauritian economic miracle of the 1980s.

MAY

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee: Former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and a veteran Nuclear Scientist passed away at the age of 75 on May 23 in Navi Mumbai.

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

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

Prof. M S Narasimhan: Distinguished Padma Bhushan awardee mathematician passed away on May 16. He was 88. Famous for the Narasimhan-Seshadri theorem, he made pioneering contributions to differential & algebraic geometry.

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

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

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

Jagmohan (Malhotra): Former Union Minister and former Governor of J & K passed away in New Delhi on May 3 at a ripe age of 93. A civil servant, Jagmohan also served as LG of Delhi and Goa. He represented New Delhi in Lok Sabha thrice and served as the union minister several times. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016 for his outstanding services.

Pandit Debu Chaudhuri: Renowned Sitar maestro passed away following COVID-19 related complications. He was 85. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri.

Rohit Sardana: Renowned TV journalist and news anchor passed away, due to heart attack, following the deadly COVID-19 infection. The young journalist was just 41-year-old. Sardana was associated with Zee News since 2004, before moving to Aaj Tak in 2017.

Soli Sorabjee: Former Attorney General, veteran lawyer and Padma Vibhushan awardee passed away on April 30 after getting infected with COVID-19. The 91-year-old legal luminary served as the Attorney General of India twice.



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Manoj Das: A prolific Indian author who wrote in Odia and English languages, passed away on April 27, at the age of 87 due to age-related ailments. He was conferred with Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020.

APRIL

Pandit Rajan Mishra: Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist from Banaras gharana died on April 25 due to COVID-19 complications in New Delhi. He was 70.

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.

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan: Noted Indian Islamic scholar, spiritual leader and author passed away on April 21 due to Covid-19 complications. He was 97. He was recipient of several notable honours like Padma Vibhushan (2021), Padma Bhushan (2000) and the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award (2009).

Shankha Ghosh: Eminent Bengali poet passed away on April 2, losing his battle against COVID 19. He was 89. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2011 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.

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.

MARCH

K C Chakrabarty: Former deputy governor of Reserve Bank passed away following a heart attack on March 26 at his home in Mumbai. He was 68.

Anil Dharker: Noted journalist and author died in Mumbai on March 26. He was 74. He was the founder director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival, held in November every year.

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

PLACES IN NEWS

JUNE

Dehing Patkai: The Assam Government declared the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as the 7th National Park of the state on June 9.

Raimona Sanctuary: A forest reserve in western Assam's Kokrajhar district was notified as Assam's sixth national park on the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5.

Auckland: The most populous city in New Zealand topped the EIU Global Liveability Ranking and scored highly on metrics including environment, culture, and education.

Manama: Capital of Bahrain topped the globally-recognised AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for financial attractiveness for the third straight year.

MAY

Cyclone Yaas: A ‘very severe’ cyclone devastated the beach towns in north Odisha and neighbouring West Bengal as it hit the coast in the morning of May 26 with wind speed of 130-140 kmph.

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

Cyclone Tauktae: An extremely severe cyclonic storm Tauktae passed by the coast of Kerala on May 16 with wind speeds of up to 185 kmph. The cyclone caused widespread damage in coastal districts of Konkan belt of Maharashtra. Over 150 persons were drowned as a barge sank near the ‘Bombay High’ in the Arabian Sea. On May 17 evening the cyclone devastated the coastal districts of southern Gujarat, causing widespread power outages. The cyclone weakened slightly after its landfall in Gujarat on the morning of 18th May.

Jagargunda: As many as 23 CRPF jawans were killed and around 50 were injured in an encounter with Naxalites on April 3 in Jagargunda area along the border between Bijapur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh.

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

MARCH

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus: This Railway Station of Central Railway is the first railway station in Maharashtra to be awarded with Gold certification as per CII’s Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) ratings.

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

SPORTS WORLD

JUNE

Vinesh Phogat, the 26 year old Indian wrestler won the gold in 53kg at the Poland Open in Warsaw, Poland.

Sanjeet Kumar won gold in the 91 Kg category at the ASBC Asian Amateur Boxing Championships in Dubai, while **Pooja Rani** became the lone Indian woman boxer to strike gold.

Sunil Chhetri, Indian Football skipper overtook Lionel Messi to become the second-highest active international goal scorer with 74 goals. The top position is held by Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal, with 103 goals.

Shafali Verma, 17-year-old batswoman, retained her top position in the ICC women's T20 batting rankings.

Hockey India named midfielder Manpreet Singh as captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound men's hockey team.

Dr. Tadang Minu: Arunachal Pradesh based boxing expert has become the first Indian woman to be appointed as a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

India lost the first-ever World Test Cricket Championship to New Zealand in the finals played at Southampton, UK on June 23.

INTERNATIONAL

French Open Grand Slam ends at Roland-Garros, Paris

World No.1 Novak Djokovic (Serbia) clinched his second French open Men's Singles title after beating world No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas on June 13.

Barbora Krejckova of Czech Republic won the Women's Singles title by defeating Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia.

MAY

Achinta Sheuli, national weightlifting champion secured the silver medal in the men's 73-kilogram category at the Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

22nd Laureus World Sports Awards:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL

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

Sarita Mor (of Sonipat, Haryana), **Vinesh Phogat** and **Anshu Malik** won the gold in the Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the women's 59 kg category.

World Youth Boxing Championships held in Kielce, Poland: Indian women boxers created history with seven gold medals while Sachin won the sole gold in the men's section. 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 topped the medal tally 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. The highly-rated annual publication named England's all-rounder Ben Stokes as the 'Cricketer of the Year' for a second successive year.

INTERNATIONAL

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

MARCH

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

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

Achanta Sharath Kamal became the first Indian Table Tennis player to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

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

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

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

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

Virat Kohli became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T-20 Internationals.

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

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

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

21st National Sqay Championship: Ladakh Sqay Team won eight medals and won an Outstanding Performance Award at the 21st National Sqay Championship held at Jaipur in Rajasthan.

✓ Sqay is the traditional martial art of Kashmir in which players use a curved single-edged sword paired with a shield.

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

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

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

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

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

World's largest cricket stadium

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

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

Model Test For General / Economy / Banking Awareness



AUGUST GK TEST - 01

1. August 10 is observed as World Lion Day. Which country has the largest lion population in the world?
 - a. Kenya
 - b. Nigeria
 - c. Uganda
 - d. India
 - e. South Africa
2. _____ became the first city in India to achieve hundred percent vaccination of its people against covid-19 by July 31:
 - a. Bhopal
 - b. Nasik
 - c. Vadodara
 - d. Bhubaneswar
 - e. Varanasi
3. Boxer Lovlina Borgohain bagged a Bronze Medal for the country in the welterweight 69 kilogram category. She hails from which state?
 - a. Manipur
 - b. Mizoram
 - c. Assam
 - d. Tripura
 - e. Nagaland
4. The RBI plans to launch a web-based end-to-end workflow automation system, named PRISM, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities. What does the letter 'P' denote here?
 - a. Plan
 - b. Project
 - c. Programme
 - d. Platform
 - e. Progressive
5. Concacaf Gold Cup, an international trophy, is associated with which sports?
 - a. Rugby
 - b. Football
 - c. Basketball
 - d. Hockey
 - e. Golf
6. USA approved sale of Harpoon to India at a cost of \$ 82 million. What is it?
 - a. Mini submarine
 - b. Anti-aircraft gun
 - c. Mini attack helicopter
 - d. Anti-ship Missile
 - e. Anti-submarine Torpedo
7. What was the name of the Indo - Russian joint training military exercise held at Volgograd in Russia?
 - a. Lakshya-2021
 - b. Dhvast-2021
 - c. Attack-2021
 - d. Indra-2021
 - e. Defender-21
8. The lack of access to financial services is technically known as
 - a. Financial instability
 - b. Financial inversion
 - c. Financial seclusion
 - d. Financial exclusion
 - e. Financial isolation
9. What does 'I' stand for in the acronym BIMSTEC?
 - a. Interim
 - b. Introductory
 - c. Inspection
 - d. Internal
 - e. Initiative
10. Name the Indian hockey goalkeeper who ensured India's victory in Tokyo Olympics for bronze by saving a penalty corner from Germany in the last six seconds.
 - a. Simranjit Singh
 - b. Harmanpreet
 - c. P R Sreejesh
 - d. Hardik Singh
 - e. Rupinder Pal Singh
11. What is the name of the India's first indigenously developed and built Aircraft Carrier that began her maiden sea trials on August 4?
 - a. INS Trikanth
 - b. INS Sahyadri
 - c. INS Vikrant
 - d. INS Khanjar
 - e. INS Vikramaditya
12. What is the minimum default amount for initiating action under the new Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process?
 - a. One lakh
 - b. Two lakh
 - c. Three lakh
 - d. Four lakh
 - e. Five lakh
13. Turkey faced some of its worst wildfires in recent decades in the first week of August. Which is the capital of Turkey?
 - a. Istanbul
 - b. Ankara
 - c. Izmir
 - d. Antalya
 - e. Mugla
14. The all-weather 8.5 km tunnel between Jammu and Kashmir's Qazigund and Banihal has been made across which range of Himalayas?
 - a. Karakoram
 - b. Pir Panjal
 - c. Dhauladhar
 - d. Zaskar
 - e. Ladakh hills
15. Core Banking refers to
 - a. Networking of bank branches on a centralized server
 - b. The banking operations of the Reserve Bank
 - c. Banking operations by World Bank
 - d. Routine operations in retail banking
 - e. Banking operations by Central Government
16. State Bank of India, reported a 55 per cent jump in its first quarter net profit of 6,504 crore rupees. Who is the present chairman of State Bank of India?
 - a. Dinesh Kumar Khara
 - b. Rajnish Kumar
 - c. Shikha Sharma
 - d. Sunil Mehta
 - e. Arundhati Bhattacharya
17. The BRO has constructed the world's highest motorable tarmac road at the height of 19,300 feet, through which mountain pass?
 - a. Khardung La
 - b. Karakoram Pass
 - c. Chang La
 - d. Umling La
 - e. Zoji La
18. Mini Ipe has been appointed as the Managing Director of which apex financial organisation of India?

- a. IFCI b. LIC
c. NABARD d. NHB
e. GIC
19. ADB approved a \$112 million loan to finance water supply infrastructure in which Indian state?
a. Jharkhand b. Bihar
c. Meghalaya d. Telangana
e. Assam
20. Padma Sachdev, noted author and Padma Shri awardee, passed away on August 4. She was the first modern woman poet of _____ language:
a. Kashmiri b. Awadhi
c. Maithilee d. Dogri
e. Bhojpuri
21. Ravi Kumar Dahiya secured silver medal in wrestling in Tokyo Olympics, after losing a hard-fought final against Zaur Uguev of _____:
a. Ukraine b. Belarus
c. Russia d. Uzbekistan
e. Iran
22. What are the three broad parameters of the RBI's Financial Inclusion Index?
a. Availability, Quantity and Acceptability
b. Access, Usage and Quality
c. Access, Level and Quality
d. Level, Usage and Quality
e. Availability, Quantity and Usage
23. Private banks in India are allowed to have FDI up to _____ of their capital:
a. 49% b. 74%
c. 26% d. 100%
e. 51%
24. Under whose chairmanship has the 15th Finance Commission been constituted by the Union Government?
a. Arvind Mehta
b. Ramesh Chand
c. NK Singh
d. Shaktikanta Das
e. AM Khusro
25. Which of the following policy rates were NOT changed by the Monetary Policy Committee of RBI in its bi-monthly meeting on August 6?
a. Repo Rate
b. Reverse Repo Rate
c. Bank Rate
d. Only 'c'
e. All a, b and c
26. In a recent judgement, the Supreme Court held that the Governor of a state can pardon prisoners, including in the death

- sentence cases, under provisions of Article ____ of the Constitution:
a. 72 b. 93
c. 136 d. 161
e. 320
27. In which year did the United States detonate two nuclear bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively?
a. 1932 b. 1937
c. 1942 d. 1945
e. 1948
28. According to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, who has been declared as the richest person on Earth as of August 5.
a. Jeff Bezos b. Elon Musk
c. Bernard Arnault
d. Warren Buffett
e. Mark Zuckerberg
29. August Kranti Diwas observed on August 8 marks which historical event?
a. Launching of non-cooperation movement
b. Launching of Quit India movement
c. Gandhi ji's fast at Noakhali
d. Beginning of first war of independence (gadar)
e. Starting of Dandi March by Gandhi ji
30. Treasury bills in India are issued by the
a. Government of India
b. Reserve Bank of India
c. Commercial banks
d. Development finance institutions
e. Ministry of Finance
31. Consider the following statements:
1. The Rajya Sabha enjoys practically no powers as regards a Money Bill sent to it by Lok Sabha.
2. A Joint Sitting of Parliament is called by the Prime Minister to resolve a deadlock over a bill.
3. A Money Bill requires the previous approval of the President before its introduction in Lok Sabha.
Which of the above are correct?
a. 2 and 3 b. 1 and 3
c. 1, 2 d. All are correct
e. None is correct
32. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Portal and Mobile Application on August 07. Who is the current Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment?
a. Dr. Virendra Kumar

- b. R P Singh c. P K Paras
d. R K Singh e. Arjun Munda
33. The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award has been renamed as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. What is the amount of cash prize in this prestigious award?
a. 5 lakh b. 10 lakh
c. 15 lakh d. 20 lakh
e. 25 lakh
34. In Women's Hockey, India lost 3-4 to Great Britain in the bronze medal match on August 6 to settle down at fourth place. Who is the captain of the Indian team?
a. Savita Punia b. Rani Rampal
c. Gurjit Kaur
d. Vandana Katariya
e. Navjot Kaur
35. Neeraj Chopra created history on August 7 at Tokyo Olympics by securing maiden gold for India in athletics, since the inception of games. He is associated with which organisation?
a. Indian Railways
b. Haryana government
c. Indian Army
d. ONGC e. NTPC
36. With which country India held a bilateral naval exercise Zayed Talwar 2021 on August 7 in the Persian Gulf?
a. Oman b. Bahrain
c. Saudi Arabia d. Iran
e. UAE
37. For a bank, a Savings Bank Deposits represent a kind of _____:
a. Time liability
b. Short term Asset
c. Demand liability
d. Both A and C
e. Only B
38. PMJDY stands for Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. It was launched in which year?
a. 2012 b. 2016
c. 2010 d. 2014
e. 2018
39. The United States of America once again topped the Olympic medal tally with a total of 113 medals. She won how many golds?
a. 25 b. 31
c. 36 d. 39
e. 43
40. Caeleb Dressel, the most successful participant in the Tokyo Olympics, won five golds in men's swimming. He represented which country?
a. USA b. Canada

- c. France d. Britain
e. Japan
41. The first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) in the country has been set up in which state?
a. Telangana b. Odisha
c. Kerala d. Maharashtra
e. Gujarat
42. SEBI has introduced the concept of '_____ investors' in the Indian securities market, representing sophisticated knowledgeable investors.
a. Angel b. Accredited
c. Qualified d. Smart
e. Preferred
43. Who has been nominated as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, for another term of three years wef August 07?
a. Swati Maliwal
b. Manisha Gulati
c. Jayanti Natarajan
d. Vijaya Rahatkar
e. Rekha Sharma
44. Which of the following categories of banks are operational in India?
1. Payment Banks
2. Co-operative Banks
3. Commercial Banks
4. Commodity Banks
Select the correct option:
a. 1, 2, 4 b. 1, 3, 4
c. 1, 2, 3 d. 2, 3
e. Only 1
45. Match the following countries with their respective currencies:
1. Indonesia P. Dirham
2. China Q. Euro
3. UAE R. Rupiah
4. Bangladesh S. Renmibi
5. Vatican T. Taka
- | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| a. P | R | S | Q | T |
| b. T | S | P | R | Q |
| c. R | S | P | T | Q |
| d. R | S | P | Q | T |
| e. S | P | R | T | Q |
46. DRDO has developed an Advanced _____ Technology to safeguard fighter aircrafts of the Indian Air Force against hostile radar threats:
a. Netra b. Chaff
c. Niga d. Pentra
e. Tacko
47. National Deworming Day is observed on 10th of August and February. On these days, children are orally administered which anti worm tablets?
a. Cephalexin b. Albendazole
c. Amphetamine d. Promethazine

- e. Albuterol
48. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a National Edible Oil Mission on August 9 to focus on increasing production of which edible oil?
a. Mustard b. Palm
c. Sesamum d. Safflower
e. Canola
49. Ravaging wildfires destroyed thousands of hectares of land, along with a number of businesses and houses in Evia Island. It is in which country?
a. Turkey b. Italy
c. Russia d. Greece
e. Portugal
50. RBI has asked banks not to take any collateral security in case of loans up to Rs. _____ lakh extended to SHGs under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):
a. 10 b. 15
c. 20 d. 23
e. 25

