

LEGEND OF APRIL

2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

Odisha celebrates its 86th statehood day on 1 April

- **Odisha Day**, also known as **Utkal Dibasa day** was celebrated in memory of the formation of the state (Odisha) as a separate province on **1 April 1936**. This year (2021) marks the **86th Utkal Divas** or the foundation day of Odisha.

RBI celebrates its 86th Foundation Day on 1 April 2021

- The **Reserve Bank of India** is India's central bank and regulatory body under the jurisdiction of **the Union Ministry of Finance**, Government of India. The Reserve Bank of India was established on **1 April 1935** in accordance with the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches a new cruise service connecting Hazira port in Surat and Diu Island

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent charge) **Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a new cruise service connecting Hazira port in **Surat** and **Diu Island**.
- The **300-passenger** capacity cruise ship will have **16 cabins**. It will make two round trips during the week.

Union Government extended the emergency credit line guarantee scheme till 30 June

- The **Union government** extended the **Rs 3-lakh-crore** emergency credit line guarantee scheme by another three months till **30 June** and also widened its scope to new sectors, including **hospitality, travel and tourism**.
- **ECLGS 3.0** would involve extending credit of up to **40 per cent** of total credit outstanding across all lending institutions as of **29 February 2020**. The tenor of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0 would be **6 years**, including a moratorium period of **2 years**.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar flags off DEMU train from Phaltan to Pune via Lonand

- Union Minister **Prakash Javadekar** flagged off the **DEMU train** from **Phaltan** in Satara district to **Pune** via Lonand through a video conference.

Union Government mops up Rs. 32,835 crores from disinvestment in FY21

- The Union government had mopped up **Rs. 32,835 crore** from **CPSE** share sales and buybacks, thus exceeding the disinvestment target set in the **revised estimates (RE)** for the current fiscal 2021-22.
- **Secretary of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)**, Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced that the total DIPAM receipts in 2020-21 stand at **Rs 71,857 crores**, which include disinvestment receipts of **Rs 32,835 crores** and dividend receipts of **Rs 39,022 crores**.

Union Government infuses Rs. 14,500 crores into four PSBs

- The **Union government** had infused **Rs.14,500 crores** into banks that are under the RBI's **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** framework to improve their financial health.
- **Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India, Bank of India and UCO Bank** are currently under this framework.

Union Cabinet approves Rs. 10,900 crore PLI scheme for the food processing industry

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** Scheme for Food Processing Industry in a bid to support Indian brands of food products in the international markets with an outlay of **Rs. 10,900 crores**.
- The PLI scheme will be implemented over **six years** from **2021-22** to **2026-27** and will facilitate the expansion of processing capacity to generate processed food output of **Rs. 33,494 crores** and generate employment for nearly **2.5 lakh** persons by the year **2026-27**.

West Central Railway becomes the first fully electrified Indian Railways zone

- **West Central Railway** became the first fully electrified railway zone in the country after **CCRS Inspection and Commissioning** of electrification of **Kota–Chittaurgarh** railway section (Srinagar-Jalindri) in the state of **Rajasthan**.

Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-PRIME' in partnership with BMGF & Venture Center

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog** launched '**AIM-PRIME**' (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), an initiative to promote and support science-based **deep-tech startups & ventures** across India.

Union Education Minister launches "MyNEP2020" platform of NCTE Portal

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched the "**MyNEP2020**" platform of NCTE Web Portal. The platform seeks to invite suggestions/inputs/membership from the stakeholders for preparing a draft for the development of **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** and **National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM)**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan addresses the Hope Consortium's World Immunisation and Logistics Summit

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Harsh Vardhan** digitally participated in a panel discussion on vaccine production and distribution across Asia at the "**World Immunisation and Logistics Summit**".

Union government to launch unique id number for all plots of land by 2022

- According to the **Department of Land Resources**, the **14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)** was launched in **10 states** earlier this year and will be rolled out across the country by **March 2022**.

World Bank and AIIB approves a loan for \$300 million canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab

- The **World Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** have approved a loan for **\$300 million** (about Rs 2,190 crores) canal-based drinking water projects in **Punjab**. The project is aimed at ensuring **quality drinking water** and minimise water losses for **Amritsar** and **Ludhiana**.
- The entire project will be co-financed by the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** - \$105 million, **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** - \$105 million, and the **Punjab State Government** - \$90 million.

6-digit HSN code mandatory in invoices for business with over Rs 5 crores turnover

- Businesses with a turnover of more than **Rs 5 crores** will have to furnish a **six-digit HSN** or **tariff code** on the invoices issued for supplies of taxable goods and services from **1 April 2021**.
- Business with a turnover of up to **Rs 5 crore** in the preceding financial year would be required to mandatorily furnish **four-digit HSN** code on **B2B (Business-to-Business)** invoices.

'Tulip Festival' was celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Tulip festival** concluded with the enthralling **cultural** and **musical performances** by popular artists and singers from within and outside **Jammu and Kashmir**.

World Bank approves \$32 million project to improve health services in Mizoram

- The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors had approved a **\$32 million** project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in **Mizoram**.
- The project titled "**Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project**" will strengthen the governance and the management structure of the **Mizoram Health department** and its subsidiaries.

Rajasthan becomes the first state to provide health insurance for all its residents

- **Rajasthan** became the first state in India to provide health insurance for all its **residents**. The state began registration for ‘**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**’, under which each family in the state can claim up to **Rs 5 lakhs** a year for medical expenses.
- People can get registered and be assured of **cashless treatment**. The health insurance scheme was announced by Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** in the state budget **2021-22**.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches the Integrated Health Information Platform

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** virtually launched the **Integrated Health Information Platform**. The Integrated Health Information Platform is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme**. India is the **first country** in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India launches Sankalp se Siddhi

- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**, under the **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, launched “**Sankalp se Siddhi**” – Village and Digital Connect Drive.

Spices Board India signs an MoU with UNDP India’s Accelerator Lab

- **Spices Board India** under the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and **UNDP India’s Accelerator Lab** today signed an Memorandru of Understanding with the aim to build a **blockchain-based traceability interface** for Indian spices to enhance transparency in the supply chain and trade.

India hosts the First Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

- India hosted a Meeting of **BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank** Governors virtually and the meeting was jointly chaired by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** and Governor of Reserve Bank of India, **Shaktikanta Das**. Participants of the meeting included Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the BRICS countries.

Union Ministers Harsh Vardhan and Arjun Munda launches Tribal Health Collaborative ‘Anamaya’

- A multi-stakeholder initiative supported by Piramal Foundation and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)**, **Anamaya** will converge efforts of various government agencies and organisations to enhance the **health** and **nutrition status** of the tribal communities.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches the Madhukranti portal and honey corners of NAFED in New Delhi

- Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the Madhukranti portal and honey corners of the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED)** in New Delhi.
- **Madhukranti portal** is an initiative of the National Bee Board under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission. An MoU was signed for this project between the National Bee Board and Indian Bank.

Union Ministry of AYUSH and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying signs an MoU for research on new formulations in quality drugs for veterinary science

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)**, **Union Ministry of AYUSH** and the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** for research on new formulations in quality drugs for veterinary science through **medicinal herbs**.

IIT Guwahati develops technique to boost the performance of lithium-ion battery used in electric vehicles

- The Researchers of the **Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati** had developed an advanced technique to boost the overall performance of rechargeable **lithium-ion batteries** used in the electric vehicle.

Chief Justice of India SA Bobde launches Supreme Court's first AI-driven research portal 'SUPACE'

- Chief Justice of India **SA Bobde** had unveiled the first-of-its-kind **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** based portal of the Supreme Court of India named "**SUPACE**" (**Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency**) portal is a tool and will collect relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.

India and Netherlands announced the launch of a strategic partnership in the water sector

- **India** and the **Netherlands** had announced the launch of the strategic partnership in the **water sector** to further intensify ongoing cooperation and better coherence in the area.

India and Japan signed an MoU for academic and research cooperation

- The MoU was signed between the **National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL)** and the **Department of Space and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH)**, Kyoto University, for academic and research cooperation and exchange.

Flipkart to set up Asia's largest fulfilment centre in Gurugram, Haryana

- **Haryana** Government has approved the allotment of **140 acres of land** to e-commerce major **Flipkart** for setting up its largest fulfilment centre in **Asia**, having a covered area of 3 million square feet in Patli Hajipur in **Gurugram district's Manesar**.

Ghaziabad issued India's first municipal green bonds

- **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN)** announced successfully raising and listing **India's first Green Municipal bond issue**. Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation issued municipal green bonds in **BSE** and raised **Rs. 150 crores** at **8.1 per cent**.

Ladakh plans to provide tap water connection to every household by 2022

- **Ladakh** has planned to achieve the target of providing a tap connection to every rural household by **2022** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. The Union Territory presented its annual action plan to provide tap water connection to the **rural households** before the Committee of the Department of **Drinking Water and Sanitation**.

Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for rowing in Srinagar

- Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs **Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated the **Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE)** for rowing at the **Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy**. KISCE will focus on rowing and will be provided a first-time grant of **Rs. 145.16 lakhs** and an annual recurring grant of **Rs. 96.17 lakh**.

Piyush Goyal inaugurated an electronic marketplace "e-SANTA" to connect aqua farmers and buyers

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated **e-SANTA**. e-SANTA (Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture) is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect **aqua farmers and buyers**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 6th edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue

- The Raisina Dialogue event is jointly organised by the **Union Ministry of External Affairs** and the Observer Research Foundation. The theme for the 2021 edition is "**#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers, and Out of Control**".

Maharashtra gets India's first floating LNG storage and regasification unit

- India's first **Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU)** had arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal in **Maharashtra**. This will also be the first year-round **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** terminal in **Maharashtra**.

India launched first-ever app “Little Guru” to teach the Sanskrit language

- To promote **Sanskrit**, the **Government of India** had launched an app called “**Little Guru**” for people who want to learn the language. The app was developed by the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** and aims to make learning Sanskrit easy and entertaining by gamifying it.

Union Agriculture Ministry signed an MoU with Microsoft for a pilot project in 100 villages of six states to raise farmers income

- Union Agriculture Ministry had signed an MoU with **Microsoft** for a pilot project in **100 villages** of six states. The six states are **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan** and **Andhra Pradesh**. Microsoft will develop a farmer interface for smart and well-organised agriculture, including post-harvest management and distribution.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the Aahaar Kranti mission to spread awareness about nutrition

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** launched **Aahaar Kranti**, a **mission** dedicated to spreading awareness **about nutrition**. It is designed to address the peculiar problem of hunger and diseases in abundance being faced by India and the world.

Principal Scientific Adviser K Vijay Raghavan launched the MANAS App to promote well-being across age groups

- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union Government **K Vijay Raghavan** had launched the **MANAS App** to promote well-being across age groups. MANAS which stands for **Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System** was endorsed as a national program by the Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council.

NCSC launched “Online Grievance Management Portal” for persons from Scheduled Castes

- Union Minister for Communication & IT and Law and Justice **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the “Online Grievance Management Portal of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**.”

Atal Innovation Mission partnered with AICTE to adopt Atal Tinkering Labs

- **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog** and **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**, Union Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell announced their strategic collaboration to empower Atal Tinkering Lab school students for world-class future-ready innovation skills across the country.

NITI Aayog launched India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0

- Intending to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country, the Union **Government think tank NITI Aayog** launched **India Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0**.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the National Nursery Portal

- Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched a '**National Nursery Portal**' to connect **nursery operators with consumers**. The National Nursery Portal was developed by the **National Horticulture Board**.

Amazon launched a \$250 million venture fund for Indian startups

- **Amazon** has announced a **\$250 million** fund for India with the aim to focus on enabling **SME digitisation, agriculture technolog**, and **medical technology**. The announcement came at the tech giant’s second **Smbhav event**.

Piyush Goyal chaired the first meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council

- Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, and Food & Public Distribution **Piyush Goyal** chaired the first meeting of the **National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC)**.

National Internet Exchange of India launched its three new initiatives

- Secretary of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology **Ajay Prakash Sawhney** inaugurated three path-breaking initiatives of the National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI.
- The **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** announced three new initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the **IPv6 protocol** in India. These initiatives are **IP Guru, NIXI Academy, and NIXI-IP-INDEX**.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge

- **EatSmart Cities Challenge** is an opportunity for India to play a pioneering role in developing the concept of integrating food systems into city planning and development.
- The **Transport 4 All Challenge** aims to bring together cities, citizen groups, and startups to develop solutions that improve public transport to better serve the needs of all citizens.

Atal Innovation Mission collaborated with Bayer to work towards healthcare and agriculture innovations

- The Statement of Intent (SoI) will span the promotion of **science education, advancing digital solutions, and agri-tech** to strengthen supply chains as well as healthcare projects.

Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021 concludes in New Delhi

- The **Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference 2021** was concluded at Air Force headquarters in **New Delhi**. The conference was addressed by Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**.
- The three-day conference was held under the theme of '**Reorienting for the Future**'.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launches the world 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product DuroKea Series

- This next-generation **DuroKea antimicrobial technology** starts at **Rs. 189**, kills **99.99 per cent** of germs instantly and leaves behind the long-lasting protective nanoscale coating up to **35 days** till the next wash.

Union Tourism and Culture Minister inaugurates the first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana

- Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (I/C), **Prahlad Singh Patel**, has inaugurated the first-ever online exhibition (www.nmvirtual.in/Virtual_Tour/Ramayana) on **Ramayana**.
- He addressed a webinar, '**India's Heritage: Powering Tourism**', on the **World Heritage Day 2021**.

Union Ministry of Tourism signs an MoU with Cleartrip and Ease My Trip

- **Union Ministry of Tourism** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Cleartrip** and **Ease My Trip** to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units that have self-certified themselves on **SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry)** on the **OTA platform**.
- The MoU also outlines both parties to encourage units to register on **NIDHI (National Integrated Database of Hospital Industry)** and thereby on **saathi** and encourage the local tourism industry with appropriate safeguards for curbing the spread of covid-19.

Italy launches its first-ever mega food park and food processing unit in India

- **Italy** launched its **first-ever mega food park project** in India involving food processing facilities amid efforts from both sides to further ties between the two nations.
- This pilot project named "**The Mega Food Park**" was launched with the signing of a **Letter of Intent** between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park in Gujarat.

Union Government launches Startup India Seed Fund Scheme to create a robust startup ecosystem in India

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal** launched the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**. The Fund Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialisation.
- A corpus of Rs. **945 crores** will be divided over the next **4 years** for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

India and Germany sign agreement on 'Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment'

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Deutsche **Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** GmbH India, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation titled '**Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment**'.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha becomes the first party in India to declare the name of a donor who contributed to electoral bonds

- The **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** is the **first political party** that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds.

Union Cabinet approves an MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

- Union Cabinet approved a fresh Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** and **Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)**.
- The two accountancy institutes will have an opportunity to play a leadership role in addressing new challenges facing the profession in a **globalised environment**.

Union Cabinet approves an MoU between Competition Commission of India and Council for Economic Defence of Brazil

- Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** and the **Administrative Council for Economic Defence of Brazil, (CADE)**.

Jagan Mohan Reddy launches 'YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme' for farmers

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the **YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme**. The Government of **Andhra Pradesh** provided financial assistance of **Rs. 65,000 crores** to the farmers under various schemes.

ITBP sets up a water sports and adventure training institute in Uttarakhand

- A **Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)** was established by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** at **Tehri Dam** in **Uttarakhand**. The Institute was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Uttarakhand **Tirath Singh Rawat** and Union Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the climate summit

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** joined with other global leaders to participate in the **Leaders' Summit on Climate**, a virtual event that will reflect the concerns of US President **Joe Biden** regarding climate change.
- The climate summit was held under the theme "**Our Collective Sprint to 2030**".

Andaman & Nicobar becomes the first large union territory to get organic certification

- **Andaman and Nicobar** certified as organic, the first large contiguous territory to be done under a government scheme.
- The organic certification has been given under the **Large Area Certification (LAC) Scheme** of the **PGS-India** (Participatory Guarantee System) certification programme.

Puducherry presents Annual Action Plan to achieve 'HarGharJal' under Jal Jeevan Mission

- Annual Action Plan meeting on planning and implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** in **Puducherry** was held through video conferencing.
- Puducherry in their AAP showed their roll-out plan for implementing the **Village Action Plan (VAP)** and the constitution of the **Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)**.
- Puducherry plans **100%** saturation by **September 2021**.

Wipro aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040

- IT major Wipro has aimed to achieve **Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** emissions by **2040**, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to **1.5 Celsius**.
- The company also sets an intermediate target of a **55 per cent** reduction in **GHG** emissions by **2030** in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of **2016–17** (April–March).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends the 6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank 2021

- The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of **Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa**. This year's (2021) Annual Meeting theme was "**New Development Paradigms: The Evolution of Infrastructure**".

Facebook and Google to set up new undersea cables to connect Southeast Asia and America

- **Facebook** has planned two new undersea cables (**12,800 km**) to connect **Singapore, Indonesia, and North America** in a project with Google and regional telecommunication companies to boost **internet connection capacity** between the regions.
- **Echo** and **Bifrost** will be the first two cables to go through a new diverse route crossing the **Java Sea** and they will increase overall subsea capacity in the trans-pacific by about **70 per cent**.

ITC Windsor becomes the first hotel in the world to achieve LEED Zero Carbon certification

- **ITC Windsor, Bengaluru**, became the first hotel in the world to be certified LEED Zero Carbon by **US Green Building Council (USGBC)**.

Indian Army participated in the multinational military exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena -2021' in Bangladesh

- **Indian Army** participated in the multinational military exercise namely **SHANTIR OGROSHENA-2021** in Bangladesh. Indian Army contingent comprising 30 personnel from the Dogra Regiment will participate in the exercise along with contingents of **Bhutan, Sri Lankan** and **Bangladesh Armies**. The **theme** of the exercise is "**Robust Peace Keeping Operations**."

India contributes \$300,000 to UN Women to support gender equality

- **India** had contributed **\$300,000** to the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment.

Indian Navy Ships & Aircraft participates in multilateral maritime exercise 'La Pérouse'

- Indian Navy ships **INS Satpura** (with an integral helicopter embarked) and **INS Kiltan** along with **P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft** participated for the first time in a multilateral maritime exercise '**La Perouse**'.

Pham Minh Chinh was elected as Vietnam's new Prime Minister

- **Pham Minh Chinh** had been a member of the Party Central Committee since 2011, a Politburo member since 2016 and is currently a National Assembly deputy. He won **96.25 per cent** of the vote at an official National Assembly vote.

India contributes \$500,000 to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism

- **India** had contributed an additional **\$500,000** to the **United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism**, taking the country's donation to the UN office set up to combat terrorism to over **\$1 million**.

Singapore became the first country to ratify mega free trade agreement RCEP

- **Singapore** ratified the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** agreement becoming the **first participating country** to do so in a multi-nation trade pact that brings together the 10 ASEAN economies as well as **Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea**.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 103rd Development Committee Meeting of World Bank-IMF

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually participated in the **103rd** Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary.
- Government of India has announced Aatma Nirbhar Packages of **Rs 27.1 trillion**, which amounts to **13%** of GDP.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) to send rover Rashid to the Moon in 2022

- Dubai's **Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC)** will build the **Rashid** lunar rover. Rashid', an Emirati-made lunar rover **named after** the late **Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum**. The rover will be transported to the Moon on **iSpace's** lunar lander.

India and the US launched hydrogen task force under Strategic Energy Partnership

- **India** and the **United States** launched a **Hydrogen Task Force** under the Strategic Energy Partnership between the two countries.
- US Deputy Secretary of Energy, **David M Turk**, announced the inaugural edition of the Hydrogen Round table titled "**Hydrogen Economy: New Delhi Dialogue - 2021**".

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launches its flagship State of World Population Report 2021

- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** launched its flagship State of World Population Report 2021 with the title **My Body is My Own**. The report talks about bodily autonomy including, child marriage, female genital mutilation, contraceptive choices, unwanted sex, etc.

8th India-Kyrgyz joint special forces exercise 'Khanjar' begins at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- The eighth **India-Kyrgyz** joint special forces exercise '**Khanjar**' was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of **National Guards of the Kyrgyz Republic** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**. The exercise was first initiated in 2011.

India was elected to 3 bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council

- **India** was elected by acclamation to three bodies of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**. India was also elected by acclamation to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning **1 January 2022**.

Australia launches grant program to widen Indo-Pacific partnership with India

- Australia's High Commissioner to India, **Barry O'Farrell**, had launched the **Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP)** grant program to help support a free, open and prosperous **Indo-Pacific** underpinned by the rule of law and respect for sovereignty.

India's demographic advantage to overtake China's by 2035: China's Central Bank report

- A report released by the **People's Bank of China (PBOC)**, China's central bank, stated that **China** should immediately liberalise its birth policies to tackle the problems of an ageing population and plan to compete economically with a demographically young India and the immigration-friendly US.

Asian Development Bank provides \$1.5 billion fiscal support to India for pandemic response

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** had provided fiscal support of **\$1.5 billion** to India in support of India's pandemic response.
- This fiscal support of **\$1.5 billion** to India formed part of the **\$16.1 billion** that ADB had specifically set aside for pandemic response in **2020**.

Australia provides \$747 million for upgrading four defence bases to boost Indo-Pacific engagements

- **Australia** will invest **\$747 million** in upgrading **four** key military training areas and ranges in the **Northern Territory** to defend the country's interests and support greater engagement with the **Indo-Pacific neighbours and allies**.

Secretary (East) in the Union External Affairs Ministry Riva Ganguly Das co-chairs 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting

- Secretary (East) in the Union Ministry of External Affairs, **Riva Ganguly Das**, co-chaired the **23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting** with Permanent Secretary of Thailand **Thani Thongphakdi**.

UK becomes the first country to announce the regulation of the use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways

- The **UK** has become the **first country** to announce the regulation of the use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways.
- Britain's transport ministry said that it was working on specific wording to update the **country's highway code** for the safe use of **self-driving vehicle systems**.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI kept the repo rate and reverse repo rate unchanged at 4% and 3.35%

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** decided to keep key lending rates unchanged for the **fifth consecutive** time in its April policy review meeting. The RBI retained the gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 10.5 per cent. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**, retained the repo rate at **4 per cent** and reverse repo rate at **3.35 per cent**.
 - Repo Rate : **4.00%**
 - Reverse Repo Rate : **3.35%**
 - CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) : **3.50%**
 - SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) : **18.00%**
 - MSF (Marginal Standing Facility Rate) : **4.25%**
 - Bank Rate : **4.25%**

RBI enhances loan limit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) against eNWR/NWR from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 75 lakhs

- RBI enhanced the loan limit under **priority sector lending (PSL)** from **Rs. 50 lakhs** to **Rs. 75 lakhs** per borrower against the pledge or hypothecation of agricultural produce backed by **Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)/electronic-NWRs (e-NWRs)** issued by warehouses registered with the **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)**.
- The priority sector loan limit backed by **other warehouse receipts** will continue to be **Rs. 50 lakh** per borrower.

