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# **LEGEND MAGAZINE**

## **FEBRUARY – 2021**

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

**Exclusively prepared for RACE students**

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### HSBC inaugurated an international banking unit at GIFT City, Gujarat

- Global financial services major **HSBC** inaugurated its **International Banking Unit (IBU)** branch at **GIFT City** near **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. It is one of the **earliest** global financial institutions setting up a branch at GIFT City.
- HSBC became the **first bank** to get a licence from the newly set up **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**. The UK-based HSBC has been present in India for **160 years**.

### Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched PANKH Abhiyan to empower girl children

- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched '**PANKH Abhiyan**' for the empowerment and growth of girl children on the occasion of the **National Girl Child Day** (January 24).
- The scheme (PANKH Abhiyan) has been launched under the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**.'

### Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla virtually inaugurated Bharat Parv - 2021

- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** virtually inaugurated the "**Bharat Parv - 2021**" in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister **Prahlad Patel** via video conference.
- This event provided an opportunity to know and understand the **art, culture, food, clothing, and traditions** of the 28 States and **eight** Union Territories of the country.

### Maharashtra Government launched 'jail tourism' initiative from Pune's Yerawada jail

- **Maharashtra** CM **Uddhav Thackeray** virtually launched a '**jail tourism**' initiative of the State Government from Pune's **Yerawada** prison in a move to help students learn about historical experiences.

### Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually inaugurated the Chennai bench of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**.
- Fresh appeals against the orders of the benches of the tribunal having jurisdiction in the states of **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana**, and the Union Territories of **Lakshadweep** and **Puducherry** will have to be filed before the **Chennai bench**.

### Uttar Pradesh became the first state to have two airstrips on expressways for landing and take-off of fighter planes

- With the completion of the construction of the **3,300**-metre-long airstrip near Kurebhar on the **Purvanchal Expressway**, **Uttar Pradesh** became the **first state** in the country with **two airstrips on expressways** to facilitate emergency landing and take-off of fighter planes.
- **Uttar Pradesh** also has an airstrip on the **Lucknow-Agra** Expressway.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 35<sup>th</sup> PRAGATI interaction

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the meeting of the **35<sup>th</sup>** edition of **PRAGATI**, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Central and State Governments.

### Cargill collaborated with UNWFP to launch a nutrition program in Rajasthan

- **Cargill**, in partnership with the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** and **Centre for Responsible Business (CRB)**, has launched a programme to improve nutrition status in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

### India's first boat library launched in Kolkata along River Hooghly

- For the first time in India, the **West Bengal Transport Corporation** has introduced a boat library on the **Hoogly river** in association with a **heritage bookstore**.
- The **3-hour trip** will start at **Millenium Park**, and the boat will travel to Belur Math jetty & return. Children will be able to choose from a selection of 500 titles in English and Bengali on the **Young Readers' Boat Library**.

### Union Environment Minister released the Marine Megafauna Stranding Guidelines & National Marine Turtle Action Plan

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) **Prakash Javadekar** virtually released the '**Marine Megafauna Stranding Guidelines**' and '**National Marine Turtle Action Plan**' in New Delhi. The documents contain ways and means to promote **inter-sectoral** action for conservation.

### Karnataka signed an MoU with Amazon India to boost the e-commerce and MSME sector

- **Karnataka** Government signed an MoU with global e-commerce giant **Amazon India** to help drive e-commerce exports from the state.
- Under the MoU, **Amazon** will train and onboard **MSMEs** from the state on Amazon Global Selling, its Exports Program, enabling them to sell their unique **Made in India** products globally to millions of Amazon customers across **200 plus** countries and territories.

### CSIR signed an MoU for Science & Technology led the development of the Union Territory of Ladakh

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** (CSIR) has signed an MoU with **Ladakh** to speed up the development of Ladakh using **Science & Technology(S&T) interventions**.

### Union Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Future Investment Initiative Forum

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** virtually addressed the **4<sup>th</sup> edition** of the **Future Investment Initiative Forum** held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. The event was held under the theme of "**The Neo-Renaissance.**"
- The purpose of this forum is to find solutions on how business and government can expand access to **healthcare, train healthcare workers**, remove regulatory barriers and encourage investment in advanced **health technologies**.

### Maharashtra topped justice delivery in India; Uttar Pradesh worst: IJR Report

- **Maharashtra** ranked first in the second edition of the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2020**. Maharashtra retained its number one position among **18 large** and mid-sized states, each with a population of over one crore, followed by **Tamil Nadu** and **Telangana**.

### Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray launched the Agriculture Pump Power Connection Policy 2020

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra **Uddhav Thackeray** formally launched the **Agriculture Pump Power Connection Policy 2020**. Maharashtra Government has taken bold steps to make a radical change in the lives of farmers through the policy of agricultural **pump power connection**.
- He also inaugurated several farm-related initiatives like Solar Energy Land Bank Portal, **Krishi Urja Abhiyan Policy 2020** Web Portal, ACF App developed by Power DISCOM Mahavitaran & **Maha Krishi Abhiyan App**.

### Centre approved the 'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme'

- The Union Government has approved the '**Start-up India Seed Fund Scheme**' (SISFS) of **Rs. 945 crores** implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DIIT).
- It aims to provide **financial assistance** to start-ups for product trials, market-entry, proof of concept, prototype development and commercialization.
- The scheme will become operational from **1 April 1 2021** and has a validity of **five years (2021-25)**.

### India's first 'Gender Park' to be inaugurated in Kozhikode, Kerala

- The **Kerala Government** is all set to launch an **Rs. 300 crore** three-tower '**Gender Park**' in **Kozhikode, Kerala**. This initiative is the first of its kind in the country and also a step towards gender equality in the state.
- Along with the Gender Park, a **Gender Museum, Gender Library, Convention Centre**, and an **Amphitheatre** will also be launched at the event.

### Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray unveiled the first indigenous metro rake at Mumbai's Charkop Depot

- **Maharashtra** Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** unveiled the first indigenous metro racks (train) at **Charkop Metro Depot**. The rake is for Metro line **Metro-2A** and **7** (Dahisar E-Andheri E). It was manufactured by **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** and delivered the first '**Made in India**' rake from the Bengaluru facility of BEML.
- The ongoing works of Metro in **Mumbai** will be completed by **2026** and by **2031** one crore commuters are expected to use the Metro network.

### Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launched the new phase of Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Health Insurance Scheme

- Chief Minister of Rajasthan **Ashok Gehlot** launched the new phase of **Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojana (AB-MGRSBY)**. Under this scheme, **1 crore 10 lakh** families of the state will get the benefit of health insurance. The health insurance cover has been increased from **3,30,000** to **5,00,000** annually.

### Lucknow Metro became the first to sanitise coaches using ultraviolet rays

- The **Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC)** became the first metro in India to **use ultraviolet rays (UV)**. The UP Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) has taken inspiration from the New York Metro's experiment to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays.

### Union Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the 8<sup>th</sup> India International Silk Fair on a virtual portal

- Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles **Smriti Zubin Irani** virtually inaugurated the **8<sup>th</sup>** edition of the India **International Silk Fair**.
- The fair is considered to be **India's biggest silk fair** which is held under one roof on the **Indian Silk Export Promotion Council's** virtual platform.

### Union Sports Minister launched a reference material for anti-doping chemical testing synthesized by NDTL and NIPER

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijju** launched a breakthrough **reference material** for use in chemical testing in the field of anti-doping synthesized by collaborative efforts of the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** and **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)**, Guwahati.

**Union Education Minister addressed the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN India Hackathon**

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' addressed the inaugural ceremony of the ASEAN India Hackathon.
- This Hackathon will provide a unique opportunity to India and ASEAN under the broad themes of "Blue Economy" and "Education."
- ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon 2021 was launched by the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** in partnership with the **Union Ministry of Education**.

**Uttarakhand inaugurated a botanical garden named 'Shivalik Arboretum' to conserve 210 species of trees of the Shivalik range**

- A botanical garden named **Shivalik Arboretum**, conserving over **210 species** of trees found in the **Himalayas Shivalik range** was inaugurated in **Nainital**, Uttarakhand.
- **Shivalik Arboretum** aims to spread nature education among people so that they can feel an emotional connection with the trees and make them more active towards conservation.

**Vice President of India inaugurated the National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" in New Delhi**

- The Vice President of India, **Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" at **Dilli Haat, New Delhi**.
- The Aadi Mahotsav is a celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, and commerce.

**Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launched two schemes for college students and literary bodies**

- **Assam** Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched two schemes to provide monetary assistance to college students and literary bodies of the State.
- Under the **Pragyan Bharati scheme**, 3,26,046 college students were given **Rs. 1,500** each for purchasing textbooks, while a total of **Rs. 161 crores** was reimbursed for the free admission of 4 lakh eligible students.
- Under the second scheme **Bhasha Gourab**, Assam has provided 21 Sahitya Sabhas (literary bodies) with a total of **Rs. 43 crores** as a contribution towards their corpus funds. 600 writers have also got Rs. 50,000 each to help in their literary activities under this scheme.

**Amit Shah launched the 'Ayushman CAPF' scheme for Central Armed Police Forces in Guwahati, Assam**

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the "Ayushman CAPF" scheme. It will cover around 28 lakh personnel of **CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces)**, **Assam Rifles** and **National Security Guard (NSG)** and their families under the 'Ayushman Bharat: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB PM-JAY).

**Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Asia's biggest Aero show in Bengaluru, Karnataka**

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **13<sup>th</sup>** edition of the Aerospace and Defence exhibition at the **Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The **3-day** mega event took place for the first time in a **hybrid mode** due to COVID pandemic.
- The exhibition was held with **601 exhibitors**, including **523** from India and **78** from **14 foreign countries**. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) exhibited its **Aatmanirbhar Formation Flight** in the exhibition.

### **Bengaluru emerged as the world's fastest-growing technology ecosystem; Mumbai in the sixth spot**

- Research done by **London & Partners**, the Mayor of London's international trade and investment agency, has recognised **Bengaluru** as the fastest-growing mature technology ecosystem in the world since 2016.
- The report listed **Bengaluru** at the top as fastest growing, followed by **London, Munich, Berlin, and Paris**. These cities are then followed by **Mumbai**, which has been ranked sixth globally.

### **Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launched 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' Mission**

- Punjab Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** launched the '**Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai**' mission as part of the State's water supply campaign. The **mega surface water supply scheme** covers **85 villages** in the Moga district, 144 new water supply schemes for 172 villages, and 121 Arsenic & Iron removal plants.
- The scheme is funded by the **World Bank, Jal Jeevan Mission** of the Government of India, **NABARD**, and the State Budget of **Punjab**.

### **Karnataka Antibiotics, Aurobindo Pharma and Kinvan bagged 5 projects under the PLI scheme**

- The Central Government has announced the list of the first three companies — Hyderabad based **Aurobindo Pharma**, Mumbai based **Kinvan Pvt Ltd**, and public sector firm **Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals**, which have qualified for financial support under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for the promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical **Key Starting Materials (KSMs)**, drug intermediates and **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)**.

### **India's first wetland conservation centre came up in Chennai**

- The Union Government has announced to establish **India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)** on the occasion of World Wetland Day on 2 February.

### **India to host Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave**

- India will host the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers'** Conclave on the sidelines of Aero India 2021. The broad theme of the conclave is '**Enhanced Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean.**'

### **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the second LCA Tejas plant in Bengaluru**

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's second **LCA-Tejas production plant** in **Bengaluru**.
- Under the '**Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**', India is looking forward to increasing its defence manufacturing capabilities.

### **Chiefs of Air Staff Conclave at Bengaluru to promote Defence cooperation**

- The **Indian Air Force** hosted a **Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS)** Conclave at Air Force Station, **Yelahanka**. The Conclave will be a unique one where Chiefs of Air Staff from around **75 countries** would brainstorm and synergize their thoughts on current issues related to **aerospace power strategy** and **technological developments**.

### **India's first amputee clinic launched in Chandigarh**

- An '**amputee clinic**', the first of its kind in India to improve **amputation patient** care by providing a collection of services under one roof with significant coordination, was launched in **Chandigarh**.
- The clinic was formally inaugurated by Prof. **Jagat Ram, the Director of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)**.

### Punjab's first central water treatment plant started drinking water supply

- **Punjab** Government, with the help of the **World Bank**, has set up this plant at Daudhar village of **Moga**. Under this project, **21.52 cusecs** of water per second (50 MLD) is being treated from the Abohar Canal Branch, which is being supplied further to the people of **85 villages** through underground pipes.
- The project was developed by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, which will be responsible for the operation & maintenance of the project for the next **10 years**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Chauri Chaura' centenary celebrations in Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Chauri Chaura centenary** celebrations at Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, **Uttar Pradesh**. The day marks **100 years** of the 'Chauri Chaura' incident, a landmark event in the country's fight for independence.
- Prime Minister also released a **postal stamp** dedicated to the Chauri Chaura centenary during the event.

### Union Ministers jointly launch a unified web portal for monitoring the progress of GOBARDHAN activities

- Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Union Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Animal Husbandry Minister **Giriraj Singh**, Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, and Minister of State for Jal Shakti **Rattan Lal Kataria** jointly launched a unified web portal for monitoring the progress of **GOBARDHAN activities** across the nation.

### IRDAI issued guidelines on India's first standardised medical insurance policy for vector-borne diseases

- **India's first** standardised medical insurance policy **Mashak Rakshak** for **vector-borne diseases** is set to be a fixed-benefit one set to offer a maximum sum assured between **Rs. 10000** and **Rs. 2 lakhs** on diagnosis and hospitalization for diseases such as **dengue, malaria, chikungunya, and Zika fever**.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** announced the guidelines and has asked all general and health insurance companies to offer the **Mashak Rakshak** to customers starting **1 April 2021**.

### Uttar Pradesh's Shrawasti topped the NITI Aayog Aspirational District Ranking in December 2020

- **Shrawasti district** of **Uttar Pradesh** topped in the ranking of aspirational districts by Government thinktank **NITI Aayog** in December 2020. **Dhalai** (Tripura) and **Garhwa** (Jharkhand) were placed at the second and the third positions, respectively.
- The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by over **112 aspirational districts** across **six** developmental areas in December 2020.

### Andhra SEC launched the 'e-Watch' app designed to receive gram panchayat election-related complaints

- Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner **Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar** launched an '**e-Watch**' app specially designed to receive gram panchayat election-related complaints. He has also launched a **call centre** for receiving panchayat election-related complaints.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21 of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) inaugurated in New Delhi

- The inaugural function of the **2<sup>nd</sup> CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21** of the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was held in New Delhi. It is to enhance analysis and deepen understanding of **police personnel**.
- The mobile app "**Locate Nearest Police Station**" was also launched. This app will help various users, including **women commuters**, interstate travellers, domestic and foreign tourists, etc., especially during any emergency and has the facility to dial **112**.

### Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Switch Delhi' campaign to promote electric vehicles

- **Delhi** Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched the '**Switch Delhi**' campaign to promote **electric vehicles** and appealed to people to buy electric vehicles to **combat pollution** in the city.
- The Government has fixed an ambitious target of **25 percent** electric vehicles among the total vehicle registrations in **Delhi** by **2024**.

### Union Housing Ministry partnered with Zomato to take street food vendors' businesses online

- As part of Prime Minister Street Vendor's **Atma Nibhar Nidhi** (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** (MoHUA) has partnered with **Zomato** to empower **street food vendors** with digital technology and facilitate greater income-earning opportunities for them on the food-tech platform.
- MoHUA has also launched the mobile application for **PMSVANidhi se Samridhhi** for socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families to link them to various Central Government schemes.

### Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel virtually attended the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers' meeting

- The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** co-chaired the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers** with the Minister of Tourism of Cambodia **Dr. Thong Khon**, through video conferencing.

### Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first heliport of Assam in Majuli district

- Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the **first heliport** of the Assam in the **Majuli district**. The heliport has a facility for a simultaneous landing of three helicopters that was constructed at an expenditure of **Rs. 50 lakhs**.

### Assam Government distributed Rs. 3000 each to nearly 7.5 lakh people under the Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar scheme

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the **Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar** Mela in **Guwahati, Assam** as the Chief Guest.
- Assam Government will distribute financial assistance of **Rs. 3000** each to nearly **7.5 lakh** people belonging to tea garden areas under the Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar scheme.

### Himachal Pradesh became the first state to implement an e-cabinet

- **Himachal Pradesh** became the first state in India to make the end-to-end processing of the cabinet paperless by implementing an **e-cabinet application**.

### Union Jal Shakti Ministry launched a portal on Gobardhan scheme

- The Union **Jal Shakti Ministry** launched a unified portal on the '**Gobardhan**' scheme, an initiative aimed at managing **cattle** and **biodegradable** waste and also help enhance farmers' income.

- The **Gobardhan scheme** is being pursued as a priority programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission **Grameen - Phase 2**.

#### **Maharashtra Cabinet approved a new scheme for water conservation**

- **Maharashtra** Cabinet approved the implementation of the Chief Minister Water Conservation Programme, costing Rs. **1,340.75 crores**. Under the programme, water sources would be repaired, which will enhance the **State's irrigation capacity**.
- The new scheme aims at restoring the irrigation capacity by **fixing water sources**. The plan will be implemented from **April 2020** and will go on until **March 2023**.

#### **Union Environment Ministry approved the Lakhwar Electricity Project on the Yamuna river in Uttarakhand**

- Union Environment Ministry approved the **Lakhwar Electricity Project** on the **Yamuna river**. Six states will get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project. Its construction will provide **330 metric cusec** meters of additional water.
- Under this project, Uttarakhand will get **572.54 million** units of electricity every year.

#### **Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs revised the threshold for paid-up capital and turnover for small companies**

- The **Union Corporate Affairs Ministry** has revised the definition of small companies under the **Companies Act** by increasing their thresholds for paid-up capital from "**not exceeding Rs. 50 lakh**" to "**not exceeding Rs. 2 crores**" and turnover from "**not exceeding Rs. 2 crores**" to "**not exceeding Rs. 20 crores**".

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Bangladesh Film Festival 2021 held in Kolkata, West Bengal**

- The **3<sup>rd</sup> Bangladesh Film Festival 2021** was held in Kolkata, West Bengal. The 5-day long festival was inaugurated by the Information Minister of **Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud**.
- A film on the life of Prime Minister of Bangladesh '**Hasina: A Daughter's Tale**' was the inaugural film of the festival.

#### **Piyush Goyal co-chaired the first India-European high-level dialogue on trade and investment**

- The first India-European **High-Level Dialogue** (HLD) was co-chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** and the European Union Executive Vice-President and Trade Commissioner **Valdis Dombrovskis**.

#### **PM Narendra Modi launched 'Asom Mala' and laid the foundation stone of two hospitals in Assam**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of two hospitals and launched '**Asom Mala**', a programme for state highways and major district roads, at Dhekiajuli in **Sonitpur District, Assam**.

#### **President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated a museum dedicated to the pride of General Thimayya in Karnataka**

- President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated a museum dedicated to former Army Chief General **Kodandera Subayya Thimayya** in **Kodagu, Karnataka**.
- The **war diary** preserved inside the museum narrates the stories of various wars fought by the **Indian military**.

### Kerala's first human milk bank set up at Ernakulam General Hospital

- The first human milk bank in the state has started functioning at the **Ernakulam General Hospital**. Health Minister of Kerala **KK Shailaja** inaugurated the scheme called 'nectar of life' via video conferencing.
- It will be provided **free of cost** to only the babies admitted to the **neonatal intensive care unit** of the hospital.

### India's first geothermal power project is set to be established at Puga village, Eastern Ladakh

- India's first geothermal power project will be established at **Puga village** of **Eastern Ladakh**. Puga has been identified as the hotspot of **geothermal energy** in the country by scientists.
- In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of this project, a **1 MW** power generation capacity will be generated. The **Geothermal Field Development Project** is planned to commission by the end of **2022**.

### Madhya Pradesh Government launched 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality

- The Health Department of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched Social Awareness and Action to **Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)** campaign with the aim of reducing infant mortality due to pneumonia.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 348-km Dobhi-Durgapur natural gas pipeline in Haldia, West Bengal

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Catalytic Dewaxing Unit** at Haldia Refinery of IOC Ltd. The unit is estimated to be built with Rs. **1,019 crores** and is expected to be completed by **April 2023**.
- He will be dedicating a 348-kilometre long Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline built with an investment of Rs. **2,400 crores** as a part of the **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga** project towards achieving 'One Nation, One Gas Grid.'

### PM Narendra Modi unveiled a postage stamp on the Diamond Jubilee of the Gujarat High Court

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended a virtual conference held on the occasion of the **Diamond Jubilee** of the **Gujarat High Court**. A commemorative **postage stamp** released by the **Dak Bhawan** for this occasion was unveiled by the PM during the conference.

### Delhi Cabinet approved the Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha Scholarship Scheme

- The **Delhi** cabinet approved the '**Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha**' in which **Rs. 5,000** will be provided to **Rs. 1,000** meritorious students of **Class 9** in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship.
- The scholarship will provide a boost to **science education** in secondary classes at the **school level**.

### Haryana and Switzerland agreed to share expertise in skill training, tourism and dairying

- **Haryana** and **Switzerland** have agreed to share their expertise in the fields of **skill training, tourism** and **dairying**, besides exploring the possibilities of signing MoUs for the **teacher-student** and **cultural exchange** programmes so as to further strengthen the bilateral ties between Switzerland and India, particularly with **Haryana**.

### Manipur CM Biren Singh launched a new range of packaged organic products and LoumiConnect App

- **Manipur** Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** launched a new range of packaged organic products and **LoumiConnect app** apart from distributing **Bolero Camper vehicles** and nurseries to seven **Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs)** in a function organized jointly by the Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation and **Eastern Border Areas Development Authority (EBADA)**.

### Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve became the 5<sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu** Government passed an order for creating the **fifth tiger reserve** in the state and the **51<sup>st</sup>** in the country. The **Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve** will span the forests of the Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, and the **Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary** spread across the districts of **Theni, Virudhunagar** and **Madurai**.

### Uttar Pradesh Government announced a unique 16-digit Unicode to identify landholdings

- **Uttar Pradesh** Government has introduced a system of issuing a unique **16-digit Unicode** to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state.
- The digits from **11 to 14** will be the number of the **division of the land**. The last **2 digits** will have the details of the category through which the agricultural, residential, and commercial land will be identified.

### A five-day national horticulture fair was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- The five-day **National Horticulture Fair 2021** was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The fair was organized by the **Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR)** at the Institute's **Hessarghatta campus** on the outskirts of Bengaluru city.
- The theme of the event is '**For Start-up and Stand-up India.**'

### Union Cabinet approved Grant-in-aid of Rs.100 crores to the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Assam

- The Cabinet Committee on **Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** accorded approval to the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Grant-in-aid of **Rs. 100 crores** to the **Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup** (Assam) to sustain operations of its urea manufacturing units.

### Prime Minister inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **World Sustainable Development Summit 2021** via video conferencing. The theme of the summit is '**Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All.**'

### Gujarat Government to set up Indian Institute of Skills in Gandhinagar

- The Gujarat Government is setting up an **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS)** at Nasmed village in the **Gandhinagar district** of Gujarat. The Gujarat Labour and Employment Department is setting up the institute in collaboration with the **Tata Group** on a not-for-profit PPP (**Public-private partnership**) model.

### Odisha's Balasore is set to get the country's first thunderstorm research testbed: India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** is set to establish India's first thunderstorm research testbed in **Balasore, Odisha**. The objective of setting up the thunderstorm testbed is to reduce **human fatalities** and **loss of property** due to lightning strikes.

### FSSAI's capped Trans Fatty Acid to 2% in all oils and fats by January 2022

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has restricted the permissible amount of industrial **Trans Fatty Acid (TFA)** in food products to **2 per cent** from **2022**. The recent amendment of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 will come into effect from 1 **January 2022**.
- Currently, the permissible limit for trans fats in food products in **2021** is **3 percent**, cut down from the previous limit of **5 percent**.

### India will get a 6.4% average salary increase in 2021:

- Salaries in **India** are projected to rise by an average of **6.4%** in **2021**, translating to a median increase of **7%**. The increase is marginally larger than the precise average increase of **5.9%** in **2020**.

### Union Ministry of Textiles' first-ever India Toy Fair 2021 was held virtually

- The Union Government launched the website of the "**India Toy Fair 2021**" through the virtual mode from 27 **February** to 2 **March 2021**. India Toy fair is to boost the **toy manufacturing industry** in India and for improving its global market share in line with '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' and '**Get Vocal for Local**' campaigns.

### Naveen Patnaik launched infra projects worth over Rs. 28 crores in the Ganjam district of Odisha

- Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** virtually inaugurated development projects worth over **Rs. 28 crores** in the **Hinjili Municipal Council** area of the **Ganjam district** of **Odisha**.

### India's First Museum of Illusions came up in Delhi

- **Museum of Illusions** is a mind-bending "**edutainment**" experience where guests enter the fascinating world of mental deception, which was opened to the public.
- It is the **1<sup>st</sup> Indian** outpost and **30<sup>th</sup>** location for the rapidly expanding museum of illusions brand that started in **Zagreb, Croatia**, in **2015**.

### Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers approval accorded under the PLI Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices

- **Department of Pharmaceuticals** had launched a **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of **Medical Devices** to ensure a level playing field for the domestic manufacturers of with a total financial outlay of **Rs.3,420 cr.** for the period **2020-21** medical devices to **2027-28**.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched India's first CNG tractor

- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched India's first **CNG tractor**. It can help the farmers save over **Rs. 1 lakh** annually on **fuel costs**. The diesel-converted CNG tractor is currently an experimental **pilot project**.

### Goa became the 6<sup>th</sup> state to complete Urban Local Bodies reforms (ULB) and an allowed additional borrowing of Rs. 223 crores

- **Goa** has become the **6<sup>th</sup>** state in the country to successfully undertake **Urban Local Bodies (ULB)** reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, **Ministry of Finance**.
- Goa has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of **Rs. 223 crores** through open market borrowings. Goa has joined five other states, namely, **Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan**, and **Telangana**, who have completed ULB reforms.

### National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) aims to achieve the goal of 'Sweet Revolution' as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

- The Government has approved the allocation for **Rs. 500 crores** for the **National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)** for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23) as part of the **AtmaNirbhar Bharat scheme**.
- NBHM aims for the overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country to achieve the goal of '**Sweet Revolution**', which is being implemented through the **National Bee Board (NBB)**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **29<sup>th</sup>** edition of the **NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum (NTLF)** via video conferencing. It is the flagship event of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).
- The theme of this year's event is '**Shaping the future towards a better normal.**'

### World Bank signs project worth \$100 million to support Nutrition-Supportive Agriculture in Tribal-Dominated Areas of Chhattisgarh

- The Government of **India** and **the World Bank** signed a **\$100 million CHIRAAG** project to develop **sustainable production systems** that allow tribal households in remote areas of **Chhattisgarh** to practice round-the-year production of **diversified and nutritious food**.
- The **CHIRAAG (Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth)** project will benefit over 180,000 households from about 1,000 villages in eight districts of **Chhattisgarh**.

### A three-day Annual Convention of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India was held in Kevadia, Gujarat

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture **Prahlad Singh Patel** virtually inaugurated the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of **Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India (ADTOI)** that was held in **Kevadia, Gujarat**.
- The theme of the 3-day Annual convention is '**Domestic Tourism – Hope for the revival- Dekho Apna Desh.**'

### Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures in Madhya Pradesh under the 'Jalabhishekam' campaign

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** virtually inaugurated more than **57,000 water structures** constructed in **Madhya Pradesh** under the '**Jalabhishekam**' campaign from **New Delhi**. Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** also attended the program virtually organised in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chauhan** at Bhopal.

### 'COVID Warrior Memorial' is set to be built at Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

- Health and Family Welfare Department of **Odisha** announced to build a '**COVID-19 Warrior Memorial**' at a portion of the **Biju Patnaik Park** in **Bhubaneswar** to recognise the sacrifice and service rendered by COVID-19 warriors. The State Government of **Odisha** has set a target to complete the COVID Warrior Memorial by **August 15, 2021**.

### Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of **Chittaura Lake** in **Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh**.

### Prime Minister Modi handed over indigenously designed and manufactured Arjun Main Battle Tank to the Indian Army

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has undertaken a massive effort to become self-reliant in the **defence sector**. The Prime Minister handed over the indigenously designed and manufactured **Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A)** to the Army.
- It has been indigenously designed and manufactured by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled several development projects worth Rs. 6100 crores in Kerala

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unveiled several key development projects worth Rs. **6,100 crores** at **INS Garuda Naval Air Station at Kochi, Kerala**.
- Prime Minister also inaugurated the country's first full-fledged **international cruise terminal, Sagarika**, at Cochin Port and Marine Engineering Training Institute of **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**.
- Modi also dedicated to the nation the **Ro-Ro Vessels** at **Willingdon Islands** in **Kochi**.

### Centre allowed all types of steel to be used for highway construction

- **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has issued orders that all types of steel (**ore, billets, pellets, or melting of scrap**) will be allowed for the construction of highways in the country.
- This aims to reduce the costs through the use of **new technology, reducing restrictions** on suppliers, and making the procurement **system transparent**.

### Union Ministry of AYUSH implemented holistic treatment under AYUSH

- **Union Ministry of AYUSH** implemented the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **National AYUSH Mission (NAM)** through State/UT Governments and provided financial assistance to them as per the proposals submitted through their respective **State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs)**.

### Union Minority Affairs Ministry organised the 26<sup>th</sup> Hunar Haat at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi

- **Union Minority Affairs Ministry** organised the **26<sup>th</sup> Hunar Haat** of indigenous artisans and craftsmen from across the country at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** in New Delhi.
- Hunar Haat will also be available at virtual and online platforms **www.hunarhaat.org** and on **GeM Portal**. It was held under the theme of '**Vocal for Local**.'

### 11<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' inaugurated at Cooch Behar, West Bengal

- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** inaugurated the **11<sup>th</sup> Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav** at **Cooch Behar Palace** in **West Bengal**. Governor of West Bengal **Jagdeep Dhankhar** was also present at the event.
- The flagship festival has been instrumental in showcasing folk and tribal **art, dance, music, cuisines & culture** of one state in other states, reinforcing the cherished goal of "**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**" and at the same time providing an effective platform to the **artists and artisans** to support their livelihood.

### Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of key projects of oil & gas sector in Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation the **Ramanathapuram–Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline** and **Gasoline Desulphurisation Unit** at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Manali. He also **laid the foundation stone** of the **Cauvery Basin Refinery at Nagapattinam**.

### Uttar Pradesh Government launched the “Abhyuday scheme” to provide free coaching to aspirants of different competitive exams

- **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** Yogi Adityanath virtually launched **Abhyuday Yojna** to provide **free coaching for exams like IIT-JEE and NEET** students at the district level.
- He also interacted with 50,192 students selected under this scheme. Initially, coaching centres will be set up at the divisional level, followed by the district level in the second phase.

### West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee launched ‘Maa’ scheme to provide meals at ₹5 to poor people

- **Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee** launched “**Maa**” canteens for providing subsidised meals to the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of **Rs. 5** a plate.
- The Government will give a subsidy of **Rs. 15** and people will have to pay **Rs. 5**. The kitchens will be run by self-help groups.

### Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan under Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban (JJM-U)

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a **Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan** under **Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban (JJM-U)**. Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs **Durga Shanker Mishra** stated that it will be conducted in cities to ascertain the equitable **distribution of water, reuse of wastewater, and mapping of water bodies** with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenging process.
- Union Ministry has decided to launch the Survekshan in **10 cities**- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat, and Tumkur.

### Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first route of the Kochi Water Metro project

- Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the first route (Vytila-Kakkanad) of the **Rs. 747-crore Kochi Water Metro project**, the **Panamkutty bridge** at Pettah, and also launched the **Rs. 1,528-crore Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System** through video conferencing.

### ICGE-II became the first Government event in Kerala to be carbon-neutral

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the **International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II)** has become the first Government event in **Kerala** to be **carbon-neutral** by ensuring that a **3-day** event met globally acknowledged environmental credentials with accuracy and transparency.

### Maharashtra Government signed an MoU with Flipkart to promote craftsmen and local artisans

- E-commerce marketplace **Flipkart** has partnered with **Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation** and **Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board** to bring local artisans and small as well as medium businesses into the **e-commerce fold**.

### Indian Economic Trade Organization signed an MoU with Karnataka for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The Government of **Karnataka** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO)** to work closely to implement the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in the state in a much effective manner and expanding the scope of the **sustainable future**.

### Madhya Pradesh hosted the Khajuraho Dance Festival and Mandu Festival

- **Madhya Pradesh** hosted the three-day famous **Mandu Festival** in the historic town of Dhar district on 13-14 February. **Khajuraho Dance Festival 2021** was organised from 20-26 February by **Ustad Allaiddin Khan Sangeet & Kala Academy** in the famous temple town of **Khajuraho**.



- **Dino Adventure Park** and **Fossils Museum** was also inaugurated by the Madhya Pradesh Culture and Tourism minister **Usha Thakur**.

### **IIT Bombay launched a fundraising campaign 'Cherish IIT Bombay 2021'**

- **IIT Bombay** launched its first-ever annual fundraising campaign in India, '**Cherish IIT Bombay 2021**'. As per information shared by the IIT, the funds will be used for the creation of **world-class laboratory complexes**, modernization of lecture halls, and continuation of awards to attract and retain faculty.

