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LEGEND MAGAZINE

JANUARY – 2021

**(CURRENT AFFAIRS, BANKING
AWARENESS AND QUIZ)**

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Table of Contents

NATIONAL NEWS.....	3
INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....	17
BANKING AND ECONOMY	21
INDIA'S GDP FORECAST	24
ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS.....	25
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	29
APPOINTMENTS.....	31
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS	36
BOOKS AND AUTHORS:.....	40
RANKINGS	41
OBITUARY NEWS	41
SPORTS NEWS	45
IMPORTANT DAYS	47
CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ	48
BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ.....	65

NATIONAL NEWS

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announces India's biggest hockey stadium in Rourkela

- Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** announced that a **world-class hockey stadium** with a seating capacity of **20,000** would be built up in **Rourkela** city.
- The **Rourkela stadium** will also act as the second venue to host the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Men's Hockey World Cup India 2023** alongside the **Kalinga Stadium** in the state capital of **Bhubaneswar**.

India's first Lithium refinery to be set up in Gujarat

- India's first **Lithium refinery** is going to be set up in **Gujarat**. **Manikaran Power Limited**, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy company, will invest around **Rs 1,000 crore** to set up this refinery.
- It will process Lithium ore to produce **battery-grade material**. The company will import Lithium ore from **Australia** and will process in Gujarat.

NITI Aayog launches "DigiBoxx" an Indian Cloud Storage Service with Affordable Pricing

- **NITI AAYOG** has launched its own cloud storage, sharing and collaboration platform, "**DigiBoxx**". The service was announced by NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant** and aims to offer both users and companies made in India, '**Aatmanirbhar**' cloud storage and file sharing platform.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar launches DGNCC Digital Forum in New Delhi

- The Defence Secretary, **Dr Ajay Kumar**, launched the **DGNCC Digital Forum** in **New Delhi**. This Digital Forum hosted on the DGNCC website, will provide a platform to **National Cadet Corps cadets** all over the country to share their experiences of various NCC activities.

PM Modi inaugurates India's first-ever driverless train for Delhi Metro's Magenta Line

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first ever **driverless train** operations on **Delhi Metro's Magenta Line** (Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden) as well as the fully operational **National Common Mobility Card** (NCMC) services on the Airport Express Line, via videoconferencing.
- The service will be extended to **Delhi Metro's Pink Line** (Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar) by mid-**2021**. This service will be taken to more than **25 cities** by **2025**.

Bajaj Auto signs MoU with Maharashtra govt for Rs. 650 crore plant at Chakan, Pune

- **Bajaj Auto** signed MoU with the **Maharashtra** government for setting up a production plant at **Chakan** of **Pune** district at an estimated investment of **Rs. 650 crore**.
- The facility is expected to commence production in **2023** and will be utilised for manufacturing high-end **KTM, Husqvarna, and Triumph motorcycles** as well as for **electric vehicles** starting with Chetak.

India's 1st tiger reserve hot air balloon safari launched in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh

- India's first **hot air balloon** wildlife safari in a tiger reserve was launched in the world-famous **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** in **Madhya Pradesh**. It is the first in any tiger reserve in the country. The service is being operated by **Jaipur-based Sky Waltz**.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches digital 'PR Insight' mobile app and web portal

- Chief Minister of Punjab **Captain Amarinder Singh** launched a mobile application and web portal '**PR Insight**' to monitor the feedback and subsequently improve the delivery of **citizen-centric services** to ensure responsive and transparent administration in the state.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stone of Rs. 8,341 Cr road projects in Rajasthan

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of **Rs. 8,341 crore** highway projects in **Rajasthan**. The project carries a road length of nearly **1,127 kilometres** and has been 40 per cent growth in road construction in Rajasthan during the past **six years**.

CJI Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurates e-service centre in Tripura High Court

- Chief Justice of India **Sharad Arvind Bobde** inaugurated the e-service centre at the **Tripura High Court** in **Agartala**. The E-services have been facilitated under the e-Courts project with a view to bring transparency in **legal proceedings & ease of access** to information related to ongoing or past trials & cases.

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announces Multi-Model Logistics park in Silchar, Assam

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** announced that a **multi-model logistics park** would be constructed in the **Silchar** and **Balacherra-Harengajao** section of the Silchar-Saurashtra Highway, which is to be completed in **March 2022**.
- He also laid a foundation stone for 20 projects and inaugurated seven projects worth **Rs. 2366 crores** for **Assam** with a total length of **439 kilometres**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off the 100th run of Kisan Rail in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the **100th** run of **Kisan Rail** in Maharashtra. The 100th run of the Kisan Rail was virtually flagged off from **Sangola, Maharashtra** to **Shalimar, West Bengal**.
- Kisan Rail is a mobile cold storage to move perishable goods like **vegetables, fruits, milk, fish**, etc.,

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Launches 'E-Sampada' Web Portal and Mobile App for Estate Services

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, has launched **E-Sampada**, a new web portal and mobile app for Management of all Government of India (GoI) Estate services on **Good Governance Day**. It has been developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

Jal Jeevan Mission launches "Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge" for portable water testing devices

- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** & the **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** have launched an innovation challenge to develop portable devices which are to be used for **water testing**.
- The main objective of this exercise is to develop a modular and **cost-effective solution** that could be used at a household level to test the **drinking water quality** instantly.

East Coast Railway becomes the first zone to adopt EOTT system in Indian Railways

- The **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** has commissioned **End of Train Telemetry (EOTT)** system to run trains without guards. It is the **country's first railway zone** to use the cutting-edge technology for operation of trains without **brake van** and **guards**.
- The field trial for Indian Railways was conducted between **Talcher and Paradip section** of Odisha successfully reached destination with EOTT system in place.

Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan reddy Launches Navaratnalu-Pedalandariki Illu Housing Scheme

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the flagship programme of **Navaratnalu 'Pedalandariki Illu,'** (housing for the poor) at Komaragiri layout of **Pithapuram Assembly** constituency in **East Godavari district**.

Thaawarchand Gehlot launches mobile app "Swachhata Abhiyan" to identify and geotag the data of Insanitary Latrines and Manual Scavengers

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** launched a mobile app "**Swachhata Abhiyan**" in the presence of the Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment **Ram Das Athawale** and **Krishan Pal Gurjar** in **New Delhi**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the new Bhaupur - New Khurja section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **351 km 'New Bhaupur- New Khurja section'** in **Uttar Pradesh** of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) via video-conferencing. During the event, he also inaugurated the EDFC's **Operation Control Centre (OCC)** at **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The section has been built by **TATA Projects Limited**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches 'Digital Ocean' digital platform for Ocean Data Management developed by INCOIS

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Science & Technology, and Health & Family Welfare **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated a web-based application, "**Digital Ocean (www.do.incois.gov.in)**" developed by INCOIS of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, during a virtual meeting held in **New Delhi**.

Indian Railways launches integrated Hospital Management Information System and mobile app for UMID

- **Indian Railways** has launched the recently integrated **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** and a mobile application for downloading **Unique Medical Identity Card (UMID)**.
- The aim is to provide a **single window clearance** for hospital administration activities like **clinical, diagnostics, pharmacy, examinations & industrial health**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurates India Meteorological Department's (IMD) centre at Leh, Ladakh

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Science & Technology and Health & Family Welfare **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** virtually inaugurated the **India Meteorological Department's (IMD) centre** at **Leh, Ladakh**.
- The meteorological centre of Leh is located at a height of **3500 metres** and would be the **highest meteorological centre in India**.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar virtually hoists International Blue Flag at 8 beaches across India

- Blue Flag certification is a globally acclaimed and recognised eco-label accorded by the "**Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark**" based on **33** stringent criteria.
- The beaches where international blue flags were hoisted are **Kappad** (Kerala), **Shivrajpur** (Gujarat), **Ghoghla** (Diu), **Kasarkod** and **Padubidri** (Karnataka), **Rushikonda** (Andhra Pradesh), **Golden Beach** (Odisha) and **Radhanagar** (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

Union Minister of Education laid foundation stone of India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems 'TiHAN-IIT in Hyderabad'

- Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal '**Nishank**', virtually laid foundation stone of '**TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad**', India's first test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).
- The **Department of Science and Technology** (DST) of the Government of India, has sanctioned **Rs. 135 crores** to **IIT Hyderabad** under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems** (NM-ICPS) to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems.

India adds Tso Kar wetland complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site

- **India** has added **Tso Kar Wetland Complex** in Ladakh as its **42nd Ramsar site**. Tso Kar is situated **4500 meters** above the sea level and is also the **second wetland** in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh to be added to the Ramsar list.
- **India** has the highest number of sites in **South Asia** under **Ramsar Convention**, an accord for preserving wetlands signed at the **Iranian city** of Ramsar in **1971**.

Kerala's Gender Park to host the 2nd edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality at Kozhikode in February 2021

- The **Gender Park** in partnership with **UN Women** is organising the second edition of **International Conference on Gender Equality** (ICGE-II) at **Kozhikode, Kerala** in February 2021.
- The **three-day** conference is held under the focal theme of '**Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment.**'

Madhya Pradesh Government approves the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020

- **Madhya Pradesh** cabinet has approved the **Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020**. The controversial ordinance outlaws' marriages with an aim of religious conversions. Under the new bill, forcing religious conversion on someone will attract **1-5 years** of imprisonment and a minimum **Rs. 25,000 fine**.

Odisha Government has launched career portal for students in collaboration with UNICEF

- The **Department of School and Mass Education** of the Government of **Odisha** in collaboration with **UNICEF** has launched a career portal. The portal can be accessed through the website **odishacareerportal.com** with a student login ID and a password.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan nominated to the board of vaccine alliance GAVI

- Harsh Vardhan will be representing the **South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)** constituency on the **GAVI Board** from **January 2021** to **December 2023**. **Mr. Myint Htwe** of Myanmar is currently holding the seat.

BSSUK ties-up with NKJ Biofuel to set up an ethanol plant in Chhattisgarh

- **Bhoramdeo Sahakari Sakhar Utpadak Karkhana Maryadit (BSSUK)**, a cooperative sugar mill, has signed a pact with **NKJ Biofuel Ltd** to set up an **ethanol production** unit on a **public-private partnership (PPP)** basis in the **Kabirdham** district of **Chhattisgarh**.

Businesses with a monthly turnover of over Rs. 50 lakhs to pay at least 1% GST liability in cash

- Businesses with a monthly turnover of over **Rs. 50 lakhs** will have to mandatorily pay at least **1%** of their **Goods and Services Tax liability** in cash, the **Finance Ministry** stated as it moved to curb evasion by fake invoicing.
- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has introduced Rule **86 B** in the Goods and Services Tax Rules, restricting the use of input tax credit for discharging GST liability to **99 percent**.

Harsh Vardhan releases the report Action Agenda for AtmaNirbhar Bharat (AAAN) prepared by TIFAC

- Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, released the **Action Agenda for Atma Nirbhar Bharat (AAAN)** that defines overarching policy recommendations with reference to technological inputs, focusing towards local to global thereby reviving the **Indian economy**.
- TIFAC highlighted **five** thrust sectors namely, **healthcare, machinery, ICT, agriculture, manufacturing,** and **electronics**.

India's first pollinator park to be setup in Haldwani, Uttarakhand

- The **Uttarakhand forest department** dedicated the newly built Pollinator Park to the public, claiming it to be the country's first such park, spread over **4 acres** in **Haldwani, Nainital district**.
- The park has more than **40 pollinator species** with displays on the mechanism of pollination of plant species by various species of **butterflies, honeybees, birds, insects, moths, beetles, wasps,** and **small mammals**.

DRDO celebrates 63rd Foundation Day on January 1, 2021

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** observed the **63rd Foundation Day** of its establishment on **January 1, 2021**. DRDO was established in **1958** with just ten laboratories to enhance the research work in the **defence sector**.
- DRDO Chairman declared '**Export**' as the theme for **2021**, and an Online **Industry Partner Registration Module** was launched.

ADB to provide \$231 million loans to enhance power generation capacity in Assam

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** will provide a **\$ 231-million** loan to augment electricity generation capacity in **Assam** by constructing a **120-megawatt (MW) hydroelectric power plant**.
- The proposed hydroelectric project is a run-of-the-river project over the **Kopili river**, which will increase electricity supplied from clean energy by **469 gigawatt-hour (GWh)** by **2025** and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **3.6 lakh tonnes** of **carbon dioxide** annually.

Northeast's first-ever ginger processing plant at Ri-Bhoi of Meghalaya to become functional in 2021

- The plant located at the **Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP)**, Byrnihat Hatt will not only process ginger but also help in preparing products like **waxed ginger, ginger paste, ginger powder, ginger flakes, ginger oil,** etc.

Karnataka CM inaugurates new building of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre in Bengaluru

- The **13 storeys** tall building will house 13 departments of medicine and a research centre for medical college students. The medical college worth is **Rs. 600-700 crores**.

Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) across six states

- The LHPs would be implemented at **Indore** (Madhya Pradesh), **Rajkot** (Gujarat), **Chennai** (Tamil Nadu), **Ranchi** (Jharkhand), **Agartala** (Tripura), and **Lucknow** (Uttar Pradesh).
- He announced the winners under Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators – **India (ASHA-India)** and gave away annual awards for excellence in implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) Mission**.

ADB and India signed a \$10 million loan to support project preparation to expand horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) and the **Indian** Government signed a **\$10 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF)** to help finance piloting activities, design and capacity building for an ensuing project that aims to expand **horticulture production** and farm household income in the state of **Himachal Pradesh**.

Jharkhand Government launches 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' crop relief scheme to replace PMFBY

- **Jharkhand** is replacing **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** with '**Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana**' scheme for farmers of the state. **Fasal Rahat Yojana** is a compensation scheme that aims to provide security cover to the farmers for crop damage due to **natural calamity**.
- The objective of the scheme is **food safety, crop diversification, rapid development in agriculture & paving the way for competition**. The scheme will take **three months** to come into effect.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches mobile app 'DigiNest' to ensure digital access to state government directory

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain **Amarinder Singh** virtually launched a mobile application '**DigiNest**', to give people digital access to the state government's directory, which can be synced with a smartphone with the click of a button.
- The Chief Minister also rolled out an online **Punjab Advertisement Release Order System** to bring transparency and efficiency in the entire process of releasing the State Government's advertisements and payments to **media houses**.

Union Cabinet approves Multi-Modal Logistics Hub & Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

- Union Cabinet approved a **multi-modal logistics and transport hub (MMTH)** at **Greater Noida** (estimated cost of Rs. **3,883.80 crores**) in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Apart from this, Union Cabinet also approved to set up **industrial corridor** nodes at **Krishnapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 2,139.44 crores) and **Tumakuru**, Karnataka (estimated cost of Rs. 1,701.81 crores) under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020 in New Delhi

- Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the **Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020** in **New Delhi**. The application of the **hackathon** remains open till **January 20, 2021**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of AIIMS Rajkot, Gujarat

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of AIIMS (**All India Institute of Medical Sciences**) **Rajkot** in **Gujarat** virtually. He noted that India has emerged to be the nerve centre of **global health**.
- Under this AIIMS project, it covers **201 acres** of land and an estimated cost of **Rs. 1,195 crores**. It is expected to be completed by the mid of **2022**.

Jammu and Kashmir Government signs an MoU with NAFED for high-density apple, walnut, and cherry plantation

- **Jammu and Kashmir** Government signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)**, the apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in the country.
- NAFED is planning to invest **Rs.1700 crores** for High-Density plantation of **apple, cherry, walnut, flowers, etc.** covering 5500 hectares in the next **5 years** and three clusters of cold storage in Jammu & Kashmir at the cost of **Rs. 500 crores**.

TRIFED signs an MoU with DAY-NRLM to boost tribal livelihood development and SHG women

- **TRIFED** has tied up with **Deen Dayal Antyodaya - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** to undertake economic support programmes that will help boost livelihoods, especially that of the **SHG women**, including those from **tribal populations** of the country.
- The MoU was signed by **Nagendra Nath Sinha**, Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), and **Pravir Krishna**, Managing Director of TRIFED.

Government launches Global Pravasi Rishta portal & mobile app to connect with Indian diaspora across the world

- Union Minister of State for External Affairs **V. Muraleedharan** launched the **Global Pravasi Rishta** portal and mobile app to connect with Indian diaspora across the world. The portal will also assist **Indians** who reside **overseas** during any crisis management and will also lend a helping hand.

Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launches first of its E-commerce portal "ekhadiindia.com"

- Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (MSME) Khadi arm, **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** unveiled Khadi India's official e-commerce site **ekhadiindia.com**.
- The portal is a step towards building an ecosystem that enables MSMEs to help achieve the Prime Minister's goal of **"Aatmanirbhar Bharat"**.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a missed call facility for LPG consumers in Bhubaneswar, odisha

- **Indian Oil LPG** customers can now give a missed call to **8454955555** for refill booking for all India and the new connection for Bhubaneswar city. The Minister also rolled out the second phase of the world-class octane **100 premium grade petrol**, under the brand **XP 100**.

IOC launches India's first remote monitoring system for oil refineries

- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has launched **India's first** remote monitoring system for oil refineries' turbines in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel **Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- The Remote Monitoring & Operation Centre for Tracking of **Indian Oil's refinery gas turbines** was implemented by **BHEL-GE Gas Turbine Services (BGGTS)**, a joint venture of **BHEL** and **General Electric**.

Assam Rifles Public School in Shillong becomes the first Khelo India Sports School from North-East

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** launched the **Assam Rifles Public School (ARPS)** in **Shillong, Meghalaya**, as a Khelo India Sports School. At present, **nine sports schools** have been approved across the country, out of which **five** are managed by **Defence** and **Para-military forces**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dedicate 450 km Kochi-Mangaluru CNG pipeline

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will dedicate the **Kochi (Kerala) - Mangaluru (Karnataka)** Natural Gas Pipeline to the nation via virtual mode. The event marks an important milestone towards the creation of the **One Nation One Gas grid**.
- The **450-kilometer-long** pipeline has been built by **GAIL (India) Ltd**. It will carry natural gas from the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regasification Terminal at Kochi, **Kerala**, to Mangaluru, **Karnataka**.

Government implements Rs. 320 crores project for 5 ports to enable the digital ecosystem

- According to the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Government is implementing a **320 crores** project for **five major** ports to provide a digital port ecosystem. These ports are **Mumbai, Chennai, Deendayal, Paradip, and Kolkata** (including Haldia).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the world's longest railway platform in Hubballi, Karnataka

- **Hubballi railway station** of Karnataka is set to get the world's longest railway platform with dimensions of **1,500 metres** in length and **10 metres** in width. The station is officially known as **Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji railway station**.
- The construction of the platform is done with an expenditure of **Rs. 90 crores** for remodeling of wards, building work, signalling, third entrance construction, electrical, and other related works.

ADB to provide \$100 million loans to upgrade power distribution in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) will provide a **\$100 million** (around Rs. 730 crores) loan to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system in **Bengaluru city**. Besides the \$100 million sovereign loans, ADB will provide a **\$90 million** loan without a sovereign guarantee for the project to **Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (BESCOM)**, one of the five state-owned distribution utilities in Karnataka.

Centre notifies 0-1 km area around the boundary of Kerala's Mathikettan Shola Park as an Eco-Sensitive Zone

- The Central Government has notified an area varying from **zero to one km** around the boundary of **Mathikettan Shola National Park** in the Idukki district of Kerala as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone**. The area of the Eco-Sensitive Zone is **17.5 square kilometres**.

TRIFED signs MoU with Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram for setting up of TRIFOOD Parks in Madhya Pradesh

- **Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India** (TRIFED) signed MoU with Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra to set up **TRIFOOD parks** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- They will also focus on other activities such as **horticulture, fisheries, floriculture, animal husbandry, and craft**. They will mainly work to improve the livelihood of tribals.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the National Metrology Conclave 2021

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** delivers the inaugural address at the **National Metrology Conclave** through virtual mode. The conclave is organised by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory** (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, has completed **74 years** after its inception. The theme of the conclave is '**Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation.**'

Government extends the benefit of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to all export goods from January 1

- The Government has decided to extend the benefit of the tax refund scheme **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products** (RoDTEP) to all export goods from **January 1, 2021**.
- Under this scheme, the embedded central, state, and **local duties or taxes** will be refunded and credited to an exporter.

L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering bags over Rs. 7,000 crores order from HPCL Rajasthan Refinery

- **L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering** (LTHE), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro, has bagged an over **Rs. 7,000 crores** order from **HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd** (HRRL), a joint venture between **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation** (HPCL) and the Government of Rajasthan, for setting up a dual-feed cracker unit.

Chinese firm Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Company Ltd. wins the contract to build 5.6 km underground stretch of Delhi-Meerut rapid rail project

- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation** (NCRTC) has awarded a contract to a Chinese company, **Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Company Limited**, to construct a **5.6-kilometre** underground stretch, from New Ashok Nagar to Sahibabad, of the **Delhi-Meerut RRTS project**.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan flags off equipment for Indian Oil's MEG Plant at Paradip, Odisha

- Three supercritical equipment are **Ethylene Oxide Reactor, Wash Tower & De-ethyleniser**, indigenously manufactured from L&Ts Hazira plant will be delivered to MEG plant being setup (an investment of Rs 5,654 crore) at refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Paradip.

Delhi government sets up Tamil academy to promote Tamil culture

- The Department of Art, Culture, and Language of the Delhi government set up a **Tamil academy** to promote the **South Indian language** and culture in the Capital. The academy will introduce various awards to promote and reward people's works in the **Tamil language** and **culture**.
- The Delhi government has appointed a former municipal councillor and current member of Delhi Tamil Sangam **N Raja** as the vice-chairman of the academy.

Indian Air Force chief R K S Bhaduria launches e-governance portal in New Delhi

- Indian Air Force Chief, Air Marshal **R K S Bhaduria**, formally launched the **IAF e-Governance (e-Office) portal** in New Delhi. The portal is part of **Digital India** and **e-governance** initiative that will transform the entire Indian Air Force into a paperless office workflow.

Ramesh Pokhriyal, Smriti Irani launch 'Toycathon 2021' to promote manufacturing of indigenous toys

- The ToyCathon 2021 is being organised to create awareness among school students about our country's **rich cultural heritage**. It will be based on **nine** themes. The portal can be accessed at <https://toycathon.mic.gov.in>.

Denmark's Oscar nominee 'Another Round' to be opening movie at 51st IFFI in Goa

- **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will start on January 16, with the Indian premiere of the movie **'Another Round'** by **Thomas Vinterberg**. Argentine filmmaker **Pablo Cesar** will be head of the IFFI jury.
- IFFI will close with India Premier of historical drama **'Wife of a Spy'** by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, who bagged Silver Lion for Best Director at **Venice film festival**.

Madhya Pradesh government introduces 'Launch Pad Scheme' to make youth self-reliant

- **Madhya Pradesh** government introduced **'Launch Pad Scheme'** for boys and girls coming out of childcare institutions and having completed **18 years** of age.
- The objective of this scheme of the **Women and Child Development Department** is to provide such a platform to these youth, through which they will be able to become **self-reliant** by continuing their education and training.

World's Largest Floating Solar Plant to Come up in Madhya Pradesh by 2022-23

- The **world's largest** floating **600 MW** solar energy project will be constructed at **Omkareshwar dam** on **Narmada river** in **Khandwa** district of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The project is likely to begin power generation by the year **2022-23**. The estimated investment in this project stands at **Rs 3,000 crore**.

World Bank Signs \$105 Million Project to Improve Waterways in West Bengal

- The government of **West Bengal** and the **World Bank** signed a **\$105 million** project to improve the inland water transport infrastructure in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics & Spatial Development Project will facilitate **passenger & freight movement** across the **Hooghly river**; undertake spatial planning to improve accessibility in **Kolkata Metropolitan Area**; improving logistics sector.