U GRO Capital partners with SBM Bank India to launch credit card for MSMEs

- **U GRO Capital** announced its partnership with **SBM Bank India** for the launch of the GRO Smart Business credit card. It is powered by **RuPay**, along with **EnKash**. These are a range of secured credit cards specially designed for under-banked micro, small and medium enterprises.

Jana Small Finance Bank ties up with Axis Securities to offer investment services

- **Jana Small Finance Bank** had tie-up with **Axis Securities** to offer investment services through a **3-in-1 account**. The 3-in-1 account integrates the **Savings Bank Account** maintained by Jana Small Finance Bank and **Demat and Trading Accounts** maintained by Axis Securities.

Union Government sets minimum default threshold at Rs.10 lakhs for MSME pre-pack insolvency resolution

- The threshold default for initiating the pre-packaged insolvency resolution process will be set at **Rs.10 lakhs** and above for micro, small and medium enterprises announced by the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**.

Airtel Payments Bank announced 'Rewards123' savings account

- **Airtel Payments Bank** announced its new savings account '**Rewards123**' which offers benefits and value to customers when they **transact digitally** using the bank account.
- Customers can get '**Rewards123**' at an annual fee of **Rs. 299**.

Jeep India tied up with Axis Bank to launch Jeep Financial Services

- **Axis Bank** and **Jeep India** will get access to each other's growing customer database. Jeep customers will be serviced from the bank's **4,586 branches** spread across India and also via on-site counters at high footfall Jeep brand dealerships.

SEBI fined YES Bank for 'Fraudulent Acts' on customers in 'Super FD' scheme

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** had imposed a penalty of **Rs. 25 crores** on **Yes Bank** for perpetrating fraudulent acts on its customers by influencing them to alter their investment positions from **fixed deposits (FD)** to risky **additional tier-1 (AT-1)** bonds.

RXIL became the first TReDS platform to cross monthly throughput of Rs. 1,000 crores

- **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)**, a leading invoice discounting platform for MSMEs, had crossed monthly transaction volumes of **Rs. 1,000 crores** in March.

Punjab National Bank launched a digital initiative called PNB@Ease

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched a digital initiative called **PNB@Ease**, under which **every transaction** undertaken by a bank branch will be **initiated and authorised by the customers themselves**.

IDFC First Bank offered special banking solution for Assam Rifles personnel

- **IDFC First Bank** had signed an MoU with **Assam Rifles** to offer **Honour First**, a premium banking solution to serving personnel and veterans of Assam Rifles. **Assam Rifles** is the **oldest paramilitary force of India**, instituted in 1835.

ICICI Bank and Axis Bank to co-lead NUE with Amazon and Visa as partners

- Leading private sector lenders **ICICI Bank** and **Axis Bank** had tied up with global e-commerce major **Amazon** and cards major **Visa** to launch a **New Umbrella Entity (NUE)** to rival the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which currently delivers services like UPI-based payments.

ICICI Bank partners with PhonePe to issue FASTag

- **ICICI Bank** and **PhonePe** announced their partnership for the issuance of FASTag using UPI on the **PhonePe App**. This integration allows over **280 million** registered PhonePe users to order and track the ICICI Bank **FASTag** conveniently on the app.

Axis Bank sells its UK subsidiary Axis Bank UK Limited

- Axis Bank sold its stake in its UK subsidiary **Axis Bank UK Limited** to **OpenPayd Holdings Ltd**, the private lender. This transaction is subject to approval by the UK financial regulator, the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA).

RBI fixes Ways and Means Advances limits at ₹1.20 lakh crores for April-September 21

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in consultation with the Union Government, had decided that the limits for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2021-22 (April 2021 to September 2021) will be **Rs.1.20 lakh crores**.
- The interest rate on WMA will be the **repo rate** (currently at 4 per cent). The interest rate on the **overdraft** will be **two per cent** above the **repo rate**.

RBI extends the deadline for Indian banks to comply with the framework for auto-debit payments till 30 September

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had extended the deadline for banks in India to comply with its new framework for auto-debit payments by **six months**. The original deadline was set to kick on 1 April, but it was extended to 30 September 2021. The requirement for **additional factor authentication (AFA)** will now kick in by 30 September rather than 1 April.

National Payments Corporation of India sets up its subsidiary called NPCI Bharat BillPay

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** announced the formation of its wholly-owned subsidiary firm – **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)**. The new entity came into effect from **1 April 2021**.
- The brand under the new entity **Bharat BillPay** will offer various recurring payment services to customers.

PhonePe becomes the first player to cross the billion-transaction mark on UPI

- Digital payments major, **PhonePe** has crossed a billion transactions on **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** infrastructure in March, making it the **first player** in the country to reach this milestone.
- PhonePe had overall clocked close to **1.3 billion transactions** on its platform, across payment offerings of wallet, cards as well as UPI in March 2021.

Axis Bank becomes a co-promoter of Max Life Insurance

- **Axis Bank**, along with its subsidiaries **Axis Capital and Axis Securities**, had become the co-promoter of Max Life Insurance after completion of the acquisition of a **12.99 per cent** stake by them.

AU Small Finance Bank Launches Platinum Family Banking Program

- **AU Small Finance Bank** had launched a **Platinum Family Banking Program**, which offers facilities of family banking as well as offerings such as preferential pricing, priority processing, onboarding offers, and a complimentary lifetime free debit card.

RBI announces Rs.50,000 crore refinance to all-India financial institutions

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will provide refinance aggregating **Rs.50,000 crores** to **All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)**. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will get **Rs.25,000 crores**, National Housing Bank (NHB) **Rs.10,000 crores** and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) **Rs.15,000 crores**.

Reserve Bank of India enhances the aggregate limit of ways and means advance for states and UTs

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to enhance the aggregate limit of **ways and means advance (WMA)** limit for all states and Union Territories to **Rs.47,010 crores**, which is an increase of 46 per cent from the current limit of Rs.32,225 crores.

Reserve Bank of India doubles deposit limit of payments banks to Rs.2 lakhs

- With the aim to promote digital payments banks in the country, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced an increase in the maximum end of day balance for payment banks to **Rs.2 lakhs**. The earlier limit, which was in place **since 2014**, was set at **Rs. 1 lakh** per individual customer for the end of the balance for payment banks.

IRDAI extended the validity of Regulatory Sandbox Regulations for 2 years

- The IRDAI has amended the **Regulatory Sandbox Regulations**. The objective of these regulations is to amend the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Regulatory Sandbox) Regulations, 2019**, to extend its validity for **2 years**.

National Housing Bank launched ₹10,000-crore Special Refinance Facility (SRF 2021)

- **National Housing Bank (NHB)** has rolled out a **₹10,000 crore 'Special Refinance Facility-2021' (SRF-2021)** to provide short-term refinance support to **housing finance companies (HFCs)** and other eligible **primary lending institutions (PLIs)**.

RBL Bank partnered with MasterCard to launch the Pay by Bank App

- **RBL Bank** and **MasterCard** partnered to launch a mobile-based consumer-friendly payment solution – the **Pay by Bank App**, a first-of-its-kind payment functionality in India.
- '**Pay by Bank App**' ensures that bank consumer's payment credentials are never exposed to the merchant, making the transaction completely secure.

Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) proposed to relax NPS entry and exit age

- The **Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** had suggested raising the maximum age of eligibility for the **National Pension System (NPS)** from **65 to 70 years** old and the **exit age limit** will be raised from **70 to 75 years**. Currently, Indians between the age bracket of 18–65 years can open an NPS account.

Deutsche Bank lent Rs. 600 crore to the National Cooperative Development Corporation

- Leading German lender Deutsche Bank AG lent Rs. 600 crore to the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**, a development finance statutory institution under the **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** for financing farmer co-operative initiatives in the country.

RBI penalised Bihar-based co-op Bank Ltd for KYC violation during the exchange of demonetized notes

- A **Bihar**-based cooperative bank was penalised for violation of directions on **KYC** and **guidelines** related to the exchange of demonetised notes.
- The RBI had imposed a penalty of **Rs. 5 lakh** on **The Bihar Awami Co-operative Bank Ltd** for violation of the extant directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) and guidelines in the matter of exchange of Specified Bank Notes issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

RBI constituted second regulations review authority headed by M Rajeshwar Rao

- The **Reserve Bank of India** set up the second **Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)** to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities. The Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor **M Rajeshwar Rao** was appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.

ETMONEY becomes India's first to launch Aadhaar based SIP payments

- **ETMONEY** had launched India's first Aadhaar-based **SIP (Systematic Investment Plan)** payments feature. With this, anyone can now start a SIP online and set up automatic payments using a simple **Aadhaar-based OTP (One-Time-Password)** verification.

SBI General Insurance partners with Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank for Corporate Agency Agreement

- **SBI General Insurance** and **Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank** signed a **Corporate Agency Agreement** to enable the distribution of SBI General's retail products through Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank's extensive network in the state of **West Bengal**.

Airtel Payments Bank becomes the first payments bank in the country to enable an Rs. 2 lakh day-end balance account limit

- **Airtel Payments Bank** became the **first payments bank** in the country to enable a day-end balance account limit of **Rs. 2 lakhs**. Customers having an account with **Airtel Payments Bank** will now be able to save more with this **increased limit**.
- The bank deposits are insured under the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** which is a **wholly owned subsidiary** of the **RBI**.

RBI re-appoints Murali Natarajan as the MD and CEO of DCB Bank

- Private sector lender **DCB Bank**, had received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for the re-appointment of Murali M Natrajan as the MD & CEO for a further **period of one year from 29 April 2021**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India ties up with Paytm to handle digital payments

- State-run **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** had appointed homegrown payments player **Paytm** to facilitate its digital payments. The corporation witnesses roughly **eight crore digital transactions** at the moment and the figure is likely to go up in the future.

Aceware launches the first neobank in Kerala

- **Aceware FinTech Services**, a leading fintech services company in **Kerala**, had launched the **state's first neobank**, Ace Money Neobank, in partnership with **YES Bank** and **ICICI Bank**.

HDFC enters into co-lending partnership with Indiabulls Housing Finance

- **Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH)** and mortgage lender **HDFC Limited** had entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to offer housing loans at competitive rates.

South Africa's FirstRand Bank to exit India after 12 years

- FirstRand Bank, **South Africa's second-largest bank** with **\$118 billion** in assets, is the latest foreign bank to completely exit India ending almost **12 years** of trying to build a local franchise in the country.

World Bank's IFC to make debt investment of \$150 million in Bajaj Finance

- World Bank's **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** made a debt investment of **\$150 million** (about Rs. 1,132 crores) in non-bank lender **Bajaj Finance Limited**, likely its third funding deal with the consumer finance company.

Indian Overseas Bank appoints Ernst & Young as its digital consultant

- **Chennai-headquartered Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** had roped in **Ernst & Young** as its digital consultant to transform its banking services, intending to boost digital transaction share.
- This initiative would help the bank accelerate **digitalisation** in all the areas of banking, including its **assets and liability products**, and **services**.

Reserve Bank of India to cancel the licence of Sambandh Finserve

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had issued a show-cause notice before cancelling the licence of fraud-hit **Sambandh Finserve Private Limited**. After its net worth eroded below the regulatory minimum and financial situation worsened beyond redemption over the recent months.

Tata Steel and HSBC execute the first blockchain-enabled, paperless trade transaction globally

- Tata Steel and HSBC successfully executed a **blockchain-enabled transaction**, a **global first for the steel industry**. This transaction was executed on Contour's blockchain platform. This is a global first for the **steel industry**.

RBI cancels the licence of Maharashtra-based Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based **Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited** due to inadequate capital.

Google announces Rs. 135 crore aid to India to fight COVID-19

- **Google** has announced **Rs. 135 crores** in new funding for India to help get **urgent medical supplies**, including **oxygen and testing equipment**. This includes **Rs. 112 crores** in ad grants to local health authorities and non-profits for more language coverage options.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank commences operations from 26 April

- Uttar Pradesh-based Shivalik Small Finance Bank has commenced operations as a small finance bank with effect from **26 April**.
- It is the **first bank in the country** to transition from an Urban Cooperative Bank into a Small Finance Bank under the RBI's 'Scheme on Voluntary Transition of Urban Co-operative Bank into a **Small Finance Bank**', issued on 27 September 2018.

Reserve Bank of India caps tenure of private bank CEOs at 15 years

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** capped both the tenure and age limit for Senior Management, including that of chairmen in **all private banks**.
- The posts of Managing Director (MD), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as well as Whole Time Directors (WTD) are capped at **not more than 15 years**. The upper age limit is fixed at **70 years**
- These new norms will be applicable for all private sector banks, including **small finance banks** and **wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks**.

RBI imposes Rs. 40 lakh penalty on Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of **Rs. 40 lakhs** on **Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank, Shimla**, for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions issued by **NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)**.

Neobank "Fi" partners with Federal Bank to issue instant savings account

- Fi, the **Bengaluru**-based neobank for salaried millennials, had announced its partnership with **Federal Bank** to issue instant savings account equipped with a debit card in **three minutes**.

Reserve Bank of India bans American Express and Diners Club International from selling new cards from 1 May

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had banned credit card companies **American Express** and **Diners Club International** from onboarding new domestic customers onto their card networks.
- The action had been taken as these entities have been found non-compliant with the directions on **storage of payment system data** which the central bank (RBI) had asked them to store in India.

RBI to conduct first special OMO of FY22

- The central bank will purchase and sell securities for an aggregate amount of **₹10,000** crores each.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated it will conduct the first special **open market operation (OMO)** of the fiscal year **2022 (FY22)**, entailing simultaneous purchase and sale of **government securities (G-Secs)** for an aggregate amount of **₹10,000** crores each.

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

- Under the **special OMO (also known as Operation Twist/OT)**, the central bank will purchase three G-Secs maturing in **2026, 2028 and 2030** for an aggregate amount of **₹10,000** crores.

Paytm launches 'Wealth Community' for young investors

- Digital financial services platform **Paytm** has launched a new video-based wealth community called the **Paytm Wealth Community**.
- **Paytm Wealth Community** is an investing community based on video and enables users to attend live sessions conducted by subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like **stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, mutual funds, gold, fixed income** and **personal finance**.

RBI approval mandatory for commercial and urban cooperative banks to appoint auditors

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has made it mandatory for commercial banks and **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)** to seek its approval before appointing **auditors**.
- The banking regulator (RBI) also ruled that the auditors will have to be appointed for a continuous period of **three years** with a maximum assignment tenure of **six years**.

ICICI Bank launches 'Merchant Stack' a digital and contactless banking platform for merchants

- **ICICI Bank** announced the launch of its '**Merchant Stack**', a set of the country's most comprehensive digital banking services specially curated for retail merchants.
- This initiative is inline with the Bank's principle of '**Business with Care**'.

GDP FORECAST

S&P projects India's GDP Forecast to 11% for FY22

- American credit rating agency, **S&P Global Ratings** projected the Indian economy to grow at **11 per cent** in the current fiscal year (FY22). S&P has a '**BBB-**' rating on India with a stable outlook has forecast an **11 per cent** growth in the Indian GDP for the fiscal year.

ICRA revises India's GDP forecast by 0.5% to 10.5% in FY22

- Domestic rating agency **ICRA** cut its 2021-22 growth estimate for India by **0.5 per cent** on the upper end. The agency now expects the economy to grow **10-10.5 per cent** in **2021-22**, against the **10-11 per cent** estimated earlier.

CARE Ratings cuts India's FY22 GDP forecast to 10.2%

- **CARE Ratings** has cut the GDP growth forecast of India for **FY22** from **10.7-10.9 per cent** to **10.2 per cent**. The agency estimated the potential loss of **Gross Value Added (GVA)** at **Rs. 1.13 lakh crores**.

Nomura revised India's FY22 GDP growth estimate to 12.6% from 13.5%

- Global brokerage company **Nomura** cut India's GDP forecast for **FY22** to **12.6 per cent** from **13.5 per cent** forecast earlier as the country faces a consistent rise in coronavirus cases and higher inflation. Nomura has pegged the calendar year (**CY21**) GDP growth at **11.5 per cent**, a decline from **12.4 per cent** estimated earlier.

World Trade Organization revises its projection for global trade volume growth in 2021 to 8%

- **Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO)** revised the growth forecast of global merchandise trade in 2021 to **8 per cent** after recording a fall of 5.3 per cent last year amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

International Monetary Fund raises India's FY22 growth forecast to 12.5%

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** had upgraded its growth projection for India to **12.5** per cent for Financial Year 2021-22. In its latest **World Economic Outlook report**, the IMF had pegged India's GDP to grow 1 per cent higher than its previous report published in January this year (2021).

Reserve Bank of India retains GDP growth at 10.5% for 2021-22

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, during its Monetary Policy Committee announcements, retained the GDP growth forecast at **10.5 per cent** for the current fiscal (2021-22).

IHS Markit projects India's FY22 GDP growth at 9.6%

- **IHS Markit** projected the GDP growth rate of the Indian economy (as measured by GDP) to grow at **9.6 per cent** in **FY22** (2021-22). IHS Markit is a **London**-based financial services company.

ADB raises FY22 GDP forecast of India to 11%

- According to the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, India's GDP **will rebound** strongly by **11%** in **2021–22** due to continued economic recovery boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout, and a surge in domestic demand.

Ind Ra revises down India's FY22 GDP growth forecast to 10.1%

- A wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Fitch Group**, **India Ratings and Research (Ind Ra)** revised down India's **FY22** real GDP growth forecast to **10.1 per cent**, from an earlier projection of **10.4 per cent**.
- The Indian economy is estimated to have contracted by **7.6 per cent** in **FY21**.

India's FY22 GDP growth revised down to 10.4% from 11%: SBI Research report

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** Research has revised India's **FY22** GDP growth to **10.4%** from **11%** projected earlier in view of the increasing COVID-19 related curbs across states.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS

NSE Academy signs a pact with GIFT SEZ to launch certification in international financial services

- **NSE Academy**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has signed a pact with **GIFT SEZ Limited** for capacity building of trained manpower by developing, launching, and conducting training programmes related to International Financial Services.

National Collateral Management Limited signs an MoU with Agriculture Skill Council for skilling in the agriculture sector

- The **National Collateral Management Limited (NCML)** had inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)** to provide skill training in the agriculture sector.

CDC Group partners with Northern Arc to invest in Rs. 320-crore PBI to fund 6 MFIs

- The **British Government** funded developmental institution, **CDC Group** and Chennai-based digital debt platform **Northern Arc** have jointly structured a **pooled bond issuance (PBI)** transaction worth **Rs 320 crores** in India.
- The **Rs 320-crores** fund will support six domestic microfinance institutions – **Annapurna Finance**, **Arohan Financial Services**, **ASA International**, **Asirvad Microfinance**, **Chaitanya India** and **Fusion Microfinance**.

JP Morgan partners with BillDesk for an online payment's partnership

- Payment's aggregator **BillDesk** announced a partnership with global financial institution **JP Morgan** to offer online payments solutions to the bank's corporate clients in India.

BPCL partnered with Accenture to transform its sales and distribution network

- **Accenture** had partnered with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** to help in the digital transformation of the country's second-largest oil and gas company's extensive sales and distribution network.

Oberoi Group signed an MoU with EESL to further sustainability initiatives

- The **Oberoi Group** has signed an MoU with **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** to implement **energy-efficient initiatives**, including **clean energy systems** across Oberoi properties.
- Under its Building Energy Efficiency Program, **EESL** will collaborate with all Oberoi Group hotels to evaluate opportunities for **saving energy** and **lowering emissions** and recommend select energy programs from its portfolio.

Punjab National Bank signs an MoU with SwitchON for solar pump financing

- **SwitchON Foundation** had partnered with **Punjab National Bank** for the promotion of solar pumps. A First Loss Default Guarantee Fund had been set up by **SwitchON Foundation** through which Punjab National Bank financed solar pumps.

Indian Bank signs an agreement with Chennai Angels for start-up financing

- **Indian Bank** had signed an agreement with **The Chennai Angles** for financing start-ups under its loan program, '**IND SpringBoard**.'
- The bank looks to extend credit up to **Rs. 50 crores** for working capital requirements.
- Indian Bank has taken the initiative to address this by launching **IND SpringBoard**.

HSBC Bank India partners with Google Pay for tokenisation on its credit card portfolio

- **HSBC Bank India** collaborated with **Google Pay (GPay)** and **VISA** to enable secured tokenisation on its **credit cards**.
- This new feature will **enable HSBC Credit Card customers** to link their card to **GPay** and use it as a payment option to securely and digitally transact using their mobile phones online and at merchant stores.

CSC partners with Tata Power to provide solar-powered micros grids in rural areas

- The **Common Services Center (CSC)** had partnered with **Tata Power** to set up **solar-powered microgrids** and **water pumps** in rural areas across the country.
- This partnership will increase energy access and provide an **economic opportunity** to the company by providing off-grid or microgrid power.

IIT Kharagpur signs an MoU with NCDC to promote sustainable developments in cooperatives, agriculture and allied sectors

- **IIT Kharagpur** and the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** have signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) towards greater collaboration in issues and areas related to the development of **cooperatives, agriculture** and **allied sectors** and the holistic approach towards sustainable development.

IIT Guwahati collaborates with NEF Railways to improve operations and maintenance of Railway Network

- **IIT Guwahati** and the **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on research projects aiming at **improving maintenance** and **operations** of **rolling stock, yards, train operations** and **green technologies**.

Indian Bank signs an MoU with BSNL to provide seamless telecom services

- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Bank** to provide seamless telecom services to the Bank at competitive rates.

FSS partners with NIPL to expand UPI in the International Market

- **Financial Software and Systems (FSS)** is a globally leading provider of integrated payment products which signed a strategic partnership with **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** to expand **UPI (Unified Payment Interface)** rails in international markets.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT Kanpur develops a touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired

- Two researchers from **IIT Kanpur** have developed a **touch-sensitive, tactile, haptic watch** that can help **visually impaired** people learn what time it is by touching the face.