### **Prime Minister Modi launched the 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative and several development projects in Assam**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Mahabahu-Brahmaputra** initiative and laid foundation stones of **one bridge** and performed a ground-breaking ceremony (bhumi puja) of another in **Assam**.
- The launch of '**Mahabahu-Brahmaputra**' will be marked by the inauguration of **Ro-Pax** (roll-on/roll-off passenger service) vessel operations.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Convocation of Visva-Bharati**

- PM Modi addressed the **Convocation of Visva-Bharati** through **video conferencing**. **West Bengal** Governor and **Rector of Visva-Bharati**, Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** were also present on the occasion.

### **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences invited suggestions on Draft Blue Economy Policy for India**

- Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has invited suggestions on the **Draft Blue Economy Policy** for India. The Draft **Blue Economy** Policy document **outlines the vision and strategy** that can be adopted by the Government to utilize the oceanic resources available in the country.

### **Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually released the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the ISL (Indian Sign Language) Dictionary**

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** virtually released the **third edition** of the **Indian Sign Language Dictionary** having 10 thousand terms. the efforts of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre

### **Jal Jeevan Mission reached a milestone of 3.53 Crore rural households tap water connections**

- The Jal Jeevan Mission has reached a **new milestone by providing 3 crore 53 lakh** rural household tap water connections. The **mission** was announced by **PM Modi** in **2019** to provide a tap water connection to **every rural household by 2024**.
- **Goa** has become the first state in the country to provide **100 per cent** tap water connection, followed by **Telangana**.

### **Union Cabinet approved the production-linked incentive scheme for the telecom sector**

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme for the telecom sector. As per Union Electronics and IT Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad**, the production-linked incentive worth **Rs. 12,195 crores** has been cleared for the telecom sector.

### **Karnataka is set to get its first wolf sanctuary at Bankapur**

- **Karnataka** is set to get its first **Indian Grey Wolf sanctuary** in the **Koppal district** of the **Kalyana-Karnataka region**. A proposal to **declare 822.03 acres** of forest area as '**Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary**' is expected to come up for approval of the Karnataka Wildlife Board, led by Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa**.

### National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched an instant messaging platform called 'Sandes' on the lines of WhatsApp

- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has launched an instant messaging platform called "**Sandes.**"
- Although there is no option to transfer the chat history between two platforms, the chats on **Government Instant Messaging Systems (GIMS)** can be backed up to a users' email.

### Prime Minister Modi chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog virtually

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **sixth** meeting of the Governing Council of **NITI Aayog** via video conferencing. The meeting witnessed the entry of Ladakh for the **1<sup>st</sup>** time in addition to **Jammu & Kashmir**.

### Kerala launched 'Snakepedia' mobile app to help people treat snake bites

- **Snakepedia** is a comprehensive android mobile application that documents information on snakes with the help of **pictures, infographics, and podcasts** and analyses its first **aid, treatment, myths, and superstitions**.

### Odisha Government announced Rs. 200-crore Development Package for Maa Samaleswari Temple

- **Odisha** Government announced **Samaleswari Temple Area Management & Local Economy Initiatives (SAMALEI)** plan to offer a divine experience to tourists & devotees. The project to be carried out under **MoSarkar5T** will focus on the beautification of the **temple & the economic development** of local people.

### Union Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the inaugural ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> India Tourism Mart

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** virtually addressed the inaugural ceremony of the **third India Tourism Mart**, organized by the **Federation of Associations in India Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH)**.
- **India** has embarked on the **world's largest immunization programme** against COVID.

### Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- The **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0** was conducted in **pre-identified 250 districts/urban areas** across 29 States/UTs in the country. **IMI 3.0** will be for the **children and pregnant women** who have missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the 'Shauryanjali' programme

- Union Home Minister **Amit shah** attended the '**Shauryanjali Programme**', which is a tribute to icons of **Bengal** at the **National Library** and motivated youth to read about the life of Netaji.
- He also inaugurated an **exhibition** showing the **indomitable courage and valour of the revolutionaries of Bengal**.

### Union Agriculture Ministry gets DGCA nod to use drones for yield estimation in 100 districts

- The **Union Agriculture Ministry** has been permitted to **use drones** for **remote sensing data collection** under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
- The **Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has granted conditional exemption for **Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)** usage to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW).

**Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Atal Paryavaran Bhavan**

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change **Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated the **Atal Paryavaran Bhavan** in **Lakshadweep**.

**Kerala Government sanctions Rs. 9 crores to build 'smart' anganwadis**

- Under the **Smart Anganwadi scheme**, the Kerala Department of **Women and Child Development** has granted **48 anganwadis** in the state to construct new buildings.
- The **smart anganwadis** are being designed and constructed as part of the **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)**. The main aim is to make the facility more **child-friendly** to nurture the **mental** and **physical** development of **children**.

**Kerala Government is set to host the 7<sup>th</sup> annual folk-art festival 'Utsavam 2021'**

- **Kerala's** rich and diverse folk and ritualistic art traditions in **30 venues** across the state, the **7-day** annual cultural festival '**Utsavam 2021**' is to get off to a colourful start.

**Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the 3 days Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop in Darjeeling**

- The Union Ministry of Tourism's **India tourism Kolkata, Regional Office (East)** has organised the **Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop** workshop in association with **Eastern Himalayas Travel** and Tour Operator Association (Resource Partner) and IIAS School of Management (Knowledge Partner) to enrich the hospitality skill of **homestay owners** to ensure a better experience for the tourists.

**Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal dedicated 88 Railway projects to the Nation worth Rs. 1,000 crores**

- Union Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** virtually inaugurated and dedicated a host of infrastructure projects, projects related to **passenger amenities** and **facilities** at various railway stations in **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka**.
- **88 Railway projects** were dedicated to the nation worth more than **Rs. 1000 crores** making Indian Railways future-ready.

**Union Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the 'Population versus Planet' Conference**

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** participated and expressed his views in **WION** and Zee Media's '**Population versus Planet**' Conference, which is a part of its year-long campaign called '**Mission Sustainability: Population versus Planet**.'

**Prime Minister inaugurated Syama Prasad Mookerjee Institute of Medical Sciences And Research at IIT Kharagpur**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Syama Prasad Mookerjee** Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at **IIT Kharagpur** and addressed the **66<sup>th</sup>** Convocation of **IIT Kharagpur** through video conferencing.

**Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a Webinar on 'International Mother Language Day'**

- Vice President of India **Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated a Webinar on the occasion of '**International Mother Language Day**' (21 February 2021).
- The Webinar on '**Fostering Multilingualism for Inclusion in Education and Society**' was being organised jointly by the Union **Ministry of Education**, Union Ministry of **Culture** and **IGNCA** (Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts).

### Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma announced a corpus of Rs. 125 crores to help Meghalayan entrepreneurs

- Chief Minister **Conrad Sangma** announced that a corpus fund of **Rs. 125 crores** will be constituted over the next **2 years** as **PRIME Fund** to aid the efforts of the entrepreneurs of **Meghalaya**.
- The Chief Minister announced this while addressing the **PRIME Entrepreneurship Awards** held at the Convention Centre.

### Uttarakhand became the first state to give co-ownership rights to women in husband's ancestral property

- **Uttarakhand** Government has passed an ordinance to give land ownership rights to **daughters** and **wives** of male landowners by amending the **Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act**.
- The ordinance aims to provide **economic independence** to women who are left behind and are dependent on **agriculture** to sustain themselves.

### Goa Shipyard to build Navy's Damage Control Simulator in Port Blair, Andaman Nicobar

- A state-of-the-art **Damage Control Simulator (DCS)** for the **Indian Navy** will be set up in **Port Blair**. Lt. Gen. **Manoj Pande**, Commander-in-Chief, **Andaman and Nicobar** Command, laid the foundation stone for the project.
- **Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL)** will build ship simulators for damage control. It has already built **six simulators** of various types for the defence forces and recently exported **one simulator** to a neighbouring country.

### Uttar Pradesh is set to export 20 tonnes of 'Kala Namak' rice to Singapore

- Uttar Pradesh is set to send a consignment of **20 tonnes** of **Buddha Rice**, popularly known as "**Kala Namak**" Rice, one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice in India, to **Singapore** from Siddharth Nagar by the end of **March 2021**.
- In order to promote the production, processing, packaging, and branding of **Kala Namak Rice**, the UP Government has declared it as the **One District One Product (ODOP)** of Siddharth Nagar, whereas the Central Government has announced it as the ODOP of **Basti, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj** and **Sant Kabir Nagar** as well.

### National Anthem played in Nagaland assembly for the first time in almost 6 decades

- The **National Anthem** was played in the Northeastern state of **Nagaland** for the **first time** in February, almost **60 years** after it attained statehood.
- The National Anthem was played before and after the address of Governor **RN Ravi** on the Budget session of the Assembly began. Ravi is also the interlocutor for peace talks with militant outfits, including **NSCN (National Socialist Council of Nagaland)**.

### Union Ministry of External Affairs launched 'Digilocker' Platform for Passport Seva

- Union Minister **Muraleedharan** inaugurated the "**DigiLocker**" platform for the "**Passport Seva Programme**." It would enable **citizens** to submit the documents required for **passport services** in a **paperless mode**, and they would not be required to carry the **original documents**.

### Indian Oil signed an agreement with Norway's Greenstat for the center of excellence on hydrogen

- **Indian Oil** has signed a preliminary agreement with Norway's **Greenstat** to set up a **centre of excellence** on **hydrogen**. The centre of excellence on hydrogen will be a vehicle for promoting **R&D projects** in **green and blue hydrogen** between **Norwegian** and **Indian** Research & Development institutions/universities.

### **NTPC set to launch Hydrogen Fuel Bus Service on Delhi-Jaipur Route**

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways **Nitin Gadkari**, along with **R. K. Singh**, the Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, announced the plan for the upcoming bus service during the **"Go Electric" campaign** to spread awareness on the benefits of **e-mobility** and **EV Charging** infrastructure as well as electric cooking in India.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated important oil & gas projects and Engineering Colleges in Assam**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation **INDMAX Unit** at **Indian Oil's Bongaigaon Refinery**, Oil India Limited's Secondary Tank Farm at **Madhuban, Dibrugarh**, and a Gas Compressor Station at **Hebeda village, Makum, Tinsukia** in **Assam**.

### **10<sup>th</sup> National Awards for Technology Innovation in Petrochemicals & Downstream Plastics Processing Industries' presented**

- Union Minister of Chemical & Fertilizers **DV Sadananda Gowda** presented the **10<sup>th</sup> National Awards for Technology Innovation in Petrochemicals & Downstream Plastics Processing Industry**.
- The award is aimed at felicitating and recognising the innovative efforts of renowned **scientists, researchers, and industrialists** in the broad areas of Polymer Science and Technologies.

### **Karnataka to host the second Khelo India University Games 2021**

- Union Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has announced that the **second Khelo India University Games** will be hosted by **Karnataka. Khelo India University Games – The largest university games** in the country scheduled later this year will be held in **Bengaluru** in partnership with the **Association of Indian Universities**.

### **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the DRDO skill development centre for Fire Safety Training in Uttar Pradesh**

- The facility was created by the **Centre for Fire, Explosive, and Environment Safety (CFEES)**, a **Delhi**-based DRDO laboratory. It is aimed at developing trained **human resources, fire safety technology**, and products to save precious **human lives** and **valued assets**.

### **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal headed the 54<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of IITs**

- Union Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** chaired the **54<sup>th</sup> meeting** of the **Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** through virtual mode.
- Ramesh Pokhriyal also urged IITs to adopt the **One IIT - One Thrust Area** approach based on local needs. Digital Transformation using Blockchain, **AI, ML**, and **Cloud Computing** at IITs also came up for discussion during the meeting.

### **12 companies were selected for the prestigious National Technology Awards 2020 for commercialisation of innovative indigenous technologies**

- A total of **12 companies** have been selected for the **National Technology Awards 2020** for the successful commercialisation of innovative indigenous technologies.
- They have been selected under **three categories**, i.e. **indigenous technologies, MSME, and start-ups**.

### **Ayodhya airport of Uttar Pradesh to be named after Lord Ram**

- The under-construction **airport** in **Ayodhya** will be named **Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport**, Ayodhya, after Lord Ram and a provision of **Rs. 101 crores** has been made for it in the budget presented in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 50 SFURTI clusters in 18 states for supporting artisans in traditional crafts

- Union Minister for **MSME, Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari**, inaugurated **50 artisan-based SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) clusters**, spread over **18 States**.

### President Ram Nath Kovind attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> convocation ceremony of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> convocation ceremony of the **Central University of Gujarat** at **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar**. The President delivered the convocation address and conferred **degrees** and **medals** to the passing out students.

### India's first digital university to be set up in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- **Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (KUDSIT)** (also known as Digital University Kerala), the **15<sup>th</sup>** university in the State, formally came into being at **Technocity** in **Mangalapuram** of **Thiruvananthapuram district**.

### WE HUB inks an MoU with Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute to promote entrepreneurship

- India's first and only state-led incubator, **WE HUB** by the Government of **Telangana** to foster and promote women's entrepreneurship, signed an MoU with **Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI)** to boost the **entrepreneurship** and **start-up ecosystem**.

### Tripura received the first-of-its-kind road constructed using non-recyclable plastic waste

- In a first-ever initiative in **Tripura**, the state has started using **non-recyclable plastic waste** in the construction of roads to **reduce plastic waste** and make the environment **plastic-free**.
- Tripura Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb** stated that this is for the **first time** in **Tripura** that waste plastic was collected, recycled, and used in constructing a **680-meter-long** road.

### IKEA signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Government to invest Rs. 5,500 crore in Noida

- Swedish furniture giant **IKEA** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Uttar Pradesh** Government for sealing an investment deal of **Rs. 5,500 crores** in the coming **five years** to generate employment for thousands of people in the state.

### Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved proposals worth Rs. 13,700 crores

- **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, under the chairmanship of Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, has approved capital acquisition proposals of various **weapons/platforms/systems** required by the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force**.

### Government of India & AIIB signed an agreement for \$304 million to improve power sectors in the state of Assam

- The total estimated cost of the project is **\$365 million**, of which **\$304 million** will be financed by the AIIB, while the counterpart funding from the Government of Assam is **\$61 million**. The \$304 million loan from the AIIB has a **5-year** grace period and a maturity of **24 years**.

### National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) & several digital initiatives for transforming urban governance were launched by Hardeep Singh Puri

- Union Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** stated that '**National Urban Digital Mission**' will create the ideal space to harness immense synergies from the domain of **urban and technology** towards

creating citizen-centric governance that reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'minimum government and maximum governance'.

He also launched other initiatives:

- **National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)**
- **India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)**
- **SmartCode Platform**
- **New Smart Cities Website ver. 2.0 and GMIS**

#### **Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar headed the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council**

- The 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the **Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)**, constituted held under **Section 10** of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005**.

#### **President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the world's largest stadium at Motera, Ahmedabad**

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** formally inaugurated the **world's largest cricket stadium** at **Motera, Ahmedabad** in Gujarat. The stadium has been renamed the '**Narendra Modi Stadium**'.
- It is all set to make history by hosting the **day-night pink ball** test match between India and England.

#### **Union Minister of Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar chaired the 184<sup>th</sup> meeting of ESIC**

- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** has taken several significant decisions to improve its service delivery mechanism and to strengthen the medical infrastructure benefiting its insured workers during the **184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ESIC**, which was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour and Employment **Santosh Kumar Gangwar**.

#### **Centre's farmers' welfare scheme 'PM-KISAN' completes two years**

- The second anniversary of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** was celebrated on 24 February 2021. The scheme was formally launched on **24 February 2019** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at a function in **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Under the **PM-KISAN Scheme**, an amount of Rs. **6000 per year** is transferred in three installments of Rs. **2000** directly into the bank accounts of the farmers.

#### **Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs signed an MoU with CBIC for the exchange of data to enhance Ease of Doing Business in India**

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** have signed an MoU for the **exchange of data** for enhancing the ease of doing business in India and improve overall **regulatory enforcement**.

#### **Union Cabinet approved President's rule in Puducherry**

- Union Minister **Prakash Javadekar** stated that the decision was taken as no party claimed to form a Government following the **resignation** of Chief Minister **V Narayanasamy**.
- According to **Article 356**, President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the **failure** of the constitutional machinery.

#### **Indian Army is set to procure Augmented Reality Head-Mounted Display (ARHMD) Systems**

- The **Indian Army** is in the process of acquiring **niche technology** by procuring 556 **Augmented Reality Head Mounted Display (ARHMD) systems** under the **Make-II category** as per a statement by the **Indian army**.

- After successful evaluation of vendor responses, **Project Sanction Order (PSO)** has been issued to **six vendors** to start developing the prototype.

#### Uttar Pradesh Assembly approved a bill prohibiting religious conversion

- The Uttar Pradesh **Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Bill, 2021**, was passed after a **voice vote** in the State Assembly.
- The draft law will replace an existing ordinance and will now be sent to the **Upper House of the Assembly**.
- The ordinance, "**Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance**," was promulgated on 24 **November 2020**.

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second edition of the Maritime India Summit virtually

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the **Maritime India summit 2021**. The summit was organised by the **Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** through a virtual platform (**ww.maritimeindiasummit.in.**) to promote both international and domestic investment in the **ports and maritime sector**.

#### ICAR-CCARI and Goa signed an MoU for the manufacturing of Nutmeg Pericarp Taffy

- A Memorandum of Agreement (**MoA**) was signed between **ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CCARI)**, Goa and **Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)**, Goa, for **commercialization** of ICAR-CCARI's technology "Process for manufacturing of Nutmeg Pericarp Taffy" at ICAR-CCARI, Old **Goa**. This licensing agreement is valid for **five years**.

#### Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the ICOLD Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins

- **The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)** Symposium on **Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins** was inaugurated by **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Union Minister for Jal Shakti as Chief Guest and **R.K. Singh**, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, presided over the Opening Ceremony.

#### Indian Navy signed a contract With M/S Secon For the acquisition of eight missile cum ammunition barge

- A contract for the construction of **8 Missile Cum Ammunition Barges (MCA)** has been concluded with M/s SECON, Visakhapatnam, an MSME.
- The Missile Cum Ammunition Barges will be inducted into the **Indian Navy** to undertake the mission needs for embarking/ disembarking Missile, Gunnery, and ASW Ammunition.

#### Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar distributed awards to top-performing states and districts under the PM-KISAN scheme

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Food Processing Industries **Narendra Singh Tomar** awarded the **top-performing states** and districts for their exemplary work concerning the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme (PM-KISAN)**.
- **Karnataka** was awarded for adding the highest percentage of **Aadhar authenticated beneficiaries**.
- Maharashtra got the award for **Good Performance** in **Physical verification** and **Grievance Redressal**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** was awarded for the **fastest take-off** of the PM Kisan Scheme.



### Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 36<sup>th</sup> PRAGATI meeting

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **36<sup>th</sup> PRAGATI** meeting and reviewed **8 projects** worth **Rs. 44,545 crores**. In the meeting, **ten agenda** items were taken up for review, including **eight projects**, grievance relating to one scheme, and one programme.
- These eight projects with a cumulative cost of about **Rs. 44,545 crores** pertained to **12 states** viz., West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Meghalaya.

### Five toilets is set to be opened in Kochi under the 'Take a Break' programme

- **Five** of the **237 toilets** proposed at public spaces under the **'Take a Break'** programme initiated jointly by the district administration, **Suchitwa Mission**, and local bodies will be opened in the Kochi.
- The proposed toilets will be either newly constructed or renovated, and the project is likely to be completed during the **2021-22 financial year**.

### Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami laid the foundation stone of infrastructure projects

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi K Palaniswami** unveiled several **infrastructure projects** via video conference at the Secretariat. He also laid the foundation for hospital buildings and a **food park**.

### Prime Minister Modi addressed the 33<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **33<sup>rd</sup> Convocation** of the **Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University** via video conferencing. A total of **17,591 candidates** will be conferred with Degrees and Diplomas in the Convocation. **Banwarilal Purohit**, Governor of Tamil Nadu, was also be present on the occasion.

### India Army likely to start using SAI for internal communications from 1 April

- **Indian Army** is likely to start using **SAI (Secure Application for Internet)**, a messaging platform, for internal communications. The application, developed by **Colonel Sai Shankar**, is undergoing the process of getting **cyber and security clearance** and data testing.

### Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated the **1000 MW Neyveli New Thermal Power** Project and **709 MW Solar Power Project of NLC India Limited** to the nation.
- He inaugurated the **8-laning** of **Korampallam Bridge** and **Rail Over Bridge (ROB)** at VO Chidambaranar Port and the tenements constructed under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** scheme.

### Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Khelo India National Winter Games virtually

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** delivered the inaugural address at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Khelo India National Winter Games** virtually. The event has been organised by the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in collaboration with the **J&K Sports Council** and the **Winter Games Association of J&K**.

### Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects in Puducherry

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for the **4-laning** of **NH45-A** covering **Karaikal district** and Medical College Building at Karaikal New Campus - Phase I, Karaikal district (JIPMER).

- He also laid the foundation stone for the development of **Minor Port** at **Puducherry** under the **Sagarmala Scheme** and **Synthetic Athletic Track**, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, **Puducherry**.

#### **Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the inaugural session of 'National Consultation on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India'**

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually addressed the inaugural session of the 'National Consultation on Opportunities and Challenges for **Bamboo** in India.' The 2-day long Manthan on Bamboo sector is jointly **organized** by the **National Bamboo Mission, NITI Aayog**, and **Invest India**.

#### **Union Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister inaugurated a four-day Global Investors meet**

- Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister **DV Sadananda Gowda** inaugurated a **four-day** Global Investors meet, '**India Pharma 2021 & India Medical Devices 2021**' organised by **FICCI** along with the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, **Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**, Government of India, and **Invest India**.
- EY-FICCI report titled '**Indian Pharmaceutical Industry 2021: future is now**' was also **launched** during the event. For medical devices, another PLI scheme was announced with an outlay of **Rs. 3,420**.

#### **Piyush Goyal addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Sector**

- Piyush Goyal addressed the **6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Sector** and stated that the entire health ecosystem should provide confidence to the world that India is the place you should look at for anything to do with health and is the **one-stop solution**.

#### **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the latest technology Integrated Bamboo Treatment Plant near Guwahati**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) **Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the latest technology **Integrated Bamboo Treatment Plant** in the premises of **North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC)**.

#### **Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' addressed the 16<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021**

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** delivered the inaugural address at the **16<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021**. The summit was **organised** virtually by the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** in collaboration with the **Union Ministry of Education** and **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- The **theme** of the summit is '**Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. - Resilience. Innovation. Sustainability. Enterprise.**'

#### **Union Ministry of Jal Shakti announced the selection of 12 sites for transforming into 'Swachh Tourist Destinations'**

- Taking forward the vision for transforming iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in the country as '**Swachh Tourist Destinations**' under the **Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)** initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G).
- **1. Ajanta Caves** (Maharashtra), **2. Sanchi Stupa** (Madhya Pradesh), **3. Kumbhalgarh Fort** (Rajasthan), **4. Jaisalmer Fort** (Rajasthan), **5. Golconda Fort** (Hyderabad, Telangana), **6. Sun Temple** (Konark, Odisha), **7. Rock Garden** (Chandigarh), **8. Dal Lake** (Srinagar, Jammu &

Kashmir), 9. **Banke Bihari Temple** (Mathura, Uttar Pradesh), 10. **Agra Fort** (Agra, Uttar Pradesh), 11. **Kalighat Temple** (West Bengal), 12. **Ramdevra** (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan).

#### The second edition of Global Bio-India to be held virtually

- The **second edition** of **Global Bio-India** aimed at showcasing the strength and opportunities of India's biotechnology sector at the national level and to the global community will be **organised** from **1 - 3 March 2021** digitally.
- The **theme** for this year is "**Transforming Lives**" with the **tagline** "**Biosciences to Bioeconomy.**"

#### LPG can be transported through Inland Waterways now

- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** and the **MOL** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the transportation of LPG through inland waterways.
- **MOL Group** is the **world's largest gas carrier company** and will **invest** in the **construction** and **operation** of dedicated LPG barges under the **Make-in-India** initiative of the Government of India.

#### Union Minister Harsh Vardhan virtually addressed the National Science Day function from Imphal

- Union Minister of Science and Technology **Harsh Vardhan** addressed the **National Science Day (NSD)** function through video-conferencing from **Imphal, Manipur**. He also highlighted how **science, technology, and innovation (STI)** would impact our future in **education, skills,** and functioning in the post-pandemic world.

#### Chandigarh launched India's first app named "Carbon Watch" to assess the carbon footprint

- **Chandigarh** became the first **state** or **Union Territory** in India to launch **Carbon Watch**, a mobile application that helps to calculate the **carbon footprint** of an individual.
- Carbon footprint is the amount of **greenhouse gases**, especially **carbon dioxide**, released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular **individual, organisation,** or **community**.

#### Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Food Processing **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021** at **Noida Haat**.
- Union Ministry of Rural Development is working to include more women in **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**. SHGs played a vital role in increasing family **income** and improving **quality of life**.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### China surpassed the US as the largest recipient of FDI in 2020: UN report

- **China** climbed to the No.1 ranking globally, attracting **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** of **\$163 billion** in 2020 amid a raging global pandemic, according to the UN's latest report on global investment. China had knocked the US, which attracted **\$134 billion**, off the first spot.

### India announced a pledge of \$150,000 to UN peace-building

- **India** has announced a pledge of **\$150,000** to activities of the Peacebuilding Fund this year and stated that **2021** provides the international community with an opportunity to look at **peace-building** in a more focused manner, especially in the context of the COVID pandemic.
- The Peacebuilding Fund has put forth its **five-year** strategy, which requires **1.5 billion dollars** for **2020-2024**.

### 17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) virtually held in Turkey

- **Turkey** virtually hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the **Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)** under the theme of **"The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism."**

### India and Denmark launched unique Green Strategic Partnership

- **India** and its northern European partner **Denmark** have begun a new era in the form of a **"far-reaching Green Strategic Partnership"** that will enable Denmark to deliver **sustainable solutions** to India.
- It is a mutually beneficial arrangement to advance **political cooperation**, expand economic relations & green growth, **create jobs**, and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges and opportunities with a focus on implementing **Paris Agreement** & the **UN SDG**.

### India and Japan hold the 5<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Act East Forum in New Delhi

- **India** and **Japan** held the **fifth joint meeting** of the **India-Japan Act East Forum** in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** and Ambassador of Japan to India **Suzuki Satoshi**.

### India and World Bank signed a \$500 million programme to improve quality of school education in India

- The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** signed a **\$500-million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Programme (STARS)** to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.
- These include **Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan**. Some **250 million** students (between the age of six and 17) in **1.5 million** schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the programme.

### India and Bangladesh hold second consular dialogue 2021 in New Delhi

- **India** and **Bangladesh** held the second Consular Dialogue in **New Delhi**, where both sides reiterated their commitment to continue to work towards **citizen-centric consular** mechanisms.

### India to become the Fastest Growing Economy in next 2-years as per IMF: Economic Survey

- As per the Economic Survey, **India** is set to become the **Fastest Growing Economy** in the next **two years** as per the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. India is to have a Current Account Surplus of two percent of GDP in the financial year 2021, a historic high after **17 years**.

### UN World Tourism Organization confirmed 2020 as the 'Worst Year on Record'

- The **UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** confirmed the Year 2020 as the 'worst year on record', after global tourism suffered massively due to international travel bans implemented to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Global tourism suffered its worst year on record in **2020**, with international arrivals dropping by **74 per cent**.

### India's SJVN bagged a contract to build 679 MW electric power project in Nepal

- India's **SJVN** won the contract to build **679 MW** Lower Arun **Hydro Electric Project** in **Nepal** after a competitive bidding process. The Investment Board of Nepal, in its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting chaired by Nepal Prime Minister **KP Sharma Oli**, awarded the project to Indian Government-owned SJVN.
- The Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project is located in **Sankhuwasabha** and **Bhojpur Districts** of Nepal.

### Oxford Languages named 'Aatmanirbharta' as the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year 2020

- '**Aatmanirbharta**' implying self-reliance has been named by **Oxford Languages** as its "**Hindi Word Of The Year 2020**" as it validated the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of a pandemic.
- The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts **Kritika Agrawal, Poonam Nigam Sahay** and **Imogen Foxell**.

### India and Qatar hold their fourth foreign office consultations

- **India** and **Qatar** reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including energy, trade, investments, defence and health security at the **Foreign Office Consultations**. The two sides also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest at the regional and **multilateral levels**, including **cooperation** at the **UN** and other international fora.

### World Bank approved \$500 million to Bangladesh for improving road and digital connectivity in the western region

- The Government of **Bangladesh** signed a **\$500 million** financing agreement to help upgrade the **Jashore-Jhenaidah highway** and improve the connecting rural roads and markets that will benefit over **20 million** people living in the **western region**.
- The **Western Economic Corridor and Regional Enhancement (WeCARE)** Program **Phase I** project will help upgrade the **48 km** two-lane Jashore-Jhenaidah road to a modern **4-lane highway**.

### First India-Bahrain Joint Working Group meeting in the field of Renewable Energy held virtually

- The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between **India** and **Bahrain** was held in a virtual format. **Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza**, President of Sustainable Energy Authority led the Bahraini delegation.

### India-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' to be held in Rajasthan

- The **16<sup>th</sup>** edition of the Indo-US joint military exercise '**Yudh Abhyas**' will be held in **Rajasthan**. The exercise near the **India-Pakistan** border aims at enhancing cooperation and interoperability between both **Navies**.
- The exercise will also focus on conducting **counter-terrorism** operations in accordance with the mandate of the **United Nations**.

### Denmark is set to build the world's first energy island in the North Sea

- **Denmark** has agreed to build an island in the **North Sea** that would gather and **distribute electricity** from wind power farms. The artificial island will be the size of **18 football pitches**,

will produce and store enough green energy to cover the electricity needs of **3 million** European households.

#### GRSE signed a contract with Seychelles to deliver fast patrol vessel "Zoroaster"

- Defence PSU **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd** (GRSE) has signed a contract to deliver "**Zoroaster**", a fast patrol vessel (FPV) to **Seychelles**.
- The Seychelles Coast Guard ship "**Zoroaster**" will be a powerful, fuel-efficient platform designed to perform **multipurpose operations**, such as patrolling, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and search & rescue.

#### South Korea unveiled a \$ 43 billion plan for the world's largest offshore wind farm

- **South Korea** unveiled a **48.5 trillion won** (\$ 43.2 billion) plan to build the **world's largest wind power** plant by **2030** as part of its effort to foster an environmentally friendly recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will have a maximum capacity of **8.2 GW**.
- The project is a major component of South Korean President **Moon Jae-in's** Green New Deal, initiated last year to curb reliance on fossil fuels in **Asia's fourth-largest economy** and make it carbon neutral by **2050**.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> International Children's Film Festival of Bangladesh concluded

- The **14<sup>th</sup> International Children's Film Festival of Bangladesh** (ICFFB) was held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**. The 7-day long festival was organised by the **Children's Film Society** (CFS) of Bangladesh.
- Bangladeshi film '**Maati**' got The Young Talent Award while '**Lottery**' won the Special mention under the Young Talent Award. Dutch Film **Jackie and Oopjen** was awarded the Best International Feature Film Award.

#### India & Nepal jointly inaugurated a 108-km road to improve daily connectivity at the Indo-Nepal border

- **India** and **Nepal** jointly inaugurated a newly-constructed **108-kilometre road** that connects the Indian border with several areas of the **Himalayan nation**. The Indian grant assistance of **Rs. 44.48 million** was utilised for the construction of the road.

#### India inked an MoU with Afghanistan to build the Shatoot dam for safe drinking and Agri water to Kabul

- **India** and **Afghanistan** signed an MoU for the construction of the proposed **Shatoot dam** that India will build to provide safe **drinking** and **irrigation water** to Kabul residents.

#### Exim Bank to provide \$400 million for the Maldives for connectivity project

- **Export-Import Bank of India** (Exim Bank) will provide **\$400 million** to the Maldives to fund the **Greater Male Connectivity Project**. The 6.7 km **Greater Male Connectivity Project** (GMCP) will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in the Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands **Villingili, Gulhifahu** and **Thilafushi**.

#### UAE made history as 'Hope Probe' successfully entered orbit around Mars

- The **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) made history as its first-ever interplanetary '**Hope Probe mission**' successfully entered orbit around **Mars**.
- This success has made **UAE** the only fifth country in history to reach Mars and the **Arab nation's** first interplanetary mission. Before this, only **United States, Soviet Union, Europe, and India** have achieved this feat.

### 'Pahela Phagun' spring festival celebrated in Bangladesh

- The **first day** of the spring called '**Pahela Phagun**' was celebrated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, despite the continued shadow of the Corona pandemic in the country.

### Foreign Ministers of India, Australia, Japan, and the US to meet to discuss free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region

- The **3<sup>rd</sup> India-Australia-Japan-USA Ministerial Meeting** will be held with the participation of the respective **Foreign Ministers**.
- The meeting will provide an opportunity to continue the useful **exchange of views** from their last meeting in **Tokyo**.