NDB extends \$646 million loans for upgrading state highway & district road network in Andhra Pradesh

- **Indian** Government and **Andhra Pradesh** State Government signed a loan agreement of up to **\$323 million each** with the **New Development Bank (NDB)** for the **Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridges Reconstruction Project**, and the **Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement Project**.

40th Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica flagged off from Mormugao Port, Goa

- The **40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA)** departed for the South Pole from **Mormugao Port, Goa** with 43 members on board. Indian Oil Director (Marketing) **Gurmeet Singh** and National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) Director **M Ravichandran** flagged off the 40th ISEA.
- The chartered ice-class vessel **MV Vasiliy Golovnin** has been chosen for the prestigious 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) mission journey and will reach **Antarctica** in **30 days**.

Manipur CM N Biren Singh launches 'mPension Manipur' app to ease inconvenience faced by pensioners

- Chief Minister of Manipur **N Biren Singh** launched **'mPension Manipur'** app, an online platform through which pensioners can do self-updation without visiting the **Treasury Offices**.
- The app has been introduced on which pensioners instead of visiting the Treasury Office can make their **periodic photograph** updation online through a smartphone or a desktop/laptop, from the comfort of their own homes.

Maharashtra celebrates Marathi Journalism day on January 6

- **Marathi Journalism day** is celebrated across Maharashtra on **January 06** annually. The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary (January 1832) of late thespian journalist **Balshashtri Jambhekar**. He is known as the "Father of Marathi Journalism" and started the first newspaper '**Darpan**' and since then this day is being celebrated as the **Marathi Journalism day** in Maharashtra.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double farmers' income

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched **'Kisan Kalyan Mission'**, an initiative dedicated to farmers' welfare and growth, and reiterated his government's resolve to **double the income of farmers**.

Jammu & Kashmir Lt. Gov Manoj Sinha launches mobile app 'Satark Nagrik' & Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal Of ACB

- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir **Manoj Sinha** launched a mobile application **'Satark Nagrik'** and **Departmental Vigilance Officers portal** of **J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)**.
- The portal has been designed to enable an **online communication channel** with the DVOs of various departments.

Karnataka CM launches Krishi Sanjeevani vans to test soil, water & suggest remedies for pest control

- Karnataka Chief Minister **B.S. Yediyurappa** launched **Krishi Sanjeevani** vans in **Bengaluru**. The **40 vans** flagged off will reach out to the agriculture fields to test soil, water, and suggest remedies for pest control to improve the yield.
- Depending on the soil, water and pests inflicting the **crops**, the **Agriculture Department** personnel can suggest remedies.

Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates two-day virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020' organised by CUPB & GERA

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** inaugurated the two-day virtual **International Akhand** Conference '**EDUCON 2020**' through a video the conferencing platform. This two-day international conference is being organised by the **Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB)** in collaboration with the **Global Education Research Association (GERA)**.
- UGC Chairman **Dhirendra Pal Singh** will be the **Chief Guest** of the valedictory ceremony.

Union Government approves central sector scheme worth Rs. 28,400 crore for the industrial development of Jammu & Kashmir up to 2037

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved the proposal of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPITT)** for **Central Sector Scheme (CSS)** for the industrial development of **Jammu & Kashmir**. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of **Rs. 28,400 crores** up to **2037**.

Prime Minister Modi flags off the world's first double-stack long haul container train

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the **world's first double-stack** long haul container train by virtually inaugurating the **Rewari-Madar** section of the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor**. It is the first double-stack long haul **1.5 km** long container train to run on electric traction.
- The corridor will be used for the exclusive operation of **freight trains**, which will run at a maximum speed of **100 km/hr**. The first train has been flagged off from New Ateli in **Haryana** to New Kishangarh in **Rajasthan**.

Telangana becomes the 3rd state to complete Urban Local Bodies reforms; Additional borrowing permission of Rs.2,508 crore issued

- **Telangana** has become the **3rd state** in the country to successfully undertake "**Urban Local Bodies (ULB)**" reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure from the **Ministry of Finance**.
- The state has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of **Rs. 2,508 crores** through **Open Market Borrowings**. Additional borrowing permission of **Rs. 7,406 crores** has been granted so far to 3 states (**Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Telangana**) for urban local bodies reforms. The reforms in ULB's include **financial strengthening** & enable them to provide better public health & sanitation.

Assam Government provides free bus service to women and senior citizens

- Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off **25 pink buses** earmarked under the '**Bhraman Sarathi**' scheme for women and senior citizens to travel within **Guwahati city**.
- This free and dedicated bus service operates in five routes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads a panel to administer the commemoration of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary

- A **high-level committee (HLC)**, headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has been constituted to commemorate the **125th birth anniversary** of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh to be the "Country in Focus" at the 51st International Film Festival of India

- **Bangladesh** will be the "**Country in Focus**" at the **51st** edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which begins in Goa from **January 16**.
- The "Country in Focus" is a special segment that recognises the cinematic excellence and contributions of a country and will showcase four films (**Jibondhuli, Meghmallar, Under Construction and Sincerely Yours, Dhaka**) from Bangladesh, according to India's Union **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** officials.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to launch a 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** will launch an online platform to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of coal mines called the '**Single Window Clearance System**'. It will be an **online platform** to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of **coal mines**.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh announces free sanitary pads for school & college girls

- Punjab Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** has announced a number of welfare schemes for the people of **the state**, which included free sanitary pads for **high school** and **female college students**.
- He also announced that the month of January would be dedicated to promoting the welfare of female children through the "**Dheeiyen Di Lohri**" programme (Rs. 5,100 and baby kits for each).

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee inaugurates the 26th Kolkata International Film Festival

- **West Bengal** Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** virtually inaugurated the **26th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** and allowed full occupancy of cinema halls in the state with adherence to COVID safety protocols.
- The inaugural ceremony was also virtually attended by Bollywood superstar and **West Bengal's** brand ambassador **Shah Rukh Khan** from Mumbai.
- Legendary filmmaker **Satyajit Ray's** classic '**Apur Sansar**' will be the inaugural film of the festival in which **131 movies** from 45 countries will be screened.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Coastal Research Vessel 'Sagar Anveshika' in Chennai

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the **Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) 'Sagar Anveshika'** at **Chennai Port Trust**. The vessel will be used to carry out environment indexing and bathymetric (mapping underwater features) in both **coastal** and **offshore waters**.

Manipur CM Biren Singh virtually inaugurates the 4th edition of Cherry Blossom Festival

- **Manipur** Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** has inaugurated the '**Virtual Cherry Blossom Festival**' at **Mao** in **Senapati** district of **Manipur**. The virtual festival features the **picturesque landscape** of Mao adorned with beautiful cherry trees laden with pink flowers which have traditionally attracted visitors from across the world.

Indian Railways enhances speed to 130 Kmph on Golden Quadrilateral, Golden Diagonal sections

- **Indian Railways** enhanced the maximum speed to **130 kmph** for 1,280 **Km** length out of **1,612 Km** in **Golden Quadrilateral - Golden Diagonal (GQ-GD)** route. This covers the entire GQ-GD route over South Central Railway, except **Vijayawada-Duvvada** section, where signalling up-gradation work is in progress.
- This included heavier rails, laying **260 meters** long welded rail panels, improvement of curves and gradients, among others.

Indian Navy to hold 2-day pan-India coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-21'

- The **Indian Navy** will hold a pan-India coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-21'. The **two-day** mega defence exercise will kick start and cover the country's **7,516 km** coastline and exclusive economic zone
- The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre level exercise **TROPEX [Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise]**, which the Indian Navy conducts every two years.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates India's first 'Fire Park' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** virtually inaugurated a first of its kind '**Fire Park**' to educate and bring awareness on **basic fire safety** measures among the people, particularly the students.
- The minister also launched an online portal, '**AgnishamaSeva**' to provide through which 16 fire related services available in **Odisha Fire Service**.

Nitish Kumar inaugurates Bihar's first state bird festival 'Kalrav' at Nagi bird sanctuary of Jamui district

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** inaugurated the first-ever bird festival '**Kalrav**' by lighting the traditional lamp at **Nagi bird sanctuary** in **Jamui district**, about **200 km** south-east from the state capital, Patna.
- The three-day bird festival was organised by the **state environment, forest, and climate change department** to create awareness among people about birds, especially the **migratory birds**.

Kerala Governor launches 'One School One IAS' scheme for economically backward students

- Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** launched **Vedhik Erudite Foundation's** ambitious scheme '**One School One IAS**' to provide **free coaching** for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students across the state.
- This higher **education platform** will give the children a chance to completely redecorate their future plans and broaden their horizons.

Kerala to open India's first labour movement museum to show the spirit of workers in Alappuzha

- India's first **Labour Movement Museum** is set to be launched in **Alappuzha, Kerala** to show the spirit of workers. The history of Kerala's labour movement will be portrayed through **pictures, documents**, and other **exhibits**.
- The museum with an outlay of **Rs. 9.95 crores**, 97 per cent of renovation works in this museum is complete.

1st Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports & Youth Festival flagged-off in Ladakh

- The first-ever **Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports and Youth Festival 2021**, organised by the Department of **Youth Services and Sports** in collaboration with the **Department of Tourism**, was flagged off at Nimoo Sangam, Ladakh.

First-ever Ice climbing festival celebrated in Nubra valley of Leh, Ladakh

- First-ever **Ice climbing festival** was celebrated in **Nubra valley** of **Leh** district. The seven-day event was organised by **Nubra Adventure Club**. Ice climbing is a **popular winter sport** abroad.
- The seven-day festival to promote winter tourism in Nubra valley was organised by Nubra Adventure Club, with the help of social activist **Dr. Nordan Otzer**.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism signs pact with Kerala to replicate responsible tourism

- **Kerala's** pioneering **Responsible Tourism (RT)** initiative will be emulated by **Madhya Pradesh** and the MoU for implementation of the model, which involves local communities and **makes tourism** a tool for rural development.
- The MoUs were exchanged by Kerala Tourism Minister **Kadakampally Surendran** and his Madhya Pradesh counterpart **Usha Thakur**.

BSE signs an MoU with the Maharashtra Government to encourage SME listings

- Leading stock exchange **BSE** (Bombay Stock Exchange) has joined hands with the **Maharashtra Government** to create awareness about the benefits of listing among the **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)** of the state.

L&T bags up to Rs. 5,000 crore order from Rail Vikas Nigam in Uttarakhand

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** construction arm has bagged an up to **Rs. 5,000 crore** contract from **Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL)** in **Uttarakhand** for the new broad-gauge line between **Rishikesh** and **Karanprayag**. The **engineering and construction** company did not provide the exact value of the contract, but as per its project classification, "large" orders are those valued between **Rs. 2,500 crores** and **Rs. 5,000 crores**.

Prime Minister Modi announces Rs. 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the launch of **Rs. 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'** to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas.
- The Startup India Seed Fund would support startups in need of **initial capital** to start and grow their business and help budding **entrepreneurs** pursue innovative ideas.

Union Government launches 3rd phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana in 600 districts across the country

- Government of India launched the third phase of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** in 600 districts across the country. The scheme has been implemented by the Union **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- Skill India Mission **PMKVY 3.0** envisages training of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of **2020-2021** with an outlay of **Rs. 949 crore**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit 2021'

- The two-day **'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit 2021'** held in New Delhi. The summit was organised by organising by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The aim for the next **five years** is to make Indian **startups** as global giants.

Elon Musk's Tesla sets up its first Indian subsidiary in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- World's leading electric car maker **Tesla** is setting up its **research and development** (R&D) centre in **Bengaluru** to commence its Indian operations. The company will be called '**Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited**'.
- The total paid-up capital of the company is **Rs. 1,00,000** and the authorised share capital is **Rs. 15 lakhs**.

Union Petroleum Ministry launches 'SAKSHAM' campaign to create awareness on green & clean energy

- The Union Ministry of **Petroleum and Natural Gas** launched a month-long fuel conservation campaign of the **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** named **SAKSHAM 2021**. The campaign aims at highlighting the adverse health and environmental impacts of **increasing carbon footprints** and convince consumers to switch to cleaner fuels.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches India's first indigenously developed driverless metro car in Bengaluru

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched **India's first** indigenously designed and developed **Driverless Metro Car** at the BEML manufacturing facility in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- BEML bagged a total order of **576 cars** for **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority** (MMRDA)'s MRS1 project, and the supply is scheduled progressively up to **January 2024**.

NITI Aayog Releases Second Edition of India Innovation Index

- NITI Aayog, along with the **Institute for Competitiveness**, released the second edition of the **India Innovation Index** in a virtual event. The first edition of the index was launched in October 2019.
- **Karnataka** topped the Index in the Major States Category, **Delhi** topped among the Union Territories (UT) and Under the 'North-Eastern/Hill States' category, **Himachal Pradesh** emerged as the top state. The Indian States have achieved an average score of **23.4** in the Index.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announces 'Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission'

- Chief Minister of Gujarat **Vijay Rupani** has announced the formation of '**Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission**' (Horticulture Development Mission).
- The aim is to accelerate **agriculture, horticulture** and promote farming of herbal plants in infertile & fallow lands of government.

Karnataka Chief Minister Yediyurappa launches Avalokana software

- Chief Minister of Karnataka **B. S. Yediyurappa** launched **Avolokana software** that will enable the government to **access data** on sanctions and expenditures incurred by **39 departments** on **1,800 programmes** implemented by the government.

Nagpur's Gorewada Zoo renamed as Balasaheb Thackeray Zoological Park

- The **Maharashtra** government renamed Nagpur's **Gorewada International Zoo** as **Balasaheb Thackeray Zoological Park**. The zoological park spread over **1,900 hectares** inaugurated by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- The Park will offer different kinds of **safaris** and will have a rescue centre. **MoEFCC** had announced the setting up of the '**international-standard**' bio park in **August 2019**.

Cabinet approves Rs.5,282-cr investment for 850-MW Ratle Hydro Electric project in Jammu and Kashmir

- The Union Cabinet approved an **Rs.5281.94 crore** investment for an **850-megawatt (MW) Ratle hydropower project** on the **Chenab river** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It will be developed by **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** Ltd and **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC)**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses 1st National Conference of States on Logistics

- Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution **Piyush Goyal** stated that **National Logistics Policy**, which is under consultation, along with the **National**

Logistics Council and **State Logistics Coordination Committee**, will work as a template for better coordination and integrated development for **logistics centre**.

Indian Railways renames iconic Howrah-Kalka Mail as 'Netaji Express'

- **Indian Railways** in a tribute to freedom fighter **Subhas Chandra Bose** who is also known as '**Netaji**' has decided to rename the Howrah-Kalka Mail as '**Netaji Express**'. The train first operated in the year **1866** and it has been in service of the nation for more than **150 years**.
- The **Howrah-Kalka Mail** runs between Howrah in **West Bengal** (Eastern Railway) and Kalka in **Haryana** (Northern Railway) via **Delhi**.

Indian Armed Forces to conduct large-scale joint military exercise 'Kavach' in the Andaman sea and the Bay of Bengal

- A large-scale joint military exercise, '**Excercise Kavach**' conducted under the aegis of **Andaman and Nicobar Command** (ANC), the only joint forces command of India.
- The joint military exercise named as 'Exercise Kavach' involves the assets of the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force**, and **Indian Coast Guard**.

Amit Shah inaugurates new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge in Ahmedabad

- The Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the new 4-lane **Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda** railway overbridge, built at the cost of **Rs. 55 crores**, in Ahmedabad, **Gujarat** through video conferencing from **New Delhi**. Several dignitaries including Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister **Nitin Patel** were present at the programme.

India's largest multi-modal logistic park to come up at Virochan Nagar in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- India's **largest multi-modal logistic park** is set come up at **Virochan Nagar** in Ahmedabad, **Gujarat**. An MoU was signed between the **Gujarat** Authorities and **Adani Port & SEZ Ltd.** in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** in Gandhinagar. The completion is expected within three years by **2023**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the 7th Edition of MASCRADE 2021 organised by FICCI

- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the 7th Edition of "**MASCRADE 2021**" - Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade organised by **FICCI** Cascade (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy).

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma inaugurates India's longest road arch bridge at Sohbar

- Meghalaya chief minister **Conrad K Sangma** inaugurated **India's longest road arch bridge**, the Wahrew Bridge at **Sohbar** in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.
- The bridge has been constructed at the cost of **Rs. 49.395 crores** sanctioned from the **Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources** (NLCPR) of the Union Ministry of **Development of Northeastern Region** (DoNER).

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Virtually launches "Shramshakti" Digital Data Solution for Migrant Workers

- The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** virtually launched "**ShramShakti**", a National Migration Support Portal at a programme held at **Panjim, Goa**. The portal will help the government in smooth formulation of state and national level programs for **migrant workers**.
- Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** also launched "**ShramSaathi**", a training manual for migrant workers, to ensure that the process of livelihood migration is **safe and productive** and dedicated **Migration cell in Goa** to facilitate and support migrants who come from different States to Goa.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways sign an MoU with IIT Roorkee to boost research

- The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has taken the initiative to develop indigenous and apt technologies to bring down the **cost of construction** and reduce the construction period of **Road/Bridge/Tunnel** projects.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the 15th edition of Toshali National Crafts Mela

- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated the **15th** edition of **Toshali National Crafts Mela** in Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**. It is the biggest fair in **Eastern India**.

- Several women were seen shopping several **necklaces, hair-bands, rings** and other **artificial jewellery items**. Many sculptors had made portraits, models of several Gods and Goddess with a most popular one being Lord **Jagannath statues**.

Border Security Force launches operation 'Sard Hawa' at the Rajasthan border

- **Border Security Force** (BSF) launched Operation '**Sard Hawa**' at the western international border of **Rajasthan**, under which vigil will be beefed-up to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog in the area.
- The Operations aims to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog cover in the region and **increase security** on the border areas in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'Udyam Sarathi' for youth to explore self-employment opportunities

- On the occasion of **71st** foundation day of **Uttar Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched '**Udyam Sarathi**' app to help youth to explore **self-employment opportunities**.
- The app prepared under the **ODOP** (One District One Product) scheme and considered to be a master-key for exploring self-employment opportunities to the youth.
- Through the **Udyam Sarathi app**, youth would easily be able to get a varied range of **business opportunities** in different departments and sectors of the state and the Central government.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India & Japan sign deal to boost cooperation between steel industries

- **India** and **Japan** signed an agreement to enhance cooperation between their **steel industries** with the aim of ramping up **domestic production** and greater coordination in the global market, which is dominated by China.
- The memorandum of cooperation in the field of steel industry, inked by India's steel ministry and Japan's economy, trade and industry ministry, will boost mutual cooperation by establishing an "**India-Japan steel dialogue**" at the joint secretary-level.

Indian and Vietnamese Navy conclude two-day naval passage exercise 'PASSEX' in the South China Sea

- **Indian** and **Vietnamese Navy** concluded the two-day naval passage exercise **PASSEX** in the **South China Sea** as part of their efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries.
- Indian Naval Ship **Kiltan**, carrying humanitarian assistance, reached Vietnam's **Nha Rong Port** in Ho Chi Minh City to deliver fifteen tonnes of relief material for flood-affected people under **Mission Sagar-III**.

India set to become the 5th largest economy in 2025 and the 3rd largest by 2030; CEBR report

- According to the **CEBR** (Centre for Economics and Business Research) report, India will overtake the **UK** to become the **5th** largest economy in **2025**.
- India had overtaken the **UK** in 2019 to become the fifth largest economy in the world, but it has been relegated to the **sixth spot** in **2020**. India would overtake **Germany** in **2027** and **Japan** in **2030**.

INS Kiltan arrives at Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia under Mission Sagar-III

- **Indian Naval Ship Kiltan** arrived at **Sihanoukville Port** of **Cambodia** as part of the ongoing **Mission Sagar-III**. The ship will deliver 15 tons of **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief** (HADR) for the flood-affected people of Cambodia, which will be handed over to Cambodia's **National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC)**.

Indian economy could be the most resilient in South, South-west Asia subregion; UNESCAP report

- India's economy could prove to be the "**most resilient**" in the subregion of **South** and **South-West Asia** over the long term, according to a report by the **UNESCAP**.

- The report was titled '**Foreign Direct Investment Trends and Outlook in Asia And the Pacific 2020/2021**'. It was compiled by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (UNESCAP).

India and Sri Lanka hold the 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fisheries

- The fourth meeting of the **India-Sri Lanka** Joint Working Group on **Fisheries** was held through virtual mode. The Indian delegation was led by **Dr. Rajeev Ranjan**, Secretary of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

IFSCA becomes a member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)

- **International Financial Services Centres Authority** (IFSCA) has become an associate member of the **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**.
- The **IOSCO** is an international organisation that brings together the world's securities regulators and covers more than **95%** of the **world's securities markets**. It is the global standard-setter for the securities sector.

India to be co-chair of Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), a regional forum to conserve wildlife habitats for three years

- **India** has been chosen as the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) co-chair for three years till **November 2023**. In this tenure, India will assist other **Asian countries** in managing their protected areas.
- India is replacing **South Korea** as the co-chair.

Indian Coast Guard signs pact with 7 Asian countries for Cooperation in Maritime Search and Rescue Operations

- **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has entered into an MoU with **seven** Asian countries (**Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Vietnam**) for cooperation in maritime search and rescue operations.
- The MoU is for cooperation in **Maritime Search and Rescue** (M-SAR) operations. SAR in India is controlled & co-ordinated by ICG through 3 Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centres (MRCC) at **Mumbai, Chennai & Port Blair**.

Australia changes one word in its national anthem to honour indigenous people

- **Australia** has changed one word in its national anthem to reflect what the Prime Minister called "**The Spirit of Unity**" and the country's **indigenous population**. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that the second line of the anthem, Advance Australia Fair, has been changed from "**For we are young and free**" to "**For we are one and free.**"

US Congress passes "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act" For Pakistani Women

- The **US Congress** has passed the "**Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act,**" which will expand the number of scholarships available to **Pakistani women** to receive **higher education** under merit and needs-based programme.
- The bill requires the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** to award **at least 50 percent** of scholarships under a Pakistan-based higher education scholarship programme to Pakistani women from **2020 to 2022**.

Bajaj Auto becomes the World's Most Valuable Two-Wheeler Brand

- Indian multinational two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturing company, **Bajaj Auto**, has become the **most valuable two-wheeler** company in the world after it crossed a market capitalization of more than **Rs. 1 lakh crores**.
- Bajaj share price on NSE closed at **Rs. 3,479 per share**, and at this point, the market capitalization stood at more than a lakh crore.

India sends relief materials to Fiji to tide over the effect of category 5 tropical cyclone Yasa

- **India** has sent the first consignment of relief materials to the cyclone-hit **Fiji**, the **MEA (Ministry of External Affairs)** announced. Fiji was hit by a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone 'Yasa' in December, which caused extensive damage and destruction of critical infrastructure.

Boris Johnson cancels Republic Day visit to India over COVID-19 crisis in U.K.

- UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** has cancelled his planned India visit for the last week of January when he was to be the **Chief Guest** of the **Republic Day** festivities. It is cancelled in view of the pandemic which has escalated in UK because of the new variant of coronavirus. UK was chosen for ties post-Brexit.

Cabinet approves the signing of MoC between India and Japan on partnership in 'Specified Skilled Workers'

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the **Indian** Government and the **Japan** government, on a basic framework for the partnership for proper operation of the system pertaining to "**Specified Skilled Workers**".

India joins the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2021-22

- **UN leaders** and member states welcomed **India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway** to the **UN Security Council**. The flags of the **five new non-permanent UNSC members** were installed at the Security Council during a solemn ceremony organised by the **Kazakhstan Mission** to the UN.