Union Education Minister launches NanoSniffer Explosive trace detector developed jointly by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched **NanoSniffer**, the **world's first microsensor-based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD)** developed jointly by **IIT Delhi** and **IIT Bombay**, which will help to detect a wide range of military, commercial and home-made explosives threats.

DRDO develops a supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers and COVID-19 patients

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a **SpO₂-based supplemental oxygen delivery system** for **soldiers** serving in extremely high-altitude areas and **COVID-19 patients**.

Russia's Roscomos to launch its own space station in 2025

- Russia's space agency, **Roscomos**, has planned to launch its own orbital station in **2025** as Moscow considers withdrawing from the **International Space Station** programme to go it alone.
- The space module is being assembled by the **Energia corporation** with a cost estimation of **\$5 billion**.

China names its first Mars rover "Zhurong"

- China's **first Mars rover** was named **Zhurong** after a **traditional fire god**. The rover is aboard the **Tianwen-1 probe** that arrived in Mars orbit on 24 February and is due to land in May 2021 to look for evidence of life.
- China would become the **third country** after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a robot rover on Mars.

DRDO develops critical crystal blade technology for aero engines

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** had developed single-crystal blades that are used in **helicopter engines** and it has supplied 60 of them to the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the company's indigenous helicopter development program.

DRDO conducts maiden trial of "Python-5" air-to-air missile

- India's indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas**, has added the **fifth generation "Python-5" Air-to-Air Missile (AAM)** to its air-to-air weapons capability.
- Trials were also aimed to validate the enhanced capability of already integrated Derby **Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM** on Tejas.
- The missiles were fired from Tejas aircraft of **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** flown by Indian Air Force (IAF) **Test pilots belonging to the National Flight Test Centre (NFTC)**.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

AP Moller-Maersk elevates its chief technology officer Navneet Kapoor to its board

- **AP Moller-Maersk**, which runs **Maersk Line**, has elevated **Navneet Kapoor**, **Chief Technology and Information Officer**, to its Executive Board in a sign of the increasing role of technology in the transformation of the Danish shipping giant.

Britannia appoints former RBI Governor Urjit Patel as its additional director

- **Britannia Industries**, the biscuits, and dairy giant, had appointed former **Reserve Bank of India** Governor **Urjit Patel** as additional director of the company in the category of non-executive and independent director for **5 years**.
- Currently, he is the Chairman of the governing body of the **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy**.

Subhash Kumar was appointed as the new CMD of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

- **Subhash Kumar** had been given additional charge of **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**. Subhash Kumar took over the post following the retirement of the incumbent CMD **Shashi Shankar**.

Mallika Srinivasan was appointed as the Chief of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)

- **Mallika Srinivasan**, Chairman and Managing Director of **Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE)** Limited was appointed as the Chairperson of the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)**.
- This is for the first time that a **private sector specialist** has been appointed as the head of the **PESB**, responsible for the appointment of top management posts in the **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

Lt. General Manjinder Singh takes over as Chief of Staff of the Western Command

- Lieutenant General **Manjinder Singh** took over as the Chief of Staff (CoS) of the **Western Command**. He is an alumnus of the **Sainik School Kapurthala**, **National Defence Academy**, and the **Indian Military Academy**.

Mukhmeet S Bhatia was appointed as the Director-General of ESIC

- Mukhmeet S Bhatia took over Charge as the Director-General of the **Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** under the Union **Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India**.

Chintan Vaishnav was appointed as Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission

- Socio-technologist **Chintan Vaishnav** was appointed as the Mission Director of flagship initiative **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**. He will be replacing **Ramanathan Ramanan** to take over as the second Mission Director of AIM.

Justice NV Ramana was appointed as the next Chief Justice of India

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** appointed Justice NV Ramana as the next Chief Justice of India. Senior-most Supreme Court Judge Justice NV Ramana was appointed as the **48th** Chief Justice of India.

QCI Chief Adil Zainulbhai was appointed as the Chairman of the Capacity Building Commission

- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** Chief **Adil Zainulbhai** was appointed as the Chairperson of the **Capacity Building Commission**, set up under the Indian Government's ambitious '**Mission Karmayogi**' for bringing major reforms in bureaucracy.
- Besides him, **Ramaswami Balasubramaniam** was appointed as a member (HR) and **Praveen Pardeshi** as a member (administration).

Tanla Platform appoints Wipro veteran Aravind Viswanathan as its CFO

- Leading communication service provider **Tanla Platforms** had roped in **Aravind Viswanathan** as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** after his two-decade stint at **Wipro**. **Tanla** has a huge headspace to capture in the global **CPaaS** (communication-platform-as-a-service) industry. He will take over from **GK Srinivas**.

President Bazoum of Niger appoints Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou as the Prime Minister of Niger

- Niger President **Mohamed Bazoum** appointed **Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou** to head his new cabinet as the Niger's new Prime Minister. He succeeds **Brigi Rafini**.

Justice Sanjay Yadav was appointed the acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

- **Justice Sanjay Yadav**, the senior-most judge of the **Allahabad High Court** was appointed as the acting chief justice. Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, **Justice Govind Mathur**, retired recently. Judges of the High Court retire at the age of **62 years**.

Sonu Sood was appointed as the brand ambassador for Punjab's anti-COVID vaccination drive

- Bollywood actor **Sonu Sood** has been made the brand ambassador for Punjab's anti-coronavirus vaccination programme. Punjab Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** made the announcement.

Sushil Chandra was appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** appointed **Sushil Chandra** as the **24th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)**. He replaced **Sunil Arora**, who was retired recently. ECI consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

Pramerica Life Insurance appoints Kalpana Sampat as MD and CEO

- Private life insurer **Pramerica Life Insurance** announced the appointment of **Kalpana Sampat** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Sampat succeeded **Annop Pabby**. Prior to this appointment, she was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the company.

Canon India appointed Manabu Yamazaki as its new President and CEO

- **Canon India** had appointed **Manabu Yamazaki** as its new President and CEO. In his new role, Yamazaki will spearhead Canon's business strategy and operations in India.
- **Manabu Yamazaki** takes over the baton from **Kazutada Kobayashi**.

Fantasy sports platform SportzXchange ropes Prithvi Shaw as its brand ambassador

- **SportzXchange**, one of the newest and fastest-growing additions to the fantasy sports landscape in India, had roped in **Prithvi Shaw**, a powerhouse of energy and potential, as its brand ambassador.

NCAER appoints World Bank's economist Poonam Gupta as its new Director-General

- The **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** has appointed **Poonam Gupta** as its new Director-General.
- **Gupta**, the first woman Director General of NCAER, succeeded **Shekhar Shah** who led NCAER since 2011 and will complete his second five-year term in early May.

Claude Joseph was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Haiti

- Claude Joseph was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Haiti after the resignation of former Prime Minister **Joseph Joute** due to the country facing a spike in killings and kidnappings. Joute had served as Prime Minister since **March 2020**.

Union Government appoints Anil Kumar Sharma to the central board of SBI

- The Union Government appointed **Anil Kumar Sharma** for the post of Director on the central board of **State Bank of India (SBI)**. Currently, he is serving as the Executive Director in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). With his new assignment, AK Sharma had replaced **Chandan Sinha**.

Kumar Animesh gets an additional charge as the Chief Vigilance Officer of CMPFO

- Kumar Animesh had been given additional charge as the **Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO)** of **Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO)**.

K Madhavan was appointed as the President of the Walt Disney Company India and Star India

- K Madhavan will now be driving the **strategy and growth** of the company in India with responsibility for the **Disney, Star and Hotstar** businesses and operations spanning across entertainment, sports and regional channels, and direct-to-consumer.

Siddharth Singh Longjam succeeds Navin Agarwal as National Anti-Doping Agency's Director-General

- Siddharth Singh Longjam was appointed as the **National Anti-Doping Agency's** Director-General succeeding **Navin Agarwal** who listed the creation of **Athletes Biological Passport (ABP)** for around 60 elite Indian sportspersons as one of the highlights of his tenure.

Ace cricketer Suresh Raina was appointed as the brand ambassador of Elista

- Elista, a brand backed by the prestigious **TeknoDome Group**, had announced the ace cricketer **Suresh Raina** as its brand ambassador. Elista is a **consumer electronics brand** that aims to be the face of world-class innovation in India.

Richard Verma was appointed as the Mastercard's head of Global Public Policy

- Former US Ambassador to India **Richard Verma** was appointed as General Counsel and Head of Global Public Policy of **Mastercard**. He served as the US Ambassador to India from **2014** to **2017**.

IDBI Bank appoints Deputy General Manager Jyothi Biju Nair as its new company secretary

- **IDBI Bank** has appointed the company's Deputy General Manager **Jyothi Biju Nair** as the new company secretary. He replaced **Pawan Agrawal**.
- LIC is the promoter of **IDBI Bank**. JB Nair is an associate member of the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**.

Tecno ropes in Ayushmann Khurrana as its Indian brand ambassador for 2021

- Smartphone brand **Tecno** announced **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its brand ambassador. The partnership is expected to give a strong face to Tecno's brand philosophy '**Stop at Nothing**' to deliver innovative products of sensory excellence and bolster its position among smartphone consumers of New India in **2021**.

L&T Infotech appoints Anil Rander as the new Chief Financial Officer

- Global technology consulting and digital solutions company **Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI)** had appointed **Anil Rander** as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. Anil Rander is a qualified **Chartered Accountant**, Cost Accountant as well as a Company Secretary.

RBI constitutes a six-member panel headed by Sudarshan Sen to review ARCs

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

Puma ropes in Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal as its brand ambassadors

- Global sportswear brand **Puma** has signed long-term endorsement deals with cricketers **Washington Sundar** and **Devdutt Padikkal**.
- The duo will be joining the company's roster of brand ambassadors that include Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli**, wicketkeeper-batsman **KL Rahul**, Indian Women's national cricketer **Sushma Verma** and veteran cricketer **Yuvraj Singh**.

Carat India appoints Dipika Bhasin as its Executive Vice-President

- **Dipika Bhasin** was appointed as the Executive Vice-President of Carat India. She will lead the agency's **north and east offices** and focus on developing and managing Carat's senior client relationship. She will report to **Anita Kotwani**, CEO of Carat India.

Miguel Díaz-Canel becomes the President of Cuba

- The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba formally chose **Miguel Diaz-Canel** to succeed President **Raul Castro**, the brother of late Cuban leader **Fidel Castro** who ruled the island for decades as its leader.
- Diaz-Canel became the **first secretary of the Communist Party**, which is the only party allowed in Cuba by law. As a leader of the party, **Diaz-Canel** became the ruler of the Caribbean island.

Tata Consumer Products appoints Deepika Bhan as its President of Packaged Foods (India)

- **Tata Consumer Products** (TCP) appointed **Deepika Bhan** as the company's new **President - Packaged Foods**, (India), effective from **27 April 2021**.
- **Deepika** joins TCP from **Hindustan Unilever**, where she was Global Brand Director, Haircare for South Asia. She had also worked with **PepsiCo** and **Tata Motors**.

The Hindu Group appoints senior journalist Krishna Prasad as its Editorial Officer

- Senior Journalist **Krishna Prasad** was appointed as the first-ever Group Editorial Officer by **The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited** (THGPPL) — publisher of The Hindu, The Hindu Business Line, Frontline and Sportstar.

Vanita Gupta becomes the first Indian-American to be the US Associate Attorney General

- Prominent Indian-American civil rights lawyer **Vanita Gupta** has been confirmed by the US Senate as **Associate Attorney General**, making her the first person of colour to occupy the **third-highest position** at the US Department of Justice.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons selects Comptroller and Auditor General GC Murmu as its external auditor

- **Hague-based** Conference of State Parties of the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** selected the CAG of India as its external auditor for a **three-year** term starting 2021.

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) appoints Accenture's Rekha Menon as Chairperson

- The **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** had appointed **Rekha M Menon** as Chairperson for 2021-22, making her the **first woman** to this position in the association's 30-year history. She replaces **UB Pravin Rao**.
- **NASSCOM** also named **Krishnan Ramanujam** as Vice-Chairperson for 2021-22.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank director Rigzian Sampheal resigns

- State-owned **Jammu & Kashmir Bank's** non-executive non-independent director **Rigzian Sampheal** had resigned from its board.

PNB Housing Finance re-appoints Nilesh Vikamsey as the Additional Director for 5 years term

- **Nilesh S Vikamsey** has been on the Company's Board for nearly **5 years** as an **Independent Director**. He is currently the Chairman of **Audit Committee** and Member of Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board.

RBI approves the appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Atanu Chakraborty** as part-time Chairman of **HDFC Bank**. The appointment is for **three years**.

Arun Raste to take over as MD and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange

- **Arun Raste**, Executive Director of the National Dairy Development Board, will take over as the new Managing Director & CEO of agriculture-focused **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** for **five years**.

Justice NV Ramana takes oath as the 48th Chief Justice of India

- Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana was sworn in as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will hold the post for sixteen months, until 26 August 2022. He succeeds Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.

Union Government nominates Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth to the RBI central board

- The Union Government has nominated Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth in the Union Ministry of Finance as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan resigns

- Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has resigned. He announced the elections last month to try to resolve political tensions that arose after last year's defeat in a war with Azerbaijan.

ASICS appoints Ravindra Jadeja as its brand ambassador

- Japanese sportswear brand ASICS had appointed Ravindra Jadeja, the all-rounder of the Indian cricket team, as its brand ambassador.
- ASICS partnership with Jadeja would further strengthen the company's commitment, spread awareness about its diverse offerings, and magnify the reach of the brand during the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

Public Enterprises Selection Board selects Amit Banerjee for the post of CMD of BEML Limited

- Amit Banerjee was selected as the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited, a Miniratna Defence PSU under the Union Ministry of Defence.

Centre appoints Justice Rajesh Bindal as the acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court

- Justice Rajesh Bindal was appointed the acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. He will succeed Chief Justice Thottathil B Radhakrishnan.

Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor was appointed as a Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court

- Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor was appointed as the Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court. She joined the Judicial Service as Civil Judge Class II. Prior to this, she was appointed as an Additional Judge of Chhattisgarh High Court for a period of 2 years.

Expenditure Secretary TV Somanathan was appointed Finance Secretary

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved designating Somanathan who is currently the Secretary of Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance as the Finance Secretary.

Stellantis India appoints Roland Bouchara as its CEO and Managing Director

- Auto major Stellantis announced the appointment of Roland Bouchara as its CEO & Managing Director of India operations. He would lead the group in the country with full responsibility for the Jeep and Citroen national sales companies (NSCs), coupled with the group's manufacturing operations.

Vaishali Hiwase becomes the first woman to be appointed as the Officer Commanding in BRO

- Vaishali S Hiwase became the first woman officer to be appointed as Officer Commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). She is from Wardha, Maharashtra and has completed a successful, demanding tenure in Kargil.

Tata Motors appoints Martin Uhlarik as the new Global Design Head

- Tata Motors Limited (TML) had appointed Martin Uhlarik as its new Global Design Head. He was till recently the Head of Design for Tata Motors European Technical Centre (TMETC) and took over his new role from Pratap Bose.

Axis Bank board approves re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO

- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** had approved the re-appointment of **Amitabh Chaudhry** as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for **three years** with effect from **1 January 2022**.

Exide appoints Subir Chakraborty as its new MD & CEO

- **Exide Industries**, the country's largest automotive battery maker, has elevated **Subir Chakraborty** as its new Managing Director and CEO for three years. He will succeed **Gautam Chatterjee**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Tarun Bajaj was appointed as the revenue secretary and Ajay Seth as the new Economic Affairs Secretary

- The Central Government appointed 1987-batch Karnataka cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Ajay Seth** as the **Economic Affairs Secretary** in the Union Finance Ministry.
- **Tarun Bajaj** was appointed as the **Revenue Secretary** in the Union Finance Ministry. Bajaj was holding an additional charge of the revenue department for one month following the superannuation of **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.

Noted Marathi writer Sharankumar Limbale receives the Saraswati Samman 2020

- Noted Marathi writer **Sharankumar Limbale** received the **Saraswati Samman 2020** for his book **Sanatan**. The award carries fifteen lakh rupees, a citation, and a plaque.

Rajinikanth was honoured with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- **Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** announced that Superstar **Rajinikanth** is to be honoured with the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan receives the Kalinga Ratna Samman

- **Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan** received the **Kalinga Ratna Samman for 2021**. Vice-President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** conferred Biswabhusan with the prestigious award in Cuttack on the occasion of the **40th** annual day of the **Sarala Sahitya Sansad** at the Sarala Bhawan.

Suman Chakraborty to receive GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

- Professor **Suman Chakraborty** was selected for the **30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research** for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for **affordable healthcare**.

Jeffrey Ullman and Alfred Aho wins the 2020 ACM A.M. Turing Award

- ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) named **Jeffrey David Ullman and Alfred Vaino Aho** as the **2020 ACM A.M. Turing Award** recipients for their work with fundamental **algorithms and theory** underlying programming language implementation and educating generations with influential books.

Guneet Monga to be conferred with 2nd highest civilian French honour

- Filmmaker **Guneet Monga** will be conferred with the honour of **Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters** (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), the second-highest civilian French honour.
- Before Guneet Monga, acclaimed Indian artists like **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Anurag Kashyap, Kalki Koechlin, and Nandita Das** have also received this prestigious French honour.

Indian business tycoon Yusuffali honoured with a top civilian award in Abu Dhabi

- Crown Prince of **Abu Dhabi** and Deputy Supreme Commander of the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) Armed Forces **Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan** has honoured Indian-origin businessman **Yusuffali MA** and 11 other individuals with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award for their **noble and charitable** contributions to the community.

Kane Williamson awarded the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for the fourth time

- **New Zealand** captain **Kane Williamson** was awarded the **Sir Richard Hadlee Medal** for the **fourth time** in six years, while women's allrounder **Amelia Kerr** and rising star **Devon Conway** also claimed top honours at the New Zealand Cricket Awards for the 2020-21 season.
- Williamson, the highest-ranked Test batsman was also named the **International Test Player of the Year** and awarded the **Redpath Cup** for first-class batting.
- ANZ International Women's T20 Player of the Year: **Amelia Kerr** (Wellington).
- ANZ International Men's T20 Player of the Year: **Devon Conway** (Wellington).

The Great Khali is set to be inducted into the 2021 WWE Hall of Fame

- The **Great Khali** has been announced as the latest inductee into the **2021 WWE Hall of Fame**. The India-born former WWE Superstar worked for **Vince McMahon's** company (WWE) from **2006 to 2014**.

Lieutenant Colonel Bharat Pannu breaks two Guinness World Records for fastest solo cycling

- Lieutenant Colonel **Bharat Pannu**, a serving **Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME)** officer in the **Indian Army**, had created **two consecutive world records** for the fastest solo cycling last year in October. The official Guinness World Record was received in **April 2021**.

Marathi film 'Puglya' bagged the best foreign feature at Moscow International Film Festival 2021

- Marathi film **Puglya** won the **Best Foreign Language** Feature at the **Moscow International Film Festival 2021**. The film portrays various emotions of children. The film has so far won honors at the **Los World Premiere Film Awards** in California.

Virat Kohli named the Wisden Almanack's ODI cricketer of the 2010s

- India captain **Virat Kohli** was named Wisden Almanack's **ODI player of the 2010s**, while England all-rounder **Ben Stokes** was declared the '**Cricketer of the Year**' for a second successive time.
- Apart from Kohli, Wisden also named legendary **Sachin Tendulkar** as the ODI Cricketer of the **1990s**.
- India's World Cup-winning former captain **Kapil Dev** too featured on the list when he was named as the **ODI Cricketer for the 1980s**.
- **Dom Sibley, Zak Crawley, Jason Holder, Mohammed Rizwan,** and **Darren Stevens** were named **Wisden Cricketers of the Year** in the **2021** edition of Wisden Almanack.

Oscar-winning Italian film-maker Roberto Benigni to receive Venice Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement award

- Oscar-winning Italian director-actor **Roberto Benigni** of '**Life is Beautiful**' fame has been honoured with the **Golden Lion** for **Lifetime Achievement** of the **78th Venice International Film Festival** held in **Italy**.

Birla Cellulose wins the Innovative and Sustainable Supply Chain Award by UN Global Compact Network India

- Birla Cellulose, part of the **Aditya Birla Group** and one of the largest global **manmade cellulosic fibre (MMCF)** producers had emerged as a winner in the **first edition** of the 'National Innovative and Sustainable Supply Chain Awards' by **UN Global Compact Network India**.

22-year-old J&K author Soliha Shabir was named in India's World Records

- **Soliha Shabir** from Dalgate in Srinagar was named in "India's World Records" as the **youngest** and first author in Jammu and Kashmir, who has recreated the life of **Habba Khatoon's** poetry.

Maharashtra's Priyanka Mohite becomes the first Indian woman to scale Mt. Annapurna

- **Priyanka Mohite** from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled **Mt. Annapurna**, the **10th highest mountain peak** in the world, becoming the **first Indian woman climber** to achieve the feat.
- **She** has also climbed the world's highest peak **Mount Everest** (8,849 metres) in 2013, **Mount Lhotse** (8,516 metres) in 2018, **Mount Makalu** (8,485 metres), and **Mount Kilimanjaro** (5,895 metres) in 2016.

Rumana Sinha Sehgal was awarded the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021'

- Software-engineer turned social entrepreneur, **Rumana Sinha Sehgal** was awarded the prestigious '**Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021**' by the **Diplomatic Mission Global Peace**.
- She is also the recipient of the **nationwide award "Under 50 - Business Leader 2021"** for social entrepreneurship by **Business Mint**. She has also received the '**International Influencer of the Year 2021**'.

Tamil Nadu teenager Arjun Kalyan becomes India's 68th Grand Master

- Arjun Kalyan became India's **68th Grandmaster**. The 18-year-old from **Chennai** crossed the **2500 ELO** mark after scoring a win over Dragan Kosic in the **5th** round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in **Serbia**.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is the only Indian University in the top 100 in the Impact Ranking 2021

- **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (81)** has become the only **Indian University** to have scored a set in the top **100 global institutes** in the **Impact Ranking 2021** released by **THE World University Ranking**.
- The top spot was attained by the **University of Manchester, UK** followed by the **University of Sydney, Australia** and **RMIT University, Australia**. **Russia** is the most-represented nation in the table with 75 institutions, followed by **Japan** with 73.

Bengaluru-based entrepreneur Vibha Harish makes it to Forbes Asia's '30 Under-30' list

- Bengaluru-based lady entrepreneur **Vibha Harish**, CEO and founder of herbal nutrition and plant-based supplement company **Cosmix**, has made it to **Forbes Asia's 30 Under-30** in just one year of opening her venture.