### 9<sup>th</sup> round of India-Japan Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control held virtually

- The 9<sup>th</sup> round of **India-Japan Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control** was held virtually. The two sides exchanged views on a range of contemporary issues of mutual interest in the areas of **nuclear, chemical, biological disarmament** and **non-proliferation, conventional weapons, outer space security**, and export control.

### Union Cabinet approved the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between India and Mauritius

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved the signing of the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)** between **India** and **Mauritius**.

### Google in partnership with EIF is set to invest \$75 million in coronavirus-hit small businesses

- **Google** is teaming up with the **European Investment Fund (EIF)** and two other organisations in **Latin America** and Asia to provide **\$75 million** (roughly Rs. 545 crores) in funding to **small- and medium-sized** companies suffering from the impact of COVID-19.
- The funds are part of an **\$800 million** (roughly Rs. 5,820 crores) initiative announced in March last year in response to the pandemic.

### Israel began developing an advanced anti-missile 'Arrow-4' system with the US

- **Israel** has begun developing a long-range ballistic missile interceptor, named **Arrow-4**, together with the **US**. The Israel Missile Defense Organization, in the Directorate of **Defense Research and Development of the Defense Ministry**, and the **US Missile Defense Agency**, have commenced the development of the Arrow-4 system.

### Indian Navy Ship Pralaya arrived in Abu Dhabi, UAE, to participate in NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21

- Indian Naval Ship **Pralaya** arrived in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**, to participate in the **NAVDEX 21** (Naval Defence Exhibition) and **IDEX 21** (International Defence Exhibition).
- INS Pralaya, the **second ship** of the indigenously built **Prabal Class Missile Vessels**, was commissioned in the **Indian Navy** in **2002**.

### Pakistan to register Himalayan pink salt as Geographical Indications

- The precious Himalayan pink salt is extracted from the **Salt Range** in **Punjab**, which extends along the south of the **Potohar Plateau** and the north of the **Jhelum River**.
- A **Geographical Indication** tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess **origin-based qualities** and reputation in the region.

### Exim Bank extended a 5<sup>th</sup> credit line of \$15 million to Sierra Leone

- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** has extended a line of credit (LOC) of **\$15 million** to the **Republic of Sierra Leone**. The LOC has been extended for expansion of the ongoing projects for rehabilitation of existing **potable water facilities** in four communities of Sierra Leone.

### India approved a \$40 million Line of Credit to boost sports infrastructure in the Maldives

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** approved a **\$40 million** Line of Credit (LoC) to the **Maldives** in a bid to boost the sports infrastructure of the country. India acknowledged the high priority accorded by Maldivian President **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** to **sports**.

### India signs \$50 million defence LoC agreement to boost maritime capabilities of the Maldives

- **India** has signed a **\$50 million** Line of Credit agreement in the **defence sector** with the **Maldives**. The agreement will facilitate capability building in the **maritime domain**.
- The credit line agreement for defence projects was signed between the **Finance Ministry of Maldives** and the **Export-Import Bank of India** to boost the maritime capabilities of the strategically vital **Indian Ocean island nation**.

### International Solar Alliance to launch World Solar Bank at the Global Climate Meet

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is set to launch the **World Solar Bank (WSB)** at the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25)** in **Glasgow**. The ISA is the first **treaty-based** international government organisation headquartered in India.
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was co-founded by **India** at the **2015** climate change conference in **Paris, France**.

### India signed agreements with Ethiopia on visa facilitation and leather technology

- **India** and **Ethiopia** signed two agreements related to **visa facilitation** and **leather technology**. The agreements were signed in the presence of Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, **Demeke Mekonnen Hassen** and External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**.

### India signed Free Trade and Investment Agreement with Mauritius

- **India** signed a **Free Trade and Investment Agreement (FTA)** with **Mauritius**, the first with any country in **Africa**. It was also the **first time since 2011** that India was signing a free trade pact with any country.

### India signed a \$68 million project with the World Bank to improve the quality of education in Nagaland

- **India** and the **World Bank** signed a **\$68 million project** to enhance the governance of **schools** across **Nagaland** as well as to improve **teaching practices** and **learning environments** in select schools.
- The \$68 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has a final maturity of **14.5 years**, including a grace period of **five years**.

### Union Minister of External Affairs Jaishankar inaugurated a new chancery building of the Indian High Commission in Mauritius

- Union External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** inaugurated a new and environment-friendly chancery building of the **Indian High Commission in Mauritius** and reviewed over **950 housing units** built with **Indian** support in the country.
- Mauritius is one of **India's key maritime** neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and occupies a special place in the Prime Minister's vision of '**SAGAR**' (**Security and Growth for All in the Region**).



### Japan appointed a "Loneliness" Minister to check rising suicide rate

- **Japan** has **appointed** its first **Minister for Loneliness** this month after the country's suicide rate increased for the first time in **11 years** during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga** tapped minister **Tetsushi Sakamoto**, who is also in charge of combating the nation's falling birth rate and revitalising regional economies, for the **new portfolio**.

### China surpassed US to become India's top trade partner in 2020

- **China** regained its position as **India's top trade** partner in **2020**, as **New Delhi's** reliance on imported machines outweighed its efforts to curb commerce with **Beijing**.
- Total imports from **China** at **\$58.7 billion** were more than India's combined purchases from the **US** and **UAE**, the country's **second-** and **third-**largest trade partners, respectively.

### Ghana became the first country to receive free COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX scheme

- **Ghana** became the **first country** to receive a batch of free anti-coronavirus vaccine doses through the **COVAX initiative**, a shot-sharing scheme behind the inoculation drive in poorer countries.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** leads COVAX together with **GAVI**, the Vaccine Alliance. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations stated that the shipment of **6,00,000 AstraZeneca** doses was the first step in immunizing the **West African nation** of **30 million**.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Technical group meeting of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of BRICS held in India

- The **12<sup>th</sup>** Technical Group Meeting of **National Statistical Offices** of **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries has been held at **New Delhi** in the virtual mode under the aegis of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

### India hosted the first meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies

- **India** hosted a meeting of **BRICS Finance** and **Central Bank** Deputies virtually and was co-chaired by **Tarun Bajaj**, Secretary Economic Affairs of the Union Ministry of Finance, and **Michael Patra**, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Other participants included **BRICS Finance** and **Central Bank Deputies** of Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa.
- This was the first meeting on the BRICS Financial Cooperation under India **Chairship** in **2021**.

### India and Uzbekistan agreed to strengthen multilateral cooperation

- **India** and **Uzbekistan** agreed to strengthen **multilateral cooperation**. Uzbekistan Foreign Minister **Abdulaziz Kamilov** and Union External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** discussed the bilateral relations concerning both the nation.

### India, Australia and France held a trilateral dialogue with a focus on Indo-Pacific

- **India, France, and Australia** held a trilateral meet with a focus on better coordination in **Indo-Pacific**. Other key focus areas were greater **maritime domain** awareness of Indo-Pacific countries, **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations, **oil spill management** and disaster resilience of **small island states**.

### India-USA ESG Meeting held on Army-to-Army engagement

- The **24<sup>th</sup>** edition of the **India-USA Executive Steering Group (ESG)** meeting was held in **New Delhi**. The meeting was attended by a **12-member** delegation from the **US Army** in person and **virtually** by **40 officers** from different locations from the **US**.

### Indian And Brazilian S&T ministers discussed collaborations in a range of areas

- Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** discussed a wide range of **scientific and technical** issues and **possible bilateral and**

**multilateral** collaborations such as **BRICS** with a high-level delegation led by the Brazilian Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation **Marcos Cesar Pontes**.

### Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually attended the G20 Central Bank Governors' meet

- Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had participated virtually in the **First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG)** meeting under the **Italian Presidency** to discuss policy actions for transformative and equitable recovery.
- The main aim of the meeting was to discuss policy actions for **transformative** and **equitable recovery** along with other issues on the agenda including the **global economic outlook, financial sector issues, financial inclusion, and sustainable finance**.

## **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

### RBI extended Rs. 7,000-crore special liquidity assistance to DBS Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had extended nearly **Rs. 7,000 crores** in special liquidity assistance to **DBS Bank India** to meet its short-term funding needs after the acquisition of the **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)**.
- This funding may be charged with interest rates close to or linked to the **repo rate** at which the RBI usually lends to **banks**.

### Repcobank bags three awards at the Frontiers in Cooperative Banking Awards (FCBA) 2020

- Repcobank has bagged three awards at the **Frontiers in Cooperative Banking Awards (FCBA) 2020**, a National Cooperative Banking Summit held virtually.
- The awards include **the Women Leader of the Year Award** for Repcobank MD Isabella, **Best Digital Bank Award** and **Best Fraud Control Initiative among Co-operative Banks**.

### Bharti AXA General Insurance launched 'Krishi Sakha' app to meet the specific needs of farmers

- **Bharti AXA General Insurance**, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and **AXA** launched its new app '**Krishi Sakha**' to cater to the specific needs of the **farmers** in the country and guide them in adopting best farming practices and **enhancing productivity**.

### StashFin partnered with SBM Bank India to launch a contactless prepaid card - 'StashFin SBM Card'

- Singapore-based neo banking startup **StashFin** and **SBM Bank India** announced the launch of their co-branded contactless prepaid card "**StashFin SBM card**".
- The Visa powered card comes with a contactless **EMV chip**, offering the cardholders **24x7** access to funds and allowing the customer to take loans up to **Rs. 5 lakhs**.

### RBI cancelled the license of Kolhapur's Shivam Sahakari Bank due to inadequate capital

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the licence of **Shivam Sahakari Bank Ltd, Maharashtra** due to the bank not having adequate capital and earning prospects.
- The bank further did not comply with the provisions of **Section 11 (1)** and Section 22 (3) (d) read with **Section 56** of the **Banking Regulation Act of 1949**.

### BSE set up an innovation sandbox web portal for fintech firms and individuals

- Leading stock exchange BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) had set up an "**Innovation Sandbox**" web portal (<https://innovation-sandbox.in>) where **fintech firms** and **individuals** may use the environment for offline testing of their applications in a test environment.

- The portal will help in creating an **ecosystem** that promotes innovation in the **securities market**.

#### Reserve Bank of India enhanced the rules for Banks' Grievance Redress Mechanisms

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) had issued a new regulatory framework that aims to improve the **efficacy of banks'** grievance redress mechanisms.
- The framework enhanced the disclosures on complaints that need to be made by banks to provide greater insight into the volume and **nature of complaints** received by the **banks** as well as the quality and turnaround **time of redressal**.

#### PNB restricted customers from transacting from Non-EMV ATM machines from 1 February

- **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) had restricted transactions (both financial and non-financial) from **Non-EMV ATM** machines from **1 February 2021**. The move has been taken in order to ensure the safety of the PNB customers from **fraudulent ATM activities**.
- The bank has introduced '**PNB One App**', which allows **PNB debit card** users to switch on or off their debit card through this app.

#### RBI directed select NBFCs and UCBs to implement a risk-based internal audit system

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued guidelines on **risk-based internal audit** (RBIA) system for select **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of the internal audit system.
- The new framework will be for all deposit and non-deposit taking **NBFCs** (including core investment companies) with an asset size of **5,000 crore** and also for all **UCBs**, having an asset size of **500 crore** and above will have to implement the system by **March 2022**.

#### Federal Bank launched 'FedFirst' special savings account for children

- **Federal Bank** had announced the launch of "**FedFirst**", a special savings account scheme for children **below 18 years** of age. The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits, thereby giving them the freedom to **save, spend** and **earn**.
- The account holder is provided with a FedFirst **contactless Debit Card** with a daily cash withdrawal limit of **Rs. 2,500** and POS/eCom limit of **Rs. 10,000**, in addition to free online facilities, including access to **internet banking, mobile alerts, and e-mail alerts**.

#### NBFCs to get funds under on tap TLTRO scheme for incremental lending: RBI

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) proposed to provide funds to **non-banking finance companies** (NBFCs) from banks under an on-tap TLTRO (Targeted Long Term Repo Operations) scheme for lending to some stressed sectors.
- RBI is to conduct on-tap TLTRO with tenors of up to three years for a total amount of up to **one lakh crore rupees** at a floating rate linked to the policy repo rate. The scheme is available till **March 31, 2021**.

#### Bharti Axa General Insurance launched 'Salute to Caregivers – Ek Naya Nazariya campaign' to support cancer survivors

- **Bharti AXA General Insurance**, a joint venture between **Bharti Enterprises**, launched its unique campaign '**Caregivers**' to support cancer survivors in the battle against the killer disease.

#### RBI to set up a 24x7 helpline for digital payment services

- **RBI** has announced certain measures of protection of common bank account holders in its **monetary policy statement**. It includes setting up of a **24x7** helpline for digital payment services, integrated **ombudsman scheme** and **CTS** (Cheque Truncation System) across all bank branches and allowing **retail investors** to open **Gilt accounts** with RBI.

### Japan's MUFG Bank inked an MoU with ICICI Bank to support Japanese firms

- Major Japanese commercial bank **MUFG Bank** had signed an MoU with **ICICI Bank** to cooperate with the leading Indian bank in supporting Japanese companies operating in the **South Asian country**.
- Under the MoU, **MUFG** will introduce **Japanese firms** to ICICI in line with their needs so that they can use the **Indian bank's financial services**, including the opening of **personal accounts** and the use of automated teller machines.

### PayPal to shut down its domestic payment business in India from 1 April

- The California-based global digital payment platform **PayPal** has announced that the company has decided to wind down its **domestic payment services** in India with effect from 1 **April 2021**.
- The company will instead focus on enabling more international sales for **Indian businesses**. It had processed **\$ 1.4 billion** worth of international sales for over **3.6 lakh merchants** in India last year.

### Moody's projected nominal growth of 17% for the fiscal year 2022-23

- Global rating agency **Moody's** projected India's nominal growth at **17%** for the **FY22**, a mark up from **14.3%** earlier. The Union Budget presented by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** forecast nominal **gross domestic product** (GDP) growth at **14.4%**.
- India's fiscal deficit for the current fiscal stood at **7.5%** of GDP and **5.5%** for the next fiscal, while the budget put the figures at **9.5%** and **6.8%** for **FY21** and **FY22**, respectively.

### Bank of Maharashtra tied up with LoanTap Credit for co-lending to MSMEs

- State-owned **Bank of Maharashtra** had entered into a co-lending agreement with the Pune-based non-banking financial company **LoanTap** Credit Products for **MSME loans**.
- Under the co-lending model, the bank will have an exposure of up to **80 per cent** while the remaining **20 per cent** by the **LoanTap**.

### PhonePe partnered with Axis Bank on a UPI multi-bank model

- Digital payments platform **PhonePe** had partnered with **Axis Bank** on a **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** multi-bank model. The partnership will provide PhonePe users with the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank's **"@axl"** handle.
- **PhonePe** will also start acquiring merchants with Axis Bank in addition to its partnership with **YES Bank**.

### RBI launched Financial Literacy Week on Developing Credit Discipline

- **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) launched **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** from 8 - 12 **February 2021**. This year focused on 'Developing credit discipline and encouraging availing credit from formal financial institutions as per requirement'.
- Theme for 2021 is **"Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions."**

### IRDAI advised all insurance companies for issuance of Digital Insurance Policies via DigiLocker

- **Insurance Regulatory Authority of India** (IRDAI) had advised all insurance companies for issuance of Digital Insurance Policies via **DigiLocker**. This facility enables policyholders to use DigiLocker for preserving all their **policy documents**.

### RBI formed an 8-member expert panel headed by NS Vishwanathan to explore the consolidation of urban co-op banks

- The committee will be headed by **N S Vishwanathan**, former Deputy Governor of RBI. The other members of the committee include former chairman National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development **Harsh Kumar Banwala**, chartered accountant **Mukund M Chitale**, retired Indian Administrative Service officers **N C Muniyappa** and **RN Joshi**, IIM Bangalore Professor **MS Sriram**, president of National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies **Jyotindra M Mehta** and RBI Chief General Manager-in-Charge **Neeraj Nigam**.

### ICICI Lombard partnered with Flipkart to offer 'Hospicash insurance' to consumers

- **Flipkart** had partnered with **ICICI Lombard** to offer 'Hospicash insurance' to consumers. Hospicash is a benefit that will allow consumers to avail themselves a **fixed amount** for each day of hospitalization.
- The fixed daily amount will enable consumers to pay for incidental **medical or emergency expenses**.

### SBI Payments launched the YONO Merchant app to boost digital payments infra

- **SBI Payments**, the subsidiary of the **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched **YONO Merchant App** to expand the digitization of merchant payments in the country.
- Merchants will now be able to turn their **NFC** (Near-field communication) enabled **Android smartphones** into payment acceptance devices through a simple mobile app.

### Bank of Maharashtra and Vayana Network tie-up for channel financing

- **Bank of Maharashtra** entered into a strategic partnership with fintech company **Vayana Network** to **offer channel financing** services for **MSMEs**. **Vayana** is **India's largest** supply chain financing platform **offering financial support to MSMEs**

### Arun Kumar Mehta launched an e-Kuber payments system in J&K

- **Jammu and Kashmir** rolled out the **e-Kuber payments system** of the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**). Financial Commissioner (Finance) **Arun Kumar Mehta** launched the new system in the presence of General Manager, RBI Jammu, **Sandeep Mittal**, and Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Finance Department, **Mahesh Dass**.
- **e-Kuber** is the core banking solution of the RBI that gives a high degree of access to commercial banks and other institutions to their current account with the RBI.

### RBI brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview. The Bank, established five years before Sikkim acceded to India in **1973**, provides treasury operations for the State Government. It only operates within **Sikkim** and is wholly-owned by the **State Government**.

### Indian Bank signed MoU with SID of IISc for funding startups and MSMEs

- State-owned **Indian Bank** had entered an MoU with **Society for Innovation and Development (SID)**, an initiative of the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** for extending exclusive credit facilities to **startups** and **MSMEs**. This initiative is a part of the Banks scheme '**Ind Spring board**' for financing **startups** and **MSMEs**.
- The Bank will extend loans of up to **Rs. 50 crores** to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or for purchase of **machinery, equipment, etc.,**

**Fino Payments bank got the status of a scheduled commercial bank by RBI**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced through a notification **Fino Payments Bank** has been included in the **Second Schedule** to the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- The scheduled commercial bank status allows **Fino Payments Bank** to enhance its banking position in the treasury and participation in **LAF (Liquidity Facility)** window.

**State Bank of India joined JPMorgan's blockchain payments network Liink**

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** joined **Liink**, J.P. Morgan's peer-to-peer blockchain-based data network. The partnership will help SBI increase the speed of customer **transactions**, including **cross-border payments**, and **lower the costs**.

**ICICI Bank partnered with Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Smart City Limited to launch 'Namma Chennai Smart Card'**

- **ICICI Bank**, in partnership with the **Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)** and **Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL)** announced the launch of a **Common Payment Card System (CPCS)** named '**Namma Chennai Smart Card**' to provide citizens a one-stop solution for making various kind of payments within the city and beyond.

**Paytm, Ola and IndusInd Bank to apply for New Umbrella Entity (NUE) to launch payments network**

- **Ola Financial**, **Paytm** and **IndusInd Bank** are planning to apply for a **New Umbrella Entity (NUE)** license to set up a domestic payment network similar to the **National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

## **GDP FORECAST**

**RBI projects GDP growth at 10.5% for FY 2021-22**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the monetary policy review has decided to continue with an accommodative stance of monetary policy to maintain the status quo on key policy rates.
- The repo rate is kept unchanged at **4 percent** and the reverse repo rate at **3.35 percent**. The GDP growth is projected at **10.5 percent** in the financial year **2021-22**.
  - Repo Rate: **4.00%**
  - Reverse Repo Rate: **3.35%**
  - Marginal Standing Facility Rate: **4.25%**
  - Bank Rate: **4.25%**
  - CRR: **3%**
  - SLR: **18.00%**

**FICCI projected India's GDP to contract 8% in the fiscal year 2020-21**

- According to the latest round of **FICCI's** Economic Outlook Survey, India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is expected to contract by **8 percent** in **2020-21**.
- FICCI expects the economy to perform much better and has projected a median GDP growth rate of **9.6 per cent** for the financial year **2021-22**.

**Indian economy estimated to contract by 9.6% in 2020: UN report**

- **India's** economy is estimated to contract by **9.6 per cent** in **2020**, as lockdowns and other containment efforts to control COVID-19 slashed **domestic consumption** without halting the spread of the disease, and the growth is expected to recover and grow at **7.3 per cent** in **2021**, according to a UN report.

**GDP growth rate for FY20 revised downwards to 4%: NSO report**

- The economy recorded a lower growth of **4 per cent** in **2019-20**, as against **4.2 per cent** growth estimated earlier states the first revised estimates released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. The NSO also revised up the GDP growth rate for 2018-19 to **6.5 per cent** from **6.1 per cent**.

**IMF projected 11.5% growth rate for India in 2021, the only country with double-digit growth**

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** projected an impressive **11.5 per cent** growth rate for India in **2021**, making India the only major economy of the world to register **double-digit growth** this year amidst the coronavirus pandemic.
- **IMF** projected Indian GDP to grow by **6.8 percent** in **2022**.

**United Nations forecasted the Indian economy to recover by 7.3% post-COVID-19 impact**

- The United Nations projected the Indian economy to recover by **7.3 per cent** this **calendar year 2021** after a coronavirus-driven fall of **9.6 per cent** last year.
- The **global economy** is estimated to shrink by **4.3 per cent** in 2020. The UN has estimated the **global GDP** to recover to **4.7 per cent** in **2021**.

**SBI Ecowrap revised growth forecast to -7% from -7.4% for FY21**

- **SBI's** research wing, **Ecowrap** had revised its **FY21** GDP forecast estimate for the current fiscal to **-7 per cent** from **-7.4 per cent** earlier. It has retained its GDP forecast for **FY22** at **11 per cent**.

**India Ratings Projects India's GDP to grow 10.4% growth in FY22**

- **India Ratings and Research** (Ind-Ra) estimates India's **gross domestic product (GDP)** to bounce back to **10.4 per cent** growth in **FY22**.
- The rating agency expects GDP growth to turn positive at **0.3 per cent** in the January-March quarter of **FY21** after shrinking in the first nine months of the year.

**Oxford Economics revised India growth forecast to 10.2% from 8.8% for 2021**

- Global forecasting firm **Oxford Economics** revised **India's** economic growth projection for **2021** to **10.2 per cent** from the earlier **8.8 per cent**, citing receding COVID-19 risks and the shift in the monetary policy outlook.

**Nomura projected Indian GDP growth rate at 13.5% in FY22**

- Japanese brokerage **Nomura** has expected India's GDP will grow at **13.5 per cent** in **FY22**. Nomura also expects the real GDP of India to contract by **6.7 per cent** in FY21 (2020-21).

**India will be one of the fastest-growing emerging market economies with a 10% growth in FY22: S&P Global Ratings**

- **S&P Global Ratings** forecasted that **India** will be one of the fastest-growing emerging market economies with a **10%** growth in FY22.
- For the next **2021-22 fiscal**, the deficit has been put at 6.8 per cent of the GDP, which will be further lowered to **4.5 per cent** by **2025-26** fiscal ending **31 March 2026**.

**HSBC raised India's GDP forecast to 11.2% from 9% for FY22**

- British multinational investment bank and financial services holding company, **HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited)** had raised their growth forecasts from **9 per cent** to **11.2 per cent** for the coming fiscal year 2021-22 (FY22).
- The GDP forecast of India by HSBC for FY21 remains **-6.3 per cent**, as projected earlier.

### India Ratings revised outlook on the overall banking sector to stable for FY22

- **India Ratings and Research** had revised its outlook on the overall banking sector to **stable** for FY22 (2021-22) from **negative**. It also expects that overall **stressed assets** (GNPA and restructured) could increase **30 per cent** for the banking system.
- Ind-Ra estimates GNPA at **8.8 per cent** in the current fiscal, **10.1 per cent** next fiscal and stressed assets at **10.9 per cent**. Banks have also strengthened their financials by raising **capital** and **building provision buffers**.

### Moody's raised FY22 growth estimate to 13.7% and expects -7% for FY21

- Global rating agency **Moody** forecasts India's economy will shrink by **7 per cent** in **FY21** and revised India's growth estimate for the next financial year **FY22 (2021-22)** to **13.7 per cent** from **10.08 per cent** earlier. The agency, in its earlier estimates, had predicted India's GDP to shrink **10.6 per cent** in the current financial year.

## ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS

### International Energy Agency inked a strategic partnership agreement with India to boost the energy sector

- **India** and the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** signed a framework for a strategic partnership to strengthen **mutual trust** and cooperation and to enhance global energy **security, stability, and sustainability**.
- This partnership will lead to an extensive exchange of **knowledge** and would be a steppingstone towards India becoming a full member of the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**.

### HDFC Bank partnered with CSC to launch EMI collection service for business correspondents

- **HDFC Bank** and **CSC e-Governance** Services announced the launch of EMI Collection Services for **CSC-HDFC Bank's** business correspondents across the country. With the launch of the **EMI Collection facility** through CSC, customers need not visit bank branches and can instead deposit the EMI through CSC.

### Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow signed an MoU with CRPF to empower Jawans' families

- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** and **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow**, have partnered to create a plan to empower **families** of **CRPF personnel**.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to undertake a pilot project on **domestic empowerment**.

### Ford partnered with Google to offer cloud-based data services

- **Ford Motors** will tap into software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing offered by **Alphabet Inc's Google** to develop new **consumer services** and **modernize** internal operations.
- The Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker, has entered into a **six-year** partnership with the tech giant, under which it will incorporate the Android operating system of Google into its **Ford and Lincoln** vehicles starting in **2023**.

### Edelweiss General Insurance partnered with Okinawa Autotech for two-wheeler policy coverage

- **Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has entered into a partnership with electric two-wheeler manufacturer **Okinawa Autotech** to provide a comprehensive insurance policy to **auto customers**.



**ISRO partnered with Skyroot Aerospace to boost private rocket development**

- **Indian Space Research Organisation's** (ISRO) Department of Space had signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with space tech startup **Skyroot Aerospace** to boost private rocket development.

**HCL Technologies partnered with Airbus to enhance user experience and service quality**

- **HCL** has signed a **five-year** digital workplace services agreement with **Airbus**. HCL will establish a modernized digital workplace to enhance the **user experience** and **service quality** for the majority of Airbus employees globally.

**IIT-BHU signed an MoU with the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - **Banaras Hindu University** (BHU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union **Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways** (MoRTH) in a bid to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction in the country.

**ARAI tied up with AIM-NITI Aayog to boost the startup ecosystem in the mobility sector**

- The **Automotive Research Association of India** (ARAI) and **Atal Innovation Mission** (AIM) – NITI Aayog have signed a **statement of intent (SOI)** to boost the startup ecosystem in the mobility sector.
- The partnership will help start-ups for industry connect, **B2B innovations**, provide technical guidance and hand-holding for technology realization.

**IIT Kharagpur and NIUA joined hands to develop a framework for universal city planning**

- **IIT Kharagpur** had inked an MoU with the **National Institute of Urban Affairs** (NIUA) for '**Building Accessible Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIC)**'.

**BEL entered into Offset Contract with JSC Rosoboronexport**

- At the **6<sup>th</sup> India-Russia Military Industrial Conference**, held in Bengaluru, Navratna Defence PSU **Bharat Electronics Limited** (BEL) entered into an Offset Contract under invest in kind with Joint Stock Company **Rosoboronexport**, Russia.

**Triton Electric Vehicle signed an MoU with BEL for the development of electric vehicles and energy storage systems**

- **American** electric car manufacturer, **Triton Electric Vehicle** had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for developing electric vehicles and energy storage systems.

**Airbus signed an MoU with GMR Group to collaborate on aviation services in India**

- **Airbus** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **GMR Group** to explore collaboration opportunities across **aviation services, technologies, and innovation**.
- Airbus and GMR Group will team up to explore potential synergies in several strategic areas of aviation services, including **maintenance, components, training, digital, and airport services**.

**Tata Electronics signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu to set up mobile components' unit**

- **Tamil Nadu** had signed **28** Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) for projects worth around **Rs 28,000 crore**. Tata Group Chairman **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** stated that Tata Electronics' **Rs. 4684 crore project** in Krishnagiri for manufacturing mechanical enclosures for mobile phones can create jobs for **18,250 people**.

### Mastercard partnered with Razorpay to make digital payments more accessible for MSMEs and startups

- **Mastercard** and **Razorpay** have launched a strategic partnership that combines Razorpay's payment processing capabilities with Mastercard's trusted and **secure digital banking** solutions and **card services**.

### HCL Technology signed a pact with IIT Kanpur to boost capabilities in cybersecurity

- **HCL Technologies** has inked an agreement with the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)** to collaborate in the area of **cybersecurity**. HCL will work with **C3iHub**, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at **IIT-Kanpur**.

### Tata Group inked \$1.2 billion deal to buy a majority stake in BigBasket

- The **Tata Group** and **Big Basket** have formally signed on the dotted line, finalising a **\$1.2 billion** deal giving India's largest conglomerate **60-63%** stake in the e-grocer.

### Asian Development Bank and Medanta signed debt financing agreement to support covid-19 response

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a **Rs. 100 crore** debt financing agreement with **Medanta (Global Health Private Ltd)** to provide essential health **care services** and **medical equipment** to help combat the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

### PHDCCI inked a pact with SIDBI to facilitate credit schemes for MSMEs

- **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)** signed an agreement with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to facilitate providing of various credit and other schemes of SIDBI to **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** in the country.

### BYJU's is set to Edtech firm Scholr for about Rs. 18 crores

- Online education start-up **BYJU's** is set to acquire Mumbai-based **ed-tech** firm **Scholr** for about **Rs. 18 crores**. Scholr is an **AI-enabled online education company** founded by IIT, IIM, ISB, and BITS-Pilani alumni.

### MCEME and Ordnance Factory Medak signed an agreement for designing indigenous ATRV

- The **Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME)**, **Secunderabad** and **Ordnance Factory Medak (OFM)**, have signed an Academic and Technical Linkage agreement for designing an indigenous **Armoured Tracked Repair Vehicle (ATRV)**.

### Amazon partnered with the Directorate General Resettlement to hire ex-servicemen

- **Amazon India** had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Directorate General Resettlement (DGR)** to provide **ex-service personnel** jobs for the e-commerce firm in the country.

### CCI approved the acquisition of Tata Communications Limited by Panatone Finvest Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition by **Panatone Finvest Limited** of **Tata Communications Limited (TCL)** under **Section 31(1)** of the **Competition Act, 2002**.

### Coal India and the Centre for Railway Information Systems signed an MoU to get real-time freight data

- **Indian Railways** had agreed to share real-time **freight information data** with **Coal India Limited (CIL)**. The **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)** and **Coal India** signed

a one-year agreement that will help CIL to tackle the menace of under **loading** and **monitor the movement** of coal-laden rakes.

#### **Dairy tech startup Stellapps signed an agreement with India Post Payments Bank**

- Dairy-tech startup and **World Economic Forum's** technology pioneer **Stellapps** had signed an agreement with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to digitise the dairy milk procurement value chain and promote banking facilities at milk collection centres.
- As part of the MoU, a pilot project has been launched in 4 villages with 200 farmers at a **greenfield dairy** in the **Dharmapuri** district of **Tamil Nadu**.

#### **SBI and Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate signed an MoU to offer faster home loans**

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate**, one of India's marquee builders, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable an improved and more seamless experience for **homebuyers** across India.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

#### **SpaceX broke India's record by launching 143 satellites on a single rocket**

- **Elon Musk's** SpaceX created a unique world record by launching 143 satellites on a **single space vehicle**. The firm broke the record previously held by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, which launched **104 satellites** in **2017**. The 143 satellites included 133 commercial and government satellites and 10 Starlink satellites of SpaceX.

#### **Indian Navy conducted Tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 with the Army and the Air Force**

- A large-scale **tri-service** joint amphibious exercise "**AMPHEX – 21**" was conducted in the **Andaman & Nicobar** group of islands. The exercise involved the participation of the Naval ships, the amphibious troops of the **Army** and different types of aircraft from the **Air Force**.

#### **Microsoft launched its new engineering hub Inspired by the Taj Mahal in Noida, Uttar Pradesh**

- Technology giant **Microsoft** launched its new **India Development Centre (IDC)** facility at **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**. The architecture of the building is inspired by the **Taj Mahal**. IDC NCR is the **third** development center of Microsoft in India after **Bengaluru** and **Hyderabad**.

#### **Startup bluShift Aerospace launched its 1<sup>st</sup> commercial biofuel rocket from Maine, USA**

- The Brunswick-based startup **bluShift Aerospace** launched its first rocket prototype, "**Stardust 1.0**" despite freezing temperatures and two false starts. It is the **world's 1<sup>st</sup> commercial rocket** launch **powered by biofuel**.
- bluShift Aerospace's rocket engine is a hybrid of solid and liquid propellant called '**Modular Adaptable Rocket Engine for Vehicle Launch (MAREVL)**'.