India to chair 3 key committees of the UN Security Council

- **India** would be chairing three important committees of the United Nations Security Council from **2021 to 2022**.
- India's envoy to the UN, **TS Tirumurti**, stated that the country had been asked to chair three important subsidiary bodies of the **Security Council** namely **the Taliban sanctions committee** or the 1988 sanctions committee, **the counter-terrorism committee**, and the **Libya sanctions committee**.

India signs Rs 2,113 crore loan pact with Japan to support COVID-19 relief efforts

- The **Indian government** signed a loan agreement of **Rs 2,113 crore** with **Japan** for funding India's efforts to provide **social assistance** to the poor and **vulnerable households** impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

India-Vietnam Hold 13th Defence security dialogue to review progress in cooperation

- Defence Secretary **Dr Ajay Kumar** co-chaired the **13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue** with Vietnamese Lt Gen **Nguyen Chi Vinh** and Deputy Defence Minister, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- Both the Defence Secretary and Vietnam's Deputy **Defence Minister** expressed that they are satisfied with the ongoing defence cooperation between the nations despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

France hosts 4th One Planet Summit aimed at protecting global biodiversity with UN and World Bank

- **France** virtually organised the fourth '**One Planet Summit**', which aimed at protecting the **world's biodiversity**. It was organised in cooperation with the **United Nations** and the **World Bank**. The theme of the Summit was, "**Let's act together for nature!**"

India becomes world's second-largest manufacturer of PPE and Suits

- Union Minister for textile and women and child development **Smriti Irani** has stated that India has become the **second-largest manufacturer** of **PPE kits and suits** in the world in record **three months'** time during the coronavirus induced lockdown in March 2020.
- **China** is the **world's leading producer** of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic

Suriname's President Chandrikapersad Santokhi to be India's Republic Day Chief Guest, After Boris Johnson Cancels Visit

- Republic of **Suriname** President, **Chandrikapersad Santokhi**, will be the chief guest of **India's Republic Day parade** on **January 26**. India had initially invited Boris Johnson to be the chief guest, but the British PM had to cancel his visit in view of the grim coronavirus situation back home.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan virtually chairs the 148th session of the Executive Board of WHO

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** chaired the **148th** session of the Executive Board of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** through video conference.
- WHO described the Year 2020 as the **Year of Science** and the Year 2021 as the Year of **Global Solidarity and Survival**.

India set to procure 21 MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI jet fighters from Russia

- Indian Government is set to procure **21 MiG-29** and **12 Sukhoi-30MKI** jet fighters from **Russia** along with the upgrades of their existing fleets.
- The new set of 21 MiG-29 will add to the existing **59** such jets already with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the 12 Sukhoi-30MKIs, on the other hand, will add to the existing fleet of **272** such fighter aircraft, along with the **83 new Tejas** which will be inducted between **January 2024** to **December 2028** for around **Rs. 47,000 crores**.

India inks an MoU with Japan to enhance cooperation in the field of ICT

- **India** and **Japan** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**.
- The MoU was virtually signed between **Ravi Shankar Prasad**, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT and the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications **Takeda Ryota**.

India and Singapore sign pact on submarine rescue agreement at 5th Defence Ministers' Dialogue

- The 5th edition of the **Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD)** between **India** and **Singapore** was virtually held to **deepen military cooperation**. The 'Implementing Agreement on **Submarine Rescue** Support and Cooperation' was signed between the two Navies.

Five-day Indo-French Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21, begins in Jodhpur

- **Indian Air Force** and **French Air and Space Force** are conducting a bilateral Air exercise, "**Ex Desert Knight-21**" in **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
- The French side will participate with Rafale, **Airbus A-330** Multi-Role Tanker Transport, **A-400M** Tactical Transport aircraft, and approximately 175 personnel.

China overtakes Germany with the largest current account surplus: Information and Forschung (IFO) report

- As per the survey conducted by **Information and Forschung (IFO)**, **Germany's** current account surplus shrank for the **fifth year** in a row in 2020 as **China** overtook Europe's biggest economy during the COVID-19 pandemic to run the world's largest current account surplus.
- The current account surplus of China more than doubled to **\$310 billion** in 2020, while the current account surplus of **Germany** shrank for the **fifth year** in a row in 2020 to \$261 billion. **Japan** ranked third (\$158 billion).

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI cancels the licence of Maharashtra-based Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd.

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has cancelled the banking licence issued to **Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd.** Kolhapur, Maharashtra under **Section 22 (4)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to carry on banking business in India.
- The bank had breached the **minimum net worth requirement** for two quarters in the financial year **2019-20**.

RBI selects four more sandbox entities in the first cohort for Retail Payments

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has selected four more entities as part of its **Regulatory Sandbox**, which is currently running in its **first cohort** for **retail payments**.
- These entities include Mumbai based **Tap Smart Data Information Services Private Limited** (CityCash), Bengaluru based Naffa Innovations Private Limited's **ToneTag**, Noida based Eroute Technologies and **Ubona Technologies** Private Limited.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) introduces PNB e-Credit Card

- **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) introduced "**PNB e-Credit Card**," a digital replica of a physical Credit Card. It will allow PNB customers to use PNB e-credit card at any **e-commerce platform** or **merchant website** without carrying a physical card.

Bank of Baroda launches digital lending platform to serve retail loan virtually in 30 minutes

- **Bank of Baroda** (BoB) has launched a **Digital Lending Platform** that enables prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a **paperless process**. Bank of Baroda currently offers pre-approved **micro personal loan** to existing selected customers to shop anything through offline/online partner channels and pay later in easy **EMIs**.

DBS Bank India introduces one-stop integrated travel marketplace 'Travel Now'

- **DBS Bank India** introduced "**Travel Now**" a one-stop travel marketplace within the **Digibank app**. The platform enables customers to browse and book **flights, bus tickets** and **hotels** across hundreds of destinations both within and outside India.

RuPay partners with RBL Bank to launch 'RuPay PoS' in association with PayNearby

- The RuPay PoS will transform smartphones into merchant **Point of Sale (PoS)** terminals for the retailers. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to **Rs. 5000** through a **simple tap** and **pay mechanism** on his/her NFC enabled mobile phones.

RBI's releases report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2019-20

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has released the Report on **Trend and Progress of Banking** in India for **2019-20**. The broad theme of this year's report is the impact of COVID-19. The report has been submitted under **Section 36(2)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

RBI introduces the Digital Payments Index

- The RBI-DPI comprises **five broad parameters** that enable deepening and penetrating **digital payments** over different periods.
- These parameters are **Payment Enablers** (25%), **Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors** (10%), **Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors** (15%), **Payment Performance** (45%), and **Consumer Centricity** (5%).

GST collection in December at an all-time high with over Rs 1.15 lakh crores revenue

- The Union Government's booster shots for the economy seem to have triggered a step-up in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection in the month of **December** as the month saw the collection of over **Rs 1.15 lakh crores**.

RBI allows the LEI system up to Rs. 50 crore and above using RTGS and NEFT from April 01, 2021

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to make the **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** system for all payment transactions of value **Rs. 50 crore** and above undertaken by entities (non-individuals) using the Reserve Bank-run **Centralised Payment Systems (CPS)** via Real Time Gross Settlement (**RTGS**) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (**NEFT**) from **April 1, 2021**. The **20-digit** LEI number is used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions **worldwide**.

RBI operationalises PIDF scheme to boost digital payments in lower-tier cities

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has unveiled an **Rs. 345 crore Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)** aimed at boosting digital payments in **Tier III to VI centres**.
- An advisory council (AC) under the RBI Deputy Governor **BP Kanungo** has been constituted for managing the fund. It will be operational for **3 years** effective from **January 1, 2021**, and maybe extended for 2 more years.

SMCB becomes India's first urban co-operative bank to transition to a Small Finance Bank

- **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB)** is the first Urban Co-operative Bank (UCB) in **India** to transition to a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** under the voluntary transition scheme. The bank has received the commercial banking license from banking regulator the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

RBI sets up College of Supervisors under former Deputy Governor N S Viswanathan to strengthen supervision

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is now fully operationalising a **College of Supervisors (CoS)** to further strengthen supervision over regulated entities. The Cos will be headed by former Deputy Governor **N S Viswanathan** and will have **five** other members. They include former State Bank of India Managing Director **Arijit Basu**, former HDFC Bank Deputy Managing Director **Paresh Sukhankar**, **S Raghunath** of Bangalore IIM, **Tadhagatha Bandyopphay** of Ahmedabad IIM and **Subrata Sarkar** of Mumbai IGIDR.
- **RBI** has appointed **Rabi Narayan Mishra** as the full-time director of the College of Supervisors (CoS).

CBIC introduces flagship liberalised 'Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)' package for MSMEs

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** has introduced liberalised **Authorised Economic Operators (AEO)** package for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for swift customs clearances.

IRDAI mandates insurers to offer 3 standard products for fire and allied perils from April 1, 2021

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has asked general insurance companies to mandatorily offer **three standard products** covering the risk of **fire and allied perils** from April 1, 2021.
- **Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP)** policy will be replaced by three standard products **Bharat Griha Raksha**, **Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha** and **Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha**.

SBI and IOCL launch a Co-branded Contactless RuPay Debit card

- India's fuel retailer, **Indian Oil**, has teamed up with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to launch the **SBI-Indian Oil** co-branded **RuPay Debit Card**. It is a contactless card, and transactions up to **Rs. 5,000** can be paid for with just a tap.

RBI conducted Variable Rate Reverse Repo auction for a notified amount of Rs. 2 lakh crores

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has conducted a **Variable Rate Reverse Repo** auction for a notified amount of **two lakh crore rupees**. Repo rate is the rate of the interest rate at which the central bank lends **short term money** to banks. RBI had temporarily suspended the revised liquidity management framework.

Max Life partners with AICAPD and enters into the second year of its unique initiative 'Protect A Smile'

- **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** has strengthened its commitment towards society by entering into the **second year** of its unique initiative '**Protect a Smile**'.

- The initiative is being driven in partnership with '**All India Citizens' Alliance for Progress & Development (AICAPD)**', a national level NGO working towards the upliftment of children of economically and socially underprivileged people.

RBI cancels the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank, Maharashtra

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra** to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 11.
- The Commissioner for Cooperation and **Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Maharashtra** has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

Axis Bank launches 'Aura' - a credit card exclusively loaded with affordable health and wellness solutions

- **Axis Bank**, India's **third-largest** private sector bank launched '**AURA**', a credit exclusively loaded with various **health and wellness** benefits for its users at an **affordable price**.
- The curated and affordable health and wellness offering from Axis Bank has partners like **IndusHealth Plus**, a health check-up company and **Practo**, an online medical consultation company.

Universal Sampo General Insurance partners with NPCI to offer health cover to RuPay cardholders and UPI users

- **Universal Sampo General Insurance** has collaborated with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** in a bid to offer a special health insurance cover to **RuPay cardholders & UPI** users at affordable premium rates.
- As a part of this alliance, the insurer will offer special coverage for **cancer and heart-related** ailments along with features such as cashless hospitalisation in over **5,000 hospitals** across India and tax benefit as per income tax laws.

ICICI Bank ties up with Niyo to issue 'ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card' to MSMEs

- The leading private sector bank **ICICI Bank** has partnered with fintech company **Niyo** to issue '**ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card**' to the workers of **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- The '**ICICI Bank Niyo Bharat Payroll Card**' allows an individual to receive funds up to **Rs. 1 lakh** into the card account. It offers convenience and safety of digital banking to the **blue-collar workforce** while providing **salary disbursement** solution to the employers.

ICICI Bank launches 'InstaFX' mobile app to help customers obtain Forex Prepaid Card swiftly

- **ICICI Bank** launched a new mobile application, '**InstaFX**' for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get '**ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card**' swiftly. The bank is the first in the country to offer such a facility to **money changers**.
- The '**InstaFX**' app will enable the authorised money changers, who are partners of the Bank, to complete the **KYC verification** and validation of customers digitally and on a real-time basis.

Reserve Bank of India imposes Rs 2 crore penalty on Standard Chartered Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 2 crore** on **Standard Chartered Bank** for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of **Section 47 A (1) (c)** read with **Section 46 (4) (i)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, for delays in reporting of frauds to RBI.

Airtel Payments Banks launches 'safe pay' to curb online frauds

- Airtel Payments Bank has launched '**Airtel Safe Pay**', a safe mode for making digital payments, to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of **online payment frauds**.

SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestically systemically important banks: RBI

- The RBI retained **State Bank of India**, along with private sector lenders **ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** to be **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** or institutions which are '**too big to fail**'. The updated list is based on the data collected from banks as on **March 31, 2020**.

- These banks have been identified under the same bucketing structure as in **2018**.

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance launches 'Guaranteed Income4Life' plan

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has rolled 'Guaranteed Income4Life' plan to ensure life insurance coverage and financial protection for the family of **policyholders**.
- It is a **non-linked**, non-par individual life insurance savings cum protection plan which not only offers an individual the opportunity to secure his/her life but also allows one to have a regular income to take care of both **long-term** and **short-term** financial.

INDIA'S GDP FORECAST

Ind-Ra revises India's GDP contraction to 7.8% from 11.8% for FY21:

- **India Ratings and Research** (Ind-Ra) has revised India's GDP estimate for the current financial year to **-7.8 per cent** from **-11.8 per cent** earlier, primarily due to the easing of COVID-19 curbs and better-than-expected growth numbers in the second quarter.
- **Ind-Ra** has also estimated the GDP of India for FY-22 is **9.6 percent**.

World Bank keeps India's GDP contraction forecast unchanged at 5.4% for FY 21

- The **World Bank** has forecast India's real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth to be **5.4 percent** for the fiscal year 2021-22, primarily due to the current year's low base effect. The multilateral organization has not upgraded its forecast for 2020-21 and still projects **India's economy** to contract by **9.6 percent** this year.
- For the **South Asia region**, the agency projected a growth of **3.3 percent** in the calendar year **2021** and **3.8 percent** in the calendar year **2022**.

National Statistical Office (NSO) forecasts India's GDP to contract by 7.7% in 2020-21

- India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** will contract **7.7 percent** in the current financial year as against a growth of **4.2 percent** in the previous fiscal released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- NSO also estimated the Real **Gross Value Added (GVA)** at basic prices at **Rs. 123.39 lakh crore** in 2020-21, as against Rs. 133.01 lakh crore in 2019-20, showing a contraction of **7.2 percent**.

ICRA forecasts India's real GDP to expand by 10.1% in FY22

- According to **ICRA Ratings**, India's real GDP is projected to record a growth of **10.1 per cent** in Fiscal Year **2021-22**. The rating agency ICRA had earlier projected a contraction of **7.8%** for the ongoing fiscal 2020-21.

Banks GNPA may rise over 22-yr high of 13.5 % by Sep 2021: RBI's 22nd Financial Stability Report

- Banks' gross non-performing assets may rise to **13.5 percent** by September 2021, from **7.5 percent** in September 2020 under the baseline scenario, according to the **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** released by the **Reserve Bank of India**. The bank-level NPA had touched **14.7 percent** in 1998-99.
- CRAR of SCBs improved to **15.8%** in Sep 2020 from **14.7%** in March 2020; GNPA ratio declined to **7.5%** from **8.4%**.

Fitch Ratings raises India's GDP forecast to -9.4% from -10.5%

- **Fitch Ratings** raised India's GDP forecast to **-9.4 percent** in the current fiscal year (**March 2021**) from a previously projected contraction of **10.5 percent** after the economy staged a sharper rebound in the second quarter.
- Fitch Ratings also projected the GDP to expand by **11 percent** in **FY22** (2021-2022).

CARE Ratings lowers Centre's fiscal deficit projection to 7.8% of GDP for FY21

- **CARE Ratings** has revised its projection of the Centre's fiscal deficit downwards to **7.8 percent** of GDP during **FY21** against its earlier estimate of **9-9.5 percent**.
- As per this, the fiscal deficit is likely to be around **Rs. 15.3 lakh crores**. This revision comes in the wake of the release of the first advance estimate of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for **FY21**.

Nomura projects India's GDP to contract 6.7% in FY21

- The Japanese brokerage **Nomura** revised India's **GDP** growth contract to **6.7 percent** for India in **2020-21**. Nomura has further projected the GDP of India to rise to **13.5 percent** in **FY22** (2021-22).

BofA Securities Projects GDP of India to Contract 6.7% in FY21'

- The **BofA Securities** expects the GDP growth of India for the current financial year **2020-21** to contract by **6.7 percent**. BofA Securities has projected the Indian economy to grow at **9 percent** for the fiscal year **2021-22**.

Indian economy to rebound with 8.9% growth in fiscal 2022: IHS Markit

- **Indian economy** is likely to rebound with an **8.9 percent** growth in the fiscal year beginning **April 2021** after economic activity showed significant improvement in the last quarter report by **IHS Markit**.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS

TATA Group and Skill Ministry launch first batch of Indian institute of skills in Mumbai

- **Tata-Indian Institute of Skills** initiated the first session to train students under **Centre's Skill India programme**. The training is being conducted through a joint collaboration between the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (MSDE) and the institute.

Hero Electric ties up with startup eBikeGO

- **Hero Electric** has tied up with e-mobility startup **eBikeGO** to supply over **1000 bikes** to transform last-mile deliveries. Through the partnership, the companies will further transform the last **mile deliveries** from **petrol** to **electric** with their expertise in EV technology and **Internet of Things** (IoT) enabled operations.

AU Small Finance Bank ties up with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to offer life insurance solutions

- **AU Small Finance Bank** announced a strategic partnership with **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to offer life insurance solutions. Through the corporate agency arrangement, over **18 lakh** customers of AU Bank across over **700 banking touchpoints** in **13 states** & **2 UTs**, will have access to the entire suite of customer-centric protection & **long-term** savings products of ICICI Prudential Life.

SBI Life Insurance acquires 8.99% stake in Paisalo Digital

- **SBI Life Insurance** had acquired an **8.99 percent (38 lakh equity shares)** stake in non-banking finance company **Paisalo Digital**. The transaction was for cash consideration of about **₹186.20 crore** via a bulk deal on the NSE at **Rs 490** per share.

ICICI Bank acquires 9.09% stake in Ed-Tech platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** will acquire a **9.09 percent stake** in educational technology platform **Myclassboard Educational Solutions Pvt Ltd** for cash consideration of **Rs 4.5 crores**.
- MESPL offers an online school management platform and reported a turnover of **Rs. 12 crores** in **FY 2020**. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of **February 2021**.

Google Pay join hands with ICICI Bank to offer FASTag through mobile app

- **ICICI Bank** has become the **first bank** to join hands with **Google Pay** for the issuance of **FASTag**. **Google Pay** users can buy FASTag from the platform from ICICI Bank FASTag under businesses.

Cashaa And United Multistate Cooperative Society launches World's First Physical Cryptocurrency Bank in Jaipur, India

- **Unicas**, a joint venture between the financial services companies **Cashaa** and **United Multistate Credit Cooperative Society**, announced the launch of the **world's first physical branch** of a **cryptocurrency bank** in the Indian city of **Jaipur**.

Tata Sons to acquire 32.67% additional stake in AirAsia India for \$37.66 million

- Tata Sons will increase its stake in budget carrier **AirAsia India (AAI)** to **83.67 percent** by acquiring an additional **32.67 percent** for **\$37.66 million** from AirAsia Investment Ltd (AAIL).
- Currently, AAIL, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia-based **AirAsia**, holds **49 percent** stake in the Bengaluru-based **AirAsia India**.

UNDP and Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation join hands for 'first social impact bond'

- **Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)** has signed an MoU with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India** to co-create India's first '**Social Impact Bond (SIB)**'.

BSE signs an MoU with Bihar's Patliputra Sarafa Sangh to deepen its network in the bullion trade

- **BSE (Bombay stock exchange)**, India's premier and the world's fastest stock exchange, has signed a MoU with bullion trade and industry association **Patliputra Sarafa Sangh, Patna**.
- This MoU aims to facilitate participation in seminars and various other programmes with mutual understanding **to educate the people/ community** about the commodity/derivatives markets and its benefits and encourage **commodity stakeholders** to hedge on the exchange.

Central Bank of India signs pact with SIDBI for Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs

- **Central Bank of India** has signed an MOU with **SIDBI** to facilitate **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** customers of the bank to use web-based Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (www.arm-msme.in), a DIY tool.
- The module is a **DIY (Do-It-Yourself)** web portal to help MSMEs prepare their **own restructuring proposals** under the restructuring scheme by **RBI**. MSMEs key in only the most essential data of their past financials, future projections & restructuring requirements.

BEL signs an MoU with Indian Navy for the initial supply of indigenously developed laser dazzlers

- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has signed an MoU with the **Indian Navy** to initially supply **20 Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers (Laser Dazzlers)**.
- The **Laser Dazzler** is used as a non-lethal method for warning and stopping suspicious **vehicles, boats, aircraft, UAVs, pirates**, etc., from approaching secured areas during both day and night.

Indian Army signed a contract with Goa Shipyard to procure 12 patrol boats to monitor Lake Pangong

- The **Indian Army** has launched **12 high-performance patrol boats** to enhance surveillance of large bodies of water, including **Lake Pangong** in eastern Ladakh, where India and China have severely isolated from the border.
- The **Indian Army** has signed a contract with **Goa Shipyard Ltd**, a state-owned public sector business, for **12 high-speed patrol boats** for monitoring and patrol of **large water bodies**.

Tata Power partners with SIDBI to offer affordable & collateral-free financing for Rooftop Solar for MSMEs Consumers

- **Tata Power** partners with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to offer an easy and affordable financing scheme for MSME customers in the **rooftop solar segment**. The scheme will **empower MSMEs** to adopt **sustainable energy** for their businesses and promote greener.

NBCC signed MoU with JKIT for establishing its towers at Jammu, Srinagar

- **NBCC (National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd)** signed an MoU with **J&K IT Infrastructure Development Company** for establishing IT Towers at Jammu & Srinagar at the cost of **Rs. 50 crore** each. Lt Governor **Manoj Sinha** sets a deadline of 15 months & 17 months for completion of the towers at **Jammu & Srinagar**, respectively.

DRDO Signs MOU with MAHA-METRO for implementation of Advanced Biodigester Mk-II Technology in Metro Rail Network

- **DRDO** will render technical support for implementing its advanced biodigester (a non-sewered sanitation technology) **Mk-II technology** for treatment of **human waste** (night soil) in the metro rail network. The technology has been revamped to **save water & space**.

Bandhan Bank signs an agreement to provide banking services to Army personnel

- Kolkata based private lender **Bandhan Bank** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Army** to provide banking services to the personnel of the force. Bandhan Bank **Shaurya Salary Account** will have zero balance facility with **6% interest** on balance above **Rs. 1 lakh**, unlimited free ATM transactions, waiver of issuance & annual charge on **Shaurya VISA platinum debit card**, offers protection for self & assets, etc.

Axis Bank ties up with Hyundai Motor India for auto retail financing

- Private lender **Axis Bank** has tied up with Korean carmaker **Hyundai Motor India** for auto-retail financing. Through this partnership, Axis Bank will allow **Hyundai Motor India Ltd.** customers to get an auto loan sanctioned directly on the carmaker's end-to-end online retail platform "**Click to Buy**" (CTB).

Bank of Baroda inks an MoU with SIDBI to help MSMEs apply online for one-time restructuring

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to enable **MSMEs** (micro, small and medium enterprises) apply online for **one-time restructuring** (OTR).
- MSME customers of the bank can now access **SIDBI's** DIY (Do-It-Yourself) web-based portal, '**Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSME)**', which enables customers to self-create their restructuring proposal with financial viability projections.