Five Jammu and Kashmir gram panchayats bag National Panchayat Awards 2021

- Jammu Correspondent reports that **Gram Panchayat Kangroosa** of district, Baramulla and **Gram Panchayat Hakermulla** of district Budgam won **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP)**.
- **Gram Panchayat Kootah** of Kathua district was conferred with Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP), **Gram Panchayat Panzgam A**, of Kupwara district won Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (GPDPA), while, **Gram Panchayat Achabal A**, of Baramulla district bagged **Child Friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA)**.

Winners of the 93rd Academy Awards or Oscar Awards 2021

- The **Academy Awards** popularly known as **the Oscars** are awards for artistic and technical merit in the **film industry**.

Here are the winners of the 93rd Academy Awards:

- Best Picture: **Nomadland**
- Best Director: **Chloe Zhao, Nomadland**
- Best Actress: **Frances McDormand, Nomadland**
- Best Actor: **Anthony Hopkins, The Father**
- Best Supporting Actress: **Youn Yuh-jung** (South Korea's First Oscar-Winning Actress), **Minari**
- Best Supporting Actor: **Daniel Kaluuya, Judas And The Black Messiah**
- Best Original Screenplay: **Promising Young Woman**

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- Best Adapted Screenplay: **The Father**
- Best Animated Feature Film: **Soul**
- Best International Feature Film: **Another Round**

Krithi Karanth becomes the first Indian woman to be chosen as a "Wild Innovator"

- Chief Conservation Scientist of the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), **Dr. Krithi K Karanth**, was chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 "**WILD Innovator Award**".

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw becomes the first Indian woman to join the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** was appointed to the Board of Trustees of **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center** (MSK), a world leader in cancer treatment and research. She became the first Indian woman to be appointed for this role.

Saudi women's rights activist Loujain Alhathloul was awarded the 8th Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

- Saudi women's rights activist **Loujain Alhathloul** was awarded a top European rights prize "**Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**" in recognition of her fight for women's rights in the kingdom, including her efforts to end a ban on women driving.

Byju's and Jio platforms in TIME Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies

- **Jio Platforms** was listed under the **Innovators category** alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna and Netflix.
- **Byju's** was listed under the **Disruptors category** alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb and DiDi Chuxing.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Vice President of India releases a book titled 'Suparipalana' authored by retired civil servant Shailendra Joshi

- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** released the Telugu translation of "**Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance**," titled "**Suparipalana**."
- **Annavarapu Brahmaiah** is the translator of the Telugu version and the book was published by **Maruthi**.

A new book titled "Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life" was authored by Nitin Anant Gokhale

- A new book titled "**Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life**" was authored by **Nitin Anant Gokhale**, one of South Asia's leading strategic and defence analysts.

Suresh Raina's autobiography 'Believe: What Life and Cricket Taught Me' written with Bharat Sundaresan is set to be released

- Former Indian batsman **Suresh Raina's** autobiography '**Believe: What Life and Cricket Taught Me**' was co-authored by **Bharat Sundaresan**. The book was published by **Penguin India**.

JK Rowling is set to release a new children's book titled 'The Christmas Pig'

- Harry Potter author **JK Rowling** is set to release a new children's book titled "**The Christmas Pig**". The Christmas Pig is to be released by Hachette Children's Group imprint Little, **Brown Books for Young Readers**.

A new book titled "Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages" was authored by Peggy Mohan

- A new book titled "**Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages**" was authored by noted linguist **Peggy Mohan**. The book was published by **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)**.

A new book titled “The Cursed Inheritance” was authored by Sutapa Basu

- Award-winning author and poet, **Sutapa Basu** has released her mystery novel “**The Cursed Inheritance**” to contribute more towards the conservation of heritage through stories.
- The book was published by **Readomania Publishing**.

Aakash Ranison launches his ebook “Climate Change Explained – for one and all”

- A new book titled “**Climate Change Explained – for one and all**” was authored by **Aakash Ranison**, a well-known climate change activist and sustainability influencer. The book focuses on the serious topic of **climate change** and how it can affect every individual’s life.

A new book titled “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” was authored by Amitav Ghosh

- Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author **Amitav Ghosh** has authored a book titled “**The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times**”. The book will be published by **HarperCollins India**.
- The book will also be published simultaneously in **Hindi** and as an **ebook** and an **audiobook** in **January 2022**.

RANKING

India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world according to Forbes

- India is the **third-highest** number of billionaires in the world after the **US and China**, according to a new list by Forbes magazine. According to the Forbes, Reliance Industries Limited chairman **Mukesh Ambani** reclaimed his spot as **Asia’s richest person**, dethroning Chinese business tycoon **Jack Ma**.

West Bengal is the highest contributor to small savings schemes

- West Bengal is the top contributor to the various **National Savings Schemes** offered by the Government, according to data released by the **National Savings Institute** under the **Union Ministry of Finance**.

India ranked 49th in the Inclusive Internet Index; Facebook-Economist Intelligence Unit study

- According to a **Facebook-Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** study, **India** is at the **49th** spot globally when it comes to internet inclusion and gender equality in accessing the **world wide web**.
- India is tied with **Thailand** in the 49th place this year (2021) on the scores of internet availability (77th position globally), affordability (20th position), relevance (49th position), and readiness (29th) categories.

The top 5 countries were:

1. Sweden
2. United States
3. Spain
4. Australia
5. Hong Kong

Udhampur bagged the top position for implementation of PMGSY for 2020-21

- Udhampur district (Jammu and Kashmir) had bagged the top position at the national level for successfully implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** during 2020-21.
- The **PMGSY** is a programme launched by the Union Government to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.

India ranks 142 in the World Press Freedom Index 2021: while Norway topped the Index.

- **India** was placed at **142nd** position among 180 countries in the **World Press Freedom Index 2021** published by the international journalism not-for-profit body, **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**.

- **Norway** retained its top spot for the **fifth year**, followed by **Finland** and **Denmark**. **Eritrea** is at the bottom of the index at the **180th position**. Other countries at the bottom are **China** (177), **North Korea** (179) and **Turkmenistan** (178).

India ranks 87th in the Global Energy Transition Index: Sweden tops

- **India** had been ranked at the **87th position** among **115 countries** in the **Global Energy Transition Index (ETI)** by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects.

India ranks 3rd in the World Military Spender Index 2020 by SIPRI

- Total global military expenditure rose to **\$1981 billion** last year, an increase of **2.6 per cent** in real terms from **2019**, according to new data published by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.
- The **five biggest spenders** in 2020, which together accounted for 62 per cent of global military expenditure, were the **United States, China, India, Russia and the United Kingdom**.

India ranks 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI): Finland tops

- **India** has been ranked **49th** among 104 countries in the **Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI)**. The list was topped by **Finland**. **Venezuela** is the last ranked country at 104 positions.

LIC is the 10th most-valuable insurance brand and third most-strongest globally

- According to a report by London-based consultancy firm **Brand Finance**, **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has emerged as the strongest and the **tenth** most valuable insurance brand **globally**.
- **PingAn Insurance** of **China** leads the **most valuable** insurance companies list with brand value of over **\$44 billion**.
- The report also looks into the strongest insurance brands. The list is led by Italy's **Poste Italiane**, followed by Spain's **Mapfre**, **India's LIC**.

OBITUARY

Former India hockey player Balbir Singh Junior passed away at 88

- **Balbir Singh Junior**, who was a member of the silver medal-winning **1958 Asian Games** Indian hockey team, passed away at the age of 88. In 1962, he joined the **Army** as an emergency commissioned officer. He played for the **Services hockey team** in the national tournaments at Delhi.

Former CBI director Ranjit Sinha passed away at 68

- Former CBI director **Ranjit Sinha** passed away at 68. Though there has been no official word on the reason for his death yet, it is understood that he tested positive for **COVID-19 infection**.

Famous Tamil film actor Vivek passed away at 60

- Famous Tamil film actor and **Padma Sri** awardee **Vivek** passed away in Chennai due to a massive **heart attack**. He was bestowed with the **Padma Shri Award**, India's fourth-highest civilian award in the year 2009 by the Union Government.

Renowned Bangladeshi actor Kabori passed away at 70

- Renowned Bangladeshi actor **Sara Begum Kabori** passed away in Dhaka due to **COVID-19**. Sara Begum Kabori was honoured with the National Film Award for her role in the film **Sareng Bou** in **1978**. She got the lifetime achievement award in **2013**.

Renowned radiologist Kakarla Subba Rao passed away at 96

- Renowned radiologist and **former Director** of **Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences** in Hyderabad, **Kakarla Subba Rao** passed away while undergoing treatment at **Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS)**, Secunderabad.

Founder of Adobe and developer of PDFs Charles "Chuck" Geschke passed away at 81

- Charles "Chuck" Geschke, the co-founder of the major software company **Adobe Inc.** who helped develop the **Portable Document Format technology (PDFs)** died at the age of 81.

Former Indian Olympian footballer Ahmed Hussain passed away at 89

- Former Indian footballer **Ahmed Hussain** passed away at the age of 89. He represented India at the **1956 Olympic Games** in Melbourne. He was also a part of the Mohammedan Sporting side that won the **1960 Aga Khan Gold Cup** in Dhaka, a first by an Indian side.

CEO of Angel Broking Vinay Agrawal passed away at 57

- **Vinay Agrawal**, Chief Executive Officer and whole-time Director of the brokerage firm **Angel Broking** passed away. He had an experience of nearly **two decades** in various domains, including finance and operations, business development, product development and e-broking.

International hockey umpire Anupama Puchimanda passed away at 41

- Former **Karnataka** State hockey player and international umpire **Anupama Puchimanda** passed away due to COVID-19. In **2006**, she became the **first woman umpire** from **India** to officiate at the Commonwealth Games. She was the first woman referee from India to officiate in **88** international hockey matches.

Renowned Hindi author Narendra Kohli passed away at 81

- Eminent **writer** and litterateur of the **Hindi** world Veteran **Narendra Kohli** passed away due to COVID complications. He was born in Pakistan in 1940. His family migrated to **Bihar** after the partition.

Former Assam CM Bhumidhar Barman passed away at 91

- Former **Assam** Chief Minister **Bhumidhar Barman** passed away at 91 after a **prolonged illness**. Bhumidhar Barman was the Chief Minister of Assam for a brief period from **April 1996 to May 1996**.

Former Bihar Education Minister Mewalal Chaudhry passed away

- Former **Bihar Education Minister** and Janata Dal (United) MLA Mewalal Chaudhry passed away due to COVID 19.
- He was a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Bihar's **Tarapur constituency** and was removed as the state's Education Minister on corruption charges.

Senior IIS officer Narendra Kaushal passed away

- A senior officer of the **Indian Information Service (IIS)** **Narendra Kaushal** passed away following a COVID-19 infection. He served in different departments of the Union **Ministry of I&B**, including **All India Radio, Doordarshan, ROB, and RNI**, in senior positions.

Padma Shri awardee G Venkatasubbaiah passed away at 107

- A well-known **Kannada** lexicographer, **G Venkatasubbaish**, died in Bengaluru. He is popularly known in **Kannada literary field**, was a lexicographer, grammarian and literary critic.
- His monumental literary works got him various awards, including the **Padma Shri, Pampa Award, Bhasha Samman** by the **Sahitya Akademi**, **Karnataka Rajyotsava Award**, and the **Karnataka Sahitya Akademi Award**.

Former Union Minister Bachi Singh Rawat passed away at 71

- Former Union Minister Bachi **Singh Rawat** died at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. He was a **four-time MP** from the **Almora-Pithoragarh constituency** and had defeated former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and Congress leader **Harish Rawat** thrice in consecutive elections.

National award-winning filmmaker Sumitra Bhave passed away at 78

- The **seven-time national award** winner Marathi film-maker and writer **Sumitra Bhave** passed away in Pune due to age-related ailments. She made her first short film, "**Bai**" in 1985 for Stree Vani, which went onto bag her the first National Award for Best Non-Feature Film on Family Welfare (**1986**), followed by another short film, "**Paani**" that got the National Award in **1988**.

Former Goa Minister Somnath Juwarkar passed away at 74

- Former **Goa** Minister **Somnath Juwarkar** passed away at the age of 74. He had represented the **Taleigao Assembly constituency** near Panaji from **1989** till **2002**. He had served as the Minister for **Civil Supplies**, Cooperation, and Transport in the governments led by **Pratapsingh Rane** and **Fransico Sardina**.

Former US Vice President Walter Mondale passed away at 93

- Former US Vice President **Walter Mondale** passed away at 93. He served as the vice President under **Jimmy Carter** from **1977** to **1981**. He also served as the US ambassador to **Japan** from 1993 to 1996 under **Bill Clinton**.

Former RBI Governor M Narasimham passed away at 94

- Former RBI Governor Maidavolu Narasimham, known as the **father of Indian banking reforms**, passed away at a Hyderabad hospital due to **COVID-19**-related illness at the age of 94.
- He served as the RBI Governor between May and November **1977**. Narasimham served as Chairperson of the Committee on the Financial System **1991** and the Committee of Banking Sector Reforms **1998**.

Poet and lyricist Zaheer Qureshi passed away at 71

- Poet and lyricist **Zaheer Qureshi** passed away in Burhanpur. Poets and writers of **Bhopal** had expressed sorrow over his death.
- Some of the main ghazal collections of Qureshi are Lekhni Ke Swapan, Ek Tukda Dhoop, Chandi Ka Dukha, Samunder Vyahne Nahi Aaya, Bheed Mein Sabse Alag and Ped Tan Kar Bhi Nhi Toota.

President of Chad Idriss Déby passed away

- Chad's President **Idriss Déby** had passed away due to **injuries** because of clashes with rebels in the north of the country (Chad). Deby's demise comes just one day after he was declared the winner of **the sixth term** in office, marking over **30 years** in power.

Eminent Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh passed away at 89

- Eminent Bengali poet **Shankha Ghosh** passed away at the age of 89. He was awarded **Padma Bhushan** in **2011** and he received the Jnanpith Award in **2016**. He received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for his book '**Babarer Prarthana**' in **1977**.

Veteran actor Kishore Nandlaskar passed away at 81

- Veteran actor **Kishore Nandlaskar** passed away at the age of 81. He has featured in several **Marathi** and **Hindi films** like '**Purna Satya**' and '**Jis Desh Mein Ganga Rehta Hai**'.

Former Delhi Minister AK Walia passed away at 72

- Former **Delhi Minister** AK Walia passed away due to COVID-19. Walia was MLA for **four** consecutive terms. The four-time MLA had represented the **Laxmi Nagar assembly** constituency in his fourth term and had the Health, Urban Development, Land & Building portfolios.

Padma awardee and Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan passed away at 96

- Islamic scholar **Maulana Wahiduddin Khan** passed away at the age of 96. In January 2021, the government had announced that he would be awarded the **Padma Vibhushan**, the country's second-highest civilian award. In 2000, he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, the third-highest civilian award.

Renowned qawwali singer Farid Sabri of 'Sabri Brothers' fame passed away at 58

- Renowned Qawwali singer **Farid Sabri** of the **Sabri Brothers duo** passed away in Jaipur. Sabri Brothers are known for the evergreen numbers 'Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye' and 'Ek Mulakat Zaruri Hai Sanam'.

Former President of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka passed away at 84

- The former President of Madagascar, **Didier Ratsiraka** passed away at the age of 84 in **Antananarivo**. He was the President of Madagascar from **1975 to 1993** and from **1997 to 2002**.

Veteran journalist Fatema Zakaria passed away at 85

- Veteran journalist **Fatima R Zakaria**, the former Editor of the **Sunday Times**, Mumbai, and mother of renowned global media personality Fareed R. Zakaria passed away due to **COVID-19**.

Veteran actress Shashikala passed away at 88

- Shashikala was honoured with the prestigious **Padma Shri** by the Indian Government for her unparalleled contribution to the world of cinema and arts in **2007**. She was also conferred with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the V. Shantaram Awards in 2009.

Gita Press president Radheshyam Khemka passed away at 87

- **Radheshyam Khemka**, the President of Gita Press, passed away in Varanasi. Khemka has edited **38** yearly special issues of the magazine and **460** normal issues of 'Kalyan'.

India's first-ever woman commentator Chandra Nayudu passed away at 88

- India's first woman cricket commentator, **Chandra Nayudu** passed away in **Indore**. She is the daughter of India's first Test captain Col **CK Nayudu**. In 1995, she wrote a book titled, "CK Nayudu: A Daughter Remembers".

Japanese Nobel-prize-winning semiconductor pioneer Isamu Akasaki passed away at 92

- The Japanese semiconductor pioneer **Isamu Akasaki** passed away at the age of 92. His work in the late **1980s** and early **1990s** led to the development of blue **light-emitting diodes (LEDs)**.

Maharashtra Congress MLA Raosaheb Antapurkar passed away due to COVID-19 at 55

- **Congress** MLA Raosaheb Antapurkar had passed away due to **COVID-19**. He was an MLA from the Degalore assembly seat in **Antapurkar** Nanded district.

Punjabi actor Satish Kaul passed away at 74

- Veteran Punjabi actor **Satish Kaul**, who featured in several Hindi films and shows, including "**Mahabharat**", died on Saturday due to COVID-19 related complications.

Legendary shooting coach Sanjay Chakravarty passed away at 79

- Legendary shooting coach **Sanjay Chakravarty** passed away in Mumbai. The Dronacharya awardee had trained some of the finest Indian shooters, including **Abhinav Bindra**, **Gagan Narang**, **Anjali Bhagwat**, Suma Shirur, Deepali Deshpande, Anuja Jung and Ayonika Paul.

Former Election Commissioner GVG Krishnamurthy passed away at 86

- Former Election Commissioner **GVG Krishnamurthy** passed away due to age-related ailments. An Indian Legal Service officer, Krishnamurthy, became the Election Commissioner in **October 1993**.

Eminent historian Yogesh Praveen passed away at 82

- Historian and Padma Shri award winner **Yogesh Praveen** passed away after a brief illness. He wrote more than 30 books on **Awadhi culture** and Lucknow and contributed several articles in newspapers and Magazines. He was also awarded the Padma Shri award in **2020**.

'Bandish Bandits' actor Amit Mistry passed away at 47

- Popular **Gujarati** and **Hindi film** actor **Amit Mistry** passed away at the age of 47. He is known for starring in films like "**Shor In The City**", "**Bey Yaar**" and the Amazon Prime Video series "**Bandish Bandits**".

Music composer Shravan Rathod of Nadeem-Shravan fame passed away at 66

- **Shravan Rathod** of the iconic music composer duo of **Nadeem-Shravan** passed away due to COVID-19. Nadeem-Shravan got their big break with **Aashiqui** (1990) and went on to compose music for **Saajan** (1991), **Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke** (1993), **Pardes** (1997) and **Raja Hindustani** (1996), and many other hit films.

Renowned classical singer Rajan Mishra passed away at 70

- Classical singer Rajan Mishra, a **Padma Bhushan** awardee, passed away due to complications caused by COVID-19 at a hospital. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the field of art in **2007**.

Padma Shri Award winner Dadudan Gadhavi passed away at 80

- Renowned Gujarati poet and folk singer **Dadudan Pratapdan Gadhvi** has passed away at the age of 80. He was honoured with **Padma Shri Award** (fourth highest civilian award) in 2021 for his rich contribution to the field of **art and literature**.

Australian Olympic gold medallist John Konrads passed away at 78

- **Australian** swimmer and Olympic gold medalist **John Konrads** passed away at the age of 78. He won gold for Australia in the **1500 m** at the **1960 Rome Olympics**. He had set **26 individual** freestyle world records.

Noted Hindi litterateur Manzoor Ahtesham passed away at 73

- Noted **Hindi litterateur** and Padma Shri awardee **Manzoor Ahtesham** passed away in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri Award** (the fourth highest civilian award) in **2003**.

Noted Odia and English writer Manoj Das passed away at 87

- Legendary writer Manoj Das passed away at Aurobindo Ashram in **Puducherry**. He was a novelist, revered poet, columnist, fiction and travel writer, a bold commentator on social issues, and an amazing **storyteller**.

Nuclear scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam passed away

- Krishnamurthy Santhanam was a nuclear scientist and the field director of **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** during the tests of **Pokhran-II**. He was awarded the Padma Padma Bhushan in 1999.

Supreme Court judge MM Shantanagoudar passed away at 62

- Supreme Court judge Justice **Mohan M Shantanagoudar** passed away due to a lung infection.
- He was elevated to the Supreme Court in **February 2017** from the Kerala High Court where he served as the Chief Justice. He had a tenure in the apex court till **5 May 2023**.

Former University Grants Commission Chairman Arun Nigavekar passed away at 79

- Professor Arun Nigavekar, former Chairman of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** passed away in his Pune residence.
- A noted physicist and **educationist**, he was the Chairman of UGC from 2000 to 2005 and the Vice-Chancellor of the **Savitribai Phule Pune University** from 1998 to 2000.

Former Maruti MD Jagdish Khattar passed away at 79

- Former Managing Director of **Maruti Suzuki** and founder of Carnation, an automotive sales and service company **Jagdish Khattar** passed away due to a cardiac arrest.
- He was the managing Director of **Maruti Udyog Limited** from **1993** until his retirement in **2007**.

CSK Chairman and cement industry veteran L Sabaretnam passed away at 80

- Director and Chairman of **Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited** and a cement industry veteran L Sabaretnam passed away due to a brief illness.
- He served in **Chettinad Cement Corporation** and was Executive Director of the gold for a long period.

Former Chief of SSB Arun Chaudhary passed away at 66

- Former **Sahasthra Seema Bal (SSB)** Chief **Arun Chaudhary** passed away at the age of 66. He is a 1977-batch IPS officer of the **Bihar cadre** and served for nearly two decades in the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** where he headed the Jammu and Kashmir desk.

Former PCC President Satyanarayana Rao passed away at 88

- Former **Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC)** President **M Satyanarayana Rao** passed away due to age-related issues. He served as the PCC President in the combined **Andhra Pradesh** from 2000 to 2004. He also served in the **YS Rajasekhara Reddy** cabinet from 2004 to 2007 and as Chairman of **Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC)** from 2007.

National Award-winning film editor Waman Bhonsle passed away at 87

- **National-award-winning** editor **Waman Bhonsle** passed away in Mumbai due to age-related issues. He won the best editing award at the 25th National Film Awards for "**Inkaar**".

Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins passed away at 90

- **Michael Collins** is one of the three crew members of the first manned mission, "**Apollo 11**" to the Moon in 1969, passed away at the age of 90. He had stayed in lunar orbit as his colleagues **Neil Armstrong** and **Buzz Aldrin** walked on the Moon.

