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NATIONAL NEWS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Maritime India Summit 2021'

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**Maritime India Summit 2021**' through video conferencing. The **three-day** Maritime India Summit was organized by the **Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** on a virtual platform www.maritimeindiasummit.in.
- **Denmark** is the partner country for the three-day summit.

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App" and a Handbook "Access - The Photo Digest"

- The App and the handbook have been developed by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Sugamya Bharat** application is a crowdsourcing mobile application, a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the **3 pillars** of the Accessible India Campaign, i.e. **built environment, transportation sector** and **ICT ecosystem** in India.

Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting join hands with IIT Bombay for a Gaming Centre at the campus

- The Union **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, in collaboration with **IIT Bombay**, has decided to form a **Centre of Excellence** for a Gaming Centre at the campus to focus on **VFX** and **Animation** courses.
- The Union Information and Broadcasting Minister **Prakash Javadekar** addressed the virtual exhibition and the prize announcement of "**Khel Khel Mein**", a Pan Maharashtra toy/game project design competition.

Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day on 1 March

- The **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** celebrated its **9th** Foundation Day at its headquarters in **New Delhi**. Secretary of Border Management in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, **Sanjeeva Kumar** was the **Chief Guest** of the occasion.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched a real-time monitoring system for toll plazas

- The live monitoring system for **toll plazas** will be used to measure queue length and waiting time on a real-time basis in a bid to provide an **immediate response, reduce bottlenecks** and improve the efficiency of mandatory **FASTag usage**.
- **FASTag** is an electronic toll collection system in India, operated by the **National Highway Authority of India**. It employs **Radio Frequency Identification technology** (RFID) for making toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it.

39th Agartala International Book Fair began in Tripura

- Chief Minister of Tripura **Biplab Kumar Deb** inaugurated the 39th **Agartala International Book Fair** at Agartala. The **14-day** long book fair was held under the theme of "**Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura**".

Bihar's Nawada topped NITI Aayog's aspirational districts ranking in January 2021

- **Nawada** in **Bihar** has topped the list of **aspirational districts** ranked by Government thinktank **NITI Aayog** in January. **Kiphire** (Nagaland) and **Namsai** (Arunachal Pradesh) are at the **second** and **third** positions, respectively.
- The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by over **112 aspirational districts** across **six developmental areas**.

Aspirational Districts Programme:

- The programme was launched in **January 2018**. It aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in **key social areas**.

Karnataka launched India's first engineering research and development policy

- **Karnataka** launched the country's maiden **Engineering Research & Development (ER&D)** Policy to raise its contribution to the sector in the country to **45%** in the next **five years**.
- **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** and **NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies)** were involved in drafting this policy.
- The global engineering research and development industry is expected to reach a spend of **\$2 trillion** by **2025**.

Haryana Governor approved a bill to reserve 75% of private-sector jobs for people of the state

- Haryana Governor **Satyadeo Narain Arya** gave his nod to a bill providing **75%** reservation to local candidates applying to **private-sector jobs** in the state. The Haryana Assembly had passed the bill **last year**.

Tripura Governor Ramesh Bais inaugurated the Udaipur Science Centre at Udaipur

- **Udaipur Science Centre** is the **22nd** Science Centre developed by the **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** of the Union **Ministry of Culture** under the scheme for **Promotion of Culture of Science**. It is dedicated to the people by the **Governor of Tripura**, Ramesh Bais.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** was the **Chief Guest** on the occasion.

Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the study material of the Indian Knowledge Tradition Courses Programme

- **Union Minister** of Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** released the study material of **Bhartiya Jnana Parampara** (Indian Knowledge Tradition) courses of **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.

Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV merged into Sansad TV

- **Rajya Sabha (RSTV)** and **Lok Sabha (LSTV)** — the **two TV channels** that broadcast the proceedings of the **upper** and **lower** Houses of the Parliament have been formally merged into a single entity called **'Sansad Television'**.
- A retired IAS officer of the 1986 batch, **Ravi Capoor**, has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of **Sansad TV** for one year.

Narottam Mishra introduced the Freedom of Religion Bill in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly

- Madhya Pradesh Home Minister **Narottam Mishra** introduced the **Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021**, in the Assembly. The law entails **imprisonment** of between **one year** and **five years** and a **penalty** of at least **25,000 rupees**.

Bihar Government allows DBT for disbursement of funds for students of government schemes

- **Bihar** Government has approved a proposal to allow **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** for disbursement of funds for the students of all **government schemes** to purchase uniforms and bicycle for the current financial year without the rider of **minimum 75 percent** attendance.

India commemorates Chabahar Day on 4 March

- **India** commemorates **Chabahar Day** on the **Maritime India Summit-2021**. The event will be held virtually. Ministers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan participated in the event.

Karnataka launched India's 'First Integrated Machine Tool Park' in Tumkur

- **Karnataka** government launched the country **first integrated machine tool park** for the investor in the state. The Tumakuru Machine Tool Park has developed at a cost of **Rs 508 crore**, of which **Rs 125 crore** each is the equity contribution of Karnataka and Central governments.

Indian Railways to be fully electrified in 2023

- The entire rail network in the country will be fully electrified by **2023** while all rail networks will run on **renewable energy** by **2030**.

Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched 'Gharoki Pechan, Chelik Naam' scheme

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched "**Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam**" (daughter's name is a home's identity) program and development schemes worth **Rs 42 crore** in Nainital.
- This scheme is in line with the effort of the state government towards promoting **women's empowerment**.

India sends the first consignment of Assam's 'red rice' to the US

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

Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated "India Telecom 2021" a platform for the convergence of technologies and business exchange

- Minister for State for Communications, Education and Electronics & Information Technology, **Sanjay Dhotre** inaugurated "**India Telecom 2021**". The event was organised by **TEPC** (Telecom Equipment Export Promotion Council).

National Committee to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence headed by Prime Minister

- The Government has constituted a **National Committee** headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to commemorate **75 years** of India's Independence.
- The committee has **259** members and includes dignitaries and eminent citizens from all walks of life.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated in 3-day Combined Commanders' Conference at Kevadia, Gujarat

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** attended the three-day Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) along with top defence officials at **Kevadia, Gujarat**. Theaterisation of **armed forces**, self-reliance in **defence sector**, and evolving threats in the region will be the focus.
- **Valedictory Session** of Combined Commanders' Conference was chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announces four welfare schemes on Ravidas Jayanti

- **Haryana** Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced four public welfare schemes during a state-level programme organised on the occasion of the **644th** birth anniversary of **Guru Ravidas** at his Chandigarh residence.

The four welfare schemes are:

- **Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana** (one lakh poorest families of the state would be targeted), **Dr. B R Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojana** (assistance of Rs 80,000 to repair house), legal aid to SC/ST increased to Rs. 21,000 and **Sant Mahapurush Vichar Samman** and **Prasaar Yojana** announced.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launched CSIR's Floriculture Mission

- Union Science and Technology Minister **Harsh Vardhan** exhorted scientists of **CSIR laboratories** to develop the land available at each of its institutes across the country as a model under the "**CSIR Floriculture Mission**".

IMPCL started to sell products on Government e-Market (GeM) portal

- **Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited** (IMPCL), the public sector manufacturing unit of the **Ministry of AYUSH** has received a shot in the arm in the matter of potential sales volumes for selling its products online.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurated the 29th New Delhi World Book Fair 2021

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** inaugurated the virtual edition of **New Delhi World Book Fair 2021**. The theme of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 is '**National Education Policy - 2020.**'
- The 29th edition of the annual New Delhi World Book Fair, organized by the **National Book Trust (NBT)**.

Jammu & Kashmir administration launched ANMOL app under the National Health Mission

- **Jammu and Kashmir** administration distributed tablets among **Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs)** and launched the '**ANMOL**' application under the **National Health Mission (NHM)** for identification and tracking of beneficiaries.
- Financial Commissioner of Health and Medical Education **Atal Dulloo** launched the application and distributed tablets among ANMs.

First-ever White-Water Rafting Festival organised in J&K's Doda

- In the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, the first-ever adventure sports event, **Chenab White Water Rafting Festival** organised by the Doda District Administration in coordination with **Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA)** and J&K Adventure group took place.

Odisha Government to set up a new department to strengthen SHGs

- Odisha Government will set up a new department named the **Department of Mission Shakti** that will work towards strengthening the '**self-help group**' initiatives already taken by departments and agencies by bringing them all under one platform to ensure greater focus and synergy and to **avoid duplication** in activities.

India's first 'Transgender Community Desk' opened in Gachibowli police station of Telangana

- The Cyberabad Police launched **India's** first-ever '**Transgender Community Desk**' at the Gachibowli Police Station in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. The desk was formally inaugurated by

Cyberabad Police chief **VC Sajjanar** in a ceremony that was attended by over **200 transgender people**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the inaugural session of 'Techbharat 2021'

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** addressed the inaugural session of **TechBharat 2021**. **Laghu Udyog Bharati** and **IMS Foundation** have organised the 2nd edition of the conclave that brought together stakeholders from the **HealthTech & Edutech** sector on a virtual platform.

India's biggest free-of-charge dialysis facility launched at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib complex, New Delhi

- **Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee** (DSGMC) launched "**India's biggest**" kidney dialysis facility at the **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib complex** in **New Delhi**. The hospital offered a dialysis facility to **101 patients** simultaneously and can cater to **500 patients** daily.

Andhra Pradesh became the first State to announce the Gender Budget concept

- The **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister, **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy**, has stated that their State will be the first in the country to come up with the **Gender Budget concept**.
- **Jagan Mohan Reddy** has stated that women should be given equal rights **economically, socially, and politically** and recognise their services in bettering society.

Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra'

- Minister of Culture and Tourism **Prahlad Singh Patel** inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled '**Akshya Patra**' at Rabindra Bhavan Galleries in **New Delhi** on the occasion of **International Women's Day (March 8)**.
- The exhibition will continue till **20 March** and showcase more than **250 artworks** from over **12 countries**, including those created by 29 talented female artists who attended the **three-day** All Women's National Art Camp.

Union Minister Sanjay Dhotre virtually inaugurated MEMP 2021

- Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, **Sanjay Dhotre**, inaugurated the International Conference on **Multifunctional Electronic Materials and Processing (MEMP 2021)** virtually on the occasion of the **30th foundation day** of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology.

Union Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Agriculture signed an MoU on sericulture activities

- **Union Ministry of Textiles** and **Union Ministry of Agriculture** signed an MoU to amplify **sericulture activities** in the country in the presence of the Union Minister of Textiles **Smriti Irani** and Minister of State for Agriculture **Parshottam Rupala**.

India's first forest healing centre inaugurated in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

- India's First **Forest Healing centre** was inaugurated at Kalika near **Ranikhet, Uttarakhand**. The forest healing centre has been developed by the Research Wing of the **Uttarakhand Forest Department**. It is spread over an area of around **13 acres**.

BRO inaugurated 200-foot Bailey Bridge over Rishiganga River in Uttarakhand

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** constructed a 200-ft bailey bridge in Reini Village on **Joshimat – Malari** road across the **Rishiganga River** in **Uttarakhand** to re-establish connectivity with the **Niti border**.

NITI Aayog and RMI India released a new report titled 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India'

- India's EV financing industry is projected to be worth **Rs. 3.7 lakh** crores in **2030** according to **NITI AAYOG**. The latest report proposed a toolkit of solutions to lower cost and increase finance for electric vehicles.
- **NITI Aayog** and **RMI India** have identified a toolkit of **10 solutions** that financial institutions such as banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), as well as the industry and government can adopt in catalysing the required capital.

Telangana Government to celebrate Azadi Ki Amruth Mahotsav

- Telangana Government had decided to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' in a grand manner for **75 weeks** from **12 March to 15 August 2021** to commemorate **75 years of Indian Independence**.
- Chief Minister **K Chandrasekhar Rao** had sanctioned **Rs. 25 crores** for this purpose.

Delhi Government announced to launch the "Saheli Samanvay Kendra" scheme to empower women

- Under this scheme, **500 Anganwadi hubs** will be set up for the incubation of individual **start-ups** and to promote **self-help groups**.
- Special arrangements will be made in the hubs for required training to be imparted to open **micro-economic units** and for holding meetings of **self-help groups**.

Government of India had mandated E-invoice for businesses with over Rs. 50 crore turnover from 1 April 2021

- The Union Government had made it mandatory for businesses with over **Rs. 50 crore** turnover to generate e-invoices for **B2B** transactions from **1 April**.
- Under e-invoicing, taxpayers have to generate invoices on their internal systems (ERP/accounting/billing software) and then report them online to the **Invoice Registration Portal (IRP)**.

Union Ministry of Women and Child Development signed an agreement with Invest India to enhance cooperation in various areas

- The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was to enhance cooperation in the thematic areas of **nutrition, child protection** and **development, women empowerment** and convergent capacity building in mission mode.
- **DRISHTI** under **Invest India** will conduct input and output analysis research, and other research as per requirement, including coordinating with research agencies for primary, secondary and tertiary research to formulate, design and conduct strategic research for the Ministry.

'Herath' festival celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir

- Mahashivratri festival, locally known as **Herath** in Kashmir, was celebrated across **Jammu and Kashmir** by the **Kashmiri Pandit community** with religious fervour by offering "Watak Nath Pooja".
- The festival assumes colossal importance among the Kashmiri Pandit community, who celebrate it to mark the wedding of "Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati."

NTPC set to unveil India's largest floating solar plant in Telangana

- State-run power generator **NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation)** is set to unveil the country's largest floating solar power plant of **100 MW** capacity at **Ramagundam** in **Telangana** under non-**PPA (power purchase agreement)** mode.

- The floating solar PV project at **NTPC Ramagundam** will be spread over a **450-acre** water surface area in the reservoir. The project will see an investment of **Rs. 430 crore**.

Kempegowda International Airport launched India's first dedicated express cargo terminal to help e-commerce

- The **Kempegowda International Airport** (KIA), Bengaluru, announced the launch of the country's first dedicated express **cargo terminal**, which would help the private airport operator to handle over **25 per cent** more cargo annually.
- The express cargo market for **business-to-consumer (B2C)** and **business-to-business (B2B)** sectors has tremendous potential to grow over the next decade.

Centre launched 'Mera Ration' mobile app for the migrant public distribution system beneficiaries

- The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched the '**Mera Ration**' mobile app for better implementation of the Centre's '**One Nation One Ration Card**' (ONORC) scheme.
- The android-based mobile application, developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, is currently in Hindi and English. Gradually, it would be made available in **14 languages**.

Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav exhibition at Aga Khan Palace, Pune

- Union Minister **Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated exhibitions at seven places virtually as part of "**Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav**" to celebrate **75 years** of the country's independence.
- The main event will be inaugurated at **Sabarmati Ashram** in **Gandhinagar** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. A total of 37 state-level exhibitions will be inaugurated.

India's first centralised AC railway terminal to be set up in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- Union Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced that India's first **centralised air-conditioned** railway terminal in **Bengaluru** would be operational soon.
- India's first AC railway terminal was built at an anticipated cost of **Rs. 314 crores**. It is named after Bharat Ratna '**M Visvesvaraya**'. This is Bengaluru's **third railway terminal** in the **Baiyappanahalli** area.

International Institute of Information Technology (Hyderabad) to observe 19 March as FC Kohli Day

- The **Kohli Centre on Intelligent Systems (KCIS)** at the **International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIITH)** will be celebrating FC Kohli's birth anniversary on **19 March** with a special programme on his life through research and innovation.
- **Faqir Chand Kohli** is referred to as the "**Father of the Indian IT Industry**" for his contributions to the establishment and growth of Indian Information Technology. He was the founder and the first **CEO** of **TCS**.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi inaugurated the Rasin Dam and Chillimal Dam in Chitrakoot

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **Rasin Dam** and **Chillimal Dam** in **Chitrakoot**. This initiative of the Uttar Pradesh Government is supposed to bring relief to the people from water problems. He also inaugurated various development projects in **Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh**.

A world-class winter sports academy is to be set up in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir

- The Government of India informed that the Rajya Sabha would set up a world-class winter sports academy in **Gulmarg** and **100 small sports centres** under the 'Khelo India' mission across **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Two 'Khelo India' centres of excellence would also be set up in **Srinagar and Jammu**, with different disciplines.

Union Cabinet approved the closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved the closure of loss-making **Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC)**.
- HHEC is a **Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSE)** under the administrative control of the **Union Ministry of Textiles**. The current Union Minister of Textiles is **Smriti Irani**.

Union Government formed an experts committee headed by HK Mittal for Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- The Union government had constituted an **Experts Advisory Committee** that will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**. The committee would be chaired by **HK Mittal** from the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** was approved for the period of the next **four years** starting from **2021-22**. It will be implemented with effect from **01 April 2021**.

Indian Railways connected the bottom ends of the main arch of the world's tallest bridge over Chenab

- **Indian Railways** connected the two ends of the main arch of the world's highest bridge- the "**Chenab Bridge**". This bridge is being constructed on a challenging **111km** long stretch called **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** by the **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)** at a cost of Rs. 12, 000 Crores.

Manipur emerged as the model state for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana

- **Manipur** had emerged as the **champion state** where the **Van Dhan programme** has emerged as a major source of employment for the local tribals.
- Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme is a component of the **Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** through **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** & Development of Value Chain for **MFP Scheme**. The programme was launched in Manipur in **October 2019**.

J&K's Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation to develop 850 MW project

- The **J&K Administrative Council**, under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha**, approved the incorporation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) under the name **Ratle Hydro-electric Power Corporation** to implement the **850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP)** on the **Chenab river** at Drabshala in **Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir**.

India's first elevated urban Expressway worth Rs. 8,662 crores to be completed by 2022

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** stated that the construction work on the **Rs. 8,662-crore Dwarka Expressway**, which is set to be completed before **15 August 2022**.
- The total length of the expressway that has been constructed under the **Bharatmala Project** is **29 kilometres**, out of which 18.9 kilometres fall in **Haryana** while the remaining **10.1 kilometres** is in **Delhi**.

Ethanol blending in petrol is to be increased from the existing 8.5% to 20% by 2025

- Union Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** stated that the target year for achieving **20 per cent** ethanol blending in petrol which was initially kept as **2030**, had been further reduced to the year **2025**.

AIM, NITI Aayog and AWS announced new initiatives to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in India

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog**, and **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** announced new initiatives to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India.
- They plan to empower school students with **cloud computing skills** and enable entrepreneurs to build innovative **education technology** solutions on the cloud.

8.76 gigawatts renewable energy capacity was added in India during 2019-20

- The **Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** had informed that a total of **8.76 gigawatts** of renewable energy capacity was added in India during **2019-20**.
- India has committed to generating **40 per cent** of its total installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by **2030**.

Mission Gramodaya was launched in Madhya Pradesh

- Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** had launched the **Mission Gramodaya** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Under this mission, every village will have **concrete roads**, **gram panchayat** building, **Muktidham**, and **sports grounds** in every gram panchayat.

India's forest cover increased to 24.56 per cent of the geographical area

- **Union Minister of Environment and Forests Prakash Javadekar** stated India's total forest and tree cover stood at **80.73 million hectares**, which is **24.56 per cent** of the geographical area of the country. In the previous 2017 assessment, it was **21.54 per cent**.

Jammu and Kashmir Government to spend Rs. 200 crores for employment & upliftment of youth in the next financial year

- The **Jammu and Kashmir Government** will spend **Rs. 200 crores** through **Mission Youth** for the employment and upliftment of youth during the next financial year. The '**Mission Youth**' was set-up for engaging and channelizing the youth of J&K through **systematic livelihood generation programmes**.

Union Power Minister RK Singh launched the GRAM UJALA in Bihar

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Ministry of Power** and **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy RK Singh** launched the GRAM UJALA programme in **Arrah, Bihar**.
- Under the **GRAM UJALA programme**, CESL will distribute high-quality LED bulbs at an affordable cost of **10 rupees per bulb** in rural areas.

TRIFED signed an MoU with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the implementation of MSP for the MFP Scheme and Van Dhan Yojana

- **TRIFED** and the Government of **Arunachal Pradesh** have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for **Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Scheme** and the **Van Dhan Yojana** in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh Government developed India's first FPO portal to benefit farmers at grassroots level

- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh **Yogi Adityanath** launched the **UPFPO Shakti Portal** as part of the **Kisan Kalyan Mission** at an event in **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The portal is the first of its kind in the country, was developed by the Department of Agriculture with the support of the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** (BMGF) and is aimed at benefitting the farmers at the grassroots level.

Karnataka Government joined hands with ITC to execute Watershed Development Programme

- **ITC Limited** had entered into a partnership with the Government of **Karnataka** to execute a **Watershed Development Programme** covering over **1 million acres** and **100 watersheds** across the state.
- ITC, through its **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** programmes is implementing **watershed development programmes** in many parts of the country.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a new Advanced High-Resolution Microscopy Facility at NABI

- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the new Advanced High-Resolution Microscopy Facility at the **National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)** and unveiled the 4-Star **GRIHA** Certification of **Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing** (CIAB) Lab and Admin Building at Mohali in Punjab.

Union Sports Ministry had decided to extend the Khelo India scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26

- **Union Sports Ministry** had decided to extend the **Khelo India scheme** from **2021-22 to 2025-26**. The Ministry had furnished an Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memorandum to the Union **Ministry of Finance** for extension/continuation of the Khelo India Scheme from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.

Andaman & Nicobar achieved 100% functional household tap connection coverage under Jal Jeevan Mission

- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** Lt. Governor Admiral **DK Joshi** declared that the **Union Territory** achieved **100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** coverage in the Islands.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands became the **third** state/UT in the country to achieve the target after **Goa** and **Telangana** under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Jal Jeevan Mission:

- Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide **safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections by **2024** to all households in rural India. The Mission was launched on **15 August 2019**.

Sanjay Dhotre released a commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi first visit to Odisha

- Union Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology **Sanjay Dhotre** digitally released a commemorative postage stamp on **100 Years** of the first visit of **Mahatma Gandhi** to **Odisha**.

LT Foods became the first company to be certified by UN-backed Sustainable Rice Platform

- **LT Foods Limited** had become the **first** company globally to be certified with the **highest level of verification- L3** by **UN-backed Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) ecolabel**. It enabled the company to use the **Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) verified logo** on the packs of rice produced by verified 1,000+ farmers growing sustainable rice.

Andhra Pradesh launched India's first-ever government-run ambulance network for animals

- The **Andhra Pradesh** Government launched "**India's first government-run ambulance network**" for **animals**, to further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in the state.
- A total of **175 mobile ambulances** (veterinary) clinics will be placed at Assembly Constituency Level on the lines of **108 Services** for providing Veterinary.

Smart City Visakhapatnam gets the world's first mobile water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre

- **Maithri Aquatech**, a company formed under the '**Make in India**' initiative has set up the '**World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre**' in the smart city of **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

Net zero-emission energy transition to be achievable by 2050: NITI Aayog CEO

- **NITI Aayog** CEO **Amitabh Kant** reiterated the Government's commitment to achieving '**Net Zero Emission**' targets in energy by **2050**, even though it calls for a concerted strategy and massive investments.

United Nations Office for Project Services partnered with Denmark to support Jal Jeevan Mission in Uttar Pradesh

- The **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** entered into a partnership with **Denmark** to support the Centre's flagship **Jal Jeevan Mission** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Union **Jal Shakti Ministry** entered into a partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services and the government of **Denmark** to help bring tap water connections to **11** water-scarce districts in Uttar Pradesh's water-starved **Bundelkhand and Vindhya** regions under the **Jal Jeevan mission**.

Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurated Kurnool airport and named it after freedom fighter Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** inaugurated **Kurnool Airport** located at **Orvakal** and named it after the first-ever freedom fighter from the region, **Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy**, as a tribute to him.
- **Kurnool** airport is the sixth civilian airport in the state after **Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Vijayawada** (all three international) and **Rajamahendravaram**, and **Kadapa** (domestic).

Bengaluru's Kempegowda airport became the first in south India to have operational parallel runways

- The refurbished and upgraded North Runway at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru after receiving the necessary approval from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** commenced its operations.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Central Scrutiny Centre and IEPFA

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually launched **Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC)** and **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA)** Mobile App, the two tech-enabled initiatives by the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Nagaland Health Minister launched 'i-Learn' for Community Health Officers

- **Nagaland** Health and Family Welfare Minister **S Pangnyu Phom** launched "**i-Learn**", a capacity building and performance tracking application for **Community Health Officers (CHOs)** in the state at his office chamber in **Kohima**.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar inaugurated 'Nature Safari' at tourist hotspot Rajgir

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** inaugurated '**nature safari**' at Rajgir and dedicated it to the public who can enjoy plenty of activities including '**Glass Sky Walk**' in a natural environment.
- Nature safari includes the much-talked and publicised country's first '**Glass Sky Walk**' (GSW), suspension bridge, zip line cycle, adventure park, butterfly zone, and nature camp area etc.,

Ladakh Lt. Governor inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of KREDA at Latoo Village

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor **RK Mathur** inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of **Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA)** at **Latoo Village**.
- This is the last Village on the LOC. The project is inspired by the Vision of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for **solarising Ladakh** as a model region by making it **fully solarised** and **Carbon Neutral**.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched 'Tribal TB Initiative' in pursuit of TB Mukh Bharat

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** launched the '**Tribal TB Initiative**' in pursuit of **TB Mukh Bharat**. The Government accords top priority to ensuring **Universal Access** to free treatment and care for TB across the country.

Uttar Pradesh Government organised a 'Banana Festival' in Kushinagar

- **Uttar Pradesh** Government organised a '**Banana Festival**' in **Kushinagar** from 22 March to 25 March, which witnessed the participation of at least **35 farmers** and **entrepreneurs**.
- The State Government had in 2018 organised the **One District One Product (ODOP)** scheme to promote traditional enterprise.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the 7th annual summit of 'NATHEALTH 2021'

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** virtually addressed the 7th annual summit of **NATHEALTH 2021** focusing on the theme of '**Indian health system expansion in the post-COVID era**'.
- The Union Government launched the **National Health Policy** in **2017**.

President Ram Nath Kovind approved a Bill to set up a national bank for financing infrastructure and development

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** gave assent to an invoice to arrange the **Nationwide Financial Institution for Financing Infrastructure and Development** (NaBFID) to fund infrastructure tasks in India.
- The **DFI (Development Finance Institution)**, called the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), will be answerable to the **Parliament**.

Union AYUSH Ministry collaborated with Vinoba Seva Pratishthan organised 'Ayurveda Parav' to promote Ayurveda

- **Vinoba Seva Pratishthan (VSP)** collaborated with the **Ministry of AYUSH**, has successfully organised a 3-day **Ayurveda Parav** in **Bhubaneswar**.
- This unique initiative aims to not only ensure greater acceptance of **Ayurveda** among the masses but also to popularise Ayurveda as the main line of treatment for the **current lifestyle diseases**.

Prahlad Singh Patel and Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre at Khajuraho

- **Prahlad Singh Patel**, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge), and **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh inaugurated the **Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre** at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.

Exercise 'Vajra Prahar' conducted in Himachal Pradesh

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

CBIC extended penalty waiver on dynamic QR Code implementation till 30 June 2021

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** had extended a waiver of penalty on non-implementation of **dynamic quick response code** which is mandatory for companies over **Rs 500 crore** turnovers till 30 June 2021.

Union Education Minister inaugurated a center for happiness in Indian Institute of Management, Jammu

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** virtually inaugurated "**Anandam: The Center for Happiness**" at the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu**.
- The centre will help people overcome **mental stress** and help spread positivity and it will encourage and propagate **holistic development** for all the stakeholders at **IIM Jammu**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS**11th edition of the Global Indian Physicians Congress (GAPIC) held virtually**

- The **Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIC)**, a non-profit organisation, and leading association for the **Indian medical diaspora**, organised its annual Global Indian Physicians Congress in virtual mode. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** was the **Chief Guest**.

Indian Air Force participated in the 70th anniversary celebration of the Sri Lanka Air Force

- **Indian Air Force** participated in the **70th** anniversary celebration of the **Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF)**, which is a further manifestation of the strong professional bonds that the two Air Forces share.
- **Suryakirans, Sarang, and LCA Tejas** participated in an air show at Galle Face, **Colombo**.

Union Cabinet approved an MoU between India and France on Renewable Energy Cooperation

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was apprised of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and the **French Republic** in the field of **renewable energy cooperation**.
- This MoU will help in the development of technological know-how in the field of renewable energy and thereby aid the process of attaining the ambitious target of **450 GW** of installed **renewable energy capacity** by **2030**.

Union Cabinet approved an MoU between India and Fiji for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- The objective of the MoU is to establish the basis for the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the field of **new and renewable energy** on the basis of **mutual benefit, equality, and reciprocity**. It covers technologies relating to **solar, wind, hydrogen, and biomass energy**.

Indian Air Force set to participate in Exercise 'Desert Flag VI' in UAE for the first time

- The **Indian Air Force** will participate in the Exercise '**Desert Flag-VI**' along with the air forces of the **UAE, the US, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Bahrain** for the **first time**.

- The exercise is **scheduled** from **3 – 21 March 2021** at the **Al-Dhafra airbase** in the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**).

Pakistan signed an agreement with Qatar for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

- The agreement **saves** Pakistan **\$317** million annually due to the reduced price of the gas compared to the **2015** agreement between the two countries. The new deal with **Qatar** for **liquefied natural gas** at lower rates will **save** Islamabad a total of about **\$3** billion over the next **10** years.