Punjab National Bank collaborates with IIT-Kanpur and FIRST to set up a fintech innovation centre

- Under this partnership, **PNB** and **IIT Kanpur** will set up the '**Fintech Innovation Centre (FIC)**' as a vehicle to research and develop technological solutions to address challenges and explore opportunities in the BFSI space.

PhonePe in collaboration with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to launch term plans starting at Rs. 149 per annum

- This policy can be availed instantly on the **PhonePe app** without any health check-ups and paperwork through an all-digital customer experience. Users aged **18 to 50 years** and earning **Rs. 1 lakh** or above per annum can avail this instantly.

NHPC inks pact with IREDA for renewable energy projects

- State-run **NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation)** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** for assistance in setting up renewable energy (RE) projects for the **next 5 years**.

Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd. partners with Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation

- **Universal Sampo General Insurance Company** has tied up with **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation** to provide **comprehensive insurance** covers at competitive prices.
- It plays a pioneering role in boosting industrial climate in the State by **providing financial assistance** to various **Small and Medium Enterprises** besides others.

EESL inks MoU with NHAH for solar power & energy efficiency projects

- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a venture under the Union Power Ministry signed a pact with NHAH for establishing solar projects, **LED lighting** and **EV charging stations**.
- The MoU will facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency projects, renewable energy projects and e-mobility services as a part of **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels, reduce emissions and achieve **sustainable development** across toll plazas, highway lighting and other NHAH establishments.

Flipkart partnered with Logistics Skill Sector Council and KSDC to set up a Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru

- Walmart-owned **Flipkart** has signed an agreement with the **Logistics Skill Sector Council (LSC)** and **Karnataka Skill Development Centre (KSDC)** to set up a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in **Bengaluru** for building skilled and trained workforce for the e-commerce industry in India.

NSIC Signed MoU with Airtel for Digital Transformation of Indian MSMEs

- **Bharti Airtel** is stepping up initiatives to accelerate the digital transformation of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** in India by partnering with **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** to promote and support **MSME sector** by providing integrated support services encompassing Marketing, Technology, Finance, and other services.

KVGB Signs MoU with a Fintech platform Jai Kisan for Expanding Financial Service Access in Karnataka

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has signed a memorandum of understanding with '**Jai Kisan**' (a rural-focused fintech platform of Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Pvt Ltd) to expand access to financial services to individuals and businesses in **Karnataka**, including **farmer** and **non-farmer** entrepreneurs.

Kotak Mahindra AMC signs up with Climate Action 100+ business journal

- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (KMAMC)** has become a signatory to **Climate Action 100+**, which drives focus on **clean energy transition** and helps achieve the **Paris Agreement's goals**.
- In April 2018, **KMAMC** became the first domestic asset management company to sign up with the Principles for **Responsible Investment** supported by the **United Nations**.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) partners with Financial Software and Systems (FSS) to provide AePS service

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** partners with **Financial Software and Systems (FSS)** to promote **financial inclusion** (doorstep delivery of banking service) among underserved and unbanked segments.
- The payments bank will use FSS' **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** to deliver interoperable and affordable doorstep banking services to customers across India.

YES Bank partners with Aditya Birla Wellness to launch a wellness-themed credit card

- Private sector lender **YES BANK** has announced its partnership with **Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited** to launch the '**YES BANK Wellness**' and '**YES BANK Wellness Plus**' credit cards aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers.

Paytm Payments Bank ties up with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to offer fixed-deposit services

- **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)** in partnership with **Suryoday Small Finance Bank**, is going to facilitate fixed-deposit services to its account holders. With a minimum investment of **Rs 100**.
- The payments bank has already been offering **fixed-deposits** services in alliance with **IndusInd Bank**. PPBL has become the **first payment bank** to launch a multi-partner FD service where an account holder can select any partnered bank.

Indian Army signs MoU with SIDM on indigenization and innovation partnership

- An MoU between the **Indian Army** and **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)** was signed to provide further impetus to indigenisation under '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' and to achieve strategic independence by reducing dependence on **foreign origin equipment**.
- This MoU was signed on the occasion of **25 Years** of Army-Industry partnership with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Indian submarine INS Sindhuvir handed over to the Myanmar navy:

- **Myanmar Navy** officially inducted a submarine handed over by **India**. **INS Sindhuvir** was commissioned as **UMS Minye Theinkhathu** and inducted on the 73rd anniversary of the Myanmar Navy.

Skyroot Aerospace becomes the first Indian company to test-fire solid-fueled rocket engine

- **Skyroot Aerospace**, an Indian space startup, has proven the crucial propulsion technology of their maiden rocket **Vikram-1**, with the latest test-firing of an engine. Vikram-1 rocket is powered by **four engines** - **three solid-fuel** stages and one liquid-fuel stage that the firm has designed and developed.

Serum Institute of India in collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched India's first indigenous pneumococcal vaccine "Pneumosil"

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** launched the country's first **pneumococcal conjugate** vaccine 'Pneumosil' developed by **Serum Institute of India (SII)** in collaboration with partners like the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- The **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)** would be used to treat pneumonia in children.

BARC develops India's first Ruthenium 106 plaque for effective eye cancer treatment

- The **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** in Mumbai has developed an **eye cancer therapy** in the form of the first indigenous **Ruthenium 106 Plaque** for the treatment of **ocular tumours**.

Indian Navy and DRDO conduct the maiden trial of the 1st indigenous air-droppable container "SAHAYAK-NG"

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** along with the **Indian Navy** conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG', India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from **IL 38SD aircraft** (Indian Navy) off the coast of **Goa**.

Indian Navy took delivery of the eighth LCU Landing Craft Utility ship manufactured by GRSE

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** has delivered IN **LCU L-58** (Yard 2099), the eighth and last in the series of **Landing Craft Utility** ships to the **Indian Navy**. This ship is the **106th** Warship built and delivered by GRSE so far, since its inception in **1960**, the highest number of warships delivered by any **Indian Shipyard** till date.

ISRO to launch first satellite fully developed by Brazil's space agency

- The **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** is set to launch **Amazonia-1**, the first satellite to have been entirely developed in Brazil by the **National Institute for Space Research (INPE)**, the Latin American nation's apex space research body.
- **Emirates SkyCargo**, the freight division of Emirates airline, has executed a cargo charter to transport Amazonia-1 from Sao Jose dos Campos, **Brazil, to Chennai**. It is the first time that Emirates **SkyCargo** has transported a space satellite from South America.

Japan to launch the first wood-based satellite by 2023 to reduce space debris

- Japan's **Sumitomo Forestry** company and **Kyoto University** aims to launch the **world's first wood-based** space satellite to combat the problem of **space junk**. The first satellite is scheduled to be launched in **2023**. This unique initiative aims to combat the growing problem of space **debris** or **space junk**.

L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering bags up to Rs. 5,000 crore order from ONGC

- **L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering** has bagged an order worth up to **Rs. 5,000 crores** from **Oil & Natural Gas Corp (ONGC)**. LTHE secured the **engineering, procurement, construction, installation, and commissioning (EPICC)** contract for ONGC's new living quarters and revamp at the NQ Complex in ONGC's **Mumbai High Asset**.
- The project approximately ranges between **₹2,500 crores** and **₹5,000 crores**.

Pakistan successfully test fires indigenously developed rocket system "Fatah-1"

- **Pakistan** has successfully conducted the test-flight of an indigenously developed **Guided Multi Launch Rocket System**, capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into the "Enemy Territory." Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of **140 km**.

India's DRDO delivers landing gear systems for Tapas and SWiFT UAVs

- India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has delivered **Retractable Landing Gear (RLG)** systems for two different class of **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)**, Tapas and **SWiFT**.

New species of fruit fly 'Euphranta siruvani' from India named after Siruvani in Western Ghats

- The fruit fly '**Euphranta siruvani**' belonging to family **Tephritidae**, was identified by researchers from a non-forest area near **Siruvani**, and the discovery has been published in the **Zootaxa journal**.
- At present, globally around **104 species** from genus Euphranta exist, out of which **14** are found in **India**.

DRDO lab develops bike-based ambulance 'Rakshita' for medical aid in remote areas

- A **DRDO** laboratory handed over to the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, a **bike-based ambulance** that has been developed to provide **quicker medical support** to those living in congested streets and remote locations.
- The vehicle named '**Rakshita**' has been developed by the **Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, a premier laboratory of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

Indian Army signs a \$ 20 million contract with ideaForge to procure SWITCH UAV

- The **Indian Army** has signed a contract with Mumbai-based company, **ideaForge** to procure "**undisclosed quantities**" of the high-altitude variant of **SWITCH unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** at the cost of approximately **\$ 20 million**.
- This fixed-wing UAV, capable of vertical takeoff and landing, can be deployed at high altitude and harsh environments for **day-and-night surveillance**. These UAVs will be delivered to the Indian Army over a period of **one year**.

DRDO develops India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol "Asmi"

- India's first indigenous machine pistol "**Asmi**" jointly developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Army** was displayed at the Army's innovation display event. The '**Make in India**' gun would be offered to replace the **9mm pistols** in the defence forces.
- The machine pistol can fire at a range of **100 metres** and is in the class of the **Uzi series** guns of **Israel**.

DRDO successfully tests Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) for the 9th time

- **DRDO** (Defence Research and Development Organisation) has successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** from Hawk-i of **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** off the **Odisha coast**.
- The **125 kg** class smart weapon SAAW was successfully test-fired from **Indian Hawk-Mk132** of HAL. SAAW is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, **Hyderabad**.

APPOINTMENTS

Vice Admiral Rajat Datta appointed as next DG Armed Forces Medical Services

- Surgeon Vice-Admiral **Rajat Datta** has been appointed as the new Director-General of **Armed Forces Medical Services**. He also holds the position of **Cardiologist** to the **President of India**.
- Rajat Datta will replace incumbent Lieutenant General **Anup Bannerjee** and assume the office on January 1, 2021. He will have a tenure of **23 months**.

Florin Citu appointed as the new Prime Minister of Romania

- **Romania's** Finance Minister **Florin Cîțu**, a member of the **National Liberal Party** (PNL), has appointed as the new **Prime Minister** of the country. He was a former **investment banker**.

SEBI appoints former Chief Election Commissioner TS Krishnamurthy as an observer for e-voting on Franklin Templeton schemes

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) has appointed 13th Chief Election Commissioner **Taruvai Subayya Krishnamurthy** as the observer for e-voting of unit holders on the six wound up schemes by **Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund**.
- The regulator has also constituted a technical team **BN Sahoo, Nayana Ovalekar, K Sriram, M Krishna** and **Ch E Sai Prasad**.

Prasanth Prabhakaran appointed as MD and CEO of YES Securities

- **YES Securities**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of YES Bank Ltd., has announced the elevation of **Prasanth Prabhakaran** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of **YES Securities**.

BCCI appoints Chetan Sharma as the new chairman of selectors; Abey Kuruvilla and Debashish Mohanty added to the panel

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India** (BCCI) announced the All-India Senior **Selection Committee** appointments. The cricket board appointed former India pacer **Chetan Sharma** as the new chairman of the selection committee, which also picked **Abey Kuruvilla** and **Debashish Mohanty** in the **five-member** team.
- The other two members of the selection panel are former India cricketers **Sunil Joshi** and **Harvinder Singh**. As per the BCCI constitution, the candidate with the **most Test caps** becomes the chief selector.

Suresh Mohapatra appointed new chief secretary of Odisha

- **Odisha** government appointed 1986 batch IAS officer **Suresh Chandra Mohapatra** as the new chief secretary. He will succeed **Asit Kumar Tripathy**, who will retire on December 31.
- The state government has appointed **Tripathy** as chairman of **Western Odisha Development Council** (WODC) and principal adviser to the chief minister on regional development, tourism, agribusiness, and industry.

YES Bank appoints Niranjana Banodkar as its new CFO; Anurag Adlakha to be its Chief HR Officer

- The private sector lender **YES bank** has appointed **Niranjana Banodkar** as the group's **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. He will take over from Anurag Adlakha, who has been designated as the new **Chief Human Resources Officer** (CHRO).

Suneet Sharma appointed as the new Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board

- **Suneet Sharma** has been appointed as the new **Chairman** and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) and ex-officio Principal Secretary to the **Government of India**.
- He succeeds **V K Yadav**, who was the first CEO of the Railway Board.

Centre constitutes a committee headed by Santanu Chaudhury for the conservation of Indian heritage by using futuristic technologies

- The **Department of Science and Technology** (DST) under its Frontier and Futuristic Technologies Division has constituted an advisory committee chaired by **Prof. Santanu Chaudhury** to use futuristic and new age technologies for **heritage conservation, documentation, and digital restoration**.

- Chief Operating Officer and Director of **Sapio Analytics** and lead of its Heritage Restoration Division, **Hardik Somani** is nominated as one of the committee members.

Umesh Sinha named as the deputy election commissioner after the Cabinet extends his tenure

- Senior IAS officer **Umesh Sinha** has been named as the deputy election commissioner in the **Election Commission of India**. He is a **1986-batch IAS officer** (retired), who at present is serving as the Secretary-General in the commission.

ISRO Chief K Sivan gets one-year extension as the Secretary of the Department of Space till 2022

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has formally approved the extension of Chairman of **Indian Space Research Organization** (ISRO) **K Sivan's** tenure as the secretary of the Department of Space for another year till **January 14, 2022**.

Soma Mondal takes charge as Steel Authority of India Ltd Chairman

- **Soma Mondal** has taken over as the Chairman of the **Steel Authority of India Limited** (SAIL). She succeeds **Anil Kumar Chaudhary**, who served the company for **36 years** in various roles, including junior manager and director (finance).

Ravi Kumar appointed as the Chief Secretary of Karnataka

- Senior-most IAS officer and Additional Chief Secretary **P Ravi Kumar** has been appointed as the **38th** Chief Secretary of **Karnataka**. He succeeds outgoing **CS TM Vijay Bhaskar** who will retire from service on December 31.

Maharashtra DGP Subodh Kumar Jaiswal appointed as the Director-General of CISF

- The Appointment's Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) proposal to appoint Maharashtra DGP **Subodh Jaiswal** as the Director-General of the **Central Industrial Security Force** (CISF).

Neetal Narang becomes first female President of Softball Federation of India

- **Softball Federation of India** elected **Neetal Narang**, as its first female President. Narang, in her previous role as Vice President of the **Softball Federation of India**, had made valuable contributions towards the upliftment of the sport. Narang will succeed **Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi**, who was elected as the **life-time president**.

Pankaj Mithal takes oath as the new Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court

- Justice **Pankaj Mithal** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the common court of the Union Territories of **Jammu & Kashmir** and **Ladakh**. Chief Justice **Mithal** replaces Chief Justice **Gita Mittal**, who has retired recently.

Sanjay Kapoor elected as President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF)

- **Sanjay Kapoor** was elected President of the **All India Chess Federation (AICF)**, while **Bharat Singh Chauhan** retained the secretary's post. **Naresh Sharma** was selected as the treasurer by beating Kishore Bandekar (34-30).
- Kapoor, representing **Uttar Pradesh Chess Association**, defeated (33-31) incumbent **P R Venketrama Raja** in a close contest.

Indian Army appoints Major General Gautam Chauhan as the 1st head of its Human Rights Cell

- Major General **Gautam Chauhan**, an officer of the Gorkha Rifles, took over as the first head of the Indian Army's **Human Rights Cell** at its headquarters in New Delhi. He will work under Indian Army Vice Chief Lieutenant General **SK Saini**.

UGC sets up a panel headed by R.P. Tiwari to work out common entrance test for all central universities

- The **University Grants Commission** (UGC) is exploring the feasibility of holding a **Common Entrance Test** (CET) for undergraduate admissions across all central universities from the next academic year.

- The UGC has set up a **seven-member** committee headed by the vice-chancellor of Central University of Punjab, **R.P. Tiwari**, to consider the issue (of) holding common entrance tests at the **undergraduate level** only from the next academic year in central universities to provide a single platform for admission.

Lt General Shantanu Dayal to take charge as Deputy Chief of Staff

- **Lt General Shantanu Dayal** has been named the new **Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS)**. Lt General Dayal is the Corps Commander of the Tejpur based 4 Corps. He will take the place of **Lt General SS Hasabnis**.
- Among the changes was **Lt General Taranjit Singh** is the first Army officer to join as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs retired. **Lt General Anil Puri** took charge in his place.

Justice S Muralidhar takes oath as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

- **Justice S Muralidhar** took oath as the **32nd** Chief Justice of **Orissa High Court**. **Odisha** Governor **Ganeshi Lal** administered the oath of office to the new chief justice in a simple ceremony at Raj Bhavan.

Alex Ellis appointed as the new British high commissioner to India

- **Alex Ellis** has been appointed new **British High Commissioner** to India, the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** announced. Ellis succeeds **Sir Philip Barton**.

Karan Bajwa elected as the chief of Google Cloud's Asia Pacific cloud division

- Microsoft and IBM veteran **Karan Bajwa** was appointed as head of Google Cloud in India in March 2020. Bajwa has been elevated as chief of **Google's Asia Pacific Cloud division**. He will relocate to Singapore later in 2021 and continue as the interim leader for Google Cloud in India.

Justice Vineet Kothari takes oath as Gujarat High Court judge

- **Justice Vineet Kothari** was sworn in as the judge of **Gujarat High Court**. Chief Justice **Vikram Nath** administered the oath of office to Justice Kothari. Justice Kothari was the Acting Chief Justice in **Madras High Court** previously.

Faustin-Archange Touadera wins 2nd term as the President of the Central African Republic

- **Faustin-Archange Touadera** has won a second term as the President of the **Central African Republic**. The **63-year-old** President has been in power since **2016** but has struggled to seize control of vast parts of the nation from armed militias. He was re-elected with more than **53% votes**.

India sets up High-Level Group headed by Ram Vinay Shahi for South Asian energy security

- The Government of India has set up a high-level group "South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)" headed by former Union power secretary **Ram Vinay Shahi** for enhancing the development of South Asia-focused energy security architecture.

Ashish Pethe is elected as the new Chairman of GJC; Saiyam Mehra elected as the Vice-Chairman

- The All India **Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)** has appointed **Ashish Pethe** as the Chairman, and **Saiyam Mehra** as its Vice Chairman for a period of **two years**.

Former India striker Abhishek Yadav appointed as AIFF's first Deputy General Secretary

- Former India striker **Abhishek Yadav** has been appointed as the first Deputy General Secretary of the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** after the sports body decided to create a new post in its hierarchy.

Centre forms a committee headed by G Kishan Reddy to protect Ladakh's culture and language

- Centre has decided to form a committee to protect the **language, culture**, and land of Ladakh and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development.
- The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home **G Kishan Reddy** and will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, the Central Government, and the Ladakh administration.

Justice Hima Kohli sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of Telangana High Court

- Judge **Hima Kohli** was sworn in as the Chief Justice of **Telangana High Court** becoming the **first woman** to hold the position. She is also the **only woman Chief Justice** across the 25 high courts of India. She replaces **CJ Raghvendra Singh Chauhan**, who has been appointed as the CJ of Uttarakhand High Court.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia appointed as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court

- The Central Government has cleared the appointment of **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia** as the next Chief Justice of the **Gauhati High Court**. The Gauhati High Court has been functioning with **Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh** as the Acting Chief Justice since September 20, 2020.

Indian-American Dr. Raj Iyer will take over as the new Chief Information Officer of the US army

- Indian-American **Dr. Raj Iyer** has taken over as the **first Chief Information Officer (CIO)** of the **US Army**, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020. Dr. Iyer will be the **highest-ranking** Indian-American civilian at the Pentagon equivalent in rank to a three-star general.

Joe Biden appoints Indian-American Sumona Guha as senior Director for South Asia

- The **Biden-Harris** transition team announced the appointment of Indian-American **Sumona Guha**, a former Foreign Service officer to the role of Senior Director for **South Asia** at the **National Security Council**. She will succeed **Lisa Curtis** in the role.
- **Tarun Chhabra** was named as the Senior Director for Technology and National Security.

Jay Shah to be named BCCI's representative to ICC board

- **Jay Shah** has been named as the official representative of **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** for the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Board meetings.
- He will replace BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly**, who is recovering from a minor heart attack.

GoI appoints former TRAI chief RS Sharma to head empowered panel for Covid-19 vaccine

- The Union government has appointed former TRAI chief **RS Sharma** as the chairperson of an empowered committee for **administration** of Covid-19 vaccine.
- He has also been included as a member of the **National Expert Group** on Vaccine Administration of Covid-19 that was formed in August 2020 and is headed by NITI Aayog member, **VK Paul**.

IRDAI sets up a panel headed by Subash Chandra Khuntia to examine the availability of health insurance products

- **IRDAI** (Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority) has set up a panel of experts called '**Health Insurance Advisory Committee**' headed by IRDAI Chairperson, **Subhash Chandra Khuntia** to examine the availability of **health insurance products** in the country, considering the need of the Indian society and recommend suitable products and processes.

RBI forms a working group headed by Jayant Kumar Dash to regulate digital lending through loan apps

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set up a working group to regulate **digital lending** through mobile applications amid growing concerns surrounding the unsupervised growth of **loan platforms** across the country.
- The six-member working group composes four central bank officials and is chaired by **Jayant Kumar Dash**, Executive Director. Others from the central bank include **Ajay Kumar Choudhary**, Chief CGM of Department of Supervision.
- **P Vasudevan**, CGM of Department of Payment and Settlement Systems, and **Manoranjan Mishra**, CGM of Department of Regulation. **Vikram Mehta**, Co-founder, Monexo Fintech (External Member). **Rahul Sasi**, Cyber Security Expert & Founder of CloudSEK (External Member).

Amit Malik appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Aviva India

- **Amit Malik** is appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of **Aviva India**. He succeeds **Trevor Bull**, whose 6-year term ended on Dec 31, 2020.

Intel appoints Pat Gelsinger as new Chief Executive Officer

- Intel has appointed 40-year technology industry leader **Pat Gelsinger** as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective Feb. 15, 2021. **Gelsinger** will also join the Intel **board of directors** upon assuming the role. He will succeed **Bob Swan**, who will remain CEO until February 15.

Yoweri Museveni wins the sixth term as the President of Uganda

- President of Uganda **Yoweri Museveni** has been declared as the winner of the country's presidential election for 2021. The 76-year-old leader is serving as the President of the Republic of Uganda since 1986 and is one of **Africa's longest-serving Presidents**.

RBL Bank re-appoints Vishwavir Ahuja as the MD and CEO for 3 years

- **RBL Bank's** board have approved the re-appointment of **Vishwavir Ahuja** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank for **three years** from **June 30, 2021** to **June 29, 2024**.

Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as the Managing Director of LIC

- **Siddhartha Mohanty** has been appointed as the Managing Director of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**. He has been appointed as the Managing Director of LIC with effect from the date of his assumption of charge on or after **February 1** and up to the date of his superannuation on **June 30, 2023**.

Sanjeev Kumar appointed as the Chairman and MD of TCIL

- **Sanjeev Kumar** has been appointed the Chairman and Managing Director of **Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL)** for **five years**. He is currently the Director (Technical) of **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)**.

Sadyr Japarov is elected as the President of Kyrgyzstan

- The 52-year-old **Sadyr Japarov** has won **Kyrgyzstan's** Presidential election by a landslide victory. He won **79%** of the total votes cast and would assume the charge of the office from January 28, 2021.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw elected as one of US-India Business Council's vice-chair

- **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** has selected Biocon Executive Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** as one of its vice-chairs effective immediately. US Chamber of Commerce's USIBC announced **three** vice-chairs to its 2021 Global Board of Directors.
- The two other business executives joining Shaw as vice-chairs are Amway CEO **Milind Pant** and **Edward Knight**, who is the vice-chair at Nasdaq.