Former Attorney General and Padma Vibhushan awardee Soli Sorabjee passed away at 91

- Former Attorney General and Constitutional law expert **Soli Sorabjee** passed away. He had served as the Attorney General for India from **1989-1990** and then from **1998-2004**.

Tamil director-cinematographer KV Anand passed away at 54

- Filmmaker and cinematographer **KV Anand** passed away at the age of 54. He helmed films like **Kana Kandaen, Ayan, Ko, Maattraan, Anegan, Kavan** and **Kaappaan**.
- He was also a founding member of the **Indian Society of Cinematographers (ISC)**.

SPORTS NEWS

India won one gold and two bronze medals in the Asian Wrestling Championship

- Haryana's 26-year-old **Sarita Mor** stamped her authority in the **Asian Wrestling Championships** held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan**, by winning back-to-back titles in the **Women's 59 kg**.
- Indian women also won **two bronze** medals through **Seema** and **Pooja** besides Sarita's gold.

Pakistan Skipper Babar Azam replaced Virat Kohli as World No.1 batsman in the ICC Men's ODI Rankings

- In the **International Cricket Council's (ICC)** rankings for ODI batsmen, **Pakistan Captain Babar Azam** had climbed to the top spot. Azam replaced his Indian counterpart **Virat Kohli**, who was occupying the top position for nearly three and a half years.
- **Rohit Sharma**, with 825 points, is the only other Indian player who has featured in the latest top 10 batting chart.
- **R Ashwin** is the lone Indian to find a place in the top 10 all-rounders' list at the No. 9 spot **Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan** leads the pack ahead of injured England all-rounder Ben Stokes and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.
- Among bowlers, Indian pacer **Jasprit Bumrah** has held on to his **fourth** position behind top-ranked **Trent Boult of New Zealand**.

India finishes women's wrestling Asian Championship titles with seven medals

- Olympics-bound Indian wrestlers **Vinesh Phogat** and **Anshu Malik** clinched their maiden Asian Championship titles at Almaty, Kazakhstan as India ended with **seven medals** from the women's event with **four gold**.

Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak banned for 8 years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code

- Former Zimbabwe all-rounder **Heath Streak** accepted charges of breaching the **ICC Anti-Corruption Code** between **2016** and **2018** during his tenure as coaches of the senior national Zimbabwe team. He was also charged with leaking inside information during his coaching roles, including the IPL.

Star India retains media rights for Pro Kabaddi League till 2025

- **Star India** has been the media rights partner for **Pro Kabaddi League** for the **first 7 seasons**. Star India has retained its media rights for the Pro Kabaddi League for **Rs. 180 crores** annually after it emerged as the successful bidder in the fresh media rights auction for the next five seasons from **2021-2025**.

Deepak Punia bagged a silver medal in 68 kg at the Asian Wrestling Championships

- World Championships silver medallist **Deepak Punia** settled for a silver medal in the Asian Wrestling Championships held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan**. He secured a place in the Olympics lost to the World Champion **Hassan Yazdani** in the **86 kg** freestyle final.
- **Sanjeet** bagged the bronze medal for India in the **92 kg** category. India thus ended the Asian Wrestling Championships with seven medals in the men's freestyle event and an overall tally of **five gold, three silver, and six bronze** medals.

Mirabai Chanu creates a new world record at Asian Weightlifting Championships

- Indian **weightlifter Mirabai Chanu** set a new world record in Clean and Jerk as she lifted **119 kg** at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here in Tashkent.
- She also created a new national record as she lifted a total of **205 kg** (86 kg Snatch + 119 kg Clean and Jerk), which also won her the bronze medal at the showpiece event.

Stefanos Tsitsipas wins Monte Carlo Masters 2021

- **Stefanos Tsitsipas** won the **Monte Carlo Masters 2021** without dropping a set, beating **Andrey Rublev** for his first title this year (2021) and sixth overall. Stefanos Tsitsipas is a **Greek professional tennis player**.

Max Verstappen wins Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix

- **Max Verstappen** won a thrilling **Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix** held at Italian town **Imola**, after **Lewis Hamilton** ran off the road and **George Russell** and **Valtteri Bottas** were involved in a huge 200mph crash.
- **Max Verstappen** is a **Belgian-Dutch racing driver** currently competing in Formula One, under the Dutch flag with Red Bull Racing.

Former Sri Lanka batsman Dilhara Lokuhettige banned for eight years under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code

- Former **Sri Lanka** batsman **Dilhara Lokuhettige** was banned from all forms of cricket for **eight years** after an **ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal** found him guilty of breaching the **ICC Anti-Corruption Code**.

Indian women boxers create history with seven gold medals in AIBA World Youth Boxing championships

- **Indian women boxers** put up sensational performances as they created history with **seven gold medals** in **Kielce, Poland**.
- All the women finalists in action—**Gitika** (48 kg), **Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu** (51 kg), **Poonam** (57kg), **Vinka** (60kg), **Arundhati Choudhary** (69kg), **T Sanamacha Chanu** (75kg) and **Alfiya Pathan** (+81kg)— registered victories and finished on the top of the podium.

Virat Kohli becomes the first player to reach 6000 IPL runs

- **Virat Kohli** became the first player in history to score **6000 runs** in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**. **Virat Kohli** is leading the IPL highest run-getter chart, followed by **Suresh Raina**, **Shikhar Dhawan**, **David Warner** and **Rohit Sharma**.

Nethra Kumanan becomes the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for Olympics

- **Nethra Kumanan** became the **first Indian woman sailor** to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics after she was assured of a top-place finish in the laser radial event of the **Asian Qualifiers** in **Oman**.
- The 23-year-old **Kumanan** from **Tamil Nadu** is the first Indian woman to win a World Cup medal in the **Hempel World Series** in Miami, USA.

FIFA suspends the membership of Pakistan Football Federation & Chadian Football Association

- FIFA had suspended the **Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)** due to third-party interference and the **Chadian Football Association** due to **government interference**.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2021 Bahrain F1 Grand Prix

- Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** won the **2021 Bahrain F1 Grand Prix**. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull Racing-Netherlands) came second and **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes-Finland) was third in the race.

Nine cities in Australia and New Zealand to host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

- The **2023 Women's Football World Cup** of football will be spread across nine cities in **Australia** and **New Zealand**. The opening match will take place at **Eden Park** in **Auckland**, with **Sydney's Stadium** in Australia hosting the final.

Kerala's Aniyam Midhun wins gold at the South Asian Wushu Championship 2021

- **Aniyam Midhun** of Kerala won the gold medal at the **South Asian Wushu Championship** that concluded in **Nepal**. The 28-year-old youth represented India in the **70-kg category** in the championship.

Tashkent is set to host the 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships

- The **2023 Men's Boxing World Championships** will be held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**. International Boxing Association (AIBA) President **Umar Kremlev** confirmed Tashkent as the host city for the 2023 event.

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

India finished with 21 medals (including 5 golds) in the Dubai Para-Badminton International 2021

- **India** topped the medals tally with **21 medals** (5 gold, 6 silver, and 10 bronze medals), ahead of **France** who finished with eight medals (4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze), and **Malaysia** with seven medals (3 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze) in the **3rd Sheikh Hamdan bin Al Maktoum Dubai Para-Badminton International 2021** in Dubai.

Poland's Hubert Hurkacz beats Italian Jannik Sinner to win the Miami Open 2021

- Poland's **Hubert Hurkacz** defeated Italian teenager **Jannik Sinner** in straight sets to win the **Miami Open 2021** and claim the **first ATP Masters title** of his career. Hurkacz became Poland's first Masters **1000 champion**.
- World number 1-ranked **Ashleigh Barty** won her second successive **Miami title** by defeating **Bianca Andreescu** in the women's singles final.

Indian women's recurve team bags gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2021

- In the Archery World Cup, the Indian women's recurve team including **Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat** and **Komalika Bari** won a **gold medal** in **Guatemala**.

UAE's Qadeer Ahmed Khan was banned for five years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has banned **United Arab Emirates** cricketer **Qadeer Ahmed Khan** for **five years** for breaching the **ICC anti-corruption code**.

Sarah Gamal becomes the first Arab female basketball referee to compete in the Olympics

- As 3-on-3 basketball makes its Olympic debut in **Tokyo**, referee **Sarah Gamal** will make history as the **first Arab and African woman** to officiate at the Olympic Games.

Rafael Nadal beats Tsitsipas and clinches his 12th Barcelona Open title

- **Rafael Nadal** played out a three-set thriller in the **Barcelona Open 2021** final against **Stefanos Tsitsipas** to win the title for the **12th time** in his career. The Spaniard secured his **first title** of the year and **87th** of his career.

Indian boxer Amit Panghal wins bronze medal at Governor's Cup in Russia

- Olympic-bound **Indian boxer Amit Panghal (52 kg)** settled for a bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in **St. Petersburg, Russia**, after losing to World Champion and familiar foe **Shakhobidin Zoirov** in the semifinals.

Ashleigh Barty defeats Aryna Sabalenka to lift Porsche Tennis Grand Prix title

- Australia's **Ash Barty** defeated **Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus) in Porsche Tennis Grand Prix. It is her third **WTA title** and **11th** career title after successes at the **Miami Open** and the **Yarra Valley Classic** in Melbourne.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day	Other Information
2 April	International Children's Book Day	Theme: "The Music of Words"
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme: "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World"
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	2021 Theme: "Perseverance, Partnership, Progress"
4 April	World Rat Day	The day was founded in 2002
5 April	National Maritime Day	2021 Theme: "Sustainable Shipping beyond COVID-19"
5 April	International Day of Conscience	It was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 July 2019.

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

7 April	World Health Day	Theme for 2021 is "Building a Fairer and Healthier World for Everyone"
9 April	CRPF Valour Day	2021 marks the 56th CRPF Valour Day.
10 April	World Homeopathy Day	Theme - "Homeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine"
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	It is celebrated on the birthday of Kasturba Gandhi.
11 April	World Parkinson's Day	
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	It is the annual celebration held on 12 April to the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin.
13 April	102 nd Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	The incident happened in the year 1919.
13 April	International Turban Day	The 2021 Turban Day marks the 552 nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.
14 April	National Fire Service Day	-
14 April	World Chagas Disease Day	-
16 April	World Voice Day	-
17 April	World Haemophilia Day	Theme: "Adapting to Change"
18 April	International Day for Monuments and Sites	Theme: "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures"
19 April	World Liver Day	-
20 April	UN Chinese Language Day	-
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	-
21 April	National Civil Service Day	On this day Sardar Vallabhai Patel inaugurated the All-India Services in 1947.
22 April	International Mother Earth Day	Theme: "Restore our Earth"
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	As per UNESCO, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia was selected as the World Book Capital for 2021.
22 April	International Girls in ICT Day	Theme: "Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures"
24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	The annual celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day is done to commemorate the day on which the 73 rd Constitutional Amendment was passed.
24 April	World Day for Laboratory Animals	-
24 April	World Veterinary Day	Theme: "Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crises"
25 April	World Malaria Day	Theme: "Reaching the zero-malaria target"
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme: "IP and SMEs: Taking Your Ideas to Market"
25 April	International Delegate's Day	-
26 April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	-
April (24–30)	World Immunization Week 2021	Theme: "Vaccines bring us closer"
28 April	Workers' Memorial Day	Theme: "Health and Safety is a fundamental workers' right"
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme: "Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises – Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems"
29 April	International Dance Day	Theme: "Purpose of dance"
30 April	International Jazz Day	-

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

Q.1) Which player was ranked at the top spot in the recently released ICC ODI rankings (April 2021)?

- (a) Babar Azam
- (b) Jos Butler
- (c) Virat Kohli**
- (d) Ben Stokes
- (e) Rohit Sharma

Q.2) Who was appointed as the Director-General of the Employees State Insurance Corporation of India (ESIC)?

- (a) Usha Ananth Subramanian
- (b) Mukhmeet S Bhatia**
- (c) Padmaja Chundurur
- (d) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- (e) Shikha Sharma

Q.3) Who had been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)?

- (a) Mallika Srinivasan**
- (b) Naina Lal Kidwai
- (c) Kalpana Morparia
- (d) Ranjana Kumar
- (e) Chanda Kochha

Q.4) Which city ranked first in the Global Residential Cities Index 2020, according to the Knight Frank Global Residential Cities Index?

- (a) Beijing
- (b) London
- (c) Ankara**
- (d) New York
- (e) Paris

Q.5) Which two companies ended their collaboration on all projects in India?

- (a) Ford and TCS
- (b) Ford and Mahindra**
- (c) Ford and BMW
- (d) Toyota and TCS
- (e) Fiat and Suzuki

Q.6) Which zonal railways of India became the first fully electrified railway zone?

- (a) South Central Railways
- (b) Northern Railways
- (c) West Central Railways**
- (d) Eastern Railways
- (e) North Eastern Railways

Q.7) Which programme was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Venture Center?

- (a) AIM-RIGHTS
- (b) AIM-VISION
- (c) AIM-PARTNER
- (d) AIM-PRIME**
- (e) AIM-BOLD

Q.8) Who took over as the Chief of Staff of the Western Command?

- (a) Ashish Kumar
- (b) Manjinder Singh**
- (c) Karan Kapoor
- (d) Vinay Kumar
- (e) Sarath Sharma

Q.9) Who is the author of the book titled 'Suparipalana', that was released by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu?

- (a) Shankar Sharma
- (b) KR Narayanan
- (c) Shailendra Joshi**
- (d) Balaji Sharma
- (e) None of the above

Q.10) Who won the Bahrain Grand Prix 2021?

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lewis Hamilton**
- (c) Valtteri Bottas
- (d) Sebastian Vettel
- (e) Daniel Ricciardo

Q.11) Which country to host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023?

- (a) Australia
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Germany
- (e) Both a and b**

Q.12) What is the name of the platform of the NCTE web portal launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank?

- (a) MyNEP2020**
- (b) MyPORTAL2020
- (c) MySTEP2020
- (d) MyMEP2020
- (e) None of the above

Q.13) Where did the multinational military exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena - 2021' take place?

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) Bangladesh**
- (d) Sri Lanka
- (e) Australia

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.14) Aniyon Midhun won gold at the South Asian Wushu Championship in 2021. Which state does he belong to?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Kerala**
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Telangana
- (e) Andhra Pradesh

Q.15) The World Bank and AIIB approved a loan for \$300 million canal-based drinking water projects in which state?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Punjab**
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.16) Which country is set to host the 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships?

- (a) Azerbaijan
- (b) Uzbekistan**
- (c) Kazakhstan
- (d) Afghanistan
- (e) Tajikistan

Q.17) Who received the Kalinga Ratna Samman 2021?

- (a) Ramesh Bais
- (b) Anusuiya Uikey
- (c) Biswabhusan Harichandan**
- (d) Ganeshi Lal
- (e) Phagu Chauhan

Q.18) Who released the book titled 'Neelimarani: My Mother, My Hero' authored by Achyuta Samanta?

- (a) Ramnath Kovind
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Venkaiah Naidu**
- (d) Amit Shah
- (e) Narendra Modi

Q.19) Who was appointed as the brand ambassador of Digit Insurance?

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) Virat Kohli**
- (c) Sachin Tendulkar
- (d) Shikhar Dhawan
- (e) Rishabh Pant

Q.20) Who among the following Deputy Governor of RBI retired recently?

- (a) MK Jain
- (b) BP Kanungo**
- (c) MD Patra
- (d) M Rajeshwar Rao
- (e) None of the above

Q.21) Eduard Heger was appointed as the Prime Minister of which country?

- (a) Slovenia
- (b) Bulgaria
- (c) Slovakia**
- (d) Croatia
- (e) Serbia

Q.22) Who addressed Hope Consortium's World Immunisation and Logistics Summit?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) Harsh Vardhan**
- (e) Ramnath Kovind

Q.23) By which year has the Centre (Union Government) decided to launch unique id numbers for all plots of land?

- (a) 2021
- (b) 2025
- (c) 2022**
- (d) 2030
- (e) 2023

Q.24) Which company partnered with CDC Group to invest in Rs. 320-crore PBI to fund 6 MFIs?

- (a) Vivriti Capital
- (b) Ashv Finance Limited
- (c) Northern Arc**
- (d) SVB India Finance Limited
- (e) Rockstart

Q.25) Which is the first state in India to provide health insurance for all its residents?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Rajasthan**
- (e) West Bengal

Q.26) Which of the following states/UTs celebrate the 'Tulip Festival'?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Lakshadweep
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir**
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.27) Which IIT has developed a touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired?

- (a) IIT Madras
- (b) IIT Kanpur**
- (c) IIT Bombay
- (d) IIT Kharagpur
- (e) IIT Mandi

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.28) Which bank approved a \$32 million project to improve health services in Mizoram?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) World Bank**
- (c) Asian Development Bank
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (e) None of the above

Q.29) Who was appointed as the Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)?

- (a) Vaishnav Tej
- (b) Karan Singh
- (c) Anjali Sundar
- (d) Chintan Vaishnav**
- (e) Vinay Chandar

Q.30) Who is appointed as the next Chief Justice of India?

- (a) NV Ramana**
- (b) Ranjan Gogoi
- (c) Dipak Misra
- (d) Tirath Singh Thakur
- (e) Rajendra Mal Lodha

Q.31) Which is the first hotel in the world to achieve the LEED Zero Carbon Certification?

- (a) ITC Windsor, Bengaluru**
- (b) Novotel, Mumbai
- (c) Taj Coromandel, Delhi
- (d) Hyatt Residence, Chennai
- (e) Radisson, Pune

Q.32) Who was appointed as the new CMD of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)?

- (a) Ajay Tyagi
- (b) Gurdeep Singh
- (c) Raghuram Rajan
- (d) Subhash Kumar**
- (e) Nalin Shinghal

Q.33) Who was appointed as the additional director of Britannia?

- (a) Urjit Patel**
- (b) Bimal Jalan
- (c) Rangarajan
- (d) Narasimham
- (e) Jagannathan

Q.34) Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched a new cruise service connecting Hazira port and Diu Island. In which state does Hazira located?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Gujarat**
- (d) Maharashtra
- (e) Haryana

Q.35) Who received the Saraswati Samman 2020 for his book 'Sanatan'?

- (a) Sitanshu Yashaschandra
- (b) Harivansh Rai Bachchan
- (c) Sharankumar Limbale**
- (d) Vasdev Mohi
- (e) Mahabaleshwar Sail

Q.36) Which company had planned to set up new undersea cables to connect Southeast Asia and America?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Google
- (c) Facebook
- (d) Both b and c**
- (e) All of the above

Q.37) Didier Ratsiraka passed away recently. He was the former President of _____.

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Madagascar**
- (d) Nepal
- (e) Malaysia

Q.38) Who was honoured with the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award?

- (a) Anupam Kher
- (b) Ajith Kumar
- (c) Rajinikanth**
- (d) Kamal Haasan
- (e) Amitabh Bachchan

Q.39) Who is appointed as the new Prime Minister of Vietnam?

- (a) Tran Thien Khiem
- (b) Tran Van Huu
- (c) Huynh Tan Phat
- (d) Tran Trọng Kim
- (e) Pham Minh Chinh**

Q.40) Who was appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary?

- (a) Tarun Bajaj
- (b) Ajay Seth**
- (c) K Abdulla
- (d) Rahul Chhabra
- (e) None of the above

Q.41) When is the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace celebrated?

- (a) 5 April
- (b) 2 April
- (c) 6 April**
- (d) 9 April
- (e) 4 April

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

- Q.42) Who was conferred the GD Birla Award for Scientific Research?
- (a) Ajay Singh
(b) Suman Chakraborty
(c) Manoj Sinha
(d) Dineshwar Sharma
(e) Pankaj Raj
- Q.43) Who is the author of the book titled “Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life”?
- (a) Vikram Seth
(b) Salman Rushdie
(c) Nitin Anant Gokhale
(d) Khushwant Singh
(e) Kiran Desai
- Q.44) Digvijaysinh Jhala passed away recently. He was a renowned _____.
- (a) Actor
(b) Politician
(c) Freedom Fighter
(d) Cricketer
(e) Economist
- Q.45) When is the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action observed?
- (a) 5 April
(b) 4 April
(c) 6 April
(d) 7 April
(e) 9 April
- Q.46) Who among the following won the 2020 ACM A.M.Turing Award?
- (a) Alfred Aho (b) Jeffrey Ullman
(c) Yehoshua Sagiv **(d) Both a and b**
(e) All of the above
- Q.47) Which country finished at the top in the medals tally in the Dubai Para-Badminton?
- (a) Australia
(b) Germany
(c) India
(d) China
(e) Japan
- Q.48) Who won the men’s singles title in the Miami Open?
- (a) Jannik Sinner
(b) Roger Federer
(c) Hubert Hurkacz
(d) Novak Djokovic
(e) Dominic Thiem
- Q.49) When is the International Day of Conscience observed?
- (a) 6 April
(b) 4 April
(c) 5 April
(d) 7 April
(e) 9 April
- Q.50) What is the theme of the 2021 National Maritime Day?
- (a) The Indian Ocean – An Ocean of opportunity
(b) Sustainable shipping beyond COVID-19
(c) Indian shipping history
(d) Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet
(e) None of the above
- Q.51) Which organisation approved a \$ 484 million loan to improve connectivity and maintenance of the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor?
- (a) UNESCO
(b) IMF
(c) New Development Bank
(d) ADB
(e) World Bank
- Q.52) Which country agreed to Jointly work with India against terror groups and fugitives?
- (a) Bhutan
(b) Nepal
(c) Sri Lanka
(d) Japan
(e) France
- Q.53) Which country agreed to jointly work with India to strengthen counter-terror mechanism?
- (a) South Korea
(b) China
(c) Australia
(d) Maldives
(e) South Africa
- Q.54) Which country appointed Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou as its Prime Minister?
- (a) Vietnam
(b) Niger
(c) Malawi
(d) Nigeria
(e) Yemen
- Q.55) Who broke the two Guinness World Records for fastest solo cycling?
- (a) Karan Singh
(b) Harsha Kumar
(c) Vinoth Raj
(d) Bharat Pannu
(e) Jagadeesh Kumar

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.56) Who won the women's single title in the Miami Open?

- (a) **Ashleigh Barty**
- (b) Sofia Kenin
- (c) Bianca Andreescu
- (d) Naomi Osaka
- (e) Simona Halep

Q.57) Who is to be inducted into the 2021 WWE Hall of Fame?