New passenger train service between Dhaka (Bangladesh) and New Jalpaiguri (India) set to start from 26 March

- A new passenger **train service** between **Dhaka** and New **Jalpaiguri** is set to **start** from the 26th of March, marking the **50th anniversary** of the **liberation of Bangladesh**.
- The **direct train** between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri will **run through** the **Chilahati-Haldibari** cross-border **rail route**.
- There are **two** passenger trains **currently running** between **Bangladesh and India**. The **Maitree Express** runs between Dhaka and Kolkata and **Bandhan Express** links Khulna with Kolkata.

India and Norway agreed to conduct marine spatial planning in Lakshadweep and Puducherry

- **India** and **Norway** have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the **oceanic space** for the next **five years**. It aims to extend support for **sustainable ocean resource** utilisation to advance economic and social development in **coastal areas**.
- **Lakshadweep** and **Puducherry** have been identified as pilot sites for the project.

UNGA adopts India-sponsored resolution declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets

- **United Nations General Assembly** (UNGA) adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by India and supported by over **70 nations** declaring **2023** as the '**International Year of Millets**', aimed at raising awareness about the benefits of the grain and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions.

Exim Bank inked \$10.40 million soft loan pact with Eswatini

- **Exim Bank** (Export and Import Bank of India) has extended a **Line of Credit (LoC)** of **\$10.40 million** to the government of the **Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland)** for the construction of a disaster recovery site.

India to fund Rs. 246 million for the reconstruction of 3 Cultural Heritages in Nepal

- **India** will be funding **Nepal of Rs. 246 million** for the reconstruction of three more **Cultural Heritage projects** in **Nepal** after six out of the **28 heritage site** contracts have already been reconstructed.
- The MoU was signed for **Jestha Varna Mahavihara** in Lalitpur, **Sulighyang Gumba**, and **Shermathang Gumba** located in the **Sindhupalchowk district**.

Prime Minister Modi to hold a virtual summit with Swedish counterpart Stefan Löfven

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will hold a virtual summit with his Swedish counterpart **Stefan Löfven** to exchange views on regional and global issues and to discuss the bilateral relations between the **two countries**.

India signed a key pact with the Philippines for the sale of defence equipment

- **India** signed a key pact with the **Philippines** for the sale of "**defence material and equipment**", which are likely to include BrahMos cruise missiles. Philippine Defence Secretary **Delfin Lorenzana** was also present at the pact's signing ceremony in **Manila**.

Australia building world's first platypus sanctuary to promote breeding and rehabilitation

- **Australia** to build the **world's first refugee** for the **platypus**, to promote breeding and rehabilitation as the **duck-billed mammal** faces extinction due to climate change.

YuWaah, UNICEF, Capgemini and UNGCNI collaborate to provide opportunities for young people

- **YuWaah, UNICEF, Capgemini, and United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGICNI)** entered into a collaboration to work together on providing India's young people with **skill sets** that will help empower them for creating their **career pathways** and enabling them as active changemakers.

Union External Affairs Minister Jaishankar inaugurated the new Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka

- Union External Affairs Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** inaugurated the new Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**. It is the **second** cultural centre of the High Commission of India after the Dhanmondi centre at the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre** in **Dhaka**.

World Bank plans USD 1 billion guarantee scheme for solar rooftop projects

- The **World Bank** plans to introduce a **\$ 100 million** credit guarantee scheme to boost **India's rooftop solar programme** in India for MSMEs.
- The World Bank scheme, along with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and the **MSME ministry** to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar units, will help MSMEs access credit of around **\$ 1 billion**.

India and Nigeria hold first-ever strategic and counter-terrorism dialogue in New Delhi

- The National Security Adviser of **Nigeria**, Major General (Retd.) **Babagana Monguno** visited **New Delhi** for the **First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue** between **India** and **Nigeria** at the level of NSA.

India granted Rs. 44.17 million to build a new school building in Nepal

- India extended a grant of **44.17 million Nepali Rupees** to Nepal to build a new building for Naharpur Secondary School at Butwal-11 in Rupandehi district under the **Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership** as part of India's **High Impact Community Development Project scheme programme**.

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' bridge between India & Bangladesh

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **'Maitri Setu'** between **India** and **Bangladesh** through video conferencing. He also laid the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure projects in **Tripura** during the event.
- The **1.9 km** long bridge has been built over the **Feni river**, which flows between the Indian boundary in Tripura state and Bangladesh. The construction was taken up by the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)** at a project cost of **133 crore** rupees.

Gender inequality has cost the world \$70 trillion since 1990: BofA Securities report

- According to the **BofA (Bank of America)** report, gender inequality has cost the world **\$70 trillion since 1990**. The report also noted that full **gender equality** globally could increase the world GDP by up to **\$28 trillion** by **2025** and the loss of human capital wealth due to gender inequality alone is estimated at **\$160.2 trillion**.

CAG Girish Murmu appointed as the Chairman of the UN Panel of External Auditors

- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** Girish Chandra Murmu had been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the **United Nations** for the year **2021**.
- The CAG of India was initially elected as the Chairman of the Panel for **2020**. The UN General Assembly established the Panel of External Auditors in **1959**.

India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commenced in Ranikhet

- India and Uzbekistan joint military exercise **DUSTLIK II** commenced in **Ranikhet, Uttarakhand**. This is the **second edition** of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. The **first edition** of the exercise was held in **Uzbekistan** in November **2019**.

PFC and REC extended Rs.4,058 crores loan to Bhutan hydro project

- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** along with subsidiary **REC** signed an MoU with **Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd** for a term loan of **Rs.4,058 crore** for a **600 MW** hydroelectric project in **Trashi Yangtse, Bhutan**.
- The project is proposed to be funded in a **debt-to-equity ratio of 70:30**. The loan shall be shared in **equal proportion** by **PFC** and **REC**. **Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd (KHEL)** is a joint venture between India's state-run **SJVN Ltd** and the Bhutan government's **Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd**.

First Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues held

- The first meeting of the BRICS **Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI)** was held under **India's** Chairship. The theme of BRICS for this year is "**BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus**".

India, Australia, Japan and US virtually participated in First Quad Leaders' Summit

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister of Australia, **Scott Morrison**, Japanese Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga**, and US President **Joseph R Biden** participated in the **first** Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework.

China and Russia agreed to build a joint lunar space station

- Russian space agency **Roscosmos** had signed an agreement with China's **National Space Administration** to develop research facilities on the surface of the moon, in orbit, or both.

A Japan-Australia venture started producing hydrogen from dirty coal in a world-first trial

- A **Japanese-Australian** venture had started producing hydrogen from **brown coal** in an Australian Dollar **500 million (\$390 million)** pilot project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced commercially and exported safely overseas.

India's foreign exchange reserves became the world's fourth largest

- The foreign exchange reserves of **India surpassed Russia** and became the **world's fourth largest**, according to Bloomberg. India's reserves are enough to cover roughly **18 months of imports**, which had been bolstered by a rare current-account surplus, rising inflows into the local stock market and **foreign direct investment (FDI)**.

Union Railways Minister flagged off 3000 HP Cape Gauge locomotive for export to Mozambique

- **Indian Railways** exported the first batch of two locomotives as part of a total order of six **3000 HP Cape Gauge locomotives** and 90 stainless steel passenger coaches to **Mozambique**.
- These locomotives were developed by the **Banaras Locomotive Works** under the **Make-in-India** initiative.

US surpassed Saudi Arabia as India's second-biggest crude oil supplier

- The **United States of America (USA)** overtook **Saudi Arabia** as **India's second-biggest** oil supplier as refiners boosted cheaper **US crude** purchases to record levels to offset **OPEC+** supply cuts.
- Iraq continued to be the **top oil supplier** to India despite a **23 per cent decline** in purchases to a five-month low of **867500** barrels per day (BPD).

El Salvador became the first Central American country to be declared malaria-free

- **El Salvador** became the first country in **Central America** and the **third** in all Americas to get the malaria-free certificate from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in recent years.

ReNew Power became the world's first renewable company to enter WEF's Global Lighthouse Network

- Renewable energy firm **ReNew Power** was named to the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network** that recognises companies using new technologies to achieve **environmentally sustainable, community supportive, and profitable growth**.

India and Maldives signed an MoU on cooperation in sports & youth affairs

- The Union Cabinet signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Union **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** and the **Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment of the Maldives** for cooperation in **Sports and Youth Affairs**.

Italy joined the International Solar Alliance under the amended ISA Framework Agreement

- **Italy** had joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** under the amended **ISA Framework Agreement**. The amendments to the Framework Agreement of the ISA entered into force, opening its membership to all member states of the UN. The Framework Agreement was signed by Italy's Ambassador, **Vincenzo De Luca**.

Bangladesh sent food products to India through Inland Waterways for the first time

- The **maiden** river-borne shipment of food products from Bangladesh to India began its journey from **Narsingdi to Kolkata**, marking the golden jubilee of the Bangladesh's independence.
- The **Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority** took the initiative of exporting food items through waterways under the waterways protocol agreement between the **two countries**.

India and Israel launched a joint venture to boost India's e-Mobility aspirations

- **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union **Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel**, along with Israel's Minister of Energy, **Dr. Yuval Steinitz** launched a Joint Venture called **IOC Phinergy Private Limited** between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**Indian Oil**) and **Phinergy**, an Israeli startup company specialising in hybrid lithium-ion and aluminium-air/zinc-air battery systems.

World Bank provided \$ 200 million to Bangladesh to support the COVID 19 affected youth, returnee migrants

- The World Bank had approved **\$ 200 million** to help Bangladesh to provide support and services to the **low-income urban youths** impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the migrants who had to return involuntarily.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 'Amar Ekushey Book Fair' in Dhaka

- Prime Minister of Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the '**Amar Ekushey Book Fair**' in **Dhaka**. Prime Minister Hasina also released the book '**New China 1952**', which is the English translation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's book '**Amar Dekha Naya Chin**'.

India and the US launched Artificial Intelligence initiative to scale up the science & technology relationship

- **India** and the **US** have launched an **Artificial Intelligence** initiative that will provide key stakeholders an opportunity to share experiences, identify new **R&D areas** and opportunities which would benefit from synergistic activities, discuss the **emerging AI landscape**, and address the challenges of **developing an AI workforce**.

USAID and DFC announced a \$41 million loan for renewable energy in India

- The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and the **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** have announced a **\$41 million** loan guarantee program to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by **Indian SMEs**.

Singapore to build one of the world's largest floating solar farms to fight climate change

- **Singapore** is building one of the **world's largest floating solar farms** off the coast to support the efforts against **climate change**.
- The **60-megawatt** peak floating solar system is vital to the **Southeast Asian country**, where scarcity of land makes it difficult to invest in other types of renewable energy projects, such as **wind turbines** and **hydro-power plant**.

Indian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Bahrain Naval Force

- **Indian Navy** undertook the **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with **Royal Bahrain Naval Force** Corvette Al Muharraq in the Persian Gulf under Operation "**Sankalp**".
- The naval exercise aims at promoting interoperability between the **two navies**. PASSEX's are conducted regularly by the Indian Navy with units of **friendly foreign navies**.

6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting held virtually

- The Sixth **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum** meeting was held virtually. The event was chaired by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, led by **Smriti Zubin Irani**.

UNDP launched the 'Sahi Disha' campaign to celebrate women's livelihoods in rural India

- The **UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme) had launched the '**Sahi Disha**' campaign to celebrate **women's livelihoods** and **entrepreneurship** in rural India.

Google launched a short video platform for workspaces called 'Threadit'

- **Google** had launched a new tool called **Threadit** to help **make remote work more efficient**. The tool is like TikTok for workspaces. It lets users share **short video recordings** to share their work and connect with your team.

China was India's top imports source worth \$58.71 billion

- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal** stated that India imported goods worth **\$58.71 billion** from **China** in **2020**. The **top five countries** from where India imported goods during 2020 (January-December) are **China** with goods worth \$58.71 billion, **the US** (\$26.89 billion), **United Arab Emirates** (\$23.96 billion), **Saudi Arabia** (\$17.73 billion) and **Iraq** (\$16.26 billion).

India, Pakistan and China participated in the SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise 'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021'

- **India, Pakistan, China** and other members of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** held a joint anti-terrorism exercise named '**Pabbi-Antiterror-2021**'.

- The decision to hold the joint exercise "**Pabbi-Antiterror-2021**" was announced during the **36th** meeting of the Council of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.

Sri Lanka signed a three-year \$1.5 billion currency swap deal with China

- **Sri Lanka** exchanged currency with China under a **10-billion-yuan** (about 1.5 billion) agreement aimed at promoting trade and investment between the two countries.
- **China** remains **Sri Lanka's** largest source of imports. In 2020, imports from China amounted to **\$3.6 billion**, or just over **22 per cent** of Sri Lanka's imports.

India has the world's fourth strongest military: Military Direct's study

- According to a study released by the defence website **Military Direct**, **China** has the **strongest military force** in the world while **India** stands at number **four**.
- The rank was followed by the **USA** (74 points), **Russia** (69 points), **India** (61 points) and **France** (58 points). The UK just about makes the Top 10, coming in **9th** place with a score of 43.

India participated in the Nowruz celebrations at the SCO in Beijing

- **India** participated in the **Nowruz festivities** at the **SCO Secretariat** in **Beijing**. **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** celebrates **2021** as the '**Year of Culture**'.
- India showcased performances of **Kathak, Yoga, Indian cuisine, artefacts** to an audience of more than **500**.

India and Kuwait announced a joint commission to boost ties in energy

- **India** and **Kuwait** decided to establish a joint ministerial commission that will formulate a framework to strengthen ties in sectors like **energy, economy, investment, manpower** and **labour and information technology**.

Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan in the field of water resources

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** between the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Union **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Government of India and **Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan** in the field of water resources.

World's first ship tunnel to be built in Norway

- **Norway** has received the go-ahead to construct the **world's first ship tunnel** to help vessels navigate the treacherous **Stadhavet Sea**. First announced a few years ago by the **Norwegian Coastal Administration**, the **118-feet-wide tunnel** will be built under the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in **northwestern Norway**.
- It will cost around **\$330 million** to build the tunnel expected to complete in **2025-2026**. The tunnel will be **49 m** (161 ft) high and **36 m** (118 ft) wide.

World's 1st Catastrophe Bond for Volcanic Eruptions aims to improve disaster relief

- The **Danish Red Cross** is offering the world's first catastrophe bond for volcanic eruptions, which is designed to improve the provision and efficiency of humanitarian relief after the eruptions of **10 volcanoes** across **three continents**.

Dubai International Airport partnered with Magzter to become the world's first 'Smart Reading Airport'

- **Dubai International Airport** (DXB) has partnered with digital magazine newsstand provider **Magzter** to offer its customers a collection of more than **7,000** leading magazines, newspapers, journals, and comics, becoming what it says is the world's first '**smart reading airport**'.
- It is a fully **contactless** and **paperless digital experience** through the use of **geofencing satellite technology**.

Rajnath Singh and the South Korean Defence Minister inaugurated Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park

- Indian Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and South Korean Defence Minister **Suh Wook** inaugurated the Indo-Korean Bilateral **Friendship Park** in **Delhi Cantt.**
- **Friendship Park** has been built to commemorate the contribution of Indian peacekeepers during the **Korean War** from **1950 to 1953**.

India conducted the first-ever joint patrol in Madagascar EEZ and PASSEX

- The navies of **India** and **Madagascar** undertook joint patrolling of Madagascar's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and also conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**.
- **INS Shardul** and Malagasy Navy ship **MNS Trozona** carried out a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)**.

India and the US started a two-day naval exercise PASSEX in the eastern Indian Ocean region

- **India** and the **US** kicked off a two-day naval exercise PASSEX in the **eastern Indian Ocean Region**, reflecting the growing congruence in their defence and military partnership.

India and South Korea agreed for joint production and export of military hardware

- India and **South Korea** had agreed to joint production and export of **military hardware**, enhance intelligence sharing and boost cooperation in cyber and space domains as a part of the overall expansion of defence and security ties.

2020 was a record year for the global wind power industry: Global Wind Report 2021

- **2020** was the best year in history for the global wind industry, with **93 GW** of new capacity installed, which is a **53 per cent** year-on-year increase. This growth is not sufficient to ensure the world achieves **net-zero** by **2050**.

India and Bangladesh signed five MoUs in various fields

- **India** and **Bangladesh** signed **five MoUs** in the fields of **disaster management, trade, NCC, ICT** and setting up of **sports facilities** on the concluding day of the 2-day long official visit of Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** invited **50 young entrepreneurs** from Bangladesh to connect with India's startup ecosystem and also announced a direct passenger train named '**Mitali Express**' that will be run between **Dhaka** and **New Jalpaiguri, West Bengal**.

Union Minister Jaishankar attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of 'Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan' in Tajikistan

- Union External Affairs Minister **Jaishankar** attended the **9th Ministerial Conference of 'Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan'** in **Tajikistan** and had discussions with his Tajikistan counterpart **Sirojiddin Muhridin** covering all aspects of the bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

India and the United States agreed to refurbish Strategic Energy Partnership to promote clean energy

- **India** and the **United States** had agreed to revamp the strategic energy partnership to reflect the new priorities of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and US President **Joe Biden** with a focus on promoting **clean energy** with **low-carbon pathways** and accelerating green energy cooperation.

India participated in France-led naval drill La Perouse for the first time

- French Navy's Helicopter carrier **Tonnerre** and **surcouf** frigate had arrived in Kochi to lead the naval exercise 'La Perouse' with **Quad members (USA, Japan, Australia, and India)**.

New Zealand became the second country after India to legalize paid leave for miscarriages

- **New Zealand's** Parliament has passed legislation giving **mothers** and **their partners** the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or stillbirth, becoming only the second country in the world after India. Employees will get **three days** to leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Fino Payments Bank upgraded to Scheduled Commercial Bank status

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that the **Fino Payments Bank** had been designated as a bank in the Second Schedule to the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**. The Payments Bank now has a **Scheduled Commercial Bank** status giving it the powers to expand its treasury operations and access to **liquidity windows**.
- **Fino Bank** is the **1st** Payments Bank to go live with **410 branches** and more than **25,000 banking** points on day one.

GST collection rises 7% to Rs. 1.13 lakh crore in February 2021

- The monthly **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection crossed **Rs. 1 lakh crore** mark for the **fifth** time in a row in **February 2021**. GST collection rose **7 per cent** year-on-year to **Rs. 1.13 lakh crores** in the month.
- The collection is, however, lower than the record **Rs. 1.19 lakh crores** collected in **January 2021**.

SBI General Insurance signed a Corporate Agency Agreement with Indian Overseas Bank

- **SBI General Insurance** and **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has signed a **bancassurance** agreement for the distribution of non-life offerings. Through the alliance, SBI General will offer a range of **general insurance** solutions and **innovative products** to IOB customers.

UPI registers 2.29 billion transactions worth over Rs. 4,25,000 cr in February

- As per the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India, **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has registered **2.29 billion** transactions worth over **4 lakh 25 thousand crore** rupees in **January**. UPI has been able to maintain its previous record in terms of **average transaction value** even in 28 days for February.

NSE and SIDBI signed an MoU to test the feasibility of a debt capital platform for MSMEs

- **National Stock exchange (NSE)** and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in various ongoing **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**-related initiatives of the two institutions.

Axis Bank partnered with WhatsApp to offer basic banking services

- India's third-largest private sector lender **Axis Bank** will be available on popular social messaging app **WhatsApp** and will allow basic banking services, including account balance, and transaction history.

RBI announced Operation Twist-cum-Open Market Operations (OMO)

- **RBI** will purchase Government securities worth **Rs. 20,000 crore** and sell securities worth **Rs. 15,000 crore**. The yield on the **10-year** benchmark bond closed at **6.22%** after hitting an 11-month high of **6.26%**.
- RBI announced that it will buy securities maturing in **2025, 2028, 2030** and **2033**, and sell short-term securities maturing in **November, February, and May 2022**.

EPFO kept the interest rate untouched at 8.5% for 2020-21

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** announced an **8.5 percent** interest rate on Provident Fund deposits for the **financial year 2020-21**.

PNB Housing Finance and YES Bank signed a strategic co-lending pact for retail home loans

- **PNB Housing** and **Yes Bank** provide an efficient and seamless experience to existing and new retail home loan customers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank signed MoU with the Indian Army to handle salary accounts of personnel

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Army** for salary accounts. The MoU enables Kotak to offer its **salary account proposition**, combined with exclusive benefits for the **Indian Army**, to all army personnel, both active and retired.

SEBI cancelled Sahara India Financial Corp's registration as sub-brokers

- Markets regulator **SEBI** cancelled the certificate of registration of **Sahara India Financial Corporation** as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfill the **"fit and proper"** criteria. The regulator had appointed a designated authority in **2018** to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of **Intermediaries Regulations**.

Axis Securities launched 'YIELD' an online platform to invest bond and debenture hassle-free

- **Axis Securities**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Axis Bank**, launched **'YIELD'** an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the **secondary market**.
- **YIELD** is the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows retail investors direct access to the **debt instruments**.

KVGB inks pact with 'Our Food' for arranging processing units for farmers

- The Dharwad-headquartered **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Our Food Pvt Ltd**, Visakhapatnam, for arranging **cost-effective** processing units to farmers through the bank loan.
- The vendor will ensure the **supply, delivery**, and installation of high-quality, standardised, and **branded equipment** as per the requirement of the farmer and also will ensure the purchase of processed products.

NPCI partnered with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for merchants

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has announced a partnership with **SBI Payments** to announce the launch of **'RuPay SoftPoS'** for millions of **Indian merchants**.
- This innovative solution has the capability to transform **near-field communication (NFC)** enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers.

SBI-sponsored TGB and APGVB became the first RRBs to launch a video-KYC facility

- **Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB)** and **Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)** have launched digital savings account opening facility through Video - **Know Your Customer (KYC)**.
- Both banks are sponsored by **SBI** will change the complexion of the rural economy. Both RRBs will be able to further increase their **CASA portfolio**.

HDFC ERGO launched "Business Kisht Suraksha" to protect MFIs and financial institutions against calamities and natural disasters

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance**, India's leading non-life insurance company in the private sector, launched "**Business Kisht Suraksha**", a unique cover aimed at protecting the balance sheet of **MFIs**, financial institutions, and banks in the event of a catastrophe or **natural disaster**.

Alliance Insurance launched the 'SMEInsure' portal to benefit 5 crore SMEs during financial emergency

- **Alliance Insurance** has launched a portal named '**SMEInsure**' to bring **5 crore** Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category. The portal will provide insurance services in a **phygital format** (both physical and digital).

HDFC Bank launched SmartUp Unnati for mentoring women entrepreneurs

- **HDFC** announced the launch of **SmartUp Unnati**, a dedicated programme for **mentoring women entrepreneurs** by **women leaders** at the bank.
- This programme is available only to existing customers and will initially target more than **3,000 women entrepreneurs** associated with the **Bank's SmartUp programme**.

Yes Bank launched 'Yes Essence' Services for Women

- On the occasion of **International Women's Day** (8 March), **Yes Bank** launched the women centric '**Yes Essence**' services that will offer preferentially priced **loans and healthcare** benefits, among other services.

Aquaconnect partnered with the Bank of Baroda to generate formal credit for aquaculture farmers

- Aquaculture technology venture **Aquaconnect** had partnered with state-owned Bank of Baroda to provide loan access to **1.6 million aquaculture farmers**.
- **Bank of Baroda**, in partnership with **Aquaconnect**, will provide credit access under the **Kisan Credit Card** scheme at an annualised rate as low as 10 per cent. Under this partnership, the Bank of Baroda has extended loans for up to **Rs. 10 lakhs** under the KCC scheme and fisheries loan.

RBI removed IDBI Bank from the PCA framework

- The RBI **removed** IDBI Bank from its enhanced regulatory supervision or **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** framework after a gap of **nearly four years** on **improved** financial performance.
- **RBI** had placed **IDBI Bank** under the **PCA framework** in May **2017**, after it had breached the thresholds for **capital adequacy, asset quality** (net NPAs was over 13 per cent in March 2017), **return on assets (ROA)** and the **leverage ratio**.

Axis Bank launched contactless payment wearable devices

- **Axis Bank** had launched a range of **wearable contactless payment devices** under the brand '**Wear 'N' Pay**'. These devices come in the form of a band, key chain and watch loop and are available at a fee point of **Rs. 750**.
- Customers can wave it at a **Point of Sale (PoS)** machine for transactions up to **Rs.5,000**, **beyond** which a **PIN** is required to complete the transaction.

SBI topped the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard

- **State Bank of India** had topped the list of the **Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's (MeitY)** Digital Payment Scorecard for **3** consecutive months.
- The scorecard tracks **commercial banks'** performance on various digital parameters. SBI remained the top remitter bank by recording the highest **UPI** transaction volume of nearly **64 crores** having a user base of **13.5 crores**.

Karur Vysya Bank partnered with Cholamandalam Investment for co-lending business

- **Karur Vysya Bank and Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (Chola)**, the financial services arm of the Murugappa Group, jointly announced that they have successfully launched **Co-lending** business in **partnership**.

OECD projects India's GDP growth rate at 12.6 percent for FY22

- According to an interim report by the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, India's economy is projected to grow at the rate of **12.6 percent** in **2021-22**.
- The projection for global economic growth has also been raised by **1.4 percent** to **5.6 percent** in **2022-23** in the OECD economic outlook report.

Paytm launched Soundbox 2.0 and Smart POS for ease of digital payment to merchants

- **Paytm** has launched **Soundbox 2.0** and **Paytm Smart POS** for ease of **digital payment** to merchants. **Soundbox 2.0** is a '**Made in India**' advanced **IoT** (Internet of things) device that is powered by Paytm's all-in-one payments and reconciliation technology.

RBI asked banks to implement an image-based cheque truncation system in all branches by 30 September

- The **Reserve Bank of India** asked banks to implement an image-based **Cheque Truncation System (CTS)** in all branches by **30 September 2021**. The CTS is in use since **2010**.
- **Cheque truncation** involves the **stoppage of the physical movement** of the cheque and the replacement of the physical instrument by the image/s of the instrument and the corresponding data contained in the **MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition)** line.

AU Small Finance Bank raised Rs. 625.50 crores through QIP

- **Jaipur-based AU Small Finance Bank** had raised **Rs 625.50** crores by issuing shares to a set of investors through **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)**.
- **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)** means a listed company can issue equity shares, fully and partly convertible debentures, or any securities other than warrants which are convertible to equity shares to a **Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB)**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India launched a new protection & savings plan named "Bachat Plus"

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** introduced a new policy named '**Bachat Plus**', which is a **non-linked participating individual savings plan** that offers a combination of protection and savings.

NPCI launched a UPI-Help feature for digital payments

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched '**UPI-Help**' on the **BHIM app** to address issues and resolve complaints of users while conducting **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** transactions.

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an **umbrella organisation** for operating **retail payments** and **settlement systems** in India.
- Currently, the UPI-Help option had gone live on the BHIM app for the customers of **State Bank of India, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank**.

India's import of arms decreased by 33 per cent: SIPRI Report

- India's import of arms decreased by **33 per cent** between **2011-15** and **2016-20** and **Russia** was the most affected supplier, according to a report released by **Stockholm**-based defence think-tank **SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)**.
- The five largest arms exporters in **2016-20** were the **US, Russia, France, Germany, and China**, while the top importers were **Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia, and China**.

State Bank of India inked the first SOFR-linked ECB deal with IOCL

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** had inked the first deal in the **external commercial borrowing (ECB)** market using the new **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL)** of \$100 million deal for five years.
- SOFR is the new alternative benchmark rate that will replace **LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate)**, which is the existing benchmark rate. SOFR will replace LIBOR by the **end of 2021**.

Reserve Bank of India imposed a ₹2 crore penalty on SBI

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2 crore on the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for contravention of certain provisions of **Section 10** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Parliamentary Panel suggests a systemic review of the financial system by the Reserve Bank of India

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance had recommended a systemic review by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to pre-empt a crisis of the sort that the **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)** group underwent in **2018**.
- The Standing Committee on Finance headed by **Jayant Sinha** had also suggested a system of rotation of **credit rating agencies (CRAs)**.

Punjab National Bank incorporated a new entity PNB Cards & Services for the credit card business

- Public sector lender **Punjab National Bank** had incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, **PNB Cards & Services Limited**, which will deal with the banks' **non-financial support services** related to its credit card business.
- The authorized capital of the company is **Rs. 25 crores** (divided into 2,50,00,000 equity shares of Rs. 10 each) and the paid-up capital is **Rs. 15 crores** (divided into 1,50,00,000 equity shares of Rs. 10 each).

Deutsche Bank executed the world's first green hedge transaction with Continuum

- **Deutsche Bank** and **Continuum Energy Levanter Private Limited**, a subsidiary of **Continuum Green Energy (Continuum)**, announced that they had executed the **world's first green hedging transaction** with a second party opinion based on a specially designed **green hedge framework**.
- The aim is to develop a **green hedge framework** to support the implementation of Continuum's **green bond framework**.

IRDAI increased maximum cover under the Arogya Sanjeevani Policy from 5 lakhs to Rs 10 lakhs

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** had hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan '**Arogya Sanjeevani Policy**' from **Rs. 5 lakhs** to **Rs. 10 lakhs** to bring more people under the health insurance scheme.
- The insurance regulator had made it mandatory for insurers to offer a sum insured between **Rs. 50,000** to **Rs. 10 lakhs** under the Arogya Sanjeevani Policy as against the previous range of **Rs. 1 lakhs** to **Rs. 5 lakhs**.