Indian-American Garima Verma named the digital director in Office of First Lady

- Incoming First Lady **Jill Biden** has named Indian-American **Garima Verma** as her **digital director** and **Michael LaRosa** as her press secretary.
- Verma, who was born in **India**, grew up in Ohio and the Central Valley of **California**. She served as **audience development** and content strategist on the Biden-Harris campaign.

UN Human Rights Council elected Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji as its President for 2021

- The **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** elected Ambassador **Nazhat Shameem Khan**, the Permanent Representative of **Fiji** to the United Nations Office at **Geneva**, to serve as its **President** for **2021**.
- Nazhat Khan was elected through a secret ballot process through which all **47 members** of the Geneva-based human rights body cast their vote to appoint its President for 2021 – the Council's **15th** annual cycle.

Sandeep Aggarwal appointed as the new Chairman of TEPC

- The **Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)** has appointed **Sandeep Aggarwal** as its new Chairman. Aggarwal, the Managing Director and promoter of Delhi-based **Paramount Communications**, will take over from **Shyamal Ghosh**, ex-Telecom Secretary.

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijju gets additional charge of AYUSH Ministry

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju** has been temporarily assigned the charge of the **Ministry of AYUSH**. He has been assigned the portfolio on temporary basis till the treatment of the Union Minister **Shripad Y Naik**, who met an accident recently.

Joe Biden takes oath as 46th US President while Kamala Harris as 49th Vice President

- The 78-year-old **Joseph Robinette Biden Jr** (Joe Biden) has been sworn in as the **46th** president of the United States. Biden is becoming the **oldest president** in American history.
- **Kamala Harris** took oath as **49th Vice President** of the country, becoming the **first women** to hold the post in the history of **United States**.

Rajiv Lochan appointed as the new managing director of Sundaram Finance

- Chennai-based non-banking finance company **Sundaram Finance** appointed **Rajiv Lochan** as its new Managing Director. Lochan will be replacing the current MD **TT Srinivasaraghavan**, who will be completing his term of office on March 31.

Justice Geeta Mittal appointed as the new Chairperson of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)

- The broadcaster's industry body, **Indian Broadcasting Foundation**, has appointed former Chief Justice of **Jammu & Kashmir** High Court, Justice **Gita Mittal** as the new Chairperson of the **Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)**. She replaces Justice **Vikramajit Sen**.

Lloyd J. Austin becomes the first Black Pentagon Chief

- **Lloyd Austin**, a retired four-star Army general, has been confirmed by the Senate, making him the **first Black defense secretary** in the **U.S.** history. The Senate approved **President Biden's** nomination for Pentagon chief in a near-unanimous 93-2 vote.

S Gopalakrishnan appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malawi

- **S Gopalakrishnan** has been appointed as the next **High Commissioner of India** to the **Republic of Malawi**, according to the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

HDFC Bank top among 100 BFSI firms while Google Pay emerged at the top in UPI payments

- **HDFC Bank** has emerged as the top firm among the **100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)** companies in India as per the BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report by **Wizikey**. **HDFC Bank**, **ICICI Bank** and **State Bank of India (SBI)** ranked second and third, respectively.
- The **ICICI Bank** became the most preferred bank in terms of moratorium rules, new loan policy, as well as discounts, and offers on credit cards. It became the **first in India** to use **satellite data** to assess farmer loans.
- **Google Pay** has emerged as the number one mover and shaker, followed by Phone Pe in the **wallet and UPI segment**. Paytm and Amazon Pay ranked third and fourth, respectively.

AFSCB adjudged as the "Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector) 2020" at FICCI India Sports Awards 2020

- **Air Force Sports Control Board (AFSCB)** has been announced as the winner in the category of "**Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector) 2020**" at the **FICCI India Sports Awards 2020** which was chaired by **Justice Mudgal**.

"Lukoskin" developer Hemant Kumar Pandey honoured with DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year' award

- Senior scientist **Hemant Kumar Pandey** has been honoured with DRDO's '**Scientist of the Year Award**' for his contribution in developing several **herbal medicines**, including the popular drug **Lukoskin** which is meant for the treatment of **leucoderma**.

- He has been undertaking research at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) lab Defence Institute of **Bio-Energy Research** (DIBER) at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand** for the past 25 years.

21-year-old Arya Rajendran has become India's Youngest Mayor from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Twenty-one-year-old **Arya Rajendran** will be the next Mayor of **Thiruvananthapuram** Corporation, making her the youngest ever to occupy the post in the country. She is currently the state president of 'Balasanghom', which is considered the world's largest children's organisation.

Bihar wins Digital India Award for transferring money to beneficiaries' accounts during COVID-19

- The Chief minister's office, State's disaster management department & NIC were jointly selected Bihar as the winner for the '**Innovation in Pandemic**' category. Through their Bihar Corona **Sahaayta Mobile App**, financial assistance of **Rs. 1000** was provided to more than 21 lakh people.

K. Veeramani honoured with Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award

- The **Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award** for this year has been conferred to **K. Veeramani**. The award was instituted in the memory of the **Maharashtra**-based rationalist **Dabholkar**.

Indian Captain Virat Kohli wins the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for Male Cricketer of the Decade

- Indian captain **Virat Kohli** has been named as the **Men's Cricketer of the Decade** by ICC. He had scored **20,396 runs** in all international cricket in this decade. He also won the **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade Award**.
- **Ellyse Perry** won the **Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award** & she had scored 4,349 runs.
- Australian batsman **Steve Smith** was declared the **ICC Test Cricketer of the Decade**.
- Afghan spinner **Rashid Khan** was named the **ICC T20I Cricketer of the Decade**.

Santoor maestro Pandit Satish Vyas was conferred the National Tansen Samman for 2020

- Renowned Indian Santoor player, **Pandit Satish Vyas** was conferred with the **National Tansen Samman for 2020** by Madhya Pradesh Government during the 96th Tansen Music Festival held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- Bhopal-based institution **Abhinav Kala Parishad** was honoured with the **Raja Mansingh Tomar** award.

Harmony Foundation announces awardees of Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice for 2020

- The **Harmony Foundation** hosted the **Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2020**. The Awards in its 16th year is the only award endorsed by **Sister Prema**, the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, the organization that was started by **Mother Teresa**.
- The theme for this year's awards was, '**Celebrating Compassion in Times of Covid**'.

Ministry of Railways has conferred V.K. Yadav with the prestigious "Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020"

- **Vinod Kumar Yadav**, Chairman, and CEO, Railway Board has been conferred with the prestigious "**Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020**" by the **Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)** for his outstanding contribution towards modernisation and reforms over **Indian Railways**.

Associate Prof. Amit Ahuja and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh jointly wins Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2020

- Former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP **Jairam Ramesh** for his book "**A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon**", and Assistant Professor **Amit Ahuja** for his book "**Mobilising the Marginalised: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements**" won the **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation (NIF) Book Prize 2020** award.

Indian Army Chief MM Naravane receives the Guard of Honour at ROK Army Headquarters, South Korea

- The Chief of Army Staff, General **Manoj Mukund Naravane** received a Guard of Honour at **Republic of Korea (ROK)** army headquarters at **Gyeryong, South Korea**.

- The Chief of Army Staff also called on General **Nam Yeong shin**, the Chief of Staff of the **Republic of Korea Army** and discussed various issues of bilateral **defence cooperation** between the two countries.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos tops the list of richest charitable gifts in 2020 with \$10-billion climate change donation

- The **world's richest person** made the **single-largest charitable contribution** in 2020, according to The Chronicle of Philanthropy's annual list of top donations, a **\$10 billion** gift that is intended to help fight climate change.
- Amazon's founder and CEO, **Jeff Bezos**, whose "**real-time**" worth Forbes magazine estimates at roughly \$188 billion (approximately Rs. 13,76,800 crores), used the contribution to launch his **Bezos Earth Fund**. The fund, which supports non-profits involved in the climate crisis, has paid out **\$790 million** (roughly Rs. 5,800 crores) to 16 groups.

Indian Student Harsh Dalal wins recognition in Singapore for building 25-million-dollar tech startup

- A 19-year-old Indian student **Harsh Dalal**, who is pursuing a diploma in business administration at **Singapore Polytechnic**, has earned recognition for running a tech startup. He has built the startup with **four applications** in his teenage while schooling.
- Featuring Dalal among young entrepreneurs shaping Singapore into a smart nation and running a **USD 25 million** tech startup under "**On the Red Dot**" finds out programme.

Patna Meteorological Observatory gets centennial observing station status by the World Metrological Organisation

- The **World Meteorological Organisation** (WMO) in **Geneva** has awarded the status of '**centennial observing station**' to the **Patna meteorological observatory** in recognition to its long-term meteorological observation over **100 years**.

Elon Musk overtakes Amazon's Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person according to a Bloomberg report

- According to a **Bloomberg** report, Tesla & SpaceX CEO **Elon Musk** has overtaken Amazon's **Jeff Bezos** to become the **world's richest person**. A 6% rise in Tesla shares lifted the value of Musk's stock holdings and options by **\$10 billion**, taking his net worth to about **\$191 billion**.
- A more modest rise of less than 2 percent lifted Bezos' Amazon shares by about **\$3 billion**, putting his net worth at approximately **\$187 billion**.
- Bloomberg Billionaires Index was followed by the following people in the Top 10:
- 3. Bill Gates, 4. Bernard Arnault, 5. Mark Zuckerberg, 6. Zhong Shanshan, 7. Warren Buffett, 8. Larry Page, 9. Sergey Brin and 10. Larry Ellison.

Indian Railways bags 13 awards at the 'National Energy Conservation awards 2020'

- Indian Railway bagged **13 awards** in **three** prestigious categories of **National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA)** for the year **2020**, organized by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- **Western Railway** has been awarded the **First Prize**, followed by **Eastern Railway**. **North Eastern Railway & South-Central Railway** has been awarded Certificate of Merit in the **Transport Category**.

Odisha won Best State and Best Civic Agency award in 2nd edition of the Janaagraha City Governance Awards

- Department of **Housing and Urban Development**, Government of Odisha for its project "**JAGA Mission**" was declared the winner under the Best State Category in the second edition of **Janaagraha City Governance Awards**.
- **Odisha** won the Best **Civic Agency** for Piped Water Supply Scheme for all Urban Households, Public Health Engineering Organisation. **Gujarat** won **Best State Election** Commission. **Kerala** won **Best State Finance** Commission.
- **Indore** won the Best Municipality award for its **Public-Private Partnership** (PPP) Based Integrated Solid Waste Management.

Triple Oscar winner Vittorio Storaro to be honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFI

- The 51st edition of the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will honour the Italian cinematographer **Vittorio Storaro** with the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award**, at the opening ceremony.
- Veteran actor and director **Biswajit Chatterjee** has been conferred the **Indian Personality of the Year Award**.

SKOCH Challenger Award to Ministry of Panchayati Raj for Transparency in Governance

- **Sunil Kumar**, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj received the **SKOCH Challenger Award** conferred to the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** under “**Transparency in Governance**” category for IT-led initiatives and transformational reforms leading to outcome-based performance improvement, better transparency and strengthening of the e-Governance in **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** across the country.

Bhawana Kanth to become the first Woman Fighter Pilot to take part in Republic Day Parade

- Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** will become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the **Republic Day parade** on **26 January 2021**. Kanth will be part of the **Indian Air Force’s (IAF’s)** tableau in the parade.
- Currently, Kanth is posted at an airbase in Rajasthan, where she flies the **MiG-21** Bison fighter plane.

Federal Bank MD & CEO Shyam Srinivasan is Business Standard Banker of the Year

- **Shyam Srinivasan**, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of **Federal Bank**, is the **Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2019-20**. He was chosen for his bank’s consistent **healthy performance** at a time when most of its peers witnessed losses or other issues.
- The unanimous decision was taken by a high-profile jury of **five**, chaired by former RBI deputy governor **S S Mundra**.

Indian actor Sonu Sood received the Ketto Best Celebrity Changemaker Award at the 2020 Ketto Awards

- In a bid to recognise and celebrate the initiatives driving positive change in India, **Ketto**, **South East Asia’s** largest crowdfunding platform, hosted the second edition of **Ketto awards**.
- A panel of three judges from diverse sectors presented awards to prominent NGOs and individuals that includes celebrities like **Sonu Sood** and **Rajshri Deshpande** for their extensive philanthropic work during the pandemic lockdown period in 2020.

Indian mathematician Nikhil Srivastava named as the joint winner of the Michael and Sheila Held Prize

- **Nikhil Srivastava**, a young Indian mathematician, has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 **Michael and Sheila Held Prize** along with two others for solving long-standing questions on the **Kadison-Singer** problem and **Ramanujan graphs**.

Rajendra Kumar Bhandari selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

- Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society and **Rajendra Kumar Bhandari** have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** for their excellent work in **Disaster Management**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

A book titled "In Pursuit of Justice: An autobiography" authored by Justice Rajindar Sachar to be organised

- The family of Late **Justice Rajindar Sachar** in association with The Indian Society of International Law and The Indian Law Institute is organising the book launch "**In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography**" written by Late **Justice Rajindar Sachar**.

Union Minister Shripad Naik releases book "Sutranivednachi sutra-ek anav" authored by Dr Roopa Chari

- Union Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH and the Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** released a Konkani book "**Sutranivednachi sutra-ek anav**", authored by **Dr Roopa Chari**. The book is published by **Sanjana Publications**.

Prof. Dr. Stuti Sharma's book "Elements of Quantitative Genetics: A Conceptual Approach" was released by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

- A book titled "**Elements of Quantitative Genetics: A Conceptual Approach**" authored by **Dr. Stuti Sharma**, professor at Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University and was released by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

Ravi Shastri unveils a book titled "India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia"

- Former Indian all-rounder and current head coach **Ravi Shastri** launched a new book by the Bradman Museum called '**India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia**', at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

A book titled "Right Under Your Nose" authored by RBI Manager R Giridharan to be released soon

- Reserve Bank of India manager **R Giridharan** has authored his debut book named "**Right Under Your Nose**". The book is to be published by **Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd**.

A new book titled "Modi India Calling-2021", Chronicling PM Modi's Foreign Tours Released by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta

- A coffee table book titled "**Modi India Calling – 2021**" filled with over hundreds of photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his "**107 overseas and bilateral visits**" was released on **16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** (PBD) on 8 January 2021.
- The book was released by Delhi BJP president **Adesh Gupta**. It has been published by **Maneesh Media**.

A Book Titled 'Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China, 1957' Authored by Romila Thapar

- The book titled '**Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China, 1957**' was authored by renowned Indian historian **Romila Thapar**. The book is published by **Seagull Books London Ltd**.

Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla releases a book titled "Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo" authored by Lt Gen Konsam Himalay Singh

- **Manipur** Governor **Najma Heptulla** released a book titled '**Making of a General - A Himalayan Echo**' written by (Retired) **Lt Gen Konsam Himalay Singh**, through virtual mode at Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, **Imphal**.
- **Konsam Himalay Singh** has conveyed his dreams and views as well as also highlighted Manipur, the "**Land of Emeralds**". The book was published by **Konark Publishers Pvt Ltd**.

A book titled 'Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema' authored by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Abhijat Joshi was published

- A new book titled '**Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema**' authored by **Vidhu Vinod Chopra** and scriptwriter **Abhijat Joshi** is to be published by **Penguin Publications**.

- The book provides a glimpse into the mind, method & madness of one of contemporary Hindi **cinema's best filmmakers**.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant releases the book 'Manohar Parrikar - Off the Record'

- **Goa** Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** released a book '**Manohar Parrikar - Off the Record**' at a function organised at the Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city. The book has been written by senior journalist **Waman Subha Prabhu**.
- The book '**Manohar Parrikar - Off the Record**' is a collection of memories of **Waman Prabhu** who happened to be with late **Parrikar** during the journey of his life.

RANKINGS

India ranks 4th in 'Break Out Economies'; Digital Evolution Scorecard 2020

- India was ranked **4th** in "**Break Out Economies**" in the **third** edition of the **Digital Evolution Scorecard** developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with **Mastercard**.
- **China** topped the list followed by **Azerbaijan, Indonesia**. It should be noted that India doubled its mobile internet connectivity in the last four years. It will add **350 million** smartphones by **2023**.

India ranked 85th in Henley passports Index 2021; Japan tops list

- According to **Henley Passport Index 2021**, **India** ranks **85th** among **110 countries** in the **most powerful passport** report with a visa-free score of **58**.
- India shares the no. **85** rank with **Tajikistan**. The report was released by **Henley & Partners**, based on the exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- **Japan** tops the list of being the most powerful passport in the world for the year **2021**. **Singapore** is in **second place** (190), and **South Korea** ties with **Germany** in third place (189).
- **Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan** are the countries with the worst passport, with a passport score of **29, 28, and 26**, respectively.

National Stock Exchange remains world's largest derivatives exchange for 2nd consecutive year

- According to the Futures Industry Association (FIA), the **National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)** remained the **world's largest derivatives exchange** for the **second consecutive year** in 2020 in terms of the number of contracts traded.

OBITUARY NEWS

Former England batsman John Edrich passed away at 83

- Former **England** opening batsman **John Edrich**, who made more than **100 first-class centuries**, has died at the age of **83**. He played **77 Tests** between **1963- 1976** scored more than 5,000 runs including **12 centuries**.

Former England cricketer and commentator Robin Jackman passed away at 75

- Former **England** and Surrey bowler **Robin Jackman** has died at the age of 75. Jackman played in **four Tests** and **15 one-day internationals** for his country, while he took **1,402 wickets** in a **399-game** first-class career between **1966** and **1982**.

Former WWE wrestler Jon Huber known as Luke Harper, passed away at 41

- WWE wrestler **Jon Huber** passed away due to lung illness. He wrestled under the names **Luke Harper** and **Brodie Lee** and performed for **World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)** as well as **All Elite Wrestling (AEW)**.

Padma Shri dance historian Sunil Kothari passed away at 87

- **Padma Shri** dance historian and critic **Sunil Kothari** passed away in New Delhi. He was awarded with **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1995); the **Padma Shri award** (2001); and the **Life Time Achievement Award** of the Dance Critics Association, New York (2011).

Urdu poet and critic Shamsur Rahman Faruqi passed away at 85

- Legendary **Urdu** poet and critic **Shamsur Rahman Faruqi** passed away in Allahabad. He received the **Saraswati Samman** award in 1996 for "**She'r-e Shor-Angez**".
- Some of his books are **Mirror of Beauty**, **Ghalib Afsaney Ki Himayat Mein**, etc.

Former Union Minister Kadambur R Janarthanan passes away at 89

- Former Union Minister **Kadambur R Janarthanan** passed away due to age-related problems. Janarthan was the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions with the additional charge of Finance in the AB Vajpayee cabinet from **1998 to 1999**. He was elected to the Lok Sabha four times in **1984, 1989, 1991 and 1998**.

French fashion designer Pierre Cardin passed away at 98

- Iconic French designer **Pierre Cardin**, who was hailed for his avant-garde styles in the **1960s** and **70s**, has died at the age of 98. He created the legendary bubble dress & his "**Space Age**" collection remains a landmark in the fashion history.

Veteran broadcaster Indira Joseph Venniyoor passed away at 94

- Renowned **broadcaster**, **All India Radio** veteran, and the first **English news announcer** of Travancore Radio, **Indira Joseph Venniyoor** had passed away. She was the wife of well-known literary scholar and art critic, **E.M.J. Venniyoor**.

Former Indian footballer and Olympian Nikhil Nandy passed away at 88

- Former Indian footballer **Nikhil Nandy**, a part of the squad in the **1956 Melbourne Olympics**, passed away. Nandy was part of the triumphant Bengal squad, which won the **Santosh Trophy** in **1955**. He was also a part of the side that notched-up a semi-final finish in the **1958 Asian Games** in **Tokyo, Japan**.

Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar, who helped secure Siachen for India, passes away at 87

- Colonel Narendra '**Bull**' **Kumar**, an iconic **mountaineer** and the man who helped secure the **Siachen Glacier** for India, passed away. He was awarded the **Padma Shri (1965)**, **Param Vishisht Seva Medal**, **Kirti Chakra**, **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** and the **Mac Gregor medal**.

Former Union minister Buta Singh passes away at 86

- Senior **Rajasthan** political leader and former Union Minister **Buta Singh** has passed away. He served as the **Home Minister of India** from **1986 to 1989**. He also served as the Union Minister of **Agriculture and Rural Development**.

Renowned Odia music director Shantanu Mohapatra passed away at 84

- Renowned Odia music director **Shantanu Mohapatra** passed away in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Shantanu had been a prominent part of the **Odia music industry** for almost **six decades**. He was the first Odia music director to work with acclaimed singers and music composers of the Hindi film industry like **Lata Mangeshkar**, **Mohd Rafi**, **Manna Dey**, etc.

New Zealand Test cricket legend John Fulton Reid passed away at 64

- **John Fulton Reid**, one of New Zealand's finest test batsmen, has died of cancer. The left-hander scored **1296 runs** (including **six centuries**) at an average of **46.28** from **19 tests** between **1979 and 1986**, only second behind **Kane Williamson** among its compatriots to play more than 20 innings.

Former Maharashtra minister Vilas Patil Undalkar passed away at 82

- Former **Maharashtra** cabinet minister and **seven-time** MLA **Vilas Patil Undalkar** died due to a brief illness. Undalkar, popularly known as '**Kaka**', was elected seven times till **2014** from **Karad-South** Assembly seat.

Olympic bronze and World Cup-winning hockey player Michael Kindo passed away at 76

- **Olympic bronze** and **World Cup-winning** hockey player **Michael Kindo** passed away. He played 3 Men's Hockey World Cup in **1971, 1973 & 1975**, where India bagged bronze, silver & gold medals. He also represented in the **1972 Olympic Games** where India secured a bronze medal. Kindo received the **Arjuna Award** in 1972.

Former Mali Prime Minister Modibo Keita passed away at 78

- Former-**Malian** Prime Minister **Modibo Keita** passed away. He served as the Prime Minister from **2015 to 2017**. He was one of the **six** prime ministers to serve under President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who was ousted in a coup in August 2020.

Legendary Australian Tennis Coach Bob Brett passed away at 67

- Renowned Australian tennis coach **Bob Brett** has died at the age of 67. Bob received a top award for his contribution to the sport from the **ATP** in November 2020. He coached German's Boris Becker from November **1987** to February **1991**.

New Zealand first-class cricketer and World War II veteran Alan Burgess passed away at 100

- The **world's oldest living** first-class cricketer **Alan Burgess** has passed away at the age of 100. He also turned out for New Zealand Services in England in **1945** at the end of World War II.

Noted Malayalam poet, lyricist Anil Panachooran passed away at 55

- Noted Malayalam **poet** and **lyricist Anil Panachooran** passed away. He is known for his famous lyrics in movies including 'Arabikadha', 'Kadha Parayumbol', 'Madambi', 'Marykkundoru Kunjaadu', and 'Velipadinte Pusthakam' among many others.

Eminent academician and Netaji's niece Chitra Ghosh passed away at 90

- Author, professor, social worker **Chitra Ghosh** passed away. She was the niece of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**. She made pioneering contributions to academics and community services and dedicated her life in serving the people, **teaching & inspiring** the youth. She was the former head of the **political science department** at Lady Brabourne College in **Kolkata**.

Renowned Indian fashion designer Satya Paul passed away at 79

- **Satya Paul**, the founder of the iconic eponymous clothing brand, died in Coimbatore in **Tamil Nadu**. In 1980, he launched the first "**saree boutique**" in India, L'Affaire, and founded the **eponymous fashion clothing** brand with his son in **1986**.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Neil Sheehan passed away at 84

- **Neil Sheehan**, a reporter, and **Pulitzer Prize-winning** author who obtained the Pentagon Papers for The New York Times died in Washington, D.C. The **1988 book** won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction. He broke the story of the Pentagon Papers for The **New York Times (NYT)**.