#### **BEML and NAL to jointly develop 2-seater trainer aircraft**

- **BEML Limited** has signed an MoU with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)** for joint development in the areas of advanced composites and autoclaves, mini-unmanned aerial vehicles, design & analysis of aircraft structure and systems.

#### **Pakistan test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi'**

- Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable **surface-to-surface** ballistic missile '**Ghaznavi**' which can strike targets up to **290 kilometres**. The missile was developed by **National Developed Complex (NDC)**.

**HAL signed an MoU with MIDHANI to develop composite raw materials at Aero India**

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** (HAL) and **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited** (MIDHANI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development and production of composite raw materials during the **Aero India 2021** in Bengaluru.

**Reliance received the world's first 'carbon-neutral' oil from the United States**

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's **Reliance Industries Ltd** has sourced the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from the **US** as it looks to become a **net zero-carbon** company by **2035**.

**SpearUAV inked a pact with Paras Aerospace to launch "Ninox 40" system in India**

- **SpearUAV**, developers and suppliers of **Unmanned Aircraft Systems** (UAS) solutions for defence and Homeland Security applications from Israel, have signed an MoU with **Paras Aerospace** to introduce encapsulated **Ninox 40** system to the Indian market.

**NASA selected Elon Musk's SpaceX to launch astrophysics mission "SPHEREx"**

- **NASA** has selected tech billionaire **Elon Musk's** private aerospace company **SpaceX** to provide launch services for an astrophysics mission to survey the sky in the near-infrared light.

**Square Kilometre Array Observatory to set up world's largest radio telescope mission**

- The first council meeting of the **Square Kilometre Array Observatory** (SKAO) has action plans that will lead to the **biggest telescope** on Earth being assembled over the coming decade.
- At present, ten countries are a part of the SKAO, which include **Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK**.

**Union Defence Ministry signed an MoU with BEL to procure a ship-borne modern radio system**

- The Union **Defence Ministry** signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited** (BEL) to procure a software-defined radio tactical ship-borne system worth over **Rs. 1,000 crore**.
- The **SDR-Tac** is a four-channel multi-mode, multi-band, **19-inch** rack-mountable, ship-borne software-defined radio system.

**Bellatrix Aerospace is manufacturing a 'space taxi' for satellites**

- Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** and Bengaluru-based **Bellatrix Aerospace** have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to use the **Orbital Transfer Vehicle** being developed by Bellatrix in the upper stage of **Vikram series** of launch vehicles currently being developed by **Skyroot**.
- In simple terms, it is like a "**taxi in space**" to take satellites to their operational orbits. Skyroot and Bellatrix plan to have the first mission of a Vikram launcher with an **Orbital Transfer Vehicle** by **2023**.

**DRDO signed an MoU with IISc to establish a centre for excellence for advanced research**

- The JTAP-Centre for Excellence would be located on the **IISc** premises at Bengaluru and it would expand the scope and objective of the existing **joint advanced technology program (JTAP)** between the two institutions.

**HAL and Wipro3D collaborated to manufacture metal 3D printed aircraft engine component**

- **Wipro 3D** and Engine Division of **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** have collaborated for the development, manufacturing, and airworthiness certification of a critical aero-engine component operating in the hot zone, using **metal 3D printing**.

- The **Nozzle Guide Vane** (also called the Inner Ring), 3D printed in a high-temperature resilient steel **A286**, has been awarded Airworthiness certification by **the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC)**.

#### **ISRO and MapMyIndia to build an alternative to Google maps**

- The **ISRO** (Indian Space Research Organisation) and **MapmyIndia**, announced an initiative to partner together to offer fully indigenous **mapping portal** and **geospatial services**.

#### **Indian Navy got the third Scorpene submarine to be that is to be commissioned as INS Karanj**

- The **Indian Navy** got its **third** Scorpene submarine, which will be commissioned as **INS Karanj**, of **Project P-75** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **INS Karanj** has advanced stealth and combat capabilities and has been built jointly by the **MDL** in collaboration with a **French company**. The diesel-electric attack submarine has been built under Project 75 of **Mazagon Dock Limited**.

#### **Defence Minister launched E-Chhawani portal & mobile app to provide online civic services**

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched the **E-Chhawani portal** and mobile app in **New Delhi**. The portal (<https://echhawani.gov.in/>) has been created to provide online civic services to over 20 lakh residents of **62 Cantonment Boards** across the country.

#### **Amazon India to commence Electronic Devices Manufacturing in India**

- **Amazon India** has an announcement to start manufacturing electronics products from **India**. Amazon is going to start manufacturing Amazon **Fire TV sticks** from India.

#### **IIT-Madras Incubated Start-Up Pi Beam launched 'PiMo E-Bike'**

- **IIT Madras**-Incubated start-up Pi Beam has launched the **PiMo electric bicycle** that can be charged faster than a smartphone, the company claims. The new e-bike is priced at **Rs. 30,000**.
- **PiMo** is a utility e-bike that offers a range of **50 km** on a single charge and does not require a **licence or registration**.

#### **Hyundai launched Ultimate Exploration Vehicle "Tiger X-1" as small as a cat**

- **South Korean** automobile company **Hyundai** has showcased the first iteration of an intelligent ground excursion **robot** dubbed "**TIGER X-1**" (Transforming Intelligent Ground Excursion Robot). It also has the ability to connect to **unmanned aerial vehicles** that can charge up the vehicle while bringing it to mission locations.

#### **NASA landed rover and first-ever helicopter 'Perseverance' on Mars**

- The American space agency **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** successfully landed its fifth rover '**Perseverance**' on Mars in a deep crater near the planet's equator called '**Jezero**.'

#### **Nitin Gadkari launched Go Electric campaign to boost adoption of electric vehicles in India**

- **Nitin Gadkari**, Minister for **Road Transport & Highways**, and the Minister of **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises** announced the **Go Electric campaign** to boost the adoption of **electric mobility vehicles** in the country.

#### **India successfully test-fired Helina, Dhruvastra anti-tank guided missiles in Pokhran**

- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed **Helina** and **Dhruvastra** Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (**ATGM**) from the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)** in **Pokhran**.

- It is one of the **most advanced anti-tank weapons** in the world. Now, the missile systems are ready for induction.

#### **ISRO on a mission to support space start-ups and take them to higher biz orbit**

- **ISRO has embarked** on a mission to take **startups in the space sector** to a higher orbit with a string of initiatives to help them realize their **business potential**. It is keen on formulating an exclusive space startup programme – **Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development (SEED)**.

#### **Indian Coast Guard received 17<sup>th</sup> indigenously made Interceptor Boat commissioned in Chennai**

- The **Interceptor Boat (IBs)** project is part of an **18-series plan**, indigenously constructed by **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** for the Coast Guard, will soon be completed.
- The 105-ton **ICGS C-453 vessel**, which is the penultimate one in this series, was commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard Ship **C-453** by **Leena Nandan**, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs.

#### **DRDO conducted two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile**

- The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted two successful launches of the **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**. The launches were carried out from a static vertical launcher from **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur**, off the coast of Odisha.

#### **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) delivered the 100<sup>th</sup> K9 Vajra howitzer to the Indian Army**

- Army Chief General **Manoj Naravane** flagged off the **100<sup>th</sup> K9 Vajra** tracked self-propelled **howitzer** built by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at its armoured system complex at Hazira, **Gujarat**.

#### **CSIR-CMERI unveiled the Outdoor Air Purifier at its residential campus**

- **CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute**, Durgapur unveiled the CSIR-CMERI developed Outdoor Air Purifier at its residential campus in **Durgapur, West Bengal**. **Harish Hirani**, Director of CSIR-CMERI, stated that **air pollution** due to **industries** and **automobile** is the major cause of concern these days.

#### **IIT Kanpur scientists develop washable adhesive and related products**

- Scientists from **IIT Kanpur** have developed a **sticky mat** that takes away dust from a contacting **surface, ensuring a clean, hygienic, healthy**, and refreshing atmosphere at our homes, **offices, hospitals, and laboratories**. The mat is a **low-cost** one and remains **washable** and **usable** over many cycles.

#### **India to start trials of 160 km strike range Astra missile in 2021**

- India would start testing the **Astra Mark 2** beyond visual range **air-to-air missile**, which would be capable of taking down enemy aircraft from a range of **160 kilometres**.
- The Astra is a beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM), which flies over **four times** the speed of sound at **Mach 4.5**.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

### **Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa won the second term**

- **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa** has won a second term as **Portugal's** President with almost **61%** of the vote marked by record abstention. The elections were held even as **Portugal** has gone into a lockdown, and the voter turnout was reportedly lowest in the country's history.

### **Kaja Kallas became the first woman Prime Minister of Estonia**

- **Kaja Kallas, the new female Prime Minister,** will be leading a new government in **Estonia** for the first time in the **Baltic country's history,** replacing the previous Cabinet that collapsed into a corruption scandal earlier this month.
- Presently, Estonia becomes the only country in the world where both the President (**Kersti Kaljulaid**) and the Prime Minister (**Kaja Kallas**) are women.

### **Dhanlaxmi Bank Board approved the appointment of JK Shivan as MD and CEO**

- The Board of Directors of Kerala-based **Dhanlaxmi Bank** have given the approval to appoint **JK Shivan** as the managing director and CEO of the bank. He replaces **Sunil Gurbaxani as the MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank.**

### **Janakiram appointed as the Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**

- D Janakiram had taken over as the new director of the **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT),** an arm of the **Reserve Bank of India.**

### **Jayati Ghosh named by UN to High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs**

- Indian development economist **Jayati Ghosh** is among **20 prominent** personalities appointed by the **United Nations** to a **high-level advisory board** that will provide recommendations for the **UN Secretary-General** to respond to the current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-COVID-19 world.

### **International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) elevated Keshav Kranthi as the Chief Scientist**

- Global cotton research and advisory body, **International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC),** has elevated **Keshav Kranthi** as the **Chief Scientist.**
- The former director of **Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR),** Nagpur, Kranthi had moved to Washington, US after ICAC appointed him as the top of companys' technical division in March 2017.

### **Janet Yellen appointed as the first female Treasury Secretary in the U.S. history**

- Former Federal Reserve Chair **Janet Yellen** was confirmed as the Treasury Secretary of the US, with the Senate voting **84-15** to make her the first woman to lead the department.

### **Lt Gen. CP Mohanty appointed as the next Army Vice-Chief**

- Lieutenant General **Chandi Prasad Mohanty** will take over as the new Vice-Chief of the Army Staff on **February 1.** He is presently the Southern Army Commander and will be succeeding **Lt Gen. SK Saini** on his superannuation.

### **Surgeon Vice-Admiral Naveen Chawla appointed as the New DG Medical Services of Navy**

- Surgeon Vice Admiral **Naveen Chawla,** VSM has been appointed as the Director-General **Medical Services (Navy).** Before assuming the present appointment, he held the coveted appointment of

Director General Hospital Services (AF) in the office of The **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)**.

### Government appointed Swaminathan Janakiraman & Aswini Kumar Tewari as SBI Managing Directors

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **Swaminathan Janakiraman** and **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** as the new Managing Directors of **State Bank of India (SBI)**. Both are currently serving as Deputy Managing Directors (DMD) of the bank. The appointments are for a period of **three years**.

### Giuseppe Conte resigned as the Italian Prime Minister

- **Italian** Prime Minister **Giuseppe Conte** has resigned from his post, after losing majority support from his coalition government over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Giuseppe Conte tendered his resignation to the president, **Sergio Mattarella**.

### RS Sharma appointed as the new CEO of the National Health Authority

- The senior bureaucrat and former TRAI chairman, **Ram Sewak Sharma** was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the **National Health Authority (NHA)**, an autonomous body that is responsible for implementing India's \$ **1.43 billion** public health insurance scheme **Ayushman-Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.

### Rama Mohan Rao Amara appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Card for 2 years

- **Rama Mohan Rao Amara** had taken charge as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the **SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card)** for **two years**. Amara succeeds **Ashwini Kumar Tewari**, who was appointed as one of the 4 Managing Directors (MDs) of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

### BCCI secretary Jay Shah took over as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI)** Secretary **Jay Shah** was unanimously elected as the President of the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)**. He replaces Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief **Najmul Hasan Papon**.
- Shah is the **youngest person** ever to be appointed to the office. Asian Cricket Council (ACC) is headquartered at **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.

### DR Congo PM Sylvestre Ilunga resigned after losing a confidence vote in Parliament

- Democratic Republic of Congo's Prime Minister **Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba** resigned after the country's Parliament passed a no-confidence motion against him.

### Vietnam ruling Communist Party chief Trong re-elected for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term

- **Vietnam's** ruling communist party re-elected its general secretary **Nguyen Phu Trong** for a **third term**, making him one of the country's **longest-serving leaders**.
- Nguyen Phu Trong was elected the General Secretary of the **13<sup>th</sup> Communist Party** Central Committee. He holds the position of the **President of Vietnam** since **2018**.

### Rajeev Ranjan appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu

- Senior IAS officer **Rajeev Ranjan** was appointed as the new **Chief Secretary** of **Tamil Nadu**. He will be replacing **K Shanmugam** who will be retiring from the post but will continue as an advisor to the Government for a year.

### Anish Shah appointed as the Chairman of Mahindra Finance



- **Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services** announced the appointment of **Anish Shah** as the Chairman of the board, effective 2 April 2021. He has taken over from **Dhananjay Mungale**, who will continue to be an independent director on the board of Mahindra Finance.

#### Facebook appointed Henry Moniz as its first Chief Compliance Officer

- **Facebook** had hired **Henry Moniz**, Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer at **ViacomCBS**, to be its first-ever **CCO** (Chief Compliance Officer). Moniz will lead Facebook's strategy and execution of compliance matters in the **US** and around the **world**.

#### Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of NASA

- Indian-American **Bhavya Lal** was appointed by **NASA** as the Acting Chief of Staff of the **US space agency**. She served as a member of the Biden presidential **transition agency** review team for the agency and oversaw the agency's transition under the administration of US President Joe Biden.

#### Andy Jassy to replace Jeff Bezos as Amazon CEO in July 2021

- **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** chief **Andy Jassy** will replace billionaire founder **Jeff Bezos** as Amazon's next chief executive officer (CEO).
- Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon as an **online bookstore** and built it into a shopping and entertainment behemoth, will step down later this year as CEO, a role he has had for nearly **30 years**, to become executive chairman.

#### Ajay Singh re-elected as the President of the Boxing Federation of India

- **Ajay Singh** has been re-elected as president of the **Boxing Federation of India (BFI)** after defeating former Maharashtra sports minister **Ashish Shelar** in the polls.
- Tokyo Olympics-bound Indian boxer Amit Panghal stated the experience of Singh will help **India win** medals in the upcoming games.

#### Manoj Shenoy appointed new CEO of IIFL Asset Management

- **IIFL Asset Management** had appointed **Manoj Shenoy** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He joined the **IIFL Wealth group** in April 2020 as Executive Director, following its acquisition of L&T Capital Markets, a wholly-owned subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings.

#### Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi appointed co-chair of an immigration task force of CAPAC

- Indian-American Congressman **Raja Krishnamoorthi** had been appointed as the co-chair of the crucial Immigration Task Force of the **Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)**.

#### UiPath appointed Anil Bhasin as the Managing Director for India and South Asia

- **UiPath** had appointed Palo Alto Networks' **Anil Bhasin** as the Managing Director for its **India and South Asia operations**, as part of its efforts to scale its business and technology units in the region.
- Bhasin replaces **Manish Bharti** at the position, will work closely with **Rick Harshman**, senior Vice President and Managing Director for the Asia-Pacific and Japan.

#### IPS officer Praveen Sinha appointed as the interim CBI Chief

- CBI Additional Director **Praveen Sinha**, a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer, had been appointed as the **Acting Chief** of the agency till a decision on a new director is taken to succeed **Rishi Kumar Shukla**, who retired after a **two-year** fixed stint.

### Union Labour Ministry appointed L&T CEO Subrahmanyam as the Chairman of National Safety Council

- The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has appointed Larsen & Toubro's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, **SN Subrahmanyam** as the Chairman of the **National Safety Council** for a period of **three years**.

### Google Cloud appointed Bikram Singh Bedi as the Managing Director for India

- **Google Cloud** had announced the appointment of **Bikram Singh Bedi** as the Managing Director for its Indian business. He will succeed **Karan Bajwa**, who was recently elevated as the Vice President of **Google's Asia Pacific Cloud**.

### Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala set to become the first female leader of WTO

- Nigeria's **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** is all set to become the **first woman** and the first African to lead the World Trade Organization after **South Korea's** candidate pulled out of the race for the job.

### Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu appointed to Ajit Doval led National Security Advisory Board

- Tech entrepreneur and **Zoho** founder **Sridhar Vembu** had been appointed to the reconstituted **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)** led by **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval**. He was recently conferred the **Padma Shri**.
- Along with Vembu, the other new members of the NSAB include former ISRO Chairman **K Radhakrishnan**, IIM Bangalore faculty **Anshuman Tripathy**, and former ambassador to France and the United States **Arun K Singh**.

### United Nations reappointed Mike Bloomberg as its special envoy for climate change

- The United Nations has reappointed former **New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg** as a special envoy for climate change ahead of the UN climate summit in **Scotland** later this year.
- UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** confirmed Bloomberg as his special envoy for climate ambition and solutions. **Bloomberg** was first appointed UN special envoy on cities and climate change in **2014** by UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**.

### GoI appointed an Expert Committee headed by TP Rajendran to review a proposal to ban 27 pesticides

- The Union Government had appointed an expert panel to review the industry's objections to the proposed ban on **27** widely used **pesticides** that are harmful to **animals and humans**.
- The committee is led by chairman **TP Rajendran**, former assistant director-general of ICAR.

### Aditya Mittal appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal; Lakshmi N. Mittal to become Executive Chairman

- The Board of Directors of ArcelorMittal announced Aditya Mittal, currently President, CFO and CEO ArcelorMittal Europe, will become **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company.
- **Lakshmi N. Mittal** (who founded the company in 1976) will become Executive Chairman of **ArcelorMittal**.

### Aegon Life Insurance elevated Satishwar Balakrishnan as MD and CEO

- **Aegon Life Insurance** has elevated **Satishwar Balakrishnan** as its managing director and CEO. Balakrishnan, who joined the company in **July 2019** as its chief financial officer, will spearhead the company's transformation into a digital-only life insurance company.

### Former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi sworn in as new Prime Minister of Italy

- The former **European Central Bank** chief **Mario Draghi** had been sworn in as prime minister of **Italy**. He replaces **Giuseppe Conte**, who resigned recently after losing majority support from his coalition government over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### **Marc Llistosella appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Motors**

- **Marc Llistosella** had been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of **Tata Motors Ltd**. He will assume the new role later this year from **July 1**.
- Llistosella replaces **Guenter Butschek** who served Tata Motors in the same role for the last **five years**.

#### **Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala appointed as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization**

- Nigeria's **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** appointed **the seventh Director-General of the World Trade Organization**, making her the **first woman and the first African** to head the multilateral trade body **from March 1, 2021, to August 31, 2025**.

#### **Ajay Mathur elected as the next director-general of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** announced **Ajay Mathur** as its new Director-General following his election at the first special assembly of ISA members. He succeeded **Upendra Tripathy**, who has served as director-general **since 2017**.

#### **Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar sworn-in as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court**

- Justice **Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar** was appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of **Manipur** by President **Ram Nath Kovind**. Before this, he served as a Judge in the **Punjab** and **Haryana** High Court.

#### **Assam Government appointed Hima Das as a Deputy Superintendent of Police**

- **Assam** Chief Minister **Sarbanand Sonwal**, in a meeting Council of Ministers, decided to appoint ace sprinter **Hima Das** as a **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)** in the state.

#### **Kiran Bedi removed as Puducherry Lt Governor**

- Lieutenant-Governor of **Puducherry**, **Kiran Bedi** had been removed from the position. **Telangana** Governor **Tamilisai Soundararajan** will discharge the duties of the Lieutenant-Governor of **Puducherry** in addition to her duties until regular arrangements are made.

#### **Actor Darshan appointed as ambassador of Karnataka agriculture department**

- **Karnataka** Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa** has roped in Sandalwood actor **Darshan** as the Ambassador of the State's Agriculture Department. He known as '**Challenging Star**' in the film industry, has agreed to take up the role without any remuneration.

#### **CEAT roped in Rana Daggubati as its brand ambassador for a new range of bike tyres**

- Tyre maker **CEAT** had roped in actor **Rana Daggubati** as its brand ambassador for promoting the '**Puncture Safe**' range of bike tyres. As part of an integrated marketing campaign across all five southern states, Daggubati will feature in the new commercial for these tyres to be aired **across TV and digital platforms**.

#### **Ajai Malhotra became the first Indian chairperson of the Advisory Committee at Human Rights Council**

- **Ajai Malhotra** has become the first Indian to be elected as the Chairperson of the **Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council** stated the Permanent Mission of India at **United Nations, Geneva**.

### India's Usha Rao-Monari appointed as the Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP

- India's **Usha Rao-Monari**, a leading investment professional, had been appointed by UN chief **Antonio Guterres** as Under-**Secretary-General** and **Associate Administrator** of the **UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)**, joining a growing list of women from the country appointed to helm key agencies of the global organisation.

### Irakli Garibashvili elected as the new Prime Minister of Georgia after Gakharia resigns

- **Georgia's** ruling party has nominated **Irakli Garibashvili** to take over as the **Prime Minister**, hours after **Giorgi Gakharia** handed his resignation following a court ruling that ordered the arrest of the head of the Caucasus country's main opposition force.

### World Bank appointed Makhtar Diop of Senegal as the first African head of International Finance Corporation

- **World Bank Group** President **David Malpass** announced the appointment of **Makhtar Diop** as Managing Director and Executive Vice President to head the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**. He replaces **Philippe Le Houverou**.
- **IFC** is an arm of the **World Bank Group** that advances economic development and improves the lives of people by encouraging the growth of the **private sector** in developing countries.

### Japan Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto to accept the role as head of Tokyo 2020

- Japanese Olympics Minister **Seiko Hashimoto**, a woman who has competed in **seven Olympic Games**, intends to accept the job as the head of the **Tokyo 2020** organising committee. She replaces **Yoshiro Mori**, who resigned recently.

### Srikanth Balachandran appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of OneWeb

- **OneWeb**, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite network owned by the UK Government, **Bharti Global**, and other strategic investors, has announced the appointment of **Srikanth Balachandran** as the **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.

### Anil Kumar Jha appointed as the new Chairman of Jindal Power Limited

- Mining industry veteran and former **Coal India Limited** Chairman **Anil Kumar Jha** has been appointed as the new Chairman of **Jindal Power Limited**, a subsidiary of Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL).

### Woochong Um appointed as the Managing Director-General of ADB

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has appointed **Woochong Um** as its Managing Director-General. He will assume office immediately and report to ADB President **Masatsugu Asakawa**.
- He will support Asakawa to institute bank-wide coherence on key **initiatives and issues**.

### Unacademy roped in Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador and investor

- Bengaluru-based ed-tech platform **Unacademy** has entered into a strategic partnership with former Indian cricketer and Bharat Ratna recipient **Sachin Tendulkar**.
- He is also the brand ambassador of **Paytm First Games**, the gaming subsidiary of the **digital payments** platform **Paytm**. Unacademy became the official partner of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** for three seasons.

### Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be appointed as US Ambassador to the United Nations

- **Linda Thomas-Greenfield** was appointed as **US Ambassador** to the **United Nations**. The vote was 78-20 and her confirmation comes less than a week before the **United States'** presidency at the **UN Security Council**.

#### **Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) appointed Yanira Ramirez as country sales manager for India**

- Swedish apparel retailer **Hennes & Mauritz (H&M)** announced the appointment of **Yanira Ramirez** as the new country sales manager for **India**.

#### **Former Union Minister Vijay Sampla appointed as the new Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes**

- Former Union Minister **Vijay Sampla** took charge of Chairman **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**. He has been a former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment from **2014-2019**.

#### **IRDAI set up a panel headed by Janakiram to relook guidelines on information and cybersecurity**

- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has formed a working group **committee** to relook its **information and security** guidelines amid the exponential increase in cyberattacks across the globe in the wake of COVID-19.
- The **14-member** committee will be headed by **Janakiram**, Chairman of the **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**.

#### **Sharad Goklani appointed as the President and CTO of AU Small Finance Bank**

- **Sharad Goklani** was appointed as the President & Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of **AU Small Finance Bank**. He joins from the **Equitas Small Finance Bank**, where he served as the EVP & CTO. Earlier, he was associated with esteemed organizations like **Bharti Airtel** and **NIIT**, among others.

#### **UK's Inmarsat appointed former Nokia boss Rajeev Suri as its CEO**

- **British** satellite company **Inmarsat** had appointed former Nokia CEO **Rajeev Suri**. He replaces **Rupert Pearce** as the Chief Executive on 1 **March 2021**.
- Rajeev Suri was the President and CEO of Nokia, a position he held for **six years**. Before that, he was the CEO of **Nokia Siemens Networks** for **five years**, a joint venture company that merged **Nokia's** and **Siemens' networks businesses**.

#### **Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala re-elected as the TTFI president**

- **Haryana's** Deputy Chief Minister, **Dushyant Chautala**, was re-elected as the President of the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** for a **four-year** term. He was elected unanimously during the **84<sup>th</sup>** annual meeting of the **TTFI**.

#### **Shantanu Mitra appointed as the MD and CEO of Fullerton India Credit Company**

- **Fullerton India Credit Company** has appointed **Shantanu Mitra** as the new CEO and Managing Director. The appointment is with effect from **2 April 2021**. His previous experience with Fullerton included a stint from **2010 to 2017**.
- Fullerton India is wholly-owned by **Fullerton Financial Holdings**, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Singapore-based Temasek**.

#### **OLX Group appointed Gautam Thakar as the global CEO of OLX Autos**

- **Prosus-owned OLX Group** has appointed former Star Sports President and Chief Executive **Gautam Thakar** as the global CEO of its pre-owned car marketplace **OLX Autos** to manage the

company's offline and online presence across **Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the United States.**

### **Indian economist Ligia Noronha appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General & Head of the New York Office of the UNEP**

- UN Chief **Antonio Guterres** has appointed leading Indian economist **Ligia Noronha** as the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. Ligia Noronha will succeed fellow Indian and development economist **Satya Tripathi**.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **Singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe awarded the Padma Vibhushan**

- Former Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** and late singer **SP Balasubramaniam** were awarded this year's **Padma Vibhushan** while former Chief Ministers late **Tarun Gogoi** and **Keshubhai Patel**, former Union Minister late **Ram Vilas Paswan** and former Lok Sabha Speaker **Sumitra Mahajan** have been awarded the **Padma Bhushan**.
- The President of India has approved conferment of **119 Padma awards** — **7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri awards.**

#### **Padma Vibhushan award winners:**

1. **Shinzo Abe** - Public Affairs
2. **SP Balasubramaniam** (Posthumous) - Art
3. **Belle Monappa Hegde** - Medicine
4. **Narinder Singh Kapany** (Posthumous) - Science and Engineering
5. **Maulana Wahiduddin Khan** - Others - Spiritualism
6. **BB Lal** - Archaeology
7. **Sudarshan Sahoo** - Art

#### **Padma Bhushan Award winners:**

1. **Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra** - Art
2. **Tarun Gogoi** (Posthumous) - Public Affairs
3. **Chandrashekhara Kambara** - Literature and Education
4. **Sumitra Mahajan** - Public Affairs
5. **Nripendra Misra** - Civil Service
6. **Ram Vilas Paswan** (Posthumous) - Public Affairs
7. **Keshubhai Patel** (Posthumous) - Public Affairs
8. **Kalbe Sadiq** (Posthumous) Others-Spiritualism
9. **Rajnikant Devidas Shroff** - Trade and Industry
10. **Tarlochan Singh** - Public Affairs

### **Meghalaya selected for the Special Award for Information Technology applications in elections**

- **Meghalaya** has been awarded the **Best Electoral Practices Award 2021** for conducting the 2018 Assembly Elections by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind virtually conferred the award to Meghalaya CEO **FR Kharkongor** at the National Voters' Day award function held in **New Delhi**.
- The ECI has also launched digital radio "**Hello Voters**" to connect and engage with young voters.

### Tamil translation of the French book 'Le mariage de plaisir' won the Romain Rolland Book Prize

- The **Tamil translation** of the French novel '**Le mariage de plaisir**' won the Romain Rolland Book Prize. The winners of the prize are translator **Vengada Soupraya Nayagar** and publisher **Amutharasan Paulraj** of Thadagam Publishers for the Tamil translation of the book, authored by **Tahar Ben Jelloun**.

### Danish film 'Into the Darkness' won the Golden Peacock award at IFFI 2021

- Danish film "**Into the Darkness**" won the prestigious Golden Peacock award for the "Best Film" at the **51<sup>st</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2021)** held in **Panaji, Goa**.

#### The winners of 51<sup>st</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2021):

- Golden Peacock Award – **Into the Darkness** (Danish Film)
- Indian Personality of the Year Award – **Biswajit Chatterjee**
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor (Male) – **Tzu-Chuan Liu** (The Silent Forest)
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Actor (Female) – **Zofia Stafiej** (I Never Cry)
- Silver Peacock Award for Best Director – **Chen-Nien Ko** (The Silent Forest)
- Best Debut Director Award – **Cássio Pereira dos Santos** (Valentina)
- Special Mention Award – **Kripal Kalita** (Bridge)
- Special Jury Award – **Kamin Kalev** (February)
- ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award – **Ameen Nayfeh** (200 Meters)

### Rajendra Kumar Bhandari and SEEDS won the Subhash Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021

- The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** for this year and **Rajendra Kumar Bhandari** was selected in an individual category along with **Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)** in the institutional category for the invaluable contribution and selfless service in India in the field of Disaster Management.

### Uttar Pradesh's Ram Temple tableau won the first prize at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day Parade

- **Uttar Pradesh** tableau was awarded the best Tableau in the **Republic Day Parade 2021**. Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is to give away the Best Tableau awards for the Republic Day Parade, 2021 in **New Delhi**.
- The **Tripura** tableau won the **second prize** for the Republic Day parade which exhibited a glimpse of the 'Deepotsav' in Ayodhya.

### Dvara KGFS won the "Technology for Financial Inclusion Awards 2020"

- **Dvara KGFS**, a leading NBFC in India, was announced as the winner in the award category "**Technology for Financial Inclusion**" at The Inclusive Finance India Awards 2020.
- The award was presented to Dvara KGFS in recognition for the **robust technology** offering a suite of **financial services & products** for the underserved section of the society and for their operational excellence over the last year.

### AR Rahman and social activist Hari Krishnan won awards for being Good Samaritans

- Music composer **AR Rahman** and social activist from Saidapet **Hari Krishnan** were among the 14 people who were presented the fourth edition of the **Alert Being Awards 2020** by the NGO ALERT for their **Good Samaritan work**.
- **Hari Krishnan** had been appointed by the **Greater Chennai Corporation** as a district volunteer head for COVID-19 relief work.

### Former pacer Merv Hughes inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame

- Former pacer **Merv Hughes** has been inducted into the **Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**. The 59-year-old captured **212 Test wickets** at an average of 28.38 in a career spanning **53 Tests** and 33 ODIs for Australia from **1985 to 1994**.

### 25-year-old Ayesha Aziz became India's youngest female pilot

- The 25-year-old from Kashmir, **Ayesha Aziz** is the youngest female pilot in India.
- In the year 2011, she became the **youngest student** pilot to get a license at the age of **15** and underwent training to fly a **MIG-29** jet at Russia's Sokol airbase.

### Indian documentary 'Writing with Fire' won the audience award at Sundance Film Festival

- Indian film "**Writing with Fire**", chronicling the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India's only newspaper run by Dalit women, has won the audience award in the **World Cinema Documentary category** at the **Sundance Film Festival 2021**.
- The virtual award ceremony was remotely hosted by actor-comic **Patton Oswalt**.

### India's Rishabh Pant and South Africa's Shabnim Ismail won the inaugural ICC Player of the Month Awards for January 2021

- India's **Rishabh Pant** won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for **January 2021** for his performances in the two Tests against Australia where he scored a **97** at Sydney and an unbeaten **89** at Brisbane that led India to a historic series win against arch-rivals Australia.
- South Africa's **Shabnim Ismail** was named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** for **January 2021** for her performances across three ODIs and two T20Is during the month. Ismail took **seven wickets** in the victorious ODI series against Pakistan, before taking **five wickets** in the second T20I against the same opposition.

### Indian film 'Pebbles' won the top prize at International Film Festival of Rotterdam

- Indian drama, Pebbles, directed by filmmaker **Vinothraj PS**, has won the top honour, the **Tiger Award for Best Film**, at the **50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of Rotterdam (IFFR)**.
- The Special Jury Award at IFFR went to "**I Comete A Corsican Summer**" by French filmmaker **Pascal Tagnati**.

### Steve Smith won the third Allan Border Medal and Beth Mooney bagged her maiden Belinda Clarke Award

- Former Australian captain **Steve Smith** claimed his **3<sup>rd</sup> Allan Border Medal** while **Beth Mooney** bagged her maiden Belinda Clarke Award, the top two honours of the **Australian Cricket Awards**.
- Smith was honoured for his performances in all three formats of the game, while Mooney bagged the recognition in the **Australian women's game** for the first time. The awards were decided by a voting process for the period **2020-21**.