RBI imposed a ₹15-lakh penalty on Fedbank Financial Services Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had imposed a monetary penalty of **₹15 lakh** on **Fedbank Financial Services Limited (Fedfina)**, Mumbai, for non-compliance with certain provisions of the central bank's directions on monitoring of frauds.
- This penalty was imposed in exercise of powers vested in **RBI** under the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

Shyamala Gopinath panel to evaluate applications for Universal and Small Finance Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a five-member committee headed by former **Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath** for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks.
- The RBI's guidelines for '**on-tap**' **Licensing of Universal Banks** in the Private Sector (**1 August 2016**) and Guidelines for '**on-tap**' **Licensing of Small Finance Banks** in the Private Sector (**5 December 2019**) indicated that the applications for **Universal Banks** and **Small Finance Banks** would be initially screened by the Reserve Bank to ensure prima facie eligibility of the applicants.

ESAF Small Finance Bank awarded with 'Great place to work' certification

- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** had been awarded 'Great place to work' certification by the **Great place to Work Institute**.
- The certification is the result of an **employee survey** conducted by the third-party global authority on recognising high-trust and **performance** culture at workplaces. This recognition acknowledges the bank's **commitment** and **credibility** amongst its employees.

Indian Overseas Bank launched 'IOB Trendy' savings account for millennials

- **IOB Trendy** is a **Savings Bank Account** Scheme introduced by the **Indian Overseas Bank** towards the endeavour of understanding the banking needs of **millennials** and customising the scheme to those needs.
- At the time of opening an **IOB Trendy account**, one needs to be within the age bracket of **21–38 years**. **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.

ICICI Bank launched an instant EMI facility to break high-value transactions into EMIs

- **ICICI Bank** customers can break their high-value transactions of over **Rs. 50,000** into suitable **EMIs (Equated Monthly Installment)** directly on its internet banking platform to make their purchases **more affordable**. The bank has tied up with online payment gateways **BillDesk** and **Razorpay** to enable this facility.
- '**EMI @Internet Banking**' facility is the **first** in the industry. It will enable customers to convert their high-value transactions up to **Rs. 5 lakh** into easy monthly installments.

Niyo Launched NiyoX in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank and VISA

- India's leading fintech company, **Niyo** launched pioneering mobile-first digital banking solution **NiyoX** in partnership with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** and **VISA**.

- Niyox is a **2-in-1 account** that provides its users access to a full **wealth management suite** in addition to the **savings account**.

HDFC Bank named India's best SME bank by Asiamoney

- **HDFC Bank** was adjudged the '**India's Best Bank for SMEs**' at the **Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021**. In its evaluation the magazine said on its website HDFC Bank's transformation of its **micro, small and medium-sized enterprise** (MSME) business over the past few years makes it a worthy winner of this award.

YES BANK partnered with SHEROES to launch "YES Essence Plus" accelerator to support women entrepreneurs

- **YES BANK** launched a unique accelerator program "**YES Essence Plus**" to support women-led startups in partnership with **SHEROES**, the **women-only social network**.

RBI extended restrictions on Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank till 30 June

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) extended the restrictions on the **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative** (PMC) **Bank** further three months till **30 June 2021**. The decision was taken in the backdrop of financial condition of the bank which is likely to make the reconstruction process complex and **time-consuming**.

Union Bank of India and HPCL launched co-branded contactless RuPay card "UNI-CARBON CARD"

- **Union Bank of India** and **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited** have launched "**UNI-CARBON CARD**", a co-branded contactless **RuPay credit card**.
- This card is contactless "**Tap & Go**" and an **NCMC (National Common Mobility Card)** in line with the Government of India's directives.

BharatPe launched instant liquidity facility 'Distributor to Retailer Finance' to empower SMEs

- **BharatPe** has rolled-out its innovative lending product "**Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance**", which will focus specifically on empowering **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**.
- **D2R** is a **short-term loan** that is innovatively designed to address the constant liquidity challenges faced by SMEs and its loan disbursements will be done within **a business day**.

Karnataka Bank and IIFL Securities launched the "KBL Smart Trade"

- **Karnataka Bank** and **IIFL Securities Limited**, a broking and advisory firm, have joined hands to introduce the "**KBL Smart Trade**". It is a facility under which all Karnataka Bank customers can access **IIFL Securities** demat and trading account solutions for their capital market needs.

Karnataka Bank operationalised its non-financial subsidiary

- **Karnataka Bank** operationalised its wholly-owned non-financial subsidiary **KBL Services Ltd.** With its registered and head office in **Bengaluru**, this subsidiary is established as conceptualised under the transformation journey of the bank '**KBL Vikaas**' in achieving the bank's strategic objectives in the long run.

GDP FORECAST

CRISIL predicted India's GDP to grow at 11% in FY22

- **CRISIL** projected the Indian economy to grow at **11%** in fiscal **2022**, after an estimated **8%** contraction this fiscal due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moody's revised India's GDP growth to 12% in 2021

- According to **Moody's** Analytics, **India's** gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow by **12%** in **2021**. In an earlier estimate last November, it had stated that India's GDP would grow at **9%** in the calendar year.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimated India's growth at 5% in 2021

- According to a **UNCTAD** report, India's economy is estimated to contract by 6.9 per cent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and forecast to record a "**stronger recovery**" in **2021** and grow by **5 per cent**.

World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast from 5.4% to 10.1% for the financial year 2021-22

- The **World Bank** had recently increased its projections for India's economic growth by **4.7 percentage** points to **10.1 per cent** for Financial Year **2021-22**, citing a strong rebound in private consumption and investment growth.

UNESCAP projected India's GDP growth at 7% in FY22

- The **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** expected the Indian economy to grow **7%** in **FY22** despite the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine and against a contraction of **7.7%** in the preceding year.

S&P raised India's FY22 GDP growth forecast from 10% to 11%

- **S&P Global Ratings** raised India's growth forecast for the financial year **2021-22** to **11%** from **10%** earlier. India's economy grew **0.4%** in the October-December quarter.
- During **April-June**, at the peak of pandemic and most economic activities at a standstill, the country's GDP had contracted a massive **23.9%**, following a **7.5%** decline in the fiscal second.

Fitch raised India's GDP growth projection to 12.8% from 11% for FY22

- American credit rating agency **Fitch** has revised India's GDP growth estimate to **12.8%** for the next fiscal year (FY22) from the previous **11%** on the back of a stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment. Fitch also expects GDP growth to ease to **5.8%** in Fiscal Year **2023**.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS

Atal Innovation Mission Partnered with MathWorks to strengthen the Deep-tech startup ecosystem of India

- **Atal Innovation Mission** (AIM), NITI Aayog partners with **MathWorks** - the developer of mathematical computing software for scientists and engineers to strengthen the **Deep-tech startup ecosystem** of India.
- The benefits are aimed at fostering **innovation** and **accelerating** product development at these early-stage companies.

Fourth Partner Energy ties up with Indonesia's Indika Energy

- India's leading solar solution firm **Fourth Partner Energy** announced a partnership with Indonesia's **Indika Energy** to provide solar, battery storage, and EV solutions to the **South East Asian** nation.
- The joint venture company **Empat Mitra Indika Tenaga Surya** (EMITS) is aimed at accelerating Indonesia's renewable energy transition. Indika Energy will hold **51 percent** and Fourth Partner Energy **49 percent** stake in EMITS.

Amazon India partnered with UN Women to launch an IWD storefront for women sellers

- **Amazon India** has partnered with **UN Women** to launch a special **IWD storefront** for women-owned small businesses ahead of the **International Women's Day (March 8)**.
- The event was held under the theme "**Challenge. Champion. Change.**"

Titan's youth brand Fastrack tied up with Yono-SBI bank to launch a smart fitness band

- **Titan**-owned youth accessories brand **Fastrack** has partnered country's largest public sector bank **Yono-State Bank of India (SBI)**, to enter the smart wearable category of **fitness bands** with a **digital payment** component under its sub-brand Reflex to strengthen the company's foothold in the **wearables category** for the youth.

WE HUB partnered with the Australian Government to launch 'UPSurge' pre-incubation program

- Telangana IT minister **KT Rama Rao (KTR)** launched '**UpSurge**', an initiative to aid women entrepreneurs from across India to achieve **financial independence** in collaboration with the **Australian Government**.
- It follows the first **WE-Hub/Australia** collaboration, '**Community Slate**', which was concluded in **2020**.

Edelweiss General Insurance partnered with InterMiles to introduce Free Cancellation Travel Insurance

- India's first cloud-native **Edelweiss General Insurance** (EGI) had launched the **Edelweiss Group Domestic Travel Insurance** in partnership with **InterMiles**, a leading travel and lifestyle rewards programme.

AgriTech firm Arya partners with Canara Bank to extend warehouse finance to farmers

- Post-harvest agritech firm **Arya** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Canara Bank** for collateral management and **warehousing services**.
- The objective is to support and extend finance to farmers, **farmer producer organisations (FPOs)**, processors, and various depositors stocking their produce in **warehouses** managed by **Arya**.

ICSI signs an MoU with CUSAT for academic collaboration

- The **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)** for academic collaboration.

Vayana Network partnered with CRIF India to launch a tech-enabled tool for MSMEs

- **Vayana Network**, India's largest supply chain financing platform had collaborated with **CRIF Solutions**, a leading provider of analytics, scoring, and decision solutions introduce the **Good Business Score (GBS)**, a tech-based tool to help **India's MSMEs** measure and manage their business health effectively.

CSIR-CMERI conducted Skill Development Programme on Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management for Zero Waste Solutions

- **CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute**, Durgapur, conducted a **three-day** residential training programme on "**Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management: Zero Waste Solutions**".

APEDA partnered with NSIC to support and empower agri entrepreneurs

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** and the **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)** signed an MoU to ensure cooperation in a range of areas focusing on **harnessing exports potential** of agricultural and processed food products manufactured by the **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

JKTPO signed an MoU with TPCI for Agro & Food processing and Film Tourism sectors

- **Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Trade Promotion Corporation of India (TPCI)** for the **Agro & Food Processing sector** and **Film Tourism sector**.

FICCI signed an MoU with IFSCA for the development of GIFT City as a world-class Fintech hub

- **FICCI** (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) and **IFSCA** (International Financial Services Centres Authority) signed an MoU to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for the development of **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT)** IFSC as a **world-class FinTech hub**.

Union Ministry of Defence signed a contract with MDSL to supply Light Specialist Vehicles to the Indian Army

- **Union Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDSL)** for the supply of **1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles** to the Indian Army, at a cost of **Rs. 1,056 crores**. The induction of vehicles is planned to be completed in four years.

CESL inked a pact with CSC SPV to create demand aggregation for EVs and other initiatives

- **Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)** a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** signed a pact with **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC SPV)** to create demand aggregation for **electric mobility, solar, energy-efficiency solutions**, and **other initiatives** of CESL.

JICA signed a loan agreement with TCCL for climate change project

- The **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** signed a loan agreement for a maximum amount of 10 billion yen with the **Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL)** to support the

company to offer loans to businesses across India that focus on **renewable energy generation, e-mobility solutions** to help mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the emission of **greenhouse gas (GHG)** following the Green Loan Principles.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) signed a Rs. 100 crore agreement with CNB Logitech

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)** signed an MoU with **CNB Logitech** worth **Rs. 100 crores** per annum for monitoring, tracking, and optimise the movement of as many as **50 lakh** containers in foreign trade.

Tata Motors signed a three-year MoU with SBI for financial assistance of light commercial vehicles

- India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, **Tata Motors** has inked a three-year MoU with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to offer unique financial assistance for the purchase of Tata Motors' range of **small and light commercial vehicles**.

RBL Bank partnered with Tide to serve the banking needs of Indian SMEs

- Private sector lender, **RBL Bank** has joined hands with **UK-based** fintech **Tide** to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the **small and medium (SME) segment**. This collaboration will enable Tide to bring its platform to the Indian markets with a full-fledged launch.

SBI signed a loan agreement of \$1 billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation

- India's biggest lender **SBI** had signed a loan agreement of **\$1 billion** with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** taking the total facility to **\$2 billion**, including \$1 billion which was signed last year in **October 2020**.

Maruti signed MoU with Karnataka Bank to offer an affordable finance scheme

- **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Karnataka Bank** to offer better finance schemes to customers, especially in the southern states.
- Under this collaboration, customers can avail of loans up to **85%** of the on-road price of all new cars from **Maruti Suzuki's Arena** and **Nexa** showrooms.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partnered with nStore to digitise offline retailers

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** partnered with nStore to digitise offline retailers and small businesses. Ujjivan SFB will offer a mobile app '**nLincs**' to its existing **current account** customers who are local businesses that will allow them to sell their merchandise online.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO successfully launched Brazil's Amazonia 1 satellite, along with 18 other passenger satellites

- India's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle - C51 (PSLV-C51)** rocket loaded with **19** satellites from **Brazil, the USA** and India, lifted off from the rocket port at **Sriharikota** successfully.
- **The 637-kilogram** Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of the **National Institute for Space Research (INPE)**.

Kaveri Seeds becomes the World's first seed producer to have over a lakh acre in production

- The bulk of the newly acquired seed production area is dedicated to the **non-cotton sector** and mostly towards high-margin **hybrid rice, maize, and vegetable seeds**, and nearly half of the land is located in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana**.

Russia launched the first 'Arktika-M' satellite to monitor the Arctic region

- **Russia** launched its first satellite '**Arktika-M**' aimed at monitoring the **Arctic region's** climate and environment. Space Agency **Roscosmos** launched the satellite '**Arktika-M**' from **Baikonur Cosmodrome**, a spaceport leased to Russia in **Kazakhstan**.
- The satellite was carried by **Soyuz-2.1b** carrier rocket.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance introduced India's first health insurance plan with up to 100 per cent return on premium

- **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited (ABHICL)**, the health insurance subsidiary of **Aditya Birla Capital Limited**, announced an industry-first initiative of up to **100 per cent** health insurance premium returns and other significant product offering upgrades.
- The newly designed version of its flagship product '**Activ Health**' will inspire customers to lead a **healthy lifestyle**.

Indian scientists developed a low-cost telescopic gadget "ADFOSC" to view distant celestial objects

- **Indian scientists** have indigenously designed and developed a low-cost optical spectrograph, "**Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph and Camera (ADFOSC)**" that can locate sources of faint light from distant **quasars** and **galaxies** in a very young universe, regions around supermassive black-holes around the **galaxies**, and **cosmic explosions**.
- ADFOSC is indigenously designed and developed by **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, Nainital.

DRDO successfully tested SFDR technology in a bid to develop long-range missiles

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully tested a flight demonstration based on **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** technology from the **Integrated Test Range** in **Odisha's Chandipur**.
- The SFDR technology will help DRDO with the technological advantage to develop long-range **air-to-air missiles** (AAMs).

SpaceX successfully tested the Starship SN10 prototype rocket

- **SpaceX** successfully tested its **Starship SN10** prototype rocket after two failed attempts. The rocket prototype was launched to an altitude of **10,000 kilometers** and then landed back on the ground. However, the rocket exploded about **six minutes** after landing.

India's 3rd Scorpene submarine "INS Karanj" commissioned by the Indian Navy in Mumbai

- The **Indian Navy** commissioned its **third** Scorpene-class submarine "**INS Karanj**" in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. A Scorpene submarine is a class of **diesel-electric** attack submarines designed by France's Naval Group and is being manufactured by **Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL)** in Mumbai.
- The Navy has inducted two submarines of the same class—the **INS Kalvari** and **INS Khanderi** from MDL where the INS Karanj was also built.

France conducts "AsterX" its first ever military exercise in space

- **France** has conducted its first military exercises "**AsterX**" in space to test its ability to defend its satellites, in a sign of the growing competition between world powers in **Earth's orbit**.
- France has launched its **first ever military exercise** & also the 1st among **European Countries** in space in order to "**stress test**" its defence systems against potential adversaries.

ISRO launched sounding rocket RH-560

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **sounding rocket (RH-560)** at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR)**, to study attitudinal variations in the **neutral winds** and plasma dynamics.

INS Jalashwa reached Madagascar's Antsiranana Port with the Indian Naval training team

- INS Jalashwa reached the **port of Antsiranana, Madagascar**, with an Indian Naval training team on-board. The Indian Naval training team was deployed in **Madagascar** for **capacity building and training** of the Malagasy Special Forces.

Samsung India had partnered with Delhi Technological University to set up an Innovation Lab

- **Samsung India** had inaugurated a Samsung Innovation Lab at **Delhi Technological University (DTU)** under the **Samsung Innovation Campus initiative**, strengthening its commitment towards the Government's Skill India initiative as part of its latest vision **Powering Digital India**.

Indian Army decommissioned two of the longest-serving artillery systems from service

- **Indian Army** had decommissioned **two** of the longest-serving artillery systems from service. The **130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns** and the **160mm Tampella Mortars** were decommissioned at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges.

Union Defence Ministry inked a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited for 4960 Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

- **Union Ministry of Defence** signed a contract with **Bharat Dynamics Limited** for the supply of **4960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles** to the Indian Army. The Defence Public Sector Undertaking will supply the missiles for **Rs. 1188 crores**.
- The **Milan-2T** is a Tandem Warhead Anti-Tank Guided Missile with a range of **1850 metres**.

POWERGRID launched certified e-Tendering Portal "PRANIT" to lead to less paperwork

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)**, a central PSU under the **Ministry of Power** has established an e-Tendering Portal "**PRANIT**" which will lead to less paperwork and ease of operation, making the tendering process more transparent.

ISRO demonstrated India's first free-space quantum communication over 300 metres

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully demonstrated **free-space Quantum Communication** over a distance of **300 m**, for the first time in the country.
- A number of key technologies were developed indigenously to accomplish this major feat, which included the use of indigenously developed "**NAVIC**" receiver for time synchronisation between

the **transmitter** and **receiver modules**, and gimbal mechanism systems instead of bulky large-aperture telescopes for optical alignment.

Russia launched Soyuz Rocket into space carrying 38 satellites from 18 countries

- **The Russian** space agency, **ROSCOSMOS** launched a rocket in space carrying **38 foreign satellites** for **18** countries (including South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, and Brazil) that lifted off from **Baikonur** cosmodrome in **Kazakhstan**.
- Among 38 satellites '**Challenge-1**' is the first satellite made completely in **Tunisia**.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vajra' commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard

- Indian Coast Guard Ship '**Vajra**' was commissioned by **General Bipin Rawat**, Chief of Defence Staff at **Kattupalli** in **Chennai**. This is the **sixth** in the series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessel constructed by **Larsen & Toubro Limited**.

Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile Shaheen-1A

- **Pakistan** successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable **surface-to-surface** ballistic missile with a range of **900 kilometres**. The test of **Shaheen-1A** was aimed at re-validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system, including an advanced navigation system.

Cochin Shipyard delivered MV 'Sindhu', passengers cum cargo vessel for Andaman & Nicobar

- Cochin Shipyard Limited delivered **MV 'Sindhu'**, a 500 pax passengers cum **150 MT Cargo Vessel** built indigenously for **Andaman and Nicobar**. The protocol signing & handing over ceremony was held onboard the vessel.

ISRO strikes partnership with IIST to advance space research

- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** is embarking on a mission of a different kind by taking the Indian **Institute of Space Science and Technology** (IIST) to a much higher, futuristic research orbit similar to NASA's **JPL** (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) Caltech model.

Women-led startup Astrome developed low-cost internet services called "Giga Mesh"

- **Astrome**, a women-led startup, has developed an innovative **wireless product** that gives fiber-like bandwidth at a fraction of fiber cost to help telecom operators deliver reliable, **low-cost Internet services** to **suburban** and **rural areas**.
- The wireless product **Giga Mesh** could enable telecom operators to deploy **quality, high-speed** rural telecom infrastructure at **five times lower cost**.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Russian supermodel 'Supernova' Natalia Vodianova is the new UN Goodwill Ambassador

- Russian supermodel, entrepreneur, public speaker, and philanthropist **Natalia Mikhailovna Vodianova**, popularly known as '**Supernova**', has become a **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** Goodwill Ambassador, pledging to promote the **sexual and reproductive rights** of **women and girls** and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies.

CBDT Chairman Pramod Chandra Mody gets further extension for three months

- The Union Government has decided to further extend the term of the Chairman of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, **Pramod Chandra Mody**, by three more months (1 March 2021 to 31 May 2021). It is the **third** extension for PC Mody.
- The CBDT is the **apex policy-making body** for Income Tax and works under the **Finance Ministry**.

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh took charge of the Eastern Naval Command

- Vice Admiral **Ajendra Bahadur Singh** took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), **Eastern Naval Command (ENC)** from Vice Admiral **Atul Kumar Jain** at the Naval Base.
- **Vice Admiral Jain** is now the Chief of **Integrated Defence Staff** to the **Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)** based out of New Delhi.

Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj to take additional charge of Revenue Secretary

- Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs **Tarun Bajaj** has been given additional charge of **Revenue Secretary**. He has been given an additional charge after the superannuation of Revenue Secretary **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.

Jaideep Bhatnagar takes over as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau

- **Jaideep Bhatnagar** has taken over as the **Principal Director General** of the **Press Information Bureau**. He takes over from **Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia**.

Canara Bank's Executive Director Matam Venkata Rao appointed as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India

- **Matam Venkata Rao** has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in the Central Bank of India for three years. He replaced **M D Pallav Mohapatra**, who retired as the MD & CEO of Central Bank of India on February 28, 2021.
- Rao worked as the Executive Director of **Canara Bank** for more than **three years**. He also worked as Agricultural Field Officer in joined **Allahabad Bank**.

Kuldeep Singh took additional charge as director-general of CRPF

- Ministry of **Home Affairs** has appointed IPS officer Kuldeep Singh to hold additional charge as the Director General (DG) of **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. He will look after the duties of Director General, CRPF after **A P Maheshwari** who retired recently.
- Singh is a **1986** batch officer from the **West Bengal cadre**.

Manpreet Vohra appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia

- Senior diplomat **Manpreet Vohra** has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to **Australia**. Mr. Vohra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently Ambassador of India to **Mexico**.

Mary Kom appointed as the Chairperson of AIBA's Champions & Veterans Committee

- **Six-time world champion** pugilist **Mary Kom** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the **International Boxing Association's** (AIBA) Champions & Veterans Committee. The 37-year-old 2012 Olympic bronze-medallist was named for the position after voting by the AIBA's board of directors.
- **Mary Kom** belongs to **Manipur state**.

Rajesh Vaishnaw appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco

- **Ministry of External Affairs** (MEA) announced senior diplomat **Rajesh Vaishnaw** has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the **Kingdom of Morocco**. He is a 1996-batch Indian Foreign Service officer is currently the High Commissioner of India to **Malta**.

Glenmark Pharma signed Rohit Sharma as the brand ambassador for Candid Powder

- Drug major **Glenmark Pharma** has signed cricketer **Rohit Sharma** as brand ambassador for its product **Candid Powder**. Candid Dusting Powder is used to treat **four key skin problems** of redness, irritation, sweat rash, and fungal infections.

Agricultural economist Ashok Gulati appointed as Additional Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Private sector lender **Kotak Mahindra Bank** appointed agricultural economist **Ashok Gulati** as an Additional Independent Director on its board.

Indian-American Naureen Hassan became first Vice President and COO of New York Federal Bank

- **Indian-American** financial services industry veteran **Naureen Hassan** was appointed as the first **Vice President** and **Chief Operating Officer** (COO) of the **Federal Reserve Bank** of New York.

Senior IAS officer Arun Kumar Singh appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar

- The 1985-batch IAS officer **Arun Kumar Singh** was appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) to Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar**. He replaced **Deepak Kumar**, who retired recently.

Pallav Mohapatra appointed as the MD and CEO of Arcil

- **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil)** announced the appointment of **Pallav Mohapatra** as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Prior to the appointment, he was the MD and CEO of the **Central Bank of India**.
- **Arcil** was founded in **2002**. It is India's oldest asset reconstruction company. It currently manages assets of Rs. 12,000 crores.

Tirath Singh Rawat was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

- **Tirath Singh Rawat** was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand** after the resignation of **Trivendra Singh Rawat**.
- Tirath Singh Rawat was the **first Education Minister** of the newly formed state **Uttarakhand**.

Anurag Thakur was promoted as Captain in the Territorial Army

- **Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Thakur** became the **first serving MP** to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. He was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant by then **Chief of Army Staff** (COAS) General Dalbir S Suhag in July 2016.

GP Samanta was appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India

- **GP Samanta** replaced **Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji**, who was holding the **additional charge** of CSI since **September 2020** after the post felt vacant.

- He will also hold charge as the **Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

Thomas Bach was reelected as the President of the International Olympic Committee until 2025

- **Thomas Bach** was re-elected as **President** of the International Olympic Committee for a **final four-year term**. The **German lawyer** was unopposed and won the vote 93-1, with four members abstaining.

Imran Amin Siddiqui appointed as Executive Director of Indian Bank

- General Manager of Indian Bank **Imran Amin Siddiqui** has been appointed as the **Executive Director** of the state-owned lender. He has been appointed for **three years** with effect from March 10, 2021.
- **Shenoy Vishwanath V** and **K.Ramachandran** are the other two Executive Directors on the board of **Indian Bank**.

NABARD's Chairman G R Chintala takes over chairmanship of APRACA

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** (NABARD) Chairman **G R Chintala** took over the chairmanship of the **Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)**. Chintala is succeeding Bank of Ceylon CEO **DPK Gunasekera**.

Kartik Aaryan appointed as the first-ever brand ambassador of Doritos in India

- **Doritos**, the nacho chip brand from **PepsiCo India**, has appointed Bollywood actor **Kartik Aaryan** as its first-ever brand ambassador in **India**.
- Kartik Aaryan also appointed as the **brand ambassador** of Footwear major **Bata India Limited**.

Patrick Achi appointed as the interim Prime Minister of Ivory Coast

- **Ivory Coast's** President **Alassane Ouattara** named **Patrick Achi** as the interim Prime Minister in place of **Hamed Bakayoko**, who passed away recently.
- Patrick Achi had served as the Minister of **Economic Infrastructure** between **2010** and **2017**.

American Tower Corporation appointed Sanjay Goel as the Executive Vice-President and President of Asia-Pacific region

- Telecom tower firm **American Tower Corporation** (ATC) had appointed **Sanjay Goel** as the **Executive Vice-President** and President of the **Asia-Pacific** region. He succeeded Amit Sharma.

Satishwar Balakrishnan appointed as the MD and CEO of Aegon Life Insurance

- India's first digital-only life insurance company, **Aegon Life Insurance**, elevated **Satishwar Balakrishnan** as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Kia Motors India appointed Hardeep Singh Brar as the national Head of Sales and Marketing

- **Kia Motors India**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Kia Corporation**, had appointed **Hardeep Singh Brar** as its national **Head of Sales and Marketing**. Hardeep Singh Brar has over two decades of experience in the automotive industry and was most recently working at Great Wall Motors as the Director of Marketing & Sales.

Deepak Mishra was appointed as the Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

- **Deepak Mishra**, the Practice Manager in the World Bank's macroeconomics, trade and investment global practice, was appointed as the Director and Chief Executive of the **Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)**. He replaced **Rajat Kathuria**, who worked as the Director and Chief Executive of ICRIER since **1 September 2012**.

- **ICRIER** is an autonomous, policy-oriented, not-for-profit economic policy think tank. It was established in **August 1981**.

Salesforce appointed Sanket Atal as the Senior Vice President and Managing Director of India

- Business strategist **Sanket Atal** joined **Salesforce** as the **Senior Vice President** and **Managing Director** in Bengaluru. Salesforce is the global leader in **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)**, bringing companies closer to their customers in the digital age.

Centre appointed a high-level team headed by SK Singh to review medical care & public health arrangements for Kumbh Mela at Haridwar

- The Centre had deployed a **three-member** high-level central team to review **medical care and public health** arrangements for Kumbh Mela at **Haridwar** in **Uttarakhand**.
- The team is being led by **SK Singh**, Director of the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)**. **SK Jain**, Additional Director, and **Meera Dhuria**, Deputy Director, both from NCDC are the high-level team members.

Sundeep Sikka re-appointed as the Executive Director and CEO of Nippon Life India Asset Management

- **Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd** had re-appointed **Sundeep Sikka** as the Executive Director and CEO for another **five years**. The appointment would be in effect from **22 April 2021**.
- Also, the company had named **B Sriram** as an independent director and **Yutaka Ideguchi** as a non-independent director. **Ved Prakash Malik** had been re-appointed as a non-executive independent director for the second term of **five years**.

MA Ganapathy appointed as the Chief of NSG and Kuldiep Singh to head CRPF

- Senior IPS officers **MA Ganapathy** and **Kuldiep Singh** were appointed the **Director-General** of **National Security Guard (NSG)** and the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** respectively.
- **Kuldiep Singh** will replace **AP Maheshwari**.

Indian cricket legend Kapil Dev inducted into PGTI as a board member

- Legendary Indian cricketer **Kapil Dev** was inducted as one of the board members of the **Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)**. The official inclusion of Kapil Dev into the board was made while announcing the Prometheus School **Delhi-NCR Open Golf Championship 2021** held in **Gurugram, Haryana**.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan appointed as the Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** was appointed as the Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to **eradicate Tuberculosis** from **India** by **2025**. Harsh Vardhan will serve a **three-year** term, commencing from **July 2021**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Advisor PK Sinha resigned

- Former **Cabinet Secretary** and **Principal Advisor** in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) **PK Sinha** has resigned from his position, citing personal reasons.