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki passed away at 94

- Former **Gujarat chief minister** and ex-Union minister **Madhavsinh Solanki** passed away. He had served as the External Affairs Minister of India from **1991 to 1992**. He had been the Chief Minister of Gujarat for three times between **1976 to 1990**. He was the **longest-serving Chief Minister** of **Gujarat** before Narendra Modi.

Former Kerala minister and political leader KK Ramachandran passes away at 84

- Former **Kerala minister** and political leader **KK Ramachandran** passed away due to heart attack. He was the State's minister for **Food & Civil Supplies** in the **A K Antony** Government from **1995** and the health Minister in the **Oommen Chandy** Government from **2004**.

Padma awardee Turlapati Kutumba Rao passes away at 89

- Veteran **journalist, writer** and **Padma Shri** awardee **Turlapati Kutumba** Rao passed away. He worked as the editor & editorial writer of Telugu newspaper Andhra Jyothi for close to three-and-a-half decades, addressed a record number of public meetings, which earned him a slot in the **Guinness Book**.

Renowned astrophysicist Professor Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre passes away at 84

- Renowned astrophysicist Professor **Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre** passed away in Mumbai. A recipient of **Padma Bhushan**, he retired as a senior professor from TIFR in Mumbai in 2001. His scientific research is focused on solar physics, astrophysics & gravitational lensing.

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri Awardee D Prakash Rao passed away at 63

- Renowned **social activist** and **Padma Shri** winner **D Prakash Rao** has passed away. He was conferred with the **prestigious Padma Shri** award in 2019 for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum and orphan kids in **Cuttack**.

Renowned Tamil writer A Madhavan passes away at 87

- Kendra **Sahitya Akademi Award** winner and renowned Tamil writer **A Madhavan** passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He won **Sahitya Akademi** in **2015** for his collection of short stories, *Ilakkiya Chuvadukal*, which captured the **stories & struggles** of people in Thiruvananthapuram's Chalai market.

Legendary classical musician and Padma awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan passed away at 89

- Legendary **Indian classical musician** and Padma Shri awardee, **Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan** died at the age of 89. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 1991, followed by the **Padma Bhushan** in 2006 and the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2018. He was bestowed with the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 2003.

Padma Awardee and renowned oncologist Dr. V Shanta passed away at 93

- Renowned **oncologist** and chairperson of the Cancer Institute **Dr. V Shanta** died. Shanta was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** (1986) and the **Padma Bhushan** (2006) for her efforts for making quality and **affordable cancer treatment** accessible to everyone. She was also awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** and the **Ramon Magsaysay awards**.

Former Union Minister Kamal Morarka passed away at 74

- Former **Union Minister** and noted businessman **Kamal Morarka** died after a brief illness. Morarka was a Union minister in the Chandra Shekhar government in **1990-91** and a Rajya Sabha member from **Rajasthan** from Janata Dal (Secular) during **1988-94**.

Billionaire and heir to storied banking fortune Benjamin de Rothschild passed away at 57

- **Benjamin de Rothschild**, an heir to the Edmond de Rothschild banking legacy, died. He was the chairman **since 1997** of the banking empire **Edmond de Rothschild Group** started by his father in **1953**. He is a descendent of the Rothschild family, which has a nearly **300-year** history running **European banks**.

Former MP and Tamil Maanila Congress leader BS Gnanadesikan passed away at 71

- Former Member of Parliament and Vice-President of **Tamil Maanila Congress** (TMC) party, **BS Gnanadesikan** passed away in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. Gnanadesikan served as the President of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC). He was elected to the **Rajya Sabha twice**.

Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mata Prasad passed away at 95

- Former Governor of **Arunachal Pradesh** and senior Congress leader **Mata Prasad** has passed away. Mata Prasad hailed from the **Jaunpur district** of **Uttar Pradesh**. He had served as the **Governor** of Arunachal Pradesh in 1993 and as Minister in the Congress government in Uttar Pradesh in **1988- 89**.

Rajasthan Congress MLA Gajendra Singh Shaktawat passed away at 48

- Rajasthan Congress MLA **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has passed away after a prolonged illness. **Shekhawat** is the fourth legislator of the current **Rajasthan assembly** to have died of illness in the past six months.

Veteran Malayalam actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri passes away at 98

- Veteran Malayalam actor **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri** has passed away at the age of 98. Unnikrishnan made his acting debut in **1996** with **Desadanam**. He had also played a pivotal role in Kamal Haasan's hit comedy-drama, '**Pammal K Sambandam**' (**2002**).

Veteran singer Narendra Chanchal passed away at 80

- The famous bhajan singer **Narendra Chanchal** passed away at the age of **80** in **Delhi**. He was known for his religious songs and **bhajans**. Some of his ever-popular bhajans include Chalo Bulawa Aaya Hai, Tune Mujhe Bulaya Sherawaliye, Ambe Tu Hai Jagadambe Kali, Hanuman Chalisa, Sankat Mochan Naam Tiharo, Ram Se Bada Ram Ka Naam, among others.

US talk show legend Larry King passed away at 87

- **US Talk show** iconic legend, **Larry King** passed away at the age of 87. King has quizzed thousands of world leaders, politicians, entertainers, athletes, and everyday people for **CNN** and other news outlets in a career spanning more than **six decades**.

SPORTS NEWS

Rafael Nadal wins his fourth Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award in ATP Awards 2020

- **Rafael Nadal** won the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award for the **4th** time. Nadal receives this honour for a third straight year and **fourth time** overall (**2010, 2018-2020**) for his fair play, professionalism, and integrity on and off the court.
- **Novak Djokovic** was the **year-end No. 1** for a record-equaling sixth time after winning four titles including a record eighth Australian Open.
- **Roger Federer** was the **singles fans' favourite** for a record-extending 18th straight year.
- **Frances Tiafoe** was given the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award for his social activity.
- The 17-year-old **Carlos Alcaraz** of Spain was the Newcomer of the Year 2020 after winning three Challenger series.

FIFA cancels men's 2021 U-20 and U-17 World Cups due to COVID-19

- The Bureau of the **FIFA Council** has decided to cancel the **2021** editions of the **Men's U-20 World Cup** and **U-17 World Cup** and gave the hosting rights to **Indonesia** and **Peru** respectively for the **2023** editions.
- Earlier, the 2021 **U-17 Women's World Cup**, scheduled to be held in **India** in February, was cancelled.

MS Dhoni was named the captain of ICC T20I and ODI Teams of the Decade, Virat Kohli to lead the ICC Test side

- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced glittering men's and women's teams for different formats from the last decade. **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** was named captain of the **T20I** and **ODI Teams of the Decade**, and **Virat Kohli** was picked to lead the Test side.
- The T20I side comprises four Indian players, three in the ODI side and two in the Test side. Australia's **Meg Lanning** has been named the captain of **ICC's T20I Women's Team of the Decade**.
- **ICC's T20I Men's Team of the Decade:** Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle, Aaron Finch, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Glenn Maxwell, MS Dhoni (c), Kieron Pollard, Rashid Khan, Jasprit Bumrah, and Lasith Malinga.
- **ICC's ODI Team of the Decade:** Rohit Sharma, David Warner, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Shakib Al Hasan, MS Dhoni (c), Ben Stokes, Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult, Imran Tahir, and Lasith Malinga.
- **ICC's Test Team of the Decade:** Alistair Cook, David Warner, Kane Williamson, Virat Kohli (c), Steve Smith, Kumar Sangakkara, Ben Stokes, Ravi Ashwin, Dale Steyn, Stuart Broad, James Anderson.

- **ICC's T20I Women's Team of the Decade:** Alyssa Healy, Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates, Meg Lanning, Harmanpreet Kaur, Stafanie Taylor, Deandra Dottin, Ellyse Perry, Anya Shrubsole, Megan Schutt, Poonam Yadav

Russian badminton player Nikita Khakimov banned for five years over betting and fixing offences

- Russian badminton player **Nikita Khakimov** has received a **five-year** ban after being found guilty of offences relating to "betting, wagering and irregular match results" announced by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**.

BCCI approves 10-team IPL from 2022

- **Board of Control for Cricket in India's** (BCCI) 89th Annual General Body Meeting in **Ahmedabad** approved a **10-team IPL** tournament starting from the **2022 edition**.
- **Two new teams** will be introduced in the 2022 IPL. According to the reports, BCCI will also back ICC's bid for the inclusion in the **Olympic Games** of **2028**.

14-year-old Leon Mendonca becomes the 67th Grandmaster of India

- The 14-year-old **Leon Mendonca** from **Goa** has become **India's 67th** chess Grandmaster by winning the third and final norm at **Vergani Cup** tournament in **Italy**. He is only the second Grand Master from **Goa**. Mendonca achieved the feat at 14 years, 9 months, and 17 days.

TOPS sanctions specialised equipment for Para Table Tennis player Bhavina Patel

- The **Mission Olympic Cell** cleared financial proposals of athletes who are a part of the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**. **Bhavina Patel**, a Para Table Tennis player, belonging to **Gujarat** who was included in the TOPS Scheme in November 2020, had financial proposals of **Rs. 7.04 lakhs** sanctioned by the committee.
- Patel is currently ranked **8th** in the world and, by virtue of her current world ranking, is well-positioned to qualify for the **Tokyo Paralympics** and thus become the first Indian to do so in the sport of Para Table Tennis.

Australian Umpire Claire Polosak becomes the first woman to officiate a men's Test in the 144-year cricket history

- The 32-year-old Australian umpire **Claire Polosak** became the first woman to officiate at a men's test as the **fourth umpire** for the match between **Australia and India** in **Sydney**.
- **Polosak** was the first woman to officiate on the field in a **men's one-day international** when Namibia hosted Oman at Windhoek in April 2019.

Jigmet Dolma wins 4th position in the Dhaka Marathon

- Special Police Officer in Ladakh Police, **Jigmet Dolma** represented India in **Dhaka Marathon-2021** and secured the **4th** position which was organised by **Dhaka** in **Bangladesh**. Besides, two more women runners from India and a total of eight athletes participated in the **Dhaka Marathon-2021**.
- **Bahadur Singh** of India bagged the trophy of champion in the men's category, whereas **Pushpa Bhandari** of Nepal became the champion in the **women category** in the marathon.
- **Hicham Lakohi** from Morocco came first in the elite competition men's category while **Angela Jim Asunde** from Kenya won the race in women's category.

Carolina Marin and Viktor Axelsen clinch singles titles in the Yonex Thailand Open 2021

- The **Yonex Thailand Open badminton** tournament was the first badminton tournament of **2021** by the **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**. Reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin** bolstered claiming the Thailand Open in Bangkok over top seed **Tai Tzu-Ying**.

Winners List of Thailand Open 2021:

- Men's Single – **Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)**
- Women's Single – **Carolina Marin (Spain)**
- Men's Double – **Taiwan's Lee Yang** and **Wang Chi-Lin**
- Women's Double – **Greysia Polii** and **Apriyani Rahayu**
- Mixed Double – **Dechapol Puavaranukroh** and **Sapsiree Taerattanachai**.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police won the IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship in Gulmarg, J&K

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** won the **Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)** 10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy after a superb win over **Ladakh** in the finals in **Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Eight teams** took part in the championship, which took place at an altitude of **8,694 feet** where the temperatures are below freezing point (Minus 1 degree).

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	IMPORTANT DAY	THEME
January 1	Global Family Day New Year	-
January 4	World Braille Day	-
January 5	National Bird Day	-
January 6	World Day of War Orphans	-
January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day)	"Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
January 10	World Hindi Day	-
January 10	Raising Day of Army Air Defence	-
January (11-17)	National Road Safety week	-
January 12	National Youth Day	'Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building'.
January 14	Armed Forces Veterans Day	-
January 14	Makar Sankranti, Pongal	-
January 15	Army Day	-
January 18	National Immunization Day (Polio Day)	-
January 19	National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day	-
January 20	Guru Govind Singh Jayanti	-
January 23	1 st Parakram Diwas (Netaji Jayanti)	-
January 24	International Day of Education	-
January 24	National Girl Child Day	-
January 25	National Voters Day	"Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed."
January 25	National Tourism Day	'Dekho Apna Desh'.
January 26	International Customs Day (ICD)	"Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience"
January 26	72 nd Republic Day	-
January 27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	-
January 30	Martyrs' Day/Shahed Diwas	-
January 30	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	"Face NTDs: End the Neglect."
January 31	World Leprosy Day	"Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and advocate for Mental Wellbeing."

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

Q.1) India's biggest hockey stadium sitting capacity of 20,000 to be setup in which city?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Rourkela**
- c) Lucknow
- d) Bhubaneswar
- e) Nagpur

Q.2) India's 1st tiger reserve hot air balloon safari launched in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. The tiger reserve is located in which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh**
- b) Karnataka
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Rajasthan

Q.3) Who has been appointed as Director-General Armed Forces Medical Services?

- a) Vice Admiral Vikas Gupta
- b) Vice Admiral Rajat Datta**
- c) Vice Admiral Amir Singh
- d) Vice Admiral Sanjay Dutta
- e) Vice Admiral Kabir Singh

Q.4) India's first Lithium refinery to be set up in which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Gujarat**
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Rajasthan

Q.5) Name the Indian Cloud storage service which was launched by NITI Aayog?

- a) StorageBox
- b) DigiBoxx**
- c) ShareFile
- d) MaxShare
- e) FileBox

Q.6) India's first-ever driverless train operations inaugurated by PM Modi on which of the following Metro?

- a) Hyderabad Metro
- b) Delhi Metro**
- c) Chennai Metro
- d) Ahmedabad Metro
- e) Bengaluru Metro

Q.7) Who has won the ATP Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship award 2020?

- a) Frances Tiafoe
- b) Roger Federer
- c) Novok Djokovic
- d) Carlos Alcaraz
- e) Rafael Nadal**

Q.8) As per India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) report, what is the projected GDP growth rate of India for 2020-21?

- a) -7.1 percent
- b) -12.4 percent
- c) -7.8 percent**
- d) -10.8 percent
- e) -8.2 percent

Q.9) Bajaj Auto signed an MoU with which state government for Rs 650 Crore Investment at Chakan Plant?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Maharashtra**
- d) Assam
- e) Karnataka

Q.10) Renowned cricket player John Edrich has passed away. He played for which country?

- a) Australia
- b) England**
- c) West Indies
- d) New Zealand
- e) South Africa

Q.11) Which of the following states has launched the Mobile Application and web portal called 'PR Insight'?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Kerala
- c) Haryana
- d) Punjab**
- e) Karnataka

Q.12) Who has been selected as chairman by BCCI for All-India Senior Men's Selection Committee?

- a) Debasis Mohanty
- b) Harvinder Singh
- c) Chetan Sharma**
- d) Manu Sawhney
- e) Sunil Mehta

Q.13) Who is the author of the book "Sutranivednachi sutra- ek anbanv"?

- a) Gopaldas Neeraj
- b) Giriraj Kishore
- c) Roopa Chari**
- d) Narayan Singh
- e) Jagdish Raj

Q.14) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone of Rs 8,341-cr road projects in which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Rajasthan**

Q.15) Who has been appointed as the New Prime Minister of Romania?

- a) Mihai Ghimpu
- b) Ludovic Orban
- c) Klaus Iohannis

d) Florin Citu

e) Renato Usatii

Q.16) Who has been honoured with DRDO's "Scientist of the Year Award" for his contribution to developing several herbal medicines including Lukoskin drug?

a) Vinoth Chandran

b) Hemant Kumar Pandey

c) Rajaram Singh

d) Anita Mohan

e) K Sivan

Q.17) Who has selected as the youngest Mayor in India from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala?

a) Sunitha Rajan

b) Rajalakshmi

c) Ranjani Mehta

d) Arya Rajendran

e) Tulasi Siva

Q.18) Who has been named as the captain for the ICC ODI and T20 Team of the Decade?

a) Rohit Sharma

b) Virat Kohli

c) MS Dhoni

d) Steve Smith

e) David Warner

Q.19) Which country naval forces has commissioned the Indian Navy's submarine INS Sindhuvir in its fleet?

a) Malaysia

b) Bhutan

c) Nepal

d) Myanmar

e) Bangladesh

Q.20) Which Railway Zone became the 1st in India to commission the use of End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) system?

a) North Central Railway

b) South East Central Railway

c) North Frontier Railway

d) East Coast Railway

e) Eastern Railway

Q.21) Which of the following states has won the Digital India Awards 2020 under "pandemic category"?

a) Assam

b) Bihar

c) Karnataka

d) Kerala

e) Tamil Nadu

Q.22) Who won the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade (2010-2020)?

a) MS Dhoni

b) Virat Kohli

c) Kane Williamson

d) Ben Stokes

e) Steve Smith

Q.23) Indian Navy with Vietnamese Navy participated in the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2020 held in _____.

a) Arabian Sea

b) Andaman and Nicobar

c) South China Sea

d) Pacific Ocean

e) Bay of Bengal

Q.24) Suresh Chandra Mohapatra was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of which Indian state?

a) Maharashtra

b) Haryana

c) West Bengal

d) Odisha

e) Karnataka

Q.25) Badminton player Nikita Khakimov has been banned 5 years for betting and fixing charges. He played for which country?

a) Malaysia

b) Singapore

c) Thailand

d) Russia

e) China

Q.26) Which becomes Indian first private company to successfully test fire solid fueled rocket engine dubbed as Kalam-5?

a) Bellatrix Aerospace

b) Dhruva Space

c) Skyroot Aerospace

d) Manastu Space Technologies

e) Skanda Aerospace

Q.27) Sunil Kothari has passed away recently. He was a renowned _____.

a) Singer

b) Dancer

c) Sand Artist

d) Journalist

e) Politician

Q.28) A book titled "In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" is the autobiography of _____.

a) Ranjan Gogoi

b) Abhinav Mukund

c) Rajindar Sachar

d) Markandey Katju

e) Biswa Bhushan

Q.29) Prime Minister Modi has flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail of India. The train service has linked between which two states?

a) Karnataka and West Bengal

b) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

c) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

d) Maharashtra and West Bengal

e) Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat

Q.30) Name the first-ever web-based application launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for Ocean Data Management?

- a) Ocean Wave
- b) Digital Ocean**
- c) Ocean Explorer
- d) Radar Ocean
- e) Ocean Data

Q.31) Which state government has Launched Navaratnalu-Pedalandariki Illu Housing Scheme?

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Andhra Pradesh**
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.32) Which state government has approved the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh**
- c) Haryana
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.33) The 'New Bhaupur- New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) was inaugurated by PM Modi recently. The section is located in which state?

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Uttar Pradesh**
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.34) Which state government has launched a career portal for students in collaboration with UNICEF?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Odisha**
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.35) Kadambur, M. R. Janardhanan has passed away recently was a renowned _____.

- a) Cricketer
- b) Economist
- c) Politician**
- d) Freedom Fighter
- e) Journalist

Q.36) Who has been conferred the National Tansen Samman for 2020?

- a) Abhinav Parishad
- b) Rajaraman
- c) Satish Vyas**
- d) Vikas Khanna
- e) Saran Kumar

Q.37) Where was TiHan Foundation, India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation Systems, established?

- a) IIT-Kanpur
- b) IIT-Delhi
- c) IIT-Chennai
- d) IIT-Hyderabad**
- e) IIT-Mumbai

Q.38) India added the Tso Kar wetland complex as the 42nd Ramsar site of India. It is located in _____.

- a) Imphal
- b) Jammu
- c) Shimla
- d) Ladakh**
- e) Indore

Q.39) India's first indigenous vaccine against pneumonia 'Pneumosil' was launched by Harsh Vardhan. The vaccine has been developed by which institution?

- a) Serum Institute of India**
- b) Bharat Biotech Limited
- c) Sun Pharmaceutical
- d) Indian Immunologicals
- e) Aventis Pasteur (India) Ltd

Q.40) Which among the following has launched an integrated Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) and mobile app for UMID?

- a) Indian Army
- b) Indian Council of Medical Research
- c) Society for Human Resource Management
- d) Indian Railways**
- e) National Board for Certified Counselors

Q.41) Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurates India Meteorological Department's (IMD) centre at which place?

- a) Srinagar
- b) Leh**
- c) Pahalgam
- d) Gulmarg
- e) Manali

Q.42) Gender Park to host the 2nd edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality at which city in February 2021?

- a) Lucknow
- b) Kozhikode**
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Mumbai
- e) Pune

Q.43) Harsh Vardhan has been elected as the board member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)?

- a) Smriti Zubin Irani
- b) Mahendra Nath Pandey
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Harsh Vardhan**
- e) Ravi Shankar Prasad

Q.44) India's first pollinator park has been developed in which Indian state?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) West Bengal

d) Uttarakhand

- e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.45) Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board?

- a) Sanjay Gupta
- b) Rajendra Nath

c) Suneet Sharma

- d) Harish Kumar
- e) Amit Singh

Q.46) Which bank has introduced 'Travel Now', a one-stop travel marketplace on its bank app?

- a) Deutsche Bank
- b) HDFC India
- c) Lakshmi Vilas Bank

d) DBS Bank India

- e) Federal Bank

Q.47) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) developed Ruthenium 106 Plaque. It is used in the treatment of _____.

- a) Skin cancer

b) Eye cancer

- c) Breast cancer
- d) Kidney cancer
- e) Lung cancer

Q.48) BSSUK, a sugar mill, signed MoU with NKJ Biofuel Ltd Under Public-Private Partnership to set up India's 1st ethanol plant in which state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra

c) Chhattisgarh

- d) Haryana
- e) West Bengal

Q.49) Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), Pune has collaborated with which organisations to launch India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB)?

- a) UNEP India
- b) UNICEF India

c) UNDP India

- d) World Bank
- e) UNESCO

Q.50) Indira Joseph Venniyoor, who has passed away recently, was renowned _____

- a) Dancer
- b) Social Activist
- c) Wrestler
- d) Painter

e) Broadcaster

Q.51) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the advisory committee to use futuristic and new age technologies for the conservation of Indian heritage conservation?

- a) Rajiv Kumar
- b) Santa Swarup
- c) Ashutosh Sharma
- d) Vinay Somani

e) Santanu Chaudhury

Q.52) Which organisation bought an additional 32.67% stake in AirAsia India Limited to increase its stake holdings to 83.67%?

- a) Mahindra Group
- b) Walmart
- c) L & T

d) Tata Sons

- e) Infosys

Q.53) Which Indian Naval ship arrived at Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia under Mission Sagar-III?

- a) INS Sindhuvir
- b) INS Vikrant

c) INS Kiltan

- d) INS Arihant
- e) INS Kalvari

Q.54) Who is the author of the book "Element of Quantitative Genetics A Conceptual Approach" that was released by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh?

- a) Sanjay Mishra
- b) Vinay Gupta

c) Stuti Sharma

- d) Koteswar Rao
- e) Sanjeev Kumar

Q.55) The DRDO observed its _____ Foundation Day on 01 January 2021.

- a) 81st
- b) 75th

c) 63rd

- d) 57th
- e) 72nd

Q.56) Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone Light House projects (LHPs) in how many states?

- a) Four
- b) Seven
- c) Five

d) Six

- e) Eight

Q.57) Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)?