### Robert Irwin won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award

- The 17-year-old **Australian** photographer **Robert Irwin** has been awarded the People's Choice Award for his image titled **Bushfire** in the prestigious **Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020** competition.
- The award event was organised by the **Natural History Museum**.



**Telangana's Manasa Varanasi crowned the VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020**

- The 23-year-old **Manasa Varanasi**, an engineer from **Telangana** emerged as the winner of **VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020**.
- **Manika Sheokand** from **Haryana** won the title of **VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020** and Manya Omprakash Singh from Uttar Pradesh was declared VLCC Femina Miss India 2020 Runner Up.

**Theodore Baskaran won the Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020**

- Sanctuary Nature Foundation honoured conservation hero **S Theodore Baskaran** with **Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020** for his role in **wildlife conservation** and his continuing legacy of writings in **Tamil** and **English** to the conservation discourse.

**Four young women awarded Women Excellence Award 2021 in Science and Tech by SERB**

The four women scientists are:

- **Shobhna Kapoor** (Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)
- **Antara Banerjee** (Scientist at the National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai)
- **Sonu Gandhi** (Scientist at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad)
- **Ritu Gupta** (Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur)

**Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy conferred 'Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award'**

- The **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister, **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** was awarded the '**Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award**'. The Award has been presented to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh by **Sameer Kochhar**, Chairman of Skoch group at Tadepalli, **Andhra Pradesh**.

**Wildlife Crime Control Bureau received the 'Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020'**

- The **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** had received the **Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020** awarded under the Innovation category by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. Earlier, the **Bureau** had received the award in **2018** under the same category.

**Hyderabad received recognition as the 2020 Tree City of the World**

- The **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)** and the **Arbor Day Foundation** have recognized **Hyderabad** as a **2020 Tree City of World**. It is the only city in India to get recognition.
- The city was chosen for this recognition for its commitment to **growing** and **maintaining** the **urban forest**.

**Kay Kay Menon won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Most Versatile Actor**

- Bollywood actor **Kay Kay Menon** was honoured with '**The Most Versatile**' award at the **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival**. His performance in the **movies or series** he works in has always been appreciated by the audience and now his performance has received **international recognition**.

**England's Jasmine Harrison became the youngest woman to row solo across the ocean**

- The 21-year-old **Jasmine Harrison** from the landlocked town of **Thirsk, England**, set a world record as the **youngest female** to row solo across any ocean by finishing the 2020 **Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge**.
- She traveled **3,000 miles (4,828km)** across the Atlantic Ocean in **70 days, 3 hours, and 48 minutes**.

### NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson was honoured with a new spacecraft named 'Hidden Figures'

- The spacecraft 'Hidden Figures' named after the famed **NASA** mathematician **Katherine Johnson** arrived at the **International Space Station** with about **8,000 pounds** of cargo in tow.
- She was one of the central characters in the book (and the 2016 movie) '**Hidden Figures**'.

### Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2021: Deepika Padukone won the Best Actress Award for Chhapak; Sushant Singh Rajput won the Critics Choice Award

- **Dadasaheb International Award 2021** ceremony was held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **Sushant Singh Rajput** was posthumously bestowed with the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award in the **Critics' Choice category**.
- **Deepika Padukone** won the Best Actress Award for her film Chhapak, while **Akshay Kumar** was awarded the Best Actor Award for the film Lakshmi.

#### The complete list of winners:

- Best Film - **Tanhaji: Unsung Warrior**
- Best Director - **Anurag Basu (Ludo)**
- Best Actress - **Deepika Padukone (Chhapak)**
- Best Actor - **Akshay Kumar (Lakshmi)**
- Critics Best Actor - Late **Sushant Singh Rajput (Dil Bechara)**
- Critics Best Actress - **Kiara Advani (Guilty)**
- Most Versatile Actor - **Kay Kay Menon**
- Best Actor (Supporting Role) - **Vikrant Messi (Chhapak)**
- Best Actress (Supporting Role) - **Radhika Madan (English Medium)**
- Best Actor (Comic Role) - **Kunal Khemu (Lootcase)**
- Best Web Series - **Scam 1992**
- Best Actor (Web Series) - **Bobby Deol (Ashram)**
- Best Actress (Web Series) - **Sushmita Sen (Arya)**
- TV Series of the Year - **Kundali Bhagya**
- Best Actor (TV Series) - **Dheeraj Dhapar (Naagin 5)**
- Best Actress (TV Series) - **Surabhi Chandana (Naagin 5)**
- Outstanding Contribution in Film Industry - **Dharmendra**
- Performer of the Year - **Nora Fatehi**

### India's Anjali Bhardwaj among 12 recipients of the US Anticorruption Champion Award

- India's **Anjali Bhardwaj** was among the **12 anti-corruption activists** from around the world named by US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** as the first recipients of the new **International Anticorruption Champions Award**.
- Bhardwaj is primarily known as a **Right to Information (RTI) activist** and is associated with the National Campaign for **Peoples' Right to Information**.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

### **A book titled “The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives” released**

- Justice **NV Ramana**, along with 3 other supreme court judges, **Surya Kant**, Justice **Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, and Justice **DY Chandrachud**, launched a book titled “**The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives**”.
- The book was jointly authored by **Abhishek Singhvi** and **Khagesh Gautam**. The book was published by **Springer Publications**.

### **“This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad”, a memoir of Girish Karnad in English to be released in May**

- **Girish Karnad's** memoir, “**This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad**”, which was to be translated from **Kannada** into **English** by the actor-playwright himself but could only finish a part of it before his death in 2019, will now be out in May after final touches by award-winning translator **Srinath Perur**.

### **A new book titled “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” authored by Pavan C Lall released**

- Senior journalist and author **Pavan C Lall's** book, “**Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor**”, is the story of Rana Kapoor and his Icarus-like flight that eventually led to the **Yes Bank crisis**. The book was published by **HarperCollins India**.

### **A book titled “Soumitra Chatterjee: A Life in Cinema, Theatre, Poetry & Painting” – biography of Soumitra Chatterjee**

- The authorised biography of Soumitra Chatterjee, “**Soumitra Chatterjee: A Life in Cinema, Theatre, Poetry & Painting**” was released, which was authored by **Arjun Sengupta** and **Partha Mukherjee**. The book was published by **Niyogi Books** and virtually released on Soumitra Chatterjee's birth anniversary on **19 January 2021**.

### **Dalai Lama penned a new book titled ‘The Little Book of Encouragement’**

- The Tibetan spiritual leader, the **Dalai Lama** has launched his new book “**The Little Book of Encouragement**”. The book comprises of 130 quotes with words of wisdom amid pandemic, promotes human values, spills the beans on the key to happiness and comments on Sino-India ties. The book has been edited by **Renuka Singh** while published by **Penguin Random House**.

### **Actor Seth Rogen's first book, titled ‘Yearbook’ to be released in May**

- Actor-writer **Seth Rogen** is set to make his book debut with “**Yearbook**” which will be released on **11 May 2021**. It is billed as a collection of “**true stories and essays**”. The book is published by **Penguin Random House**.

### **A book titled ‘Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership’ authored by Mohamed Zeeshan was released**

- **Mohamed Zeeshan**, a foreign affairs columnist, consultant and the editor-in-chief of Freedom Gazette's new book “**Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership**” was released. The book was published by **Penguin Random House**.

### **US President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden's memoir ‘Beautiful Things’ to be published in April**

- United States President **Joe Biden's** son, **Hunter Biden**, is publishing his memoir titled “**Beautiful Things**”. The book will centre on the younger Biden's well-publicized struggles with substance abuse.

**A new book titled '1857 – The Sword of Mastaan' was authored by Vineet Bajpai**

- A new book titled '**1857 –The Sword of Mastaan**' has been authored by Vineet Bajpai. It is published by **TreeShade** Books. This is author Vineet Bajpai's **fifth** fiction novel and **eighth** book overall. The book has been launched simultaneously across **online** and **offline** stores all over India.

**Pulitzer Prize-winning Jhumpa Lahiri's new book 'Whereabouts' to be released in April**

- Pulitzer Prize-winning **Jhumpa Lahiri** will be coming out with a new novel in April. The book will be published by **Penguin India**. The new book, titled '**Whereabouts**', follows Lahiri's 2013 novel '**The Lowland**' and 2006's '**The Namesake**'.

**Vice President Naidu released the book 'Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan' authored by Dr. KN Bhandari**

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled "**Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan**" authored by **Dr. KN Bhandari**.
- Vice President also urged parliamentarians to use **MPLADS** funds for **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojna** to develop villages as model villages.

**A book titled "Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World" authored by Sangeet Paul Choudary released**

- A new book titled "**Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World**" authored by **Sangeet Paul Choudary** was released. The book explains the inner workings of platform **business models** and their ability to scale rapidly. It was published by **Penguin Random House India**.

**A book titled "By Many A Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life" authored by former Vice President of India M Hamid Ansari released**

- Former Vice President of India **Mohammad Hamid Ansari** has authored a book titled '**By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life**'. The book was published by **Rupa Publications**.

**A book titled 'Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World' authored by Sangeet Paul Choudary released**

- A new book titled "**Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World**" was authored by **Sangeet Paul Choudary**, an entrepreneur-author.
- This book describes how this decade saw the rise of the platform **business model** amid the COVID-19 epidemic. The book was published by **Penguin Random House India**.

**Former Union Minister Jai Oram launched a book titled 'Turn Around India: 2020-Surmounting Past Legacy' authored by RP Gupta**

- Former Union Minister **Jai Oram** launched a book titled "**Turn Around India: 2020-Surmounting Past Legacy**", authored by **RP Gupta**.
- It was published by **Himalaya Publishing House**.

**A memoir titled "Unfinished:" a Memoir authored by Priyanka Chopra released**

- Indian **actress** and former miss world **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** became a published author of her own memoir '**Unfinished**'. The book traces Chopra Jonas' remarkable **20-year-long journey** as an actor, producer, and her stint as a **UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador**.

### Award-winning author Meghna Pant's new book "The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News" is set to be released

- Award-winning writer, journalist, and speaker **Meghna Pant** is set to release her new book titled "**The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News**" in April 2021. The book will be published by **Penguin Random House India**.

### Peter Mukerjea penned a memoir 'Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive'

- Former media baron **Peter Mukerjea** has come out along with his memoir '**Starstruck: Confessions of a TV executive**'. The ebook is offered as a recollection of his experiences within the **satellite tv** for TV business in India. He is the former Chief Executive of **Star India**.

### Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a book on CRPF's history

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** released a book titled '**Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha**' (Nation First - The Golden Story of 82 Years) that chronicles the **history, evolution, and achievements of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** from its raising in 1939 to the present day.

### Vice President released 'Maverick Messiah', a political biography of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao

- Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, paid glowing tributes to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, late **NT Rama Rao** and released a political biography '**Maverick Messiah**' which was authored by senior journalist **Ramesh Kandula**.

### Penguin India to publish award-winning author Irwin Allan Sealy's new novel 'ASOCA'

- **Penguin Random House India** is set to publish prize-winning writer **Irwin Allan Sealy's** new novel, titled "**ASOCA: A Sutra**", an imagined **memoir of Ashoka The Great**, the Emperor who ruled most of the Indian subcontinent and played a pivotal role in the spread of Buddhism from India to other parts of Asia in the **3<sup>rd</sup> century BC**.

### A new book titled "Because India Comes First" authored by Ram Madhav was launched

- **Ram Madhav** launched his new book named "**Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture**". The book was published by **Westland Limited**.

### Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk's art book 'The Lost Soul' to be released

- Nobel laureate **Olga Tokarczuk's** latest book '**The Lost Soul**' is set to be translated into **English** by **Antonia Lloyd-Jones** and the illustrations were done by **Joanna Concejo**.
- The book has many meanings, inspired by its **nostalgic, meditative drawings** by Polish artist **Joanna Concejo**. The book was first published in **Poland** in 2017 as '**Zgubiona dusza**'.

### Actor Kabir Bedi's autobiography 'Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor' to be released in April

- Veteran actor **Kabir Bedi's** memoir '**Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor**' is set to be released in **April 2021**. The book will be published by **Westland Publications**.

S.No	Book Name	Author	Other Information
1	This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad	Girish Karnad and Srinath Perur	It's being translated from Kannada to English.
2	Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor	Pavan C Lall	The book was published by HarperCollins.
3	Soumitra Chatterjee: A Life in Cinema, Theatre, Poetry & Painting	Arjun Sengupta and Partha Mukherjee	The book was published by Niyogi Books.
4	The Little Book of Encouragement	Dalai Lama	The book has been edited by Renuka Singh while published by Penguin Random House.
5	Yearbook	Seth Rogen	It is billed as a collection of "true stories and essays."
6	Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership	Mohamed Zeeshan	The book was published by Penguin Random House.
7	Beautiful Things	Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden	-
8	1857 – The Sword of Mastaan	Vineet Bajpai	-
9	Whereabouts	Jhumpa Lahiri	-
10	Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan	Dr KN Bhandari	Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released the book.
11	Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World	Sangeet Paul Choudary	-
12	By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life	Former Vice President of India Hamid Ansari	-
13	Turn Around India: 2020 - Surmounting Past Legacy	RP Gupta	Former Union Minister Jual Oram launched the book.
14	The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News	Meghna Pant	-
15	Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive	Peter Mukerjea	He is the former Chief Executive of Star India.
16	Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha		Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the book.
17	Maverick Messiah	Ramesh Kandula	Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu released the book. It is a political biography of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao.
18	ASOCA: A Sutra	Allan Sealy	It is an imagined memoir of Ashoka The Great.
19	Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture	Ram Madhav	-
20	The Lost Soul	Olga Tokarczuk	'The Lost Soul' is set to be translated into English by Antonia Lloyd-Jones and the illustrations were done by Joanna Concejo.

## RANKINGS

### India ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021; Mozambique topped the Index

- **India** is among the top **10 most affected countries** in the **Global Climate Risk Index 2021** published by the Bonn-based environmental think tank, **Germanwatch**.
- **India** ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual report and has taken into account the data available for 2019 and from **2000 to 2019**.
- The list was topped by **Mozambique**, followed by **Zimbabwe** and **Bahamas**, respectively.

### India ranked 86<sup>th</sup> in the Corruption Perception Index 2020; New Zealand and Denmark topped

- India's rank has slipped six places to **86<sup>th</sup>** among **180 countries** in the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** in 2020 released by **Transparency International (TI)**. India's rank had slipped six places compared to 2019, when it was ranked at the **80<sup>th</sup>** spot in 2020.

### India ranked 86 out of 98 countries on Covid-19 Response Index; New Zealand topped the list

- According to the performance index compiled by the Sydney-based **Lowy Institute**, **India** ranked **86<sup>th</sup>** out of 98 countries. **New Zealand** handled the pandemic more effectively than any other country in the world, while **Brazil** sits at the bottom of the list.
- New Zealand was closely followed by **Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand**, and **Cyprus**, while the US was the fifth-worst performing country.

### TCS is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most-valued IT services brand globally: Brand Finance

- According to the **Brand Finance** report, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has been ranked the **third** most-valued IT services brand globally, after **Accenture** and **IBM**.
- **Four** Indian IT services companies have secured spots in the top-10 globally, namely, **TCS (3)**, **Infosys (4)**, **HCL (7)** and **Wipro (9)**.

### India ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in scientific publications after China and the US

- **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** of the Ministry of Science and Technology had announced that India is currently in the **3<sup>rd</sup> position** globally in scientific publication after **China** and the **United States**.
- **India** recorded the fastest average annual growth rate of publications between **2008** and **2018** with **10.73 per cent**. In comparison, the average annual growth rate of **China** and the **United States** are 7.81 and 0.71 per cent, respectively.

### India ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index; Singapore topped the Index

- According to the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** report '**Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index**', India ranked **10<sup>th</sup>** out of 11 Asia-Pacific countries.
- The index measures the readiness of 11 health systems across the regions — Australia, China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and New Zealand.
- The Index was topped by **Singapore**. It is followed by **Taiwan (2<sup>nd</sup>)**, **Japan (3<sup>rd</sup>)** and **Australia (4<sup>th</sup>)**. **Indonesia** was the last ranked country at **11<sup>th</sup>** in the index.

### Reliance Jio emerged as the fifth-strongest company in Brand Finance Global 500 - 2021 report

- Mukesh Ambani's telecom giant Jio had emerged as the world's fifth-strongest brand with a brand strength index (BSI) score of **91.7** out of 100 and AAA-plus rating.
- The list was topped by Chinese mobile app **WeChat (95.4)** followed by **Ferrari (93.9)**, **Sber (92.0)** and **Coca-Cola (91.7)**.

### India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most resilient economy among the top ten leading economies in 2021: Germany tops; PHDCCI report

- **India** will emerge as the most resilient economy after **Germany** in **2021**, exhibiting a strong economic resurgence to the **global economic** turmoil caused by the **COVID-19** pandemic.
- According to the report released by industry body **PHDCCI**, **Germany** ranks first in the PHDCCI **International Economic Resilience (IER)** Rank followed by **India** and **South Korea** at second and third positions, respectively.

### India ranked 53<sup>rd</sup> in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2020; Norway topped

- According to the **Economist Intelligence Unit** index, India slipped two places to **53<sup>rd</sup>** position out of 167 countries in the **2020 Democracy Index's global ranking**.
- **Norway** topped the Index followed by **Iceland** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Sweden** (3<sup>rd</sup>), **New Zealand** (4<sup>th</sup>), and **Canada** (5<sup>th</sup>).

### India topped the world with 11% of global death in road accidents: World Bank report

- **India** topped the world in road crash deaths and injuries according to a report by the World Bank titled '**Guide for Road Safety Opportunities and Challenges: Low- and Middle-Income Countries Country Profiles**'.

## OBITUARY NEWS

### Former India and Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Prasanta Dora passed away at 44

- Former India and **Mohun Bagan**, **East Bengal** goalkeeper **Prasanta Dora** died at the age of 44. He made his national debut in 1999 against Thailand in the **Olympic qualifiers**.

### Oscar winning-actor Cloris Leachman passed away at 94

- Academy Award winner **Cloris Leachman** passed away at the age of **94**. She won the best supporting actress Oscar award for "**The Last Picture Show**" in **1971**. She is also known for her comedic delight as the fearsome Frau Blücher in **Young Frankenstein** and self-absorbed neighbor Phyllis on **The Mary Tyler Moore Show**.

### Noted economist and social scientist Dr. Shaibal Gupta passed away at 67

- Renowned Economist and the Founder of Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) **Dr. Shaibal Gupta** passed away at the age of 67 in Patna, **Bihar**. He was also the director of the **Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF)**, set up by the Government of Bihar.

### Nagaland Chief Secretary Temjen Toy passed away at 57

- **Nagaland** Chief Secretary **Temjen Toy** passed away due to illness. He is a **1989 batch** IAS officer. He had taken charge as the Chief Secretary in **March 2018**.

### Nobel laureate Paul Crutzen, who warned of the ozone hole, passed away at 87

- **Dutch scientist** and Nobel Prize winner **Paul J Crutzen** has passed away at the age of 87. He won the **Nobel Prize 1995** for Chemistry for his work of understanding the **ozone hole** and credited with coining the term **Anthropocene** to describe the geological era shaped by mankind.

### Animals guitarist Hilton Valentine passed away at 77

- **Guitarist** and founding member of the **Animals**, **Hilton Valentine** has died. The British band's version of blues standard **The House of The Rising Sun** topped the UK and US charts in **1964**.



**US actress Cicely Tyson passed away at 96**

- Pioneering Hollywood actress **Cicely Tyson**, who was known for portraying strong African-American characters, died at the age of 96. Tyson won two Emmys for her performance in the **1974** civil rights-era film *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.

**Noted cinematographer Nivas passed away at 73**

- Cinematographer-director **PS Nivas** passed away. He was known for his work in **Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam,** and **Hindi** cinema. He won the National Film Award for Best Cinematography for Malayalam film **Mohiniyaattam** (1976).

**'The Sound of Music' star and Oscar winner Christopher Plummer passed away at 91**

- **Christopher Plummer**, known for his popular role as Captain von Trapp in **The Sound of Music**, has passed away at the age of 91. He is the **only Canadian** and one of the few performers globally to have received the **Triple Crown of Acting – Academy Award, Emmy Award, and Tony Award**.

**India tennis legend Akhtar Ali passed away at 83**

- **Akhtar Ali**, a former **Davis Cup coach** and a legendary figure in Indian tennis, died due to multiple health issues. He is a member of **India's Davis Cup** teams from the late 1950s to mid-1960s.

**Legendary New Zealand All-rounder Bruce Taylor passed away at 77**

- Former **New Zealand** all-rounder **Bruce Taylor** has passed away after a prolonged illness. **Taylor** is the only player to score a **century** and take a **five-wicket** haul on his Test debut. He was known as the **"Force of Nature"** by the New Zealand Cricket Team.

**Bollywood Actor Rajiv Kapoor passed away at 58**

- Bollywood Actor **Rishi Kapoor** and **Randhir Kapoor's** younger brother Rajiv Kapoor passed away due to a heart attack. Rajiv Kapoor is known for his performance in '**Ram Teri Ganga Maili**' (1985) and '**Ek Jaan Hain Hum**' (1983). He was also the director of the film 'Prem Granth'.

**Founder of Rang Vidushak and Padma Shri awardee Bansi Kaul passed away at 71**

- **Bansi Kaul**, a noted Indian theatre director and the founder of **Rang Vidushak**, a theatre group in Bhopal, has passed away at the age of 71. Kaul was honored with the **Padma Shri** in **2014** and was also a recipient of the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 1995, among other awards.

**Former US Secretary of State and key Cold War figure George Shultz passed away at 100**

- Former **US Secretary** of State **George Shultz**, known for his contribution in helping to **end the Cold War** and his efforts for peace in the Middle East, passed away at the age of **100**. He has been honored for shaping **"the trajectory of American diplomacy"** in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Former Governor and High Court Chief Justice M Rama Jois passed away at 88**

- Former Chief Justice of the **Punjab** and **Haryana High Court**, Justice **Rama Jois** had passed away after a prolonged illness. **Rama Jois** was the Chief Justice of the **High Court** between May and August 1992.
- He had also served as the Governor of **Jharkhand** and **Bihar** and as a member of the **Rajya Sabha**.

**Indo-Pak Wars' Veteran, 'Tank Man' retired Major General BK Mahapatra passed away at 87**

- Major General (retired) **Basant Kumar Mahapatra**, who had participated in the **1962, 1965, and 1971** wars, died at the age of 87. Mahapatra was commissioned into **armoured corps**

(Tanks) of the Indian Army as a Combat Officer and was popularly known as '**Tank Man**'. He was conferred with the prestigious **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)**.

#### **Former Argentina President Carlos Menem passed away at 90**

- Former Argentine President **Carlos Menem** died at the age of 90. Carlos was an Argentine lawyer & served as the **44<sup>th</sup> President** from **1989 to 1999**. He promoted laws to reform the government & the economy after his predecessor, **Raúl Alfonsín**, resigned in the middle of a deep financial crisis caused by hyperinflation.

#### **Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Captain Satish Sharma passed away at 73**

- Former **Union minister Captain Satish Sharma** passed away in Goa at the age of **73**. Sharma was a **three-time** Lok Sabha MP who represented **Rae Bareli** and **Amethi** constituencies.

#### **Former TRAI Chief and Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar passed away at 68**

- Former Chairman of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** **Rahul Khullar** passed away due to a prolonged illness.
- Khullar, a 1975-batch **Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer**, was appointed as TRAI Chief in **May 2012**.

#### **Long-serving Saudi oil minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani passed away at 90**

- **Ahmed Zaki Yamani**, a long-serving oil minister in **Saudi Arabia** who led the kingdom through the **1973 oil crisis**, the nationalization of its state energy company, and later found himself held hostage by the assassin **Carlos the Jackal**, died in **London**. Yamani became the oil minister in **1962** and led the ministry until **1986**.

#### **Veteran CPI leader D Pandian passed away at 88**

- Veteran leader of the **Communist Party of India (CPI)**, **D Pandian** passed away in **Chennai**. He was the **Tamil Nadu State Secretary** of the **CPI** for nearly **six years** till **2015**. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in **1989** from the **North Madras constituency**.

#### **Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister Michael Somare passed away at 84**

- **Papua New Guinea's** first Prime Minister **Michael Somare** had died. He was Papua New Guinea's **longest-serving leader** after it became independent of **Australia** in **1975**. He was Prime Minister for **17 years** during **four separate periods**.

#### **Renowned Malayalam Poet Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri passed away at 81**

- **Padma Shri** and renowned **Malayalam poet**, priest, and academician **Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri** had passed away. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** in **2014** for his contribution to the world of **Malayalam literature** for decades.
- He also won the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award**, **Kendra Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**, **Vallathol Award**, **Odakkuzhal Award**, and the **Mathrubhumi Literary Award**, among others.

## SPORTS NEWS

### **Sathiyar Gnanasekaran defeated Sharath Kamal to clinch maiden national table tennis title in Haryana**

- **Sathiyar Gnanasekaran** came up with a special performance to win his maiden title by beating nine-time champion **Sharath Kamal** at the **82<sup>nd</sup> Senior National Table Tennis Championships**.

### **Manika Batra won the Women's Singles title for a second time**

- **Indian** Star paddler **Manika Batra** clinched her second title by defeating **Reeth Rishya** at the women's singles final of the **Senior National Table Tennis Championship** held at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in **Panchkula, Haryana**.

### **South Africa's Faf du Plessis announced retirement from test cricket**

- The 36-year-old **South Africa** batsman **Faf du Plessis** has announced retirement from test cricket. **Du Plessis** took over Test captaincy from AB de Villiers in **2016** and led the side in **36 matches**.

### **Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha announced retirement from all forms of cricket**

- The 37-year-old India wicketkeeper-batsman **Naman Ojha** has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket. Ojha made his first-class debut for **Madhya Pradesh** in 2000-01 and his international debut for India in **2010**.

### **ICC announced the introduction of 'ICC Player of the Month' awards**

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the introduction of the '**ICC Player of the Month**' awards which will recognise and celebrate the best performances of both **male and female cricketers** across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.

### **India to host 2022 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup**

- **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** was awarded the hosting rights of the **2022 Women's Asian Cup** to India for the first time since **1979**. The event will be held from **20 January** to **6 February**.
- The event will also serve as a qualification tournament for the **2023 FIFA Women's World Cup**. **Ahmedabad** and **Navi Mumbai** are the two possible venues to hold the 2022 AFC's Women's Football Asia Cup.

### **BCCI cancelled the Ranji Trophy for the first time in 87 years**

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced that the **Ranji Trophy**, India's premier first-class domestic competition, won't be played for the first time in **87 years**.
- The BCCI will also host the **U-19 National One Day tournament** for the **Vinoo Mankad Trophy** and the **Women's** national 50-over tournament.

### **Dinesh Karthik led Tamil Nadu beat Baroda to claim their second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title**

- **Tamil Nadu (TN)** overwhelmed third-time finalists Baroda by 7 wickets to claim their second **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT)** title at **Sardar Patel Stadium, Ahmedabad**. **Manimaran Siddarth** was awarded the '**Player of the Match**'.
- Tamil Nadu had won their first Syed Mushtaq Ali title in 2006/07. Notably, both title wins came under **Dinesh Karthik's** captaincy but at a difference of 14 years.

### India topped medal tally with 11 medals at the first Asian Online Shooting Championship

- India topped the first **Asian Online Shooting Championship** with **11 medals**, including four gold, two silver and five bronze medals. India's gold winners were **Saurabh Chaudhary** in the men's 10 m air pistol, **Divyansh Singh Panwar** in the men's 10 m air rifle, **Kynan Chenai** in men's trap and **Rajeshwari Kumari** in women's trap.
- **Arjun Babuta** (men's 10 m air rifle) and **Shreyasi Singh** (women's trap) won silver while **Manu Bhaker** (women's 10 m air pistol), **Sarabjot Singh** (men's 10 m air pistol), **Deepak Kumar** (men's 10 m air rifle) **Prithviraj Tondaiman** (men's trap), and **Manish Keer** (women's trap) won bronze medals.

### Indian pace bowler Ashoke Dinda announced retirement from all forms of cricket

- **Veteran India** and **Bengal** pacer **Ashoke Dinda** announced his retirement from all formats of cricket. The 36-year-old Dinda retires as one of India's biggest veteran domestic fast bowlers, having picked up over **400 First-Class wickets**. He played **13 ODIs** and nine **T20I** matches for India between 2010 and 2013.

### Drass Red won the 13<sup>th</sup> CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2021

- **Drass Red** has won the **13<sup>th</sup> CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship** defeating Hockey Club **Chiktan team** in the final match held in **Kargil, Ladakh**.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Women CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2021 was lifted by the **Shakar Chiktan** team defeating the **Wakha Mulbekh** team. It was organized by the **District Youth Services & Sports**.

### Ishant Sharma became the third Indian pacer to take 300 Test wickets

- The 32-year-old veteran fast bowler **Ishant Sharma** became the **sixth Indian** and the **third pacer** from the country to take **300 wickets** in Test cricket.
- Besides **Kumble** (619) and **Kapil dev** (434), **Ravichandran Ashwin** (386), **Harbhajan Singh** (417), and **Zaheer Khan** (311) are the other bowlers from the country who have reached the landmark.

### England's Joe Root became the first batsman to score 200 in the 100<sup>th</sup> Test

- **England** test cricket team captain **Joe Root** became the first batsman in the history of Test cricket to score a double century in his 100<sup>th</sup> Test. Root notched up the **fifth double century** of his career.

### Virat Kohli slipped to the 5<sup>th</sup> position in latest ICC Test Rankings for Batsmen; Kane Williams topped

- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** released the latest Test rankings for batsmen, with Team India captain **Virat Kohli** slipping to the **fifth** position with **852 rating points**. **Cheteshwar Pujara** also dropped a spot and is now ranked **seventh**. England captain **Joe Root** jumped two spots to the **third** position.

Top 5 Batsmen	Top 5 Bowlers
1. Kane Williamson (New Zealand)	1. Pat Cummins (Australia)
2. Steve Smith (Australia)	2. Stuart Broad (England)
3. Joe Root (England)	3. James Anderson (England)
4. Marnus Labuschagne (Australia)	4. Neil Wagner (New Zealand)
5. Virat Kohli (India)	5. Josh Hazlewood (Australia)

### KL Rahul climbed to the second spot while Kohli remained at the 7<sup>th</sup> spot in ICC T20I rankings for batsmen

- India's **KL Rahul** moved up a place to **second**, while Indian skipper **Virat Kohli** retained the **seventh spot** in the latest **ICC men's T20I rankings** for batsmen.

#### The top 10 batsmen list:

- **1. Dawid Malan** (915 points)
- **2. Lokesh Rahul** (816 points)
- **3. Aaron Finch** (808 points)
- **4. Babar Azam** (801 points)
- **5. Glenn Maxwell** (701 points)
- **6. Rassie van der Dussen** (700 points)
- **7. Virat Kohli** (697 points)
- **8. Colin Munro** (695 points)
- **9. Tim Seifert** (685 points)
- **10. Hazratullah** (676 points)

### Ravichandran Ashwin became the first bowler to dismiss left-handers 200 times in Tests

- **Ravichandran Ashwin** became the **first player** in the **143-year history** of Test cricket to take **200 wickets** against **left-handed** batsmen.
- **Ashwin** has picked **391 wickets** in his career so far.

### Kings XI Punjab renamed as 'Punjab Kings' ahead of IPL 2021 auction

- **Kings XI Punjab** was renamed as '**Punjab Kings**' as a part of the franchise's rebranding strategy ahead of the **IPL 2021** auction.
- IPL chairman **Brijesh Patel** announced **Vivo** has returned as **IPL's title sponsor** for the **2021** edition after its deal with the BCCI had been suspended for the 2020 edition.

### Sathiyam Gnanasekaran beats Sharath Kamal to clinch maiden national table tennis title in Haryana

- **Sathiyam Gnanasekaran** came up with a special performance to win his maiden title by beating nine-time champion **Sharath Kamal** at the **82<sup>nd</sup> Senior National Table Tennis Championships**.
- World **No. 37 Sathiyam** beat old rival and three-time Olympian Achanta **Sharath Kamal** 11-6, 11-7, 10-12, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8.

### Manika Batra won Women's Singles Title for the Second Time in National Table Tennis Championship

- **National Table Tennis Championship Manika Batra** lost the first two games in the final but staged a turnaround and won the next four games to defeat **Reeth Rishya**.

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

### Novak Djokovic beat Medvedev for the ninth title and 18<sup>th</sup> Slam

- Defending champion **Novak Djokovic** won his ninth **Australian Open title**, beating **Daniil Medvedev** 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in the final at **Melbourne Park, Australia**.
- Croat -Slovak pair **Ivan Dodig** and **Filip Polasek** won the Australian Open Men's doubles title by defeating the defending champion and fifth-seeded pair British **Joe Salisbury** and American **Rajeev Ram** 6-3, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena.