Ajay Mathur appointed as the Director-General of the International Solar Alliance

- **Ajay Mathur** had assumed office as the **Director-General** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. He was elected for the role by the Special Assembly of the **ISA**. The appointment is for **four years** which can be renewed for an additional term.
- He replaced **Upendra Tripathy**, who had served as the Director-General since 2017.

Mark Rutte elected as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands for the fourth time

- **Dutch** Prime Minister **Mark Rutte** led his People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) to a **fourth victory** in a row. He became the **longest-serving** Prime Minister in the history of the **Netherlands**.

Samia Suluhu Hassan became Tanzania's first woman President

- **Samia Suluhu Hassan** was sworn in as **Tanzania's** first female President and **sixth** President of the country. She succeeded **Magufuli**, who passed away recently.

Bandhan Bank appointed Suhail Chander and Subrata Dutta Gupta as additional independent directors

- Bandhan Bank had appointed **Suhail Chander** and **Subrata Dutta Gupta** as new directors to its board. The two directors will join as Independent Directors for **three years** with effect from **19 March 2021**.

Arindam Bagchi succeeded Anurag Srivastava as the spokesperson of the Union Ministry of External Affairs

- **Arindam Bagchi**, an officer of the **1995** batch of the **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)**, had assumed charge as the new spokesperson of the Union **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- He is replacing **Anurag Srivastava**, an officer of the 1999 batch of IFS.

Ajinkya Rahane appointed as the brand ambassador for NeoGrowth

- **NeoGrowth Credit Private limited**, a leader in **Indian SME lending**, appointed the Indian Cricket Test team's Vice-Captain, **Ajinkya Rahane** had joined the company as a brand ambassador for **a year**.

Indian-American Vivek Murthy appointed as Joe Biden's surgeon general

- US Senate confirmed Indian-American **Vivek Murthy** who was appointed to President **Joe Biden's** Surgeon General, handing the administration one of its top public health officials amid the coronavirus pandemic.

IPS Rashmi Shukla took charge as the special Director-General of South Zone

- Only woman officer at Additional Director General (ADG)/SDG level rank in **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, **Rashmi Shukla** has taken charge as the Special Director-General (SDG) of South Special Director-General (SDG) **South Zone (SZ)**.

Cipla re-appointed Umang Vohra as MD and Global CEO for 5 years

- **Cipla** board of directors approved the re-appointment of **Umang Vohra**, Managing Director designated as **Managing Director** and **Global Chief Executive Officer** of the company for a further period of **five years** from **1 April 2021** to **31 March 2026**.

Karnataka Bank appointed DS Ravindran as Additional Director

- **Karnataka Bank Limited** appointed **DS Ravindran** as Additional Director (non-executive, independent) effective from **1 April**.
- **Ravindran** is an **IFS officer** and the **former Principal Secretary** to the **Karnataka** government with over **34 years** of experience.

NITI Aayog sets up task forces for achieving policy certainty in contract enforcement

- The Government **think tank** NITI Aayog constituted two task forces that will recommend a policy framework for the **enforcement of contracts** as well as an **effective conciliation mechanism**.

- **NITI Aayog** CEO **Amitabh Kant** headed task force will suggest the facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual **disputes** between **private entities** and the **government**.
- **NITI Aayog** Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** headed task force will recommend a policy framework for the **enforcement of contracts** and will have members from key ministries and departments.

Denis Sassou Nguesso re-elected as the President of the Republic of the Congo

- **Denis Sassou Nguesso** has been re-elected President of the Republic of **Congo** after the constitution was amended to allow him to seek a **third term**.

Saurabh Garg appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- Senior bureaucrat **Saurabh Garg** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) of **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**. **Garg** is at present serving in his cadre state **Odisha**. He is a **1991** batch IAS officer.

Sanjeev Kumar appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- **Sanjeev Kumar**, a 1991 batch IAS officer of **Maharashtra cadre**, has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- **Atish Chandra** to be the Chairman and Managing Director of **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

Union AYUSH Ministry set up an interdisciplinary team head by HR Nagendra to explore the potential of Yoga

- The Union **Ministry of AYUSH** has set up an interdisciplinary team of experts to explore the **potential of Yoga** as a productivity-enhancing tool for the population.
- The committee is chaired by **HR Nagendra**, Chancellor of **Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYASA)**.

Chitra Nayak appointed as the independent director of Infosys

- IT services major **Infosys** announced the appointment of former Salesforce executive **Chitra Nayak** as an independent director for a period of **three years**.

Former JLR CEO Ralf Speth to take over as TVS Motor chairman in 2023

- **TVS Motor Company** announced the appointment of auto industry veteran and former JLR CEO **Ralf Speth** to its board of directors, besides bringing in **Kuok Meng Xiong** as an independent director.
- Speth will succeed **Venu Srinivasan** (current chairman of TVS Motor Company) effective from **January 2023**.

Biocon Biologics appointed Susheel Umesh as a Chief Commercial Officer for emerging markets

- **Biocon Biologics Limited**, a subsidiary of Biocon Limited announced that **Susheel Umesh** has joined Biocon Biologics as the Chief Commercial Officer – Emerging Markets (CCO-EMs).

Sapan Gupta elevated as the global legal head of ArcelorMittal

- **Sapan Gupta**, the general counsel of **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** and Vice-President was elevated as the global legal head of **ArcelorMittal**. The appointment is effective from 1 June 2021.

Soma Mondal elected as new Chairman of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises

- **Soma Mondal**, the Chairman of **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** was elected as the new Chairman of the **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**. She had been elected for a term of **two years**.

Anshuman Singhania and Mohan Kumar appointed as new ATMA office bearers

- **Anshuman Singhania**, Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries and **Mohan Kumar**, Executive Director, Michelin India had been unanimously elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of **Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA)**, the national industry body for the automotive tyre sector in India.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**Chadwick Boseman wins the Best Actor (Drama) for Ma Rainey and Nomadland is the Best Picture (Drama) in the Golden Globes 2021**

- The Golden Globes 2021 ceremony was held in **Los Angeles** and **New York**. **Tina Fey** and **Amy Poehler** hosted the event from Rainbow Room in New York and Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles, respectively.

The complete list of winners of the Golden Globes 2021:

- Best Film - Drama: Nomadland
- Best Film - Musical/Comedy: Borat Subsequent Moviefilm
- Best Director: Chloe Zhao for Nomadland
- Best Actress - Drama: Andra Day for The United States vs. Billie Holiday
- Best Actor - Drama: Chadwick Boseman for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
- Best Actress - Musical/Comedy: Rosamund Pike for I Care A Lot
- Best Actor - Musical/Comedy: Sacha Baron Cohen for Borat Subsequent Moviefilm
- Best Supporting Actress: Jodie Foster for The Mauritanian
- Best Supporting Actor: Daniel Kaluuya for Judas And The Black Messiah
- Best Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin for The Trial of the Chicago 7
- Best Foreign Language Film: Minari
- Best Animated Feature: Soul
- Best Original Score: Soul
- Best Original Song: 'Io Si (Seen)' from The Life Ahead

The winners in the television categories:

- Best TV Series - Drama: The Crown
- Best TV Series - Musical/Comedy: Schitt's Creek
- Best Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film: The Queen's Gambit
- Best Actress - Drama: Emma Corrin for The Crown
- Best Actor - Drama: Josh O'Connor for The Crown
- Best Actress - Musical/Comedy: Catherine O'Hara for Schitt's Creek
- Best Actor - Musical/Comedy: Jason Sudeikis for Ted Lasso
- Best Supporting Actress: Gillian Anderson for The Crown
- Best Supporting Actor: John Boyega for Small Axe
- Best Actress (Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film): Anya Taylor-Joy for The Queen's Gambit
- Best Actor (Limited Series, Anthology or TV Film): Mark Ruffalo for I Know This Much Is True

PM Narendra Modi received the CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award

- The **36th** edition of the **CERAWeek** Conference - 2021 has been organised by the information and insights company **IHS Markit** based in **Houston, Texas**.
- Theme: **"The New Map: Energy, Climate, and Charting the Future"**

Dal lake, Ajanta Caves, Banke Bihari Temple among 12 iconic sites under 'Swachh Tourist Destinations'

- The central government has selected a total of **12 tourist sites** spanning **nine states** and **UTs** under the initiative of **Swachh Tourist Destinations**.
- The Department of **Drinking Water and Sanitation** (DDWS), **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has announced the selection of the following Twelve (12) iconic sites under **Phase IV** of **Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)**.

The twelve sites include:

- **Ajanta Caves** (Maharashtra), **Sanchi Stupa** (Madhya Pradesh), **Kumbhalgarh Fort** (Rajasthan), **Jaisalmer Fort** (Rajasthan), **Ramdevra**, (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan), **Golconda Fort** (Hyderabad, Telangana), **Sun Temple** (Konark, Odisha), **Rock Garden** (Chandigarh), **Dal Lake** (Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir), **Banke Bihari Temple** (Mathura, Uttar Pradesh), **Agra Fort** (Agra, Uttar Pradesh), **Kalighat Temple** (West Bengal).

Mohankrishna Bohara won 30th Bihari Puraskar award

- The **30th** Bihari Puraskar for 2020 will be given to **Mohankrishna Bohara** for his Hindi book of Criticism, titled "**Taslima: Sangharsh Aur Sahitya**". Bihari Puraskar carries award money of **two lakh 50 thousand rupees**, a Citation, and a Plaque.

ISRF Awards Research Fellowship was awarded to 40 scholars from 6 countries: Union Ministry of Science and Technology

- The Union **Ministry of Science and Technology** had announced that the ISRF Awards Research Fellowship had been awarded to **40 overseas scholars** from **six countries** for researching science and technology at **Indian institutes and universities**.
- These scholars have been selected for the **India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) 2021** based on a research proposal, experience, academic merit, and publication record.

Bangladesh's highest civilian award 'Swadhinta Puraskar' conferred to 9 individuals and an organisation

- Bangladesh had announced the names of **9 individuals** and **an organisation** and conferred the **Independence Award, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh** for the year **2021**.
- **Four individuals** were selected posthumously for the award under the category of freedom fighters for their contribution to the liberation war of Bangladesh.

Indian boxer Manish Kaushik won gold at the Boxam International Tournament

- Olympic-bound Indian boxer **Manish Kaushik (63 kg)** had struck gold in his first competitive outing of the year in the **35th Boxam International Tournament** in **Castellon, Spain**.
- Manish Kaushik defeated Denmark's **Nikolai Terteryan** in a split decision.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia clinched gold in the Matteo Pellicon World ranking series held in Rome, Italy

- Ace Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** beat **Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir** in the **65 kg category** and clinched the gold medal at the **Matteo Pellicone** Ranking Series event held in **Rome, Italy**.

India's teen Shooter Manu Bhaker wins BBC's Emerging Player of the Year Award 2021

- Tokyo Olympics bound **19-year-old** Indian shooter **Manu Bhaker** has been named as **India's Emerging Player of the Year** by the **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**.
- Former Olympian and long jump star **Anju Bobby George** was conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- Reigning women's rapid world chess champion Grandmaster **Koneru Humpy** won the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2021** award.

Amitabh Bachchan set to be felicitated with FIAF Award

- The **FIAF** is a worldwide organisation comprising of film archives and museums from across the world. **Amitabh Bachchan** will be honoured with an award by the **International Federation of Film Archives** (FIAF).
- The veteran actor will be the **first Indian** cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAF Award for his dedication and contribution to preserving the world's film heritage.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research won the King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award

- Ambassador of India to Thailand **Suchitra Durai** received the prestigious King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award of **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** on behalf of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.

President Kovind Presented Baton of Honor to former Puducherry LG Kiran Bedi

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented a '**Baton of Honour**' with the emblem of the **Indian Republic** and a letter of appreciation to former Puducherry lieutenant governor **Kiran Bedi** at Rashtrapati Bhavan, **New Delhi**.
- The former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor was recognised for her **services** to the Union Territory of **Puducherry**.

Deepika Padukone joined the list of WEF's new Young Global Leaders

- Bollywood Actor **Deepika Padukone** has joined the list of the **Young Global Leaders (YGLs) 2021** compiled by the **World Economic Forum**. The list also includes several Indian citizens and India-origin persons.
- The world's most promising **112** tomorrow's leaders **under the age of 40** and are involved in activities ranging from advocating public healthcare to campaigning for inclusivity in **medical research**.

Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou won Mo Ibrahim Prize 2020 for achievement in African Leadership

- Niger President **Mahamadou Issoufou** has won the **2020 Mo Ibrahim prize** for achievement in **African Leadership**, the world's largest leadership prize (worth \$5 million).
- He is the **sixth** head of state in Africa to win the **\$5 million award**, to be paid out over **10 years**, and the first since Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2017.

'Digambara Kavi' Nikhileshwar won the Sahitya Academy Award for 'Agniswaasa'

- Renowned Telugu writer **Nikhileshwar**, and one among the six '**Digambara Kavulu**', was chosen for the Kendra **Sahitya Akademi Award 2020** for his anthology of poems '**Agniswaasa**' penned in **2017**.

63rd edition of the Annual Grammy Awards ceremony held in Los Angeles

- The **2021 Grammy Awards** recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year.
- **Trevor Noah** hosted the ceremony from the **Los Angeles** Convention Center, USA.
- **Beyoncé** led the field with **nine** nominations and, after picking up the 28th Grammy win of her career, she broke the record for the **most Grammy wins (Four)** ever by a **female artist** and most Grammy wins ever by a singer.

List of Winners

- Record of the Year: "**Everything I Wanted**", by **Billie Eilish**
- Album of the Year: "**Folklore**", by **Taylor Swift**
- Song of the Year: "**I Can't Breathe**", by **Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas**
- Best New Artist: **Megan Thee Stallion**

- Best rap performance: **"Savage"** by Megan Thee Stallion featuring **Beyonce**
- Best rap song: **"Savage"** by Megan Thee Stallion featuring **Beyonce**
- Best music video: **"Brown Skin Girl"** by **Beyonce**
- Best R&B Performance: **"Black Parade"** by **Beyonce**

Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal to receive the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize

- Chairman of The Hyatt Foundation, **Anne Lacaton** (1955, Saint-Pardoux, France) and **Jean-Philippe Vassal** (1954, Casablanca, Morocco) from Lacaton & Vassal have been selected as the **49th** and **50th** laureates of the **Pritzker Architecture Prize**, for their architectural work that has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the **built environment**.
- **Anna Lacaton** became the first **French female architect** to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

NTPC conferred with the Role Model Award at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21

- India's largest integrated power generation company, **NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited)** was conferred the prestigious **Role Model** Award at the most coveted and prestigious **11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21**.
- The award was presented at a virtual conference, **"Learn from the Achievers"**.

67th National Film Awards: Complete list of winners

- The Central Government had announced the **67th National Film Awards**. The awards are for films from the year **2019**. The event was organised by the Union **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. The awards honour the best of the talents from across various film industries in the country, including **Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Marathi**, among others.
- Best Actor: **Manoj Bajpayee** for Bhonsle (Hindi) and **Dhanush** for Asuran (Tamil)
- Best Actress: **Kangana Ranaut** for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)
- Best Supporting Actress: **Pallavi Joshi** for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)
- Best Supporting Actor: **Vijay Sethupathi** for Super Deluxe (Tamil)
- Best Direction: **Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan** for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)
- Best Feature Film: **Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea** (Malayalam)
- Best Debut Film of a Director: **Mathukutty Xavier** for Helen (Malayalam)
- Best Hindi Film: **Chhichhore**
- Best Telugu Film: **Jersey**
- Best Malayalam Film: **Kalla Nottam**
- Best Tamil Film: **Asuran**
- Best Kannada Film: **Akshi**
- Special Mention: **Jonaki Porua** (Assamese), **Lata Bhagwan Kare** (Marathi) and **Picasso** (Marathi)
- Most Film Friendly State: **Sikkim**
- Best Child Artist: **Naga Vishal for KD** (Tamil)
- Best Action Direction: **Avane Srimannarayana** (Kannada)
- Best Choreography: **Maharishi** (Telugu)
- Best Special Effects: **Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea** (Malayalam)
- Special Jury Award: **Oththa Seruppu Size 7** (Tamil)
- Best Lyrics: **Prabha Varma** for Kolaambi (Malayalam)
- Best Music Direction: **D Imman** for Viswasam (Tamil)
- Best Editing: **Jersey** (Telugu)
- Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track): **Oththa Seruppu Size 7** (Tamil)
- Best Cinematography: **Jallikattu** (Malayalam)
- Best Film on Environment: **Water Burial** (Monpa)
- Best Direction: **Sudhanshu Saria** for Knock Knock Knock (English/ Bengali)

- Special Jury Award: **Small Scale Societies** (English)
- Best Animation Film: **Radha** (Musical)
- Best Film on Social Issues: **Holy Rights** (Hindi) and **Ladli** (Hindi)
- Best Book on Cinema: **A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema**, by Sanjay Suri
- Best Film Critic: **Sohini Chattopadhyay**
- Best Educational Film: **Apples and Oranges** (English)

IIT Kharagpur won the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0

- A team of four undergraduate students from the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**, emerged as winners at the **CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0**, sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI, and Interior Architects.
- The team comprised **Siddhant Samarth, Pratim Majumdar, Rishita Raj, and Utkarsh Agrawal**. They were guided by **Jenia Mukherjee** (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences).

Kerala's TB eradication programme bagged award

- **Kerala's tuberculosis eradication** programme had won **national honour** as the state bagged the Union Government's award for reducing the prevalence of the disease through various systematic initiatives.
- India has set an ambitious goal to achieve **"End Tuberculosis"** by reducing the incidence of new TB cases by **80%** by **2025**, five years ahead of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** timelines.

India ranked 40th on International Intellectual Property Index

- The International Intellectual Property Index is released annually by the **US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC)**. The Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in **53** global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.
- **India** ranked **40th** in 2020 scoring **38.4** out of 100 on a set of **50** intellectual property-related indicators.

Mangal Prabhat Lodha named India's richest real estate tycoon in GROHE Hurun

- According to **GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020** report, **Mangal Prabhat Lodha** of Macrotech Developers (Lodha Group), having a wealth of **Rs. 44,270 crore**, topped the list for the **fourth** year in a row.

Vyas Samman 2020 conferred on Hindi Writer Sharad Pagare

- Renowned Hindi writer **Sharad Pagare** was conferred with the prestigious **"Vyas Samman 2020"** for his novel '**Patliputru Ki Samragi**.' The Vyas Samman started in **1991** and is given by **KK Birla Foundation** for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last **10 years**.

Harsh C Mariwala named as EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020

- Business leader **Harsh Mariwala** is the **EY Entrepreneur for 2020**. Mariwala, Chairman of the fast-moving consumer goods firm **Marico**, will represent India at the **EY (Ernst & Young) World Entrepreneur of the Year Award** in June.
- **Prathap Chandra Reddy** is the founder and executive chairman of **Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited** was felicitated with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle to be honoured with Maharashtra Bhushan award

- Legendary singer **Asha Bhosle** will be honoured with the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award** for the year **2020**. A committee chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** decided to select Bhosle for the award for the year 2020. The prize carries a cash prize of **Rs. 10 lakh** and a citation.

Carmen Maria Machado won the Rathbones Folio Prize 2021

- The American author **Carmen Maria Machado** has won the **Rathbones Folio Prize 2021** for her memoir **"In the Dream House"**, which examines the domestic abuse she was subjected to by her ex-girlfriend.

Mahinder Giri was selected for the International Ranger Award

- **Mahinder Giri**, range officer of the **Rajaji Tiger Reserve** (Uttarakhand) is the only ranger from **Asia** to win the prestigious **International Ranger Award** for his contribution towards conservation.
- The award was announced for **10 professionals** across the world by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature** (IUCN) and the **World Commission on Protected Areas** (WCPA).

Maggie O'Farrell's 'Hamnet' won the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Prize for Fiction

- Maggie O'Farrell's **'Hamnet'** won the **National Book Critics Circle Prize** for **Fiction**. The book is her imagined take on the death of Shakespeare's only son from the bubonic plague.
- The autobiography award went to American poet **Cathy Park Hong** for **"Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning"**.
- The book **critics circle** was founded in 1974 and has hundreds of members around the US.
- Tom Zoellner's **'Island on Fire: The Revolt that Ended Slavery in the British Empire'** won for nonfiction.
- Amy Stanley's **'Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World'** was the winner in the biography.

'MoBus' operator CRUT won the 'Smart Cities India Awards 2021'

- The **Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)** that runs the **'MoBus' service**, won the **6th Smart Cities India Awards 2021** in the **'Smart SPV/Municipal Corporation'** category.
- The award recognises projects from the designated **special purpose vehicle** (selected under Smart City Mission) that are promoting **sustainable development** in urban areas in India.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A new book titled “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis” authored by Anindya Dutta is set to be released

- A new book titled **“Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis”** authored by **Anindya Dutta** is to be released soon. The book is published by **Westland Publications**.

A Book titled “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power: 5 Battlegrounds” authored by Rajiv Malhotra

- A new book titled **“Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power: 5 Battlegrounds”** was authored by **Rajiv Malhotra**, Author, a Physicist and Computer Scientist specialising in Artificial intelligence (AI) has authored. The book is published by **Rupa Publications**.

Autobiography of Abdul Ghaffar Khan ‘The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle’ released in English

- The book titled **“The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle”**, is translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author **Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada**.
- The autobiography of freedom fighter **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan** (fondly known as **Bacha Khan** or **Badshah Khan**), is now released in **English** by the publishing house **Roli Books**.
- Bacha Khan's autobiography was first published in **Pukhto** in **1983**, in **Kabul**, Afghanistan.

‘Kunal Kapur in the Kitchen’ book written by Chef Kunal Kapur to be released

- **“Kunal Kapur In The Kitchen”** written by **Chef Kunal Kapur**, published by Om Books International, is slated to be released on **15 March**.
- The book will offer recipes replete with memories of dining table conversations from **Kapur's childhood** and layered with the aromas from his **grandfather's kitchen**.

Susmita Mukherjee’s new book titled “Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women” was released

- Actor, producer, director, writer **Susmita Mukherjee's** new book of short stories **'Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women'** was released. The book is a collection of 11 short stories written **over three decades**.
- The book was published by **Readomania Publishing**.

A book titled “Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph” on Smriti Irani’s victory in Amethi released in English

- A book titled **“Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani’s Triumph”** was released in English. The book is the English translation of **“Amethi Sangram: Aitihāsik Jeet Ankahi Dastan”**, written by journalist-author **Anant Vijay**.

A book titled “Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma” was authored by Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan

- Author **Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan’s** latest book for children **‘Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma’**, a pictorial biography of celebrated artist **Raja Ravi Varma** will hit the stands in **April 2021**.

Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi's memoir "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future" set to be released in September 2021

- Former PepsiCo CEO **Indra Nooyi** is set to publish her memoir "**My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future**". The book will be published by Portfolio Books (the US publisher of the book) on 28 September.

Actor Samir Soni's debut book titled 'My Experiments with Silence' was released

- Actor **Samir Soni** marked his debut as an author with the book titled '**My Experiments with Silence**'. The book was published by **OM Books International**.

A new book titled "Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London" was authored by Danish Khan and Ruhi Khan

- A new book titled "**Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London**" was authored by **Danish Khan** and **Ruhi Khan**. The book was published by Penguin **eBury Press**.

A new book titled "Names of the Women" authored by Jeet Thayil

- A new book titled "**Names of the Women**" was authored by **Jeet Thayil**. The book talks about women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or removed in the Gospels. The book was published by **Penguin Books**.

Vinod Kapri's new book titled "1232 km: The Long Journey Home" set to be released in May 2021

- Journalist turned filmmaker **Vinod Kapri's** compelling book, "**1232 km: A Long Journey Home**", will release in May 2021. **1232 km** is about the journey that seven migrants from Bihar — Ritesh, Ashish, Ram Babu, Sonu, Krishna, Sandeep, and Mukesh, undertook on their bicycles that lasted for **seven days** and **seven nights**.
- The book will be published by **HarperCollins India**.

RANKINGS**Bengaluru topped the list of cities in ease of living while Shimla best among small cities**

- **Bengaluru** emerged as the best city among **111 other cities** in the government's **Ease of Living Index 2020**. The list was followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Surat, Navi Mumbai, Coimbatore, and Vadodara.
- **Shimla** was topped in smaller cities (Population less than million) followed by Bhubaneswar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.
- **Indore** topped the list in the million-plus category of Municipal Performance Index (MPI). **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** emerged as the leader (less than a million category) in **Municipal Performance Index (MPI)**.

12 Indian institutions secure position in top 100; QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

- **IIT Madras** has been ranked **30th** in the world for **Petroleum Engineering**, **IIT Bombay** has been ranked **41st** and **IIT Kharagpur** has been ranked **44th** in the world for **Minerals and Mining Engineering**, and the **University of Delhi** has been ranked **50th** in the world for **Development Studies**.
- Other institutes are **IISC Bangalore**, **IIT Delhi**, **IIT Guwahati**, **IIM Bangalore**, **IIM Ahmedabad**, **JNU**, **Anna University**, and **O.P Jindal University**.

Madhya Pradesh topped in land record digitisation for the second year in a row; NCAER's Land Records and Services Index 2020-21

- According to **NCAER** (National Council of Applied Economic Research), **Land Record and Services Index (N-LRSI) 2021**, **Madhya Pradesh** retained the top spot for the **second year** in a row. The list was followed by **West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra**, and **Tamil Nadu**.

India ranked 121 in Economic Freedom Index 2021; Singapore topped

- **Singapore** (89.7 points out of 100) topped the global ranking for the **second year** in a row in the latest **Economic Freedom Index** published by US conservative think-tank, **The Heritage Foundation**. The list was followed by **New Zealand** (83.9 points), **Australia** (82.4 points), **Switzerland** (81.9 points), and **Ireland** (81.4 points).
- India has been placed at **121st** position (56.5 points) in the index among **184 countries**. India is put under the "**Mostly Unfree category**". India ranked **26th** among 40 countries in the **Asia-Pacific region**.

India ranked highest in workplace satisfaction: JLL HPI Index

- According to **JLL's (Jones Lang Lasalle's)** Human Performance Indicator (HPI) Index, **India** ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at **98 per cent** followed by **China** at 97 per cent.

Elon Musk became the world's richest person

- According to **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, **Elon Musk's** net worth was pegged at \$**182 billion**, narrowly ahead of **Jeff Bezos** of **Amazon**, whose wealth was pegged at \$**181 billion**.

Delhi remained the world's most polluted capital for the third straight year: IQAir report

- **New Delhi** was the **world's most polluted** capital for the **third** straight year in **2020**, according to **IQAir**, a Swiss group that measures air quality levels based on the concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as **PM2.5**.
- **India** was the **3rd** most polluted country in the world in 2020 after **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan**. The report is prepared in the form of the "**World Air Quality Report 2020**". The report states that **twenty-two** of the world's **30** most polluted cities are in India.

Gautam Adani became the world's biggest wealth gainer in 2021: Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- **Adani** Group Chairman **Gautam Adani** become the **world's biggest wealth gainer** in **2021** as per the latest **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**. He had surpassed wealth giants like **Jeff Bezos** and **Elon Musk** in 2021. Adani is now the **26th** richest person in the world.

India ranked 139 in the UN World Happiness Report 2021; Finland topped

- **World Happiness Report** is released by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**, which ranks **149 countries** based on gross domestic product per person, healthy life expectancy, and the opinions of residents.
- **Finland** was ranked as the **happiest country** in the world.
- The Nordic nation was followed by **Iceland, Denmark, Switzerland**, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, and Norway. **Afghanistan** was declared the **most unhappy** country, followed by Zimbabwe (148), Rwanda (147), Botswana (146), and Lesotho (145).

India ranked 56th in the Global House Price Index: Knight Frank

- According to property consultancy Knight Frank's **Global House Price Index** report, **India** had moved down **13 spots** in the latest Global Home Price Index and finished last at **56th** rank in the quarter that ended December 2020.

- **Turkey** continued to lead the global ranking with prices up by **30.3 per cent** year-on-year. This was followed by **New Zealand** at 18.6 per cent year-on-year and **Slovakia** at 16.0 per cent year-on-year.

India ranked 140 among 156 countries in the WEF Global Gender Gap index

- **India** (62.5 percent) has slipped 28 places to **140th** rank among **156 countries** in the World Economic Forum's **Global Gender Gap Report 2021**, becoming the third-worst performer in **South Asia**.
- Among India's neighbours, the rankings were: **Bangladesh** (65), **Nepal** (106), **Pakistan** (153), **Afghanistan** (156), **Bhutan** (130), and **Sri Lanka** (116).
- For the **12th** time, **Iceland** is the most gender-equal country in the world. The top 10 most gender-equal countries include **Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland, and Switzerland**.

OBITUARY

Madhya Pradesh MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan passed away at 69

- **Madhya Pradesh** MP **Nandkumar Singh Chauhan** passed away at the age of 69. The leader started his political career in **1978** from the Shahpur Municipal Council and was later elected as a member of the **Madhya Pradesh Assembly**. He was an MLA from **1985 to 1996**.

Muthoot Finance Chairman MG George Muthoot passed away at 71

- Muthoot Group Chairman **MG George Muthoot** passed away. He was born in 1949 in the Kozhencherry district of **Kerala**. He became the Managing Director In **1979** and he took over as the group Chairman in **1993**.

Noted Kannada poet NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta passed away at 84

- Noted **Kannada** poet, critic, and translator **NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta** passed away at the age of 84. He was a prolific writer, who published several collections of poems besides critical works & translations.