- a) Nirav Shah
- b) Sumit Goyal

c) Soma Mondal

- d) Radha Pyari
- e) Sajitha Baghel

Q.58) ADB has signed a loan agreement worth USD 231 million with the Indian government to augment the electricity generation capacity of which Indian state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Karnataka

c) Assam

d) Haryana

e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.59) Who became the first female president of the Softball Federation of India?

a) Nayanjot Lahiri

b) Gurmeet Singh

c) Pramila Rajan

d) Vineetha Mohan

e) Neetal Narang

Q.60) Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh jointly won the "Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation (NIF) Book Prize 2020" alongside with whom?

a) Poornima Rajan

b) Kasthuri Menon

c) Amit Ahuja

d) Romila Thapar

e) Shashi Tharoor

Q.61) Name the India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container, which was test trailed recently by the Indian Navy and DRDO?

a) SUMEET

b) PRAJEET

c) SAHAYAK

d) MANAT

e) TRINETRA

Q.62) Government has extended K Sivan's tenure as the Chairman of which organisation for one year (till January 2022)?

a) DRDO

b) BHEL

c) ISRO

d) NTPC

e) BARC

Q.63) Whose tenure has been extended by the Election Commission of India as deputy election commissioner?

a) Rajiv Kumar

b) Sushil Chandra

c) Ajit Doval

d) Umesh Sinha

e) Sunil Arora

Q.64) Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to set up the Multi-Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH) and Multi-Modal Transport Hub in which city?

a) Lucknow

b) Gurugram

c) Greater Noida

d) Hyderabad

e) Mumbai

Q.65) Which is the first-ever Northeast state to get a ginger processing plant at Ri-Bhoi?

a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Karnataka

c) Meghalaya

d) Haryana

e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.66) Which state government launched a mobile app 'DigiNest' to ensure digital access to the state government directory?

a) Karnataka

b) Maharashtra

c) Punjab

d) Gujarat

e) Meghalaya

Q.67) ADB and India signed a \$10 million project readiness financing (PRF) to support which of the following projects in Himachal Pradesh?

a) Agriculture Development

b) Skill Development

c) Horticulture Development

d) Biofuel Development

e) Tourism Development

Q.68) Which state government has launched the 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' Scheme to replace Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?

a) Karnataka

b) Jharkhand

c) Punjab

d) Gujarat

e) Meghalaya

Q.69) Senior bureaucrat P Ravi Kumar appointed as Chief Secretary which Indian state?

a) Karnataka

b) Maharashtra

c) Punjab

d) Gujarat

e) Meghalaya

Q.70) Which country has been chosen as the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP)?

a) France

b) Malaysia

c) India

d) Latvia

e) Singapore

Q.71) Legendry music director Shantanu Mohapatra has passed away recently. He was related to which film industry?

a) Malayalam

b) Odia

c) Gujarati

d) Kannada

e) Tamil

Q.72) Who has become India's 67th Grandmaster by winning vergani cup tournament held in Italy?

a) Raunak Sadhwani

b) Ivana Maria Furtado

c) P Iniyan

d) Leon Mendonca

e) G Akash

Q.73) Indian Army Chief MM Naravane receives Guard of Honour at Army Headquarters of which country?

- a) China
- b) North Korea
- c) Germany

d) South Korea

e) France

Q.74) Which country changes one word in its national anthem from "For we are young and free" to "For we are one and free" to honour indigenous people?

a) North Korea

b) Australia

- c) England
- d) New Zealand
- e) Germany

Q.75) Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020 in which city?

a) Mumbai

b) New Delhi

- c) Chennai
- d) Pune
- e) Kolkata

Q.76) Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a missed call facility for LPG consumers in which city?

a) Kochin

b) Pune

c) Bhubaneshwar

d) Vijayawada

e) Jaipur

Q.77) Indian Coast Guard signs pact with how many asian countries for Cooperation in Maritime Search and Rescue Operations

a) 7

b) 5

c) 8

d) 6

e) 9

Q.78) Which Public Sector Undertaking signs an MoU with Indian Navy for the initial supply of indigenously developed laser dazzlers

a) Bharat Electronics Limited

b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

c) Bharat Dynamics

d) Central Electronics Limited

e) Electronics Corporation of India

Q.79) Which services of Indian armed forces signed a contract with Goa Shipyard to procure 12 patrol boats to monitor Lake Pangong

a) Indian Army

b) Indian Navy

c) Indian Air Force

d) CRPF

e) BSF

Q.80) Test cricket legend John Fulton Reid passed away at 64. He belongs to which country?

a) England

b) South Africa

c) New Zealand

d) Australia

e) Sri Lanka

Q.81) Which Indian Army Chief receives the Guard of Honour at ROK Army Headquarters, South Korea

a) MM Naravane

b) Bipin Rawat

c) Dalbir Singh Suhag

d) Bikram Singh

e) Deepak Kapoor

Q.82) Who launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and mobile app to connect with Indian diaspora across the world

a) Rahul Rawat

b) Rajendran

c) Deepak Singh

d) Muraleedharan

e) Ved Parakash Malik

Q.83) Which state Government signs an MoU with NAFED for high-density apple, walnut, and cherry plantation

a) Tamil Nadu

b) Assam

c) Meghalaya

d) Himachal Pradesh

e) Jammu and Kashmir

Q.84) The 'Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act' has been passed by which country for the welfare of Pakistani-diaspora females?

a) Pakistan

b) India

c) United States

d) France

e) China

Q.85) Which among the following organisation is initiated Marketing & Logistics intervention for promoting products of North – East in collaboration with DoNER and India Post?

a) TRIFED

b) BIRAC

c) SEBI

d) NABARD

e) SIDBI

Q.86) ADB has approved a USD 100 million loan for India to upgrade the power distribution system in which city?

a) Chennai

b) Mumbai

c) Bengaluru

- d) Hyderabad
e) Pune

Q.87) Which company has bagged over Rs 7,000 crore order from HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Project at Barmer?

- a) Adani groups
b) GMR groups

c) L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering

- d) Hindustan Lever Limited
e) Reliance Industries Ltd

Q.88) Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice (CJ) of the Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh?

- a) Krishna Kumar
b) Somnath Khare

c) Pankaj Mithal

- d) Vishal Sharma
e) Kailash Nath Katju

Q.89) Where was the first Khelo India Sports School launched recently in North East?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
b) Manipur
c) Assam

d) Meghalaya

- e) Nagaland

Q.90) Who has been elected as the president of the All India Chess Federation (AICF)?

a) Sanjay Kapoor

- b) Naresh Sharma
c) Kishore Kumar
d) Bharat Singh Chauhan
e) Vineet Sharma

Q.91) Name the Two-wheeler company which has crossed market capitalisation of Rs.1 Lakh crore (January 2021)?

- a) Honda Motorcycle

b) Bajaj Auto

- c) Hero Motocorp
d) TVS Motor
e) Yamaha Motors

Q.92) Who became the first head of the Human Rights Cell of the Indian Army?

- a) Chandan Rawat
b) Arun Desai

c) Gautam Chauhan

- d) Rajat Datta
e) Sandeep Naithani

Q.93) The central government has notified an area varying from zero to one km around the boundary of which National Park as an Eco-sensitive Zone?

- a) Rajiv Gandhi National Park
b) Nameri National Park

c) Mathikettan Shola National Park

- d) Dachigam National Park

- e) Sundarbans National Park

Q.94) University Grants Commission (UGC) sets up a panel headed by whom to work out a common entrance test for all central universities?

- a) Umesh Sinha
b) Arjun Singh
c) Kasturi Rajan

d) R.P. Tiwari

- e) Vinay Kumar

Q.95) Congress leader Vilas Patil Undalkar has passed away recently. He was a former minister of which state cabinet?

- a) Karnataka
b) Haryana

c) Maharashtra

- d) Kerala
e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.96) Indian Navy has received 8th ship of the MK IV Landing Craft Utility (LCU) class vessel 'IN LCU L-58'. The LCU class vessel has been developed by which company?

- a) Goa Shipyard
b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

- d) HAL
e) Cochin Shipyard

Q.97) Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice (CJ) of Orissa High Court?

- a) Pankaj Mithal
b) Amit Khare

c) S Muralidhar

- d) Krishna Kumar
e) Harsha Mehta

Q.98) Which state government has set-up a Tamil academy to promote the language and culture of the southern state of Tamil Nadu?

- a) Kerala
b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Delhi

- d) Maharashtra
e) Assam

Q.99) Which state government has launched the 'Launch Pad Scheme' for above 18 years youths (boys/girls) coming out of childcare institutions?

- a) Gujarat

b) Madhya Pradesh

- c) Uttarakhand
d) Kerala

- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.100) Who has been inaugurated 450 km length Kochi (Kerala) - Mangaluru (Karnataka) Natural Gas Pipeline?

- a) Rajnath Singh
b) Dharmendra Pradhan

c) Narendra Modi

d) Piyush Goyal
 e) Ramnath Kovind
 Q.101) which will be the opening movie of the 51st International Film Festival of India in Goa?

- a) The Commune
- b) Wife of a Spy
- c) Another Round**

d) Journey to the Shore
 e) Pain and Glory

Q.102) Who took charge as Deputy Chief of Army Staff recently?

- a) Bipin Rawat
- b) Karambir Singh
- c) Shantanu Dayal**

d) Birender Singh Dhanoa
 e) Manoj Mukund Naravane

Q.103) Union Petroleum Minister Pradhan flagged off equipment for Indian Oil's MEG (mono ethylene glycol) Plant in _____.

- a) Haryana
- b) Gujarat
- c) West Bengal
- d) Odisha**

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.104) Which Organisation has signed a pact worth \$105 million to Improve Waterways in West Bengal?

- a) ADB
- b) AIIB
- c) World Bank**

d) IMF
 e) NDB

Q.105) Who has been elected as the chief of Google Cloud's Asia Pacific cloud division?

- a) Saran Kumar
- b) Bhandari Shastri
- c) Karan Bajwa**

d) Vijay Mehta
 e) Karan Sharma

Q.106) Which organization signed MoU with MAHA-METRO for implementation of Advanced Biodigester Mk-II Technology in Metro Rail Network?

- a) GRSE
- b) ISRO
- c) DRDO**

d) BHEL
 e) HAL

Q.107) ISRO to launch first satellite Amazonia-1, is fully developed by which country's space agency?

- a) China
- b) France
- c) Japan
- d) Brazil**

e) Israel

Q.108) Who has been appointed as the new British high commissioner to India?

a) Simon Collis

b) Alex Ellis

c) Matthew Taylor
 d) Owen Jenkins

e) Louise De Sousa

Q.109) World Bank has forecast India's GDP growth at what percent for the fiscal year 2021-22?

- a) 4.9 percent
- b) 5.8 percent
- c) 5.4 percent**

d) 6.7 percent
 e) 7.1 percent

Q.110) Who topped the list of richest charitable gifts in 2020 with a USD 10-billion climate change donation

- a) Elon Musk
- b) Bill Gates
- c) Jeff Bezos**

d) Warren Buffett
 e) Mark Zuckerberg

Q.111) Name the Indian Student who won recognition in Singapore for building a 25-million-dollar tech startup.

- a) Naved Jaffrey
- b) Ravi Behl
- c) Harsh Dalal**

d) Jatin Garewal
 e) Partho Ghosh

Q.112) Who has been appointed as Gujarat High Court judge?

- a) Pankaj Mithal
- b) Amit Khare
- c) S Muralidhar
- d) Vineet Kothari**

e) Harsha Mehta

Q.113) World Day of War Orphans is observed on which date?

- a) January 6**
- b) January 8

c) January 5
 d) January 4

e) January 7

Q.114) India signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with which country to Partnership in "Specified Skilled Worker"?

- a) Australia
- b) France
- c) Belgium
- d) Japan**

e) Canada

Q.115) Which institution has signed a pact worth \$646 million for State Highway & District Road Network in Andhra Pradesh?

- a) European central bank
- b) New Development Bank**

c) World Bank
 d) Asian Development Bank

e) International Monetary Fund

- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) World Bank
- e) Asian Development Bank

Q.116) The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica was flagged off from Mormugao Port. The port is located in which state?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Goa**
- d) Kerala
- e) Odisha

Q.117) Government has set up a high-level group headed by whom to build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture?

- a) Vinay Kumar
- b) Ram Vinay Shahi**
- c) Sanjay Sharma
- d) Manoj Sinha
- e) Karan Singh

Q.118) Faustin-Archange Touadera won the 2nd term as president of which country?

- a) Rwanda
- b) The Central African Republic**
- c) Tanzania
- d) Republic of the Congo
- e) Ethiopia

Q.119) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the All-India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)?

- a) Akshaya
- b) Vinay Goel
- c) Sanjeev Kumar
- d) Ashish Pethe**
- e) Anoop Singh

Q.120) Name the country which is developing the world's first wood-based space satellite, to combat the growing problem of space debris?

- a) China
- b) Germany
- c) Japan**
- d) France
- e) India

Q.121) Who was appointed as the first Deputy General Secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF)?

- a) Akshaya Khanna
- b) Sunny Deol
- c) Sunil Shetty
- d) Yogeshwar Singh
- e) Abhishek Yadav**

Q.122) Which state government launched the 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double farmers' income?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Uttar Pradesh**
- c) Nagaland

- d) Gujarat
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.123) Modibo Keita Passed away recently. He was a former prime minister of which country?

- a) Kosovo
- b) Serbia
- c) Croatia
- d) Mali**
- e) Bulgaria

Q.124) Which state of India marks 6th January as the Journalist Day annually?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Maharashtra**
- e) Haryana

Q.125) Name the state/UT, which has launched the Satark Nagrik mobile app with relation to corruption?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Jammu and Kashmir**
- e) Karnataka

Q.126) Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court?

- a) Sudhanshu Dhulia**
- b) Nongmeikapam
- c) Girdhar Raj
- d) Sunil Kumar
- e) Kotiswar Singh

Q.127) Which organisation introduced the flagship liberalised 'Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)' package for MSMEs?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**
- c) Small Industries Development Bank of India
- d) Central Board of Direct Taxes
- e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Q.128) Punjab National Bank has collaborated with which IIT to launch 'Fintech Innovation Centre (FIC)' at its campus?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) IIT Kanpur**
- c) IIT Bombay
- d) IIT Guwahati
- e) IIT Kharagpur

Q.129) Which state government has launched the Krishi Sanjeevani vans to take labs to the agriculture fields to study soil, water, and suggest pest control remedies?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Karnataka**
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Tamil Nadu

e) Punjab

Q.130) Who has been appointed as the head of the Central government committee, to protect the unique language, cultural identity, and land of Ladakh?

- a) Urjit Patel
- b) Amit Khare
- c) Ajay Kumar Bhalla

d) G Kishan Reddy

e) Raman Singh

Q.131) Justice Hima Kohli became the first woman Chief Justice of which state high court?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Assam
- d) Meghalaya

e) Telangana

Q.132) Alan Burgess passed away recently, was the world's oldest living first-class cricketer and World war II, veteran. He was from which country?

- a) Australia
- b) South Africa
- c) England

d) New Zealand

e) West Indies

Q.133) Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off World's first double-stack long haul container train between which two states?

- a) Maharashtra and Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh and Odisha
- c) Karnataka and Kerala

d) Haryana and Rajasthan

e) Gujarat and Rajasthan

Q.134) Who is the author of the book titled "Right Under Your Nose"?

- a) Anusha Singh
- b) Ruskin Bond

c) R Giridharan

d) Suresh Murthy

e) Karan Sharma

Q.135) What is the estimated GDP of India for the fiscal year 2021-22, As per the IHS Markit report?

a) 7.5%

b) 8.9%

c) 9.1%

d) 6.9%

e) 7.7%

Q.136) Who chaired the High-Level Committee (HLC) to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

- a) Amit Shah
- b) Rajnath Singh

c) Narendra Modi

d) Ramesh Pokhriyal

e) Piyush Goyal

Q.137) Which of the following country has successfully test-fired the indigenously developed weapons rocket system "Fatah-1" with a maximum range of 140 km?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Bangladesh

d) Pakistan

e) India

Q.138) IREDA signed MoU with which company to provide technical assistance for green energy projects for 5 years?

a) Indian Oil Corporation

b) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

c) Energy Efficiency Services Limited

d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

e) Steel Authority of India

Q.139) The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2021 is which edition of the programme?

a) 13th

b) 18th

c) 21st

d) 16th

e) 19th

Q.140) Name the Indian-origin who has been appointed as the first Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the US Army?

a) Vinay Sinha

b) Raj Iyer

c) Madhavi Rajan

d) Suman Roa

e) Hashini Sharma

Q.141) Who has become the first female match official in men's Test match (India vs Australia)?

a) Alyssa Healy

b) Claire Polosak

c) Ashleigh Gardner

d) Sophie Devine

e) Meg Lanning

Q.142) Who was appointed as the first full-time Director of RBI's the College of Supervisors (CoS)?

a) NS Viswanathan

b) Rabi Narayan Mishra

c) BP Kanungo

d) Raghuram Rajan

e) D. Subbarao

Q.143) Who authored the book "India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia"?

a) Venugopal Rao

b) Harsha Bhogle

c) Ramachandra Guha

d) Sunil Gavaskar

e) R Kaushik

Q.144) Which of the following states has become the 3rd State to complete Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reform?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Bihar

d) Telangana

- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.145) Which country was announced as the 'Country in Focus' for the 51st International Film Festival held in Goa?

- a) Japan
- b) Finland

c) Bangladesh

- d) Belgium
- e) Nepal

Q.146) Which Indian State introduced the 'Bhraman Sarathi' scheme, a free bus service for women and senior citizens?

a) Assam

- b) Jharkhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Haryana

Q.147) Madhavsingh Solanki passed away recently. He was the former CM of which of the following State?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Bihar

c) Gujarat

- d) Karnataka
- e) Nagaland

Q.148) As per the ICRA report, what is the projected GDP of India for fiscal 2021-22?

- a) 8.7%
- b) 13.5%

c) 10.1%

- d) 11.6%
- e) 14.5%

Q.149) The Coastal Research Vessel 'Sagar Avneshika' has recently been inaugurated by the Harsh Vardhan at which port?

- a) Visakhapatnam Port
- b) Paradip Port Trust

c) Chennai Port Trust

- d) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
- e) Mumbai Port Trust

Q.150) Who was the present Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations?

- a) Syed Akbaruddin

b) T. S. Tirumurti

- c) Uma Shankar
- d) Indra Mani Pandey
- e) Shamrao Dhotre

Q.151) Who has been chosen as the official representative of BCCI for the ICC Board meeting?

- a) Brijesh Patel

b) Jay Shah

- c) Imran Khawaja
- d) Rajeev Shukla
- e) Sunil Gavaskar

Q.152) Which country has committed an Official Development Assistance loan of Rs 2,113 crore to support India's COVID-19 relief efforts?

- a) Russia

b) Japan

- c) Kenya
- d) France
- e) Germany

Q.153) Who was appointed as the Head of the 10-member empowered committee for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine?

- a) Vinoth Kumar

b) RS Sharma

- c) Rajiv Kumar
- d) Madhabi Puri Buch
- e) Harsh Vardhan

Q.154) What was India's rank in Digital Evolution Scorecard 2020, developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with Mastercard?

- a) 23rd

b) 4th

- c) 8th
- d) 7th
- e) 12th

Q.155) 4th edition of Cherry Blossom Festival celebrated in which state recently (January 2021)?

- a) Tripura

b) Manipur

- c) Assam
- d) Bihar
- e) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.156) Who is the author of 'Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China, 1957'?

- a) Ruskin Bond

b) Arundhati Roy

- c) Romila Thapar
- d) Sudha Murthy
- e) Shashi Tharoor

Q.157) Which of the following section of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 allows RBI for mergers?

- a) Section 41

b) Section 39

- c) Section 45
- d) Section 24
- e) Section 51

Q.158) What is the projected GDP rate of India as per the latest report of Nomura for fiscal 2020-21?

- a) -8.5 percent

b) -6.7 percent

- c) -7.9 percent

- d) -9.7 percent
e) -7.9 percent

Q.159) Which country was the second-largest manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits & Suits?

- a) The UK
b) Japan
c) India

- d) France
e) China

Q.160) What is the rank of India in the Henley Passport Index 2021?

- a) 74
b) 85
c) 67
d) 91
e) 79

Q.161) which company signed an MoU with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for the digital transformation of Indian MSMEs?

- a) TCS
b) Wipro
c) BSNL
d) Bharti Airtel
e) Microsoft

Q.162) Who has been invited as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day of India parade for 2021?

- a) Donald Trump
b) Justin Trudeau
c) Chandrikapersad Santokhi
d) Sheikh Hasina
e) Joe Biden

Q.163) RBI has formed a working group headed by whom to study digital lending activities to stop the growing frauds in the sector?

- a) Rishab Choudhary
b) Jayant Kumar Dash
c) Amit Mishra
d) Vikram Singh
e) Suresh Krishna

Q.164) Which is the host country of the 'One Planet Summit' 2021, held in collaboration with the UN and World Bank?

- a) India
b) Japan
c) France
d) Germany
e) Australia

Q.165) RBI has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd. The bank was based in which state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
b) Maharashtra
c) West Bengal
d) Gujarat

- e) Telangana

Q.166) India's first 'Fire Park' has been inaugurated in _____ to educate and bring awareness on basic fire safety measures among people.

- a) Hyderabad
b) Bhubaneswar

- c) Mumbai
d) Kochi
e) Lucknow

Q.167) Which among the following received the 1st Prize in Best State Category in the second edition of the Janaagraha City Governance Awards?

- a) Gujarat
b) Odisha

- c) Punjab
d) Assam
e) Kerala

Q.168) Flipkart has partnered with Logistics Skill Sector Council and KSDC to set up Centre of Excellence in _____.

- a) Kochi
b) Bengaluru
c) Thiruvananthapuram
d) Hyderabad
e) Pune

Q.169) IRDAI has set up a 10-member committee to examine the availability of health insurance products. Who is the chairman of the committee?

- a) Nachiket Mor
b) Pankaj Sharma
c) Vinay Kumar
d) Subhash Chandra Khuntia
e) Ranjith Singh

Q.170) BofA Securities has projected GDP growth of India and expects the economy at _____ percent in the fiscal year 2021-22?

- a) -6.4%
b) 9.0%
c) -7.5%
d) -8.9%
e) -6.5%

Q.171) Who is the author of "Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo"?

- a) Kamal Jit Singh
b) Nirmal Chandra Suri
c) Rajendra Nimbhorkar
d) Konsam Himalay Singh
e) Kiran Singh

Q.172) Name the India's first-ever indigenously developed 9mm Machine Pistol by the DRDO and Indian Army?

- a) Akash
b) Suraksha
c) Bhoomi
d) Virat

e) Asmi

Q.173) As per the Fitch Ratings, what is the projected growth rate of the Indian economy for 2020-21?

- a) -13.1%
- b) -9.5%
- c) -7.4%
- d) -8.8%

e) -9.4%

Q.174) Sadyr Japarov has been elected as the President of which country?

- a) Turkmenistan
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Tajikistan

d) Kyrgyzstan

e) Uzbekistan

Q.175) PM Narendra Modi announced how much amount for 'Startup India Seed Fund' to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas?

- a) Rs 3500 crore
- b) Rs 5000 crore

c) Rs 1000 crore

- d) Rs 4500 crore
- e) Rs 2000 crore

Q.176) Who has been appointed as one of the Vice-Chairs of the 2021 Global Board of Directors of US-India Business Council (USIBC)?

- a) Indra Nooyi
- b) Chanda Kochhar
- c) Shiv Nadar

d) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

e) Ajay Banga

Q.177) What was the projected fiscal deficit for FY-21 as per credit rating agency CARE Ratings?

- a) 6.4%
- b) 7.8%**
- c) 9.4%
- d) 8.5%
- e) 6.8%

Q.178) Who has bagged the 51st edition of the IFFI's prestigious Lifetime Achievement award?

a) Alberto Grimaldi

b) Vittorio Storaro

- c) Franco Arcalli
- d) Bernardo Bertolucci
- e) Tonino Delli Colli

Q.179) World's tallest rail bridge being constructed across which river?

a) Sutlej River

b) Chenab River

- c) Brahmaputra River
- d) Yamuna River
- e) Godavari River

Q.180) Who has appointed as the President of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for 2021?