### Naomi Osaka beat Jennifer Brady to win the second title

- **Naomi Osaka** won her second **Australian Open** title by beating American **Jennifer Brady** 6-4, 6-3 in the women's singles Australian Open final for her **fourth** Grand Slam title.

- Belgian and Belarus pair of **Elise Mertens** and **Aryna Sabalenka** has won the women's doubles final by defeating **Barbora Krejčíková** and **Katerina Siniakova** of the Czech Republic in straight sets of 6-2, 6-3.

#### **Sri Lankan pace bowler Dhammika Prasad retired from international cricket**

- The 37-year-old **Sri Lankan** fast bowler **Dhammika Prasad** has announced his retirement from international cricket. He played 25 Tests and **24 ODIs**, and a single **T20I** taking a total of **107 wickets** for Sri Lanka.

#### **Ankita Raina claimed her maiden WTA title and set to enter doubles top-100 for the first time**

- India's **Ankita Raina** claimed her maiden **WTA title** by lifting the **Phillip Island Trophy** along with **Russian** partner **Kamilla Rakhimova**, a feat which will catapult her into the top-100 in the doubles for the first time in her career.
- The win is the biggest of Ankita's career, making her **India's first WTA** champion since **Sania Mirza**.

#### **India's women's contingent finished at the top in the 30<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Pearl Tournament held in Budva, Montenegro**

- **Indian women boxers** secured two more gold medals on the final day of the **30<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Pearl Tournament** in **Budva, Montenegro**, to conclude their successful outing while securing the **No. 1 position** in the medals tally.
- **Babyrojisana Chanu (51 kg)** and **Arundhati Choudhary (69 kg)** clinched **gold** medals and **Lucky Rana** secured **silver** as Indian women emerged as the top team with **10 medals** (five gold, three silver, and two bronze).

#### **Tech Mahindra signed Viswanathan Anand to mentor Global Chess League**

- **Tech Mahindra Limited** has signed **Viswanathan Anand**, five-time World chess champion, as the mentor for the **phygital** (physical and digital) **Global Chess League**.
- The teams will comprise a mix of titled **women** and **men** players along with **juniors** and wildcard entrants playing each other in a round-robin format.

#### **International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Brisbane as the 'preferred partner' to host the 2032 Summer Olympic Games**

- The **International Olympic Committee's (IOC)** future host summer commission has designated **Brisbane** as the "**preferred candidate city**" to host the **2032 Summer Olympic Games**, a decision endorsed unanimously by the IOC's executive board.
- **Brisbane** will be named the host city and it would become the third Australian city to host the Summer Games after **Melbourne (1956)** and **Sydney (2000)**.

#### **Prithvi Shaw became the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian to score a double ton in 50-over cricket**

- **Prithvi Shaw** became the **highest individual scorer** in **Vijay Hazare Trophy** national **50-over championships**. He smashed an **unbeaten 227** off just **152 balls** to help Mumbai post a mammoth **457/4** against **Puducherry** in their Elite Group D game.
- The **21-year-old Shaw**, who has played in **five Tests** and **five ODIs**, broke the earlier record of the highest individual score held by **Sanju Samson** (212 not out against Goa in 2019).

#### **Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest Indian to take 400 test wickets**

- India off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** became the fastest Indian bowler to **400 Test wickets** in **77** test matches. He became the second-fastest bowler to pick up 400 Test wickets behind Sri Lanka's **Muttiah Muralitharan** in the list of fastest players to **400 wickets** in Tests.
- Muralitharan got there in **72 matches**. Other Indians who have picked more than 400 wickets are **Anil Kumble (619)**, **Kapil Dev (434)** and **Harbhajan Singh (417)**.

### India-England day-night pink ball test became the shortest completed test match since the Second World War

- The third Test match between **India** and **England** at the **Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium** took just a little over **four sessions** to produce a result. India defeated England within two days to make sure that it became the shortest completed Test since the **Second World War (1939 to 1945)**.

### Meghalaya's Shillong to host National table tennis championship 2022

- Shillong, Meghalaya** will host the next edition of the **National Table Tennis Championship**. The decision was taken by the **TTFI** following the election of its office-bearers for a **four-year** term at **Panchkula, Haryana**.

### Indian all-rounder Yusuf Pathan announced retirement from all forms of cricket

- Former India all-rounder **Yusuf Pathan** announced his retirement from all formats of cricket. He was part of the Indian team that won the **2007 T20 World Cup** as well as the **2011 ODI World Cup**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Important Day	Theme
February 01	45 <sup>th</sup> Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)	-
February 02	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands and Water
February 04	World Cancer Day	I Am And I Will
February 04	International Day of Human Fraternity	-
February 06	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation
February 10	World Pulses Day	Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19
February 11	World Unani Day	-
February 12	National Productivity Day	Udyog Manthan for Productivity
February 13	World Radio Day	New World, New Radio
February 13	National Women's Day	-
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	A call for social justice in the digital economy
February 21	International Mother Language Day	Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society
February 22	World Thinking Day	Peacebuilding
February 24	Central Excise Day	-
February 27	World NGO Day	-
February 27	National Protein Day	Powering with Plant Protein
February 28	National Science Day	Future of STI: Impacts on education, skills, and work
February 28	Rare Disease Day	-

**CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ**

Q.1) Which has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2020-21?

a) Baroda

**b) Tamil Nadu**

c) Central Zone

d) Punjab

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.2) Nguyen Phu Trong was re-elected as the Chief of which country for a third consecutive term?

a) Myanmar

b) Cambodia

**c) Vietnam**

d) Malaysia

e) Thailand

Q.3) What was India's rank in the PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) for 2021?

a) 7<sup>th</sup>

**b) 2<sup>nd</sup>**

c) 4<sup>th</sup>

d) 3<sup>rd</sup>

e) 8<sup>th</sup>

Q.4) The book "The Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad" was translated to English from which language?

a) Tamil

**b) Kannada**

c) Hindi

d) Odia

e) Gujarati

Q.5) Who authored the book "Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor"?

a) James Baldwin

b) Alice Walker

**c) Pavan C Lall**

d) Kurt Vonnegut

e) Tom Holland

Q.6) Which organisation listed 2020 as the "worst year on record" in its "World Tourism Barometer"?

a) World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

b) World Health Organization (WHO)

c) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

**d) UN World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO)**

e) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Q.7) Who has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Compliance Officer of Facebook?

a) Patrick Vieira

**b) Henry Moniz**

c) Olivier Giroud

d) Mike Schroeffer

e) Nicolas Anelka

Q.8) Which country has topped the medal tally at the inaugural Asian Online Shooting Championship?

a) China

b) Japan

c) Oman

**d) India**

e) Germany

Q.9) A Botanical Garden named 'Shivalik Arboretum' has been inaugurated in which Indian state?

a) Haryana

b) Madhya Pradesh

**c) Uttarakhand**

d) Tamil Nadu

e) Telangana

Q.10) India's SJVN bagged a contract to build a 679 MW electric power project in which country?

a) Myanmar

b) Bhutan

**c) Nepal**

d) Bangladesh

e) Thailand

Q.11) Who has won an award for being Good Samaritans along with social activist Hari Krishnan?

a) Sonu Sood

b) Arijit Singh

**c) AR Rahman**

d) Amitabh Bachchan

e) Varun Dhawan

Q.12) Who was appointed as the Chairman of Mahindra Finance?

a) Manish Singh

**b) Anish Shah**

c) Vishwa Sharma

d) Amrit Raj

e) Vikram Nath

Q.13) Rajeev Ranjan has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of which state?

a) Haryana

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Uttarakhand

**d) Tamil Nadu**

e) Telangana

Q.14) Which sport is Divyansh Singh Panwar related to?



- a) Badminton
- b) Tennis
- c) Shooting**
- d) Wrestling
- e) Hockey

Q.15) Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its \_\_\_\_\_ Raising Day on 01 February 2021.

- a) 51<sup>st</sup>
- b) 68<sup>th</sup>
- c) 45<sup>th</sup>**
- d) 37<sup>th</sup>
- e) 41<sup>st</sup>

Q.16) Who inaugurated the National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" in New Delhi?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Venkaiah Naidu**
- c) Ramesh Pokhriyal
- d) Arjun Munda
- e) Prakash Javadekar

Q.17) Where is India's first-ever dedicated Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) set up?

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

Q.18) Which Indian-American scientist was appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of NASA?

- a) Sanjay Gupta
- b) Ranveer Singh
- c) Kishore Shukla
- d) Bhavya Lal**
- e) Amit Kare

Q.19) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Asia's biggest Aero show in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- b) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- c) Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- e) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Q.20) Who is the author of the book 'The Little Book of Encouragement'?

- a) Tarun Singh
- b) Ruskin Bond
- c) Dalai Lama**
- d) Jhumpa Lahiri
- e) Salman Rushdie

Q.21) Who has been inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame recently (February 2021)?

- a) Steve Waugh
- b) Merv Hughes**
- c) Allan Border
- d) Mark Taylor
- e) Geoff Marsh

Q.22) Which word was named the 'Oxford Hindi Word of 2020'?

- a) Samvidhaan
- b) Aadhaar
- c) Aatmanirbharta**
- d) Arogya Sethu
- e) Nari Shakti

Q.23) Which state government has launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Assam
- c) Punjab**
- d) Haryana
- e) Rajasthan

Q.24) Hilton Valentine, who passed away recently, was an eminent \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Journalist
- b) Singer
- c) Cricketer
- d) Guitarist**
- e) Economist

Q.25) Which scheme was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to provide full benefits of the AB PM-JAY to the personnel & dependents of the armed wing?

- a) Jal Jeevan BSF
- b) Samadhan NSG
- c) Jan Arogya ITBP
- d) Ayushman CAPF**
- e) Ayushman RPF

Q.26) Who authored the book 'Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership'?

- a) Amitav Gosh
- b) Vinay Singh
- c) Mohamed Zeeshan**
- d) Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- e) Venkaiah Naidu

Q.27) Which city emerged as the world's fastest-growing technology ecosystem?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Bengaluru**
- c) London
- d) Munich
- e) Berlin

Q.28) Which state has launched the Pragyan Bharati scheme and Bhasha Gourab scheme for college students and literary bodies?

a) Gujarat

**b) Assam**

c) Punjab

d) Haryana

e) Rajasthan

Q.29) Which company has joined hands with Ford to use artificial intelligence and cloud computing to offer customer services?

a) Amazon

b) IBM

c) Microsoft

**d) Google**

e) Facebook

Q.30) Karnataka Antibiotics, Aurobindo Pharma, and Kinvan bagged 5 projects under the PLI scheme. What does L denote in the PLI scheme?

a) Lending

**b) Linked**

c) Least

d) Ledger

e) Low

Q.31) Who authored the book, "Yearbook" which is a collection of true stories and essays?

a) Evan Goldberg

b) James Franco

**c) Seth Rogen**

d) Jonah Hill

e) Lauren Miller

Q.32) Where is India's first-ever 'Amputee Clinic' set up?

a) Mumbai

**b) Chandigarh**

c) Lucknow

d) Hyderabad

e) Chennai

Q.33) Which organisation has launched 'Stardust 1.0', the world's 1<sup>st</sup> commercial rocket powered by biofuel?

a) SpaceX

b) Pixxel

c) Skyroot

d) JAXA

**e) bluShift Aerospace**

Q.34) The two-days 'Chiefs of Air Staff (CAS) Conclave' has been organised at the Air Force Station in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Chennai

**b) Bengaluru**

c) Hyderabad

d) Mumbai

e) Visakhapatnam

Q.35) Who will take over as the new CEO of Amazon after Jeff Bezos announced to step down in the third quarter of 2021?

a) Vittorio Colao

**b) Andy Jassy**

c) Diego Piacentini

d) Teresa Carlson

e) Jeffrey Wilke

Q.36) What is the rank of India in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2020 (Norway topped)?

a) 67<sup>th</sup>

**b) 53<sup>rd</sup>**

c) 79<sup>th</sup>

d) 41<sup>st</sup>

e) 94<sup>th</sup>

Q.37) Which Indian bowler recently announced his retirement from all forms of cricket?

a) Umesh Yadav

**b) Ashoke Dinda**

c) Amit Mishra

d) Pragyan Ojha

e) Vinay Kumar

Q.38) Which country hosted the Indian Ocean Region Defence Ministers' Conclave 2021?

a) Sri Lanka

b) Bangladesh

c) Nepal

**d) India**

e) Bhutan

Q.39) Which state government had launched its first central water treatment plant with the help of the World Bank?

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Haryana

**d) Punjab**

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.40) Which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the 'Chauri Chaura' centenary celebrations?

a) Himachal Pradesh

**b) Uttar Pradesh**

c) Andhra Pradesh

d) Punjab

e) Haryana

Q.41) Shrawasti topped NITI Aayog aspirational district ranking in December 2020. Shrawasti district is in which state?

a) Arunachal Pradesh

**b) Uttar Pradesh**

c) Andhra Pradesh

d) Uttarakhand

e) Haryana

Q.42) Who has been re-elected as President of the Boxing Federation of India?

**a) Ajay Singh**

b) Umesh Sinha

c) Hitesh Sharma

d) Sarath Kumar

e) Vineet Sharma

Q.43) Who has been appointed as the new CEO of IIFL Asset Management?

a) Bhavana Pandey

b) Raja Krishnamoorthi

c) Gauri Khan

**d) Manoj Shenoy**

e) Richa Singh

Q.44) Which ministry has partnered with Zomato to take street food vendor's businesses online?

a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**

c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution

d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

e) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q.45) Who was recently appointed as the Chairman of the National Safety Council?

a) V Ramakrishnan

b) Jayaram Krishnan

c) H Joseph Raj

**d) SN Subrahmanyan**

e) M Sandeep Singh

Q.46) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) 2<sup>nd</sup> exclusive LCA-Tejas Fighter Jets Production Plant was inaugurated at \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

b) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

**c) Bengaluru, Karnataka**

d) Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

e) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Q.47) Which company received the world's first 'carbon-neutral' oil from the United States?

a) Larsen & Toubro

b) Hindustan Petroleum

**c) Reliance Industries Limited**

d) Indian Oil Corporation

e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

Q.48) UiPath appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as the Managing Director for India and South Asia.

**a) Anil Bhasin**

b) Hitesh Sharma

c) Karan Singh

d) Ashraf Patel

e) Nirmal Kumar

Q.49) Which State Election Commission (SEC) launched the 'e-Watch' app designed to receive gram panchayat elections-related complaints?

a) Haryana

b) Karnataka

**c) Andhra Pradesh**

d) Kerala

e) Telangana

Q.50) 2<sup>nd</sup> CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21 of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Kerala

**b) New Delhi**

c) Gujarat

d) Haryana

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.51) The First Joint Working Group meeting in the field of Renewable Energy was held between India and which country (in February 2021)?

a) Maldives

b) Japan

**c) Bahrain**

d) Taiwan

e) Netherlands

Q.52) Which IIT signed an MoU with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction?

a) IIT Kanpur

b) IIT Madras

c) IIT Bombay

**d) IIT Banaras Hindu University**

e) IIT Kharagpur

Q.53) Which company along with National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) is set to develop a 2-seater trainer aircraft?

a) Defence Research and Development Organisation

**b) Bharat Earth Movers Limited**

c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

d) Bharat Dynamics Limited

e) Electronics Corporation of India Limited

Q.54) Which country has test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi'?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) Pakistan**
- d) Japan
- e) Israel

Q.55) Who has been appointed as the interim CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) Chief?

- a) Karan Sharma
- b) Bala Krishnan
- c) Praveen Sinha**
- d) Uday Shankar
- e) Suresh Mohapatra

Q.56) Who has become India's youngest female pilot?

- a) Ramya sekar
- b) Gita Kumari
- c) Shivangi Singh
- d) Ayesha Aziz**
- e) Bhawana Kanth

Q.57) Which Indian documentary won the audience award at the Sundance Film Festival?

- a) The Pink Cloud
- b) The Most Beautiful Boy in the World
- c) Writing with Fire**
- d) Wild Indian
- e) How It Ends 2021

Q.58) Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) partnered with the Atal innovation mission (AIM) to boost the start-up ecosystem for which sector?

- a) Medicine
- b) Education
- c) Mobility**
- d) Defence
- e) Renewable Energy

Q.59) Which company has partnered with Airbus to enhance user experience and service quality?

- a) HCL Technologies**
- b) TCS
- c) Wipro
- d) Mind Tree
- e) IBM

Q.60) Delhi Government has launched \_\_\_\_\_ campaign to promote electric vehicles.

- a) Smart Delhi
- b) Green Delhi

c) Electric Delhi

**d) Switch Delhi**

e) EV- Delhi

Q.61) Which signed MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for manufacturing high-quality aviation hoses?

- a) AvtoVAZ
- b) Rosoboronexport**
- c) Kalashnikov Concern
- d) Dassault Aviation
- e) JSC Russian Machines

Q.62) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) approved the Lakhwar Electricity Project on which river?

- a) Ganga
- b) Sutlej
- c) Ganges
- d) Yamuna**

e) Brahmaputra

Q.63) Cicely Tyson passed away recently was an eminent \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Journalist
- b) Dancer
- c) Actress**
- d) Economist
- e) Singer

Q.64) Assam Government inaugurated its first heliport in which district?

- a) Dispur
- b) Majuli**
- c) Darrang
- d) Guwahati
- e) Charaideo

Q.65) Who authored the book '1857 – The Sword of Mastaan'?

- a) Tamal Bandyopadhyay
- b) Vineet Bajpai**
- c) Jhumpa Lahiri
- d) Ruskin Bond
- e) Anil Lamba

Q.66) Which State Government has distributed Rs. 3000 each to nearly 7.5 lakh people under the Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar scheme?

- a) Assam**
- b) Gujarat
- c) Haryana
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Bihar

Q.67) Which of the following has become the first state in the nation to implement e-cabinet?

- a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Karnataka

**c) Himachal Pradesh**

d) Maharashtra

e) Andhra Pradesh

Q.68) 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Bangladesh Film Festival 2021 opened in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Mumbai, Maharashtra

**b) Kolkata, West Bengal**

c) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

d) Shilong, Meghalaya

e) Hyderabad, Telangana

Q.69) Which country build the world's first energy island in the North Sea?

a) Mexico

b) Sudan

c) Philippines

**d) Denmark**

e) Bahrain

Q.70) Which IIT has joined hands with IIT Kharagpur National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to develop a framework for universal city planning?

a) IIT Kanpur

**b) IIT Kharagpur**

c) IIT Madras

d) IIT Bombay

e) IIT Mandi

Q.71) Who is the author of the book titled 'Whereabouts'?

a) Tamal Bandyopadhyay

b) Vineet Bajpai

**c) Jhumpa Lahiri**

d) Ruskin Bond

e) Anil Lamba

Q.72) Who among the following virtually attended the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers' meeting?

a) Narendra Singh Tomar

**b) Prahlad Singh Patel**

c) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

d) Santosh Gangwar

e) D. V. Sadananda Gowda

Q.73) Who is the first-ever female appointed as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

a) Dora Akunyili

**b) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

c) Amina Mohammed

d) Uzodinma Iweala

e) Chukwuka Okonjo

Q.74) Name the country which is set to build the world's largest wind power plant?

a) Germany

b) Denmark

**c) South Korea**

d) Russia

e) Vietnam

Q.75) Where has been India's first geothermal power project has been proposed to be established?

a) Jammu and Kashmir

b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Karnataka

d) Tamil Nadu

**e) Ladakh**

Q.76) Who was appointed to reconstitute the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)?

a) Vinay Shankar

b) Arun Kumar

**c) Sridhar Vembu**

d) Ramesh Tripathy

e) Jairam Ramesh

Q.77) Who is the author of the book titled 'Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan'?

a) Chinmay Tumbe

b) Arundhati Roy

c) Sudha Murthy

**d) K.N. Bhandari**

e) Shivam Dubey

Q.78) Which organisation has been chosen by NASA to launch the astrophysics "SPHEREx" mission?

a) ISRO

**b) SpaceX**

c) United Launch Alliance

d) Neuralink

e) Blue Origin

Q.79) Who has been sworn in as the Special Envoy of United Nations on Climate Ambition and Solutions?

a) Charles Soludo

b) Pete Buttigieg

**c) Michael Bloomberg**

d) Antonio Guterres

e) Diana Taylor

Q.80) Christopher Plummer, the Oscar-winning actor, has passed away recently, he belonged to which country?

a) France

b) USA

c) Australia

**d) Canada**

e) England

Q.81) Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Cloud India Business?

a) Amit Khare

**b) Bikram Singh Bedi**

c) Karan Singh

d) Pratap Rawat

e) Tarun Singh

Q.82) Which state has launched the 'Social Awareness and Action to neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)' campaign to reduce infant mortality?

a) Assam

**b) Madhya Pradesh**

c) Maharashtra

d) Himachal Pradesh

e) Andhra Pradesh

Q.83) Prime Minister dedicated a 347-kilometer long Dobhi - Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline to which Indian state?

a) Karnataka

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Maharashtra

**d) West Bengal**

e) Andhra Pradesh

Q.84) Who among the following won the 13<sup>th</sup> CEC Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2021?

**a) Drass Red**

b) Chiktan team

c) Indian Army

d) Wakha Mulbekh

e) CRPF

Q.85) Akhtar Ali recently passed away. He is associated with which sport?

a) Cricket

b) Hockey

**c) Tennis**

d) Wrestling

e) Boxing

Q.86) President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated a museum dedicated to the pride of Kodagu General Thimayya in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

b) Hyderabad, Telangana

**c) Madikeri, Karnataka**

d) Mumbai, Maharashtra

e) Mysore, Karnataka

Q.87) Which state has launched a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the State?

a) West Bengal

b) Karnataka

c) Madhya Pradesh

d) Gujarat

**e) Uttar Pradesh**

Q.88) Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve will be set up as the 5<sup>th</sup> Tiger reserve of which Indian state?

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Karnataka

c) Madhya Pradesh

**d) Tamil Nadu**

e) Telangana

Q.89) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Asom Mala' programme to improve state highways and major district roads of which state?

**a) Assam**

b) Karnataka

c) Arunachal Pradesh

d) Bihar

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.90) Name the Male cricket player who has won the inaugural ICC Player of the month award for January 2021?

a) Virat Kohli

b) Washington Sundar

**c) Rishabh Pant**

d) Thangarasu Natarajan

e) Ravichandran Ashwin

Q.91) Who authored the book titled 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life'?

a) Ruskin Bond

b) Vikram Seth

**c) Hamid Ansari**

d) Jhumpa Lahiri

e) Shashi Tharoor

Q.92) Defence Ministry has inked a pact with which company to procure a software-defined radio tactical (SDR-Tac) ship-borne system?

a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

**c) Bharat Electronics Limited**

d) Defence Research and Development Organisation

e) Hindustan Shipyard

Q.93) Which organisation is developing a vehicle with capabilities to act as a 'Space Taxi' for small satellites?

a) Dhruva Space

**b) Bellatrix Aerospace**

c) Pixxel

d) Boeing

e) General Dynamics

Q.94) Name the Male cricketer who has been awarded the Allan Border Medal 2020-21 by the Australia Cricket Board?

a) David Warner

**b) Steve Smith**

c) Mitchell Starc

d) Pat Cummins

e) Glenn Maxwell

Q.95) Which state/UT approved "Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha scheme" a scholarship scheme to school students?

a) Jammu and Kashmir

b) Chandigarh

c) Haryana

**d) Delhi**

e) Pondicherry

Q.96) Prime Minister Narendra Modi Unveils postage stamp on Diamond Jubilee of which High Court?

a) Assam High Court

b) Karnataka High Court

c) Arunachal Pradesh High Court

**d) Gujarat High Court**

e) Uttar Pradesh High Court

Q.97) Haryana agreed with which country to share expertise in skill training, tourism, and dairying?

a) France

b) Germany

c) Netherland

**d) Switzerland**

e) Germany

Q.98) Which State Government has launched a new range of packaged organic products and LoumiConnect App?

a) Assam

b) Karnataka

**c) Manipur**

d) Bihar

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.99) Which Indian documentary won the top prize at 50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival, Rotterdam?

a) Gulabi Gang

b) India Untouched

c) The Forgotten Volunteers

**d) Pebbles (Koozhangal)**

e) Killing for Conservation

Q.100) Who is the author of the book titled "Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World"?

a) Ruskin Bond

**b) Sangeet Paul Choudary**

c) Hamid Ansari

d) Jhumpa Lahiri

e) Shashi Tharoor

Q.101) Legendary cricketer Bruce Taylor passed away recently. He played for which country?

a) Australia

b) South Africa

c) England

**d) New Zealand**

e) Zimbabwe

Q.102) Name the Female cricketer who has been awarded the Allan Border Medal 2020-21 by the Australia Cricket Board?

a) Megan Schutt

**b) Beth Mooney**

c) Meg Lanning

d) Alyssa Healy

e) Ashleigh Gardner

Q.103) Five-day National horticulture fair begins in\_\_\_\_\_.

a) New Delhi

b) Chennai

**c) Bengaluru**

d) Mumbai

e) Hyderabad

Q.104) Cabinet approved Grant-in-aid of Rs. 100 crore to Brahmaputra and Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited in which state?

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Tripura

**c) Assam**

d) Nagaland

e) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.105) Who inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit-2021?

a) Ramnath Kovind

b) M. Venkaiah Naidu

**c) Narendra Modi**

d) Nirmala Sitharaman

e) Harsh Vardhan

Q.106) Which State Government is going to set up the Indian Institute of Skills?

a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Uttar Pradesh

**c) Gujarat**

d) Tamil Nadu

e) Rajasthan

Q.107) India Meteorological Department (IMD) to establish India's first thunderstorm research testbed in which state?

a) Kerala

**b) Odisha**

c) Tamil Nadu

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Gujrat

Q.108) India signed an MoU with which country to build the Shatoot dam for safe drinking and irrigation water?

a) Bangladesh

b) Myanmar

c) Bhutan

d) Nepal

**e) Afghanistan**

Q.109) The GMR group has signed an agreement with which company to explore collaboration opportunities across aviation services, technologies, and innovation?

a) Northrop Grumman

**b) Airbus**

c) Lockheed Martin

d) Air Liquide

e) BAE Systems

Q.110) Which institute signed an MoU with IISc to establish a Centre for excellence for advanced research?

a) Ministry of Science and Technology

b) IIT- Delhi

**c) DRDO**

d) ISRO

e) IIT-Bombay

Q.111) Government of India appointed an Expert Committee headed by whom to review a proposal to ban 27 pesticides?

a) Amit Khare

**b) TP Rajendran**

c) Karan Sharma

d) Vinay Kumar

e) Suresh Mohapatra

Q.112) Who becomes the first batsman to score 200 in the 100<sup>th</sup> Test match?

a) Virat Kohli

**b) Joe Root**

c) Ben Stokes

d) Rohit Sharma

e) Steve Smith

Q.113) Wipro3D collaborated with which organisation to manufacture metal 3D printed aircraft engine components?

**a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**

b) Defence Research and Development Organisation

c) Bharat Electronics Limited

d) Larsen and Toubro

e) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Q.114) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) caps Trans Fatty Acid to 2% in all oils and fats by which year?

a) 2021

b) 2023

**c) 2022**

d) 2025

e) 2030

Q.115) India's First ever Museum of Illusions to be set up in which city?

a) Bengaluru

b) Chennai

c) Mumbai

**d) New Delhi**

e) Hyderabad

Q.116) Who has topped the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for Batsmen?

a) Virat Kohli

**b) Kane Williamson**

c) Marnus Labuschagne

d) Joe Root

e) Steve Smith

Q.117) Who among the following launched India's first CNG Tractor?

a) Narendra Modi

b) Amit Shah

c) Piyush Goel

**d) Nitin Gadkari**

e) Narendra Singh Tomar

Q.118) Which state became the 6<sup>th</sup> State in the country to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms?

a) West Bengal

b) Andhra Pradesh

**c) Goa**

d) Odisha

e) Telangana

Q.119) Who is the author of the book "Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World"?

a) Siva Ramakrishnan

b) Raja Chari

**c) Sangeet Paul Choudary**



d) Ruskin Bond

e) Sudha Murthy

Q.120) Who has awarded the prestigious "Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award" for 2021?

a) Laurent Ballesta

**b) Robert Irwin**

c) Marsel van Oosten

d) Brent Stirton

e) Audun Rikardsen

Q.121) Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal?

a) Suresh Malhotra

b) Lakshmi N. Mittal

**c) Aditya Mittal**

d) Rajiv Kumar

e) Sunil Mittal

Q.122) Who has been appointed as MD and CEO of Aegon Life Insurance?

a) Hari Krishnan

b) Vidyut Raman

**c) Satishwar Balakrishnan**

d) Amit Khare

e) Karan Sharma

Q.123) Which Ministry has virtually launched the First-Ever India Toy Fair 2021?

a) Ministry of Women and Child Development

**b) Ministry of Textiles**

c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

e) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Q.124) Who among the following laid the foundation stone of the Suheldev memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake in Uttar Pradesh?

a) Ramnath Kovind

**b) Narendra Modi**

c) Yogi Adityanath

d) Prahlad Singh Patel

e) Anandiben Patel

Q.125) Who hand over the indigenously designed and manufactured Arjuna Main Battle Tank to the Indian Army?

a) Rajnath Singh

b) Amit Shah

c) M. Venkaiah Naidu

**d) Narendra Modi**

e) Shripad Yesso Naik

Q.126) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation Ro-Ro vessels is at which Indian state?

a) Tamil Nadu

b) Andhra Pradesh

**c) Kerala**

d) Odisha

e) Maharashtra

Q.127) Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Italy?

a) Barbara Berlusconi

**b) Mario Draghi**

c) Silvio Berlusconi

d) Guiseppe Conte

e) Flavio Briatore

Q.128) Who has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Motors?

a) Natarajan Chandrasekaran

b) T. V. Narendran

**c) Marc Llistosella**

d) Cyrus Mistry

e) Ralf Speth

Q.129) Who is the author of the book 'Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy'?

a) Suresh Kumar

b) Lalitha Devi

c) Sudha Murthy

d) Vinay Kumar

**e) R.P. Gupta**

Q.130) Which of the following ministry organised the 26<sup>th</sup> Hunar Haat in New Delhi?

a) Union Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**b) Union Ministry of Minority Affairs**

c) Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs

d) Union Ministry of Defence

e) Union Ministry of Finance

Q.131) Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 'Jalabhishekam' campaign in which Indian state?

a) Meghalaya

b) Maharashtra

c) Himachal Pradesh

**d) Madhya Pradesh**

e) Tamil Nadu

Q.132) 'COVID Warrior Memorial' to be set up in which of the following place?

a) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

b) Bangalore, Karnataka

**c) Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

d) Kevadia, Gujarat

e) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Q.133) 11<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' inaugurated at Cooch Behar of which state?

a) Arunachal Pradesh

b) Karnataka

**c) West Bengal**

d) Gujarat

e) Bihar

Q.134) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India (ADTOI) held in which state?

a) Madhya Pradesh

**b) Gujarat**

c) West Bengal

d) Karnataka

e) Tamil Nadu

Q.135) MapMyIndia collaborate with whom to build an alternative of Google maps?

a) DRDO

b) Ministry of Electronics, Information Technology

**c) ISRO**

d) Ministry of Science and technology

e) All a, b, c, and d.

Q.136) Who authored the book title "Unfinished"?

a) Amir Khan

b) Anupam Kher

c) Sonu Sood

**d) Priyanka Chopra Jones**

e) Kangana Ranaut

Q.137) Prime Minister Modi laid the Foundation stone of the Cauvery Basin Refinery in which state?

a) Kerala

**b) Tamil Nadu**

c) Karnataka

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Telangana

Q.138) Uttar Pradesh launched a scheme named "Abhyuday Scheme". The scheme is related to\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Provide financial assistance to families belonging to SC/ST

b) Affordable house for BPL Families

**c) provide free coaching for competitive Exams**

d) provide financial assistance to BPL families

e) to provide jobs to migrant labors

Q.139) West Bengal CM launched "Maa Canteens" to provide subsidised meals to the poor at Rs. 5 per plate, under this scheme the State Government will provide the subsidy of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ per Plate.

a) 10

b) 12

c) 13

**d) 15**

e) 20

Q.140) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala appointed as the first female head of which of the following international organisation?

a) International Monetary Fund

b) World Bank

c) Asian Development Bank

**d) World Trade Organization**

e) New Development Bank

Q.141) Pilot Pey Jal Survekshan Under Jal Jeevan Mission launched, who is the Jal Shakti Minister?

a) Hardeep Singh Puri

**b) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

c) Narendra Singh Tomar

d) Dharmendra Pradhan

e) D V Sadanand Gowda

Q.142) In which country 'Pehla Phagun' spring festival celebrated?

a) Nepal

**b) Bangladesh**

c) Sri Lanka

d) Bhutan

e) Myanmar

Q.143) Third Scorpene-class submarine delivered to Indian Navy named\_\_\_\_\_.

a) INS Khanderi

b) INS Vela

c) INS vagsheer

**d) INS Karanj**

e) INS Vagir

Q.144) Ajay Mathur will be the new Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), to whom he succeeded?

a) N.P. Mishra

b) Amit Kumar

c) Rajiv Shukla

**d) Upendra Tripathy**

e) Rajiv Kumar

Q.145) Preeti Sinha to lead United Nations Capital Development fund, to whom she succeeds?

a) Christine Lagarde

b) Jim Yong Kim

**c) Judith Karl**

d) Roberto Azevedo

e) Pascal Lamy

Q.146) Who authored the book titled 'The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News'?

a) Tapan Roy

b) Arunima Sinha

c) Sudha Murthy

**d) Meghna Pant**

e) Anita Desai

Q.147) Which State Government signed MoU with Indian Economic Trade Organisation for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

a) Telangana

b) Gujarat

**c) Karnataka**

d) Haryana

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.148) Carlos Menem passed away, was a former President of which country?

a) Poland

**b) Argentina**

c) Croatia

d) France

e) Germany

Q.149) Ramnath Kovind has appointed Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar as the Chief Justice of which High Court?

a) Meghalaya

b) Gujarat

**c) Manipur**

d) Haryana

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.150) Maharashtra Government signs MoU with which company to promote craftsmen and local artisans?