Veteran Marathi actor Shrikant Moghe passed away at 91

- Veteran Marathi actor **Shrikant Moghe** had passed away due to an age-related illness. He was honoured with many awards like the **Maharashtra State Cultural award, Kashinath Ghanekar award**, Prabhakar Panashikar Stage Lifetime achievement award, among others.

Former Rajasthan and Gujarat Governor Anshuman Singh passed away at 86

- **Justice Anshuman Singh**, former Governor of Rajasthan and Gujarat, passed away at the age of 86 due to some health ailments. He was the appointed Judge of the **Allahabad High Court** in **1984** and later became acting Chief Justice of the **Rajasthan High Court**.
- Anshuman Singh served as the Governor of **Rajasthan** from January **1999 till 2003**. He was also appointed as the Governor of **Gujarat** in **1998**.

Veteran Indian Athlete Ishar Singh Deol passed away at 91

- Veteran Indian athlete **Ishar Singh Deol** passed away at the age of 91. He served as the General Secretary of **Punjab Athletes Association** for 30 consecutive years and as the **Vice-President** of the **Athletic Federation of India**. He was awarded several honours, including **Dhyan Chand National Award** in **2009**, for his outstanding contribution towards sports.

England cricketer Joey Benjamin passed away at 60

- Former **England** fast bowler **Joey Benjamin** had passed away at the age of 60 due to a heart attack. He played in two one-day internationals and finished his career with 387 first-class wickets at an average of 29.94.

Ivory Coast Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko passed away at 56

- **Hamed Bakayoko**, the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, who was receiving treatment for cancer passed away at 56. **He was appointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast in July**, following the sudden death of his predecessor Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

Kathakali artist Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair passed away at 105

- Noted **Kathakali** artist **Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair** passed away in **Kozhikode, Kerala**. He won the hearts of Kathakali lovers for several decades for his mudras, charm and grace. He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2017** for his contributions to Kathakali.

Boxing legend Marvelous Marvin Hagler passed away at 66

- Former undisputed middleweight world champion **Marvelous Marvin Hagler** passed away at the age of **66**. The **American** dominated the middleweight division from 1979 until his controversial defeat by Sugar Ray Leonard in April **1987**.

Renowned painter and Padma Bhushan awardee Laxman Pai passed away at 95

- Renowned **painter** and **Padma Bhushan** awardee **Laxman Pai** passed away in Goa. He was honoured with several prestigious awards, including **Padma Bhushan** (India's third highest civilian honour), **Padma Shri**, **Nehru Award**, and **Lalit Kala Akademi Award**.

Cassette inventor and CD pioneer Lou Ottens passed away at 94

- **Lou Ottens**, the **Dutch engineer**, credited with inventing the **cassette tape** (1963) and played a major role in the development of the **first CD**, had died at the age of 94. He also worked on the **CD development project**.

Former Union Minister Dilip Gandhi passed away at 69

- Former Union Minister **Dilip Gandhi** passed away at the age of **69**. He tested positive for COVID-19. Gandhi had represented the Ahmednagar South constituency **three times as an MP**.

Former Union Minister Ram Swaroop Sharma passed away at 62

- Former Union Minister **Ram Swaroop Sharma** passed way in **Delhi**. Ram Swaroop Sharma was elected to the **16th** and **17th** Lok Sabha from the **Mandi** parliamentary constituency in **2014** and **2019** respectively.

Bangladesh former Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed passed away at 81

- **Bangladesh's** former Prime Minister **Moudud Ahmed** died in **Singapore**. Ahmad served the nation as **Prime Minister 1988–1989**, **Vice President 1989–1990**, and **Law Minister 2001–2006** of the country. He was one of the founding members of the BNP party.

Tanzanian President John Magufuli passed away at 61

- **Tanzania's** President John Magufuli had passed away at the age of **61**. The President died of a heart ailment that he had battled for over 10 years. He was Tanzania's first president **to die while in office**.

SEBI's first Chairman GV Ramakrishna passed away at 91

- Former Chairman of **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) **GV Ramakrishna** passed away at the age of **91**. He was appointed as the first Chairman of SEBI in **1990** and held to the post till **1994**. He was also the first Chairman of the **Disinvestment Commission** in **1996**.

Veteran CPI leader and former Kerala Deputy Speaker CA Kurian passed away at 88

- Veteran leader of the **Communist Party of India (CPI)**, trade unionist, and former Deputy Speaker of the **Kerala Legislative Assembly**, **CA Kurian**, died at his residence in **Munnar, Idukki**. He occupied the chair of **Deputy Speaker** in the 10th Legislative Assembly during the period from **1996 to 2001**.

Acclaimed Egyptian feminist Nawal Saadawi passed away at 89

- **Nawal Saadawi**, a renowned **Egyptian feminist, psychiatrist, and novelist**, whose writings have stirred controversy for decades in an overwhelmingly conservative society, died in **Cairo**. **Time Magazine** named her on their **100 Women of the Year** in **2020**.

Veteran writer and activist Malali Vasanthkumar passed away at 76

- Veteran writer and activist **Malali Vasanthkumar** passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was the former president of the **Kannada Sahitya Parishat** and a retired Kannada Professor of the **University of Mysore (UoM)**.
- Sahitya Mali Vasant Kumar had authored more than **40 works** and his literary works had received the **Rajyotsava Award of 1990**, the **Hoysala Award**, the **Chishmanava Award**, the **National Sadbhavana Award**, and the **Sahitya Ratnam Awards**.

Noted writer and director Sagar Sarhadi passed away at 87

- Veteran writer and director **Sagar Sarhadi** passed away at the age of 87. He was known for his films like Yash Chopra's **Kabhi Kabhie** (1976), **Silsila** (1981), **Faasle** (1985), and **Chandni** (1989).

Acclaimed Polish poet Adam Zagajewski passed away at 75

- Renowned Polish poet **Adam Zagajewski** passed away at the age of 75. He was a leading figure in **Poland's** New Wave or Generation '68, a literary movement of the late **1960s** that called for a simple language to relate directly to reality.

Oscar-Nominated Actor and 'The Goldbergs' Star George Segal passed away at 87

- **George Segal**, the Oscar-nominated actor whose credits range from **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** and **Where's Poppa?** to **Just Shoot Me!** and **The Goldbergs**, passed away.
- He was an Oscar nominee for **Mike Nichols'** 1966 Edward Albee adaptation **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** co-starring opposite A-listers **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Richard Burton** and a leading man in movies.

Noted Odissi dancer Laxmipriya Mohapatra passed away at 86

- Noted **Odissi** dancer **Laxmipriya Mohapatra**, the wife of legendary classical dancer **Kelucharan Mohapatra**, had died due to old age-related ailments. She started her dancing career at an early age at the **Annapurna Theatre** in Puri in **1947**.

Former RBI Deputy Governor KC Chakrabarty passed away at 68

- Former Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank **KC Chakrabarty** passed away at **68** in Mumbai. Chakrabarty was elevated as **RBI DG** in **2009** after being at the helm of Punjab National Bank from 2007 to 2009.

Noted journalist and writer Anil Dharker passed away at 74

- Indian journalist and writer **Anil Dharker** passed away at the age of 74. He was a columnist and **writer**, an **architect**, and a member of the advisory committee of the **film censor board**. He was the author of **The Romance of Salt**, a book on Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March.

Popular children's book author Beverly Cleary passed away at 104

- American children's book author **Beverly Cleary**, who responded to a young reader's plea for realistic characters by bringing **rare insight** and humor to the lives of **Ramona Quimby**, **Henry Huggins**, and the other children who populated her more than **40 books**, had died at age 104.

Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo 'Wag' Pinto passed away at 97

- Lieutenant General **Walter Anthony Gustavo 'Wag' Pinto**, former General Officer in the **Indian Army** passed away. Pinto was popularly known as the '**Victor of Basantar**'.

SPORTS NEWS**Former Indian cricketer Vinay Kumar announces retirement from all forms of cricket**

- The 37-year-old former Indian pace bowler **Vinay Kumar** has announced his retirement from **international and first-class cricket**. Vinay Kumar has played **31 ODIs**, **9 T20Is**, and one Test for India (**2010-13**). He has led **Karnataka** to consecutive **Ranji Trophy** titles.

Indian men's skeet team won bronze in International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup

- The Indian trio of **Mairaj Ahmed Khan**, **Angad Vir Singh Bajwa**, and **Gurjoat Khangura** won the **bronze** medal in the **men's skeet team** event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) **Shotgun World Cup** held in Cairo, Egypt.

Vinesh Phogat beats Vanesa Kaladzinskaya to win gold in Ukraine

- Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** won the gold medal in the **women's 53-kg** category at the XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial in **Kyiv, Ukraine**.
- Haryana's** Bhiwani-based Vinesh Phogat is the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics Games 2021** in the 53-kg category.

Odisha to host the 5th edition of Indian Women's League (2020-21)

- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** confirmed **Odisha** as the venue for the **2020-21** edition of the **Indian Women's League (IWL)**. This is the fifth edition of the IWL, which began in **2016** and was held in **Delhi**.
- India** is scheduled to host the **AFC Women's Asian Cup** in **2022** which will be followed by the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup** in **2022**.

Indian boxer Deepak Kumar won silver at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria

- Indian boxer **Deepak Kumar** has won a silver medal at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in **Sofia, Bulgaria**. He won silver in the **52-kilogram category**.
- Naveen Boora (69 kg)** won a bronze medal after going down to Asian Games gold medallist **Bobo-Usmon Baturov** of Uzbekistan in his semifinal.

J&K topped the medals tally at the Khelo India Winter National Games in Gulmarg

- Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** has topped the medals tally after bagging **11 Gold** medals, **18 Silver**, and **5 Bronze** medals in the second edition of **Khelo India Winter National Games** held in **Gulmarg** of **Baramulla district**.

'Road to Asian Games' campaign introduced for the 2022 Asian Games

- The **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** and **Asian Electronics Sports Federation** have announced '**Road to Asian Games**' campaign for the **2022 Asian Games** that is scheduled to be held in **Hangzhou, China**.

- The campaign will begin in Hangzhou 2022 to continue the organization of Esports through to **Nagoya (Japan) 2026, Doha (Qatar) 2030**, and beyond. The multi-sport event is held every **four years**.

Indian shuttlers Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod won Uganda International titles

- Indian shuttlers **Varun Kapur** and **Malvika Bansod** clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the **Uganda International 2021** held in **Kampala**.

Mumbai City FC beat ATK Mohun Bagan to win 2020-21 ISL League Winners' Shield

- **Mumbai City FC** beat **ATK Mohun Bagan** (2-0) and finished at the top of the ongoing **Indian Super League (ISL)** held at the GMC Stadium in Goa. Thereby clinching the '**ISL League Winners Shield**' and securing a spot in the **2022 AFC Champions League**.

Kieron Pollard becomes the third player to hit six sixes in an international over

- The **West Indies** captain **Kieron Pollard** hit **six sixes** in an over during the first T20I against **Sri Lanka** in Antigua. He became only the second batsman in the history of **T20Is** after **Yuvraj Singh** in the **2007 T20 World Cup** clash against England.
- South Africa's **Herschelle Gibbs** was the first cricketer to achieve the feat, scoring 36 runs in an over against **The Netherlands** in the 2007 ODI World Cup.

Indian Women's trap team won a silver medal at ISSF Shotgun World Cup

- India's **women's Trap** team trio of **Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer, and Rajeshwari Kumari** won a silver medal on the concluding day of the year's first International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup Shotgun stage, in **Cairo, Egypt**.

Indian boxers finished with 10 medals, including one gold at Boxam International tournament 2021

- The **35th** edition of the **Boxam International tournament 2021** was held at **Castellon de la Plana, Spain**. **Manish Kaushik** clinched the gold medal as Indian boxers concluded their impressive campaign at the Boxam International Tournament with **10 medals** (1 Gold, 8 Silver and 1 Bronze).
- The eight silver medals were secured by **Vikas Krishan (63 kg), Pooja Rani (75 kg), Jasmine (57 kg), Simranjit Kaur (60 kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (57 kg), Ashish Kumar (75 kg), Sumi Sangwan (81 kg), and Satish Kumar (+91 kg)**.
- Six-time World Champion **MC Mary Kom (51 kg)** clinched the **Bronze** Medal.

PV Sindhu won a silver medal at YONEX Swiss Open 2021

- India's ace shuttler **PV Sindhu** settled for a **silver medal** in the **BWF Swiss Open Super 300** as she went down against World No. 1 Spaniard and reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin** in the final of the women's singles held at St. Jakobshalle in **Basel, Switzerland**.

Winner List:

- Men's Singles- **Viktor Axelsen** (Denmark)
- Women's Singles- **Carolina Marin** (Spain)
- Men's Doubles- **Anders Rasmussen** and **Kim Astrup** (Denmark)
- Women's Doubles- **Pearly Tan** and **Thinaah Muralitharan** (Malaysia)
- Mixed Doubles- **Delphine Delrue** and **Thom Gicquel** (France)

ICC announced the Women's T20 Champions Cup to be played in 2027 and 2031

- **International Cricket Council** announced two **50-over World Cups** would be played in **2025** and **2029**, while four T20 World Cups have been scheduled for **2024, 2026, 2028, and 2030**.
- ICC also announced the advent of a new tournament, called the Women's T20 Champions Cup, and played in **2027** and **2031**.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Tammy Beaumont voted ICC Player of the Month for February 2021

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the winners of the **ICC Player of the Month Awards** for February. India's **Ravichandran Ashwin** won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month** for February 2021.
- England's **Tammy Beaumont** named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** for February **2021**.

Mithali Raj became the first Indian woman cricketer to score 10,000 international runs

- Veteran batter **Mithali Raj** became the first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete **10,000 runs** across all formats.
- England's **Charlotte Edwards** is the only other woman to have scored **10,000 international runs**. She made **10,273 runs** overall, in a career that stretched from 1996 to 2016.

Mithali Raj became the first woman cricketer to complete 7000 ODI runs

- **Mithali Raj** added another feather to her cap by becoming the first player to complete **7000 runs** in **women's ODI cricket**. The Indian skipper reached the 7000-run milestone in her **213th match**.
- England's Charlotte Edwards, who retired from international cricket in 2016, is **second** on the list of leading run-scorers with 5,992.

Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics

- **Tamil Nadu's Chadalavada Anandha Bhavani Devi** has become the **first-ever Indian fencer** to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games. She secured a spot for the Tokyo Olympics at the World Cup in **Hungary**.

NADA imposed sanctions on weightlifter Madhavan and Boxer Ruchika for violating codes

- The **National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA)** disciplinary panel-imposed sanctions on weightlifter **Madhavan** and boxer **Ruchika** for violation of its code.

Virat Kohli became the first cricketer to score 3,000 runs in T20 International

- **India** skipper **Virat Kohli** became the **first-ever batsman** to score **3,000 runs** in T20 International cricket. He achieved the milestone from **87 T20I matches**.
- New Zealand's **Martin Gupthill** is second on the list of leading run-getters in T20I cricket, having scored 2,839 runs in 99 matches. India's **Rohit Sharma** comes third in the list with 2,773 runs in 108 matches.

India to host Asian Boxing Championships 2021

- **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** announced that the **Asian Boxing Championships 2021** will be hosted by **New Delhi, India** from 21 – 31 May 2021. This will be the first boxing tournament in **Asia** to be held in **2021**.

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju met the President of Inter-Parliamentary Union Duarte Pacheco

- Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** met the President of **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** **Duarte Pacheco** to discuss corporation among the international parliamentarians, especially in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports in **New Delhi**.

Dhanalakshmi beat Dutee Chand in the 100m final of the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships 2021

- The 22-year-old **Dhanalakshmi** of Tamil Nadu won the gold medal by clocking 11.39 seconds ahead of **Dutee Chand** (11.58) of Odisha to become the fastest woman of the championships. **Archana Suseendran** of Tamil Nadu was third in 11.76 seconds.
- **Gurindervir Singh** of Punjab won the men's 100m final in 10.32 seconds, while **Elakkiyadasan Kannada** of Tamil Nadu (10.43) and Maharashtra's **Satish Krishnakumar** (10.56) were second and third, respectively.

UAE players Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar banned for eight years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code

- Two **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) players **Mohammad Naveed** and **Shaiman Anwar Butt** have been banned from all cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for **eight years** for breaching the **ICC Anti-Corruption Code**.

Murali Sreeshankar set a national record and qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2021

- The 21-year-old **Murali Shreeshankar** qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics** in the long-jump event after he set a national record after making a jump of **8.26 metres** in his final attempt at the **Federation Cup**.

Hashmatullah Shahidi became the first Afghanistan cricketer to hit Test double ton

- The 26-year-old **Hashmatullah Shahidi** became the first **Afghanistan cricketer** to hit a **double ton** in an innings of a Test match. He achieved the feat in the second Test against Zimbabwe at the **Sheikh Zayed Stadium**, United Arab Emirates.

International Shooting Sport Federation Shooting World Cup 2021 is set to begin in Delhi

- **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** Shooting World Cup **2021** will begin at the **Karni Singh Shooting Ranges** in **Delhi**. More than 300 shooters from as many as **43 countries** are expected to participate in the season's first World Cup being held in all three disciplines - **shotgun, rifle, and pistol**.

Dhanalakshmi broke PT Usha's Federation Cup record

- Tamil Nadu's **S Dhanalakshmi** clocked a meet record time of 23.26 seconds in the **Women's 200m** semi-finals at the **24th National Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships** in **Patiala, Punjab**. Her timing broke **PT Usha's** long-standing meet record of **22.30** seconds set in Chennai in **1998**.
- Asiad champion **Swapna Barman** (West Bengal) won the **heptathlon** event with a total of **5636 points**.

Haryana won the Sub-junior National Women's Hockey Championship defeating Jharkhand

- **Haryana** bagged the **11th National Sub-junior Women's Hockey Championship** title defeating **Jharkhand** in a **penalty shootout** at the **Simdega Astroturf Hockey Stadium** in Jharkhand.

Junior Womens and Sub-Junior Girls National Wrestling Championships was held in Karnataka

- The Junior **Womens** and **Cadet Girls National Wrestling Championships** was held in **Bellary, Karnataka**. More than **500 wrestlers** participated in the tournament that was held at the Inspire Institute of Sport.

Avinash Sable set new national record in Men's 3000m steeplechase for the fifth time

- Indian athlete **Avinash Sable** set a new national record in the Men's 3000m steeplechase event in **Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships** in Patiala, Punjab.

- The 26-year-old from **Maharashtra** recorded a timing of 8:20.20, broke his own record of 8:21.37 set in **2019**. He broke the national record for the **fifth time** in his career.

India Legends beat Sri Lanka Legends in the Road Safety World Series T-20

- **India Legends** defeated **Sri Lanka Legends** by 14 runs in the final of the **Road Safety World Series** to clinch the title at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.
- **Yusuf Pathan**, who smashed an unbeaten 62 and picked up two wickets in his four-over spell, was adjudged the **player of the match** for his all-round performance in the summit clash.

Yashaswini Deswal won the 1st gold medal for India in the Women's 10m Air Pistol final

- **Yashaswini Deswal** bagged the first gold medal for India in the Women's 10m Air Pistol final of the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** World Cup at the **Karni Singh Shooting range, New Delhi**.
- Deswal accumulated **238.8 points** to lead in her category. Another Indian shooter **Manu Bhaker** won a **silver** medal with **236.7 points**.
- World number one shooter **Divyansh Singh Panwar** clinched the **bronze** medal in **10m Air Rifle** (men's category).

Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia claimed the maiden All England Open badminton title

- Malaysian shuttler **Lee Zii Jia** defeated defending champion **Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)** to win the men's singles crown at the All England Open held at the **Utilita Arena, Birmingham**.
- World number four **Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)** beat **Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)** in the women's title for a second time.
- Men's doubles title was won by **HiroYuki Endo (Japan)** and **Yuta Watanabe (Japan)**.
- Women's doubles title was won by Mayu Matsumoto (Japan) and **Wakana Nagahara (Japan)**.
- Mixed doubles title was won by **Yuta Watanabe (Japan)** and **Arisa Higashino (Japan)**.

India's Singhraj won gold in the Para Shooting World Cup 2021

- Indian **para-athlete Singhraj** won a gold medal in the 2021 **Para Shooting World Cup** at Al Ain in the **UAE**. He defeated Uzbekistan's **Ibragimov** in Men's **10m Air Pistol SH1** final.

Kamalpreet Kaur breaks national record in the Women's discus throw

- **Kamalpreet Kaur** set a new senior national record in the discus throw with an attempt of **65.06 m** in the **Federation Cup Senior Athletics** Championships in **Patiala, Punjab**.

Nikhat Zareen and Gaurav Solanki won a bronze medal at Bosphorus Boxing Tournament held in Turkey

- Indian boxers **Nikhat Zareen** (51 kg) and **Gaurav Solanki** (57 kg) won a bronze medal at the **Bosphorus Boxing Tournament** in **Turkey**.
- Asian Championships bronze medalist **Nikhat Zareen** defeated reigning world champion **Ekaterina Paltceva** of Russia in the pre-quarterfinals and two-time world champion **Nazym Kyzaibay** of Kazakhstan in the quarter-finals to make her way into the top four.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won a gold medal in Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions in ISSF world cup

- India's **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** won the gold medal in the **Men's 50m Rifle 3 positions** event at the **ISSF World Cup** in **New Delhi**. The 20-year-old became the **youngest** in history to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.
- The two other Indian shooters in the final, **Sanjeev Rajput** finishing sixth and **Niraj Kumar** came at the last position.

Virat Kohli ranked 4th and Rohit Sharma moved up to 14th rank in the ICC T20 rankings for Batsmen

- India captain **Virat Kohli** moved up a place to **fourth** in the **ICC T20 rankings for Batsmen**, while **Rohit Sharma** climbed three spots to **14th** in the latest list issued. England's **Dawid Malan** remained in the top position.

The top 10 batsmen list:

- **1. Dawid Malan**
- **2. Aaron Finch**
- **3. Babar Azam**
- **4. Virat Kohli**
- **5. Lokesh Rahul**
- **6. Rassie van der Dussen**
- **7. Glenn Maxwell**
- **8. Martin Guptill**
- **9. Devon Conway**
- **10. Hazratullah**

Chinki Yadav won gold as India claimed all three medals in Women's 25m pistol

- Chinki Yadav** won the gold medal as **Indian shooters** swept the medals in the **Women's 25m Pistol** event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi. **Rahi Sarnobat** clinched the silver medal and **Manu Bhaker** secured the **bronze medal**.

'Girl Gang' announced as the official song of ICC Women's World Cup 2022

- Girl Gang**, a track by **New Zealand** singer **Gin Wigmore**, has been announced as the official song of the **2022 ICC Women's World Cup**. The tournament is set to be hosted in New Zealand from **4 March** to **3 April 2022**.

Indian trio of Rahi Sarnobat, Chinky Yadav, and Manu Bhaker clinched Gold in Women's 25m pistol team event at ISSF Shooting World Cup

- India** won gold in the **women's 25m Pistol Team** event at the **ISSF World Cup** in Delhi. India beat **Poland** in the final to win the country's 10th gold.
- The Indian women's team of **Rahi Sarnobat**, **Chinki Yadav** and **Manu Bhaker** beat Poland's Joanna Iwona Wawrzonowska, Julita Borek and Agnieszka Korejwo in the gold medal match.

Tejaswini Sawant and Sanjeev Rajput won gold in 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event

- Tejaswini Sawant** and **Sanjeev Rajput** won a gold medal in the 50m rifle mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup held in Delhi. They won the final round against **Ukraine**.
- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** and **Sunidhi Chauhan** won the bronze medal after getting the better of USA's **Timothy Sherry** and **Virginia Thrasher** (31-15) at the Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Para Shooter Sidhartha Babu claimed bronze medal; India finished with 7 medals

- Para shooter **Sidhartha Babu** claimed a bronze medal as **India** ended their campaign with **seven medals** including **two gold medals** at the **Al Ain 2021 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup** held in the **United Arab Emirates**.
- Ukraine** finished at the top of the medal table with **11 medals** (five gold, five silver, and one bronze) followed by host nation **UAE** which won **five medals** (three gold and two silver) while **India** finished third place with **7 medals** (two gold medals, one silver, and four bronze medals).
- Para shooter **Manish Narwal** had set a new world record on way to clinching **gold** in the **P4 mixed 50m** pistol SH1 event.

Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar was chosen as venues for 2022 Women's Asian Cup

- **Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar** were finalised as the three venues for the 2022 **AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament** to be hosted by **India**.
- India is hosting the Women's Asian Cup from 20 January to 6 February 2022. India is also scheduled to host the next edition of the FIFA **Women's U-17 World Cup** in **2022**.

Jharkhand won the 11th Sub-Junior Men's National Hockey title

- **Jharkhand** beat **Haryana** in a shootout to clinch the **11th** Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021 held in **Jind, Haryana**. **Uttar Pradesh** clinched the **third spot** with a magnificent win against **Manipur**.

Vijayveer and Tejaswani won gold in 25m rapid fire pistol mixed event in ISSF world cup 2021

- India's **Vijayveer Sidhu** and **Tejaswani** claimed the gold medal in the **25m rapid fire pistol** mixed team event of the **ISSF World Cup** held in **New Delhi**. They beat the combo of Gurpreet Singh and Ashok Abhidnya Patil at the **Karni Singh Shooting Range**.
- **Sidhu** won the individual **silver medal** in the **25 rapid fire pistol** event.

Indian men and women won gold in a trap team event at the ISSF World Cup 2021

- Shotgun shooters **Prithviraj Tondaiman, Lakshay Sheoran, and Kynan Chenai** ended India's campaign at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2021** with a gold medal in the men's trap team event.
- The Indian trio of **Shreyasi Singh, Rajeshwari Kumari, and Manisha Keer** claimed the gold medal in the women's trap team final.

India topped the medals tally with 15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze in the ISSF Shooting World Cup

- **India** finished at the top of the table in the **ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup 2021** held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in **New Delhi**. India secured **30 medals** which included **15 gold, 9 silver** and **6 bronze**.
- **The US** and **Italy** finished with a total of eight and four medals, respectively.

India beat England in the final ODI to clinch series 2-1

- **India** beat **England** by seven runs in the **third** and final ODI in Pune to clinch the **three-match series** (2-1). Sam Curran was declared **Player of the match**. England batsman **Jonny Bairstow** was awarded the **Player of the Series** as the opener amassed 219 runs in the ODI series.
- Virat Kohli-led side has now won **all the series** in this England's tour of India. India claimed the **Test series** (3-1) and then won the five-match **T20I** (3-2) series.
- **Virat Kohli** has become the **third** captain to lead India in **200 international** matches after **MS Dhoni (332)** and **Mohammad Azharuddin (221)**.

Thisara Perera became the first Sri Lankan to hit six 6s in an over

- All-rounder **Thisara Perera** became the first **Sri Lankan** to hit **six sixes** in an over in any form of professional cricket during a **domestic tournament**.

IMPORTANT DAY

Date	Day	Other Information
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	-
March 1	World Civil Defence Day	Theme: "Protection of Children, Our Responsibility"
March 3	World Wildlife Day	Theme: "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet"
March 3	World Hearing Day	Theme: "Hearing care for ALL! Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate"
March 4	National Safety Day	Theme: "Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety)"
March 7	Jan Aushadi Diwas	Theme: "Seva Bhi - Rozgar Bhi"
March 8	International Women's Day	-
March 10	Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day	-
March 11	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Inception Day	-
March 14	International Day of Mathematics	Theme: "Mathematics for a Better World"
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	Theme: "Tackling Plastic Pollution"
March 16	National Vaccination Day	The day was first celebrated at the time when the National Pulse Polio vaccination drive was launched in 1995.
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day	This day is celebrated to commemorate the foundation of the first Ordnance Factory in India at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1802.
March 18	Global Recycling Day	Theme: "Recycling Heroes"
March 19	World Sleep Day	Theme: "Regular Sleep, Healthy Future"
March 20	International Day of Happiness	Theme: "Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind"
March 20	World Sparrow Day	Theme: "I LOVE Sparrows"
March 20	World Oral Health Day	Theme: "Be Proud of Your Mouth"
March 20	World Frog Day	The day was created in 2009 to save many different species of frogs from going extinct.
March 20	World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People	-

March 21	International Day of Forests	Theme: "Forest restoration: A Path to Recovery and Well-being"
March 21	World Poetry Day	The day was declared by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in 1999.
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	Theme: "We CONNECT so that we can"
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Theme: "Youth Standing Up Against Racism"
March 22	World Water Day	The day was first adopted by the UN General Assembly on 22 December 1992.
March 23	World Meteorological Day	Theme: "The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather"
March 24	International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims	-
March 24	World Tuberculosis Day	-
March 25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	-
March 25	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members	-
March 27	Earth Hour day	Theme: "Climate Change to Save Earth"
March 27	World Theatre Day	
March 31	International Day of Drug Checking	-
March 31	World Backup day	-
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	-

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

Q.1) Which film was honored with the best film (Drama) in the Golden Globe Awards 2021?

- a) The Father
- b) Mank
- c) Promising Young Woman
- d) The Trial of the Chicago 7

e) Nomadland

Q.2) Name the App which was launched by Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot along with a handbook "Access – The Photo Digest"?

- a) mPassport Seva app
- b) Umang app
- c) My Speed TRAI app
- d) e-Sathi app

e) Sugamya Bharat App

Q.3) With which IIT did the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting join hands for setting up a gaming centre at the campus?

a) IIT Bombay

- b) IIT Madras
- c) IIT Bangalore
- d) IIT Guwahati
- e) IIT Delhi

Q.4) Which company became the world's first seed producer to have over a lakh acre in production?