AUGUST GK TEST - 02

1. Indian Navy's destroyer INS Kochi, participated in the "Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021" exercise with which country?
a. UAE b. Saudi Arabia
c. Iran d. Oman
e. Bahrain
2. Which state won seven national awards in the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21 announced on August 6?
a. Odisha b. Jharkhand
c. Meghalaya d. Nagaland
e. Chhattisgarh
3. _____ has now been declared as the first Water Plus city of the country, by the Central Government:
a. Gwalior b. Puri
c. Pune d. Indore
e. Kochi
4. RBI has notified that from 1st October, 2021, Cash-out at any ATM of more than ten hours in a month will attract a penalty of Rs. _____ per ATM:
a. 5,000 b. 10,000
c. 15,000 d. 20,000
e. 50,000
5. The Global Youth Development Index 2020 ranked India at which spot?
a. 57th b. 63rd
c. 79th d. 101st

- e. 122nd
6. The Indian Air Force has built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers at the Advanced Landing Ground in which place in Ladakh?
a. Drass b. Thiksey
c. Nyoma d. Stok
e. Demchok
7. The DRDO successfully tested Cruise Missile Nirbhay on August 11 with which new engine?
a. Shatak b. Wankel
c. Manik d. Kaveri
e. Shakti
8. Name the scheme according to which the poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country as long as their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.
a. Integrated Management of Public Distribution System
b. Antyodaya Anna Yojana
c. One Nation One Ration Card
d. Annapurna Scheme
e. National Food Subsidy Scheme
9. The PMGSY is a government scheme related to which of the following?
a. Primary education
b. Drinking water
c. Pregnant women
d. Rural electrification
e. Rural roads
10. As per the National Automobile Scrappage Policy, all private and commercial vehicles will mandatorily undergo 'fitness tests' as soon as they age _____ years and _____ years, respectively:
a. 10 and 15
b. 15 and 10
c. 20 and 15
d. 15 and 20
e. 25 and 15
11. As per the Plastic Waste Management (amendment) Rules 2021 prohibiting identified single-use plastic items from July 01, 2022, the plastic packaging waste has not been prohibited. Why?
a. It will create too many avoidable packaging problems
b. Prohibiting use of plastic packaging may have adverse effect on manufacturing activity
c. Users of plastic packaging will be made responsible for its proper disposal

- d. Plastic packaging waste does not pose a major threat to environmental pollution
e. It will be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way
12. Which Indian National Park is first to be equipped with satellite phones?
a. Kanha National Park
b. Bandhavgarh National Park
c. Ranthambore National Park
d. Kaziranga National Park
e. Sundarbans National Park
13. India crossed the milestone of 100 GW of installed renewable energy on August 12. Who is the current union power and new and renewable energy minister?
a. Narayan Rane
b. Raj Kumar Singh
c. Giriraj Singh
d. Virendra Kumar
e. Pralhad Joshi
14. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan announced on August 15 aims to give a boost to which sector of economy?
a. National and State highways
b. Connectivity of national highways
c. Manufacturing of transport vehicles
d. To promote local manufacturers
e. To support upcoming startups
15. Which tiny country was hit by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake on August 14, claiming over 2,000 lives and leaving several hundred others injured?
a. Cuba
b. Honduras
c. Haiti
d. Nicaragua
e. Puerto Rico
16. Komalika Bari, 19 year old Indian girl became the new under-21 world champion in which sports?
a. 10 mt Pistol shooting
b. Recurve Archery
c. 25 mt Rifle shooting
d. Boxing
e. Chess
17. The oldest Stock Exchange in Asia is located in
a. Beijing
b. Istanbul
c. Cairo
d. Tokyo
e. Mumbai
18. The Banking Ombudsman appointed by the Reserve Bank can be considered similar to in terms of functions and powers.
a. Labour Court
b. CBI
c. Police
d. RAW
e. Civil Court
19. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched an online portal named TAPAS to provide filmed lectures/courses and e-study material in the field of social defence. What is denoted by the letter 'S' in the acronym TAPAS?
a. Security
b. Society
c. Services
d. Scheme
e. Sector
20. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of which country declared the month of July 2021 as the world's hottest month ever recorded?
a. Britain
b. Sweden
c. Australia
d. USA
e. France
21. Recently, how many Indian wetland sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention?
a. One
b. Two
c. Three
d. Four
e. Five
22. The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched on August 14 the 2nd phase of SAMVAD for child protection, mental health and psychosocial care of children. What is denoted by the letter 'D' in the acronym SAMVAD?
a. Department
b. Distress
c. Difficult
d. Diagnosis
e. Directorate
23. Hakainde Hichilema has been elected as the new President of which African country?
a. Zambia
b. Kenya
c. Nigeria
d. Uganda
e. Ethiopia
24. Pick the wrong pair:
a. Durand Cup: Hockey
b. Wimbeldon: Lawn Tennis
c. Agha Khan Cup: Hockey
d. Ashes: Cricket
e. Vijay Hazare Trophy: Cricket
25. Select the mismatched pair:
a. NGT: Environmental protection
b. CSIR: Education
c. TRAI: Telecommunications
d. NASSCOM: Software companies
e. BCSBI: Service levels in banks
26. The Government of India has declared August 14 as which national day to commemorate the partition of India?
a. Partition Horrors Day
b. Partition Remembrance Day
c. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
d. National Partition Day
e. Indian Partition Day
27. The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the formation of the International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens for what purpose?
a. For finding the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus
b. To find ways to counter the Corona pandemic
c. To develop a global framework to study pathogens with pandemic potential
d. Only a and c
e. All, a, b and c
28. _____ became the first State to recognize the Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) in urban areas:
a. Jharkhand
b. Odisha
c. Chhattisgarh
d. Nagaland
e. Manipur
29. RBI released the first edition of the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) on August 17 to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country. It will be released annually in which month?
a. April
b. June
c. July
d. October
e. January
30. The world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank was inaugurated on August 16 in which city?
a. Bhopal
b. Bengaluru
c. Patna
d. Lucknow
e. New Delhi
31. What is the theme of this year's World Humanitarian Day observed on August 19?
a. Humanity is the priority
b. Being human first
c. #theHumanRace
d. #humanityFirst
e. #thanksCovidworkers
32. RBI has advised that in the case of locker operations, bank's liability in case of incidents like fire, robbery or fraud committed by an employee will be _____ times the prevailing annual rent of the locker:
a. Ten
b. Twenty
c. Fifty
d. Seventy-Five
e. One hundred
33. In a recent judgement the Supreme Court allowed women candidates to appear for _____ entrance exam scheduled on September 5, saying debarring

them amounted to gender discrimination:

- a. CDS b. NDA
c. AFCAT d. CAPF
e. OTA

34. Name the share, which referred to as ordinary share also represents the form of fractional ownership in which a shareholder, as a fractional owner, undertakes the maximum entrepreneurial risk associated with a business venture.

- a. Preference shares
b. Equity share
c. Cumulative Preference Shares
d. Participating Preference Share
e. No such share

35. Which of these is/are NOT Quantitative Money Control (s) used in India?

1. SLR
2. CRR
3. Margin Requirement
4. Interest rates on Deposits
Select the right option:

- a. Only 1 b. Only 2
c. Only 3 d. Both 1 and 2
e. 3 and 4

36. The commerce ministry announced on August 17 guidelines and rates of the RoDTEP scheme for 8555 export items. What does the letter 'P' denote in the abbreviation?

- a. Programme b. Plan
c. Project d. Product
e. Promotion

37. Which is the only city from the country to be selected for the International Clean Air Catalyst Programme launched by the US Agency for International Development (USAID):

- a. Mysuru b. Indore
c. Pune d. Udaipur
e. Puri

38. SWIFT announced the launch of SWIFT Go service on July 27 to serve small businesses to send payments worldwide. What is the meaning of the letter 'S' in the acronym SWIFT?

- a. Simple b. Social
c. Society d. Service
e. Swift

39. The Ministry of Health announced a _____ per cent reservation for OBCs and _____ per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the All India Quota (AIQ) Scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate medical/dental courses:

- a. 23; 10 b. 22; 13
c. 25; 9 d. 27; 10
e. 17; 13

40. RBI allowed on July 28 non-bank PSPs to participate in RTGS and NEFT. What does the first letter 'P' denote in the abbreviation PSP?

- a. Public b. Private
c. Payment d. Processor
e. Provider

41. Vantika Agarwal from Delhi won the inaugural National women's online _____ championship title:

- a. Judo b. Carrom
c. Chess d. Snooker
e. Billiard

42. Which state made India's first export of Bhoot Jolokia, one of the hottest chillies in the world, on July 29?

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

43. Which state secured first position in the country for the best implementation of the Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & System (CCTNS)?

- a. Gujarat b. Maharashtra
c. Haryana d. Karnataka
e. Kerala

44. A depreciation in exchange rate of the Indian rupee will NOT

- a. Encourage exports
b. Encourage imports
c. Encourage both exports and imports
d. Discourage both, exports and imports
e. Stabilize the exchange value of the domestic currency

45. Which of the following is NOT a primary function of a Bank in India?

- a. Granting Loans
b. Collecting Cheques/Drafts of customers
c. Financing import - export of goods
d. Issuing Bank Drafts
e. Selling Gold/Silver Coins

46. The Rohingyas community, which has been in news of late, belongs to which country?

- a. Nepal b. Sri Lanka
c. Pakistan d. Indonesia
e. Myanmar

47. Which state is the largest producer of Uranium in India?

- a. Odisha b. Andhra Pradesh
c. Jharkhand
d. Telangana
e. Rajasthan

48. DRDO successfully tested Nag missiles in Pokhran ranges. Who is the chairman of DRDO?

- a. Maitreyee Nanda
b. Amol Anant Gokhale
c. K Sivan
d. G Satheesh Reddy
e. Shiraz Minwalla

49. Bonalu is the "state festival" of which state?

- a. Andhra Pradesh
b. Karnataka c. Kerala
d. Telangana e. Tripura

50. August 20 is observed as the Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day). It is associated with which former prime minister of India?

- a. J L Nehru
b. Indira Gandhi
c. Rajiv Gandhi
d. Manmohan Singh
e. Lal Bahadur Shastri

ANSWER KEY | AUGUST GK TEST | 1

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

ANSWER KEY | AUGUST GK TEST | 2

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

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated."
— R Collier

EXCISE INSPECTOR 2021

TAXATION | INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT (MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS)



1) A Free Trade Zone is one

- a) where trade is done without restriction
- b) where any entrepreneur is free to start industries
- c) where infrastructural facilities were provided free to entrepreneurs by the Government
- d) where industries are free from excise duties and produce for exports

2) Who is the chairman of GST council?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Home Minister
- d) None of these

3) Which of the following is not true about the functions performed by RBI-

- a) Banker's Bank
- b) Banker of Last Resort
- c) Not a Custodian of Foreign Exchange
- d) Banker to the Government

4) GST was passed as which of the following Constitutional amendment Act?

- a) 120th
- b) 101st
- c) 99th
- d) 75th

5) All banks are required to maintain a certain portion of their net demand and time liabilities (deposits), with the RBI in the form of cash. This ratio is also known as

- a) Repo Rate
- b) Reverse Repo Rate
- c) SLR
- d) CRR

6) What is the base year for measuring inflation at Wholesale Prices Index (WPI) in India?

- a) 2004-05
- b) 2001-02
- c) 2011-12
- d) 2014-15

7) Economic Survey in India is published officially, every year by the

- a) Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- b) Reserve Bank of India
- c) Ministry of Industries, Government of India
- d) Planning Commission of India

8) Which sector has maximum weightage in the index of industrial production assigned?

- a) All equal
- b) Electricity
- c) Manufacturing
- d) Mining and quarrying

9) India is regarded as a country with 'Demographic Dividend'. This is due to

- a) Its high population in the age group of 15-64 years.
- b) Its high population in the age group above 65 years.
- c) Its high total population.
- d) Its high population in the age group below 15 years.

10) SAMPADA scheme is related to

- a) Empowering women through microfinance
- b) Agricultural credit to small farmers
- c) Agro-food processing industry
- d) Providing loans for development of textile industries

11) Out of the following, which of the following is not an important factor of Industrial Relations?

- a) Increases productivity
- b) Increase Morale and motivation of employees
- c) Increase the Profitability of Organization
- d) Increase Industrial conflicts

12) As per new Industrial Relation Code, 2020, establishment with less _____workmen can lay-off, retrenched, closed without Government approval.

- a) 100 workmen
- b) 200 workmen
- c) 250 workmen
- d) 300 workmen

13) As per new Labour Security code, 2020, Gratuity shall be payable to an employee on termination of his employment after he has rendered continuous service for not less than _____ years or on his superannuation or on his retirement or resignation or on his death or disablement due to accident or disease or on termination of his contract period under fixed term employment.

- a) 10 years
- b) 5 years
- c) 15 years
- d) 20 years

14) As per New Social Security Code, 2020, welfare schemes for gig workers and platform workers may be funded through contribution of:

- a) Central Government
- b) State Government
- c) Aggregators

d) All of the above

15) As per new Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition Code, 2020, workers are not required to work for more than ____ days a week.

- a) 6 days
- b) 5 days
- c) 4 days
- d) 3 days

16) Any industrial establishment in which _____ have been employed on any day in the preceding twelve months, the appropriate Government may by general or special order require the employer to constitute, a Works Committee.

- a) 100 or more
- b) 200 or more
- c) 300 or more
- d) 400 or more

17) Under which Schedule of Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 , Public Utility Services have been listed out:

- a) 1st Schedule
- b) 2nd Schedule
- c) 3rd Schedule
- d) 4th Schedule

18) Which of the following can be deducted from the wages of the employee as permitted under new Code on Wages, 2019:

- a) Fines
- b) House Accommodation provided
- c) Loans given to employee
- d) All of the above

19) How many women are mandatory by the Code on Wages to be members of Advisory Board:

- a) 1/4th of total members
- b) ½ of total members
- c) 1/3rd of total members
- d) no such limit

20) Who is the appropriate Government in case of railways, mines, banking, oil fields, major ports, airports services, telecommunication and insurance company:

- a) Central Government
- b) State Government
- c) Both of the above
- d) None of the above

21) As per new Industrial Relation Code, 2020 , in case any worker is suspended by the employer pending investigation or inquiry, the amount of subsistence allowance payable at ____% of the wages for the first 90 days of suspension; and at the rate of ____% of such wages for the remaining period of suspension.

- a) 40% and 60%
- b) 50% and 60%
- c) 60% and 70%
- d) 50% and 75%

22) As per New Code on Wages, ____ of the total members on both the Central and State Boards will be women:

- a) 2/3rd
- b) 1/3rd
- c) 1/2
- d) 2/5th

23) Till what age of the child will a mother get 2 nursing breaks in the course of her daily work?

- a) 12 months
- b) 6 months
- c) 18 months
- d) 15 months

24) Under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 the maximum gratuity payable is:

- a) Rs. 10 lakhs
- b) Rs. 8 lakhs
- c) Rs. 3.5 lakhs
- d) Rs. 20 lakhs

25) For avoiding any payment knowingly makes any false statement or representation shall be punishable with:

- a) imprisonment upto 3 months or fine upto Rs. 10,000/- or both
- b) imprisonment upto 6 months or fine upto Rs. 10,000/- or both
- c) imprisonment upto 3 months or fine upto Rs. 20,000/- or both
- d) imprisonment upto 6 months or fine upto Rs. 20,000/- or both

26) Which Section of The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 defines the term "Child"?

- a) Section 1
- b) Section 2 (i)
- c) Section 2 (ii)
- d) Section 2 (iii)

27) Adolescent as per Factories Act, 1948 means a person who has completed ____ years of age but not completed ____ years.

- a) 14 years and 18 years
- b) 15 years and 17 years
- c) 15 years and 18 years
- d) 14 years and 17 years

28) As per Factories Act, 1948, normally an adult worker is not allowed to work in a factory for more than ____ hours in a day.