**a) Flipkart**

b) Amazon

c) Myntra

d) Snapdeal

e) Google

Q.151) Who is the author of the memoir 'Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive'?

a) Vinay Sinha

b) Ram Chandran

**c) Peter Mukerjea**

d) Sunil Kumar

e) Karanjit Kapoor

Q.152) Which State Government appointed sprinter Hima Das as the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)?

**a) Assam**

b) Bihar

c) Tripura

d) Meghalaya

e) Kerala

Q.153) Faf du Plessis announced retirement from test cricket. He played for which country?

a) Australia

b) Pakistan

c) England

d) India

**e) South Africa**Q.154) The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II) held in which state?

a) Assam

b) Bihar

c) Tripura

d) Meghalaya

**e) Kerala**

Q.155) M Rama Jois passed away recently. He was a former Governor of which State?

a) Punjab

b) Haryana

c) Gujarat

**d) Both a and b**

e) All of the Above

Q.156) Naman Ojha has announced his retirement from which sport (February)?

a) Football

**b) Cricket**

c) Wrestling

d) Boxing

e) Chess

Q.157) Which of the following State celebrated Mandu Festival?

a) Telangana

b) Gujarat

c) Karnataka

d) Haryana

**e) Madhya Pradesh**

Q.158) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Mahabahu-Brahmputra' initiative in which state?

a) Arunachal Pradesh

b) Nagaland

c) Uttarakhand

**d) Assam**

e) Tripura

Q.159) 'Vishva Bharti', the oldest Central University of India is located in which state?

- a) Delhi
- b) West Bengal**

- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar
- e) Gujrat

Q.160) Which Ministry invited suggestions on draft Blue economy policy for India?

- a) Ministry of dairies, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- b) Ministry of finance
- c) Ministry of Earth sciences**

- d) Ministry of environment, forest and climate change
- e) Ministry of Agriculture

Q.161) 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the ISL (Indian Sign Language) dictionary released virtually by \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Kailash Chowdhary
- d) Kiran Rijiju
- e) Thaawarchand Gehlot**

Q.162) Which State become the first state in the country to provide 100 percent tap water connection?

- a) Telangana
- b) Gujrat
- c) Goa**
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Maharashtra

Q.163) National Information Centre (NIC) has launched an instant messaging platform called "sandesh", NIC comes under which ministry?

- a) Ministry of Information Broadcasting
- b) Ministry Electronics and Information Technology**

- c) Ministry of Education
- d) Ministry of Science and Technology
- e) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q.164) Which edition of Foreign Ministers of India, Australia, Japan, and the US to meet to discuss free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region?

- a) 1<sup>st</sup>
- b) 2<sup>nd</sup>
- c) 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- d) 4<sup>th</sup>
- e) 5<sup>th</sup>

Q.165) 9<sup>th</sup> Round of Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control held virtually between India and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Australia
- b) Japan**

- c) US
- d) Germany
- e) Russia

Q.166) HCL Technology signs pact with which IIT to boost capabilities in cybersecurity?

- a) IIT Bombay
- b) IIT Madras
- c) IIT Kanpur**
- d) IIT Bangalore
- e) IIT Kharagpur

Q.167) Which Group inks \$1.2 billion deal to buy a majority stake in BigBasket?

- a) Adani Group
- b) Reliance India Limited
- c) Aditya Birla Group
- d) Tata Group**

- e) Bajaj Group

Q.168) Asian Development Bank and which health care company signed Rs. 100 crore debt financing to support covid-19 response?

- a) Fortis Health Care
- b) Bombay Hospitals
- c) Medanta Global Health Pvt Ltd**
- d) Apollo Hospitals
- e) Hinduja Health care Limited

Q.169) Which IIT has Incubated Start-Up Pi Beam Launched 'PiMo E-Bike'?

- a) IIT Bombay
- b) IIT Madras**
- c) IIT Kanpur
- d) IIT Bangalore
- e) IIT Kharagpur

Q.170) Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi, has been removed from her post, Tamilisai Soundararajan took an additional charge of Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, she is the Governor of which state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Telangana**

Q.171) Actor Darshan appointed as ambassador of the agriculture department of which state?

- a) Karnataka**

- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Telangana
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Kerala

Q.172) Who has been conferred with 'Skoch Chief Minister of the year award'?

- a) B.S. Yedurappa
- b) K. Palani swami
- c) Pinarayi Vijayan
- d) Yogi Adityanath

**e) YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**

Q.173) Rahul climbs to the second spot while Kohli remains at 7<sup>th</sup> in ICC T20I rankings for batsmen, who topped this list?

- a) Lokesh Rahul
- b) Aaron Finch
- c) Babar Azam

**d) Dawid Malan**

- e) Rassie van der Dussen

Q.174) Which of the following states launched the mobile app "Snakepedia"?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu

**d) Kerala**

- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.175) India approved the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with which country?

- a) France
- b) Maldives
- c) Kenya

**d) Mauritius**

- e) Finland

Q.176) Which among the following won the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020?

- a) Worldwide Fund for Nature India
- b) Narcotics Control Bureau

**c) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**

- d) National Tiger Conservation Authority
- e) Power Finance Corporation

Q.177) Which is the only Indian city to get recognised as the 2020 Tree City of the world?

- a) Bengaluru
- b) Mumbai

**c) Hyderabad**

- d) Indore

- e) Surat

Q.178) Giorgi Gakharia has resigned as the Prime Minister of which country? (February 2021)

- a) Kuwait

**b) Georgia**

- c) Egypt
- d) Moldova
- e) Vietnam

Q.179) Which State Government announced a package of Rs. 200-crore for the Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives (SAMALEI) plan for 2021-22?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Kerala

**e) Odisha**

Q.180) Which of the following space agency successfully landed its fifth rover, 'Perseverance' on Mars?

- a) ISRO
- b) Space X
- c) NASA**
- d) Skyroot
- e) United Launch Alliance

Q.181) Satish Sharma passed away recently was a renowned \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Dancer
- b) Politician**
- c) Freedom Fighter
- d) Chief Justice
- e) Actor

Q.182) Name the automobile company which has launched the Ultimate Exploration Vehicle "Tiger X-1".

- a) Ford
- b) Maruti Suzuki
- c) Hyundai Motor**
- d) Tata Motors
- e) Skoda

Q.183) Which brand is selected as the title sponsors of the Indian Premier League for the 2021 edition?

- a) Jio
- b) DLF
- c) Paytm
- d) VIVO**
- e) Dream11

Q.184) Who becomes the first Indian appointed as the chairperson of the Advisory Committee at the Human Rights Council?

- a) Ram Sewak
- b) Ajai Malhotra**
- c) Vinay Sharma

d) Sarath Singh

e) Amit Khare

Q.185) Who has been appointed as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)?

a) Shyam Sundar

b) Rajagopalan

**c) Usha Rao Monari**

d) Bala Krishnan

e) Kishore Kumar

Q.186) Which two states celebrated statehood day on 20<sup>th</sup> February?

**a) Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram**

b) Nagaland & Mizoram

c) Assam & Tripura

d) Assam & Nagaland

e) Tripura & Arunachal Pradesh

Q.187) Who addressed the inaugural ceremony of the third India Tourism Mart?

a) Prakash Jawrekar

b) Piyush Goyal

c) Prahalad Patel

**d) Harsh Vardhan**

e) Amit Shah

Q.188) Union Minister Harsh Vardhan Launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0, focus of the IMI 3.0 will be \_\_\_\_\_.

a) COVID-19 Recovered Patients

b) Children

c) Pregnant Women

**d) Both b and c**

e) all a, b & c

Q.189) Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah attended the programme 'Shauryanjali', organized at \_\_\_\_\_.

a) New Delhi

b) Chennai

c) Bengaluru

d) Hyderabad

**e) Kolkata**

Q.190) Who Inaugurated Atal Paryavaran Bhawan at Lakshadweep?

a) Minister of Information Broadcasting

b) Minister Electronics and Information Technology

c) Minister of Education

**d) Minister of Environment, forest and climate change**

e) Minister of Commerce and Industry

Q.191) Which two countries began developing advanced anti-missile arrow-4 system?

a) US- India

b) Israel -India

**c) Israel-U.S**

d) India- Russia

e) India- Japan

Q.192) NAVDEX-21 is a joint naval exercise between India and \_\_\_\_\_.

a) USA

**b) UAE**

c) Australia

d) Germany

e) Russia

Q.193) Pakistan to register \_\_\_\_\_ as Geographical Indications.

a) Rice

b) Mango

c) Mustard

**d) Himalayan pink salt**

e) Potato

Q.194) Recently in which state e-Kuber payments system launched?

a) West Bengal

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Kerala

**d) Jammu and Kashmir**

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.195) "Go Electric" campaign launched by \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Dr Harsh Vardhan

**b) Nitin Gadkari**

c) Amit Shah

d) Nirmala Sitharaman

e) Piyush Goyal

Q.196) Manika Batra won Women's single title in national table tennis championship by defeating \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Neha Agrawal

b) Ankita Das

c) Poulomi Ghatak

**d) Reeth Rishya**

e) Mantu Ghosh

Q.197) The book-'Rashtra Pratham – 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha '(Nation First – The Golden Story of 82 Years), is unveiled by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is the History of

a) CISF

b) Marathas

c) BSF

d) ITBP

**e) CRPF**

Q.198) Who has inaugurated the three-day Incredible India Mega Homestay Development and Training workshop in Darjeeling?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Prahalad Singh Patel**
- e) Narendra Singh Tomar

Q.199) PM Modi Inaugurated Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Institute of Medical Sciences and research at \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) IIT- Bombay
- b) IIT-Hyderabad
- c) IIT-Delhi
- d) IIT-Kharagpur**
- e) IIT- Guwahati

Q.200) Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma Announced corpus of \_\_\_\_\_ Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ Crore to help Meghalaya Entrepreneurs in the state.

- a) 75
- b) 90
- c) 100
- d) 115
- e) 125**

Q.201) Which state becomes the first state to give co-ownership rights to women in their husband's ancestral property?

- a) Uttarakhand**
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.202) \_\_\_\_\_ shipyard to build Navy's damage control simulator in Port Blair, Andaman Nicobar.

- a) Kolkata
- b) Vishakhapatnam
- c) Cochin
- d) Mumbai
- e) Goa**

Q.203) Uttar Pradesh to Export 20 Tonnes of 'Kala Namak' to Singapore By March end 2021, 'Kala-Namak' is a variety of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Salt
- b) Wheat
- c) Rice**
- d) Sugarcane
- e) Pulses

Q.204) National anthem played in which state's assembly for the first time in almost 6 decades?

- a) Manipur

b) Tripura

**c) Nagaland**

d) Jammu and Kashmir

e) Mizoram

Q.205) 'DigiLocker' for 'Passport seva' launched by which ministry?

**a) Ministry of External Affairs**

b) Ministry of Civil Aviation

c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

d) Ministry of Home Affairs

e) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q.206) Kerala Government Sanctioned Rs. 9 crore to build 'smart Anganwadi's, fund granted for the construction of how many new Anganwadis?

a) 20

b) 29

c) 35

**d) 48**

e) 55

Q.207) Which Government hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual folk-art Festival 'Utsavam-2021'?

a) Manipur

b) Tripura

c) Nagaland

**d) Kerala**

e) Mizoram

Q.208) NTPC set to Launch Hydrogen Fuel Bus Service on which Route?

a) Delhi- Mathura

b) Delhi- Agra

c) Delhi-Manali

**d) Delhi-Jaipur**

e) Delhi-Faridabad

Q.209) India approved line of credit of how much amount to boost sports infrastructure in the Maldives?

a) 20 Million USD

**b) 40 Million USD**

c) 50 Million USD

d) 55 Million USD

e) 59 Million USD

Q.210) Which country recently allowed women to join armed forces?

a) UAE

b) Bahrain

c) Qatar

d) Indonesia

**e) Saudi Arabia**

Q.211) Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Georgia?

- a) Archil Talakvadze
- b) Giorgi Gakharia
- c) Irakli Garibashvili**
- d) Salome Zourabichvili
- e) Kakha Kaladze

Q.212) World Bank appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as first African head of International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

- a) Giga Bokeria
- b) Makhtar Diop**
- c) Natela Turnava
- d) Nika Melia
- e) Giga Bokeria

Q.213) Who is the runner-up of men's singles title in Australian Open 2021?

- a) Rafael Nadal
- b) Alexander Zverev
- c) Novak Djokovic
- d) Roger Federer

**e) Daniil Medvedev**

Q.214) Naomi Osaka won the women's singles title by defeating Jennifer Brady in Australia open 2021. She is from which country?

- a) China
- b) Japan**
- c) Indonesia
- d) Malaysia
- e) South Korea

Q.215) Recently, Dhammika Prasad retired from all forms of international cricket. He played for which country?

- a) India
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Afghanistan

**d) Sri Lanka**

e) Nepal

Q.216) India signed a \$50 million defence Line of Credit to boost the maritime capabilities of which country?

- a) Mauritius
- b) Sri Lanka

**c) Maldives**

- d) Myanmar
- e) Malaysia

Q.217) Which international organisation to launch World Solar Bank at global climate meet?

- a) United nations development program
- b) International Atomic Energy Association
- c) World Bank

d) International Monetary Fund

**e) International Solar Alliance**

Q.218) Which tennis player claims maiden WTA title and set to enter the doubles top-100 for the first time?

- a) Nirupama Sanjeev

**b) Ankita Raina**

- c) Riya Bhatia
- d) Karman Kaur
- e) Shikha Uberoi

Q.219) Prime Minister Modi inaugurated oil and gas projects and engineering colleges in which state?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Kerala

**c) Assam**

- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Gujrat

Q.220) 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of National awards for technology innovation in petrochemicals & downstream plastics processing industries, presented by which minister?

- a) Kailash Chaudhary
- b) Prakash Jawrekar
- c) Piyush Goyal

**d) D V Sadananda Gowda**

e) Smriti Irani

Q.221) Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the DRDO skill development center for fire safety training in which state?

**a) Uttar Pradesh**

- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Assam
- e) West Bengal

Q.222) Which edition Meeting of the Council of IITs headed by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal?

a) 45<sup>th</sup>

**b) 54<sup>th</sup>**

- c) 59<sup>th</sup>
- d) 61<sup>st</sup>
- e) 65<sup>th</sup>

Q.223) India's first digital university to be set up in which state?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Gujarat

**c) Kerala**

- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Goa



Q.224) Who among the following attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> convocation ceremony of the Central university of Gujarat in Gandhinagar?

**a) Ram Nath Kovind**

b) M. Venkaiah Naidu

c) Narendra Modi

d) Ramesh Pokhriyal

e) Amit Shah

Q.225) Tripura gets the first-of-its-kind road constructed using non-recyclable plastic waste, under this initiative, they constructed a \_\_\_\_\_ meter-long road?

a) 430

b) 450

c) 570

d) 600

**e) 680**

Q.226) Vice President releases 'Maverick Messiah', a political biography of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

**b) N T Rama Rao**

c) Tanguturi Anjaiah

d) Bhavanam Venkataramani Reddy

e) JalagamVengala Rao

Q.227) Tech Mahindra Limited has signed which Indian Chess Player as the mentor for the phygital (physical and digital) Global Chess League?

a) Pentala Harikrishna

b) Koneru Humpy

**c) Vishwanathan Anand**

d) Bhakti Kulkarni

e) Vidit Gujrathi

Q.228) Which company delivered the 100<sup>th</sup> K9 vajra Howitzer to the Indian Army?

a) Adani

b) Birla

c) Reliance India Limited

d) TATA

**e) L&T**

Q.229) DRDO conducts two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile from which coast?

**a) Odisha**

b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Tamil Nadu

d) Kerala

e) Gujrat

Q.230) Which e-commerce platform partners with the Directorate General Resettlement to hire ex-servicemen?

a) Flipkart

b) Alibaba

c) Snapdeal

**d) Amazon**

e) Myntra

Q.231) Who has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of OneWeb?

a) Cheriyan Kalpakavadi

b) Prakash Bare

c) Rajeev Ravi

**d) Srikanth Balachandran**

e) Mohan Kumar

Q.232) Arundhati Choudhary won gold medal in the 30<sup>th</sup> Adriatic Pearl tournament held in Budva, Montenegro. She won the medal under which category?

a) 51 kg Category

b) 73 kg Category

c) 58 kg Category

**d) 69 kg Category**

e) 48 kg Category

Q.233) Which company has signed Viswanathan Anand as the mentor for Global Chess League 2021?

a) Tata Motors

b) Tesla

c) ChessBase

**d) Tech Mahindra**

e) Playchess

Q.234) Who authored the book 'Maverick Messiah', a political biography of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N T Rama Rao?

a) Ashish Kumar

**b) Ramesh Kandula**

c) Bala Ramaiah

d) Ram Prakash

e) Suresh Kumar

Q.235) Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Jindal Power Limited?

**a) Anil Kumar Jha**

b) Pawan Singh

c) Aarthi Sharma

d) Soma Mondal

e) Vidyut Singh

Q.236) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved proposals worth Rs. 13,700 crore. Who is the Chairperson of DAC?

a) Prime Minister

b) Foreign Minister

c) Home Minister

**d) Defence Minister**

e) Finance Minister

Q.237) Government of India and AIIB signed an agreement for 304 million USD to improve the power sector of which State?

**a) Assam**

b) Bihar

c) Kerala

d) Tamil Nadu

e) West Bengal

Q.238) National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) & several Digital Initiatives for Transforming Urban Governance Launched by\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Narendra Modi

b) Piyush Goyal

c) Rakesh Sinha

**d) Hardeep Singh Puri**

e) Narendra Singh Tomar

Q.239) President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurated world's largest cricket stadium at Ahmedabad is renamed as\_\_\_\_\_ stadium.

a) Sardar Patel

b) Atal Vihari

c) Mahatma Gandhi

**d) Narendra Modi**

e) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Q.240) 184<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Headed by Union Minister of Labour and Employment, who is holding this ministry?

a) Rao Inderjit Singh

b) Shripad Yesso Naik

c) Jitendra Singh

d) Mansukh L. Madaviya

**e) Santosh Kumar Gangwar**

Q.241) In which country Union Minister of External Affairs Jaishankar inaugurated a new chancery building of the Indian High Commission?

**a) Mauritius**

b) Maldives

c) Indonesia

d) Ethiopia

e) Bangladesh

Q.242) Japan appoints a 'Loneliness' minister to check the rising suicide rate in the country, which country is the first to take the same initiative?

a) Saudi Arab

b) Japan

c) China

d) UAE

**e) UK**

Q.243) The new alpine plant species discovered in Tawang District of state\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Uttarakhand

**c) Arunachal Pradesh**

d) Assam

e) Punjab

Q.244) Which country became India's top trade partner of 2020 by surpassed US?

a) Russia

b) UK

c) Israel

d) UAE

**e) China**

Q.245) Which PSU signed an MoU with the Centre for a railways information system to get real-time freight data?

a) Hindustan petroleum corporation limited

b) Indian oil corporation

**c) Coal India Limited**

d) Bharat heavy electricals limited

e) Bhilai steel plant

Q.246) India to start trials of Astra missile in 2021, what is the range of this missile?

a) 120 km

b) 140 km

c) 150 km

**d) 160 km**

e) 180 km

Q.247) The Book titled 'The Lost Soul' is authored by whom?

a) Louise Gluck

b) Kazuo Ishiguro

**c) Olga Tokarczuk**

d) Svetlana Alexievich

e) Alice Munro

Q.248) Which book is authored by BJP Leader and Author Ram Madhav?

a) Indian Mythology

b) Go Ahead

c) Dreams that Don't Let You Sleep

d) Decisive days

**e) Because India Comes First**

Q.249) Long-serving oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani passed away recently. He belonged to which country?

**a) Saudi Arabia**

b) UAE

c) Qatar

d) Syria

e) Pakistan

Q.250) Which film won the award in the category of the best film in Dada Saheb International award 2021?

- a) Chhapak
- b) Lakshmi
- c) Dil Bechara
- d) Ludo

**e) Tanha Ji**

Q.251) NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson is honored with a new spacecraft named \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Unsolved Problems
- b) Jumbled Figures

**c) Hidden Figures**

- d) Unsolved Mystery
- e) Hidden Facts

Q.252) Who won the women's singles title in Senior National Table Tennis Championship?

- a) Madhurika Patkar
- b) Manu Bhaker
- c) Reeth Rishya
- d) Mouma Das

**e) Manika Batra**

Q.253) Who became the youngest woman to row solo across the ocean (3,000 miles)?

- a) Justin Hartley
- b) Mandy Moore

**c) Jasmine Harrison**

- d) Cheryl Hines
- e) Sofia Pernas

Q.254) Who has won the best actress award in Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award?

- a) Kiara Advani

**b) Deepika Padukone**

- c) Sushmita Sen
- d) Alia Bhat
- e) Kareena Kapoor

Q.255) Who authored the book titled "ASOCA: A Sutra"?

- a) Kartikeya Sarabhai
- b) Vikram Seth
- c) Arundhati Roy

**d) Irwin Allan Sealys**

- e) Jhumpa Lahiri

Q.256) Rahul Khullar has passed away recently. He was the former chief of which organisation?

- a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

**c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**

- d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- e) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Q.257) Who beats Sharath Kamal to clinch his maiden national table tennis title held in Haryana?

- a) Harmeet Desai

**b) Sathiyam Gnanasekaran**

- c) Anthony Amalraj
- d) Nikhil Kumar
- e) Manav Thakkar

Q.258) Under which article recently, Union cabinet approved the president's rule in Puducherry?

- a) 352
- b) 315
- c) 324

**d) 356**

- e) 360

Q.259) Which State Assembly approved a bill prohibition of unlawful religious conversion?

**a) Uttar Pradesh**

- b) Haryana
- c) Assam
- d) Jharkhand
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.260) The second edition of the Maritime India Summit to be inaugurated by \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Ram Nath Kovind
- b) M Venkaiah Naidu

**c) Narendra Modi**

- d) Amit Shah
- e) Mansukh L Madaviya

Q.261) \_\_\_\_\_ has signed a contract with M/S second for Acquisition of Eight Missile Cum Ammunition Barge.

- a) Indian Army

**b) Indian Navy**

- c) Indian Airforce
- d) DRDO
- e) ISRO

Q.262) Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar distributed awards to top-performing states and districts under the PM-KISAN scheme, which state awarded for adding the highest percentage of aadhar authenticated beneficiaries?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra

**d) Karnataka**

e) Tamil Nadu

Q.263) Who addressed 33<sup>rd</sup> convocation of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University?

a) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

b) Ram Nath Kovind

c) Amit Shah

**d) Narendra Modi**

e) Smriti Irani

Q.264) Who initiated secure application for internet (SAI) a messaging platform, for internal communication?

a) Indian Navy

b) Indian Airforce

**c) Indian Army**

d) DRDO

e) ISRO

Q.265) Which country became the first country to receive free COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX scheme?

a) Côte d'Ivoire

b) Togo

c) Burkina Faso

**d) Ghana**

e) Moldova

Q.266) 12<sup>th</sup> Technical Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices(NSOs) of BRICS held, the chairmanship of one of the BRICS countries by rotation, which country chair in 2021?

a) Brazil

b) Russia

**c) India**

d) China

e) South Africa

Q.267) Former Minister Vijay Sampla appointed as the new chairman of the national commission for scheduled castes, to whom he succeeded?

a) Buta Singh

b) L Murugan

c) Swaraj Vidwan

d) Suraj Bhan

**e) Ram Shankar Katheria**

Q.268) Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be appointed as US Ambassador to the \_\_\_\_\_.

a) WHO

b) IMF

**c) UN**

d) World Bank

e) UNICEF

Q.269) Which organisation signed an MoU with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for exchange data to enhance ease of doing business in India?

a) Central Board of Direct Taxes

**b) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

c) Enforcement directorate

d) Central Vigilance Commission

e) None of the Above

Q.270) India agreed to strengthen multilateral cooperation with which country?

a) Tajikistan

b) Turkmenistan

c) Afghanistan

**d) Uzbekistan**

e) Kyrgyzstan

Q.271) International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced which city to host the 2032 summer Olympic games?

**a) Brisbane**

b) Adelaide

c) Melbourne

d) Sydney

e) Perth

Q.272) Who become the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian to score a double ton in 50-over cricket?

a) Rohit Sharma

**b) Prithvi Shaw**

c) Rishabh Pant

d) Shubham Gill

e) Virat Kohli

Q.273) Which company appointed Yanira Ramirez as country sales manager for India?

a) Allen Solly

b) Da Milano

c) Monte Carlo

**d) Hennes & Mauritz**

e) Franco Leone

Q.274) Who dedicated to the nation the 1000 MW Neyveli New Thermal Power Project and 709 MW Solar Power Project of NLCIL?

a) E.K. Palaniswami

b) Piyush Goyal

c) R K Singh

**d) Narendra Modi**

e) Shashi Tharoor

Q.275) Prime Minister Modi delivered the inaugural address at the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of Khelo India National Winter Games Virtually.

a) 1<sup>st</sup>**b) 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- c) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
d) 4<sup>th</sup>  
e) 5<sup>th</sup>
- Q.276) India, Australia, and which country holds trilateral dialogue with a focus on Indo-Pacific?  
a) Japan  
b) Myanmar  
c) Mauritius  
d) Maldives  
**e) France**
- Q.277) UK's Inmarsat appoints Rajeev Suri as CEO, he was the CEO of which company?  
a) Black Barry  
**b) Nokia**  
c) Apple  
d) Huawei  
e) Motorola
- Q.278) Which city of Meghalaya to host the National Table Tennis Championship 2022?  
a) Cherrapunji  
b) Jowai  
c) Mawlynnong  
**d) Shillong**  
e) Mankachar
- Q.279) India vs. England day-night pink ball test becomes the shortest completed test match since the second world war, it was held in which Stadium?  
a) Arun Jaitely stadium  
b) Eden Gardens  
**c) Narendra Modi stadium**  
d) Holkar stadium  
e) Rajiv Gandhi stadium
- Q.280) Book 'Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor' to be released in April is an autobiography of which actor?  
a) Sushant Singh rajput  
b) Amitabh Bachhan  
c) Salman Khan  
d) Amir Khan  
**e) Kabir Bedi**
- Q.281) Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala was re-elected as the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) president, what is his term?  
a) two years  
b) three years  
**c) four years**  
d) five years  
e) six years
- Q.282) Who inaugurated the latest technology Integrated Bamboo Treatment Plant near Guwahati, Assam?  
a) Sarbanada Sonowal  
**b) Jitendra Singh**  
c) Dr Jagdish Mukhi  
d) Kiran Rijiju  
e) Amit Shah
- Q.283) Indian and which country's science and technology Ministers discuss collaborations in Range of areas Like Health, AI, Environment?  
**a) Brazil**  
b) Russia  
c) India  
d) China  
e) South Africa
- Q.284) Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting held on Army-to-Army engagement between which two countries?  
a) China-Pakistan  
b) Israel-UAE  
c) India-Japan  
d) USA-Japan  
**e) India- USA**
- Q.285) Which edition of Global Bio-India to be held virtually from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>?  
a) 1<sup>st</sup>  
**b) 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
c) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
d) 4<sup>th</sup>  
e) 5<sup>th</sup>
- Q.286) Who delivered the inaugural address at the 16<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021?  
a) Narendra Modi  
b) Smriti Irani  
c) Nirmala Sitharaman  
d) Piyush Goyal  
**e) Ramesh Pokhriyal**
- Q.287) Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Sadananda Gowda inaugurated a four-day Global Investors meet. The event was organised by which organisation?  
a) Food Corporation of India  
**b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**  
c) Confederation of Indian Industry  
d) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India  
e) National Association of Software and Service Companies

Q.288) The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Global Bio-India held recently, what is the theme of 2021?

- a) Transforming the Biological Sciences
- b) Technology for India
- c) Digital and Life Skills Awareness

**d) Transforming Lives**

- e) Making research to improve climate change

Q.289) Who becomes the fastest Indian and second bowler (International) to take 400 test wickets?

- a) Anil Kumble

**b) Ravichandran Ashwin**

- c) Kuldeep Yadav
- d) Jasprit Bumrah
- e) Bhubaneswar Kumar

Q.290) Recently, Yusuf Pathan announced his retirement. He was associated with which sport?

- a) Tennis
- b) Football

**c) Cricket**

- d) Badminton
- e) Kabaddi

Q.291) The National Protein Day observed on 27<sup>th</sup> February annually, what is the theme for the year 2021?

- a) 'Farmers are the backbone of India'

**b) 'Powering with Plant Protein'**

- c) 'Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat'
- d) 'Health for all: Protect everyone'
- e) 'Science for and with Society'

Q.292) Who addressed the National Science Day function from Imphal virtually?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Venkaiah Naidu

**c) Harsh Vardhan**

- d) Prakash Javdekar
- e) Smriti Irani

Q.293) Which State/Union Territory launched India's first app named "Carbon Watch" to assess the carbon footprint?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Manipur
- c) Assam
- d) Rajasthan

**e) Chandigarh**

Q.294) Who inaugurated Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 at Noida Haat?

- a) Prahalad Singh Patel
- b) Mansuk L Mandaviya
- c) Amit Shah

**d) Narendra Singh Tomar**

- e) Arvind Kejriwal

Q.295) Who attended 'G20 Central Bank Governors' Virtual meet?

- a) Shaktikant Das
- b) B P Kanoongo

**c) Nirmala Sitharaman**

- d) Anurag Thkaur
- e) Piyush Goyal

Q.296) Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri passed away at the age of 81, he was associated with which field?

- a) Economics
- b) Sports
- c) Cinema

**d) Literature**

- e) Politics

Q.297) Michael Somare passed away recently, he was the first Prime Minister of which country?

**a) Papua New Guinea**

- b) Indonesia
- c) Australia
- d) New Zealand
- e) Vanuatu

Q.298) Which Indian economist appointed as Assistant Secretary-General & Head of the New York Office of the UNEP?

- a) Raghuram Rajan
- b) Gita Gopinath

**c) Ligia Noronha**

- d) Fareed Zakaria
- e) Esther Duflo

Q.299) Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Fullerton India Credit Company?

- a) Vijay Sampla
- b) Dushyant Chautala
- c) Ajai Malhotra

**d) Shantanu Mitra**

- e) Gautam Thakar

Q.300) Who has been appointed as Global CEO of OLX Autos by OLX group?

- a) Vijay Sampla
- b) Dushyant Chautala
- c) Ajai Malhotra
- d) Shantanu Mitra

**e) Gautam Thakar**

**BANKING AWARENESS**

Q.1) Which organisation has signed a USD 100 million agreement with India to fund the CHIRAAG project of Chhattisgarh?

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) New Development Bank

**c) World Bank**

- d) International Monetary Fund
- e) European Investment Bank

Q.2) Which bank signed an MoU with Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate to offer faster home loans?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Dena Bank
- c) Bank of India
- d) Andhra Bank

**e) State Bank of India**

Q.3) Which bank restricted all its customers to withdraw money from non-EMV automated teller machines (ATMs) effective from February 2021?

- a) Bank of Maharashtra
- b) Indian Overseas bank
- c) Union Bank of India

**d) Punjab National Bank**

- e) Bank of Baroda

Q.4) IRDAI issued guidelines for standard medical insurance 'Mashak Rakshak', which covers vector-borne diseases. What is the maximum sum assured under that?

- a) 5 lakhs

**b) 2 lakhs**

- c) 3 lakhs
- d) 4 lakhs
- e) 6 lakhs

Q.5) Which bank has launched 'FedFirst' special savings account for children?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Axis Bank

**c) Federal Bank**

- d) RBL Bank
- e) ICICI Bank

Q.6) Which Insurance had partnered with Okinawa Autotech for two-wheeler policy coverage?

- a) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company

**b) Edelweiss General Insurance**

- c) Bharti Axa General Insurance
- d) Universal Sompo General Insurance Company
- e) Reliance General Insurance

Q.7) RBI has forecast India's GDP growth at what percent for the fiscal year 2021-22?

- a) 11.9 percent

- b) 9.8 percent

**c) 10.5 percent**

- d) 7.7 percent
- e) 12.1 percent

Q.8) Which Insurance company launched the 'Salute to Caregivers – Ek Naya Nazariya' Campaign to support the cancer survivors on World Cancer Day?