- a) National Seeds
- b) Kaveri Seeds**
- c) Ganga Kaveri Seeds
- d) Harit Kranti Seeds
- e) Syngenta India

Q.5) Pramod Chandra Mody received further extension for three months as the Chairman of which authority?

- a) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

d) Central Board of Direct Taxes

- e) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Q.6) The book "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis" is authored by_____.

- a) Jon Krakauer
- b) Anindya Dutta**
- c) Boria Mazumdar
- d) Leonard Shecter
- e) Jim Bouton

Q.7) Who has been appointed as the UN Goodwill Ambassador?

- a) Anna Selezneva
- b) Irina Shayk
- c) Natalia Vodianova**
- d) Sasha Pivovarov
- e) Natasha Poly

Q.8) Who was the chief guest of the 11th edition of the Global Indian Physicians Congress (GAPIO) that was held virtually?

- a) Randeep Guleria
- b) Harsh Vardhan**
- c) Venugopal G Somani
- d) Soumya Swaminathan
- e) Tedros Adhanom

Q.9) What is the name of the satellite that was launched by Russia which is the first satellite to monitor the Arctic region?

- a) Koronas-Foton
- b) Spektr-R
- c) Perseus-M
- d) Amazônia-1

e) Arktika-M

Q.10) Who has been appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC)?

- a) Anil Kumar Chawla
- b) Atul Kumar Jain

c) Ajendra Bahadur Singh

- d) R Hari Kumar
- e) Ravneet Singh

Q.11) Whom did Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj succeed to take additional charge as the Revenue Secretary?

- a) Bhupinder Thakur

b) Ajay Bhushan Pandey

- c) Sandeep Thakur
- d) Atman Shah
- e) Suraj Prakash Sharma

Q.12) Which state is set to host the 5th edition of the Indian Women's League (2020-21)?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh

d) Odisha

- e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.13) Under which category did Vinesh Phogat beat Vanesa Kaladzinskaya to win a gold medal in Ukraine?

- a) 43 kg
- b) 49 kg

c) 51 kg

d) 53 kg

e) 57 kg

Q.14) Who has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau?

a) Kuldeep Singh

b) Samer Shetty

c) Jaideep Bhatnagar

d) Vinoth Kumar

e) Manish Pandey

Q.15) Who received the CERAWEEK Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award?

a) Sergio Moro

b) Boris Johnson

c) Narendra Modi

d) Jair Bolsonaro

e) Donald Trump

Q.16) Who released a Study Material of the Indian Knowledge Tradition Courses Programme recently?

a) Narendra Modi

b) Ramesh Pokhriyal

c) Piyush Goyal

d) Amit Shah

e) Ramesh Bais

Q.17) Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Sansad TV?

a) Sandeep Thakur

b) Suraj Prakash Sharma

c) Ravi Kapoor

d) Atman Shah

e) Sumant Kumar

Q.18) The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding between India and France on _____.

a) Defence Cooperation

b) Renewable Energy Cooperation

c) Agriculture Cooperation

d) Health Care Cooperation

e) Trade-Related Cooperation

Q.19) The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding between India with which country for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors?

a) France

b) Israel

c) Russia

d) Fiji

e) Bangladesh

Q.20) Indian Air Force is set to participate in Exercise Desert Flag VI for the first time. Where is Exercise Desert Flag planned to be held?

a) Russia

b) Qatar

c) France

d) Saudi Arabia

e) UAE

Q.21) With which country did Pakistan sign an agreement for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)?

a) Kuwait

b) Saudi Arabia

c) Qatar

d) Monaco

e) Austria

Q.22) Indian Air Force participated in 70th anniversary celebrations of which country's airforce?

a) France

b) Sri Lanka

c) UAE

d) Germany

e) Bangladesh

Q.23) Name the Indian boxer who won a silver medal in the 52 kg category at the Strandja Memorial in Bulgaria?

a) Ajay Singh

b) Deepak Kumar

c) Narendra Kumar

d) Vinay Sharma

e) Harish Mehta

Q.24) India and which country agreed to conduct marine spatial planning in Lakshadweep and Puducherry?

a) Mauritius

b) Norway

c) France

d) Canada

e) UAE

Q.25) Which state/UT topped the medals tally at the Khelo India Winter National Games held in Gulmarg?

a) Ladakh

b) Haryana

c) Jammu and Kashmir

d) Gujarat

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.26) The 'Road to Asian Games' campaign was introduced for the 2022 Asian Games. Asian Games 2022 is set to be held in _____.

a) Doha, Qatar

b) Tokyo, Japan

c) Hangzhou, China

d) Geneva, Switzerland

e) Paris, France

Q.27) Which country developed the low-cost telescopic device Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph and Camera (ADFOSC)?

a) Russia

b) India

c) China

d) USA

e) UAE

Q.28) Which state government launched India's first 'Integrated Machine Tool Park'?

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Maharashtra

c) Karnataka

d) Telangana

e) Gujarat

Q.29) When is Indian Railways set to be fully electrified?

a) 2021

b) 2024

c) 2030

d) 2023

e) 2025

Q.30) Which football club beat ATK Mohun Bagan to win the 2020-21 ISL League Winners' Shield?

a) Bengaluru FC

b) Chennaiyin FC

c) Mumbai City FC

d) Jamshedpur FC

e) Kerala Blasters

Q.31) Which city emerged as the best city (larger cities) among 111 other cities in the Union Government's Ease of Living Index 2020?

a) Ahmedabad

b) Chennai

c) Pune

d) Bengaluru

e) Surat

Q.32) The Union Government recently selected 12 iconic sites under the 'Swachh Tourist Destinations'. Which among the following sites is not on the list?

a) Sanchi Stupa

b) Ajanta Caves

c) Kumbhalgarh Fort

d) Padmanabhaswamy Temple

e) Sun Temple

Q.33) Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of AIBA's Champions & Veterans Committee?

a) Dutee Chand

b) Hima Das

c) Mary Kom

d) Vinesh Phogat

e) Sakshi Malik

Q.34) Which city emerged as the best city (smaller cities) in the Union Government's Ease of Living Index 2020?

a) Kakinada

b) Shimla

c) Vellore

d) Gurugram

e) Salem

Q.35) Who has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Australia?

a) Rakesh Malhotra

b) Vijay Singh Chauhan

c) Gaitri Kumar

d) Manpreet Vohra

e) Ajay Bisaria

Q.36) Which state government launched the 'Gharoki Pechan, Chelik Naam' scheme to promote women's empowerment?

a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Uttarakhand

c) Karnataka

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Nagaland

Q.37) Which year had been declared as the "International Year of Millets" by UNGA after it adopted an India-sponsored resolution?

a) 2021

b) 2023

c) 2030

d) 2022

e) 2025

Q.38) Which state allowed DBT for disbursement of funds for students of government schemes? (March 2021)

a) Assam

b) Kerala

c) Meghalaya

d) Bihar

e) Rajasthan

Q.39) Name the online platform which was launched by Axis Securities to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market?

a) PAYMENT

b) YIELD

- c) SURAKSHA
- d) SAVINGS
- e) SHIELD

Q.40) With which country did India sign a key pact for the sale of defence material and equipment?

- a) France
- b) Russia

c) Philippines

- d) Germany
- e) China

Q.41) Name the country which is going to build the world's first platypus sanctuary to promote breeding and rehabilitation?

- a) Canada
- b) Singapore

c) Australia

- d) Japan
- e) Belgium

Q.42) Prime Minister Modi held a virtual summit with the Swedish Prime minister. Who is the Prime minister of Sweden?

- a) Morgan Johansson

b) Stefan Lofven

- c) Lena Hallengren
- d) Ardalan Shekarabi
- e) Jimmie Akesson

Q.43) Who was appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco?

- a) Aman Tiwari
- b) Naveen Singh

c) Rajesh Vaishnaw

- d) Vinay Sharma
- e) Manpreet Singh

Q.44) India sends the first consignment of Assam's 'red rice' to the US. The rice was grown in the _____.

- a) Lug Valley
- b) Chenab Valley

c) Brahmaputra valley

- d) Parvati Valley
- e) Kashmir Valley

Q.45) Which Minister inaugurated the new Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka, Bangladesh?

a) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

- b) Nirmala Sitharaman
- c) Rajnath Singh
- d) Piyush Goyal
- e) Amit Shah

Q.46) Which Indian cricketer was appointed as the brand ambassador of Candid Dusting Powder?

- a) Sachin Tendulkar

b) Rohit Sharma

- c) Shikar Dhawan
- d) Rishabh Pant
- e) Bhubaneswar Kumar

Q.47) Who was awarded the Bihari Puraskar Award 2020?

- a) Dhanya Balakrishnan

b) Mohankrishna Bohara

- c) Suresh Chandra Mohan
- d) Vani Krishnan
- e) Sivaraman Nandu

Q.48) With which country did India hold the first-ever strategic and counter-terrorism dialogue in New Delhi?

- a) Malta

b) Nigeria

- c) Latvia
- d) Austria
- e) Kenya

Q.49) Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB) and Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) became the first RRBs to launch a video-KYC facility. Which bank is the sponsored bank of both RRBs?

- a) Syndicate Bank
- b) Union Bank of India

c) State Bank of India

- d) Indian Bank
- e) Bank of Baroda

Q.50) Who was appointed as the additional director of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- a) Sanam Shetty
- b) Shanmuganathan

c) Ashok Gulati

- d) Vinay Singh
- e) Kesav Kumar

Q.51) Who headed the National Committee to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence?

- a) Amit Shah
- b) Rajnath Singh

c) Narendra Modi

- d) Nirmala Sitharaman
- e) Piyush Goyal

Q.52) Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated in a 3-day Combined Commanders' Conference held in _____.

a) Kevadia

- b) Ahmadabad

- c) Kolkata
d) Shillong
e) Lucknow
Q.53) Which state government launched 'Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana' to uplift 1 lakh families with low family income in the state?"
a) Bihar
b) Haryana
c) Gujarat
d) Maharashtra
e) Manipur
Q.54) Which organisation introduced a \$100-million credit guarantee scheme to boost India's rooftop solar programme for MSMEs?
a) NDB
b) ADB
c) IMF
d) World Bank
e) ECB
Q.55) Atal Innovation Mission partnered with which company to strengthen the Deep-tech startup ecosystem of India? (March 2021)
a) Autodesk
b) HubSpot
c) MathWorks
d) Nvidia
e) LinkedIn
Q.56) _____ successfully tested the Starship SN10 prototype rocket.
a) ISRO
b) NASA
c) European Space Agency
d) SpaceX
e) Roscosmos
Q.57) Who authored the book titled "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power: 5 Battlegrounds"?
a) Amit Khare
b) Harish Sharma
c) Rajiv Malhotra
d) Anil Kumar
e) Indra Malhotra
Q.58) Which state ranked first in land record digitisation for the second year in a row according to NCAER's Land Records and Services Index 2020-21?
a) Tamil Nadu
b) Maharashtra
c) Karnataka
d) Madhya Pradesh

- e) West Bengal
Q.59) Indian women's trap team won a silver medal at ISSF Shotgun World Cup. The event was held in _____.
a) Tokyo, Japan
b) Moscow, Russia
c) Cairo, Egypt
d) Geneva, Switzerland
e) Paris, France
Q.60) DRDO successfully tested SFDR technology in a bid to develop long-range missiles. The missile is a long-range _____.
a) Air to Air Missile
b) Surface to Air Missile
c) Air to Surface Missile
d) Surface to Surface Missile
e) None of the above
Q.61) Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) started to sell products on the Government e-Market (GeM) portal. IMPCL comes under which Union Ministry?
a) Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs
b) Union Ministry of Urban Affairs
c) Union Ministry of AYUSH
d) Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
e) Union Ministry of Home Affairs
Q.62) Which of the following minister launched CSIR's Floriculture Mission?
a) Amit Shah
b) Harsh Vardhan
c) Narendra Modi
d) Nirmala Sitharaman
e) Piyush Goyal
Q.63) Which app was launched by the Jammu & Kashmir administration under the National Health Mission?
a) RAJAT
b) VIDYUT
c) ANMOL
d) SURAL
e) BIJOL
Q.64) Where was India's first-ever 'Transgender Community Desk' opened in Gachibowli police station?
a) Lucknow
b) Visakhapatnam
c) Bangalore
d) Hyderabad
e) Kochi

Q.65) Who addressed the inaugural session of 'Techbharat 2021'?

- a) Rajnath Singh
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Harsh Vardhan**
- d) Narendra Modi
- e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Q.66) India's biggest dialysis facility was launched at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib complex. Where is the complex located?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Kanpur
- c) New Delhi**
- d) Pune
- e) Indore

Q.67) Who became the first Vice President and COO of the New York Federal Bank?

- a) Vanitha Mohan
- b) Naureen Hassan**
- c) Ravi Sam
- d) Sandeep Singh
- e) Balasubramaniam

Q.68) Senior IAS officer Arun Kumar Singh was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of which Indian state?

- a) Assam
- b) Bihar**
- c) Odisha
- d) Karnataka
- e) West Bengal

Q.69) NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta recently passed away at 84. He was a renowned _____.

- a) Writer**
- b) Actor
- c) Politician
- d) Cricketer
- e) Freedom Fighter

Q.70) Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' between India & Bangladesh. The bridge had been built over which river?

- a) Som river
- b) Ganga river
- c) Feni river**
- d) Khowai river
- e) Gomati river

Q.71) Which Indian state launched the Department of Mission Shakti for self-help groups? (March 2020)

- a) Odisha**
- b) Punjab

- c) Bihar
- d) West Bengal
- e) Karnataka

Q.72) Which Indian state/UT recently held the White-Water Rafting festival?

- a) Odisha
- b) Jammu and Kashmir**

- c) Bihar
- d) West Bengal
- e) Chandigarh

Q.73) Which state became the first in India to announce a Gender Budget concept?

- a) Andhra Pradesh**
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) West Bengal
- e) Maharashtra

Q.74) Which ministry signed an MoU with the Union Ministry of Textiles to boost sericulture activities in the country?

- a) Union Ministry of Rural Development
- b) Union Ministry of Urban Affairs
- c) Union Ministry of Agriculture**
- d) Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- e) Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Q.75) Who was awarded as the BBC's Emerging Player of the Year Award 2021?

- a) PV Sindhu
- b) Elavenil Valarivan
- c) Manu Bhaker**
- d) Hima Das
- e) Manika Batra

Q.76) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) inaugurated a 200-feet 'Bailey Bridge' in Uttarakhand. The bridge was constructed across _____ river.

- a) Rishiganga River**
- b) Chamoli River
- c) Sone River
- d) Dhauliganga River
- e) Pindar River

Q.77) Which organisation announced to support 1 million rural women entrepreneurs in India?

- a) Apple
- b) Amazon
- c) UNESCO
- d) Google**
- e) UNDP

Q.78) Who inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra' that was held in New Delhi?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Sanjay Dhotre
- c) Prahlad Singh Patel**
- d) Piyush Goyal
- e) Amit Shah

Q.79) Abdul Ghaffar Khan's autobiography 'The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle' was translated to English from which language?

- a) Afrikaans
- b) Urdu
- c) Pukhto**
- d) Mandarin
- e) Hakka

Q.80) Anshuman Singh passed away recently. He was a former Governor of which Indian state?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Bihar
- c) Assam
- d) Gujarat
- e) Both a and d**

Q.81) Who won the Men's Singles title at the YONEX Swiss Open 2021?

- a) Kento Momota
- b) Viktor Axelsen**
- c) Srikanth Kidambi
- d) Chen Long
- e) Shi Yuqi

Q.82) Who inaugurated MEMP (Multifunctional Electronic Materials and Processing) 2021?

- a) Ravi Shankar Prasad
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Sanjay Dhotre**
- d) Ramesh Pokhriyal
- e) Amit Khare

Q.83) Which state inaugurated India's first-ever forest healing center?

- a) Telangana
- b) Uttarakhand**
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Karnataka
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.84) Who won the Women's Singles title by defeating PV Sindhu at the YONEX Swiss Open 2021?

- a) Carolina Marin**
- b) Nozomi Okuhara
- c) Saina Nehwal
- d) Ratchanok Intanon

e) Tai Tzu-Ying

Q.85) Who won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award 2021?

- a) Koneru Humpy**
- b) Sakshi Malik
- c) PT Usha
- d) Anju Bobby George
- e) Apurvi Chandela

Q.86) Who was appointed as the MD and CEO of Arcil?

- a) Pallav Mohapatra**
- b) Shyam Srinivasan
- c) Rajeshwari
- d) Raghuram Rajan
- e) None of these

Q.87) Which state is set to celebrate Azadi Ki Amruth Mahotsav?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Telangana**
- c) Karnataka
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) None of above

Q.88) Which state/UT launched the Saheli Samanvay Kendra scheme?

- a) Delhi**
- b) Punjab
- c) Karnataka
- d) Puducherry
- e) None of the above

Q.89) Who was appointed as the Chairman of the UN Panel of External Auditors for 2021?

- a) Girish Chandra Murmu**
- b) Shyam Srinivasan
- c) Rajeshwari
- d) Raghuram Rajan
- e) None of the above

Q.90) Which actor is set to be felicitated with the FIAF Award?

- a) Amitabh Bachchan**
- b) Rajini
- c) Amir Khan
- d) John Abraham
- e) None of the above

Q.91) Which country does cricketer Joey Benjamin belong to?

- a) England**
- b) India
- c) Australia
- d) South Africa
- e) None of the above

Q.92) Who was inaugurated the 'Maritime India Summit 2021'?

a) Mansukh L Madaviya

b) Narendra Modi

c) Piyush Goyal

d) Nirmala Sitharaman

e) Nitin Gadkari

Q.93) Which state celebrated the festival 'Herath'?

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Uttarakhand

c) Assam

d) Jammu and Kashmir

e) Punjab

Q.94) Joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commenced in Ranikhet. It is a military exercise between_____.

a) India and Kazakhstan

b) India and Oman

c) India and UAE

d) India and Bangladesh

e) India and Uzbekistan

Q.95) Who was replaced as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand by Tirath Singh Rawat?

a) Trivendra Singh Rawat

b) Tirath Kohli

c) Harish Rawat

d) Vijay Bahuguna

e) None of the above

Q.96) Who was appointed as the new Chief Statistician of India?

a) Kshatrapati Shivaji

b) Tarun Bajaj

c) GP Samanta

d) Naureen Hassan

e) RM Mathur

Q.97) Who was re-elected as the President of the International Olympic Committee?

a) Thomas Bach

b) António Guterres

c) David Malpass

d) Raghuram Rajan

e) None of the above

Q.98) Who authored the book "Kunal Kapur In The Kitchen" that is to be published soon?

a) Kunal Kapur

b) Arundhati Roy

c) Ruskin Bond

d) Vikram Seth

e) Jhumpa Lahiri

Q.99) Which Bollywood actor was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bata India Limited?

a) Amir Khan

b) Salman Khan

c) Varun Dhawan

d) Kartik Aaryan

e) Sonu Sood

Q.100) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is set to unveil India's largest floating solar plant (100 MW capacity) in which state?

a) Karnataka

b) Telangana

c) Maharashtra

d) Gujarat

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.101) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) along with Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) signed an MoU with Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd (600 MW). Where is the Kholongchu Hydro Energy Limited based on?

a) India

b) Nepal

c) Bhutan

d) Myanmar

e) Bangladesh

Q.102) China and which country agreed to build a joint lunar space station to develop research facilities on the surface of the moon?

a) India

b) USA

c) France

d) Russia

e) Japan

Q.103) Name the 3rd Scorpene submarine which was commissioned by the Indian Navy in Mumbai recently.

a) INS Vikrant

b) INS Kalvari

c) INS Karanj

d) INS Khanderi

e) INS Sumitra

Q.104) Who became the first Indian woman cricketer to score 10,000 international runs?

a) Smriti Mandhana

b) Harmanpreet Kaur

c) Mithali Raj

d) Anjum Chopra

e) Veda Krishnamurthy

Q.105) Imran Amin Siddiqui was appointed as the Executive Director of which public sector bank?

a) Union Bank of India

b) Indian Bank

c) Bank of Baroda

d) State Bank of India

e) Indian Overseas Bank

Q.106) Govinda Rajulu Chintala took over the chairmanship of Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA). Whom did he replace?

a) NR Rajendran

b) DPK Gunasekera

c) V Shantanu

d) Deepak Kumar

e) Hari Krishnan

Q.107) Who has been inducted the list of WEF's new Young Global Leaders for 2021?

a) Priyanka Chopra

b) Katrina Kaif

c) Deepika Padukone

d) Alia Bhatt

e) Anushka Sharma

Q.108) Mahamadou Issoufou won the Mo Ibrahim Prize 2020 for achievement in African Leadership. He is the President of which country?

a) Sudan

b) Niger

c) Somalia

d) Nigeria

e) Yemen

Q.109) What is the rank of India in the Economic Freedom Index 2021 (Singapore topped)?

a) 132nd

b) 111th

c) 108th

d) 121st

e) 144th

Q.110) Tammy Beaumont was named as the ICC Player of the Month for February 2021. Which country does she play for?

a) South Africa

b) England

c) Bangladesh

d) Australia

e) India

Q.111) Which country conducted its first-ever military exercise "AsterX" in space?

a) China

b) Japan

c) France

d) Germany

e) India

Q.112) Which airport launched India's first dedicated express cargo terminal to help e-commerce?

a) Kempegowda International Airport

b) Indira Gandhi International Airport

c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

d) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport

e) Subash Chandra Bose International Airport

Q.113) _____ mobile app was launched by Central Government for migrant public distribution system beneficiaries.

a) My Ration

b) Mera Ration

c) People's Ration

d) Citizen Ration

e) Your Ration

Q.114) Who authored the book titled 'Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women'?

a) Sushmita Mukherjee

b) Ruchira Mukherjee

c) Raji Sharma

d) Ashwin Kaur

e) Krithika Patel

Q.115) Which among the following countries is/are going to produce hydrogen from dirty coal?

a) India

b) Japan

c) Australia

d) Both a and b

e) Both b and c

Q.116) Patrick Achi was appointed as the new interim PM of Ivory Coast. He replaced who among the following persons?

a) Alassane Ouattara

b) Hamed Bakayoko

c) Sanjay Goel

d) Muhammadu Buhari

e) None of the above

Q.117) Who was appointed as the Executive Vice President And President of the Asia-Pacific of American Tower Corporation?

a) Amit Shah

b) Niranjana

c) Amit Khare

d) Sanjay Goel

e) Sathish Sharma

Q.118) Who won the Sahitya Academy Award for their book 'Agniswaasa'?

a) Nikhileshwar

b) Parameshwar

c) Amish Tripathi

d) Subroto Roy

e) Arundhati Roy

Q.119) WE HUB partnered with which country to launch 'UPSurge' pre-incubation program?

- a) India
- b) Australia**

- c) Africa
- d) Switzerland
- e) Norway

Q.120) National Anti-Doping Agency imposed sanctions on Madhavan R. Which sport is he associated with?

- a) Weightlifting**

- b) Boxing
- c) Cycling
- d) Swimming
- e) Tennis

Q.121) Who was appointed as the MD and CEO of Aegon Life Insurance?

- a) Sathish Chandra
- b) Deepak Kataria
- c) Sonu Patel
- d) Ranjit Singh

- e) Satishwar Balakrishnan**

Q.122) Which country received 3000 HP Cape Gauge locomotive sent by the Union Railways Minister?

- a) Mozambique**

- b) Iran
- c) Japan
- d) Maldives
- e) None of the above

Q.123) Who was appointed as the national Head of Sales and Marketing of Kia Motors India?

- a) Jai Ramesh
- b) Micheal Roy
- c) John Carles

- d) Hardeep Singh Brar**

- e) None of the above

Q.124) Who was appointed as the Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations?

- a) Thomas Bach

- b) Deepak Mishra**

- c) John Carles
- d) Hardeep Singh Brar
- e) None of the above

Q.125) Who was appointed as the Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Salesforce India?

- a) Thomas Bach

- b) Sanket Atal**

- c) Ankush Sharma

- d) Marvin Hagler

- e) None of the above

Q.126) Who became the first woman cricketer to complete 7000 ODI runs?

- a) Mithali Raj**

- b) Smriti Mandhana
- c) Kalpan Paropkari
- d) Susan Itticheria
- e) None of the above

Q.127) Who became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics?

- a) Bhavani Devi**

- b) Priya Punia
- c) Jhulan Goswami
- d) Harmanpreet Kaur
- e) None of the above

Q.128) Which Indian naval ship reached Madagascar's Antsiranana Port for capacity building and training of the Malagasy Special Forces?

- a) INS Jalashwa**

- b) INS Viraat
- c) INS Vikramaditya
- d) INS Vikrant
- e) None of the above

Q.129) Which country surpassed Russia and became the world's fourth-largest foreign exchange reserves holder?

- a) India**

- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) England
- e) None of the above

Q.130) Who became the first cricketer to score 3,000 runs in T-20 International cricket?

- a) Rohit Sharma

- b) Virat Kohli**

- c) Dawid Malan
- d) Aaron Finch
- e) Glenn Maxwell

Q.131) Where is India's first-ever centralised AC railway terminal planned to be set up?

- a) Chennai
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Lucknow
- d) Mumbai

- e) Bengaluru**

Q.132) Which country surpassed Saudi Arabia as India's second-biggest crude oil supplier?

- a) Mauritius
- b) Singapore

c) Austria

d) USA

e) Oman

Q.133) Which is the first Central American country to be declared malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO)?

a) Guatemala

b) Nicaragua

c) El Salvador

d) Honduras

e) Ecuador

Q.134) Who hosted the 63rd edition of the annual Grammy Awards ceremony held in Los Angeles?

a) Trevor Noah

b) Johnny Depp

c) Taylor Swift

d) Leonardo DiCaprio

e) Beyonce

Q.135) Who had authored the book titled "Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma"?

a) Shashi Tharoor

b) Rinku Gupta

c) Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan

d) Jhumpa Lahiri

e) Kiran Desai

Q.136) Which country ranked highest in workplace satisfaction according to JLL's (Jones Lang Lasalle's) Human Performance Indicator (HPI) Index?

a) China

b) Russia

c) India

d) Germany

e) France

Q.137) Which country signed an MoU with India on the cooperation in sports & youth affairs?

a) Maldives

b) Japan

c) France

d) Germany

e) None of the above

Q.138) Which is the world's first renewable company to enter WEF's global lighthouse network?

a) Tata Power Solar

b) Suzlon Energy

c) ReNew Power

d) Azure Power

e) Vikram Solar

Q.139) Who was appointed to head a high-level team to review the medical care & public health arrangements for the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar?

a) Vinay Sing

b) Amit Khare

c) SK Singh

d) UK Sinha

e) Arun Goel

Q.140) Who was reappointed as the Executive Director and CEO of Nippon Life India Asset Management?

a) Manish Pandey

b) Gautam Thakar

c) Sundeep Sikka

d) Vijay Sampla

e) Ajai Malhotra

Q.141) MA Ganapathy was appointed as the Director-General of which Armed Force?

a) National Security Guard

b) Central Reserve Police Force

c) Border Security Force

d) Indo-Tibetan Border Police

e) Central Industrial Security Force

Q.142) Who is the author of the memoir titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future"?

a) Chanda Kochhar

b) Indra Nooyi

c) Angela Merkel

d) Shantanu Narayen

e) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Q.143) Which country is set to host the Asian Boxing Championships in 2021?

a) Russia

b) Germany

c) India

d) China

e) Japan

Q.144) Which city is going to set up a world-class winter sports academy?

a) Lucknow

b) Gulmarg

c) Srinagar

d) Darjeeling

e) Shimla

Q.145) Which company had partnered with CRIF India to launch a tech-enabled tool for MSMEs?

a) Infosys Technologies

b) Cisco

c) Vayana Network

d) Larsen and Toubro

e) TATA Communications

Q.146) Who was appointed as the Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force?

- a) Ram Sharma
- b) AP Maheshwari
- c) Kuldiep Singh**
- d) Sudeep Kumar
- e) Akshay Kumar

Q.147) Who was appointed as the Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board?

- a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Piyush Goyal

e) Harsh Vardhan

Q.148) Which Tanzanian President passed away recently while in office?

- a) John Magufuli**
- b) Kais Saied
- c) Muammar Gaddafi
- d) Muhammadu Buhari
- e) None of the above

Q.149) Which country recently joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) under the amended ISA Framework Agreement?

- a) France
- b) Italy**
- c) Japan
- d) Germany
- e) Australia

Q.150) Which country sent food products to India through the Inland Waterways for the first time?

- a) Singapore
- b) Malaysia
- c) China
- d) Bangladesh**
- e) Australia

Q.151) Which country is set to host the International Shooting Sport Federation Shooting World Cup 2021?

- a) China
- b) India**
- c) Malaysia
- d) Canada
- e) Bhutan

Q.152) Which country launched a joint venture with India to boost India's e-Mobility aspirations?

- a) Israel**
- b) Japan
- c) Norway
- d) Canada
- e) Sweden

Q.153) Who was appointed to head an Experts Committee for the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme?

- a) Sanjay Gupta
- b) HK Mittal**
- c) Mohmmad Khan
- d) Balraj Singh
- e) Jagadeesh Kumar

Q.154) Who was inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)?

- a) Sachin Tendulkar
- b) Sunil Gavaskar

c) Kapil Dev

- d) Sourav Ganguly
- e) Rahul Dravid

Q.155) Which city became the world's most polluted capital according to the IQAir report?