- a) 8 hours
- b) 9 hours
- c) 10 hours
- d) 12 hours

29) Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 shall apply to every factory; and every other establishment in which _____ are employed on any day during an accounting year:

- a) 20 or more persons
- b) 25 or more persons
- c) 30 or more persons
- d) 50 or more persons

30) Out of the total GDP on India ____% of GDP of Indian economy is contributed by MSME sector:

- a) 20%
- b) 40%
- c) 10%
- d) 30%

31) The first step in the detail checklist of DPR is _____

- a) Executive summary
- b) Background
- c) Roadway features
- d) General details of the project

32) Standing Order finally certified under the Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946 shall come into operation when an appeal has been made:

- a) on the expiry of 30 days from the date on which standing order certified
- b) on the expiry of 7days from the date appellate Authority decision given
- c) on the date on which standing order certified
- d) on the expiry of 60 days from the date on which standing order certified

33) ESI scheme provides need based benefits to insured workers includes:

- a) Funeral Expenses
- b) Rehabilitation allowance
- c) old age Medicare and medical bonus
- d) all of the above

34) EPF Act, 1952 is an Act to provide _____ for employees in factories and other establishments:

- a) For the institution of Provident Funds
- b) Pension fund
- c) Deposit linked Insurance Fund
- d) All of the above

35) Minimum persons must be employed in as establishment for the applicability of the PF Act.

- a) 15
- b) 20
- c) 35
- d) 50

36) Who among the following is not a dependant under Employees' Compensation Act, 1923:

- a) A Minor Widowed Sister
- b) A daughter in law
- c) A widower
- d) A minor illegitimate son

37) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has

- a) One schedule covering different types of industries.
- b) One schedule covering different types of industries, shops and establishments.
- c) One schedule covering shops and establishments.



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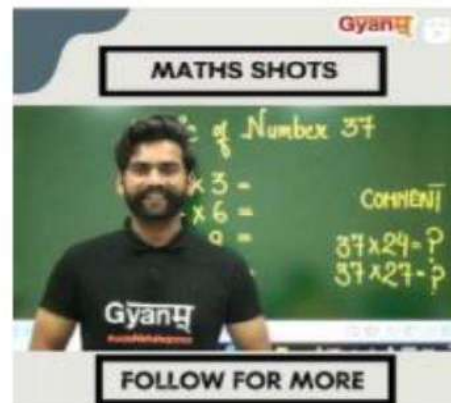
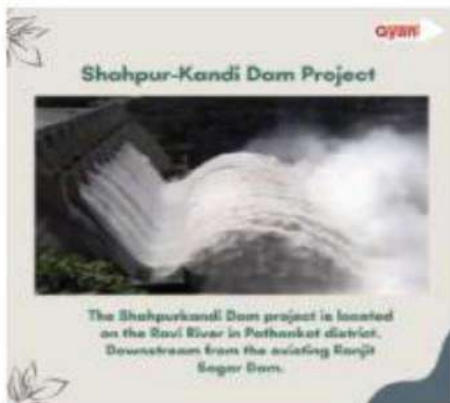
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- d) Two schedules covering industrial establishments and agriculture.
- 38) The annual return under the Factories Act shall be submitted to Inspector of Factories on or before**
- 31st January
 - 31st December
 - 30th April
 - 31st March
- 39) The term 'same work or work of a similar nature' mentioned in the?**
- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
 - Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
 - Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
 - The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986
- 40) Bonus must be paid to employees within a period of..... months from the close of the accounting year;**
- 8
 - 9
 - 12
 - None of the above
- 41) Which of the following is not among the slabs of tax under GST?**
- 5%
 - 12%
 - 18%
 - 9%
- 42) The repo rate is decided by which of the following?**
- Prime Minister of India
 - Governor of the RBI
 - Union Finance Minister
 - Monetary Policy Committee
- 43) Whenever the RBI does some Open Market Operation transaction, actually it wishes to regulate which of the following?**
- Inflation only
 - Liquidity in economy
 - Borrowing powers of the banks
 - Flow of Foreign Direct Investment
- 44) LAF stands for:**
- Liquidity Adjustment Facility
 - Liquidity Adjustment Finance
 - Lending Adjustment Facility
 - None of These
- 45) What is a disinvestment?**
- Capital expenditure
 - Revenue expenditure
 - Capital receipts
 - Revenue receipts
- 46) Which of the following industry is known as sun rising industry?**
- Dairy industry
 - Information Technology
 - Health and clinic
 - None of these
- 47) Consider the following statements and identify the right ones.**
- The 1980 industrial policy emphasized "economic federalism"
 - Liberal license policies were advocated for agro-based industries
- I only
 - II only
 - Both
 - None
- 48) Which of the following industries was de-reserved in 1993?**
- Atomic energy
 - Atomic minerals
 - Mining of copper and zinc
 - Railways
- 49) Which type of body was the Planning Commission of India?**
- Constitutional body
 - Extra constitutional body
 - Statutory body
 - None of the above
- 50) The first five-year plan of India started in?**
- 1951
 - 1952
 - 1949
 - 1950
- 51) As per new Industrial Relation Code, 2020, a manufacturing unit is regarded as 'Factory' if it employ:**
- 10 workers with aid of power and 20 workers without aid of power
 - 20 workers with aid of power and 40 workers without aid of power
 - 20 workers with aid of power and 30 workers without aid of power
 - 10 workers with aid of power and 30 workers without aid of power
- 52) The number of members in the Grievance Redressal Committee has been increased to ____ in an industrial establishment employing 20 or more workers, as per new Industrial Relation Code, 2020**
- 10 members
 - 15 members
 - 20 members
 - 6 members
- 53) As per New Social Security Code, 2020, Person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from different activities outside of traditional employer employee relationship are known as :**
- Gig workers
 - Casual workers
 - Contract labour
 - None of the above
- 54) As per new Social Security Code, 2020, _____ may act as the Board for the purposes of welfare of gig workers and platform workers and can recommend and monitor schemes for such workers.**
- National Social Security Board
 - State Social Security Board
 - District Social Security Board
 - None of the above
- 55) _____ industries involving hazardous processes are specified in schedule to new Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition Code, 2020:**
- 29
 - 78
 - 30
 - 25
- 56) Under Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute one or more _____ for the adjudication of industrial disputes relating to any matter specified in the Second Schedule and for performing such other functions as may be assigned to them under the Act.**
- Work committee
 - Court of Inquiry
 - Conciliation officer
 - Labour Court
- 57) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint such number of persons, as it thinks fit to be _____ charged with the duty of mediating in and promoting the settlement of industrial disputes.**
- Conciliation officer
 - Industrial Tribunal
 - National Tribunal
 - None of the above
- 58) No person shall be appointed to or continue in office of Presiding Officer of labour Court if he has attained the age of ____ years:**
- 58 years
 - 65 years
 - 60 years
 - 70 years
- 59) The decision given by arbitrator is called:**
- Decree
 - Sentence
 - Award
 - Reward
- 60) What is the time period as per the Code on Wages during which an employee has to credit bonus to the employee's account:**
- Within 6 months from the declaration of bonus
 - Within 8 months from the close of accounting year
 - Within 5 months from the declaration of bonus
 - Within 3 months from the declaration of bonus
- 61) What is the maximum amount of deduction that can be made from an employee's wages?**

- a) 20% of his wages
b) 30% of his wages
c) 50% of his wages
d) 55% of his wages
- 62) Which committee argued for adoption of National Floor level Minimum wages to ensure a uniform wages for all workers and provide protection to meet vulnerable workers:**
a) Bhoothalingam Committee
b) Kelkar Committee
c) Core Committee
d) Dave Committee
- 63) After how many years the minimum wages will be revised and reviewed by appropriate Government :**
a) Every year
b) After 2 Years
c) 5 years
d) 10 years
- 64) Who has the power to fix floor wages under the Code on Wages, 2019:**
a) Appropriate Government
b) Central Government
c) State Government
d) None of the above
- 65) Worker as per new Industrial Relation Code, 2020 include:**
a) Working Journalists
b) Sales Promotion employees
c) Both of the above
d) None of the above
- 66) As per new Code on Wages, 2019 which statement is about the definition of 'Employee':**
a) Person employed other than apprentice on wages by an establishment
b) Person employed to do any skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled work in an establishment
c) Person employed to do manual, operational, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical or clerical work in establishment for hire or reward under express or implied terms.
d) All of the above
- 67) Under the Wage Code, _____ will be appointed by Appropriate Government, who shall be a facilitator towards compliance and act as inspecting authority:**
a) Inspector
b) Auditor
c) Inspector-Cum- Facilitator
d) All of the above
- 68) The condition of 80 days of employment in the 12 months immediately preceding the date of benefit has been made an eligibility condition for getting**
a) Maternity Benefit under the
- Maternity Benefit Act
b) Disablement benefit under the ESI Act
c) Gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act
d) Sickness benefit under the ESI Act
- 69) Which section of the maternity act states the conditions for eligibility of benefits?**
a) Section 18
b) Section 5
c) Section 10
d) Section 8
- 70) As per section 9, for how many weeks a woman is entitled for leave in case of a miscarriage?**
a) 3 weeks
b) 9 weeks
c) 1 week
d) 6 weeks
- 71) The eligibility condition for obtaining gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is:**
a) Completion of 2 years of Service
b) Completion of 3 years of Service
c) Completion of 4 years of Service
d) Completion of 5 years of Service
- 72) Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is applicable to every shop or establishment within the meaning of any law for the time being in force in relation to shops and establishment in a State, in which _____ persons are or were employed on any day in the preceding 12 months.**
a) 10 or more persons
b) 10
c) 20 or more persons
d) 20
- 73) The formula for calculating gratuity is:**
a) Gratuity = (Monthly Salary/25) X 15 X No. of years of service
b) Gratuity = (Monthly Salary/30) X 15 X No. of years of service
c) Gratuity = (Monthly Salary/26) X 15 X No. of years of service
d) Gratuity = (Monthly Salary/15) X 15 X No. of years of service
- 74) In the case of an employee who is employed in a seasonal establishment and who is not so employed throughout the year, the employer shall pay the gratuity at the rate of _____ days' wages for each season.**
a) 14 days
b) 15 days
c) 10 days
d) 7 days
- 75) In which year Factories Act, 1948 came into force:**
a) 23rd September, 1948
b) 1st April, 1949
c) 4th April, 1949
d) 12th September, 1948
- 76) As per Factories Act, 1948, Child means a person who has not completed _____ years of age:**
a) 14 years
b) 15 years
c) 18 years
d) 16 years
- 77) As per Factories Act, 1948, maximum working hours for adults cannot exceed _____ in a week:**
a) 44 hours
b) 48 hours
c) 54 hours
d) 60 hours
- 78) The provision for cooling water during hot weather should be made by the organization if it employees _____ or more employees as per Factories Act, 1948.**
a) 200
b) 250
c) 300
d) 150
- 79) Which Act in India regulates MSME in India?**
a) Micro, small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006
b) Micro, small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2018
c) Small Scale Industries Development Act, 2006
d) Industries Development and Regulation Act, 1951
- 80) In which of the following stages are project objectives established, teams formed, and major responsibilities assigned?**
a) Conceptualizing
b) Defining
c) Planning
d) Executing
- 81) As per Industrial Licensing Policy, which of the following industries require license?**
a) Industries reserved for public Sector
b) Industries retained under compulsory licensing
c) Items of manufacture reserved for small scale sector
d) None of the above
- 82) As per current Industrial licensing policy in India, which of the following industries retained under compulsory license in India:**
a) Distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks, cigars and cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
b) Electronic aerospace and defense equipment

- c) Industrial explosives including detonating fuses, safety fuses, gun powder, nitrocellulose and matches.
d) All of the above

83) Industrial undertakings exempted from obtaining an industrial license are required to file _____ with Secretariate of Industrial Assistance (SIA):

- a) Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM)
b) Detailed Project report (DPR)
c) UDYAM certification
d) ADHAR registration

84) In India GST became effective from:

- a) 1st April, 2017
b) 1st January, 2017
c) 1st July, 2017
d) 1st March, 2017

85) _____ is not a tax which has been substituted by GST:

- a) VAT
b) Central Excise Duty
c) Service Tax
d) Professional tax

86) In an intra-state supply, following are levied under GST:

- a) Only IGST
b) Only CGST
c) Only SGST
d) Both CGST and SGST

87) What is the maximum rate of CGST prescribed under GST?

- a) 28%
b) 20%
c) 12%
d) 18%

88) As per revised guidelines on MSME issued in July 2020, in the manufacturing sector, Micro enterprise is a unit having:

- a) Investment in Plant and machinery not more than Rs. 1 crore
b) Annual turnover not more than Rs. 5 crore.
c) Both a and b
d) None of the above

89) As per revised guidelines on MSME issued in July 2020, in manufacturing sector, small enterprise is a unit having:

- a) Investment in Plant and machinery more than 1 crore but not more than Rs. 10 crore
b) Annual turnover more than 5 crore but not more than Rs. 50 crore.
c) Both a and b
d) None of the above

90) As per revised guidelines on MSME issued in July 2020, in manufacturing sector, Medium enterprise is a unit having:

- a) Investment in Plant and machinery more than 10 crore but not more than Rs. 50 crore
b) Annual turnover more than 50 crore but not more than Rs. 250 crore.
c) Both a and b
d) None of the above

91) As per Customs Act "Indian Customs Water means the water extending into the sea upto:

- a) The limit of Exclusive Economic Zone
b) 24 NM from baseline
c) 12 NM from baseline
d) None of the above

92) Duties of Customs including export covered in _____

- a) Entry no. 82 of list I (union List)
b) Entry no. 83 of List I (union List)
c) Entry 51 of List II (state List)
d) Entry 84 of List I (Union list)

93) As per Customs Act, Exclusive economic Zone extends to:

- a) 12 NM from base line
b) 24 Nm from base line
c) 200 NM from base line
d) 10 NM from base line

94) Which of the following is a taxable event for imported goods?

- a) Unloading of imported goods at the customs port
b) Date of entry into Indian territorial waters
c) Date when goods reach the customs barrier and presentation of bill of entry
d) Date on which the vessel arrive at customs port

95) Which of the following central taxes has been subsumed in the ambit of GST:

- a) Central excise duty
b) Service tax
c) CVD on imports
d) All of the above

96) As per Excise Act, ER-1 has to be submitted by the manufacturer on:

- a) Weekly basis
b) Monthly basis
c) Quarterly basis
d) Half yearly basis

97) SSI units can make the excise duty payment once in:

- a) Month
b) Quarter
c) Half yearly
d) Annual

98) Which of the following amounts to manufacture under Central Excise Act:

- a) Cutting and sizing
b) Repairing and reconditioning
c) Mixing of metals
d) None of the above
e) All of the above

99) As per new Industrial Relation Code, 2020, a manufacturing unit is regarded as 'Factory' if it employs:

- a. 10 workers with aid of power and 20 workers without aid of power
b. 20 workers with aid of power and 40 workers without aid of power
c. 20 workers with aid of power and 30 workers without aid of power
d. 10 workers with aid of power and 30 workers without aid of power

100) The Threshold limit on wages of Worker to cover under New Industrial Labour Code, 2020 is:

- a. Rs. 10,000 p.m. b. Rs. 18,000 p.m.
c. Rs. 20,000 p.m. d. Rs. 25,000 p.m.