- (a) Mark Henry
- (b) Dave Bautista
- (c) **The Great Khali**
- (d) Rey Mysterio
- (e) The Undertaker

Q.58) What is the portal name that was launched by the Chief Justice of India, SA Bobde?

- (a) FENCING
- (b) SURFACE
- (c) **SUPACE**
- (d) Redressal
- (e) Grievance

Q.59) Which country contributed \$500,000 to UN Trust Fund for counter-terrorism?

- (a) Russia
- (b) China
- (c) **India**
- (d) France
- (e) Germany

Q.60) Who was appointed as the chairman of the Capacity Building Commission?

- (a) Nikhil Meswani
- (b) **Adil Zainulbhai**
- (c) Dipak Jain
- (d) PMS Prasad
- (e) Ranjan Singh

Q.61) Who was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Tanla Platform?

- (a) **Aravind Viswanathan**
- (b) Sampath Sharma
- (c) Vinay Kumar
- (d) Amit Khare
- (e) Balakrishnan

Q.62) Which country signed an MoU with India for Academic and Research Cooperation?

- (a) Iran
- (b) China
- (c) South Africa
- (d) **Japan**
- (e) Mexico

Q.63) Sanjay Chakravarty passed away recently. He was a former _____.

- (a) Cricket coach
- (b) **Shooting coach**
- (c) Boxing coach
- (d) Hockey coach
- (e) Badminton coach

Q.64) Who inaugurated an electronic marketplace, "e-SANTA" to connect aqua farmers and buyers?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) **Piyush Goyal**
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Ramnath Kovind

Q.65) Who launched the MANAS App to promote well-being across age groups?

- (a) Vinay Kumar
- (b) **Vijay Raghavan**
- (c) Vijay Kumar
- (d) Varadha Rajan
- (e) Vishnu Kumar

Q.66) Who had partnered with Dassault Systemes Foundation for seeding future innovators and entrepreneurs?

- (a) **Atal Innovation Mission**
- (b) SEBI
- (c) RBI
- (d) NTPC
- (e) IRDAI

Q.67) Who launched "Online Grievance Management Portal" for persons from Scheduled Castes?

- (a) NTPC
- (b) Bombay Stock Exchange
- (c) National Housing Bank
- (d) Reserve Bank of India
- (e) **National Commission for Scheduled Castes**

Q.68) Which day is celebrated as the World Homeopathy Day?

- (a) 11 April
- (b) 20 April
- (c) 12 April
- (d) **10 April**
- (e) 15 April

Q.69) Who launched the NanoSniffer Explosive trace detector developed jointly by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay?

- (a) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**
- (d) Amith Shah
- (e) Narendra Modi

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.70) Which state is the highest contributor to the small savings schemes?

(a) West Bengal

(b) Telangana

(c) Kerala

(d) Karnataka

(e) Gujarat

Q.71) Which company tied up with India Accelerator to mentor sports startups?

(a) UFC Network

(b) ESPN

(c) Star Sports

(d) JSW Sports

(e) None of the above

Q.72) What is the theme for World Homeopathy Day for 2021?

(a) Homeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine

(b) Homeopathy - for Integrative Medicine

(c) Homeopathy - An Integrative Medicine

(d) Homeopathy - for India

(e) Homeopathy - The best in its way

Q.73) Flipkart is to set up Asia's largest fulfilment centre in _____.

(a) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

(b) Cuttack, Odisha

(c) Gurugram, Haryana

(d) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

(e) Pune, Maharashtra

Q.74) Which Municipal Corporation issued India's first-ever municipal green bonds?

(a) Lucknow Municipal Corporation

(b) Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation

(c) Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation

(d) Delhi Municipal Corporation

(e) Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation

Q.75) What is the name of the Tribal Health Collaborative launched by the Union Ministers Harsh Vardhan and Arjun Munda?

(a) Aakil

(b) Anamaya

(c) Anamika

(d) Aahan

(e) None of the above

Q.76) Who launched the Madhukranti portal and Honey Corners of NAFED in New Delhi?

(a) Amith Shah

(b) Narendra Modi

(c) Piyush Goyal

(d) Nirmala Sitharaman

(e) Narendra Singh Tomar

Q.77) Which is the only Indian University in the top 100 list in the Impact Ranking 2021?

(a) Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University

(b) Banaras Hindu University

(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University

(d) Jamia Millia Islamia University

(e) Aligarh Muslim University

Q.78) Which Ministry signed an MoU with the Department of Animal Husbandry for research on new formulations in quality drugs for veterinary science?

(a) Union Ministry of AYUSH

(b) Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers

(c) Union Ministry of Home Affairs

(d) Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions

(e) Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Q.79) Which IIT developed a technique to boost the performance of lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles?

(a) IIT Delhi

(b) IIT Mumbai

(c) IIT Madras

(d) IIT Guwahati

(e) IIT Kharagpur

Q.80) Which country has the third-highest number of billionaires in the world, according to Forbes?

(a) Germany

(b) France

(c) India

(d) Japan

(e) China

Q.81) Who became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics?

(a) Pavithra Raman

(b) Nethra Kumanan

(c) Shruthi Singh

(d) Ranjani Sharma

(e) Ananthi Mohan

Q.82) Chandra Nayudu passed away recently. She was a/an _____.

(a) Chief Journalist

(b) Cricket Commentator

(c) Actor

(d) Painter

(e) Economist

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.83) Which country announced the launch of a strategic partnership in the water sector with India?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Germany
- (c) Netherland**
- (d) Japan
- (e) France

Q.84) BCCI appointed Shabir Hussein as its Anti-Corruption Unit chief. He was a former Director-General of Police (DGP) of which state?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Gujarat**
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Maharashtra

Q.85) Who attended the consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (c) Piyush Goyal
- (d) Sanjay Dhotre**
- (e) Ramnath Kovind

Q.86) Which company partnered with BillDesk for an online payment partnership?

- (a) JSW
- (b) Wells Fargo
- (c) JP Morgan**
- (d) Johnson and Johnson
- (e) Walmart

Q.87) Which country appointed Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu as its President?

- (a) Albania
- (b) Kosovo**
- (c) Croatia
- (d) Serbia
- (e) Turkey

Q.88) Which Indian cricketer was appointed as the brand ambassador of VIVO?

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) Virat Kohli**
- (c) Rishab Pant
- (d) Shikhar Dhawan
- (e) Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Q.89) What is the name of the initiative launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank for implementation of the National Education Policy?

- (a) SARTHWQE
- (b) SARTHAQ**
- (c) SARTHAQE
- (d) SARTHAPE
- (e) None of the above

Q.90) Who was conferred with the Chhattisgarh Veerni Award?

- (a) Dutee Chand**
- (b) Neeraj Chopra
- (c) Sandeep Kumar
- (d) Renjith Maheswary
- (e) Sreeshankar Murali

Q.91) Ladakh plans to provide tap water connection to every household by which year?

- (a) 2025
- (b) 2021
- (c) 2022**
- (d) 2023
- (e) 2027

Q.92) Where did Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for rowing?

- (a) Ladakh
- (b) Srinagar**
- (c) Manali
- (d) Gulmarg
- (e) Shimla

Q.93) Who launched the Aahaar Kranti mission to spread awareness about nutrition?

- (a) Piyush Goyal
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Amith Shah
- (d) Harsh Vardhan**
- (e) None of the above

Q.94) Which country became the first country to ratify mega free trade agreement Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Singapore**
- (d) Norway
- (e) Switzerland

Q.95) Which e-commerce company partnered with Adani Group to strengthen logistics and data centre capabilities?

- (a) Snapdeal
- (b) Amazon
- (c) Flipkart**
- (d) Myntra
- (e) None of the above

Q.96) Who partnered with FlexiLoans to offer MSME, Freelancers Collateral-Free Loans?

- (a) Mobikwik
- (b) Paytm
- (c) PayPal**
- (d) Ola
- (e) Razopay

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.97) Who was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court?

- (a) Vinay Kumar
- (b) Aravind Singh
- (c) Sanjay Yadav**
- (d) Kiran Kumar
- (e) Sunil Singh

Q.98) Who was appointed as the brand ambassador for Punjab's anti-COVID vaccination drive?

- (a) Varun Dhawan
- (b) Amir Khan
- (c) Ayushmann Khurrana
- (d) Sonu Sood**
- (e) Rajkumar Rao

Q.99) Who was conferred with the 2nd highest civilian French honour Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres)?

- (a) Sanya Malhotra
- (b) Nushrat Bharucha
- (c) Guneet Monga**
- (d) Nivetha Sharma
- (e) Neena Gupta

Q.100) Who was honoured with a top civilian award in Abu Dhabi?

- (a) Micky Jagtiani
- (b) Azad Moopen
- (c) Yusuffali**
- (d) Sunil Vaswani
- (e) Ajay Piramal

Q.101) Satish Kaul passed away recently. He was a renowned _____.

- (a) Banker
- (b) Politician
- (c) Scientist
- (d) Actor**
- (e) Journalist

Q.102) When is the International Day of Human Space Flight observed?

- (a) 11 April
- (b) 12 April**
- (c) 15 April
- (d) 16 April
- (e) 10 April

Q.103) Who inaugurated the 6th edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue 2021?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (c) Narendra Modi**
- (d) Rajnath Singh
- (e) Piyush Goyal

Q.104) Which state gets India's first floating LNG storage and regasification unit?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Maharashtra**
- (d) Odisha
- (e) Tripura

Q. 105) India launched the first-ever app "Little Guru" to teach which language?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) Tamil
- (c) Kannada
- (d) Sanskrit**
- (e) Marathi

Q. 106) Which company partnered with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) to transform its sales and distribution network?

- (a) Flipkart
- (b) TCS
- (c) Wipro
- (d) Accenture**
- (e) Mind Tree

Q. 107) Who was appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)?

- (a) Sushil Modi
- (b) Rajiv Kumar
- (c) Ashok Sharma
- (d) Ajay Narayan Jha
- (e) Sushil Chandra**

Q. 108) Which life insurance appointed Kalpana Sampat as its MD and CEO?

- (a) PNB MetLife India Insurance
- (b) Max Life Insurance
- (c) HDFC Life Insurance
- (d) Pramerica Life Insurance**
- (e) SBI Life Insurance

Q. 109) Who was appointed as the new President and CEO of Canon India?

- (a) Yoshihide Suga
- (b) Osamu Aoki
- (c) Manabu Yamazaki**
- (d) Noriko Hashimoto
- (e) Toru Hashimoto

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Q. 110) Who was appointed as the brand ambassador of SportzXchange, a fantasy sports platform?

- (a) Suresh Raina
- (b) Rishab Pant
- (c) Prithvi Shaw**
- (d) Manish Pandey
- (e) Ishan Kisan

Q. 111) Which New Zealand cricketer was awarded Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for the fourth time?

- (a) Martin Guptill
- (b) Tim Southee
- (c) Kane Williamson**
- (d) Ross Taylor
- (e) Brendon McCullum

Q. 112) Who was appointed as the new director-general of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)?

- (a) Sanam Shetty
- (b) Anand Ahuja
- (c) Poonam Gupta**
- (d) Sunita Kapoor
- (e) Kriti Sanon

Q. 113) When is the National Safe Motherhood Day observed?

- (a) 17 April
- (b) 12 April
- (c) 11 April**
- (d) 16 April
- (e) 10 April

Q. 114) Who launched the national nursery portal to connect nursery operators with consumers?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Narendra Singh Tomar**
- (e) Harsh Vardhan

Q.115) Which country had decided to send a rover named Rashid to the moon in 2022?

- (a) France
- (b) UAE**
- (c) Iran
- (d) Iraq
- (e) Qatar

Q.116) Who is appointed as the new Prime Minister of Haiti?

- (a) Joseph Jouthe
- (b) Claude Joseph**
- (c) Haroun Kadi
- (d) Yemi Osinbajo
- (e) Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan

Q.117) Who is appointed as the President of the Walt Disney Company India and Star India?

- (a) Madhavan**
- (b) Raghuram Rajan
- (c) Ranganathan
- (d) Muhammad Yunus
- (e) Mahendran

Q.118) Who succeeded Navin Agarwal as the Director-General of the National Anti-Doping Agency?

- (a) Prasada Rao
- (b) Gurdeep Singh
- (c) Ajay Tyagi
- (d) Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- (e) Siddharth Singh Longjam**

Q.119) Who is appointed as the brand ambassador of Elista?

- (a) Rahul Dravid
- (b) Sachin Tendulkar
- (c) Suresh Raina**
- (d) Virat Kohli
- (e) Rohit Sharma

Q.120) GVG Krishnamurthy passed away recently. He is a former _____.

- (a) SEBI chairman
- (b) Election Commissioner**
- (c) CJI
- (d) CAG of India
- (e) Intelligence Bureau director

Q.121) Who was appointed as the Indian brand ambassador of Tecno for 2021?

- (a) Kartik Aaryan
- (b) Ayushmann Khurrana**
- (c) Ranbir Kapoor
- (d) Ranveer Singh
- (e) Sidharth Malhotra

Q.122) Who was named the Wisden Almanack's ODI cricketer of the 2010s?

- (a) Steve Smith
- (b) Ben Stokes
- (c) Virat Kohli**
- (d) Sachin Tendulkar
- (e) Rahul Dravid

Q.123) Who was honoured with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement of the 78th Venice International Film Festival?

- (a) La Biennale di Venezia
- (b) Roberto Benigni**
- (c) Giorgio Cantarini
- (d) Jim Jarmusch
- (e) Matteo Garrone

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Q.124) Name the Zimbabwe player, who was banned for 8 years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code (April 2021)?

- (a) Adam Huckle
- (b) Andrew Waller
- (c) Alistair Campbell
- (d) Khama Billiat
- (e) Heath Streak**

Q.125) Who launched the world's first affordable and long-lasting hygiene product DuroKea Series?

- (a) Rajnath Singh
- (b) Amith Shah
- (c) Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**
- (d) Piyush Goyal
- (e) None of the above

Q.126) Which IIT signed an MoU with NCDC to promote sustainable developments in cooperatives, agriculture and allied sectors?

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Madras
- (c) IIT Kharagpur**
- (d) IIT Mandi
- (e) IIT Kanpur

Q.127) Who was appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer of L&T Infotech?

- (a) Raghuram Rajan
- (b) Ashok Kumar
- (c) Rangarajan
- (d) Anil Kumar
- (e) Anil Rander**

Q.128) Who won the Innovative and Sustainable Supply Chain Award by UN Global Compact Network India?

- (a) BEL
- (b) NTPC
- (c) Birla Cellulose**
- (d) TCS
- (e) BSNL

Q.129) Padma Shri awardee Vivek passed away in Chennai due to a massive heart attack. He is renowned _____.

- (a) Actor**
- (b) Businessmen
- (c) Dancer
- (d) Musician
- (e) Politician

Q.130) When is the World Haemophilia Day observed?

- (a) 15 April
- (b) 16 April
- (c) 17 April**
- (d) 19 April
- (e) 18 April

Q.131) Which country launched its first-ever mega food park and food processing unit in India?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Italy**
- (d) Norway
- (e) Denmark

Q.132) When is the World Liver Day observed?

- (a) 14 April
- (b) 20 April
- (c) 19 April**
- (d) 18 April
- (e) 12 April

Q.133) Which Union Ministry signed an MoU with Cleartrip and Ease My Trip?

- (a) Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Union Ministry of Culture
- (c) Union Ministry of Tourism**
- (d) Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (e) Union Ministry of Minority Affairs

Q.134) The 8th India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' was held at _____.

- (a) New Delhi, India
- (b) Karakol, Kyrgyzstan
- (c) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**
- (d) Himachal Pradesh, India
- (e) Madhya Pradesh, India

Q.135) Who was appointed as the Editorial Officer of the Hindu Group?

- (a) Arun Kumar
- (b) Raman Singh
- (c) Krishna Prasad**
- (d) Suresh Sethi
- (e) Nirmal Kumar

Q.136) Who is the author of the book titled "The Christmas Pig"?

- (a) Mary Shelley
- (b) JK Rowling**
- (c) Arundhati Roy
- (d) Zadie Smith
- (e) Shashi Tharoor

Q.137) Which country signed an agreement on cities combating plastic entering the marine environment with India?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany**
- (c) Italy
- (d) Norway
- (e) Sweden

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Q.138) Which country launched the world's 1st climate change law for financial firms?

- (a) China
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Thailand
- (d) New Zealand**
- (e) Australia

Q.139) Which company tied up with Paytm to handle digital payments?

- (a) NHB
- (b) SEBI
- (c) LIC**
- (d) RBI
- (e) BSE

Q.140) Mewalal Chaudhry passed away recently. He was the former Education Minister of _____.

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Bihar**

Q.141) Which company retained the media rights for Pro Kabaddi League till 2025?

- (a) Jio
- (b) Star India**
- (c) VIVO
- (d) DLF
- (e) Unacademy

Q.142) Who won the silver medal in the 68 kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2021?

- (a) Bajrang Punia
- (b) Yogeshwar Dutt
- (c) Deepak Punia**
- (d) Ravi Kumar Dahiya
- (e) Sushil Kumar

Q.143) Who won the Monte Carlo Masters 2021 defeating Andrey Rublev?

- (a) Steffi Graf
- (b) Dominic Thiem
- (c) Rafael Nadal
- (d) Novak Djokovic
- (e) Stefanos Tsitsipas**

Q.144) Who won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021 held at Imola?

- (a) Marco Apicella
- (b) Max Verstappen**
- (c) Philippe Alliot
- (d) Conny Andersson
- (e) Keith Andrews

Q.145) Which organization had developed a supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers and COVID-19 patients?

- (a) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
- (d) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- (e) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Q.146) Who headed the six-member panel constituted by the RBI to review Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)?

- (a) UK Sinha
- (b) Amit Khare
- (c) Sudarshan Sen**
- (d) Kasturi Rajan
- (e) Manish Sisodia

Q.147) Who is the author of the book titled "Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages"?

- (a) Ruskin Bond
- (b) Peggy Mohan**
- (c) Arundhati Roy
- (d) Khushwant Singh
- (e) Chetan Bhagat

Q.148) G Venkatasubbaiah passed away recently. He was a renowned _____.

- (a) Kathak Dancer
- (b) Lexicographer**
- (c) Politician
- (d) Cricketer
- (e) Actor

Q.149) Who is the author of the book titled "The Cursed Inheritance"?

- (a) Ananya Pandey
- (b) Sutapa Basu**
- (c) Vishal Pandey
- (d) Sameeksha Sud
- (e) Stebin Ben

Q.150) Idriss Deby passed away recently. He is the former President of _____.

- (a) Chile
- (b) Bolivia
- (c) Chad**
- (d) Cuba
- (e) Colombia

Q.151) When is the National Civil Service Day celebrated?

- (a) 18 April
- (b) 21 April**
- (c) 20 April
- (d) 22 April
- (e) 19 April

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Q.152) Who was appointed as the new President of Cuba?

- (a) **Miguel Díaz-Canel**
- (b) Raul Castro
- (c) William Saunders
- (d) Alexander Johnson
- (e) William Clark

Q.153) M Narasimham passed away recently. He is a former_____.

- (a) ECGC Chairman
- (b) NABARD Chairman
- (c) BSE Chairman
- (d) SEBI Chairman
- (e) **RBI Governor**

Q.154) Who became the first Indian woman to scale Mount Annapurna?

- (a) **Priyanka Mohite**
- (b) Naina Lal Kidwai
- (c) Neelam Dhawan
- (d) Ranjana Kumar
- (e) Priya Paul

Q.155) Who launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge?

- (a) Amith Shah
- (b) **Hardeep Singh Puri**
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Rajiv Kumar
- (e) Shaktikanta Das

Q.156) Which country along with India launched a hydrogen task force under Strategic Energy Partnership?

- (a) **United States of America**
- (b) France
- (c) Japan
- (d) Germany
- (e) China

Q.157) Which district bagged the top position for the implementation of PMGSY for 2020-21?

- (a) Nawada
- (b) Muzaffarpur
- (c) **Udhampur**
- (d) Ambala
- (e) Hisar

Q.158) Who chaired the first meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council?

- (a) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) **Piyush Goyal**
- (d) Shaktikanta Das
- (e) Amith Shah

Q.159) When is the World Voice Day observed?

- (a) 15 April
- (b) 14 April
- (c) 17 April
- (d) **16 April**
- (e) 12 April

Q.160) Sarita Mor was recently in news. Which sport does she belong to?

- (a) Boxing
- (b) **Wrestling**
- (c) Badminton
- (d) Football
- (e) Cricket

Q.161) Which company had launched a \$250 million venture fund for SME digitisation, agritech and health tech?

- (a) Google
- (b) Facebook
- (c) **Amazon**
- (d) Tesla
- (e) Wipro

Q.162) What is the rank of India in the Inclusive Internet Index according to the Facebook-Economist Intelligence Unit study?

- (a) 75th
- (b) 35th
- (c) **49th**
- (d) 53rd
- (e) 68th

Q.163) Whose autobiography is titled 'Believe: What Life and Cricket Taught Me'?

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) MS Dhoni
- (c) **Suresh Raina**
- (d) Dinesh Karthick
- (e) Anil Kumble

Q.164) Which film bagged the Best Foreign Feature at the Moscow international Film Festival 2021?

- (a) Lai Bhaari
- (b) Natarang
- (c) Sinhasan
- (d) **Puglya**
- (e) Samna

Q.165) Which group signed an MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to further sustainability initiatives?

- (a) Reliance Group
- (b) **Oberoi Group**
- (c) Adani Group
- (d) GMR Group
- (e) Tata Group

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Q.166) Which company collaborated with Atal Innovation Mission to work towards healthcare and agriculture innovations?

- (a) Pfizer
- (b) Novartis
- (c) Bayer**
- (d) AstraZeneca
- (e) Lanxess

Q.167) When is World Book and Copyright Day observed?

- (a) 21 April
- (b) 24 April
- (c) 25 April
- (d) 22 April
- (e) 23 April**

Q.168) Which company partnered with Common Services Center (CSC) to provide solar-powered micro grids in rural areas?

- (a) NTPC Limited
- (b) Adani Power
- (c) Reliance Power
- (d) Power Grid Corporation of India
- (e) Tata Power**

Q.169) Who was appointed as Mastercard's head of Global Public Policy?

- (a) Sunil Kumar
- (b) Richard Verma**
- (c) M Venkatesan
- (d) Ajay Mittal
- (e) Rajeev Kumar Chauhan

Q.170) Which organisation partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to support housing microloans for vulnerable communities?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) Asian Development Bank**
- (d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (e) New Development Bank

Q.171) What is the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2021 (Norway toppe(d))?