- a) Filippo Grandi
- b) Eric Yuan
- c) Walter Lewin

d) Nazhat Shameem Khan

e) Catarina Vaz Pinto

Q.181) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled the India's first 'Driverless Metro Car' for which city?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Kolkata

c) Bengaluru

- d) Pune
- e) Chennai

Q.182) The Government of India has partnered with which country for cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)?

- a) Singapore
- b) Indonesia
- c) The United States

d) Japan

e) Russia

Q.183) Which among the following has inked USD 20 million deal with ideaForge to buy SWITCH Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)?

- a) Indian Air Force
- b) Indian Navy

c) Indian Army

- d) BSF
- e) CISF

Q.184) What is the total outlay for 2020-21 the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0, launched by the Government of India?

- a) Rs 867 crore
- b) Rs 673 crore

c) Rs 949 crore

- d) Rs 750 crore
- e) Rs 879 crore

Q.185) Who was appointed as chairman of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council?

- a) Suresh Gopinath
- b) Rahul Bhatia
- c) Aron Acharya

d) Sandeep Aggarwal

e) Vineet Sharma

Q.186) The Army Day celebrates its _____ Day on 15 January 2021.

- a) 81st
- b) 65th

c) 73rd

- d) 57th
- e) 72nd

Q.187) Who won the women's singles title at the Yonex Thailand Open badminton tournament 2021?

a) Nozomi Okuhara

b) Carolina Marin

- c) P.V. Sindhu
- d) Tai Tzu-ying
- e) Saina Nehwal

Q.188) Which state has launched the 'One School One IAS' program to provide free coaching for UPSC Civil Services/ IAS Exams for economically backward students?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan

e) Kerala

Q.189) Yoweri Museveni has won the sixth term as the President of which country?

- a) Kenya
- b) Estonia
- c) Romania

d) Uganda

e) Chile

Q.190) Which state government has signed MoU with BSE to encourage SME listing?

- a) Haryana
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Gujarat

d) Maharashtra

e) Jharkhand

Q.191) India's First-ever Labour Movement Museum is set to be established in which city?

- a) Lucknow
- b) Vadodara

c) Alappuzha

d) Mumbai

e) Hyderabad

Q.192) Indian government has planned to enter into a deal with which country to procure 21 MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force?

- a) China
- b) Brazil

c) Russia

d) France

e) Israel

Q.193) Name the winner of the Yonex Thailand Open badminton tournament 2021 men's single title?

- a) Anders Antonsen
- b) Kento Momota

c) Viktor Axelsen

d) Shi Yuqi

e) Anurag Kashyap

Q.194) Name the bike ambulance, which was developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) for CRPF?

a) Saranath

b) Rakshita

c) Saksham

d) Vigor Kavach

e) Pranavath

Q.195) The Padma award winner Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan has passed away. He was a legendary _____.

a) Politician

b) Dancer

c) Musician

d) Cricketer

e) Economist

Q.196) Which Indian state has organised its first-ever bird festival, 'Kalrav' at the Nagi-Nakti bird sanctuary?

a) Assam

b) Bihar

c) Gujarat

d) Haryana

e) West Bengal

Q.197) V Shanta recently passed away was a veteran _____.

a) gynecologist

b) endocrinologist

c) pulmonologist

d) oncologist

e) cardiologist

Q.198) L&T's construction arm bagged Rs. 5,000 crore order from Rail Vikas Nigam Limited to work on projects in _____.

a) Assam

b) Uttarkhand

c) Gujarat

d) Haryana

e) West Bengal

Q.199) Which state has launched the 'Udyam Sarathi App' for youth to explore self-employment opportunities?

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Uttar Pradesh

c) Karnataka

d) West Bengal

e) Rajasthan

Q.200) India's largest multi-modal logistic park in partnership with Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) to be set up in which city?

a) Hyderabad

b) Mumbai

c) Ahmedabad

d) Nagpur

e) Vishakapatnam

Q.201) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has signed an MoU with which institution for Professorial Chair focusing on research and development?

a) IIT Hyderabad

b) IIT Bombay

c) IIT Kanpur

d) IIT Delhi

e) IIT Roorkee

Q.202) Which armed force has won the 2021 National Ice Hockey Championship trophy organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)?

a) Railway Protection Force

b) Central Reserve Police Force

c) Indo-Tibetan Border Police

d) Border Security Force

e) Central Industrial Security Force

Q.203) DRDO tested the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from Hawk-I aircraft. It was developed by which company?

a) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)

b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

c) Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata

d) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

e) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Q.204) First ever Khelo India Winter Sports and Youth Festival conducted in _____.

a) Leh

b) Kargil

c) Shimla

d) Jammu

e) Manali

Q.205) Who became the 1st woman chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)?

a) Raja Lakshmi

b) Geeta Mittal

c) Sunita Banerjee

d) Indu Malhotra

e) Vijaya Tahilramani

Q.206) National Migration Support Portal "Shramshakti" was launched by which Ministry?

a) Ministry of External Affairs

b) Ministry of Home Affairs

c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

e) Ministry of Minority Affairs

Q.207) 15th edition of Toshali National Crafts Mela 2021 is held in which state?

a) Rajasthan

b) Haryana

c) Meghalaya

d) Odisha

e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.208) Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a new 4-lane Thaltej-Shilaj-Rancharda railway overbridge in _____.

a) Hyderabad

b) Dehradun

c) Lucknow

d) Ahmedabad

e) Surat

Q.209) Larry King, the iconic television and radio host, has passed away. He was from which country?

a) Germany

b) France

c) United States

d) Australia

e) Italy

Q.210) Which state has launched India's longest road arch bridge, "Wahrew Bridge"?

a) Manipur

b) Assam

c) Meghalaya

d) Uttarakhand

e) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.211) National Tourism Day is celebrated on which date?

a) January 29

b) January 27

c) January 25

d) January 24

e) January 26

Q.212) Which state has topped the Major States category of the India Innovation Index 2021 released by NITI Aayog?

a) Gujarat

b) Himachal Pradesh

c) Karnataka

d) Rajasthan

e) Tamil Nadu

Q.213) The Centre has approved the 850-megawatt (MW) Ratle hydropower project in which Indian state/UT?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Jammu and Kashmir

c) Himachal Pradesh

d) Haryana

e) Lakshadweep

Q.214) Who has become the first Woman Fighter Pilot to take part in the Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2021?

a) Vinitha Ramachandran

b) Bhawana Kanth

c) Shivangi

d) Avani Chaturvedi

e) Mohana Singh

Q.215) Indian Railways has renamed the iconic Howrah-Kalka Mail as _____.

a) Gandhi Express

b) Sardar Express

c) Netaji Express

d) Bose Express

e) Nehru Express

Q.216) Which state government renamed Gorewada International Zoo as "Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park"?

a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Maharashtra

c) Rajasthan

d) Gujarat

e) Chhattisgarh

Q.217) Who has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of AYUSH, in place of Shripad Yesso Naik?

a) Prahlad Singh Patel

b) Nirmala Sitharaman

c) Jitendra Singh

d) Kiren Rijiju

e) Rajnath Singh

Q.218) The Indian Air Force has organised the 'Ex-Desert Knight 21' with the navies of which country?

a) Israel

b) Singapore

c) Japan

d) France

e) China

Q.219) Name the state government which has announced 'Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission' a Horticulture Development Mission?

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Haryana

d) Gujarat

e) Telangana

Q.220) Who was appointed as the new managing director of Sundaram Finance?

a) Aksay Kumar

b) Vinay Shankar

c) Hari Krishnan

d) Sudeep Sharma

e) Rajiv Lochan

Q.221) Joe Biden has been sworn in as the _____ President of United States.

a) 52nd

b) 46th

c) 37th

d) 61st

e) 58th

Q.222) Cabinet approved Rs 5281.94 crore investment for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Power Project across which river?

a) Chenab

b) Bhagirathi

c) Yamuna

d) Jhelum

e) Krishna

Q.223) The bilateral Air exercise 'Ex-Desert Knight 21' is held between the Indian Air Force and French Air force in which state?

a) Uttarakhand

b) Rajasthan

c) Gujarat

d) Madhya Pradesh

e) Karnataka

Q.224) Mata Prasad recently passed away at the age of 95, was the former Governor of which Indian state?

a) Haryana

b) Maharashtra

c) Gujarat

d) Arunachal Pradesh

e) Rajasthan

Q.225) Name the first ever state of India to have two expressway airstrips?

a) West Bengal

b) Gujarat

c) Maharashtra

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.226) India is observing which edition of the Republic Day on January 26, 2021?

a) 81

b) 65

c) 72

d) 67

e) 79

Q.227) Who has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of Estonia?

a) Mart Helme

b) Keit Pentus-Rosimannus

c) Kaja Kallas

d) Yana Toom

e) Kersti Kaljulaid

Q.228) Which state has launched the scheme 'PANKH Abhiyan' for girl's empowerment?

a) Meghalaya

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Rajasthan

d) Himachal Pradesh

e) Karnataka

Q.229) Who has been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at 51st IFFI held in Goa?

a) Zofia Stafiej

b) Lech Majewski

c) Tzu-Chuan Liu

d) Emmanuel Mouret

e) Vittorio Storaro

Q.230) As per the report of UNCTAD, which country was the largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2020?

a) Mauritius

b) China

c) Canada

d) Singapore

e) United States

Q.231) Who was appointed as new chairman of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)?

- a) Jayati Ghosh
- b) V Sharath Sharma

c) D Janakiram

- d) R Rajkiran Rai
- e) T N Manoharan

Q.232) Indian Navy conducts tri-service joint amphibious exercise 'AMPHEX – 21' was held in _____.

- a) Jammu & Kashmir
- b) Lakshadweep

c) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- d) Odisha Coast
- e) Indian Ocean Region

Q.233) Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has won the second term as the President of which country?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Spain

c) Portugal

- d) Hungary
- e) Sweden

Q.234) Which bank won women leader of the year award at the Frontiers in Cooperative Banking Awards 2020?

- a) Canara Bank
- b) Repco Bank**

- c) Indian Bank
- d) Bandhan Bank
- e) UCO Bank

Q.235) Which state launched jail tourism initiative to help students learn about historical experiences?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka

d) Maharashtra

- e) West Bengal

Q.236) Which state has been awarded the Best Electoral Practices Award 2021?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu

c) Meghalaya

- d) Maharashtra
- e) West Bengal

Q.237) India's first-ever Gender Park inaugurated in which place?

- a) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- b) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- c) Hyderabad, Telangana

d) Kozhikode, Kerala

- e) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Q.238) Government of India has approved the 'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme' (SISFS) to fund startups. What is the validity period of SISFS?

- a) 3 years
- b) 12 years
- c) 7 Years

- d) 10 years

e) 5 years

Q.239) StashFin partnered with which bank to launch a co-branded prepaid card, that enables customers to take overdraft loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs?

- a) Union Bank of India
- b) DBS Bank of India

c) SBM Bank of India

- d) Deutsche Bank India
- e) HSBC Bank India

Q.240) As per National Statistical Office (NSO) report, what was India's GDP growth for FY20?

- a) 8%
- b) 5%
- c) 7%

d) 4%

- e) 6%

Q.241) Recently, ICC has introduced which category of awards to recognise the best performances of cricketers?

a) ICC Player of the Month

- b) ICC Bowler of the Month
- c) Best ICC Player of the Week
- d) ICC cricketer of the Week
- e) ICC Player of the Year

Q.242) Who has been appointed as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)?

- a) Rajeev Shukla
- b) Shashank Manohar

c) Jay Shah

- d) Imran Khwaja
- e) Manu Sawhney

Q.243) What is the rank of India in the "Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index"?

- a) 14
- b) 10**
- c) 21
- d) 17
- e) 25

Q.244) Sylvestre Ilunga has recently resigned as the Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Republic of Ghana
- B) Mexico
- C) Republic of Guinea
- D) Italy

e) Republic of Congo

Q.245) Who among the following has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of SBI Card?

- a) Arjit Singh
- b) Rama Mohan Rao Amara**
- c) Vinay Sinha
- d) Santha Kumar
- e) Balkrishna Ram

Q.246) Name the metro which has become the first metro to use UV rays to sanitize train coaches?

- a) Delhi Metro
 b) Chennai Metro
 c) Kolkata Metro
d) Lucknow Metro
 e) Mumbai Metro
- Q.247) Reliance Jio Emerges as Fifth-Strongest Company in Brand Finance Global 500 Report. Which company topped the list?
 a) Space X
 b) Ferrari
c) WeChat
 d) Coca-Cola
 e) Sber
- Q.248) Which IIM has signed an MoU with Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to undertake a pilot project on domestic empowerment?
 a) IIM Kozhikode
 b) IIM Indore
c) IIM Lucknow
 d) IIM Bangalore
 e) IIM Kanpur
- Q.249) India's First Indigenous Metro Rake (Train) inaugurated at which Indian city?
a) Mumbai
 b) Lucknow
 c) Pune
 d) Chennai
 e) Hyderabad
- Q.250) Who has been appointed as the new CEO of the National Health Authority?
 a) K Nirmal Kumar
 b) S Hariharan
 c) H Siva Kumar
d) R S Sharma
 e) D Amit Singh

BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ

- Q.1) Which among the following has emerged as the top firm in Banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) companies in India?
 a) ICICI Bank
 b) Indian Bank
 c) Axis Bank
d) HDFC Bank
 e) State Bank of India
- Q.2) Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of YES Securities (India) Limited?
 a) Kishore Kumar
 b) Amitabh Chaudhry
c) Prasanth Prabhakaran
 d) Vineeth Sharma
 e) Rana Kapoor
- Q.3) Reserve Bank of India selects how many sandbox entities in first cohort for Retail Payments?
 a) Three
 b) Two
c) Four
 d) Five
 e) Six
- Q.4) SEBI appoints former Chief Election Commissioner _____ as observer for e-voting on Franklin Templeton schemes.
 a) Vinay Kumar
b) Taruvai Subayya Krishnamurthy
 c) Subramani Rangasamy
 d) Hariharan Swaminathan
 e) Rajesh Sharma
- Q.5) Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL). It is a _____ digit number.
 a) 12
b) 20
 c) 15
 d) 10
 e) 8
- Q.6) Which entity has acquired 8.99 % equity stake in non-banking finance company Paisalo Digital?
 a) HDFC Life Insurance
b) SBI Life Insurance
 c) Kotak Mahindra Bank
 d) Muthoot Finance
 e) Axis Bank Mutual Fund
- Q.7) Which of the following banks introduced e-credit card recently?
 a) State Bank of India
 b) Canara Bank
 c) ICICI Bank
d) Punjab National Bank
 e) Axis Bank

Q.8) Name the bank, which acquired a 9.09% of stake in the ed-tech platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions Pvt Ltd (MESPL)?

a) State Bank of India

b) ICICI Bank

c) HDFC Bank

d) Axis Bank

e) Canara Bank

Q.9) Which company has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer FASTag through a mobile app?

a) Mobikwik

b) Paytm

c) Google Pay

d) Phone Pe

e) Flipkart

Q.10) Which is the world's 1st crypto bank launched in India as a Joint Venture (JV) between Cashaa and the United Multistate credit co-operative society?

a) Litecoin

b) Monero

c) Tether

d) Unicas

e) Ethereum

Q.11) Niranjana Banodkar has been appointed as the new Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of which bank?

a) Axis Bank

b) Yes Bank

c) HDFC Bank

d) Kotak Mahindra Bank

e) ICICI Bank

Q.12) RuPay and which bank rolled out 'RuPay PoS' in collaboration with PayNearby?

a) Kotak Mahindra Bank

b) Axis Bank

c) YES Bank

d) RBL Bank

e) ICICI Bank

Q.13) Central Bank of India in pact with which organization for Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs?

a) SIDBI

b) NABARD

c) SEBI

d) RBI

e) NHB

Q.14) RBI has launched Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitization of digital/electronic payments in India. The index comprises of how many parameters?

a) 7

b) 5

c) 3

d) 8

e) 12

Q.15) GST collections for December has been highest ever at Rs _____ lakh crore.

a) 1.65

b) 1.15

c) 1.30

d) 1.24

e) 1.27

Q.16) Tata Power partners with which organization to offer affordable & collateral-free financing for Rooftop Solar for MSMEs Consumers?

a) NABARD

b) SIDBI

c) RBI

d) NHB

e) SEBI

Q.17) Which is the first urban co-operative bank of India to receive a licence from RBI to transition to Small Finance Bank (SFB)

a) Saraswat Cooperative Bank Limited

b) Shivalik Mercantile Cooperative Bank

c) Ahmedabad Mercantile Cooperative Bank

d) The Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank

e) Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank

Q.18) The RBI has introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) for all RTGS and NEFT payment transactions made by entities for the value of Rs _____ and above.

a) Rs 100 crore

b) Rs 25 crore

c) Rs 75 crore

d) Rs 50 crore

e) Rs 10 crore

Q.19) What is the estimated GDP growth projection of the global economy by the World Bank for 2021?

a) 6%

b) 5%

c) 4%

d) 3%

e) 8%

Q.20) Which public sector bank has signed MoU with SIDBI to support its MSME enterprises for submission of their loan restructuring proposal?

a) Punjab National Bank

b) Indian Bank

c) Bank of Baroda

d) Canara Bank

e) State Bank of India

Q.21) In CBLO, "O" stands for _____

a) Obligation

b) Online

c) Organisation

d) Offer

e) Obey

Q.22) Name the bank which has signed an MoU with the Indian Army to provide Shaurya Salary Account?

a) Yes Bank

b) Bandhan Bank

- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Bank of Baroda
- e) Axis Bank

Q.23) RBI announced the operationalization of the Payment Investment Development Fund (PIDF) with how much initial corpus?

- a) Rs 750 crore

b) Rs 345 crore

- c) Rs 170 crore
- d) Rs 527 crore
- e) Rs 652 crore

Q.24) As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), what is the estimated GDP growth rate of India in 2020-21?

- a) -4.5%
- b) -6.1%
- c) -7.7%**
- d) -9.4%
- e) -8.5%

Q.25) RBI sets up College of Supervisors headed by whom to strengthen supervision over regulated entities?

- a) Raghuram Rajan
- b) Mahesh Kumar Jain
- c) Krish Gopalkrishna

d) N S Viswanathan

- e) Viral Acharya

Q.26) Which of the following section of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 allows RBI for mergers?

- a) Section 41
- b) Section 39
- c) Section 45**
- d) Section 24
- e) Section 51

Q.27) IRDAI mandates insurers to offer how many standard products for fire, allied peril from April 1, 2021?

- a) Five
- b) Six
- c) Three**
- d) Four
- e) Eight

Q.28) PhonePe in collaboration with which Life Insurance to launch term plans starting at Rs 149 per annum?

- a) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

b) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

- c) Birla Sun Life Insurance
- d) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- e) Bharti AXA Life Insurance

Q.29) The Reserve Bank of India announced to conduct a Variable Rate Reverse Repo auction for a notified amount of how much rupees?

- a) 5 Lakh Crore
- b) 3 Lakh Crores
- c) 7 Lakh Crore

d) 2 Lakh Crore

- e) 1 Lakh Crore

Q.30) Where is the headquarters of IndusInd Bank situated?

- a) Chennai
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Mumbai
- d) Kolkata

e) Pune

Q.31) 'Protect a Smile' is an initiative of All India Citizens' Alliance for Progress & Development (AICAPD) and which of the following company?

- a) United India Insurance
- b) Life Insurance Corporation

c) Max Life Insurance

- d) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- e) ICICI Lombard

Q.32) As per the RBI's 22nd bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR) 2021, what was the predicted Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) by September 2021?

- a) 18.6%
- b) 13.5%**
- c) 14.8%
- d) 15.7%
- e) 17.5%

Q.33) Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited has partnered with which bank to launch Wellness themed credit cards?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank

c) Yes Bank

- d) HDFC Bank
- e) Federal Bank

Q.34) Which has partnered with Financial Software and Systems (FSS) to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments of the country?

- a) Aditya Birla Payments Bank
- b) Jio Payments Bank
- c) Paytm Payments Bank

d) India Post Payments Bank

- e) Fino Payments Bank

Q.35) ICICI Bank tie-up with Which fintech company to issue prepaid cards to MSMEs?

- a) Infosys
- b) Niyo**
- c) Carta
- d) Stash
- e) Chime

Q.36) Vishwavir Ahuja has been re-appointed as the MD & CEO of which bank?

- a) IndusInd Bank
- b) RBL Bank**
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Federal Bank
- e) Bandhan Bank

Q.37) Which bank launched 'Aura', a credit card exclusively loaded with affordable health and wellness solutions?

- a) YES Bank
- b) Federal Bank
- c) Axis Bank**
- d) Indian Bank
- e) HDFC Bank

Q.38) Which Insurance company has partnered with NPCI to offer health insurance cover to RuPay Cardholders and UPI Users at affordable rates?

- a) ICICI Prudential Life
- b) HDFC ERGO General
- c) IFFCO Tokio General
- d) Universal Sompo General**
- e) Star Health and Allied Insurance

Q.39) Which among the following banks were included in the domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) list of Reserve Bank of India?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) State Bank of India
- d) Both a and b
- e) All of the Above**

Q.40) Which insurance company has launched 'Guaranteed Income4Life', a non-linked, non-par individual life insurance savings cum protection plan?

- a) HDFC Life Insurance
- b) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- c) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
- d) Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance**
- e) Aviva Life Insurance

Q.41) What is the maximum limit on the amount that could be transferred using RTGS?

- a) 2 Lakhs
- b) 50 Lakhs
- c) 25 Lakhs
- d) 10 Lakhs
- e) No Maximum limit**

Q.42) ASBA is a process developed by India's Stock Market Regulator SEBI for applying to IPO. What does "B" represent in the abbreviation of "ASBA"?

- a) Banking
- b) Bancassurance
- c) Beneficiary
- d) Blockchain
- e) Blocked**

Q.43) Name the bank which has launched the mobile app 'InstaFX' to help customers of any bank get 'Forex Prepaid Card' swiftly?

- a) ICICI Bank**
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Axis Bank
- d) Yes Bank
- e) IDBI Bank

Q.44) Who partnered with with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to offer fixed-deposit services recently?

- a) Airtel Payments Bank
- b) Paytm Payments Bank**
- c) India Post Payments Bank
- d) Jio Payments Bank
- e) Fino Payments Bank

Q.45) Which Payment Bank has introduced 'Safe Pay' to curb online frauds?

- a) India Post Payments Bank
- b) Paytm Payments Bank
- c) Airtel Payments Bank**
- d) Jio Payments Bank
- e) Fino Payments Bank

Q.46) What is the projected growth rate for India in 2021, as per the latest World Economic Outlook report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- a) 9.8%
- b) 11.5%**
- c) 10%
- d) 11%
- e) 13.6%

Q.47) Which Private bank has inaugurated its International Banking Unit at GIFT city, Gujarat?

- a) IDFC Bank
- b) DBS Bank
- c) Citi Bank
- d) HSBC Bank**
- e) Bank of America

Q.48) J K Shivan has been named as the new managing director and CEO of which bank?

- A) Catholic Syrian Bank
- B) Lakshmi Vilas Bank
- C) Federal Bank
- D) ICICI Bank
- e) Dhanlaxmi Bank**

Q.49) As per the report by CEBR (Centre for Economics and Business Research), when will India overtake UK to become 5th largest economy in the world?

- a) 2023
- b) 2030
- c) 2027
- d) 2025**
- e) 2050

Q.50) Businesses with a monthly turnover of over _____ lakh to pay at least 1% GST liability in cash.

- a) 45
- b) 50**
- c) 55
- d) 70
- e) 30