ANSWER KEY

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

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AUGUST 2021

1. What was the name of the 5th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Army Training Exercise held in Kazakhstan from August 30 to September 11? **KAZIND-21**
2. The National Sports Day observed on August 29 is the birthday of which great sportsperson? **Major Dhyan Chand**
3. Government launched on August 25 the e-Shram portal – National Database on _____ Workers: **Unorganized**
4. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology launched the SAMRIDH programme on August 25 for what purpose? **To promote Indian Software start-ups**
5. SAMRIDH will provide investment support of up to ₹ ____ lakh to the start-ups, based on their current valuation and growth stage: **40**
6. Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer has been appointed as Director General of which para-military force? **BSF - Border Security Force**
7. The Union Cabinet on August 25 approved the highest ever Fair and Remunerative Price of ____ rupees per quintal for Sugarcane. **290**
8. The Indian Army received the first batch of indigenous Multi Mode _____ in a ceremony held at Nagpur, Maharashtra on August 24: **Hand Grenades**
9. The Finance Ministry launched a National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in New Delhi on August 23. It will monetise which assets? **Brownfield infrastructure assets**
10. Which type of assets are referred to as brownfield infrastructure assets? **Existing infrastructure like buildings, factory premises, projects, etc**
11. Which para-military force conducted a national mock exercise 'Gandiv' from August 22 to 28? **National Security Guard**
12. Sandeep Bakhshi has been re-appointed as the MD & CEO of which bank? **ICICI Bank**
13. India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit was started at which place on August 24? **Bengaluru**
14. Who led the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of 16th Paralympic games on August 24

in the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo? **Javelin thrower Tek Chand**

15. India's first ever smog tower was inaugurated on August 23 in which city? **New Delhi**
16. Two ships of the Indian Navy carried out a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Philippine Navy on August 23 in which area? **West Philippine Sea**
17. According to Cushman and Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index, India is ____ most preferred manufacturing destination: **Second**
18. India pushed which country to third place to secure second rank as most preferred manufacturing destination? **USA**
19. In business, a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion is called ____: **Unicorn**
20. India's highest herbal park was inaugurated on August 21 at Mana village in which state? **Uttarakhand**
21. Copenhagen has been named as the world's safest city in the Safe Cities Index 2021. It is capital of which country? **Denmark**
22. India signed a deal on August 19 with which country for the immediate procurement of 70,000 AK-200 series AK-203 assault rifles? **Russia**
23. What is the name of the India's complex mission to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul after its swift takeover by the Taliban on August 15? **"Operation Devi Shakti"**
24. Which global organization launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund' to roll-out a cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner? **World Bank**
25. In which country, green steel venture HYBRIT made the 'world's first' steel produced without using coal? **Sweden**
26. What is the name of the recently launched new geospatial planning portal by Ministry of Rural Development and ISRO? **'Yuktdhara'**
27. How the Earth Got Its Beauty, a recent book for children, has been authored by whom? **Sudha Murty**
28. What is the title of the recent novel by Stephen King? **Billy Summers**

29.	2nd edition of India-Qatar Bilateral Maritime Exercise "Zair-Al-Bahr" was held from 09-14 August in which area? The Persian Gulf
30.	A 101-member contingent of the Indian Army participated in the International Army Games – 2021 held in which country? Russia
31.	The 2021 edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships was held in _____, Kenya from August 17 to 22: Nairobi
32.	Kalyan Singh, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh passed away in Lucknow on August 21. He also served as Governor of _____ : Rajasthan and Himachal
33.	'All In' is the Autobiography of which veteran Tennis star? Billie Jean King
34.	Who is the author of the recent novel "A Slow Fire Burning"? Paula Hawkins
35.	ELa Ganesan, veteran BJP leader and former MP from Tamil Nadu, has been appointed as the new Governor of which state? Manipur
36.	The Asian Development Bank approved a \$500 million loan to expand the metro rail network in which city? Bengaluru
37.	Shanti Lal Jain has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of which public sector bank? Indian Bank
38.	The Quad country navies conducted the annual Malabar naval exercises, from August 21 to 25 in which area? Western Pacific Ocean
39.	Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country? Malaysia
40.	The Finance Ministry launched a Rs 250 crore worth alternate investment fund (AIF) on August 21 for what purpose? To support small export-oriented companies
41.	Which apex financial institutions have set up this alternate investment fund? Exim Bank and SIDBI.
42.	What is the name of this alternate investment fund? "Ubharte Sitaare"
43.	On August 19, which highway became the country's first EV-friendly highway? Delhi-Chandigarh Highway
44.	Which company set up a network of solar-based electric vehicle charging stations Delhi-Chandigarh Highway? Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
45.	What is the name of the COVID-19 vaccine recently approved by the government for children in the age group of 12 to 18 years? ZyCoV-D
46.	Which company has developed the ZyCoV-D vaccine? Zyudus Cadila, Ahmedabad
47.	World Sanskrit Day is celebrated on the occasion of the Poornima (full moon day) of which month in the Hindu calendar? Shravan

48.	Which International Day is observed on August 21 to raise awareness about the condition of elderly people? World Senior Citizens Day
49.	World Mosquito Day on August 20 aims to raise awareness about the causes of _____ and how it can be prevented: Malaria
50.	Which union ministry supports the celebration of Akshay Urja Diwas? Ministry for New & Renewable Energy
51.	Who is the current union minister for the New & Renewable Energy? Raj Kumar Singh
52.	Observance of Sadbhavana Divas on August 20 marks the birth anniversary of which prominent Indian leader? Rajiv Gandhi
53.	Which apex financial body is putting in place a Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM)? RBI - Reserve Bank of India
54.	DRDO has developed an Advanced _____ Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force against hostile radar threats: Chaff
55.	Which union ministry launched the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme? Ministry of Commerce and Industry
56.	The Indian Navy and _____ People's Navy undertook bilateral maritime exercise on August 18 in the South China Sea: Vietnam
57.	The Supreme Court recently allowed women candidates to appear for which defence entrance exam: National Defence Academy (NDA)
58.	As per revised bank locker guidelines by RBI, banks can take a Term Deposit for locker accounts, which may cover _____ years' rent: Three
59.	As per revised bank locker guidelines by RBI, bank's liability in case of incidents like fire, robbery or frauds, will be _____ times the prevailing annual rent of the locker: 100
60.	Which Indian company handed over fifteen 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Guns to the Indian Navy? Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli
61.	US Agency for International Development (USAID) selected which Indian city for the International Clean Air Catalyst Programme? Indore
62.	SWIFT, Belgium based financial services company, launched which service that enables small businesses and consumers to send low-value cross-border payments anywhere in the world? SWIFT Go
63.	The Ministry of Health announced a 27% reservation for OBCs and 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the AIQ Scheme. What is AIQ? All India Quota

64.	This reservation in AIQ Scheme has been announced for which courses? For undergraduate and postgraduate medical/dental courses (MBBS / MD / MS / Diploma / BDS / MDS)
65.	Vantika Agarwal recently became the national champion of which sports? Women's chess
66.	Bhoot Jolokia was exported from Nagaland to London for the first time on July 29. What is it? One of the hottest chillies in the world
67.	12 th Indra Navy exercise was held on July 28-29 between Indian Navy and navy of which other country? Russia
68.	12 th Indra Navy exercise between Indian and Russian Navies was held in which place? Baltic Sea
69.	The World Ranger Day is observed on which date? July 31
70.	Guido Bellido has been appointed as the new prime minister of Peru. It is in which continent? South America
71.	What is the name of the recently launched cashless and contactless prepaid e-voucher for digital payment? e-RUPI
72.	The e-RUPI platform has been developed by which apex organization? NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India
73.	Which national day is observed to mark the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq on Aug 01 in 2019? Muslim Women's Rights Day
74.	India got the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for which month? August, 2021
75.	India took over the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) from which country? France
76.	The first goods train carrying stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari – Chilahati rail link, originated from which state? West Bengal
77.	P V Sindhu secured a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympic, defeating He Bing Jiao of which country? China
78.	UGC notified which platform on July 28 for storing and transferring of academic credits of a student? Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)
79.	Which international day is observed on August 01 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of a disease of lungs? World Lung Cancer Day
80.	What is the name of the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite launched recently by the European Space Agency? Eutelsat Quantum

81.	The Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli launched a new weapon called TriCa. What is it? Carbine gun
82.	Name the 105-year-old athlete from Patiala, Punjab, winner of several international awards, who passed away on July 31: Man Kaur
83.	Which state Police secured first position in the country for the best implementation of the Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & System (CCTNS)? Haryana
84.	_____ became the first city in India to achieve hundred percent vaccination of its people against covid-19 by July 31: Bhubaneswar
85.	Name the Indian woman boxer who bagged a Bronze Medal at Tokyo Olympics: Lovlina Borgohain
86.	Lovlina Borgohain hails from which state? Assam
87.	Lok Sabha passed which bill to prohibit lockouts, strikes and layoffs in the units engaged in the essential defence services, such as various ordnance factories? Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021
88.	CONCACAF Gold Cup is associated with which sports? Men's Football
89.	In which country its military chief declared himself as the Prime Minister of the country on August 1? Myanmar
90.	Which country approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set and related equipment to India? USA
91.	India and which other country conducted the joint military exercise INDRA-2021? Russia
92.	The Indo-Russia joint military exercise INDRA-2021 was held at which place? Volgograd, Russia
93.	Name the Indian hockey goalkeeper who saved the last second penalty corner to ensure Indian victory? P R Sreejesh
94.	Our hockey team won an Olympic medal after how many years? 41
95.	Who was the coach of bronze winning Indian hockey team? Graham Reid
96.	India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier made her maiden sea trials, off the coast of Kochi, Kerala. What is its name? INS Vikrant
97.	What is the name of the only aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy? INS Vikramaditya
98.	An all-weather 8.5 km tunnel between Jammu and Kashmir's Qazigund and Banihal was opened for traffic on a trial basis on August 4. It has been made across which range of Himalayas? Pir Panjal
99.	The BRO made world's highest motorable tarmac road at the height of 19,300 feet at which pass? Umling La

100.	Ms. Mini Ipe has been appointed as the Managing Director of which apex financial institution? Life Insurance Corporation of India
101.	Padma Sachdev, noted author and Padma Shri awardee, who passed away recently, was a prominent author of which language? Dogri
102.	Name the Indian wrestler who won silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics? Ravi Kumar Dahiya
103.	RBI changed which policy rate in its bi-monthly policy review meeting on August 6? No change
104.	Recently Supreme Court clarified that the Governor of state can pardon prisoners, including in the death sentence cases, under provisions of Article ____ of the Constitution: 161
105.	August 6 is observed as the Hiroshima Day to mark the day on which USA dropped Atom Bomb on Hiroshima in the year ____ : 1945
106.	According to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, who has been declared as the richest person of the world? Bernard Arnault
107.	Bernard Arnault is a super-rich business tycoon from which country? France
108.	The National Handloom Day on August 7 commemorates launching of which national movement on this day in 1905? Swadeshi movement
109.	The Swadeshi movement was launched from which place? (Then) Calcutta
110.	Which national movement was launched on August 8 in 1942? Quit India Movement
111.	Quit India Movement was launched from which place? Bombay
112.	August 8 is observed as which national day? August Kranti Diwas
113.	The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the PM-DAKSH Portal and Mobile Application on August 07 for what purpose? To boost skill development among BCs and SCs
114.	What is the full form of DAKSH? Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi
115.	Who is the current Social Justice and Empowerment union minister? Dr. Virendra Kumar
116.	What is the new name of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award? Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
117.	What is the cash prize given in the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award? Rs. 25 lakh
118.	Birth day of Major Dhyan Chand, August 29 is celebrated as which national day? National Sports Day
119.	Indian women's hockey team lost the bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics to which team? Britain
120.	Ebrahim Raisi was sworn in as the new president of which country on August 5? Iran

121.	Sole gold winner of Tokyo Olympics, Neeraj Chopra is from which regiment of Indian Army? Rajputana Rifles
122.	What was the name of the joint exercise of Indian Navy and UAE Navy held on August 7? Zayed Talwar 2021
123.	Joint naval exercise Zayed Talwar 2021 was held in which area? Off the coast of Abu Dhabi in the Persian Gulf
124.	Which country topped the medal tally in Tokyo Olympics? USA
125.	USA won how many medals in total to top the medal tally in Tokyo Olympics? 113
126.	What was India's rank in the medal tally in Tokyo Olympics? 48th
127.	Who became the most successful participant among men, winning five golds in Tokyo Olympics? Caeleb Dressel of USA, swimming
128.	Emma McKeon from _____ won seven medals, four gold and three bronze in swimming, to emerge as most successful woman participant in Tokyo Olympics: Australia
129.	Who won the only bronze medal in wrestling for India in Tokyo Olympics? Bajrang Punia
130.	The first National Heart Failure Biobank (NHFB) in the country has been set up in which state? Kerala
131.	The World Tribal Day is observed on which day of August? 9th
132.	SEBI has introduced the concept of '_____' investors' in the Indian securities market: Accredited
133.	Who is the current chairman of SEBI? Ajay Tyagi
134.	The Central Government extended the tenure of Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, for another term of three years wef August 07. Who is she? Rekha Sharma
135.	August 10 is observed as World Biofuel Day. Which are the three main biofuels? Ethanol, Biodiesel and Biogas.
136.	The children are orally administered which anti-worm tablets on the National Deworming Day? Albendazole
137.	World Lion Day is observed on August 10. Which Indian state has the largest population of lions? Gujarat
138.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a National Edible Oil Mission on August 9 to focus on boosting production of which edible oil? Palm oil
139.	Evia Island witnessed one of the worst wildfires in recent times, destroying thousands of hectares of land. It is in which country? Greece
140.	RBI notified on August 9 the enhancement of collateral (additional security) free loans to self-

help groups (SHGs) to Rs. ____ lakh, from Rs 10 lakh at present: 20
141. Which apex financial institution issues the operational guidelines for functioning of SHGs? NABARD
142. With which country's navy INS Kochi participated in the naval exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi 2021? Saudi Arabia
143. Which state topped the first Van Dhan Annual Awards 2020-21, winning seven national awards? Nagaland
144. World Elephant Day is observed on August 12. Which country is credited with largest population of elephants? Botswana
145. International Youth Day on August 12 marks the birthday of which great statesman? None
146. The Central Government has declared which city as the first Water Plus city of the country? Indore, MP
147. Which city is the capital of Madhya Pradesh? Bhopal
148. From 1st October 2021, cash-out at any ATM for more than ____ hours in a month will attract a penalty: Ten
149. RBI has proposed a penalty of Rs. _____ for incidence of cash-out at any ATM: 10,000/=
150. As per the recently released "Quality of Life for Elderly Index", which state fared best among the old state category? Rajasthan
151. Which apex institution released the "Quality of Life for Elderly Index"? EAC-PM
152. What is the full form of EAC-PM? Economic Advisory council to the Prime Minister
153. Who is the current chairman of the Economic Advisory council to the Prime Minister? Dr. Bibek Debroy
154. Which international body released the Global Youth Development Index 2020 for measuring the condition of young people across 181 countries? The Commonwealth Secretariat, London
155. What was India's rank in the Global Youth Development Index 2020? 122nd
156. Which country topped the Global Youth Development Index 2020? Singapore
157. The Indian Air Force built one of the world's highest mobile air traffic control (ATC) towers at which place in Ladakh? Nyoma
158. World Organ Donation Day is observed on which day of August? 13th
159. The DRDO successfully tested Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile Nirbhay with which new engine? Manik
160. The Government has prohibited manufacturing, usage, trading and storage of identified single-use plastic items from which date? July 01, 2022

161. Which National Park in Assam has become the first National Park in India to be equipped with satellite phones? Kaziranga
162. The Indian Navy participated in the U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise held at which place? Near Singapore
163. India's renewable energy (RE) capacity crossed the milestone of ____ gigawatts (GW) on August 12: 100
164. The Prime Minister announced PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to support which segment of economy? Manufacturing
165. In which Caribbean country an earthquake claimed over 2,000 lives? Haiti
166. Komalika Bari, 19 year old Indian girl became the new under-21 world champion in which sports? Archery, Recurve
167. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of which country declared month of July 2021 as the world's hottest month ever recorded? USA
168. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched an online portal named TAPAS for providing online study material in which field? Social defence
169. Recently how many Indian wetland sites have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention? Four
170. These four wetlands are located in which states? Haryana -2 and Gujarat-2
171. The city of Ramsar is located in which country? Iran
172. Which union ministry launched the 2nd phase of SAMVAD (Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress)? Ministry of Women and Child Development
173. Harshit Raja, 20 year old Indian chess player became the 69th Grand Master from India. He hails from which city? Pune
174. The Government of India recently declared August 14 to be observed as which National Day? Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
175. The WHO has announced the formation of the International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens. What is its short name? SAGO
176. _____ became the first State to recognize the Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) in urban areas: Chhattisgarh
177. INS Kochi participated in the four-day Maritime Partnership Exercise with ships of Royal Bahrain Naval Force in which area? Persian Gulf

178.	The RBI released the first edition of which Index to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country? Financial Inclusion Index
179.	The Financial Inclusion Index is to be released annually in which month? July
180.	What are the three broad parameters of the Financial Inclusion Index? Access, Usage and Quality
181.	The world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank was inaugurated on August 16 in which city? New Delhi
182.	Exercise Konkan 2021, the bilateral naval drill between India and Britain was held in which area? English Channel
183.	What is the theme of this year's World Humanitarian Day observed on August 19? '#theHumanRace'
184.	Which day is observed as the World Photography Day? August 19
JULY 2021	
185.	The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30 with the support of which UN agency? UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
186.	Global Tiger Day is observed on July 29. Which Indian state has largest number of tigers? Madhya Pradesh
187.	Which country is home to the largest number of tigers? India
188.	Who has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Karnataka on July 28? Basavraj Somappa Bommai
189.	Najib Mikati has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country on July 28? Lebanon
190.	World Hepatitis Day is observed on July 28. Hepatitis affects which part of the body most? Liver
191.	Indian Naval Ship Talwar participated in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021. It was held at which place? East Coast of Africa near Kenya
192.	How many Indian enterprises are among the 50 winners of a \$100,000 global competition of 'Best Small Businesses of the "Good Food for All" competition, announced by the United Nations? Three
193.	The International Monetary Fund has slashed India's growth rate to ____ per cent for the current fiscal year - 2021-22: 9.5
194.	_____ has become the first country in the world to get approval for the commercial production of the first genetically modified "Golden Rice": Philippines
195.	Which part of the USA has been in the grip of most devastating wildfires in the month of July? Western USA