- a) Moscow
- b) Gurugram
- c) Lahore
- d) Tokyo

e) New Delhi

Q.156) Who beat Dutee Chand in 100m events in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships 2021 held in Patiala, Punjab?

- a) MR Poovamma
- b) Hima Das
- c) Swapna Barman

d) Dhanalakshmi

- e) VK Vismaya

Q.157) Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar were banned for eight years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code. Which country did they play cricket for?

- a) Netherland
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Australia

d) UAE

- e) Oman

Q.158) Who among the following to receive the 2021 Pritzker Architecture Prize?

- a) Jean-Philippe Vassal
- b) Anne Lacaton
- c) El Zurdo

d) Both a and b

- e) Both a and c

Q.159) Murali Sreeshankar set the national record and qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2021. Which sport does he belong to?

- a) Triple Jump

b) Shot put

c) Long Jump

d) Javelin throw

e) Discuss throw

Q.160) Which among the following organisation/company announced new initiatives to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India?

a) Amazon Web Services

b) NITI Aayog

c) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

d) All of the above

e) Both a and c

Q.161) Which year was fixed as the deadline to scrap vehicles above 15 years of age that are used by the Government Departments as well as PSUs?

a) 2024

b) 2021

c) 2022

d) 2025

e) None of the above

Q.162) Which state recently launched the Mission Gramodaya?

a) Odisha

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Andhra Pradesh

d) Bihar

e) Kerala

Q.163) Who was elected as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands?

a) Mark Rutte

b) Jean Castex

c) Erna Solberg

d) Stefan Löfven

e) None of the above

Q.164) What is the theme of the Global Recycling Day 2021?

a) Recycling heroes

b) Recycling wastage

c) Recycling elements

d) Recycling plastics

e) None of the above

Q.165) Which state won the Sub-junior National Women's Hockey Championship?

a) Haryana

b) Bihar

c) Jharkhand

d) Gujarat

e) Karnataka

Q.166) Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation is set to develop an 850 MW Hydro-Electric Project in _____.

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Jammu and Kashmir

c) Meghalaya

d) Haryana

e) Gujarat

Q.167) India's first-ever elevated urban expressway worth Rs. 8,662 crores is set to be completed by which year?

a) 2023

b) 2021

c) 2025

d) 2030

e) 2022

Q.168) Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had inaugurated the 'Amar Ekushey Book Fair' in _____.

a) Chattogram

b) New Delhi

c) Dhaka

d) Kolkata

e) Maharashtra

Q.169) Which country along with India had launched an Artificial Intelligence initiative to scale up the science & technology relationship?

a) Switzerland

b) France

c) USA

d) Canada

e) Germany

Q.170) Ajay Mathur was appointed as the Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Who did he replace?

a) Ajay Tyagi

b) Upendra Tripathy

c) K Venkataramanan

d) UK Sinha

e) YV Reddy

Q.171) Which organisation was conferred with the Role Model Award at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21?

a) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

b) Power Grid Corporation of India

c) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

e) None of the above

Q.172) Who broke PT Usha's Federation Cup record recently in Patiala, Punjab?

- a) Hima Das
- b) Dutee Chand
- c) S Dhanalakshmi**
- d) Swapna Barman
- e) MR Poovamma

Q.173) What is India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2021?

- a) 139**
- b) 122
- c) 155
- d) 149
- e) 120

Q.174) Which public sector enterprise inked a contract with the Union Defence Ministry to deliver 4960 Anti-Tank Guided Missiles?

- a) NTPC
- b) BEL
- c) BHEL
- d) Bharat Dynamics Limited**
- e) None of the above

Q.175) Which State/UT Government is set to spend Rs. 200 crores for employment & uplift of youth in the next financial year?

- a) Haryana
- b) Bihar
- c) Odisha
- d) Kerala
- e) Jammu and Kashmir**

Q.176) In which state did Union Power Minister RK Singh recently launch the 'GRAM UJALA'?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Bihar**
- c) Punjab
- d) Telangana
- e) Karnataka

Q.177) What is the name of the short video platform for workspaces launched by Google?

- a) Threedit**
- b) Threadread
- c) Threadvideo
- d) Threadlive
- e) None of the above

Q.178) Which country built one of the world's largest floating solar farms to fight climate change?

- a) Malaysia
- b) India
- c) Germany
- d) Singapore**
- e) France

Q.179) The 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting was held virtually. Which country is the current chair?

- a) Brazil
- b) India**
- c) South Africa
- d) Australia
- e) Both a and b

Q.180) Which organisation launched the 'Sahi Disha' campaign to celebrate women's livelihoods in rural India?

- a) UNESCO
- b) UNDP**
- c) UNICEF
- d) UNGA
- e) UNCTAD

Q.181) Who was elected as the first woman President of Tanzania?

- a) Jenista Mhagama
- b) Samia Suluhu Hassan**
- c) Joyce Ndalichako
- d) Ummy Mwalimu
- e) Mwele Ntuli Malecela

Q.182) Suhail Chander and Subrata Dutta Gupta were appointed as the additional independent directors of which bank?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) Bandhan Bank**
- d) State Bank of India
- e) Axis Bank

Q.183) Junior Women's and Sub-Junior Girls National Wrestling Championships were held in _____.

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Karnataka**
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Haryana

Q.184) Which is the first state in the country to have its own ethanol policy for biofuel?

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) Bihar**
- e) Haryana

Q.185) Who succeeded Anurag Srivastava as the spokesperson of the Union Ministry of External Affairs?

- a) Amit Trivedi
- b) Vinay Kumar

c) Arindam Bagchi

d) Manish Pandey

e) Anurag Kashyap

Q.186) Who defeated Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) and won the men's singles crown at the All England Open 2021?

a) Yuta Watanabe

b) Lee Zii Jia

c) Hiroyuki Endo

d) Kenta Nishimoto

e) Takeshi Kamura

Q.187) Who beat Sri Lanka Legends in the Road Safety World Series T-20 held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh?

a) Bangladesh Legends

b) West Indies Legends

c) South Africa Legends

d) India Legends

e) England Legends

Q.188) Renowned feminist, psychiatrist, and novelist Nawal Saadawi passed away recently. Which country does she belong to?

a) Taiwan

b) Egypt

c) Sudan

d) Malaysia

e) Turkey

Q.189) What is the rank of India in the Global House Price Index according to Knight Frank's report?

a) 67

b) 45

c) 56

d) 78

e) 84

Q.190) Which Indian cricketer was appointed as the brand ambassador for NeoGrowth?

a) Virat Kohli

b) Ajinkya Rahane

c) Rishabh Pant

d) KL Rahul

e) Shikhar Dhawan

Q.191) Which state launched the 'SAAMAR campaign' to fight malnutrition in the state?

a) Assam

b) Bihar

c) Jharkhand

d) Haryana

e) Gujarat

Q.192) Which state had ranked first in the country in terms of providing employment under the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)?

a) Maharashtra

b) Karnataka

c) Madhya Pradesh

d) Chhattisgarh

e) West Bengal

Q.193) When is the World Water Day observed?

a) 21 March

b) 23 March

c) 26 March

d) 23 March

e) 22 March

Q.194) Who won the 1st gold medal for India in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event held in New Delhi?

a) Manu Bhaker

b) Elavenil Valarivan

c) Divyansh Singh Panwar

d) Yashaswini Deswal

e) Rahi Sarnobat

Q.195) Who broke the national record in the women's discus throw with an attempt of 65.06 m?

a) Kamalpreet Singh

b) Krishna Poonia

c) Bajrang Punia

d) Kamalpreet Kaur

e) Narsingh Yadav

Q.196) Who inaugurated the new Advanced High-Resolution Microscopy facility at NABI?

a) Harsh Vardhan

b) Piyush Goyal

c) Arjun Munda

d) Smriti Irani

e) None of the above

Q.197) Who was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020?

a) Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

b) Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

c) Sardar Vallabhai Patel

d) Muhammad Yunus

e) Deepa Malik

Q.198) Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Ram Manohar Lohia's birth anniversary on 23 March. He is a renowned _____.

a) Dancer

b) Freedom fighter

c) Singer

d) Writer

e) Poet

Q.199) Who is the head of the panel to evaluate applications for Universal and Small Finance Banks?

a) Bimal Jalan

b) Babu Rajiv

c) Shyamala Gopinath

d) Deepak Parekh

e) Jankiraman

Q.200) Which state government joined hands with ITC limited to execute the Watershed Development Programme?

a) Bihar

b) Karnataka

c) Kerala

d) Telangana

e) Haryana

Q.201) Which country hosted the Para Shooting World Cup 2021?

a) Germany

b) Qatar

c) UAE

d) Japan

e) Brazil

Q.202) Which company signed a contract with the Indian Army to supply 1300 Light Specialist Vehicles?

a) Ordnance Factory Board

b) Mahindra Defence Systems Limited

c) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

d) Bharat Dynamics Limited

e) None of the above

Q.203) Which state government had signed an MoU with TRIFED for the implementation of MSP for the MFP Scheme and Van Dhan Yojana?

a) Assam

b) Maharashtra

c) Arunachal Pradesh

d) West Bengal

e) Manipur

Q.204) Which state government launched India's first FPO portal to benefit farmers at the grassroots level?

a) West Bengal

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Karnataka

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Jharkhand

Q.205) Which country signed a \$1.5 billion currency swap deal with China?

a) India

b) Sri Lanka

c) Pakistan

d) Bangladesh

e) Nepal

Q.206) Which state won the Most Film Friendly State Award in the 67th National Film Awards?

a) Assam

b) Maharashtra

c) Kerala

d) Sikkim

e) Tamil Nadu

Q.207) Who among the following won the Best Actor Award in the National Film Awards for 2019?

a) Dhanush

b) Manoj Bajpayee

c) Vijay Sethupathi

d) Ayushmann Khurrana

e) Both a and b

Q.208) Which of the following IITs won the CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0?

a) IIT Bombay

b) IIT Madras

c) IIT Kharagpur

d) IIT Mandi

e) IIT Kanpur

Q.209) Who won the Best Actress Award in the National Film Awards for 2019?

a) Alia Bhatt

b) Pallavi Joshi

c) Kangana Ranaut

d) Anushka Sharma

e) Deepika Padukone

Q.210) Which country signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with India in the field of water resources?

a) Japan

b) Afghanistan

c) UAE

d) France

e) Iran

Q.211) Adam Zagajewski passed away recently. He was a renowned _____.

a) Actor

b) Cricketer

c) Poet

d) Painter

e) Economist

Q.212) Who released a commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's first visit to Odisha?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

e) Sanjay Dhotre

Q.213) What is the rank of India in the International Intellectual Property Index?

a) 40

- b) 30
- c) 10
- d) 15
- e) 45

Q.214) Who was re-appointed as the MD and Global CEO of Cipla for 5 years?

a) Abid Hussain

b) Umang Vohra

- c) Abhijit Sen
- d) Ajith Kumar
- e) None of the above

Q.215) Who was appointed as surgeon general of the USA President Joe Biden?

- a) Sanjay Rathod
- b) Anil Deshmukh

c) Vivek Murthy

- d) Karan Johar
- e) Ajit Pawar

Q.216) Which country announced a joint commission with India to boost ties in energy sectors?

a) Qatar

b) Kuwait

- c) Singapore
- d) Maldives
- e) Oman

Q.217) Name the e-Tendering portal which was launched by POWERGRID to lead to less paperwork?

- a) PRAGIT
- b) SUNIT
- c) e-PAPER

d) PRANIT

e) VISIT

Q.218) Which country launched Soyuz Rocket into space carrying 38 satellites from 18 countries?

a) China

b) Russia

- c) India
- d) France
- e) USA

Q.219) Who was conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman 2020?

a) Sharad Pagare

- b) Khushwant Singh
- c) Amrita Pritam
- d) Sharad Pawar
- e) None of the above

Q.220) Which Indian Coast Guard Ship was commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard?

- a) Samudra
- b) Samarth

c) Vajra

- d) Vishwa
- e) Bharati

Q.221) Which organization/think tank has set up task forces for achieving policy certainty in contract enforcement?

- a) SEBI
- b) RBI
- c) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

d) NITI Aayog

e) None of the above

Q.222) Which country partnered with UNOPS to support Jal Jeevan Mission in Uttar Pradesh?

- a) France
- b) Italy
- c) Japan

d) Denmark

e) Canada

Q.223) Which city got the world's first mobile water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Mumbai
- c) Bangalore

d) Visakhapatnam

e) Pune

Q.224) Which airport partnered with Magzter to become the world's first 'Smart Reading Airport'?

- a) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- b) Hong Kong International Airport

c) Dubai International Airport

- d) Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru
- e) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

Q.225) Who won the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup held in New Delhi?

- a) Manisha Agarwal
- b) Rahi Sarnobat
- c) Chinki Yadav

d) Manu Bhaker

e) Anjali Bhagwat

Q.226) Which state launched India's first-ever government-run ambulance network for animals?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh**

- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Telangana

Q.227) According to NITI Aayog, the net zero-emission energy transition is set to be achievable by which year?

- a) 2025
- b) 2030**

- c) 2050
- d) 2027
- e) 2063

Q.228) Which country is set to build the world's first ship tunnel under mountains?

- a) Denmark
- b) Spain
- c) Germany
- d) Norway**

- e) France

Q.229) Who was named India's richest real estate tycoon according to GROHE Hurun Real Estate Rich List 2020?

- a) Anjali Bhagwat
- b) Vijendra Singh
- c) Mangal Prabhat Lodha**

- d) Hardeep Kaur
- e) Mandar Bhagwat

Q.230) Which company partnered with the Advertising Standards Council of India to study on depiction of women in Indian advertising?

- a) Future brands**

- b) Reliance
- c) TCS
- d) Facebook
- e) Google

Q.231) Who was named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020?

- a) Harsh Kumar
- b) Anil Ambani
- c) Rana Kapoor

- d) Harsh Mariwala**

- e) None of the above

Q.232) Who launched Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) and Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority's (IEPFA) app?

- a) Jaishankar Subramaniam
- b) Amith Shah
- c) Nirmala Sitharaman**

- d) Piyush Goyal

- e) Nitin Gadkari

Q.233) Niyo launched NiyoX in partnership with which bank?

- a) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- b) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- c) Canara Bank
- d) Indian Bank

- e) Equitas Small Finance Bank**

Q.234) Which airport became the first in south India to have operational parallel runways?

- a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- b) Indira Gandhi International Airport

- c) Kempegowda International Airport**

- d) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport

- e) None of the above

Q.235) How many venues were chosen for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament to be held in India?

- a) Four

- b) Two

- c) Three**

- d) Six

- e) Ten

Q.236) KC Chakrabarty passed away at 68. He is a former_____

- a) RBI Deputy Governor**

- b) NABARD Chairman

- c) Yes Bank CEO

- d) NHB chairman

- e) None of the above

Q.237) Which state won the 11th Sub-Junior Men's National Hockey title?

- a) Bihar

- b) Maharastra

- c) Jharkhand**

- d) Haryana

- e) Karnataka

Q.238) Which state recently launched 'i-Learn' for Community Health Officers in the state?

- a) Assam

- b) Bihar

- c) Odisha

- d) Nagaland**

- e) West Bengal

Q.239) Denis Sassou Nguesso was re-elected as the president of which country?

- a) Taiwan

- b) Republic of the Congo**

- c) Republic of Korea

d) Thailand

e) Philippines

Q.240) Who was appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?

a) Sanjeev Kumar

b) Amit Singh

c) Saurabh Garg

d) Karan Singh

e) Santhosh Rajan

Q.241) Who authored a book titled 'My Experiments with Silence'?

a) Samir Soni

b) Amrita Arora

c) Neelam Kothari

d) Sohail Khan

e) None of the above

Q.242) Atish Chandra was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of which organisation?

a) Airports Authority of India (AAI)

b) Food Corporation of India (FCI)

c) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)

e) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

Q.243) Who is the author of the book titled "Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London"?

a) Amir Khan

b) Danish Khan

c) Ruhi Khan

d) Both a and b

e) Both b and c

Q.244) Manish Narwal had set a new world record at the Al Ain 2021 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup held in _____.

a) Oman

b) UAE

c) Qatar

d) Saudi Arabia

e) Egypt

Q.245) Union AYUSH Ministry set up an interdisciplinary team head by whom to explore the potential of Yoga?

a) PK Mishra

b) HR Nagendra

c) V Satha Sivam

d) R Sivaraman

e) N Viswanathan

Q.246) Who among the following was honoured with the Maharashtra Bhushan award?

a) Shreya Ghoshal

b) Asha Bhosle

c) Lata Mangeshkar

d) Sonu Nigam

e) AR Rahman

Q.247) Who is the author of the book titled "Names of the Women"?

a) Ruskin Bond

b) Chetan Bhagat

c) Jeet Thayil

d) Arundhati Roy

e) Sudha Murty

Q.248) World Theatres day was celebrated on 27th March. What was its theme?

a) Theatre and a Living in Peace

b) Theatre and a Life of Peace

c) Theatre and drama

d) Theatre and a Culture of Peace

e) Theatre, drama and Culture of Peace

Q.249) India's first Glass Sky Walk activity was inaugurated in which state?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Bihar

c) Uttarakhand

d) Assam

e) Jharkhand

Q.250) Where was the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency inaugurated?

a) Jammu and Kashmir

b) Himachal Pradesh

c) Ladakh

d) Gujarat

e) Uttarakhand

Q.251) When will JLR CEO Ralf Speth take over as TVS Motor Chairman?

a) 2021

b) 2022

c) 2023

d) 2024

e) 2025

Q.252) Which country has agreed to the joint production and export of military hardware with India?

a) Singapore

b) China

c) Norway

d) Sweden

e) South Korea

Q.253) Who among the following is not the one who won a gold medal in the men's trap team event at the ISSF World Cup 2021?

- a) Prithviraj Tondaiman
- b) Lakshay Sheoran
- c) Kynan Chenai

d) Jitu Rai

- e) All of the above

Q.254) Which of the following port signed an Rs. 100 crore agreement with CNB Logitech?

- a) Chennai Port Trust
- b) Mumbai Port Trust

c) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust

- d) Kochi Port Trust
- e) Mangalore Port Trust

Q.255) Which country successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile Shaheen-1A?

- a) France
- b) Israel
- c) Oman

d) Pakistan

- e) Iran

Q.256) Who won the Rathbones Folio Prize for 2021?

- a) Zinzi Clemmons
- b) Helen Oyeyemi

c) Carmen Maria Machado

- d) Val Howlett
- e) Kristen Arnett

Q.257) Who is the author of the book titled "1232 km: The Long Journey Home"?

- a) Annu Kapoor
- b) Jhumpa Lahiri

c) Vinod Kapri

- d) Hrishitaa Bhatt
- e) Arundhati Roy

Q.258) Which organisation partnered with Union Bank of India to launch co-branded contactless RuPay card "UNI-CARBON CARD"?

- a) Steel Authority of India
- b) Indian Oil Corporation
- c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

d) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

- e) Power Grid Corporation of India

Q.259) With which country did India start a two-day naval exercise PASSEX in the eastern Indian Ocean region?

- a) Russia
- b) France
- c) Maldives

d) USA

- e) Malaysia

Q.260) Which State Government celebrated the 'Banana Festival'?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) West Bengal
- c) Madhya Pradesh

d) Uttar Pradesh

- e) Karnataka

Q.261) Which company launched the instant liquidity facility 'Distributor to Retailer Finance' to empower SMEs?

- a) Flipkart

b) BharatPe

- c) Phone Pe
- d) Myntra

- e) Amazon

Q.262) Who attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of 'Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan' in Tajikistan?

a) S Jaishankar

- b) Rajnath Singh
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Amith Shah
- e) Narendra Modi

Q.263) Who was elected as the new Chairman of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises?

- a) Amitabh Choudhary
- b) Sanjiv Chadha
- c) Sandeep Bakshi

d) Soma Mondal

- e) Mahabaleshwara

Q.264) Which country participated in the France-led naval drill La Perouse for the first time?

- a) China
- b) Sweden
- c) Germany

d) India

- e) South Korea

Q.265) Where was the 9th Ministerial Conference of 'Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process on Afghanistan' held?

- a) Krygystan
- b) Tajikistan
- c) Istanbul

- d) Kabul

- e) Oman

Q.266) Who addressed the 7th annual summit of 'NATHEALTH 2021'?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) S Jaishankar

c) Harsh Vardhan

d) Nirmala Sitharaman

e) Amit Shah

Q.267) Which shipyard delivered MV 'Sindhu', passengers cum cargo vessel for Andaman & Nicobar?

a) Goa Shipyard

b) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

c) Cochin Shipyard

d) Mazagon Dock Limited

e) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

Q.268) Which institute partnered with ISRO for advanced space research?

a) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing

b) Physical Research Laboratory

c) Institute of Space Science and Technology

d) Cochin University of Science and Technology

e) National Institute of Science Education and Research

Q.269) Who was appointed as the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Biocon Biologics?

a) Arman Malik

b) Susheel Umesh

c) Vinay Singh

d) Parvesh Aggarwal

e) Rajkumar Rai

Q.270) Which company elevated Sapan Gupta as its global legal head?

a) Thyssenkrupp

b) ArcelorMittal

c) Gerdau

d) Tata Steel

e) Alcoa

Q.271) Which Indian ranger was selected for the International Ranger Award?

a) Manoj Bajpai

b) Pankaj Tripathi

c) Mahinder Giri

d) Ali Fazal

e) Vikrant Massey

Q.272) Who won the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Prize for the nonfiction category?

a) Maggie O'Farrell

b) Tom Zoellner

c) Amy Stanley

d) Cathy Park Hong

e) None of the above

Q.273) Beverly Cleary passed away at the age of 104. She was a famous _____.

a) Actress

b) Politician

c) Journalist

d) Author

e) Fashion Designer

Q.274) Which country finished at the top in the medals tally in the ISSF Shooting World Cup 2021 held in New Delhi?

a) Australia

b) Germany

c) China

d) India

e) Japan

Q.275) Where is the headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) located?

a) Rome, Italy

b) Geneva, Switzerland

c) London, UK

d) Paris, France

e) Brussels, Belgium

Q.276) What is the capital of Afghanistan?

a) Riyadh

b) Dushanbe

c) Kabul

d) Dubai

e) Tehran

Q.277) Which state does Gir Forest National Park belong to?

a) Bihar

b) Karnataka

c) Gujarat

d) Kerala

e) Sikkim

Q.278) The 11th edition of Indo-US joint special forces exercise Vajra Prahar 2021 held in _____.

a) Uttarakhand

b) Himachal Pradesh

c) Haryana

d) Nagaland

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.279) Which Union Minister inaugurated a center for happiness in the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu?

a) Ramesh Pokhriyal

b) Nirmala Sitharaman

c) S Jaishankar

d) Rajnath Singh

e) Piyush Goyal

Q.280) Which organisation extended penalty waiver on dynamic QR Code implementation till 30 June 2021?

a) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

b) Securities and Exchange Board of India

c) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

d) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

e) Union Ministry of Finance

Q.281) What is the projected India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 according to the World Bank report?

a) 14.1%

b) 13.7%

c) 11.2%

d) 10.1%

e) 13.9%

Q.282) Which bank signed a loan agreement of \$1 billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)?

a) Union Bank of India

b) State Bank of India

c) Bank of Baroda

d) HDFC Bank

e) Indian Bank

Q.283) Which bank signed an MoU with Maruti Suzuki India Limited to offer an affordable finance scheme?

a) Canara Bank

b) Karnataka Bank

c) State Bank of India

d) Lakshmi Vilas Bank

e) Standard Chartered Bank

Q.284) Who was appointed as the new office-bearers of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA)?

a) Mohan Kumar

b) Anshuman Singhania

c) Vinay Sinha

d) Both and b

e) All of the above

Q.285) What is the rank of India according to the WEF Global Gender Gap Index?

a) 155

b) 167

c) 140

d) 175

e) 133

Q.286) Which small finance bank has partnered with nStore to digitise offline retailers?

a) Equitas Small Finance Bank

b) Jana Small Finance Bank

c) ESAF Small Finance Bank

d) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

e) AU Small Finance Bank

Q.287) Who became the first Sri Lankan to hit six 6s in an over?

a) Angelo Mathews

b) Dinesh Chandimal

c) Thisara Perera

d) Dhananjaya de Silva

e) Oshada Fernando

Q.288) Which organisation collaborated with the Union Ayush ministry and organised 'Ayurveda Parav' to promote Ayurveda?

a) Social Welfare & Research Centre

b) Shakti World Association

c) Vinoba Seva Pratistan

d) Subhadra Mahtab Seva Sadan

e) None of the above

Q.289) Prahlad Singh Patel and Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre' at _____.

a) Orchha

b) Khajuraho

c) Hampi

d) Konark

e) Ajanta Caves

Q.290) Which country became the second country after India to legalise paid leave for miscarriages?

a) Australia

b) Germany

c) Denmark

d) New Zealand

e) Iceland

Q.291) Which bank partnered with Tide (UK-based fintech) to serve the banking needs of Indian SMEs?

a) Axis Bank

b) YES Bank

c) RBL Bank

d) HDFC Bank

e) SBI

Q.292) Which startup company developed low-cost internet services called "Giga Mesh"?

a) Tencent Holdings

b) Astrome

c) United Techno

d) Nvidia

e) Tesla

Q.293) What is the projected India's GDP growth forecast for the FY22 according to the UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Report?

a) 6%

b) 8%

c) 9%

d) 7%

e) 5%

Q.294) When is the World Backup Day observed?

a) 31 March

b) 22 March

c) 11 March

d) 30 March

e) 28 March

Q.295) When is the International Day of Drug Checking observed?

a) 29 March

b) 30 March

c) 31 March

d) 27 March

e) 28 March

Q.296) Where is Pin Valley National Park located?

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Arunachal Pradesh

c) Maharashtra

d) Gujarat

e) Chhattisgarh

Q.297) Where is the headquarters of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)?

a) Geneva, Switzerland

b) Washington DC, USA

c) New York, USA

d) Rome, Italy

e) Paris, France

Q.298) Tata Motors signed a three-year MoU with which bank for financial assistance of light commercial vehicles?

a) Union Bank of India

b) Canara Bank

c) State Bank of India

d) Indian Overseas Bank

e) Bank of Baroda

Q.299) Which bank launched the "KBL Smart Trade" in partnership with IIFL Securities?

a) Indian Bank

b) UCO Bank

c) Karnataka Bank

d) RBL Bank

e) YES Bank

Q.300) Which is the first Union Territory that achieved 100% functional household tap connection coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission?

a) Daman and Diu

b) Chandigarh

c) Andaman and Nicobar

d) Lakshadweep

e) Puducherry

BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ

Q.1) Fino Payments Bank was upgraded to Scheduled Commercial Bank status by the RBI. Under which schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, did banks get the status of a scheduled bank?

a) Schedule 1st

b) Schedule 2nd

c) Schedule 3rd

d) Schedule 4th

e) Schedule 5th

Q.2) With which bank did SBI General Insurance sign a Corporate Agency Agreement?

a) Axis Bank

b) IndusInd Bank

c) Bank of Maharashtra

d) Indian Overseas Bank

e) Bank of India

Q.3) Which health insurance company introduced India's first health insurance plan with up to 100 per cent return on the premium?

a) Kotak Mahindra Health Insurance

b) Aditya Birla Health Insurance

c) Apollo Munich Health Insurance

d) Bajaj Allianz Health Insurance

e) Bharti AXA Health Insurance

Q.4) SIDBI signed an MoU with which organisation to test the feasibility of debt capital platform for MSMEs?

a) National Stock Exchange

b) National Company Law Tribunal

c) Central Board of Direct Taxes

d) Bombay Stock Exchange

e) Central Board of Direct Taxes

Q.5) Matam Venkata Rao was appointed as the MD & CEO of Central Bank of India. He was an executive director of which bank previously?

a) Indian Bank

b) UCO Bank

c) Canara Bank

d) State Bank of India

e) Axis Bank

Q.6) Agritech firm Arya partnered with which bank to extend warehouse finance to farmers?

a) Indian Bank

b) UCO Bank

c) Canara Bank

d) State Bank of India

e) Axis Bank

Q.7) Which bank has partnered with WhatsApp to offer basic banking services?

- a) Indian Bank
- b) Axis Bank**
- c) Canara Bank
- d) State Bank of India
- e) HDFC Bank

Q.8) What is the interest rate of Provident Fund deposits for 2020-21 by EPFO?

- a) 5.5%
- b) 7.7%
- c) 7.6%
- d) 8.5%**
- e) 9.2%

Q.9) Which entity had cancelled Sahara India Financial Corp's registration as sub-broker?

- a) RBI
- b) NABARD
- c) SIDBI
- d) SEBI**
- e) BSE

Q.10) Which bank signed an MoU with the Indian Army to handle salary accounts of personnel?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- c) Axis Bank
- d) YES Bank
- e) Federal Bank

Q.11) PNB Housing Finance signed a strategic co-lending pact with which bank for retail home loans?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- c) Axis Bank
- d) YES Bank**
- e) Federal Bank

Q.12) Who has partnered with SBI Payments to launch 'RuPay SoftPoS' for merchants?

- a) NFS
- b) NPCI**
- c) SIDBI
- d) SEBI
- e) RBI

Q.13) Which organisation's report stated that gender inequality had cost the world \$70 trillion since 1990?

- a) UNDP
- b) BofA Securities**
- c) NCAER
- d) UNICEF
- e) UNESCO

Q.14) Which company had launched "Business Kisht Suraksha" to protect MFIs and financial institutions against calamities and natural disasters?