- (a) 133rd
- (b) 142nd**
- (c) 167th
- (d) 112th
- (e) 108th

Q.172) Dilhara Lokuhettige was banned for eight years under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. Which country did he play cricket for?

- (a) Zimbabwe
- (b) Sri Lanka**
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Oman
- (e) South Africa

Q.173) Who was appointed as the Executive Vice-President of Carat India?

- (a) Varun Singh
- (b) Dipika Bhasin**
- (c) Sunitha Sharma
- (d) Manisha Sisodia
- (e) Nirmal Kumar

Q.174) Priyanka Mohite became the first Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna. Which state does she belong to?

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

Q.175) Which company has appointed Deepika Bhan as its President, Packaged Foods (Indi(a))?

- (a) ITC Limited
- (b) Tata Consumer**
- (c) Hindustan Unilever
- (d) Marico
- (e) Nestle India

Q.176) Who was awarded the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021'?

- (a) Venu Madhav
- (b) Rumana Sinha Sehgal**
- (c) Tahir Bhasin
- (d) Mani Sharma
- (e) Arun Kumar

Q.177) Which sportswear company appointed Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal as its brand ambassadors?

- (a) Adidas
- (b) Puma**
- (c) Nike
- (d) Reebok
- (e) Fila

Q.178) When is the World Creativity and Innovation Day celebrated?

- (a) 22 April
- (b) 20 April
- (c) 19 April
- (d) 21 April**
- (e) 23 April

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Q.179) What is the rank of India in the Global Energy Transition Index 2021?

- (a) 82
- (b) 92
- (c) 87**
- (d) 85
- (e) 88

Q.180) Who was appointed as the external auditor to Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons?

- (a) GC Murmu**
- (b) SS Mallikarjuna Rao
- (c) Mahesh Kumar Jain
- (d) Sandeep Bakhshi
- (e) Govinda Rajulu Chintala

Q.181) When is the International Mother Earth Day observed?

- (a) 21 April
- (b) 22 April**
- (c) 24 April
- (d) 20 April
- (e) 23 April

Q.182) Which country ranks first in the Global Energy Transition Index 2021?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Sweden**
- (c) Denmark
- (d) France
- (e) Portugal

Q.183) Which state government launched the 'Zero interest crop loan scheme' for farmers recently?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Andhra Pradesh**
- (e) Haryana

Q.184) Which armed force had set up a water sports and adventure training institute in Uttarakhand?

- (a) Border Security Force (BSF)
- (b) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- (c) National Security Guard (NSG)
- (d) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**
- (e) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Q.185) Which country launched a grant program to widen the Indo-Pacific partnership with India recently?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Japan
- (c) Australia**
- (d) Bangladesh
- (e) Indonesia

Q.186) Who became India's 68th Grand Master?

- (a) Arjun Menon
- (b) Arjun Krishna
- (c) Arjun Aryan
- (d) Arjun Kalyan**
- (e) None of the above

Q.187) Who became the first Indian-American to be the US associate Attorney General?

- (a) Karan Sharma
- (b) Vanita Gupta**
- (c) Manoj Sinha
- (d) Anita Singh
- (e) Amit Khare

Q.188) When is the theme for the International Mother Earth Day for 2021?

- (a) Restore the Planet
- (b) Restore the Humanity
- (c) Restore our World
- (d) Restore our Planet
- (e) Restore our Earth**

Q.189) Who became the first cricket player to reach 6000 IPL runs?

- (a) Suresh Raina
- (b) Virat Kohli**
- (c) Shikhar Dhawan
- (d) Rohit Sharma
- (e) David Warner

Q.190) Which organisation has provided \$250 million for Bangladesh to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

- (a) IMF
- (b) World Bank**
- (c) ADB
- (d) AIIB
- (e) NDB

Q.191) Indian women boxers won seven gold medals in the World Youth Boxing Championships. The event was held in _____.

- (a) Poland**
- (b) Kazakhstan
- (c) Germany
- (d) Malaysia
- (e) Singapore

Q.192) Who was appointed as the Independent Director of PNB Housing Finance for a second term?

- (a) Ansal Kumar
- (b) Rigzian Sampheal
- (c) Nilesh S Vikamsey**
- (d) Amrita Singh
- (e) None of the above

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Q.193) Which organisation appointed Rekha Menon as its Chairperson?

- (a) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
- (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- (c) National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)**
- (d) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- (e) Quality Council of India (QCI)

Q.194) Reserve Bank of India canceled the licence of Sambandh Finserve private limited. Which state is the microfinance institution based in?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Odisha**
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Gujarat

Q.195) Which bank has appointed Ernst & Young as its digital consultant recently?

- (a) State Bank of India
- (b) Bank of Baroda
- (c) Indian Overseas Bank**
- (d) Union Bank of India
- (e) HDFC Bank

Q.196) Which year has Russia's Roscosmos planned to launch its own space station?

- (a) 2021
- (b) 2025
- (c) 2023**
- (d) 2030
- (e) 2050

Q.197) Who was appointed as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank?

- (a) Deepak Chopra
- (b) Atanu Chakraborty**
- (c) Sandeep Maheshwari
- (d) Tanmay Bhat
- (e) Amit Bhadana

Q.198) Justice NV Ramana took oath as the _____ Chief Justice of India.

- (a) 47th
- (b) 44th
- (c) 43rd
- (d) 48th**
- (e) 46th

Q.199) Name the Bengaluru-based entrepreneur who made it to Forbes Asia's '30 Under-30' list?

- (a) Vaishnavi Seker
- (b) Sanjana Singh
- (c) Vibha Harish**
- (d) Nandhini Rajan
- (e) Anjali Singh

Q.200) Who is the author of the book titled "Climate change explained – for one and all"?

- (a) Jay Shetty
- (b) Gaurav Chaudhary
- (c) Harsh Beniwal
- (d) Aakash Ranison**
- (e) Priya Kumar

Q.201) When is India's demographic advantage set to overtake China as per China's Central Bank report?

- (a) 2030
- (b) 2032
- (c) 2027
- (d) 2044
- (e) 2035**

Q.202) Whom did Chief Justice NV Ramana succeed to take charge as the new Chief Justice of India (CJI)?

- (a) Ranjan Gogoi
- (b) Dipak Misra
- (c) Tushar Mehta
- (d) Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai
- (e) Sharad Arvind Bobde**

Q.203) Who among the following is not a member of the Indian women's recurve team bagged Gold medal at Archery World Cup?

- (a) Deepika Kumari
- (b) Ankita Bhakat
- (c) Komalika Bari
- (d) Tarundeep Rai**
- (e) None of the above

Q.204) When is World Malaria Day celebrated?

- (a) 25 April**
- (b) 26 April
- (c) 28 April
- (d) 21 April
- (e) 22 April

Q.205) When is World Intellectual Property Day celebrated?

- (a) 25 April
- (b) 26 April**
- (c) 28 April
- (d) 21 April
- (e) 22 April

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Q.206) What is the theme of World Malaria Day 2021?

- (a) Reaching the target
- (b) Reaching malaria target by 2026
- (c) End malaria by 2025
- (d) Reaching the zero-malaria target**
- (e) Reaching the zero-malaria target before 2025

Q.207) Who took over as MD and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange?

- (a) Arun Desai
- (b) Arun Kumar
- (c) Arun Sharma
- (d) Arun Raste**
- (e) None of the above

Q.208) Which film won the Best Picture Award in 93rd Academy Awards or Oscar Awards 2021?

- (a) Nomadland**
- (b) Bohemian Rhapsody
- (c) Another Round
- (d) The Father
- (e) Promising Young Woman

Q.209) Who won the Barcelona Open 2021 title by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas?

- (a) Dominic Thiam
- (b) Rafael Nadal**
- (c) Novak Djokovic
- (d) Roger Federer
- (e) Andy Murray

Q.210) Which country named its first Mars rover “Zhurong”?

- (a) China**
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Taiwan
- (d) South Korea
- (e) North Korea

Q.211) Which boxer won the bronze medal at Governor's Cup in Russia?

- (a) Amit Panghal**
- (b) Vijender Singh
- (c) Akhil Kumar
- (d) Mohammed Ali Qamar
- (e) Hawa Singh

Q.212) Who became the first Arab female basketball referee to compete in the Tokyo Olympics 2021?

- (a) Sherihan
- (b) Jehan Sadat
- (c) Sarah Gamal**
- (d) Isaad Younis
- (e) Sanaa Younis

Q.213) Which Union Territory became the first large Union Territory of India to get organic certification?

- (a) Ladakh
- (b) Lakshadweep
- (c) Andaman & Nicobar**
- (d) Puducherry
- (e) None of the above

Q.214) What is the upper age limit fixed for MD/CEO and WTDs in private banks by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- (a) 65 years
- (b) 70 years**
- (c) 75 years
- (d) 61 years
- (e) 59 years

Q.215) Which company launched a new video-based wealth community for young investors?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Flipkart
- (c) Mobikwik
- (d) Paytm**
- (e) Pay U

Q.216) Who was appointed as a director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- (a) Tarun Bajaj
- (b) Sunil Yadav
- (c) Ajay Seth**
- (d) Vinay Sharma
- (e) Atanu Chakraborty

Q.217) Which country's Prime Minister was Nikol Pashinyan who resigned recently?

- (a) Azerbaijan
- (b) Georgia
- (c) Albania
- (d) Belarus
- (e) Armenia**

Q.218) Who is the author of the new book titled “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times”?

- (a) Jhumpa Lahiri
- (b) Amitav Ghosh**
- (c) Vikram Seth
- (d) Salman Rushdie
- (e) Khushwant Singh

Q.219) ICC banned Qadeer Ahmed Khan for five years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code. Which country does he belong to?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) UAE**
- (d) Oman
- (e) Afghanistan

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.220) Which IIT Collaborated with NEF Railways to improve operations and maintenance of Railway Network?

- (a) IIT Hyderabad
- (b) IIT Guwahati**
- (c) IIT Madras
- (d) IIT Delhi
- (e) IIT Bombay

Q.221) Japanese sportswear brand ASICS appointed which sports person as its brand ambassador?

- (a) Ravindra Jadeja**
- (b) Virat Kohli
- (c) Hima Das
- (d) Seema Tomar
- (e) KL Rahul

Q.222) Who has been Selected as CMD of BEML Limited by Public Enterprises Selection Board?

- (a) Sharad Goklani
- (b) Matam Venkata Rao
- (c) Amit Banerjee**
- (d) Pramod Chandra
- (e) Arun Kumar Singh

Q.223) Centre appointed Justice Rajesh Bindal as the acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, to whom he succeeded?

- (a) Raj Shekhar Attri
- (b) amendra Jain
- (c) Vineet Kothari
- (d) Thottathil B Radhakrishnan**
- (e) A K Ganguly

Q.224) Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor appointed as the Judge of which High Court?

- (a) Madras
- (b) Punjab and Haryana
- (c) Chhattisgarh**
- (d) Madhya Pradesh
- (e) Telangana

Q. 225) India ranked 3rd in world military spending in 2020 by SIPRI, which country topped the list?

- (a) United States of America**
- (b) China
- (c) Russia
- (d) United Kingdom
- (e) UAE

Q.226) Who is the first Indian woman to be chosen as “Wild Innovator”?

- (a) Indira Nooyi
- (b) Erika Allen
- (c) Sarita Bajaj
- (d) Krithi K Karanth**
- (e) Kiren Bedi

Q.227) “A tiger at twilight” was very famous work of which noted Writer?

- (a) Ravindra Nath Tagore
- (b) B.C. Chatterjee
- (c) Manoj Das**
- (d) William Atkins
- (e) Shakespeare

Q.228) International Dance Day is observed on 29th April every year. What is the theme for the year 2021?

- (a) Art of dance
- (b) Importance of dance
- (c) Purpose of dance**
- (d) Dance and the world
- (e) To fight pandemic with dance

Q.229) Which country has planned to spend \$747 million for upgrading four defence bases to boost Indo-Pacific engagements?

- (a) US
- (b) Russia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Australia**
- (e) China

Q.230) Who co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting with Permanent Secretary of Thailand Thani Thongphakdi?

- (a) Rajiv Kumar
- (b) Nripen Mishra
- (c) Harsh V Shringla
- (d) Riva Ganguly**
- (e) S Jaishanker

Q.231) Which telecom company signed an MoU with Indian Bank to provide seamless telecom services?

- (a) Airtel
- (b) Vodafone-Idea
- (c) Reliance Jio
- (d) BSNL**
- (e) Videocon

Q.232) Who was appointed as the new Finance Secretary?

- (a) Kuldeep Singh
- (b) Rajveer Singh
- (c) KT Menon
- (d) TV Somnathan**
- (e) Arjun Kumar

Q.233) Which company appointed Roland Bouchara as its CEO and Managing Director?

- (a) Hyundai India
- (b) Maruti-Suzuki
- (c) Stellantis India**
- (d) Bajaj Insurance
- (e) Tata Steel

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Q.234) Which Indian became the first Indian woman to join the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center?

- (a) Shikha Sharma
- (b) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw**
- (c) Indira Nooyi
- (d) Neeta Ambani
- (e) Smriti Irani

Q.235) Out of how many countries did India rank 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI)?

- (a) 93
- (b) 95
- (c) 104**
- (d) 115
- (e) 119

Q.236) Waman Bhonsle passed away at the age of 87. Which field was he associated with?

- (a) Sports
- (b) Education
- (c) Politics
- (d) Medicine
- (e) Cinema**

Q.237) Which country launched the core module of its space station?

- (a) China**
- (b) Japan
- (c) Russia
- (d) USA
- (e) India

Q.238) Puducherry presented an Annual Action Plan to achieve 'HarGharJal' under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Puducherry has planned 100% saturation by _____.

- (a) May 2021
- (b) June 2021
- (c) July 2021
- (d) August 2021
- (e) September 2021**

Q.239) Which IT company aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040?

- (a) TCS
- (b) Infosys
- (c) HCL
- (d) Wipro**
- (e) Mindtree

Q.240) RBI is set to conduct its first special OMO of FY22 of Rs. _____ crores each.

- (a) 2,500
- (b) 5,000
- (c) 10,000**
- (d) 12,500
- (e) 15,000

Q.241) Which is the 10th most valuable and third most-strongest insurance brand globally as per the report of Brand Finance?

- (a) SBI Life Insurance Company
- (b) Sahara India Life Insurance
- (c) Tata AIA Life Insurance Company
- (d) Life Insurance Corporation**
- (e) Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company

Q.242) Who became the first woman to be appointed as the Officer Commanding in BRO?

- (a) Gagandeep Kang
- (b) GS Lakshmi
- (c) Vaishali Hiwase**
- (d) Hina Jaiswal
- (e) Riti Singh

Q.243) Which automobile company appointed Martin Uhlarik as the new Global Design Head?

- (a) Hero Motors
- (b) Tata Motors**
- (c) Hyundai Motors
- (d) Maruti-Suzuki
- (e) Bajaj Automobiles

Q.244) Which Bank's board approves the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO?

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) HDFC Bank
- (c) IndusInd Bank
- (d) Yes Bank
- (e) Axis Bank**

Q.245) Exide appointed Subir Chakraborty as its new MD & CEO. Whom did he succeed?

- (a) Gautam Chatterjee**
- (b) Sharad Goklani
- (c) Matam Venkata Rao
- (d) Jaideep Bhatnagar
- (e) Manpreet Vohra

Q.246) Which magazine publishes the list of 100 most influential companies?

- (a) Forbes
- (b) Bloomberg
- (c) India Today
- (d) TIME**
- (e) Fortune

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

Q.247) Padma Vibhushan awardee Soli Sorabjee passed away recently. He served as a _____.

- (a) Chief Information Commissioner of India
- (b) Chief Election Commissioner of India
- (c) Attorney General of India**
- (d) Chief Justice of India
- (e) Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Q.248) KV Anand passed away at the age of 54. Which field was he associated with?

- (a) Education
- (b) Literature
- (c) Sports
- (d) Politics
- (e) Cinema**

Q.249) DRDO conducted the maiden trial of Python-5 air-to-air missile in _____.

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Goa**
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh
- (e) Kerala

Q.250) Who is the LG of Puducherry?

- (a) Kiran Bedi
- (b) Manoj Sinha
- (c) Tamilisai Soundararajan**
- (d) Anil baijal
- (e) VP Singh Badnore

BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ

Q.1) Which company became the first player to cross the billion-transaction mark on UPI (Unified Payments Interface)?

- (a) Razo Pay
- (b) G Pay
- (c) Mobikwik
- (d) Flipkart
- (e) PhonePe**

Q.2) What is the revised global trade volume growth in 2021 according to the World Trade Organisation report?

- (a) 9%
- (b) 7%
- (c) 8%**
- (d) 6%
- (e) 3%

Q.3) Which bank had partnered with PhonePe to issue FASTag?

- (a) Indian Bank
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) Bank of India
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) ICICI Bank**

Q.4) What is the outlay amount of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the food processing industry?

- (a) Rs. 9,500 crores
- (b) Rs. 11,000 crores
- (c) Rs. 12,000 crores
- (d) Rs. 10,900 crores**
- (e) Rs. 10,500 crores

Q.5) The Union Government extended the emergency credit line guarantee scheme till _____.

- (a) 30 September
- (b) 31 April
- (c) 1 July
- (d) 30 June**
- (e) 31 December

Q.6) Which bank and ICICI Bank have agreed to co-lead NUE with Amazon and Visa as partners?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) YES Bank
- (c) Axis Bank**
- (d) RBL Bank
- (e) Federal Bank

Q.7) Which organisation extended the deadline for Indian banks to comply with the framework for auto-debit payments till 30 September?

- (a) IRDAI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) RBI**
- (d) SIDBI
- (e) CBDT

Q.8) Which bank became a co-promoter of Max Life Insurance?

- (a) Bank of India
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) Indian Bank
- (d) Axis Bank**
- (e) None of the above

Q.9) 6-digit HSN code is mandatory in invoices for business with over _____ turnover.

- (a) Rs. 7 crores
- (b) Rs. 10 crores
- (c) Rs. 15 crores
- (d) Rs. 50 crores
- (e) Rs. 5 crores**

Q.10) Which bank launched the Platinum Family Banking Program?

- (a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- (b) Jana Small Finance Bank
- (c) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (d) Fincare Small Finance Bank
- (e) AU Small Finance Bank**

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Q.11) What is the GDP growth of India for 2021-22 according to the RBI?

- (a) 13%
- (b) 12.5%
- (c) 10%
- (d) 11.5%
- (e) 10.5%**

Q.12) What is the minimum default threshold for initiation of resolution process by MSME corporate debtor?

- (a) Rs. 30 lakh
- (b) Rs. 20 lakh
- (c) Rs. 10 lakh**
- (d) Rs. 5 lakh
- (e) Rs. 50 lakh

Q.13) Which bank announced its new savings account called Rewards123?

- (a) Airtel Payments Bank**
- (b) India Post Payments Bank
- (c) Fino Payments Bank
- (d) Paytm Payments Bank
- (e) NSDL Payments Bank

Q.14) Which bank acquired a 10% stake in Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Limited?

- (a) Indian Bank
- (b) Federal Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) Bank of Baroda
- (e) HDFC Bank**

Q.15) Which bank tied up with Jeep India to launch Jeep Financial Services?

- (a) Deutsche Bank
- (b) Axis Bank**
- (c) Catholic Syrian Bank
- (d) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (e) ESAF Small Finance Bank

Q.16) Which bank patterned with U GRO Capital to launch credit card for MSME?

- (a) SBM Bank India**
- (b) Indian Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) HSBC Bank
- (e) RBL Bank

Q.17) Which Bank tied up with Axis Securities to offer investment services?

- (a) Capital Small Finance Bank
- (b) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- (c) Fincare Small Finance Bank
- (d) Jana Small Finance Bank**
- (e) Suryoday Small Finance Bank

Q.18) What is the Reverse Repo Rate (April 2021)?

- (a) 3.50%
- (b) 4.00%
- (c) 4.35%
- (d) 4.25%
- (e) 3.35%**

Q.19) RBI enhanced loan limit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) against eNWR/NWR from \$50 lakhs to _____.

- (a) 85 lakhs
- (b) 75 lakhs**
- (c) 80 lakhs
- (d) 95 lakhs
- (e) 90 lakhs

Q.20) Which Mutual Fund became the first mutual fund house to cross Rs. 5 lakh crore average AUM mark?

- (a) Axis Midcap Fund
- (b) Aditya Birla Sunlife Mutual Fund
- (c) Kotak Standard Multicap Fund
- (d) SBI Mutual Fund**
- (e) Edelweiss Mutual Fund

Q.21) Which Life Insurance established a bancassurance partnership with Fincare Small Finance Bank?

- (a) SBI Life Insurance
- (b) HDFC Life Insurance
- (c) Bharti AXA Life Insurance**
- (d) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- (e) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

Q.22) What is the revised India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 according to the Nomura report?

- (a) 13.7%
- (b) 12.6%**
- (c) 14.3%
- (d) 11.6%
- (e) 12.9%

Q.23) Which bank was fined by SEBI for 'Fraudulent Acts' on customers in the 'Super FD' scheme?

- (a) Axis Bank
- (b) YES Bank**
- (c) Federal Bank
- (d) HDFC Bank
- (e) ICICI Bank

Q.24) Which company became the first TReDS platform to cross monthly throughput of Rs. 1,000 crores?

- (a) M1xchange
- (b) Receivables Exchange of India Limited**
- (c) Invoicemart
- (d) Globe Trading Company
- (e) MXC Solutions India Private Limited

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Q.25) What is the name of the initiative launched by Punjab National Bank under which every transaction undertaken by a bank branch will be initiated and authorised by the customers themselves?

- (a) PNB@Easy
- (b) PNB@Money
- (c) PNB@Fare
- (d) PNB@Ease**
- (e) None of the above

Q.26) Which bank offered a special banking solution for Assam Rifles personnel?

- (a) IDFC First Bank**
- (b) Indian Bank
- (c) IDBI Bank
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Bank of India

Q.27) Which bank was appointed Jyothi Biju Nair as its new company secretary?

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Indian Bank
- (c) Axis Bank
- (d) Federal Bank
- (e) IDBI Bank**

Q.28) Who was reappointed as the MD and CEO of DCB Bank?

- (a) Govinda Rajulu Chintala
- (b) Raghuram Rajan
- (c) Murali Vijay
- (d) Murali Ganesh
- (e) Murali Natarajan**

Q.29) Which bank became the first payments bank in the country to enable Rs. 2 lakh day-end balance account limit?