196.	What is the name of the autobiography of filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra? The Stranger in The Mirror
197.	The India Story is a recent book written by which former Governor of RBI? Bimal Jalan
198.	Who is the author of the book titled "It's a Wonderful Life"? Ruskin Bond
199.	What is the title of the recent novel of Shelley Parker Chan? She Who Became the Sun
200.	Assam Police lost six of its jawaans in an armed clash with police of which other state on July 26? Mizoram
201.	_____ has become the first city in India to have a Drink from Tap project that will dispense safe hygienic drinking water 24X7, directly from a tap, eliminating the need for widely used plastic bottles: Puri, Odisha
202.	Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis, has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is in which state? Gujarat
203.	After inclusion of Dholavira, India has how many World Heritage Sites? 40
204.	Vacation of which airbase by the US forces marked their exit from Afghanistan? Bagram Airbase
205.	Which Indian state has largest area under Mangroves? West Bengal
206.	What is the literal meaning of the word Taliban? Student
207.	The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "SMILE" for the comprehensive welfare of which segment of society? Beggars
208.	In the acronym SMILE, what is denoted by letter S? Support
209.	On July 26, Byju's acquired "Great Learning", a leading global player in the professional and higher education segment, in which country? Singapore
210.	Typhoon In-fa inundated which large metropolitan of China? Shanghai
211.	Sudden flash floods caused by heavy rains in third week of July, claimed over 164 lives in which state? Maharashtra
212.	In which international wrestling competition, junior Indian wrestler won total 13 medals, including 5 gold? Cadet World Wrestling Championship, Budapest
213.	The main function to pay tributes to the martyrs of Kargil War is held at the Kargil War Memorial. Where is it located? In Drass area of Ladakh
214.	Which famous temple from Telangana has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site? Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple

215.	DRDO successfully test fired extended range version of _____ rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher, off the coast of Odisha: Pinaka
216.	What is the maximum range of the Pinaka rocket? 45 kms
217.	Which three top UN agencies have formed a joint platform to help countries plug the gaps in accessing Covid-19 vaccines, treatments and technologies? WHO, WIPO and WTO
218.	Who is the Director General of WIPO? Daren Tang
219.	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is the Director General of which major UN agency? WTO
220.	Continued conflict of local rebels with the government forces in Tigray region has led to thousands of deaths, displaced 1.7 million people. It is in which country? Ethiopia
221.	Which global rating agency cut India's growth forecast on June 24 for the 2021-22 to 9.5 per cent, from 11 per cent earlier? S&P Global Ratings
222.	Which global Bank approved a \$32 million loan for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project? World Bank
223.	Which former Olympian has been appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University? Karnam Malleswari, weightlifter
224.	Which Indian pioneer industrialist topped the inaugural EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century list? Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata
225.	What is the 'mukhra' (opening lyrics) of the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent? "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai"
226.	_____ has become first Indian state to become free from rabies? Goa
227.	The World Bank approved a \$125 million program to support which state's preparedness against natural disasters, disease outbreaks and pandemics? Kerala
228.	Abhishek Verma and Deepika Kumari bagged a gold each in which international event? Archery World Cup Stage 3 held in Paris
229.	Which two cities jointly won the top spot in the Smart City awards 2020 declared by the Central Government? Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat)
230.	According to government data, which country replaced the UAE as the second largest export destination for India in fiscal 2021? China
231.	Which country was India's top export partner in 2020-21? USA
232.	Rubina Francis, para shooter won the gold in the 10-metre air pistol event at World shooting Para Sport Cup in Peru. She hails from which state? Madhya Pradesh

233.	What is the name of the new Agni series missile tested by DRDO? Agni Prime
234.	Which Indian medical school was placed one rank ahead of UK-based Oxford University Medical School? AIIMS, New Delhi
235.	Which institute was ranked first in the rankings for the 100 best medical schools in the world? Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA
236.	Who became the youngest (17 years and 150 days) Indian cricketer on June 27, to make debut across all the three formats? Shafali Verma
237.	The World Bank approved a loan of \$ 250 million for a foundational learning programme in government schools of which state? Andhra Pradesh
238.	Which Indian metro has been awarded the Japan Society of Civil Engineers 'Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for the year 2020? Delhi Metro
239.	Who has been appointed chairperson of the task force formed to help the government in implementation of its "Mission Karmayogi"? S D Shibu Lal
240.	In the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020, released by the International Telecommunication Union, India was ranked at which place? 10th
241.	_____ secured first rank in the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020? USA
242.	In which city a High-Speed Track - NATRAX was inaugurated for high end automobiles testing? Indore, Madhya Pradesh
243.	Which union minister announced a fresh economic package on June 28, to provide relief to people and businesses affected by the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic? Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister
244.	Which Bank launched its flagship Business Mentoring Program 'MSME Prerana' from Nagpur, Maharashtra? Indian Bank
245.	Which country announced to provide \$ 9.3 million worth of cold chain equipment to India to help its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic? Japan
246.	National Doctor's Day on July 01 in India also marks the birth and death anniversary of which legendary doctor? Dr. B C Roy
247.	The Chartered Accountants Day is celebrated on which date? July 1
248.	In which country an extreme heatwave smashed all-time high temperature records, claiming over 500 lives in last week of June? Canada, western part
249.	Abhimanyu Mishra who became the youngest chess Grandmaster of the world at 12 years and

	seven months. He is citizen of which country? USA
250.	The Union Government launched which app to provide farmers with actionable agricultural insights and weather alerts? 'Atmanirbhar Krishi App'
251.	Which Pakistani city recorded the world's highest temperature, up to almost 52°C (126 Fahrenheit) at the end June? Jacobabad
252.	Which country was placed at number one in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021? USA
253.	India secured which rank in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021? 20th
254.	World Sports Journalists Day is observed on which day of July? 2nd
255.	Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar is given for outstanding excellence in which field? Literature
256.	Kuvempu was a noted poet, playwright, novelist and critic in which language? Kannada
257.	The government has decided to include which category of business under MSMEs to give it the benefit of priority sector lending? Retail and wholesale trade
258.	Retail and wholesale trade businesses having annual turnover up to Rs ____ crore have been included under the definition of MSMEs: 250
259.	Name the American diplomat who took charge as United States' new envoy to India: Eric Garcetti
260.	The International Day of Cooperatives is observed on which Saturday of July? First
261.	Who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand? Pushkar Singh Dhami
262.	Name the Indian woman cricketer who became the top run-getter in the world, scoring 10,277 in international cricket across all formats: Mithali Raj
263.	WHO has declared which Asian country as 'Free from Malaria' after its 70 years efforts to wipe out Malaria? China
264.	As per new RBI guidelines, unclaimed term deposits will now earn interest at which rate? Contracted rate of term deposit or Savings Bank interest rate, whichever is lower
265.	Government launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy on July 5. What is its short name? NIPUN Bharat
266.	Who have been appointed as the flag bearers for the opening ceremony of Tokyo Olympics? M C Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh
267.	Karsten Warholm, a 25-year-old athlete from Norway, broke the 29-year-old world record in which event? 400m hurdles

268.	In a historic decision, LG of J & K, Manoj Sinha decided to say goodbye to which 149-year-old biannual tradition of the state? Darbar move – shifting of capital from Jammu to Srinagar and vice versa
269.	President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new governors in how many states on July 6? Eight
270.	Hari Babu Kambhampati has been appointed Governor of which state? Mizoram
271.	Who has been appointed new Governor of Himachal Pradesh? Rajendran Vishwanath Arlekar
272.	Government has sanctioned Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary as the fourth tiger sanctuary in which state? Rajasthan
273.	Jeff Bezos, richest person on Earth, Amazon's CEO made which important announcement on July 5? To step down from the post of Amazon's CEO
274.	Observed on July 6 , the World Zoonoses Day is associated with which issue? Awareness for the risk of zoonotic diseases
275.	What are zoonotic diseases? Infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa
276.	Who invented the first vaccine against Rabies? Louis Pasteur
277.	Who was the only sportsperson to win a gold in the ISSF World Cup held in Osijek, Croatia from 22 to July 3? Rahi Sarnobat
278.	Which app has been launched to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country? Matsya Setu
279.	Dilip Kumar, legendary actor, was the only Indian to be honoured with Pakistan's highest civilian award____: Nishan-e-Imtiaz
280.	Name the veteran Congress leader and six-time chief minister of Himachal Pradesh who passed away on July 8 in Shimla? Virbhadra Singh
281.	The Union Government created a new Ministry of Cooperation (Sahkarita Mantralaya) on July 6. Who is the first minister to head this ministry? Amit Shah
282.	The government has decided to bring the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under which ministry? Finance Ministry
283.	After the merger of Department of Public Enterprises in Finance Ministry, total how many departments are there now in the ministry of finance? Six
284.	After recent Cabinet expansion-cum-reshuffle on July 7, how many total ministers are there now in union cabinet, including the prime minister? 78

285.	Name the young lady mountain biker who finished the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern Himalayan Mountain ranges? Kanchan Ugursandi
286.	Nihal Sarin, the 16-year-old young Indian Grandmaster, winner of Masters' section of the Serbia Open Chess Championship, hails from which state? Kerala
287.	INS Tabar, a war frigate of Indian Navy undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with warship of which other country? Italy
288.	President of which tiny Caribbean country north of Colombia, was assassinated in an attack at his residence? Haiti
289.	E-Commerce company, Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in which city? Surat, Gujarat
290.	Stefan Lofven has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which Scandinavian country? Sweden
291.	National Fish Farmers' Day is observed on which day of July? 10th
292.	Which UN Day is observed on July 11 to bring attention to the urgency and importance of population related issues around the world? World Population Day
293.	A first case of Zika virus infection was confirmed on July 8 in a 24-year-old pregnant woman in which state? Kerala
294.	Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected _____ species mosquito: Aedes
295.	RBI has asked banks and other financial institutions to stop using which benchmark Interbank Offered Rate? LIBOR - London Interbank Offered Rate
296.	Consequent upon discontinuation of LIBOR, which Indian benchmark rate is likely to be discontinued? MIFOR- Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate
297.	The Defence Ministry has implemented which system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pensions? SPARSH
298.	What is the full form of the acronym SPARSH? System for Pension Administration Raksha
299.	Argentina defeated which country to lift the Copa America trophy? Brazil
300.	Which northeastern state made its debut on map of Indian Railway on July 2? Manipur
301.	Which state government announced a new Population Policy 2021-2030' on the occasion of World Population Day on July 11? Uttar Pradesh
302.	Which country defeated England to win the Euro Cup 2020? Italy

303.	Who won the prestigious 'Golden Boot' for scoring highest number of goals in Euro Cup? Cristiano Ronaldo
304.	Novak Djokovic clinched his sixth Wimbledon title after beating which player? Matteo Berrettini
305.	Who won the women's singles title at the Wimbledon? Ashleigh Barty
306.	Richard Branson, became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship. He hails from which country? Britain
307.	Richard Branson, a multi-faceted entrepreneur and billionaire, is the founder of which corporate group? Virgin group of companies
308.	Which UN day commemorates the birthday of the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai? July 12: World Malala Day
309.	India's first cryptogamic garden was inaugurated on July 11 in which city? Dehradun
310.	Dr. PK Warriar, an internationally renowned Ayurvedic physician passed away on July 10. He hailed from which state? Kerala
311.	The Reserve Bank of India introduced the RBI Retail Direct facility on July 12 for what purpose? To facilitate investment in Government Securities, G-Sec by individual investors
312.	Which Indian entity has been granted the contract for construction of Lower Arun Hydropower Project in Nepal? SJVN - Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam
313.	Abiy Ahmed has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which African country? Ethiopia
314.	Who became the first batsman in history to score 14,000 runs in T20 format? Chris Gayle
315.	Who was sworn as the prime minister of Nepal on orders of Supreme Court of Nepal? Sher Bahadur Deuba
316.	Who is the President of Nepal? Bidhya Devi Bhandari
317.	In which country Indian digital payment app BHIM-UPI was launched on July 13? Bhutan
318.	What is the full form of BHIM? Bharat Interface for Money
319.	Which state will host the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 in February 2022? Haryana
320.	For the first time, which high-altitude Himalayan animal will now be insured? Yak
321.	Yaks are heavily built sturdy short legged animals belonging to _____ family: Bovine (cows and buffalo)
322.	_____ has become the first Union Territory of India to vaccinate all the residents as well as the 'guest population', consisting of hotel workers, migrant labourers, and Nepalese citizens: Ladakh

323.	What is the formal name of the so called “Bad Bank” registered in Mumbai on July 7? National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd.
324.	An estimated 100 million sharks are killed each year, mostly to meet demand for an expensive Chinese dish called _____ : Shark fin soup
325.	ISRO successfully tested which engine to be used for launch of its Gaganyaan Mission? Vikas
326.	The Reserve Bank imposed restrictions on which company for adding new domestic customers from 22nd July, 2021? Mastercard
327.	Deepak Kabra has become the first Indian to be selected for judging the _____ competition of the Tokyo Olympic Games: Gymnastics
328.	India and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre is to be set up on the banks of the River Ganges in which city? Patna
329.	Which is India's national aquatic animal? Gangetic Dolphin
330.	India and world's largest solar power park of 4.75-Gigawatt (4750 MW) capacity is being set up in which area of Gujarat? In Rann of Kutch
331.	Which Indian corporate is going to set up India and world's largest solar power park in Gujarat? NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.
332.	Which two ministries jointly launched the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program? Education ministry and Tribal Affairs ministry
333.	In which country more than 150 persons were killed and several others were reported missing due to flash floods? Germany (West)
334.	What is India's rank in the world in terms of production of fruits and vegetables? Second, after China
335.	Indian Navy received the first two Sikorsky MH-60R multi-role helicopters from which country? USA
336.	Name the noted Indian photojournalist who was killed in crossfire while covering a clash between Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters: Danish Siddiqui
337.	Name the three-time national award-winning 75-year-old actress who passed away on July 16: Surekha Sikiri
338.	World Day for International Justice is observed on which date? July 17
339.	Which state government installed India's first Grain ATM as a pilot project? Haryana
340.	The government launched which app on July 16 to provide crucial information to farmers at their fingertips in the language of their choice? Kissan Sarthi
341.	The second edition of Khelo India University Games will be hosted by which state from March 5, 2022? Karnataka

342.	Which organization delivered 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Guns to Indian Navy and to Indian Coast Guard? Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu)
343.	The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted engineering colleges to offer B.Tech programmes in how many regional languages? Eleven
344.	AICTE has put in massive efforts for translation of technical study material in regional languages on which digital platform? SWAYAM
345.	What is the expansion of the acronym SWAYAM? Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds
346.	July 18 is observed as International Nelson Mandela Day. In which year he became first non-white President of South Africa? 1994
347.	The government's UMANG app has tied up with which digital map company to add spatial aspect to its services? MapmyIndia
348.	_____ has become the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land use change data? Africa
349.	The limit of FDI in National Pension System (NPS) pension funds has been hiked from 49 percent to _____ percent? 74
350.	For the first time, cultivation of monk fruit from China has been taken up in India in Himachal Pradesh in which place? Kullu
351.	Which award is given for the “Best Film” at the Cannes Film Festival? Palme d'Or
352.	Which film won the Palme d'Or for the best film at the Cannes Film Festival, 2021? Titane directed by Ms. Julia Ducournau of France.
353.	The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted which three countries as its new member countries at its 78th Annual General Meeting on July 18? Mongolia, Switzerland, and Tajikistan
354.	Which country has unveiled a maglev train which is capable of a top speed of 600 kmph? China
355.	What was the name of the rocket that took Jeff Bezos to the outer space? New Shepard
356.	International sports body FIDE is associated with which sports? Chess
357.	Chess originated in India. What was its original name? Chaturanga
358.	National Moon Day on July 20 commemorates which single greatest technological achievement of all time? Landing first human being on the surface of Moon, in 1969
359.	Which Grand Master from Chennai defeated former world champion from Russia, Vladimir

	Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy on July 18? Viswanathan Anand
360.	The Russia successfully tested launch of its new hypersonic cruise missile on July 19. What is its name? Zircon (Tsirkon)
361.	Which station in Nepal recently received first train from India? Kurtha
362.	DRDO successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile, a surface-to-air Missile. What is its target hitting range? 60km
363.	Unprecedented rainstorm hit Central China's Henan province on July 18 to 20, battering the metropolis _____, its capital: Zhengzhou
364.	The International Olympic Committee has granted hosting rights for the 2032 Olympics to which city? Brisbane, Australia
365.	The central government has decided to set up the Indian Institute of Heritage at which place? NOIDA, UP
366.	Which High Court has become the first high court in India to begin from July 17 live-streaming of court proceedings on YouTube? Gujarat High Court
367.	The union cabinet approved setting up a Central University at a cost of Rs. 750 crores in which place? Leh, Ladakh
368.	Indian Navy participated in a two-day bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with British Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21 at which area? Bay of Bengal
369.	The National Mango Day is observed on which day of July? 22nd
370.	July 22 is dedicated to raising awareness and promoting advocacy related to health of which body part? Brain
371.	National Broadcasting Day observed on July 23 commemorates which event? First ever radio broadcast in India, in 1927
372.	UNESCO has removed this city in England from its list of World Heritage Sites? Liverpool
373.	Which two cities in Madhya Pradesh were selected by UNESCO on July 19 under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'? Gwalior and Orchha
374.	Who won the first medal (silver) for India at the Tokyo Olympics? Mirabai Chanu
375.	RBI allowed banks to extend personal loans up to Rs. _____ crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval? Five
376.	CBDT celebrates July 24 as Income Tax Day to commemorate which historical event? Introduction of Income Tax in India, in 1860
JUNE 2021	
377.	UN General Assembly passed a resolution in 2018 to observe the International Day of Parliamentarism on which date? June 30

378.	Which international day is observed on June 30 to mark the crashing of a huge asteroid in Tunguska in Siberia on this day in 1908? International Asteroid Day
379.	India celebrates National Statistics Day on June 29 to mark the birth anniversary of which great mathematician? Prof. P C Mahalanobis
380.	UN supports the celebration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on which date? June 26
381.	Indian Naval Ships and aircrafts participated in a Passage Exercise with US Navy on June 23-24 in which region? Indian Ocean
382.	What is the name of the nationwide awareness campaign launched on June 22 to create awareness on Corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of the country? Jaan Hai To Jahan Hai
383.	India launched a trilateral partnership on June 17 with which two countries for cooperation in Indo-Pacific region? Italy and Japan
384.	The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) functions under which union ministry? Ministry of Science and Technology
385.	The DBT recently launched its Mission Programme "Biotech- KISAN in which region of India? North Eastern India
386.	What is the full form of acronym KISAN in Mission Programme "Biotech- KISAN"? Krishi Innovation Science Application Network
387.	India lost the first-ever World Test Cricket Championship to New Zealand. It was played in which place? Southampton, UK
388.	Nikol Pashinyan has been elected as the _____ of Armenia, a tiny country east of Turkey: Prime Minister
389.	Dr. Tadang Minu, boxing expert from _____ became the first Indian woman to be appointed as a member of the Coaches Committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA): Arunachal Pradesh
390.	The Ministry of Finance has allowed housing finance companies (HFCs) with asset size of over Rs. _____ crore to recover their dues by exercising their powers under the SARFAESI Act, 2002: 100
391.	Which country surpassed Indonesia to become India's biggest Crude Palm Oil exporter in 2020-21? Malaysia
392.	_____ has become the only Indian state to have all the three major kinds of crocodile species: Odisha
393.	Bharti Airtel joined hands with which IT company for implementing 5G networks solutions in India? TCS - Tata Consultancy Services

394.	Laurel Hubbard, the weightlifter from _____ created history after being confirmed as the first transgender athlete to compete at an Olympic Games: New Zealand
395.	Hockey India named midfielder _____ as captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound men's hockey team: Manpreet Singh
396.	June ____ is observed as International Widows Day: 23
397.	World Olympic Day on June 23 commemorates which historical event? Foundation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on this day in 1894 in Paris
398.	Who is the author of the novel titled "The Secret Keeper of Jaipur"? Alka Joshi
399.	What is the title of the recent novel by Amitav Ghosh? The Nutmeg's Curse
400.	"Languages of Truth" is a recent novel written by _____? Salman Rushdie
401.	Name the Nobel laureate who authored the book "Home in the World": Dr. Amartya Sen
402.	As per the World Investment Report 2021 by the UNCTAD released on June 21, which country received the highest amount of FDI in 2020? USA
403.	India received \$64 billion in FDI in 2020, making it _____ largest recipient of FDI in the world: Fifth
404.	The Ease of Living Index 2020, released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on June 16 named _____ as the most liveable city of India: Bengaluru
405.	Foreign exchange reserves of the country crossed record high \$ _____ billion mark on June 4? 600
406.	Ships of the Indian Navy and which other country participated in a joint naval exercise on June 13 in the Indian Ocean? Japan
407.	India launched a hydrogen task force jointly with which country? USA
408.	Ebrahim Raisi, a former judiciary chief was elected as the new President of which country? Iran
409.	Government announced on May 29 a number of welfare measures under which scheme for children who lost their parents to COVID-19? PM-CARES for Children
410.	A corpus of Rs ____ lakh will be provided under PM-CARES for Children Scheme for each child orphaned due to COVID-19: Ten
411.	Who became the lone Indian woman boxer to strike gold at the 2021 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships held in Dubai? Pooja Rani
412.	Which Ministry launched a new initiative called 'YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors'? Ministry of Education

413.	What is the full form of the acronym YUVA? Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors
414.	Which organization will be the implementing agency for YUVA scheme? National Book Trust
415.	What was the name of multi nation military exercise hosted by NATO? Steadfast Defender 21
416.	Headquarters of NATO are located in which place? Brussels, Belgium
417.	NATO is a multi-nation military alliance of how many countries? 30
418.	Which country announced on May 31 that married couples may have up to three children? China
419.	Tsang Yin-hung, a 45-year-old school teacher from _____, became the fastest woman to conquer Mount Everest: Hong Kong
420.	The record of the fastest male climber to conquer Mount Everest in 10 hours and 56 minutes, is held by which person? Lakpa Gelu
421.	Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Milk Day on June 01? FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
422.	Food and Agriculture Organization is an UN agency based in _____: Rome
423.	Which international day is celebrated on June 1 to commemorate the institution of family? The Global Day of Parents
424.	Which company launched on May 31 the "World's 1st Nano Urea Liquid"? IFFCO
425.	What is the full form of IFFCO? Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited
426.	Urea fertiliser provides which nutrient to plants? Nitrogen
427.	The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched which online tracking portal for children in need of care and protection? Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)
428.	The NCPCR functions under which union ministry? Ministry of Women and Child Development
429.	Which union ministry releases the official data for the GDP statistics? Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
430.	In its worst recession since independence, the Indian economy contracted by _____ percent in FY 2020-21: 7.3%
431.	T V Narendran, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel, has been elected as the President of which apex business body? CII - Confederation of Indian Industry
432.	Sanjeet Kumar won gold in the 91 Kg category at the ASBC Asian Amateur _____ Championships: Boxing
433.	World Bicycle Day is observed on which day of June? 3rd

434.	Model Tenancy Act shall be applicable all over India in which areas? Both urban and rural
435.	Arun Kumar Mishra, a retired Supreme Court Judge, has been appointed as the Chairman of which apex national body? National Human Rights Commission
436.	Isaac Herzog has been elected as the 11th President of which country? Israel
437.	What is the name of the parliament of Israel? Knesset
438.	Name the 17-year-old batswoman who retained her top position in the ICC women's T20 batting rankings: Shafali Verma
439.	Which apex national body released the third edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2021? NITI Aayog
440.	The SDG India Index 2021 has placed which state at the top? Kerala
441.	The UNO has adopted how many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? 17
442.	All the member countries of UNO are expected to achieve the 17 SDGs by which time? By 2030
443.	Which country hosted a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of BRICS states on June 1? India
444.	The meeting of health ministers from the Group of Seven nations – G7, was held in which British city on June 3-4? Oxford
445.	The RBI in its bimonthly monetary policy review meeting on June 4 kept the benchmark interest rates unchanged. What is the current CRR? 4%
446.	Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair has been appointed the Director General of which paramilitary force? Assam Rifles
447.	Where are the headquarters of the Assam Rifles? Shillong, Meghalaya
448.	Manama topped the AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for financial attractiveness for the third straight year. It is capital of which country? Bahrain
449.	Government launched the SAGE portal on June 4 with a view to help _____ persons: Elderly
450.	What is the full form of SAGE? Senior care Ageing Growth Engine
451.	Name the two times former President and four-time Prime Minister of Mauritius who passed away recently? Sir Anerood Jugnauth
452.	The United Nations celebrates which day on June 5 to raise awareness to protect nature? World Environment Day
453.	What is the theme selected for this year's World Environment Day? Reimagine. Recreate. Restore
454.	Which country is the official host for this year's World Environment Day? Pakistan

455.	Who is the winner of this year's International Booker Prize? David Diop
456.	David Diop writes in which language? French
457.	What is the English title of the award-winning novel of Diop? At Night All Blood is Black
458.	The International Booker Prize is given by which organization? Booker Prize Foundation, UK
459.	What is the cash prize given with the International Booker Prize? £50,000
460.	Who translated Diop's novel from French in to English? Anna Moschovakis
461.	Who is to head the expert group set up to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor level for minimum wages? Ajit Mishra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth
462.	What is the current minimum floor wage, which was fixed in 2017? Rs. 176 a day
463.	The G-7 finance ministers in their meeting in London agreed in principle to impose a global minimum tax rate of ____ per cent for multinational companies in each country they operate in: 15
464.	The State of India's Environment Report 2021 placed India at which rank in performance in 17 SDGs? 117th
465.	The third Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 ranked the States and Union Territories on which issue? School education
466.	In which state the Raimona Sanctuary, a forest reserve has been declared as a National Park? Assam
467.	What was the name of the Indian Navy's first hydrographic survey ship that was decommissioned on June 4? INS Sandhyak
468.	India has been elected as one of the 54 members of which UN organ? UN Economic and Social Council
469.	Who has been elected as the President of 76th United Nations General Assembly? Abdulla Shahid
470.	Abdulla Shahid is the Foreign Minister of which country? Maldives
471.	_____ approved a \$ 500 million program to help boost India's MSME sector: World Bank
472.	UNO has selected which day to observe the World Food Safety Day? June 7
473.	Which international day is observed on June 8 to raise awareness about the importance of the oceans in our lives? World Oceans Day
474.	Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix F1 championship held in Baku. He hails from which country? Mexico
475.	Seven south Asian countries observed the 24th foundation Day of BIMSTEC on June 6. Where is

	the secretariate of Bimstec? Dhaka, Bangladesh
476.	Out of India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar, which one is NOT a member of BIMSTEC? Afghanistan
477.	The United Nations launched the UN Decade on _____ -2021 to 2030: Ecosystem Restoration
478.	Which two UN agencies will lead the celebration of UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration? UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO
479.	Sunil Chhetri, Indian Football skipper became the _____ highest active international goal scorer with 74 goals: Second
480.	Who holds the record for scoring the highest number of international goals in Football? Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal, with 103 goals
481.	Scientists in which country have designed an 'Artificial Sun' on Earth that has sustained a temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius? China
482.	The core of the Sun burns at 15 million degrees Celsius by nuclear fusion of _____ nuclei into Helium: Hydrogen
483.	Which Indian university secured first position in world in research category in QS World's International University rankings? IISc, Bengaluru
484.	Which Indian institute/university secured highest rank in India in QS World's International University rankings? IIT Bombay, 177th
485.	Which university topped the in QS World's International University rankings? Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
486.	The 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was held in which area? Andaman Sea
487.	_____ has become the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender: El Salvador
488.	What is the official currency of El Salvador? US Dollar
489.	Which international organization released the Global Economic Prospects report on June 8? World Bank
490.	Who is the chief of the World Bank? David Malpass
491.	As per the Global Economic Prospects report, world economy is expected to grow by ____ % in 2021? 5.6%
492.	Auckland, the most populous city in _____ topped the EIU Global Liveability Ranking: New Zealand
493.	The International Criminal Police Organisation has launched a new groundbreaking global database named 'I-Familia' for what purpose?

	To identify the missing individuals through family DNA
494.	Where is the headquarter of Interpol? Lyon, France
495.	Which is the first Indian state to introduce e-IDs equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology for their officers/employees? Punjab
496.	Which state has declared the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as a National Park? Assam
497.	Antonio Guterres has been given second term as the UN Secretary General wef which date? Jan 1, 2022
498.	Antonio Guterres is a former prime minister of which country? Portugal
499.	Which bank has been ranked first by Forbes in their Indian list of World's Best Banks 2021? DBS Bank
500.	Which is the parent country of the DBS Bank? Singapore
501.	Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been democratically elected as President of which country? Mongolia
502.	Recently how many new members were elected unopposed to the powerful UN Security Council as non-permanent members? Five
503.	What is the duration of membership of new non-permanent members of the security Council? Two years (from 1-1-22 to 31-12 23)
504.	Name the 26-year-old Indian wrestler who won the gold in 53kg at the Poland Open in Warsaw, Poland: Vinesh Phogat
505.	Nagaraj Naidu, the Indian Deputy Ambassador to the UN, has become the first Indian diplomat to be appointed as _____ to the President of the UN General Assembly: Chef de Cabinet
506.	What is the theme of this year's World Day Against Child Labour observed on June 12? Act Now: End Child Labour
507.	The leaders of the G7 countries held their 47th summit at which place? Carbis Bay, Cornwall in the UK
508.	Which country holds the Presidency of the G7 group for 2021? United Kingdom
509.	What was the theme for this year's G7 summit? Build Back Better
510.	The G7 leaders launched a new global _____ initiative "Build Back Better World" (B3W) to help developing nations: Infrastructure
511.	As per new RBI guidelines, Bank customers can now do only _____ free transactions, including both, financial and non-financial, every month from their own bank ATMs: Five
512.	For transactions from other bank ATMs, the new limit is _____ in metro centres and _____ in non-metro centres: Three; Five

513.	What is the popular name for the French Open Grand Slam recently held in Paris? Roland-Garros
514.	Men's Singles title at the French Open Grand Slam was won by ____ : Novak Djokovic of Serbia
515.	Barbora Krejčíková, winner of the Women's Singles title at French Open, hails from which country? Czech Republic
516.	Naftali Bennett was sworn-in as the 13th Prime Minister of which country? Israel
517.	What is the name of the Parliament of Israel? Knesset
518.	Which bank emerged as the top performer among public sector banks in terms of loan and deposit growth during 2020-21? Bank of Maharashtra
519.	Which day of June has been selected for observing World Blood Donor Day? 14th
520.	Which country will host this year's World Blood Donor Day celebrations? Italy
521.	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed on which day of June? 15th
522.	What is the theme for this year's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day? Access to Justice
523.	Which Indian statesman virtually addressed the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought' on June 14? Sh. Narendra Modi
524.	Which country topped the World Giving Index 2021 released by the UK based Charities Aid Foundation? Indonesia
525.	India jumped 110 spots to be ranked ____ in the World Giving Index 2021: 14th
526.	Which international day is observed on June 15 to raise awareness about the power of wind energy and how it is harnessed? Global/World Wind Day
527.	Which state topped the Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2020-21? Madhya Pradesh
528.	Government of India launched the Anemia Mukta Bharat strategy under ____ Abhiyaan: POSHAN
529.	What is the full form of the acronym POSHAN? Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment
530.	Anaemia is a condition in which the level of ____ is lower than normal? Hemoglobin
531.	UN supports celebration of World Day to Combat ____ and Drought on June 17 to raise awareness for a green earth and sustained use of land: Desertification
532.	What is the theme for this year's World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought? Restoration. Land. Recovery

533.	Taking a historic decision, the Union Cabinet approved a plan on June 16 to scrap which 245-year-old apex defence organization? Ordnance Factory Board
534.	After scrapping Ordnance Factory Board, its 41 factories will be converted into ____ function oriented corporate entities: Seven
535.	India's first ordnance factory was set up at which place in 1787? Ishapore, near Kolkata
536.	What is the current name of India's first ordnance factory? Rifle Factory, Ishapore
537.	Microsoft appointed which India born person as the company's Chairman on June 16? Satya Nadella
538.	The headquarters of Microsoft are located in which city? Redmond, near Seattle, USA
539.	Which national agency is responsible for hallmarking of gold in India? BIS – Bureau of Indian Standards, Delhi
540.	Jewellers with annual turnover upto ₹____ lakh are exempted from mandatory hallmarking: 40
541.	The central government made the BIS hallmarking of gold mandatory from ____ to ensure quality of gold: June 16, 2021
542.	In a landmark development, the IIT, ____ has developed 'Jivan Vayu', a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine: Ropar, Punjab
543.	Which union ministry operationalised the national Helpline 155260 and a Reporting Platform for preventing financial loss due to cyber frauds? Ministry of Home Affairs
544.	Which country secured first rank in the Global Peace Index released on June 16? Iceland
545.	____ continues to be at the bottom at 163rd rank in the Global Peace Index: Afghanistan
546.	India was placed at which rank in the Global Peace Index? 135th
547.	China successfully sent its three astronauts to the country's space station named ____ on June 17: Tiangong
548.	Name the spacecraft that transported three Chinese astronauts to its space station Tiangong? Shenzhou-12
549.	The World Competitiveness Index that covered 64 major economies of the world, was topped by which country? Switzerland
550.	The World Competitiveness Index placed India at which spot? 43rd
551.	Which international bank approved a \$484 million loan for the development of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor? Asian Development Bank
552.	The Central Government approved the Deep Ocean Mission with an outlay of Rs. 4,077 crore.