- a) Reliance General Insurance
- b) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited

**c) Bharti AXA General Insurance**

- d) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company
- e) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

Q.9) Which bank signed an MoU with MUFG Bank for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements of Japanese corporates present in India?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Axis Bank

**c) ICICI Bank**

- d) Federal Bank
- e) RBL Bank

Q.10) Which organisation has decided to set up a 24x7 helpline for digital payment services?

- a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

**b) Reserve Bank of India**

- c) National Housing Bank
- d) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- e) Small Industries Development Bank of India

Q.11) Which bank tied up with LoanTap Credit for co-lending to MSMEs?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) Punjab National Bank

**d) Bank of Maharashtra**

- e) Bank of Baroda

Q.12) PhonePe partners with which Bank on UPI (Unified Payment Interface) multi-bank model?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) Axis Bank
- c) Bank of Maharashtra
- d) Punjab National Bank

- e) Bank of Baroda

Q.13) As per the recent survey, India will get an average of what percentage salary increase in 2021?

- a) 5.9 %

**b) 6.4 %**

- c) 8.2 %

d) 7.1 %

e) 10 %

Q.14) According to SBI Ecowrap, what is the projected growth rate of the Indian economy for fiscal 2020-21?

a) -6.5 %

b) -7.8 %

c) -7.9 %

**d) -7 %**

e) -8.1 %

Q.15) India Ratings Projects India's GDP to grow 10.4% growth in FY22 is

a) -11.5 %

b) -7.9 %

c) -12.9 %

d) -13.7 %

**e) -10.4 %**

Q.16) The Banking ombudsman has been empowered to pass an award of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh.

a) 10

**b) 20**

c) 15

d) 25

e) 30

Q.17) \_\_\_\_\_ period is the provision in most loan and insurance contracts that allows payment to be received for a certain period of time after the actual due date.

a) Policy

b) Premium

c) Notice

d) Additional

**e) Grace**

Q.18) A profit from the sale of property or an investment is called as \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Business Gain

**b) Capital Gain**

c) Net Gain

d) Gross Gain

e) None of these

Q.19) The nominal value of a security stated by the issuer is called as \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Par Value

b) Sell Value

c) Market Value

**d) Face Value**

e) None of these

Q.20) Which committee established by the Central Bank governors of the Group of ten countries in 1974 that seeks to improve the supervisory guidelines that central banks or

similar authorities impose on both wholesale and retail banks?

**a) BASEL Committee**

b) FEDERAL Committee

c) UNION Committee

d) SWIFT Committee

e) None of these

Q.21) Which organisation launched Financial Literacy Week (FLW) from February 8 - 12, 2021?

a) NABARD

b) SEBI

**c) RBI**

d) Finance Ministry

e) SIDBI

Q.22) RBI forms an expert panel headed by whom to explore consolidation of urban co-operative banks?

a) Urjit Patel

b) Dr. V Viral Acharya

**c) N S Vishwanathan**

d) R Gandhi

e) B P Kanoongo

Q.23) Which dairy tech start-up signed an agreement with India Post Payments Bank?

a) Country Delight

b) Milk Basket

c) Orgo Milk

**d) Stellaps**

e) Milk Mania

Q.24) Exim Bank to provide \_\_\_\_\_ for the Maldives for Greater Male Connectivity Project.

a) \$200 million

b) \$450 million

c) \$300 million

**d) \$400 million**

e) \$550 million

Q.25) PM KISAN scheme completed two years launched on 24 Feb 2019, under this scheme the total amount of Rs. 6000 directly transferred into the bank accounts of the farmers, in how many installments in a year government transfer the amount?

a) 2

**b) 3**

c) 4

d) 5

e) 6

Q.26) RBI forms an \_\_\_\_ member expert panel to explore consolidation of urban co-operative banks?

a) 6



- b) 7  
**c) 8**  
 d) 9  
 e) 10
- Q.27) According to Nomura, what is the projected GDP of India in FY22?  
 a) 14.6%  
**b) 13.5%**  
 c) 15.7%  
 d) 16.5%  
 e) 13.8%
- Q.28) ICICI Lombard partners with which e-commerce company to offer 'Hospicash insurance' to consumers?  
 a) Amazon  
 b) Tata-Cliq  
 c) Myntra  
 d) Snapdeal  
**e) Flipkart**
- Q.29) \_\_\_\_\_ partners with Razorpay to make digital payments more accessible for MSMEs and startups.  
 a) Rupay  
 b) Maestro card  
 c) Visa Card  
**d) Mastercard**  
 e) PayPal
- Q.30) Google has partnered with which organisation to invest \$75 million in coronavirus-hit small businesses?  
 a) Asian Development Bank  
**b) European Investment Fund**  
 c) International Monetary Fund  
 d) World Bank  
 e) European Central Bank
- Q.31) As per Oxford Economics, what is the projected GDP of India for the Calendar year 2021?  
 a) 11%  
 b) 8.8%  
**c) 10.2%**  
 d) 7.5%  
 e) 9.6%
- Q.32) The Export-Import Bank of India recently extended an LoC of \$15 million to which country?  
 a) Kazakhstan  
 b) Nigeria  
 c) Kenya  
**d) Sierra Leone**  
 e) Mauritius
- Q.33) SBI Payments launched \_\_\_\_\_ app to boost digital payments.  
 a) Diya App  
 b) Dlite app  
 c) Batuaa app  
 d) Chillar app  
**e) YONO merchant app**
- Q.34) Which Bank ties up with Vayana Network tie-up for channel financing platform offering Financial support to MSMEs?  
 a) Indian Bank  
 b) Bank of Baroda  
**c) Bank of Maharashtra**  
 d) ICICI Bank  
 e) HDFC Bank
- Q.35) Which bank signed MoU with SID of IISc for funding Startups and MSMEs?  
 a) State Bank of India  
 b) ICICI Bank  
 c) Bank of Baroda  
**d) Indian Bank**  
 e) Axis Bank
- Q.36) According to which rating agency, India will be the one of the fastest-growing emerging market economies with a 10% growth in FY 2022?  
**a) S&P Global ratings**  
 b) Fitch ratings  
 c) CRISIL ratings  
 d) CARE ratings  
 e) ICRA ratings
- Q.37) Which International and popular furniture brand signed an MoU with Uttar Pradesh Government to invest Rs. 5,500 crores in Noida?  
 a) Ashley furniture industries  
 b) Steelcase furniture  
 c) Williams-Sonoma furniture  
**d) IKEA Furniture retail company**  
 e) Herman Miller furniture
- Q.38) India signed free trade and investment agreement (FTA) with which country?  
 a) Ethiopia  
 b) Tanzania  
**c) Mauritius**  
 d) Guinea  
 e) Zimbabwe
- Q.39) India signed USD 60 million project with World Bank to improve the quality of \_\_\_\_\_ in Nagaland?  
 a) Public services  
 b) Drinking Water  
 c) Roadways

d) Housing

**e) Education**

Q.40) Which rating agency has revised its outlook on the overall banking sector to 'stable' for FY22 (2021-22) from 'negative'?

**a) Indian Ratings and Research**

b) ICRA

c) CRISIL

d) SMERA

e) Nomura

Q.41) HSBC raises India's GDP forecast to 11.2% for FY22, earlier it forecasted \_\_\_\_%.

a) 8

b) 8.50

**c) 9**

d) 10

e) 10.50

Q.42) Which payments bank got the status of the scheduled commercial bank by Reserve Bank of India?

a) Airtel Payment bank

**b) Fino Payment bank**

c) Jio Payment bank

d) Paytm Payment bank

e) India Post Payments Bank

Q.43) Which Indian bank to join J P Morgan's blockchain payments network link?

a) Indian Bank

b) Bank of Maharashtra

**c) State Bank of India**

d) ICICI Bank

e) Axis Bank

Q.44) Which Bank partners with Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Smart City Limited to launch 'Namma Chennai Smart Card'?

**a) ICICI bank**

b) State Bank of India

c) Axis Bank

d) Syndicate Bank

e) IndusInd Bank

Q.45) Who has been appointed as the president and CTO of AU small finance bank?

a) Vijay Sampla

b) Ajai Malhotra

c) Preeti Sinha

d) Ajay Mathur

**e) Sharad Goklani**

Q.46) IRDAI Sets Up Panel to Relook Guidelines on Information, Cybersecurity, who is the chairman of this panel?

**a) D. Jankiram**

b) A S Ramasastry

c) Ajay Kumar

d) Rajiv Mishra

e) K C Gupta

Q.47) According to Moody, what is the projected growth rate of the Indian economy for FY22?

a) 12.4%

**b) 13.7%**

c) 11.9%

d) 9.7%

e) 18.4%

Q.48) Paytm, Ola, and which bank applied for New Umbrella Entity (NUE) to launch a payments network?

a) Axis Bank

b) ICICI Bank

**c) IndusInd Bank**

d) State Bank of India

e) Bank of Maharashtra

Q.49) Which of the following organisation has set up an 'Innovation Sandbox' web portal?

a) Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)

**b) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**

c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

d) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

e) London Stock Exchange (LSE)

Q.50) Which organisation has approved USD 500 million to Bangladesh for improving road and digital connectivity in the western region?

a) ADB

b) IMF

c) NDB

**d) World Bank**

e) SBI

**ENGLISH VOCABULARY**

## 1. Smear

**Meaning:** to publicly accuse someone to damage their reputation

**Synonyms:** defame, damage, slander

**Antonyms:** glorify, applaud, praise

**Usage:**

The club officials were accused of launching a **smear** campaign against current and former players who were critical of the club.

## 2. Smothered

**Meaning:** to kill by depriving of air

**Synonyms:** Strangled, suffocated, choked

**Antonyms:** Breathed, exhaled

**Usage:** In yet another horrific incident in Uttar Pradesh, a girl was allegedly **smothered** to death.

## 3. Formidable

**Meaning:** having qualities that discourage approach, causing fear.

**Synonyms:** fearful, alarming, fearsome

**Antonyms:** achievable, manageable, uncomplicated

**Usage:** Assam and Kerala too have minority populations that are **formidable** in elections, and there are plausible combinations that could work to the BJP's advantage.

## 4. Plausible

**Meaning:** able to be believed; seeming likely to be true

**Synonyms:** practical, reasonable, convincing

**Antonyms:** absurd, dubious, ridiculous

**Usage:** Assam and Kerala too have minority populations that are formidable in elections, and there are **plausible** combinations that could work to the BJP's advantage.

## 5. Ensuing

**Meaning:** being the one that comes immediately after another

**Synonyms:** following, succeeding, next

**Antonyms:** previous, antecedent, foregoing

**Usage:**

In this context, delving into the fiscal indicators and finding out the fiscal capacity of the Government of Tamil Nadu to finance subsidies in the **ensuing** years are apt.

## 6. Delving

**Meaning:** a systematic search for the truth or facts about something

**Synonyms:** check, inspection, quest

**Usage:**

In this context, **delving** into the fiscal indicators and finding out the fiscal capacity of the Government of Tamil Nadu to finance subsidies in the ensuing years are apt.

## 7. Fillip

**Meaning:** to give life, vigor, or spirit to

**Synonyms:** awake, raise, activate

**Antonyms:** dampen, dead

**Usage:**

India is looking toward space diplomacy and will certainly give a **fillip** to the nation's global ties.

## 8. Adjudicate

**Meaning:** to give an opinion about (something at issue or in dispute)

**Synonyms:** judge, settle, decide

**Antonyms:** hesitate, equivocate

**Usage:**

It is significant that the government will have the occasion to **adjudicate** on disputes and grievances as the last resort after the first and second tiers of internal regulators fail to settle the matter.

## 9. Conducive

**Meaning:** tending to promote or assist

**Synonyms:** advantageous, profitable, beneficial

**Antonyms:** unfavorable, unhelpful, disadvantageous

**Usage:**

The teaching methods of science in India at the school and college levels are not **conducive** for fostering scientific inquiry and thinking in students.

## 10. Fostering

**Meaning:** to promote the growth or development of

**Synonyms:** encouraging, promoting, facilitating

**Antonyms:** deterring, suppressing, destroy

**Usage:**

The teaching methods of science in India at the school and college levels are not conducive for

**fostering** scientific inquiry and thinking in students.

#### 11. Outage

**Meaning:** a temporary suspension of operation

**Synonyms:** interruption, shutdown, breakdown

**Antonyms:** success

**Usage:**

The report links the malware attacks to a massive power **outage** in Mumbai and its suburbs last October.

#### 12. Lash out (phrasal verb)

**Meaning:** to suddenly attack someone or something physically or criticize him, her, or it in an angry way.

**Synonyms:** criticize, attack, slash

**Antonyms:** acclaim, commend, compliment

**Usage:**

Days after a show of strength by a section of the Congress group of dissenters in Jammu, a key member of the group, Anand Sharma, on Monday **lashed out** at his party for having an alliance with the Indian Secular Front (ISF) party in West Bengal.

#### 13. Dissent

**Meaning:** to differ in opinion

**Synonyms:** conflict, disaccord, disagree

**Antonyms:** agree, accord, harmony

**Usage:**

Days after a show of strength by a section of the Congress group of **dissenters** in Jammu, a key member of the group, Anand Sharma, on Monday **lashed out** at his party for having an alliance with the Indian Secular Front (ISF) party in West Bengal.

#### 14. Comorbidities

**Meaning:** the fact that people who have a disease or condition also have one or more other diseases or conditions.

**Usage:**

Across the world, people with **comorbidities** have been identified as a high-risk group for COVID-19.

#### 15. Magnanimity

**Meaning:** the quality of displaying kind or generous treatment toward others

**Synonyms:** high-mindedness, nobility, nobleness

**Antonyms:** hard-heartedness, mercilessness, pitilessness

**Usage:**

Bedi's

**magnanimity** and boundless generosity to all criminals was noteworthy.

#### 16. Moan

**Meaning:** a long low sound indicating pain or grief

**Synonyms:** groan, wail, squall

**Antonyms:** chuckle, laugh, smirk

**Usage:**

The one who are **moaning**, should realise that there are times that you're going to get a great track.

#### 17. Offload

**Meaning:** to empty or rid of (something)

**Synonyms:** unload, dump, unburden

**Antonyms:** load, pack, fill

**Usage:**

The State government has decided against acquiring the shares being **offloaded**.

#### 18. Consortium

**Meaning:** a group of persons formally joined together for some common interest

**Synonyms:** association, board, brotherhood

**Antonyms:** individual, sole, alone

**Usage:**

The

**consortium** of the two companies will be the buyer.

#### 19. Underpinned

**Meaning:** support, justify, or form the basis for.

**Synonyms:** strengthen, boost, upsurge

**Antonyms:** hinder, curtail, diminish

**Usage:**

Indian goods producers reported a healthy inflow of new orders in February, a situation that **underpinned** further upturn in output and quantity of purchases.

#### 20. rhetoric

**Meaning:** the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing

**Synonyms:** eloquence, fluency, lucidity

**Antonyms:** quiet, inarticulate, cloudy

**Usage:**

Echoing the grievance politics of his 2016 campaign and the harsh **rhetoric** of his one-term presidency, the 74 year - old fired up an enthusiastic crowd at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando.

21. obscure

**Meaning:** not clearly expressed or easily understood.

**Synonyms:** unclear, dubious, vague

**Antonyms:** clear, distinct, apparent

**Usage:**

Ms. Suu Kyi, 75, was already facing **obscure** criminal charges for possessing unlicensed walkie-talkies.

22. revamp

**Meaning:** give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to.

**Synonyms:** refurbish, improve, enhance

**Antonyms:** damage, mutilate, cripple

**Usage:**

Congress tried to create a divide among the G23 leaders who had sought a complete **revamp** of the party in a letter to party President Sonia Gandhi.

23. unsubstantiated

**Meaning:** not supported or proven by evidence.

**Synonyms:** unconfirmed, unestablished, uncorroborated

**Antonyms:** well-founded, undeniable, inarguable

**Usage:**

The alleged link between the outage and the discovery of the unspecified malware variant remains **unsubstantiated**.

24. Gullible

**Meaning:** easily persuaded to believe something

**Synonyms:** innocent, naive, credulous

**Antonyms:** cynical, suspicious, sceptical

**Usage:**

The **gullible** customers who scratched the card were made to believe they had won a sports utility vehicle (SUV) or its matching amount.

25. Maul

**Meaning:** wound (a person or animal) by scratching and tearing;

**Synonyms:** savage, attack, lacerate

**Antonyms:** nurture, guard, protect

**Usage:**

A man was dragged by a crocodile into a water tank and **mauled** to death.

**D (26-35): Spot the error in the following sentences.**

26. While my mother rode(A)/ on me in the helicopter, my father(B)/ went home to check on my brother and sister (C)/ and break the news to them. (D)/ No error (E)

a) A

b) B

c) C

d) D

e) E

27. When I finally / regained consciousness, / I discovered that I had lost / my ability to smell. (D)/No error (E)

a) A

b) B

c) C

d) D

e) E

28. In recent decades, scientists have begun/ to determine the connection / between our thoughts, feelings, and behaviour/ in order to improve the human skills. (D)/No error (E)

a) A

b) B

c) C

d) D

e) E

29. Whether it is losing weight, building a business,(A)/ writing a book, winning a championship, or achieving any other goal,(B)/ we put pressure on ourselves (C)/ to make some earth-shattering improvements.(D)/ No error (E)

a) A

b) B

c) C

d) D

e) E

30. Gardening, which involve (A) /daily low-intensity movement, is (B) /a practice almost all Okinawans(C)/ have in common. (D)/No error (E)

a) A

- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

31. The head of the National Guard, once(A)/ a leading contender to the throne, (B)/ as well as the Navy chief and the Economy Minister were(C) / replaced in a series of high-profile sackings that sent shock waves through the kingdom. (D)/No error (E)

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

32. A 25-years-old motorcyclist(A) /was killed while a pillion rider (B)/ was injured after being hit by an unknown(C)/ vehicle here, the police said on Sunday. (D)/No error (E)

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

33. The CEO directed the poll (A) /officials to discharge its responsibilities (B)/ without succumbing to the threats(C) /of government and political parties. (D)/No error (E)

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

34. There will be(A)/ little disputes if both(B)/ husband and wife are aware(C)/ of their religious teachings. (D)/No error (E)

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

35. Knowing that appellate(A) /authority has not been constituted (B)/ since two years, the court directed the State (C) / to constitute the Authority within a fortnight. (D)/No error (E)

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

**Q. (36-40) Read the following sentences and rearrange them to form a coherent and meaningful paragraph. (I) and (II) are already arranged.**

**(I) Assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry will be taking place in changed circumstances.**

(A) In 2016, of the 824 seats in the fray, the BJP had won only 64 but it emerged as the ruling party in Assam.

(B) In 2016, the BJP had won only three seats in West Bengal, but its rise was dramatic in the 2019 Lok Sabha election when it won 18 of the 42 seats and 40.64% of votes.

(C) It hopes to retain power in Assam and win West Bengal, besides expanding its influence in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(D) The BJP's unrelenting pursuit of influence has unsettled conventional calculations in all these areas that are outside the core of the party's traditional catchment area.

(E) Polls will begin on March 27, with the results on May 2. Politics in these regions is not the same as it was five years ago.

**(II) The BJP's performance in West Bengal will be the most eagerly watched aspect in these elections.**

36. What will be the penultimate step after rearrangement?

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

37. What will be the last sentence after rearrangement?

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

38. What will be the third sentence after rearrangement?

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

39. What will be the fourth sentence after rearrangement?

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

40. What will be the second sentence after rearrangement?

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

**D (41-45) Rearrange the following to form a meaningful sentence.**

41. Overcome the impasse (A)/ And yet, it is complicated, (B)/ and time is running (C)/ out as both Iran and (D)/ the U.S. struggle to (E).

- a) ABDEC
- b) BCDEA
- c) CDEBA
- d) CBDEA
- e) BACDE

42. Trade union activist Naudeep Kaur, who (A)/ her release on bail last week was not a victory (B)/ was arrested on January 12 after a demonstration (C)/ to demand workers' wages in (D)/ Haryana's Kundli, on Monday said (E).

- a) ADCEB
- b) BCDAE
- c) ACDEB
- d) CBEDA
- e) DABCE

43. The country and, according to sources, (A)/ months now though the prices (B)/ have been increased several times (C) the subsidy varies across (D)/ has remained unchanged for some (E).

- a) ABCDE
- b) DAECB
- c) DAEBC
- d) CDAEB
- e) BEACD

44. To his claim, Mr. Netanyahu (A)/ an act by Iran, that's clear" (B) Kan that "it was indeed (C)/ told Israeli public broadcaster (D)/ without offering any evidence (E).

- a) DACBE
- b) EADBC
- c) EDACB

d) ABDCE

e) EADCB

45. Warrant issued, but he faces (A)/ several other corruption investigations over (B)/ he is almost certain to appeal (C)/ and remains free, with no arrest (D)/ campaign financing and alleged influence peddling. (E)

- a) CDABE
- b) BACDE
- c) DEBCA
- d) CDBAE
- e) BCADE

**Q. (46-50): Idioms and Phrases**

46. Spill the beans

**Meaning:** to accidentally or prematurely give out information that's supposed to be kept secret.

Usage: We were planning a surprise party for Riya's birthday. But this morning, Kalai spilled the beans to Riya and now it's no longer a surprise.

47. Not one's cup of tea

**Meaning:** an activity you have no interest in, don't enjoy or don't do well in.

Usage: Reading is really not my cup of tea so I'm going to visit my friend instead.

48. Make waves

**Meaning:** To cause trouble, to change things in a dramatic way.

Usage: She likes to make waves with her political campaigns.

49. Salt of the earth

**Meaning:** Being honest and good.

Usage: Mandela is the salt of the earth. He always helps people who are in need.

50. Barking up the wrong tree

**Meaning:** Doing something that won't give you the results you want.

Usage: If you think she's going to accept your marriage proposal, you're barking up the wrong tree. She is already in a relationship.

**SIMPLIFICATION**

Q.1) 2% of 1350 +  $3 \times \frac{1}{17} \times 221 = (?)$

- a) 56
- b) 66
- c) 60
- d) 58
- e) 72

Q.2)  $\frac{\sqrt{4624}}{17} + \frac{4125}{\sqrt{1089}} + \frac{9.9}{0.9} = (?)$

- a) 219
- b) 120
- c) 140
- d) 130
- e) 160

**D.3-12) What should come in place of (?) in the following questions:**

Q.103)  $141 + 198 + 200 + 310 + 311 = ? \times 5$

- a) 231
- b) 232
- c) 298
- d) 257
- e) 299

Q.4)  $23^2 + 43^2 - 51^2 + 21^2 \times 2 = ?$

- a) 660
- b) 670
- c) 659
- d) 657
- e) 669

Q.5)  $(56 \times 4) \div (901 - 899) + 12 \times 3 = ?$

- a) 158
- b) 141
- c) 143
- d) 148
- e) 159

Q.6)

$(72\% \text{ of } 350 + 18\% \text{ of } 50) \times (20\% \text{ of } 200 - 30\% \text{ of } 90) = ?$

- a) 3389
- b) 2321
- c) 3245
- d) 1145
- e) 3393

Q.7)  $25^2 \times 5^3 \times 625^2 \div 3125^3 = 5^?$

- a) 0
- b) 1
- c) 3
- d) 5
- e) 7

Q.8)  $\frac{87}{196} \times \frac{49}{29} \times \frac{98}{245} \times \frac{40}{12} \times 3 = ?$

- a) 1
- b) 3
- c) 5
- d) 2
- e) 0.5

Q.9)  $89 + 548 + 56 \times 2 - 756 \div 2 = ?$

- a) 521

b) 415

c) 371

d) 398

e) 401

Q.10)  $12 \times 4 \times 11 + 231 + \sqrt{676} - \sqrt{841} = ?$

- a) 736
- b) 744
- c) 741
- d) 756
- e) 751

Q.11)  $0.5 \times 16 + 1.5 \times 1.5 + 2.5 \times 20 = ? + 0.25$

- a) 52
- b) 55
- c) 62
- d) 61
- e) 60

Q.12)  $1322 + 2312 - 4121 + 2311 + 645 - 500 = ?$

- a) 1696
- b) 1699
- c) 1969
- d) 1996
- e) 1966

**D.13-17) What will come in the place of question mark in the following questions?**

Q.113)  $\frac{1860}{15} + \frac{123}{15.375} + (?) = (2.6 \times 5)^2$

- a) 36
- b) 37
- c) 47
- d) 17
- e) 15

Q.14)  $131 \times 4 + 143 \times 3 + (?) = (8 \times 1.375)^3$

- a) 478
- b) 248
- c) 568
- d) 378
- e) 380

Q.15)

$1310 + 123 + 510 \times 2 + 1 + 320 = (?) \times 2 + 424 + 31 \times 3 + 3.5 \times 2$

- a) 2250
- b) 1365
- c) 1525
- d) 1125
- e) 1105

Q.16)  $[14\% \text{ of } 645 + 28\% \text{ of } 340] \times 2 - (?) = 7^3$

- a) 28
- b) 29
- c) 18
- d) 10
- e) 12

Q.17)

$4.44 + 444.404 + 404.44 + 40.4044 = (?) + 44.04 + 400.404 + 4.24 + 5.0044$

- a) 456
- b) 480
- c) 420



- d) 440  
e) 340

**D.18-22) Find what value should come in the place of '?' in the following question.**

Q.118)  $? = 145\% \text{ of } 280 + 1\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 24 - 20\% \text{ of } 150$

- a) 432  
b) 428  
c) 430  
d) 408  
e) None of these

Q.19)  $? = 434 \times 25 \div 35 - 128 \div 2^2 + \sqrt{324}$

- a) 278  
b) 296  
c) 292  
d) 312  
e) 288

Q.20)  $? = \frac{4}{9} \times 819 + \frac{7}{13} \times 104 - \frac{3}{10} \times 520 + \frac{4}{11} \times 198$

- a) 336  
b) 424  
c) 344  
d) 418  
e) 396

Q.21)  $\frac{?}{11} = 425 \div 25 \div 17 \times 24$

- a) 255  
b) 258  
c) 264  
d) 222  
e) None of these

Q.22)  $? = 69 + 13^2 \times 3 \div \sqrt{289} \times 34 - 26^2$

- a) 412  
b) 423  
c) 457  
d) 407  
e) None of these

**D.23-27) Simplify the following questions.**

Q.123)  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{49} \div \frac{25}{121}} = ?$

- a)  $\frac{11}{35}$   
b)  $\frac{11}{70}$   
c)  $\frac{11}{65}$   
d)  $\frac{4}{35}$   
e)  $\frac{11}{45}$

Q.24)  $13^{3.5} \times 169^{4.2} \times 4^8 \div 2^{4.1} = ?$

- a)  $13^{16}$   
b)  $16^{11.5}$   
c)  $26^{11.9}$   
d)  $13^6$   
e)  $26^{11.5}$

Q.25)  $20\% \text{ of } 225 + 22.5\% \text{ of } 200 = ? \text{ of } 450$

- a) 10%  
b) 15%  
c) 25%  
d) 20%

- e) 35%

Q.26)  $\frac{3}{7} \text{ of } \frac{4}{9} \text{ of } \frac{7}{5} \text{ of } 425 = ?$

- a) 133.33  
b) 111.33  
c) 333.33  
d) 123.33  
e) 113.33

Q.27)  $\frac{1800}{24} + 770 = 645 + ?$

- a) 170  
b) 200  
c) 210  
d) 190  
e) 185

**D.28-32) Find what value should come in place of '?'**

Q.28)

$? = 45\% \text{ of } 180 + 33\% \text{ of } 200 - 12\% \text{ of } 350 + 23\% \text{ of } 400$

- a) 185  
b) 197  
c) 188  
d) 213  
e) 208

Q.29)  $(122 \times 42 \div 12 + 72 \div 36 \times 25) \div 3 = ? + 24$

- a) 142  
b) 135  
c) 120  
d) 145  
e) None of these

Q.30)  $? = (12^2 + 44 - 8^2) \div \sqrt[3]{64} \times 6^2 - 11^2 + 28$

- a) 1203  
b) 1017  
c) 1066  
d) 1023  
e) None of these

Q.31)  $? = \sqrt{324} \times \sqrt{256} \div \sqrt[3]{216} \times \sqrt[3]{512}$

- a) 284  
b) 312  
c) 384  
d) 288  
e) 326

Q.32)  $? = 2\frac{2}{3} - 3\frac{5}{6} + 5\frac{1}{4} + 4\frac{3}{8}$

- a)  $7\frac{17}{60}$   
b)  $9\frac{1}{20}$   
c)  $6\frac{3}{20}$   
d)  $8\frac{11}{24}$   
e) None of these

**D.33-35) What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following questions?**

Q.33)  $\frac{10746}{27} \times \frac{38416}{19502} \times \frac{1683}{77616} = ?$

- a)  $\frac{19}{279}$   
b)  $\frac{23}{7823}$   
c) 13

- d) 27
- e) None of these

Q.34)  $69\% \text{ of } 987 - \frac{1}{17} \times 8466.51 = x - \frac{3043}{17}$

- a) 352
- b) 452
- c) 362
- d) 376
- e) None of these

Q.35)  $\frac{79}{29} + \frac{27}{79} + \frac{29}{13} = x\% + \frac{17}{553}$

- a) 23.05
- b) 21.05
- c) 33.05
- d) 32.07
- e) 42.07

**D.36-40) What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following questions?**

Q.36)  $(5^2 \times 14 + 1460) \div 5 = 1998 \div ?$

- a) 5.519
- b) 55.55
- c) 5.05
- d) 5.07
- e) None of these

Q.37)  $\frac{9}{13} \text{ of } (156) + 1 \left(\frac{4}{9}\right) \text{ of } (279) = 241 + ?$

- a) 260
- b) 270
- c) 290
- d) 300
- e) 310

Q.38)  $\frac{4440}{40} + \frac{625}{25} + \frac{3991}{26} = ?$

- a) 280.5
- b) 321.5
- c) 345.4
- d) 289.5
- e) None of these

Q.39)  $36.5 \div \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \text{ of } (25 + 33) - \frac{27}{2} = ?$

- a) 2.89
- b) 24.56
- c) -12.27
- d) 12.27
- e) 9.57

Q.40)  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \text{ of } 3842 + 15\% \text{ of } ? = 2449$

- a) 3520
- b) 3340
- c) 3540
- d) 3630
- e) 2720

**D.41-45) What will come in place of question mark (?) in the following question?**

Q.41) Find the value of  $\frac{1}{\left(3 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{3 - \frac{1}{3}}}\right)}$

- a) 3/10
- b) 10/3

- c) 27/89
- d) 89/27
- e) None of these

Q.42)  $\frac{[(7 \times 9) + (2 \times 12) + 3]}{[(12 \times 3) + \left(\frac{81}{9}\right)]} = ?$

- a) 4
- b) 60
- c) 1.75
- d) 4.5
- e) None of these

Q.43)  $2\frac{1}{3} + 4\frac{1}{6} - 2\frac{2}{3} - 1\frac{1}{2} = 2\frac{?}{3}$

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c)  $\frac{2}{3}$
- d) 4
- e) None of these

Q.44)  $\frac{(0.9 \times 0.9 \times 0.9 + 0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.8)}{(1.6 \times 1.6 \times 1.6 + 1.8 \times 1.8 \times 1.8)} = ?$

- a) 0.125
- b) 0.25
- c) 0.5
- d) 0.625
- e) None of these

Q.45)  $\frac{5^2 \times 14 + 1450}{5} = 1998 \div ?$

- a) 55.5
- b) 5.55
- c) 50.5
- d) 5.05
- e) 50.05

**46-50) What value should come in a place of '?' in the following questions.**

Q.46)  $(5\sqrt{8} + \sqrt{8}) \times (4\sqrt{8} + 8\sqrt{8}) - 21^2 = ?$

- a) 143
- b)  $72\sqrt{8}$
- c) 135
- d)  $70\sqrt{8}$
- e) None of these

Q.47)  $\sqrt{33856} \times \sqrt{2809} - 81^2 = ?^2 + 33^2 + (7 \times 11)$

- a) 43
- b) 45
- c) 47
- d) 44
- e) 41

Q.48)

Find the value of  $\left(3 - \frac{1}{7}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{8}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{9}\right) \times \dots \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{99}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{100}\right)$ .

- a)  $\frac{1}{7}$
- b)  $\frac{1}{6}$
- c)  $\frac{1}{4}$
- d)  $\frac{1}{3}$
- e)  $\frac{1}{5}$

Q.49) If  $x = 3 - \frac{4}{3 + \frac{1}{4 - \frac{8}{5}}}$ , find the value of  $\frac{1}{25}x + \frac{8}{3} \times 0.5x - \frac{62}{75}x$ .

- a) 1
- b)  $\frac{75}{41}$
- c)  $\frac{3}{5}$
- d)  $\frac{3}{7}$
- e) 2

Q.50)  $\frac{3}{5}\%$  of 493 + 73.28% of 4308 = ? -27.15% of 8453 + 44% of 7201

- a) 3326.162
- b) 2286.4004
- c) 2746.4004
- d) 3436.4004
- e) 4322.8736