- (a) Jio Payments Bank
- (b) Paytm Payments Bank
- (c) India Post Payments Bank
- (d) Airtel Payments Bank**
- (e) NSDL Payments Bank

Q.30) Over how many years will the corpus amount of Rs. 945 crores for the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme launched by the Union Government be divided?

- (a) 8 years
- (b) 3 Years
- (c) 2 Years
- (d) 5 Years
- (e) 4 Years**

Q.31) Which bank partnered with MasterCard to launch the Pay by Bank App?

- (a) SBI
- (b) Punjab National Bank
- (c) Canara Bank
- (d) RBL Bank**
- (e) Indian Bank

Q.32) Which bank lent Rs. 600 crores to the National Cooperative Development Corporation?

- (a) Bank of America
- (b) Bank of China
- (c) HSBC
- (d) World Bank
- (e) Deutsche Bank**

Q.33) Which app became India's first to launch Aadhaar based SIP payments?

- (a) Razo Pay
- (b) Mobikwik
- (c) Google Pay
- (d) ETMONEY**
- (e) Phone Pe

Q.34) Which general insurance company has partnered with Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank for a Corporate Agency agreement?

- (a) Universal Sompo General Insurance Company
- (b) Bharti AXA General Insurance Company
- (c) SBI General Insurance Company**
- (d) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company
- (e) Reliance General Insurance Company

Q.35) Which bank entered into a co-lending partnership with Indiabulls Housing Finance?

- (a) Indian Bank
- (b) Federal Bank
- (c) ICICI Bank
- (d) Axis Bank
- (e) HDFC Bank**

Q.36) Which bank completely exits India, ending almost 12 years of trying to build a local franchise in the country?

- (a) FirstRand Bank**
- (b) Citibank
- (c) HSBC
- (d) Standard Chartered Bank
- (e) Royal Bank of Scotland

Q.37) What is India's projected GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 according to the CARE Rating report?

- (a) 12.2%
- (b) 10.8%
- (c) 13.4%
- (d) 10.2%**
- (e) 11.3%

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Q.38) Which credit rating agency revised India's GDP forecast by 0.5% to 10.5% in FY22?

- (a) Fitch
- (b) ICRA**
- (c) Nomura
- (d) S&P
- (e) OECD

Q.39) Which bank has signed an agreement with Chennai Angels for start-up financing?

- (a) UCO Bank
- (b) Indian Bank**
- (c) Bank of Baroda
- (d) Canara Bank
- (e) Union Bank of India

Q.40) Which bank has partnered with Google Pay for tokenisation on its credit card portfolio?

- (a) DBS Bank India
- (b) Standard Chartered
- (c) HSBC India**
- (d) Citibank
- (e) ICICI Bank

Q.41) What is India's projected GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 according to the S&P report?

- (a) 13%
- (b) 11%**
- (c) 14%
- (d) 10%
- (e) 9%

Q.42) What is India's projected GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 according to the Ind Ra report?

- (a) 12.1%
- (b) 11.6%
- (c) 10.1%**
- (d) 13.4%
- (e) 12.5%

Q.43) What is India's projected GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 according to the SBI Research report?

- (a) 10.4%**
- (b) 12.6%
- (c) 10.8%
- (d) 13.4%
- (e) 14.7%

Q.44) RBI cancelled the licence of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank. Which state is the Urban Co-operative Bank based in?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Maharashtra**
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Karnataka
- (e) Gujarat

Q.45) Which neobank has partnered with Federal Bank to open an instant savings account?

- (a) NiYO
- (b) Open
- (c) Ti
- (d) Fi**
- (e) InstantPay

Q.46) Which multinational financial services corporation was banned by RBI from selling new cards from 1 May?

- (a) Berkshire Hathaway
- (b) Allianz
- (c) Master Card
- (d) VISA
- (e) American Express**

Q.47) Which international financial institution raised the FY22 GDP forecast of India to 11%?

- (a) IMF
- (b) World Bank
- (c) ADB**
- (d) New Development Bank
- (e) AIIB

Q.48) IHS Markit projects India's FY22 GDP growth at _____.

- (a) 7.50%
- (b) 8.20%
- (c) 9.60%**
- (d) 10%
- (e) 10.55%

Q.49) Which organisation approval is mandatory for commercial and urban cooperative banks to appoint auditors?

- (a) Bank Board Bureau
- (b) RBI**
- (c) NABARD
- (d) Ministry of Finance
- (e) SEBI

Q.50) Which bank launched 'Merchant Stack' a digital and contactless banking platform for merchants?

- (a) Indian Bank
- (b) Canara Bank
- (c) SBI
- (d) ICICI Bank**
- (e) HDFC Bank

SIMPLIFICATION

Q.1) $\frac{2}{5} \times 3\frac{1}{4} + 5\% \text{ of } 800 = 6\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{11}{4} + ?\% \text{ of } 20$

- (a) 111
- (b) 118.5
- (c) 117
- (d) 121
- (e) 109.8

Q.2) $43^2 - 4\% \text{ of } 1030 + 13\% \text{ of } 1200 - 9\% \text{ of } \sqrt{196} = ? \times 100$

- (a) 10.22
- (b) 11.01
- (c) 19.62
- (d) 10
- (e) 18.11

Q.3) $1\frac{3}{4} + 1\frac{5}{6} - 2\frac{1}{8} = ? + 1\frac{1}{12}$

- (a) $\frac{3}{4}$
- (b) $\frac{3}{7}$
- (c) $\frac{3}{8}$
- (d) $\frac{9}{24}$
- (e) $\frac{5}{7}$

Q.4) $25^7 \times 5^6 = 125 \times 5^4 \times 625^2$

- (a) $\frac{9}{2}$
- (b) $\frac{7}{5}$
- (c) $\frac{3}{7}$
- (d) $\frac{7}{9}$
- (e) $\frac{5}{2}$

Q.5) $4.5\% \text{ of } 900 + 8.5 = 8^2 - ?$

- (a) 31
- (b) 41
- (c) 34
- (d) 27
- (e) 15

Q.6) $64^{12} \div 4^{18} = 64^?$

- (a) 13
- (b) 1
- (c) 5
- (d) 3
- (e) 6

Q.7) $28.314 - 31.427 + 113.928 = ? + 29.114$

- (a) 81.711
- (b) 80.701
- (c) 71.711
- (d) 80.701
- (e) None

Q.8) $72\% \text{ of } 2000 - ? = 300$

- (a) 1110
- (b) 910
- (c) 1140
- (d) 840
- (e) None of the above

D.9–15) What approximate value should come in place of the question mark (?) in the following questions?

Q.9) $21.98^2 - 25.02^2 + 13.03^2 = ?$

- (a) 34
- (b) 12
- (c) 21
- (d) 28
- (e) 23

Q.10) $2508 \div 15.02 + ? \times 11 = 200$

- (a) 2
- (b) 5
- (c) 3
- (d) 9
- (e) 6

Q.11) $989.001 + 1.00982 \times 76.792 = ?$

- (a) 1066
- (b) 720
- (c) 1160
- (d) 1200
- (e) None of the above

Q.12) $447.75 \div 28 \times 4.99 = ?$

- (a) 40
- (b) 80
- (c) 60
- (d) 70
- (e) 10

Q.13) $9.979^3 - 23.99^2 + 1.99^5 = ?$

- (a) 200
- (b) 160
- (c) 455
- (d) 560
- (e) 251

Q.14) $2439.79 - 1234.01 + 401.99 - 989.99 = ?$

- (a) 300
- (b) 401
- (c) 601
- (d) 619
- (e) 612

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Q.15) $38\% \text{ of } 568 + 16\% \text{ of } 1654 - 212 = ?$

- (a) 240
- (b) 480
- (c) 270
- (d) 121
- (e) None of the above

Q.16) $784 \div 14 + 598 \div 13 + ? = 99\% \text{ of } 2500$

- (a) 2475
- (b) 2373
- (c) 2285
- (d) 2565
- (e) None

Q.2) $18\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 18 + 19\frac{1}{4} \text{ of } 28 = 5.5 \times ?$

- (a) 198
- (b) 158
- (c) 68
- (d) 136
- (e) 30

Q.18) $5\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 5 + 373\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 1 + ? = 5^2 \times 4^2$

- (a) 200
- (b) -400
- (c) 0
- (d) -200
- (e) 740

Q.19) $56\% \text{ of } 2400 - 82\% \text{ of } 6000 = ? - 32\% \text{ of } 1800$

- (a) 3000
- (b) 2400
- (c) -2400
- (d) 3500
- (e) -3000

Q.20) $\frac{1}{6} \text{ of } 355 \text{ of } \frac{1}{5} \text{ of } 2160 + \sqrt{3969} - 448.98 = ?$

- (a) None
- (b) 18436.02
- (c) 25424.02
- (d) 26834.02
- (e) 25174.02

Q.21) $\frac{1224}{44} \times \frac{220}{23} \div \frac{340}{414} = ?$

- (a) 324
- (b) 316
- (c) 336
- (d) 354
- (e) 386

Q.22) $3990 \div 57 + \sqrt{361} + \sqrt{324} = ?^2 \times 535 \div 729 \times 5$

- (a) 12.4
- (b) 11.2
- (c) 2.6
- (d) 3.8
- (e) 5.4

Q.23) $[(2211 \div 67)^2 - 21 \times \sqrt{256}] \div (549 - 213) = ? \div 1344$

- (a) 3052
- (b) 3012
- (c) 3042
- (d) 3062
- (e) 3032

Q.24) $784 \div \sqrt{196} + 25.6 \div 2 \times 1.5 \div \sqrt{8100} \times 3 = ?$

- (a) 66.64
- (b) 76.54
- (c) 56.64
- (d) 72.64
- (e) 76.46

Q.25) $?^2 \% \text{ of } 11.11\% \text{ of } 256 \times 1872 \div 2704 = 81$

- (a) 11.25
- (b) 10.50
- (c) 9.75
- (d) 12.75
- (e) None of the above

ANSWER KEY

1. B	2. C	3. D	4. A	5. E
6. E	7. D	8. C	9. D	10. C
11. A	12. B	13. C	14. D	15. C
16. B	17. B	18. C	19. E	20. E
21. A	22. D	23. B	24. C	25. A



COMBO COURSE

SSC + BANKING

Veranda | RACE

Banking and SSC Classes

Prepare for Banking & SSC Exams and become a Bank / Central Govt. Employee.

ENGLISH

Q (1–30) Vocabulary

1. Interdict

Meaning: an authoritative prohibition

Synonyms: prohibition, ban, bar, veto, proscription

Antonyms: corroborate, support

Usage: Because I failed most of my classes last term, my parents will probably **interdict** me from working this semester.

2. Conglomerate

Meaning: relating to a conglomerate, especially a large corporation; a thing consisting of a number of different and distinct parts or items that are grouped together

Synonyms: combination, aggregate, clustered

Antonyms: individual, separate, distinct

Usage: Mining **conglomerate** Vedanta has pledged ₹150 crores to help the country.

3. Unanimous

Meaning: (of two or more people) fully in agreement

Synonyms: undivided, united, integrated

Antonyms: divided, alienated

Usage: The exit polls were **unanimous** in the victory of the AAA party.

4. Anticipate

Meaning: regard as probable; expect or predict; act as a forerunner or precursor of

Synonyms: expecting, antedating, foresee

Antonyms: unready, doubt

Usage: The Centre had been doing well for the past 12 to 14 months without **anticipating** the second wave.

5. Vitriolic

Meaning: filled with bitter criticism or malice

Synonyms: acrimonious, rancorous, bitter, caustic, mordant

Antonyms: pleasant, kind

Usage: The newspaper launched a **vitriolic** attack on the president.

6. Astute

Meaning: having or showing a practical cleverness or judgment

Synonyms: canny, smart

Antonyms: unwise, naive

Usage: A police detective is known to be an **astute** judge of character.

7. Cynical

Meaning: doubtful as to whether something will happen or whether it is worthwhile

Synonyms: sceptical, doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

Antonyms: optimistic, credulous

Example: She may be **cynical** about the film industry, but ultimately she has no intention of biting the hand that feeds her.

8. Scupper

Meaning: prevent from working or succeeding; thwart

Synonyms: ruin, wreck, devastate, destroy

Antonyms: further, promote

Usage: They worry it could be used to **scupper** merger and acquisition deals.

9. Clinch

Meaning: to make final, definite, or beyond dispute

Synonyms: settle, conclude, finalize, wrap up

Antonyms: confuse, unsettle, release, unfasten

Usage: Her work on the project should **clinch** her a promotion.

10. Usher

Meaning: show or guide (someone) somewhere

Synonyms: lead, accompany, conduct, assist

Antonyms: retract, conclude, cease, stop

Usage: A nurse **ushered** us into the hospital room.

11. Subvert

Meaning: undermine the power and authority of (an established system or institution)

Synonyms: destabilize, unsettle, overthrow, depose

Antonyms: dignify, exalt, honor, ameliorate

Usage: She **subverted** my noble desire to do a good deed without reward.

12. Plagiarise

Meaning: take (the work or an idea of someone else) and pass it off as one's own

Synonyms: infringe the copyright of, pirate, steal, poach, borrow

Antonyms: original, true

Usage: Professional writers who **plagiarise** can be taken to court and ordered to pay damages.

13. Goad

Meaning: provoke or annoy (someone) so as to stimulate an action or reaction

Synonyms: provoke, spur, prick, sting

Antonyms: aid, dissuade

Usage: My mother is going to try and **goad** her dog into getting off the bed by offering him a treat.

14. Unprecedented

Meaning: never done or known before

Synonyms: extraordinary, exceptional, unmatched

Antonyms: ordinary, average, familiar

Usage: Considering the **unprecedented** situation of the pandemic, these elections should have been a quick affair, with limited campaigning.

15. Polemical

Meaning: of or involving strongly critical or disputatious writing or speech

Synonyms: critical, hostile, bitter, polemic, virulent

Antonyms: uncontroversial, undisputed

Example: Unlike most academic philosophy, much of it is personal, **polemical**, poetical or allusive.

16. Castigate

Meaning: reprimand (someone) severely

Synonyms: reprimand, rebuke, scold

Antonyms: praise, commend, laud

Usage: You cannot **castigate** me in front of my son.

17. Enforcement

Meaning: the act of compelling observance of or compliance with a law, rule, or obligation

Synonyms: imposition, implementation

Antonyms: disregard, ignore

Usage: The law **enforcement** created agitation among workers.

18. Stalled

Meaning: stop or cause to stop making progress

Synonyms: obstruct, impede, hinder

Antonyms: proceed, wend, progress

Usage: She **stalled** after that accident.

19. Exorbitant

Meaning: (of prices and demands) much too large

Synonyms: enormous, outrageous, overpriced

Antonyms: cheap, inexpensive, economical

Usage: The fine that's been collected for not wearing a mask is **exorbitant**.

20. Viable

Meaning: capable of working successfully; feasible

Synonyms: applicable, feasible, possible, usable

Antonyms: impossible, unfeasible, unlikely

Usage: His idea on organic farming is **viable**.

21. Arrant

Meaning: complete

Synonyms: utter, absolute, thorough

Antonyms: dubious, questionable, restricted, uncertain

Usage: Because of her **arrant** devotion to her family, she took up engineering, the one she never liked.

22. Brutal

Meaning: savagely violent

Synonyms: savage, cruel, unpleasant

Antonyms: gentle, humane, civilised

Usage: The journalist wrote the corruption made by the politician, with a **brutal** honesty.

23. Adroit

Meaning: very skillful and quick in the way you think or move

Synonyms: adept, artful, crafty

Antonyms: clumsy, awkward, unskilled

Usage: She was **adroit** on sword fighting.

24. Machinations

Meaning: crafty schemes; plots; intrigues

Synonyms: conspiracy, intrigue, ploy

Antonyms: frankness, honesty, ignorance

Usage: The poor quickly fell for easy money **machination** by the politicians during election.

25. Solidarity

Meaning: union or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests, between classes, peoples, etc.

Synonyms: agreement, consensus, harmony, support, teamwork

Antonyms: disagreement, antagonism, discord

Usage: **Solidarity** is one of the keys for a successful organisation

26. Patronage

Meaning: a condescending manner or attitude in granting favours, in dealing with people

Synonyms: aegis, auspices, backing, encouragement, financing

Antonyms: attack, blockage, disapproval, discouragement, harm

Usage: There were hundreds of other things in the great city, but they had their share of **patronage**.

27. Sulky

Meaning: morose, bad-tempered, and resentful; refusing to be cooperative or cheerful

Synonyms: Sullen, surly, pouting, petulant

Antonyms: cheerful, amiable

Example: She became quite **sulky** after her mother yelled at her.

28. Vague

Meaning: of uncertain, indefinite, or unclear character or meaning

Synonyms: indistinct, indefinite, imprecise

Antonyms: clear, certain, confident

Usage: The officer gave a **vague** response to our query on the land registration process.

29. Vest

Meaning: confer or bestow (power, authority, property, etc.) on someone

Synonyms: entrust, invest, bestow, confer

Antonyms: impede, inhibit, disqualify, disbar

Usage: Extensive powers were **vested** into the head of the tribe.

30. Blatant

Meaning: (of bad behavior) done openly and unashamedly

Synonyms: flagrant, glaring, undisguised

Antonyms: imperceptible, inconspicuous, unnoticeable

Usage: The argument they had made on that murder case was exposed as a **blatant** lie.

D.31–40) Rearrange the parts (A), (B), (C) and (D) of a sentence in a correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.

31. The company was awaiting the formation (A)/ of the oversight committee, as the Supreme Court had directed (B)/ a statement from Sterlite Copper said (C)/ to allow the operation of the oxygen plant (D)

- (a) CDBA
- (b) DCBA
- (c) BADC
- (d) CABD
- (e) No rearrangement required

32. Before the mega centenary celebrations of the Chinese (A)/ the Chinese will not budge from (B)/ their positions along the LAC at least (C)/ military analysts believe (D)

- (a) DBCA
- (b) BACD
- (c) ACDB
- (d) CBAC
- (e) No rearrangement required

33. Hampi have a reference in Ramayana (A)/ the hills of Kishkinda adjoining (B)/ where Ram and Lakshman met Hanuman (C)/ where it is described as the place (D)

- (a) ACBD
- (b) ABDC
- (c) BADC
- (d) CDAB
- (e) No rearrangement required

34. And are a pivotal moment in the lives of many devout Hindus (A)/ religious gathering in the world (B)/ Maha Kumbh Melas are perhaps the largest (C)/ they are central to the Hindu religious calendar (D)

- (a) ACDB
- (b) CDBA
- (c) BACD
- (d) DABC
- (e) No rearrangement required

35. Explore new engagements, but it needs to (A)/ shared by the large majority of the Afghan people (B)/ there are ample opportunities for India to (C)/ overcome its diffidence because its vision for Afghanistan is (D)

- (a) DCAB
- (b) ABDC
- (c) CADB
- (d) BCAD
- (e) No rearrangement required

36. Critical proportions in hospitals across major cities (A)/ shortage in oxygen supplies assumed (B)/ largest facilities reported dangerously low supplies (C)/ including Delhi, where some of the (D)

- (a) ACDB
- (b) BACD
- (c) ADCB
- (d) BADC
- (e) No rearrangement required

37. For the better part of the last academic session (A)/ the scope of engagement between teachers and students (B)/ as most schools remained shut (C)/ classes were conducted virtually, limiting (D)

- (a) DCAB
- (b) BDAC
- (c) CADB
- (d) BCDA
- (e) No rearrangement required

38. The world of wine is vast and varied (A)/ and quality can come down to (B)/ personal taste or what you feel like (C)/ drinking at a particular point in time (D)

- (a) CDAB
- (b) BDCA
- (c) ADCB
- (d) ACDB
- (e) No rearrangement required

LEGEND OF APRIL 2021

39. In an era of excitement and (A)/ will leverage this development the most (B)/ as the 5G network ushers (C)/ innovation this year, e-gaming (D)

- (a) CADB (b) DACB
(c) BCDA (d) CDAB
(e) No rearrangement required

40. But people will reminisce about (A)/ online games and the refuge they (B)/ the pandemic will not last forever (C)/ provided during a tumultuous time(D)

- (a) DCAB (b) CABD
(c) ABDC (d) BACD
(e) No rearrangement required

D.41–50) A sentence is divided into four parts. One of the part may have an error. Choose the part that has the error and if there is no error, choose option 'e'.

41. Amit brings sweets for us (A)/ whenever he is coming (B)/ to our place, without the thought (C)/ that it may make us diabetic. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

42. Sheena was having a lot of books (A)/ when she was a ten year (B)/ old girl but with time she lost (C)/ interest in reading books. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

43. "Who is your brother in the crowd?", (A)/ my friend asked me pointing (B)/ towards the large chunk of (C)/ people standing under the banyan tree. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

44. The group of people declared (A)/ in unison that they would describe (B)/ about the incident vividly to the P.M (C)/ in case they get an opportunity to do so. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

45. Life is like a pendulum that has (A)/ two extremes called happiness (B)/ and melancholy. It's up to God how far (C)/ He can let the pendulum oscillate. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

46. Julius Caesar was killed by Brutus (A)/ and other conspirators who left no stone (B)/ unturned in failing (C)/ one of the most powerful gladiator of all time. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

47. I have never seen so beautiful (A)/ a lady as Queen Gayathri in (B)/ my entire life. I wish she were (C)/ alive and I were contemporary to her. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

48. Chennai boasts of being the (A)/ only city which is adaptable to (B)/ natural and traditional changes (C)/ that are brought about with the passage of time. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

49. Aadi Shankaracharya was an Indian (A)/ philosopher who propagated (B)/ the ideology of Advaita Vedanta (C)/ in the rule of Vamsi rulers of Orissa. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

50. Resonance takes place while (A)/ one system is easily able to store (B)/ and transfer energy between (C)/ two or more different storage modes. (D)/ No Error (E)

- (a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) D (e) E

ANSWER KEY

31. D	32. A	33. C	34. B	35. C
36. D	37. C	38. E	39. A	40. B
41. B	42. A	43. A	44. C	45. C
46. E	47. A	48. B	49. D	50. A

Contact Us



Contact Number

Call Us: 7397303030 / 7550003885 (Tamil)

Call Us: 6383921900 (Malayalam)

Contact Address

Veranda Learning Solutions Pvt Ltd,
Old No.54, New No.34,
Thirumalai Pillai Road,
T Nagar, Chennai,
Tamil Nadu – 600017.