	Which union ministry will implement this mission? Ministry of Earth Sciences
553.	Autistic Pride Day is observed on June 18 to raise awareness about which human disorder? Autism
554.	Apart from UN General Assembly, which two other UN agency actively support celebration of the Sustainable Gastronomy Day on June 18? UNESCO and FAO
555.	Milkha Singh, the “Flying Sikh” passed away on June 18. He achieved his best timing of 45.6 seconds in the 400 mts race in which event? 1960 Rome Olympics
556.	For the first time since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the SDG Index has shown a decline. Which country displayed best performance in achievement of SDGs in 2020? Finland
557.	India was placed pretty low at the ____ spot in the SDG Index: 120th
558.	Which UN agency deals with the issue refugees around the world? UN High Commissioner for Refugees
559.	UN High Commissioner for Refugees is based in which city of Switzerland? Geneva
560.	June 21 is observed as the World Music Day. It originated in 1981 in which country? France
561.	World Hydrography Day on June 21 marks the founding of the International Hydrographic Bureau in 1921. It is based in which place? Monte Carlo, Monaco
562.	What is the theme for this year’s International Yoga Day? Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family
MAY 2021	
563.	Which day of May has been selected to observe “No Tobacco Day”? 31st
564.	What is the theme of this year’s No Tobacco Day? Quit Tobacco to be a Winner
565.	Bashar Al-Assad has been re-elected as the President of ____ after winning the election for the fourth time: Syria
566.	Which city is the capital of Syria? Damascus
567.	RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on which bank on May 28 for violation of provisions of the Banking Regulation Act? HDFC Bank
568.	The headquarters of HDFC Bank are located at which place? Mumbai
569.	UNO celebrates which international Day on May 29 to pay respects to persons involved in UN peacekeeping mission? International Day of UN Peacekeepers
570.	Which global day is observed on May 29 to commemorate the first-time scaling of Mount Everest? International Everest Day
571.	The Tibetans call the Mt Everest by which name? Chomo-Lungma

572.	In Nepal, the Mt Everest is known by which name? Sagarmatha
573.	Amnesty International Day is observed on May 28. Where are the headquarters of Amnesty International? London
574.	The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs plans to set up 10 OSCs across nine countries. What is OSC? One Stop Centre
575.	Guillermo Lasso has been sworn in as the President of which country? Ecuador
576.	International Eni Award is conferred for showing outstanding excellence in which field? Energy Research
577.	Who has been honoured with this year’s International Eni Award 2020? Bharat Ratna Professor C.N.R. Rao
578.	The International Eni Award is sponsored by which energy giant of Italy? Eni
579.	The WHO signed a MoU with which country to launch the First WHO Biohub Facility? Switzerland
580.	Robert Lewandowski won the European Golden Boot. He hails from which country? Poland
581.	European Golden Boot is awarded to recognize which achievement? For scoring highest number of goals in football league
582.	World Hunger Day is observed on which day of May? 28th
583.	The United Nation’s which number sustainable development goal- SDG is associated with achieving zero hunger? Second
584.	Which day of May has been selected for observing World Menstrual Hygiene Day? 28th
585.	Which Indian scientist has been honoured with the esteemed Rudolf V Schindler Award? Dr D Nageshwar Reddy
586.	Which global organization confers the Rudolf V Schindler Award? American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
587.	Phil Mickelson, American professional golfer, created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship in which regard? Being the oldest person to win this championship at age of 50
588.	Which Indian civil servant has been honoured with the President’s Award by International Hockey Federation for his contribution in promotion of hockey? V Karthikeyan Pandian
589.	Who is the author of the recently published novel? Paul Pickering
590.	“Sach Kahun Toh” (Truly Speaking) is the autobiography of which veteran Bollywood actress? Neena Gupta
591.	Which Nobel laureate has authored the novel Klara and the Sun? Kazuo Ishiguro

592.	All Time Favourites for Children is a collection of short stories by which noted India author? Ruskin Bond
593.	India recently added 5th generation Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its air-to-air weapons capability. What is its name? Python-5
594.	India has been placed at which position among 104 nations in the Chandler Good Government Index 2021? 49th
595.	Which country topped the Chandler Good Government Index 2021? Finland
596.	Who has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet? T V Somanathan
597.	Amitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of which bank? Axis Bank
598.	China launched a robot prototype named 'NEO-01', in the Earth's low orbit for what purpose? To capture debris left behind by other spacecrafts
599.	Name the former Attorney General, veteran lawyer and Padma Vibhushan awardee who passed away on April 30: Soli Sorabjee
600.	International Labour Day on May 01 commemorates the happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket massacre in _____, USA? Chicago
601.	_____ joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Paris as a Member: RBI
602.	_____, renowned TV journalist and news anchor passed away at a very young age of just 41: Rohit Sardana
603.	Rohit Sardana was the host of the debate show 'Dangal' on which popular news channel? Aaj Tak
604.	May 2 is observed as the World _____ Day to raise awareness about which fish? Tuna
605.	Pandit Debu Chaudhuri, renowned _____ maestro passed away following COVID-19 related complications: Sitar
606.	The Indian Navy launched "Operation Samudra Setu-II" in first week of May for what purpose? To urgently bring medical oxygen and other requirements from other countries
607.	Which country approved the proposed sale of six P-8I aircraft to Indian Navy? USA
608.	P-81 is what type of military aircraft? Maritime surveillance
609.	Which international day is celebrated on May 3 to pay gratitude to journalists who bring us honest and real news? World Press Freedom Day
610.	Which article of Indian Constitution assures freedom of press? Article 19(1)(a)

611.	Mark Selby of _____ won the World Snooker Championship for the fourth time: Britain
612.	Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI for a period of three years? T Rabi Sankar
613.	World Laughter Day is celebrated on which Sunday of May? First
614.	International Firefighters' Day is celebrated on which day of May? Fourth
615.	Bengaluru based Shyamala Ganesh, a teacher of Japanese has been honoured with Order of Rising Sun by which country? Japan
616.	With which country India adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'? Britain
617.	World Asthma Day is observed on _____ Tuesday of May: First
618.	May 05 is observed as _____ Hygiene Day with active support from WHO: Hand
619.	The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has decided to institute the "_____ Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" to pay tributes to the legendary filmmaker: Satyajit Ray
620.	What is the cash award given with the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema"? Rs. Ten lakh
621.	Ajit Singh, former Union Minister, founder and current chief of _____ passed away on May 6: Rashtriya Lok Dal
622.	Name the President of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party who has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu? M K Stalin
623.	N Rengasamy, Chief of the NR Congress has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of _____: Puducherry
624.	Mount Sinabung, one of the most active volcanoes, erupted once again on May 7. It is in which country? Indonesia
625.	Global rating agency S&P slashed India's GDP growth rate to 9.8%. What is full form of S&P? Standard and Poor's
626.	The top Oil and Gas PSUs of India have signed a MoU to develop which famous pilgrimage center in Uttarakhand? Shri Badrinath Dham
627.	Which country successfully sent a new remote sensing satellite, Yaogan-34, into space? China
628.	The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven countries - G-7 was held in which place? London
629.	Kami Rita, the 51-year-old Sherpa guide from Nepal created which new record? Scaling Mt Everest 25 times
630.	World Red Cross Day is celebrated on May 8 to commemorate the birth day of its founder. Who was he? Henri Dunant

631.	Where is the headquarter of Red Cross? Geneva, Switzerland
632.	World Thalassaemia Day is observed on May 08. It is associated with which ailment? Blood disorder
633.	India and many other countries celebrate Happy Mother's Day on _____ Sunday of May: Second
634.	Who has been declared Laureus Sportswoman of the Year? Naomi Osaka
635.	Naomi Osaka is a noted player of which sports form? Tennis
636.	Laureus Sportsman of the Year award has been won by: Rafael Nadal
637.	Which sportsperson was awarded Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award? Tennis legend Ms. Billie Jean King, USA
638.	Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as the new chief minister of which state? Assam
639.	What is the theme of this year's World Migratory Day observed on May 8 (second Sunday)? Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!
640.	The Drugs Controller General of India has given its approval for the emergency use of the anti-COVID drug developed by DRDO. What is its name? 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG)
641.	The DRDO has collaborated with which drug firm to produce 2-deoxy-D-glucose drug? Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad
642.	The Meeting of the European Council held on May 9 was hosted by which country? Portugal
643.	How many countries are the member of European Union? 27
644.	Raghunath Mohapatra, eminent sculptor, architect, and Rajya Sabha member passed away recently. He hailed from which state? Odisha
645.	_____ became the first Indian state to have a real-time digital flood reporting system Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS): Assam
646.	National Technology Day is celebrated on May 11 to commemorate the day on which India successfully test-fired its first _____ : Nuclear bomb in 1998
647.	The World Food Prize was started by which great Nobel laureate? Dr. Norman Borlaug
648.	Dr. Norman Borlaug is remembered for his contribution in developing high yield disease resistant varieties of which crop? Wheat
649.	International Nurses Day is observed on May 12 to commemorate the birth day of which legendary nurse? Florence Nightingale
650.	What was the popular nick name of Florence Nightingale? Lady with the lamp

651.	Jose J Kattoor has been appointed as the _____ of the Reserve Bank of India: Executive Director (ED)
652.	Who is the chairman of the board of directors of RBI? Shaktikanta Das, Governor RBI
653.	According to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief, which country received highest amount of inward remittances in 2020? India
654.	From which country outflow of remittances was the highest in the year 2020? USA
655.	The National Bamboo Mission launched an MIS based reporting platform for _____ production: Agarbatti stick
656.	What is the name of the China's robotic rover that landed on Mars? Zhurong
657.	Whitley Awards are given for recognizing outstanding contribution in which field? Nature's conservation
658.	What is another popular name for the Whitley awards? Green Oscar
659.	Which Indian is one of the seven winners of this year's prestigious Whitley Award? Y Nuklu Phom, Nagaland
660.	The central government launched a Rs 25,000 crore-SWAMIH fund for what purpose? For funding housing projects facing acute financial crunch
661.	What is the full form of SWAMIH? Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing
662.	Which company is responsible for managing the SWAMIH fund? SBICap Ventures Ltd.
663.	Which union ministry is responsible for the administration of the SWAMIH Fund? Ministry of Finance
664.	International Family Day is observed on which date? May 15
665.	What is the theme of this year's International Family Day? Families and New Technologies
666.	Italian Open Tennis Tournament was held in which Italian city? Rome
667.	Iga Swiatek, 2winner of the women's singles title at the Italian Open, hails from which country? Poland
668.	Andrea Meza, winner of Miss Universe 2020 title is beauty queen of which country? Mexico
669.	Who has been appointed as the Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team (Senior Women)? Ramesh Powar
670.	Who secured the top spot-on Fortune magazine's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders? Jacinda Ardern, PM of New Zealand
671.	Sir David Attenborough has been named as the "_____ " of the UN Climate Change Conference: People's Advocate

672.	The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), is scheduled to be held in _____, Scotland in November 2021: Glasgow
673.	National Dengue Day is observed on which day of May month? 16th
674.	Dengue is transmitted by the infective bite of which mosquito? Aedes Aegypti
675.	May 17 is dedicated to promote public awareness about which common ailment and its prevention? Hypertension
676.	Which group of Palestinian militants was engaged in a fierce battle with Israel in the mid of May? Hamas
677.	Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, Congress stalwart, died of Covid in Amritsar. He represented which Lok Sabha constituency six times? Amritsar
678.	As per new RBI guidelines, how much money can be now withdrawn from online wallets through ATMs/PoS machines? Up to Rs. 2,000 per transaction, maximum 10,000 in a month
679.	Moctar Ouane has been re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali, a landlocked country in _____ Africa: Western
680.	Arjan 'Singh' Bhullar, winner of the ONE Heavyweight World Title at the top-level MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) Championship, Singapore, hails from which country? Canada
681.	Penpa Tsering has been elected as the new _____ of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile: President
682.	What is the theme of this year's World Metrology Day observed on May 20? Measurement for Health
683.	The World Bee Day is observed on which day of May? 20th May
684.	Which state emerged at the top in establishing Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the Ayushman Bharat Program? Karnataka
685.	Which state stood first in implementation of the Smart City Mission? Jharkhand
686.	Smart City Mission is the flagship project of which union ministry? Ministry of Urban Development
687.	China successfully sent Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite into orbit on May 19 for what purpose? Ocean monitoring
688.	The Indian Navy decommissioned on May 21 its first destroyer warship _____: INS Rajput
689.	Sunderlal Bahuguna, noted environmentalist passed away on May 21. He was pioneer of which world-famous conservation movement? "Chipko Andolan" in 1974 in Uttarakhand to prevent felling of trees
690.	Reserve Bank decided to transfer over _____ billion rupees as surplus to Centre for nine months ended March 31, 2021: 99

691.	The one million Euro Millennium Technology Prize is given by the Technology Academy of which country? Finland
692.	World's largest ever reported iceberg has been sighted in which area? Weddell Sea in Southern Ocean
693.	Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21 marks the death anniversary of which great Indian leader? Rajiv Gandhi
694.	Which Bank launched its fully digitised, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its MSME and Agri borrowers? IDBI Bank
695.	International Tea Day is observed across the world on which date? May 21
696.	The 2022 FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup will be held in _____ from October 11 to 30, 2022: India
697.	International Day for Biodiversity is observed on which day of May? 22nd
698.	Who is the winner of this year's prestigious Templeton Prize? World-famous conservationist and environmentalist Jane Goodall of UK
699.	The Templeton Prize is given by which organization? John Templeton Foundation, Philadelphia, USA
700.	What is the amount of cash award given in Templeton Prize? £1,100,000 sterling
701.	Who topped the Forbes list of the world's 10 highest-earning athletes, having made \$180 million in 2020? Conor McGregor
702.	Conor McGregor is associated with which sports? Mixed Martial Arts - MMA
703.	Conor McGregor is citizen of which nation? Ireland
704.	What is the theme of this year's World Turtle Day? Turtle Rocks!
705.	World famous sea turtle hatching site Gahirmatha beach is in which Indian state? Odisha
706.	The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo volcano sent about 5,000 people fleeing from the city of Goma in which country? Democratic Republic of the Congo
707.	Max Verstappen of team Red Bull won the Formula One championship in Monaco Grand Prix. He hails from which country? Netherlands
708.	Who has been re-elected as the President of International Hockey Federation (FIH)? Narinder Batra
709.	International Hockey Federation (FIH) is based at which place? Lausanne (Switzerland)
710.	The Finance Ministry notified final rules for raising foreign investment limit to _____ per cent (from 49% earlier) in the insurance sector: 74

711.	Which organization announced the launch of the 'School of Hope and Empowerment' (S.H.E.) at the 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development? Tata Communications
712.	India observes National Endangered Species Day on ____ Friday of May: Third
713.	Which international body maintains the most comprehensive Red List of Threatened Species around the world? International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland
714.	May 24 is devoted to raise awareness at global level about which ailment? Thyroid disorders
715.	____ won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award given by the International Hockey Federation: Hockey India
716.	Billboard 2021 Music Awards are the popularity-based music awards of which country? USA
717.	Who won the 10 Billboard 2021 Music Awards, including the iconic Top Artist Trophy? The Weeknd
718.	Anatole Collinet Makosso has been appointed as the new ____ of Republic of Congo: Prime Minister
719.	The Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) won the 'Best BMC in India' award. It is in which state? Arunachal Pradesh
720.	Which international day is observed every year in May on the first full moon day, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima? Vesak Day
721.	Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, the 1985-batch IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the next Director of which apex organization? CBI - Central Bureau of Investigation
722.	Cyclone Yaas, a 'very severe' cyclone devastated the beach towns in which two states? North Odisha and adjoining West Bengal
723.	Which union Ministry plans to set up a National Mission on the use of biomass in coal-based thermal power plants? The Union Power Ministry
724.	From which country India received highest amount of FDI in 2020-21? Singapore
725.	Which Indian state received the highest amount of FDI in 2020-21? Gujarat
APRIL 2021	
726.	What was the name of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise held in the Arabian Sea from April 25 to 27? VARUNA 2021
727.	The Hyundai Archery World Cup was hosted by which country? Guatemala
728.	Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das are the top India players of which sports? Archery