- a) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited
- b) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited
- c) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited**
- d) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited
- e) Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited

Q.15) Which company had partnered with UN Women to launch an IWD storefront for women sellers?

- a) Flipkart
- b) Amazon India**
- c) Myntra
- d) TCS
- e) Wipro India

Q.16) Titan's Fastrack had tied up with which bank to launch a smart fitness band?

- a) Indian Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) State Bank of India**
- d) Canara Bank
- e) Bank of Baroda

Q.17) Which bank launched the SmartUp Unnati programme for mentoring women entrepreneurs?

- a) SBI
- b) Indian Bank
- c) PNB
- d) HDFC**
- e) ICICI

Q.18) Which service was launched by Yes Bank that offers preferentially priced loans and healthcare benefits for women?

- a) Yes Health
- b) Yes Loan
- c) Yes Essence**
- d) Yes Interest
- e) Yes Protection

Q.19) What is the threshold limit of the turnover above which the Government had made it mandatory for businesses to generate e-invoices for B2B transactions from April 1?

- a) 50 crores**
- b) 100 crores
- c) 20 crores

d) 150 crores

e) None of the above

Q.20) Which bank had partnered with Aquaconnect to generate formal credit for aquaculture farmers?

a) Canara Bank

b) Indian Bank

c) Bank of Baroda

d) Punjab National Bank

e) None of the above

Q.21) Which bank launched contactless payment wearable devices starting at Rs. 750?

a) HDFC Bank

b) IndusInd Bank

c) State Bank of India

d) Axis Bank

e) ICICI Bank

Q.22) Which bank had topped the list of Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's (MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard for 3 consecutive months?

a) ICICI Bank

b) HSBC bank

c) Andhra Bank

d) Bank of India

e) State Bank of India

Q.23) Which company partnered with Karur Vysya Bank for co-lending business?

a) Raja Ram

b) Bajaj Finance

c) Muthoot Finance

d) Chola Mandalam Investment

e) Mehta's Finance

Q.24) Which rating agency had projected India's GDP to grow at 11% in FY22?

a) SMERA

b) CRISIL

c) ICRA

d) Fitch

e) S&P

Q.25) What is the projected Indian GDP growth rate for FY22 according to the OECD Report?

a) 14.3%

b) 12.6%

c) 11.3%

d) 10.6%

e) 15.9%

Q.26) Which e-commerce company launched Soundbox 2.0 and Smart POS for ease of digital payment to merchants?

a) Amazon

b) Paytm

c) Flipkart

d) ShopClues

e) Snapdeal

Q.27) Which general insurance company partnered with InterMiles to introduce Free Cancellation Travel Insurance?

a) ICICI Lombard

b) Aeges Insurance

c) Edelweiss General Insurance

d) HDFC Insurance

e) SBI General Insurance

Q.28) RBI had asked banks to implement an image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by 30 September 2021. CTS commenced in _____.

a) 2015

b) 2010

c) 2008

d) 2017

e) 2012

Q.29) Which insurance company had launched a new protection & savings plan named "Bachat Plus"?

a) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company

b) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company

c) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company

d) Life Insurance Corporation of India

e) The Oriental Insurance Company

Q.30) AU Small Finance Bank raised Rs. 625.50 crores through QIP. What does 'I' denote in QIP?

a) Investment

b) Institutional

c) Interest

d) Initiative

e) Industry

Q.31) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched _____ feature to address issues and resolve complaints of UPI transactions.

a) UPI-Help

b) Redressal

c) UPI-Complaint

d) Grievance

e) UPI-Solution

Q.32) Which company partnered with the Delhi Technological University to set up an Innovation Lab?

a) Tesla

b) Samsung

c) Nokia

d) Vivo

e) Amazon

Q.33) Under which section did the RBI impose a 2-crore penalty on SBI for the payment of remuneration to employees in the form of commission?

a) Section 12

b) Section 14

c) Section 10

d) Section 11

e) Section 22

Q.34) Which bank was awarded the first Secured Overnight Financing Rate linked ECB deal with the Indian Oil Corporation?

a) SBI

b) Yes Bank

c) HDFC Bank

d) Indian Bank

e) UCO Bank

Q.35) Which organisation provided \$200 million to Bangladesh to support COVID-19 affected youth and returnee migrants?

a) ADB

b) AIIB

c) New Development Bank

d) World Bank

e) None of the above

Q.36) What amount does the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) announce for renewable energy in India?

a) \$41 million

b) \$45 million

c) \$48 million

d) \$55 million

e) \$40 million

Q.37) Which bank had executed the world's first green hedging transaction with Continuum?

a) Standard Chartered Bank

b) Citibank

c) Deutsche Bank

d) The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

e) DBS Bank

Q.38) What percentage is projected as India's GDP growth in 2021 according to Moody's Report?

a) 13%

b) 9%

c) 11%

d) 12%

e) 8%

Q.39) Which NBFC was imposed a penalty of Rs. 15 lakhs by the Reserve Bank of India?

a) Kotak Mahindra Investments Limited

b) Bajaj Finserv Limited

c) PNB Housing Finance Limited

d) Fedbank Financial Services Limited

e) Muthoot Finance Limited

Q.40) IRDAI increased the maximum cover under the Arogya Sanjeevani Policy from 5 lakhs to _____.

a) 15 lakhs

b) 7 lakhs

c) 10 lakhs

d) 12 lakhs

e) 20 lakhs

Q.41) Which organisation signed an MoU with IFSCA for the development of GIFT City as a world-class Fintech hub?

a) ASSOCHAM

b) FICCI

c) CII

d) NASSCOM

e) NABARD

Q.42) Which amount was fixed as Provident Fund deposit threshold limit for tax-free interest?

a) Rs. 3 Lakhs

b) Rs. 8 Lakhs

c) Rs. 6 Lakhs

d) Rs. 5 Lakhs

e) Rs. 4 Lakhs

Q.43) Which Small Finance Bank was awarded with 'Great place to work' certification?

a) Equitas Small Finance Bank

b) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

c) Suryoday Small Finance Bank

d) ESAF Small Finance Bank

e) Fincare Small Finance Bank

Q.44) What is the revised GDP growth of India for the fiscal year 2022-23, as per the Fitch Report?

a) 14.2%

b) 12.5%

c) 11.3%

d) 12.8%

e) 10.9%

Q.45) Name the savings account which was launched by Indian Overseas Bank for millennials?

a) IND Plus

b) IOB Trendy

c) IOB Share

d) IOB Win

e) IOB Right

Q.46) Which bank appointed DS Ravindran as an additional director?

a) Karnataka Bank

b) Bank of India

c) Bank of Maharashtra

d) Canara Bank

e) Punjab National Bank

Q.47) Which bank partnered with BillDesk and Razorpay to launch an instant EMI facility to break high-value transactions into EMIs?

a) Axis Bank

b) ICICI Bank

c) HDFC Bank

d) SBI

e) Union Bank of India

Q.48) Which bank was named India's best SME bank according to the Asiamoney report?

a) Axis Bank

b) HDFC Bank

c) Federal Bank

d) SBI

e) DBS Bank

Q.49) Which bank launched the "YES Essence Plus" accelerator to support women entrepreneurs partnered with SHEROES?

a) RBL Bank

b) HDFC Bank

c) Indian Bank

d) YES Bank

e) Union Bank of India

Q.50) What percentage is projected as India's GDP growth in FY22 according to S&P Global Rating report?

a) 13%

b) 14%

c) 12%

d) 11%

e) 10%

ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Q(1-25) Vocabulary

1. combat

Meaning: fighting between armed forces.

Synonyms: conflict, attack, counter

Antonyms: harmony, peace, amity

Usage: "five soldiers were shot down in **combat**"

2. tottering

Meaning: move in a feeble or unsteady way.

Synonyms: toddle, stumble, hobble

Antonyms: strong, stable, steady

Usage: "a hunched figure was **tottering** down the path"

3. vulnerable

Meaning: exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally. (adj)

Synonyms: unprotected, unsafe, pregnable

Antonyms: protected, safe, resilient

Usage: "Older persons are in a **vulnerable** position"

4. conceal

Meaning: not allow to be seen; hide.

Synonyms: obscure, camouflage, enshroud

Antonyms: reveal, expose, disclose

Usage: "a thick cover of mangroves **concealed** the distant sea"

5. proactive

Meaning: (of a person or action) creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to it after it has happened (adj).

Synonyms: energetic, dynamic, motivated

Antonyms: idle, dull, lethargic

Usage: "employers must take a **proactive** approach to improve their performance"

6. gratify

Meaning: give (someone) pleasure or satisfaction (v).

Synonyms: enchant, delight, satisfy

Antonyms: depress, frustrate, displease

Usage: "she was **gratified** to see the shock in Jim's eyes"

7. Isolation

Meaning: the process or fact of isolating or being isolated.

Synonyms: confine, detach, disconnect

Antonyms: attach, combine, connect

Usage: He wished to **isolate** Vere, to preserve her as she was affected with corona virus.

8. Revamp

Meaning: give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to.

Synonyms: clean, overhaul, refurbish

Antonyms: break, damage, destroy

Usage: She would learn how to keep her own bank-account and **revamp** her arithmetic.

9. Venturous

Meaning: tending to take risks or daring experiences

Synonyms: adventurous, daring

Antonyms: bore, timid, cowardly

Usage: A **venturous** daredevil, Veera loved doing thrill-seeking activities on her vacation.

10. Staid

Meaning: marked by settled sedateness and often prim self-restraint

Synonyms: dignified, composed, earnest

Antonyms: indecorous, frivolous, hilarious

Usage: Jaya was given a **staid** title- 'The Iron Lady'.

11. Irrefutable

Meaning: Impossible to disapprove or deny.

Synonyms: unquestionable, incontrovertible, undeniable

Antonyms: unreliable, refutable, deniable

Usage: I had to admit her argument had an **irrefutable** logic to it.

12. Revere

Meaning: feel deep respect or admiration for (something)

Synonyms: respect, admire, cherish

Antonyms: blaspheme, desecrate, profane

Usage: If you want to achieve any goal, **revere** the process & success will follow.

13. Valiant

Meaning: possessing or showing courage or determination.

Synonyms: brave, fearless, courageous, valorous

Antonyms: cowardly, irresolute

Usage: Firemen are **valiant** individuals who put their lives in risk to save others.

14. Mellow

Meaning: (especially of a sound, flavor, or color) pleasantly smooth or soft; free from harshness.

Synonyms: dulcet, euphonious, melodious

Antonyms: rugged, abrading, gruff

Usage: His **mellow** voice and his qualitative speech made everyone applaud him

15. Torrid

Meaning: Very hot and dry

Synonyms: hot, sweltering,

Antonyms: Cold, cool, wet

Usage: The Sahara Desert is a **torrid** zone.

16. Vague

Meaning: of uncertain, indefinite, or unclear character or **Meaning.**

Synonyms: indistinct, indefinite, obscure

Antonyms: clear, certain, distinct

Usage: She rolled her eyes at the **vague** response.

17. Idolize

Meaning: to adore, admire, or love greatly

Synonyms: admire, acknowledge, inspire

Antonyms: dislike, disrespect, dull

Usage: She wanted someone to **idolize** her for her strong work ethic.

18. Sceptical

Meaning: not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations.

Synonyms: dubious, doubtful, unconvinced

Antonyms: certain, convinced, optimistic

Usage: it's good to be **sceptical** about what you see on TV.

19. Ensnice

Meaning: establish or settle (someone) in a comfortable, safe place.

Synonyms: settle, install, establish, entrench

Antonyms: depart, displace

Usage: Clara is comfortably ensniced in a beach chair and has no immediate plans to return to work.

20. Inchoate

Meaning: just begun and so not fully formed or developed; rudimentary.

Synonyms: budding, inceptive, nascent.

Antonyms: developed, full-fledged, evolved.

Usage: Having just come into existence a few years ago, the new political party is considered **inchoate** by many historians.

21. Peculiar

Meaning: different from either is normal or expected; strange.

Synonyms: strange, unusual, curious, abnormal

Antonyms: common, general, indefinite, ordinary

Usage: My uncle is a **peculiar** man who wears the same outfit several days a week.

22. Scoff

Meaning: speak to someone or about something in a scornfully derisive or mocking way.

Synonyms: mock, deride, ridicule

Antonyms: flatter, praise, compliment

Usage: The rude little rich girl thought it was fun to **scoff** at the poor children at her school.

23. Salience

Meaning: the quality of being particularly noticeable or important; prominence.

Synonyms: prominence, eminence, fame, importance

Antonyms: insignificance, unimportance

Usage: Two board members wanted to discuss the **salience** of the health care issue, but the others didn't see the importance.

24. Sulky

Meaning: morose, bad-tempered, and resentful; refusing to be cooperative or cheerful.

Synonyms: Sullen, surly, pouting, petulant

Antonyms: cheerful, amiable

Usage: Jay was quite **sulky** at the graduation party, but he tried to hide his apathetic attitude.

25. Prudence

Meaning: the quality of being prudent; cautiousness.

Synonyms: wisdom, judgment, sagacity, shrewdness

Antonyms: folly, recklessness

Usage: Maybe you'll exercise a little more financial **prudence** next time.

26. Usher

Meaning: show or guide (someone) somewhere.

Synonyms: escort, accompany, help, assist.

Antonyms: neglect, stop, trail, cease.

Usage: By refusing to discuss euthanasia, they **usher** in something worse.

27. Telltale

Meaning: revealing, indicating, or betraying something.

Synonyms: denotative, indicative, reflective, signifying.

Antonyms: cheeseparing, uninformative, unaired, secretive.

Usage: Her nasty tone was a **telltale** sign of her irritation, even though she didn't say anything particularly Meaningful.

28. Odious

Meaning: extremely unpleasant; repulsive.

Synonyms: revolting, repulsive, repellent, repugnant

Antonyms: delightful, pleasant, agreeable, charming

Usage: The athlete got arrested for participating in the **odious** sport of dogfighting

29. Sack

Meaning: dismiss from employment.

Synonyms: bounce, discharge, dismiss, terminate,

Antonyms: recruit, employ, engage, hire.

Usage: Any official found to be involved would be **sacked** on the spot.

30. Punctilious

Meaning: showing great attention to detail or correct behavior.

Synonym: meticulous, conscientious, careful, diligent, attentive,

Antonyms: careless, easy-going, slapdash

Usage: While I enjoy cleanliness, I am not so **punctilious** that I get upset about a little dust on my furniture.

Q (31-35): The sentences given below are divided into four parts (A), (B), (C), (D). Find out the part which has an error, if all the parts of the sentence are correct, then choose no error as your answer.

31. The banker's association (A)/ has submitted a memorandum (B)/ for the fulfilment of (C)/ their demands. (D)/ No error (E).

32. There were only two (A)/ warriors but each and every (B)/ warrior was equal (C)/ to six persons. (D)/ No error (E)

33. Whenever he (A) /is coming here, (B)/ he brings many(C)/ gifts for me. (D)/No error (E)

34. The thief had (A)/ hardly put the cash (B)/ in his pocket (C)/ than the owner woke up. (D) / No error (E)

35. Mrs Kamal's family (A)/ has a car (B)/ but they have (C)/ now sold it. (D)/ No error (E)

Q (36 – 40): In the following questions four sentences are given, denoted by a), b), c), d) and have an error. choose the sentence which is grammatically correct. If all the sentences are incorrect, then choose e).

36. a. If all goes well, the examination scheduled for next month will all set to be completely free from annoying power cuts and disruptions.

b. If all goes well, the examination scheduled for next month would all set to completely free from annoying power cuts and disruptions.

c. If all goes well, the examination scheduled for next month is all set to be completely free from annoying power cuts and disruptions.

d. If all goes well, the examination scheduled for next month was all set to be completely free from annoying power cuts and disruptions.

a) a b) b c) c
d) d e) All are incorrect

37. a. I pleaded with him with a view to convincing him of my innocence in the matter.

b. I pleaded with him with a view to convince him of my innocence in the matter.

c. I pleaded to him with a view to convincing him of my innocence in the matter.

d. I pleaded with him of a view to convince him of my innocence in the matter.

a) a b) b c) c
d) d e) All are incorrect

38. a. Neither her husband nor her brother were able to help her in her work.

b. Neither her husband nor her brother were not able to help her in her work.

c. Neither her husband nor her brothers was able to help her in her work.

d. Neither her husband nor her brother was able to help her in her work.

a) a b) b c) c
d) d e) All are incorrect

39. a. The flood situation this year is worst than that prevailed in the last year.

b. The flood situation this year is more worst than that prevailed in the last year.

c. The flood situation this year is worse than that prevailed in the last year.

d. The flood situation this year is worser than what prevailed in the last year.

a) a b) b c) c
d) d e) All are incorrect

40. a. The President has denied that the economy is in recession or was go into one despite a spate of downcast reports.

b. The President has denied that the economy is in recession or was going into one despite a spate of downcast reports.

c. The President has denied that the economy is in recession or is going into one despite a spate of downcast reports.

d. The President has denied that the economy is in recession or going into one despite a spate of downcast reports.

a) a b) b c) c
d) d e) All are incorrect

Q (41-45): Rearrange the following six sentences marked as (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions given below.

A) Of course, once it reaches a relative degree of development, the energy demand becomes more stable.

B) Look around you: every step into progress comes with an addition of demand for energy cars, ships and aircraft to move, hospitals to give quality healthcare, education, as it follow the model of e-connectivity.

C) This is clearly reflected in the average energy consumption per person across nations — for instance, an average American consumes more than 15 times the energy consumed by an average Indian.

D) There is a distinct and categorical correlation between the energy consumption and income of a nation — each reinforcing the other.

E) Energy is the most fundamental requirement of every society or nation as it progresses through the ladder of development.

F) In fact, every element of our lives is increasingly going to become energy-intensive — that is a necessary prerequisite for development.

41) Which of the following would be the **FIFTH** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) B b) D c) E
d) C e) F

42) Which of the following would be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

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

43) Which of the following would be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) D b) F c) B
d) A e) C

44) Which of the following would be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) B b) A c) C
d) F e) E

45) Which of the following would be the **SIXTH** sentence after rearrangement?

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

Q (46-50): Rearrange the following six sentences marked as (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions given below.

A) The complainant agreed to pay the amount in five instalments of Rs.10,000 each.

B) "A trap was laid, and the accused was arrested," the official said.

C) The principal had initially demanded a 20 per cent share of the dues from Subhash, the school's drawing teacher, but later settled for Rs.50,000.

D) On Thursday, Subhash was to pay the first instalment, but instead of paying the amount, he approached the ACB.

E) The principal of a school in Delhi's Old Seemapuri was on Thursday caught red-handed by the Anti-Corruption Branch while allegedly accepting bribe from a teacher.

F) According to an ACB official, accused Jitender Kumar had demanded the bribe to clear the teacher's salary dues amounting to Rs.50-60 lakh.

46) Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) B b) D c) E
d) C e) F

47) Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) F b) D c) E
d) A e) C

48) Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) E b) F c) B
d) A e) C

49) Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) B b) A c) C
d) F e) D

50) Which of the following should be the **SIXTH (LAST)** sentence after rearrangement?

- a) C b) D c) B
d) A e) F

Answer Key

31. d, 32. b, 33. b, 34. d, 35. b, 36. a, 37. a, 38. d, 39. c, 40. c, 41. e, 42. d, 43. a, 44. a, 45. a, 46. c, 47. a, 48. e, 49. b, 50. c

SIMPLIFICATIONS**D.(1-50) Find the value of question mark.**

Q.1) $32.5 + 42.5 + 1.25 + 7.25 = (?) + (3 \times 4.5)$

- a) 82
- b) 80
- c) 79
- d) 60
- e) 70

Q.2) $12.12 \times 4 + 6.565 \times 8 = (?)^2 + 1$

- a) 100
- b) 101
- c) 102
- d) 10
- e) 110

Q.3) $17^2 + 3 \times (?) = 26^2 - 18$

- a) 133
- b) 124
- c) 123
- d) 113
- e) 112

Q.4) $[(0.32 \times 25) + (0.08 \times 150)]^2 = \frac{(?)}{2}$

- a) 800
- b) 802
- c) 700
- d) 600
- e) 850

Q.5) $\frac{5609}{71} \times \frac{8439}{87} = (?)^2 \times (19.4 \times 15.8)$

- a) 25
- b) 5
- c) 50
- d) 100
- e) 10

Q.6) $13.5\% \text{ of } 1200 + (0.28 \times 25) = \sqrt{(?)}$

- a) 13
- b) 196
- c) 169
- d) 64
- e) 28561

Q.7) $(16 \times 19 + 16^2 + 13^3) = (?) \times 229.75$

- a) 10
- b) 12
- c) 15
- d) 17
- e) 18

Q.8) $\sqrt{8649} \times 3.5 + \frac{9506}{98} \times 2.5 = 2 \times (?)$

- a) 278
- b) 264
- c) 290

d) 284

e) 300

Q.9) $365 \times 2.6 - 365 \times 2.4 = 9.125 \times (?)$

- a) 7
- b) 3
- c) 5
- d) 9
- e) 8

Q.10) $\sqrt{7569} \times (25 + 68) = (8 \times 5 \times 2.275) + (?)$

- a) 8400
- b) 8000
- c) 8200
- d) 8700
- e) 8900

Q.11) $54 \times 65 + 6548 \times 1.25 = 500 \times (?)$

- a) 21.39
- b) 23.39
- c) 33.39
- d) 23.09
- e) 29.90

Q.12) $\frac{\sqrt[3]{9261+469}}{0.875 \times 8} \times (?) = 1190$

- a) 17
- b) 19
- c) 20
- d) 23
- e) 27

Q.13) $\frac{\frac{4641}{51} + \frac{2407}{29}}{3} = (?)^2 - (0.2 \times 30)$

- a) 64
- b) 9
- c) 8
- d) 45
- e) 6

Q.14) $(1.2\% \text{ of } 3650 + 2.8\% \text{ of } (?)) \times 17 = 3791$

- a) 6400
- b) 4500
- c) 4600
- d) 5400
- e) 2600

Q.15) $\frac{125 \times 3.6 - 26 \times 4.5}{3} = 13.875 \times (?)$

- a) 5
- b) 6
- c) 7
- d) 9
- e) 8

Q.16) $265 \times 5 + 32 \times 68 + 13 \times 47 = (?) + (6.355 \times 120 + 12.4 \times 21)$

- a) 2084
- b) 3089
- c) 2984

d) 2098

e) 2678

Q.17) $300 \times 1.35 + 420 \times 1.75 + (?) = (1.375 \times 8)^3$

a) 190

b) 193

c) 191

d) 192

e) 198

Q.18) $94 + 347 + 236 + 392 - (?) = 37 + 3728 - 3181$

a) 472

b) 482

c) 490

d) 475

e) 485

Q.19) $(0.81)^2 \div (0.729)^3 \times (0.9)^2 = (0.9)^{?-3}$

a) 3

b) 6

c) 7

d) 0

e) 4

Q.20) $34.5\% \text{ of } 1800 + 12.4\% \text{ of } 1500 = (?)^3 + 78$

a) 3

b) 5

c) 7

d) 8

e) 9

Q.21) $\sqrt{15^2 \times 12 \div (9) - 125 + 21} = ?$

a) 13

b) 14

c) 17

d) 18

e) 15

Q.22) $2\frac{1}{8} - 1\frac{1}{16} = ? + 1\frac{1}{32} - 1\frac{9}{64}$ a) $1\frac{11}{64}$ b) $1\frac{1}{8}$ c) $1\frac{1}{32}$ d) $2\frac{3}{8}$ e) $1\frac{1}{4}$ Q.23) $65\% \text{ of } \sqrt{3136} \times 5 = ? + 154$

a) 14

b) 7

c) 21

d) 28

e) 35

Q.24) $7.2 \times 5.6 \div 11.2 + \frac{10.8}{18} - \frac{1}{10} = (?)$

a) 4.1

b) 3.2

c) 5.6

d) 7.1

e) 3.3

Q.25) $15\% \text{ of } 200 + 20\% \text{ of } 400 - 35\% \text{ of } 200 = x$

a) 80

b) 70

c) 10

d) 20

e) 40

Q.26) $1.1 \times 32 + 3.3 \times 16 + 1.1 \times 20 = (?) \times 55$

a) 4

b) 3

c) 2

d) 5

e) 6

Q.27) $6^2 + 80\% \text{ of } 80 = \sqrt{?}$

a) 100

b) 10000

c) 10

d) 1

e) None of the above

Q.28) $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{4}{9} \times \frac{27}{8} \times \frac{10}{15} = \frac{?}{24}$

a) 8

b) 6

c) 7

d) 5

e) 2

Q.29) $21.12 + 1221.21 - 21.21 + 12.21 + 21.01 = (?)$

a) 1245.34

b) 1254.34

c) 1134.76

d) 1142.43

e) None of the above

Q.30) $\sqrt{3249} - \sqrt{2209} + (?) = \sqrt[3]{1000}$

a) 10

b) 90

c) 5

d) 0

e) 17

Q.31) $\left(\frac{1}{4}\% \text{ of } 2400\right) \times \frac{2}{5} \text{ of } 725 = (?) - 12\% \text{ of } 25$

a) 1765

b) 1868

c) 1439

d) 1743

e) None of the above

Q.32) $(81)^3 \times 9^8 \div (729)^3 = 9^?$

a) 5

b) 0

- c) 12
d) 7
e) None of the above

Q.33) $1.2 \times 1.3 \times 1.4 \times 1.5 \times (?) = 39.312$

- a) 13
b) 22
c) 12
d) 27
e) None of the above

Q.34) $\frac{2}{5} \times 1000 + \frac{10}{2} \times 200 \times 500 + 3000 + 2000 = (?)$

- a) 505400
b) 605440
c) 505300
d) 500400
e) None of these

Q.35) $2\frac{3}{5} + 3\frac{2}{3} + 4\frac{1}{10} - 5\frac{2}{5} = (?)$

- a) $4\frac{29}{30}$
b) $5\frac{30}{39}$
c) $3\frac{29}{30}$
d) 3
e) None of the above

Q.36) $0.05 \times 0.2 + \frac{0.05}{0.25} \times 17 \times 15 = (?)$

- a) 51.01
b) 61.01
c) 52.01
d) 53.02
e) None of the above

Q.37) $30\% \text{ of } 2000 \times 150\% \text{ of } 2000 \times 100\% \text{ of } 10 = ? - 200 + 300$

- a) 17999000
b) 17999900
c) 17990000
d) 18900000
e) None of the above

Q.38) $\frac{3}{5} \text{ of } 1000 + \frac{3}{2} \text{ of } 1000 - \frac{5}{4} \text{ of } 500 = ? - \frac{11}{2} \text{ of } 500$

- a) 3225
b) 4225
c) 2245
d) 2345
e) None of the above

Q.39) $13^2 - 10^2 + 21^2 + 9^2 - 2^2 - 4^2 = ?$

- a) 571
b) 582
c) 600
d) 636
e) 763

Q.40) $\frac{12^2}{24} + \frac{13^2}{13} - 1 = ? - \frac{45}{15} + \frac{133}{19}$

- a) 15

- b) 14

- c) 24

- d) 22

- c) 45

Q.41) $\frac{429}{33} + 55 + 66 - 30 = ? - 50 + 33 - 13$

- a) 135
b) 136
c) 134
d) 124

- e) 242

Q.42) $\frac{10000}{50} \times \frac{500}{200} \times \frac{100}{250} \times \frac{1500}{60} \times \frac{5000}{1000} \times \frac{120}{100} = ?$

- a) 30000
b) 70000
c) 80000
d) 50000
e) 60000

Q.43) $500 \times 22 + 600 \times 20 + 300 \times 4 - 1000 \times 4 - 200 \times 10 = ?$

- a) 18200
b) 19200
c) 18300
d) 19300
e) 14800

Q.44) $20\% \text{ of } 200 + 40\% \text{ of } 120 + 65\% \text{ of } 3400 - 26\% \text{ of } 2700 = ?$

- a) 1346
b) 1596
c) 3575
d) 2346
e) 3256

Q.45)

$244.35 + 542.54 + 257.52 + 5753.46 + 859 + 78.658 - 735.528 = ?$

- a) 6500
b) 6800
c) 7200
d) 7000
e) 8600

Q.46) $\frac{\sqrt{225}}{21} \times \frac{\sqrt{441}}{\sqrt{6.25}} \times \sqrt{x} = 1$

- a) 36
b) 6
c) $\frac{1}{36}$
d) 216
e) $\frac{1}{6}$

Q.47) $\frac{0.375}{\sqrt{0.0625}} \times \frac{0.18}{0.75} \times (?)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{9}{25}$

- a) $\frac{3}{5}$
b) 2
c) 0

- d) 1
e) -1

Q.48) $\frac{\frac{1-\frac{3}{5}-\frac{2}{5}}{\frac{1}{5}-\frac{4}{5}-\frac{2}{5}}}{\frac{1}{5}-\frac{4}{5}-\frac{2}{5}} \times (31 \times 2) = (?)$

- a) 35
b) 28
c) 36
d) 40
e) 25

Q.49) $\frac{0.45}{\sqrt{0.1296}} \times \frac{\sqrt{0.1024}}{\sqrt{6.25}} = (?)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

- a) 2.56
b) $(0.16)^2$
c) $(1.6)^2$
d) 0.16
e) 0.016

Q.50) $\left(2 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{4}\right) \div \left(\frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{5} + \frac{1}{5}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) = (?)$

- a) 2.5
b) 3.5
c) 3.5
d) 7.5
e) 2.5

Answer Key

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