729.	Which former Governor of Reserve Bank of India was regarded as the "Father of banking reforms in India"? M Narasimham
730.	Malaria is caused through the bites of infected female ____ mosquitoes: Anopheles
731.	Celebrations of the World Intellectual Property Day on April 26 are supported by which UN Agency? World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), Geneva
732.	What is the title of the latest novel written by noted novelist Amitav Ghosh? A Living Mountain
733.	'Whereabouts' is the title of the latest novel written by ? Jhumpa Lahiri
734.	Who is the author of the popular novel titled "The Hard Crowd"? Rachel Kushner
735.	Which UN agency supports the celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28? International Labour Organization (ILO)
736.	The Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed on April 30 is associated with which national health scheme? Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)
737.	Which picture won the Oscar for the Best Picture for 2020? Nomadland
738.	Ms. Chloé Zhao of USA won the Oscar for the best director for which movie? Nomadland
739.	Who won the Oscar for the Best Actor in a leading role? Anthony Hopkins for The Father
740.	The RBI has capped the tenure of MD & CEO of commercial banks to a maximum of ____ years: 15
741.	China has named its first-ever Mars rover as ____ after an ancient fire god: Zhurong
742.	What is the official name of the China's space agency? China National Space Administration
743.	Which leading Indian digital financial services provider launched on April 26 India's first video-based wealth community? Paytm
744.	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
745.	Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve was selected recently for which international award? International Ranger Award
746.	Which country topped the medal tally in the ISSF World Cup at Delhi? India
747.	Which country successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-1A on March 26? Pakistan

748.	'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre' has been set up in which Indian city? Visakhapatnam
749.	Who has been elected as the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)? Ms. Soma Mondal
750.	Soma Mondal is the chairperson of which public sector organization? Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
751.	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
752.	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
753.	Who is the director of the film 'Thappad', winner of Filmfare Award for the Best Film? Anubhav Sinha
754.	Who won the Filmfare Award for the Best Actor in lead role? Irrfan Khan for Angrezi Medium
755.	Om Raut won the Filmfare Award for the Best Director for which film? Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
756.	Taapsee Pannu won the Filmfare Award for the Best Actress in lead role for which film? Thappad
757.	The International Day of Drug Checking is observed every year on which day of March? 31st
758.	Lewis Hamilton of Britain won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix F1 championship on March 28 for which team? Team Mercedes
759.	What is the cash award given in the national Dadasaheb Phalke Award? Rs. 10 lakh
760.	Who won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019? Superstar Rajnikant
761.	What is the real name of Rajnikant? Shivaji Rao Gaekwad
762.	Which country fared best in the gender parity as per the WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2021? Iceland
763.	What was India's rank in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021? 140th
764.	Where are the headquarters of the World Economic Forum? Cologny, Switzerland
765.	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
766.	Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh is in which state? Himachal Pradesh
767.	Saraswati Samman is bestowed for outstanding contribution in which field? Literature

768.	What is the cash award given with the Saraswati Samman? Rs. 15 lakh
769.	Who is the winner of the Saraswati Samman for 2020? Dr Sharankumar Limbale
770.	Dr Sharankumar Limbale won the Saraswati Samman for which book? Sanatan
771.	Dr. Limbale is a renowned writer of which language? Marathi
772.	World Autism Awareness Day is observed on which date? April 2
773.	An area at Amboli in Western ghats has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site. It is in which state? Maharashtra
774.	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
775.	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
776.	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
777.	CBIC issues 6-digit SAC to uniformly classify each service under the applicable rate of GST. What is SAC? Service Accounting Code
778.	The government has decided to keep the inflation-targeting framework for the RBI unchanged at ____ % for the next five-year period: Four
779.	"Sankalp se Siddhi" drive is an initiative of which union ministry? Ministry of Tribal Affairs
780.	Hubert Hurkacz won the men's singles title at the Miami Open Tennis Tournament. He hails from which country? Poland
781.	Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Public Enterprises Selection Board? Mallika Srinivasan
782.	The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved a loan for \$ 300 million for canal-based drinking water project in which state? Punjab
783.	India celebrates National Maritime Day on which day of April? 5th
784.	Justice NV Ramana has been appointed as the ____ Chief Justice of India: 48th
785.	_____ became the first state in the country to provide free health insurance facility to all the citizens of the state: Rajasthan
786.	Which big country passed a law to facilitate its current President to hold office for two additional 6-year terms till 2036? Russia

787.	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"
788.	Tarun Bajaj has been appointed as the new _____ Secretary under the Ministry of Finance: Revenue
789.	_____ appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary in the Ministry of Finance: Ajay Seth
790.	The Reserve Bank has decided to bring out a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index). It will be released annually in the month of _____ : July
791.	AM Turing Award is given for recognizing outstanding excellence in which field? Computer Science
792.	Who won the AM Turing Award for the year 2020? Prof. Alfred V Aho of USA
793.	The Reserve Bank has enhanced the limit of maximum balance to Rs. _____ in accounts of Payment Banks? Two lakh
794.	_____ has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI: S Ramann
795.	The Supreme Court of India on April 7 launched its Artificial Intelligence portal by what name? SUPACE
796.	What is the full form of SUPACE? Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency
797.	Government launched which portal on April 7 to promote the honey mission in the country? Madhukranti
798.	The Government launched on April 7 the Tribal Health Collaborative named: Anamaya
799.	What is the name of the Indian World Heavyweight Champion recently inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame? Dalip Singh Rana (Great Khali)
800.	India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector named: Nano Sniffer
801.	Prince Philip, British Queen Elizabeth's husband, died at the age of 99. What was his official title? Duke of Edinburgh
802.	Which Bank approved a \$ 484 million loan to improve the road maintenance and transport connectivity in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor? Asian Development Bank
803.	World Homoeopathy Day is observed on April 10 to commemorate the birthday of _____: Dr. Samuel Hahnemann
804.	The National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on which date? April 11
805.	As per the recently published Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU 2020), which university topped the rankings in India? Calcutta University

806.	Which university topped in the world the Academic Ranking of World Universities? Harvard University, USA
807.	Which film won the BAFTA award for the best film? Nomadland
808.	Who won the BAFTA for the Best Director? Ms. Chloe Zhao
809.	Yuri Gagarin, the first human being to undertake the space flight, hailed from which country? Russia
810.	The Parkinson disease is associated with which system of human body? Nervous
811.	Festival of Baisakhi marks the thanksgiving by the farmer community for the bumper _____ crops: Rabi
812.	In which state Baisakhi is celebrated as Rongali Bihu? Assam
813.	In Kerala, festival of Baisakhi is celebrated as _____ : Vishu
814.	Name the Election Commissioner who has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sushil Chandra
815.	India participated in a 10-day multinational military exercise held in Bangladesh. What was its name? Shantir Ogroshena
816.	Which country hosted the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in virtual mode from April 13 to 16? India
817.	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
818.	Government launched the e-SaNTa platform for promotion of _____ products: Marine
819.	Government launched a mobile application called "Little Guru" to enable the user to learn _____ language: Sanskrit
820.	The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granted its approval to _____ Laboratories for restricted emergency use of Russian COVID-19 vaccine: Dr. Reddy's
821.	What is the name of Russian COVID - 19 vaccine? Sputnik V
822.	Guillermo Lasso has been elected as the President of which South American country? Ecuador
823.	Government launched _____ , a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition: Aahaar Kranti
824.	Government launched MANAS App to promote wellbeing across all age groups. What is the full form of MANAS? Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System.
825.	Which Indian cricketer has been named Wisden Almanack's ODI player of the 2010s? Virat Kohli

826.	World Art Day celebrated on April 15 is associated with birthday of which legendary artist/painter? Leonardo da Vinci
827.	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
828.	Indian Army celebrates April 13 as Siachen Day to mark its victorious operation _____ in 1984 against Pakistan: Meghdoot
829.	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology unveiled three path breaking initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India. What is its short name? NIXI
830.	Sarita Mor (of Sonipat, Haryana) won the gold in the Asian _____ Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan: Wrestling
831.	The Reserve Bank has decided to set up a new Regulations Review Authority headed by _____? M Rajeshwar Rao
832.	Which country topped the Inclusive Internet Index 2021? Sweden
833.	What was India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2021? 49th
834.	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
835.	The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was held at which place? Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
836.	World Haemophilia Day is observed on April 17. Haemophilia is associated with which ailment? Bleeding disorders
837.	Celebration of World Heritage Day on April 18 is supported by which UN agency? UNESCO
838.	The Henley Passport Index placed which country's passport at the top? Japan
839.	What was Indian passport's rank on the Henley Passport Index? 84th
840.	Miguel Díaz-Canel has been appointed as the new President of which country? Cuba
841.	NASA's Mars helicopter named _____ made history with a successful flight on the Red Planet: 'Ingenuity'
842.	The World Liver Day is observed on which date? April 19
843.	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
844.	ARC is a specialized financial institution that buys the _____ from banks at a mutually agreed value: Bad loans (NPAs)
845.	The ARCs are to be registered with which apex organization? RBI

846.	The Government of India celebrates Civil Services Day on which date? April 21
847.	Who referred to civil servants as the 'Steel frame of India' in 1947? Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
848.	Which country secured top rank in the Energy Transition Index released by the WEF? Sweden
849.	What was India's rank in the Energy Transition Index released by the WEF? 87th
850.	The Press Freedom Index 2021 that evaluates the press freedom situation in 180 countries, ranked which country at the top? Norway
851.	India was placed at _____ rank in the recently released Press Freedom Index 2021: 142nd
852.	Which international day is observed on April 22 to create awareness about pollution and to celebrate the environment of our planet? The Earth Day
853.	What is the theme of this year's Earth Day? Restore our Earth
854.	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
855.	Which international day marks the birthday and death anniversary of the legendary writer William Shakespeare on April 23? The English Language Day
856.	What was the theme of the Leaders Climate Summit of world leaders held on the Earth Day, April 22? Our Collective Sprint to 2030
857.	_____ became the first country to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement on April 9: Singapore
858.	In which year government enacted the Panchayati Raj Act? 1993
859.	Which amendment of the Indian Constitution is associated with the enactment of Panchayati Raj Act? 73rd
860.	Which country, along with Russia, topped the medal tally at the World Youth Boxing Championships held in Kielce, Poland? India
861.	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)
862.	The World Veterinary Day is observed on the _____ Saturday of April every year: Last
MARCH 2021	
863.	The book 'India's Power Elite' is written by_____: Sanjay Baru, ex-media to former prime minister Manmohan Singh
864.	What is the name of the sixth offshore patrol vessel commissioned into service at Chennai Port Trust on March 24? ICGS Vajra

865.	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
866.	NITI Aayog formed 11 committees to expedite the transition of the country from a linear economy to a _____ economy: Circular
867.	_____ 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)
868.	Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to Rs. ____lakh: Five
869.	Which country plans to build the world's first ship tunnel, designed to help vessels to avoid navigating the treacherous Stadhavet Sea? Norway
870.	Vyas Samman is associated with which field? Hindi literature
871.	Who is the winner of Vyas Samman – 2020? Prof. Sharad Pagare
872.	Prof. Sharad Pagare won the Vyas Samma for which book? Patliputra Ki Samragyi
873.	What is the amount of cash award given in the Vyas Samman? Rs. four lakhs
874.	Which country topped the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? USA
875.	India was placed at which spot in the International Intellectual Property Index 2021? 40th
876.	Which district has been declared as the first TB free district in India? Budgam, J&K
877.	Denis Sassou Nguesso has been re-elected as the President of which country for the next five years? Republic of Congo
878.	Bangladesh is celebrating which year of its liberation? 50th
879.	Who is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh? Sheikh Hasina Wajed
880.	Who has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)? Saurabh Garg
881.	World Theatre Day is observed on which day of March? 27th
882.	Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the _____ Saturday of March: Last
883.	Which bank has been adjudged the India's best bank for SMEs at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 202? HDFC Bank
884.	Out of wheat and rice, which crop is produced more in India? Rice
885.	What is the formal name of the world's largest cricket stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad? Narendra Modi Stadium

886.	Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes? Vijay Sampla
887.	Jasmine Harrison, a 21-year-old British woman from England became the youngest woman to do what? To row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
888.	Which film won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the best film? Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior
889.	Akshay Kumar won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Award for the Best Actor for which film? Laxmii
890.	Irakli Garibashvili has been appointed as the new _____ of Georgia: Prime Minister
891.	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
892.	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
893.	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
894.	Which country emerged as India's biggest trade partner in 2020? China
895.	Which Buddhist pilgrimage city has been selected recently under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme? Leh, Ladakh
896.	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
897.	Mohamed Bazoum has been elected as the new President of which African country? Niger
898.	Dushyant Chautala, Deputy CM of Haryana, has been re-elected as the President of which sports federation of India? Table Tennis
899.	The central government has selected 12 tourist sites under the Swachh Iconic Places under an initiative of which ministry? Ministry of Jal Shakti
900.	The famous historical monument Sanchi Stupa is in which state? Madhya Pradesh
901.	Which state is famous for Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ramdevra Temple? Rajasthan
902.	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

903. ISRO launched the Amazonia 1 optical earth observation satellite for which country? **Brazil**
904. 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**
905. Which country has taken over chairmanship of BRICS group for 2021? **India**
906. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a Buddhist monastery in the Hazaribagh. It is in which state? **Jharkhand**
907. Government launched the Sugamya Bharat App for what purpose? **For enhancing physical accessibility for elderly and the disabled**
908. Which was the partner country in the Maritime India Summit-2021 held on a virtual platform from March 2 to 4? **Denmark**
909. 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**
910. March 07 is observed as Janaushadhi Diwas. Jan Aushadhi Kendras are the initiative of which government department? **Department of Pharmaceuticals**
911. 21st National Sqay Championship was held at which place? **Jaipur, Rajasthan**
912. Sqay is the traditional martial art of which area? **Kashmir**
913. Golden Globe Awards are associated with which field? **Cinema & TV**
914. Which film won the Golden Globe for the Best Motion Picture – Drama? **Nomadland**
915. Chloé Zhao won the Golden Globe for the best director for which film? **Nomadland**
916. A giant iceberg, around 490 sq km in size, broke off from the ice shelf in which area? **Antarctica**
917. Who became the first cricketer to hit 100 million followers on social networking platform Instagram on March 1, 2021? **Virat Kohli**
918. Who is the most followed sportsperson on the Instagram, having 266 million followers? **Cristiano Ronaldo**
919. ISRO successfully launched satellite Sindhu Netra on Feb 28. It is what type of satellite? **Surveillance satellite**
920. A special contingent of the Indian Air Force took part in the multinational exercise "Desert Flag" in which country? **UAE – United Arab Emirates**
921. Which state/UT topped the medals tally in the 2nd Khelo India Winter National Games? **J&K**
922. 2nd Khelo India Winter National Games were held in which city in J&K? **Gulmarg**

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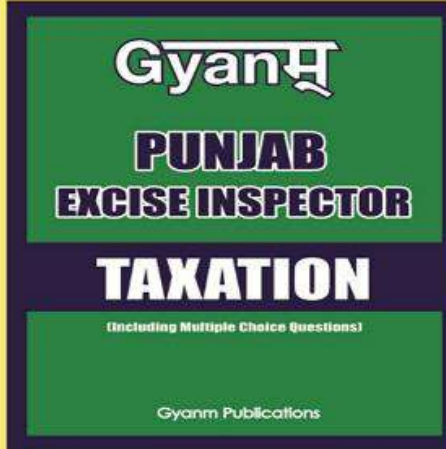
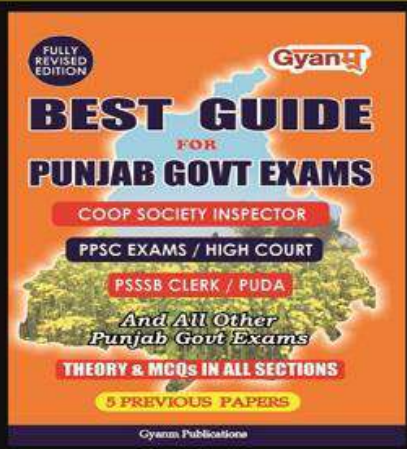
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